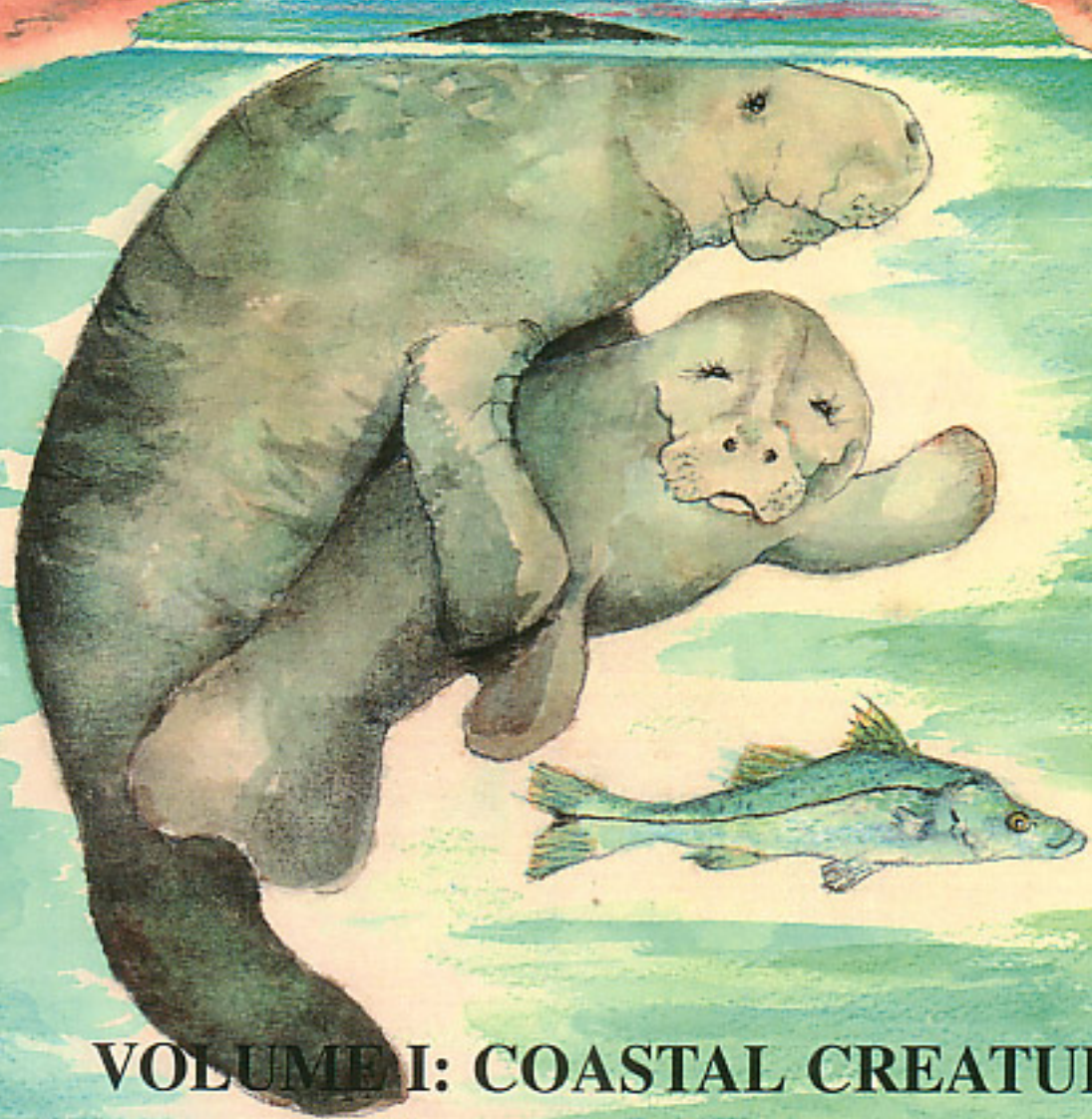


# VOICES *of the* EARTH

*Everglades Environmental Storybook  
With Pictures To Color*



**VOLUME I: COASTAL CREATURES**

**By Kristen Farquhar**

## About This Book

*VOICES of the EARTH* is for children and adults to enjoy together. This book focuses on some of Florida's threatened and endangered creatures and their habitat. For the first time, they—the Creature Beings, tell their side of the environmental story. *Voices* filled with personality invite readers to relate to Mother Earth and all living things with a deeper understanding and kinship.

