

Brown Pelican

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: An unmistakable bird that was carefully described, well photographed, and observed by several experienced birders.

CM2: Well documented record. Obvious Pelican species. Only confounder would be American White Pelican. Photographs make it relatively easy to differentiate. No signs of captivity and pelicans are not frequent concerns for captive origin. Therefore, a vote FOR this record is appropriate in my opinion. Great sighting!

CM3: The images and description are unmistakable for a Brown Pelican.

CM4: Excellent report filed that includes signatures of 3 birders who observed this bird, in addition to a number of other birders that witnessed the Brown Pelican on the Ohio River, Wood County. The photos submitted clearly showed a juvenile Brown Pelican, with its brown head, neck and back with white belly. No vocalizations were heard, which is consistent with the voice of the Brown Pelican, which is mostly silent after fledging. Birders had the opportunity to watch this bird as it flew over their heads, and also had a spotting scope with them for observations. The photos submitted in addition to the complete report make this a solid confirmation of a Brown Pelican. The photo with the bird displaying its large bill and pouch make identification unmistakable.

CM5: I vote to include the Brown Pelican seen at Bull Creek, Waverly, WV to be included on the State List. The report differentiates the observed brown pelican from the white. This report included written, photographic and collaboration evidence. The observer's description of the plumage is consistent with juvenile Brown Pelican. Supplied photographs document the characteristic pelican features of a long bill with extensible gular pouch. The photographs show head, neck, upperparts, upperwing coverts, and rectrices uniformly brown with light-tan tips. Primaries and secondaries area uniformly dusky brownish. The photograph of the bird on the submerged tree shows the belly white. Therefore, this report meets the standard set by the by-laws for inclusion on the official State List.

CM6: Nice photos!

CM7: The photos of the bird reveal all that is necessary. The membranous throat pouch is clearly that of a pelican and can be mistaken for nothing but a pelican. The only question is which species of pelican. The gray bill with chocolate brown head and neck with mottle brown back are indicate of a juvenile Brown Pelican. A White Pelican would have yellow/orange bill and does

not have the brown head or neck. Thanks to the excellent photographs and limited number of possible, the identification of this bird was fairly straightforward.