Children ages 6 to 12 will be particularly receptive to the environmental concepts offered, and younger ones can color while an adult reads. This presents the perfect opportunity for a shared learning experience. By coloring and listening, *VOICES of the EARTH* will help heighten awareness of the natural world.

If there is a need to know more about a species, Part II: The Picture Index, provides information on all 30 species including their current Florida listings: Endangered, Threatened, Species of Special Concern, and how we can help! Action addresses and telephone hotlines to various organizations have been added to promote public participation in environmental affairs. An environmental glossary is located between Parts I and II uniting the two sections with its informative reading. All glossary words are noted in bold print.

With the publication of Volume II, the Florida Everglades Edition of *VOICES of the EARTH* is now complete. Along with Volume I: *Coastal Creatures*, the two books present a new perspective on one of the most unique ecosystems in the world.

I would like to express my gratitude to the following persons: Peg Clark, Roger Hoffman and Betty Wright. Their professionalism helped guide the way. Bob Whitmore, Kimbra Griffin, and my dear mother also deserve special thanks for their love and support. And last, but not least I thank the *Voices of the Earth*.

# PART I

## *The Voices and Their Coloring Pages*

*Animals, birds, and wild things  
do not speak in human terms; they speak in a language ancient and  
seemingly separate from our own. But for the sake of awareness,  
I have listened... and each species has spoken with warmth,  
personality and integrity. K.F.*

### **How To Use The Coloring Pages**

Color the pages while the animals and birds speak to you. Have someone read the information on each species to you, or read it yourself. Coloring instructions are found at the bottom of each page, and additional suggestions can be found on The Color Wheel, page 28. Updated information on the species can be found in the Picture Index, page 31.

### **Artist's Note**

The best color coverage will result from using colored pencils, and gray shades can be achieved by using a #4B lead pencil. The spirit of a creature will shine through and speak to you if you leave the center of the creature's eye open and white.

**H**i! I am a West Indian Manatee, but you may call me Manny. All of the Florida Manatees would like to welcome you and your family to this happy place. It is our home and we share it with many friends. We hope that you will be our friend, too!

Our relatives live in the West Indies, but we live in the coastal waterways of Florida. We are related to elephants and just like the elephant — our **species** is very big! Some of us get to be 13 feet long and weigh as much as 3,500 pounds. Some people call us *Sea Cows*.

Manatees are **herbivorous** which means we eat plants — water plants of course! Hydrilla and water hyacinths are our favorite foods and we eat bunches and bunches. Up to 100 pounds a day! We eat and travel under the water, but manatees must come to the surface to breathe. It's true! We breathe like you! Humans and manatees are both **mammals**.

From far away — manatees look like humans. We have a little bit of hair on our skin and some nails on our flippers. (Manatees have been mistaken for mermaids many times.) But human faces just aren't as pretty as ours. Uh oh! I didn't mean to hurt your feelings! Please, don't feel sad. It doesn't matter how any of us looks on the outside; it's how we feel on the inside. That's what counts! We can be friends, even if I am bigger than you.

Just because we are big does not mean we are fast. West Indian Manatees swim very slowly and we are very gentle. Sometimes the many fast boats that crowd the Florida waterways hit us and hurt us. Some of us even die, and there are not many manatees left in the world.

So spread the word! Tell everyone we are here in Florida's coastal waters. Please tell people to slow down and be careful when they are out on their boats. Oh yes, and please tell them, "Thank you." This will make the Florida waters safe again.

This is great talking to you. We are truly happy that kind and **conscious** people have come to stay with us in our Florida home. We would like for you to meet our other friends. They are all very excited about meeting you. This is the first time they have been given the chance to speak to you themselves....



**H**i there! My name is Mrs. Brown Pelican, but my friends call me Penny. We can be seen at the beach! Pelicans love the beach, just like humans, but we do not come to sunbathe. We like to glide slowly and silently just over the top of the water. (Our secret is that we do it in a **thermal**.) Then higher up into the sky we soar! It's great fun. But our favorite thing to do is dive for fish!

When we see some fish to eat, we tuck our wings and dive head first into the water. There is always a big splash! (Tiny air bubbles, under our skin, protect our heads so we do not get hurt.) Hopefully, we catch some fish in our mouths.

Our mouth is called a bill, and a pelican's mouth is a beautiful sight to see. (At least we think so.) Our bill is connected to a piece of skin very much like a human's lips. This skin is called a *pouch*, and it can stretch to hold many many fish!

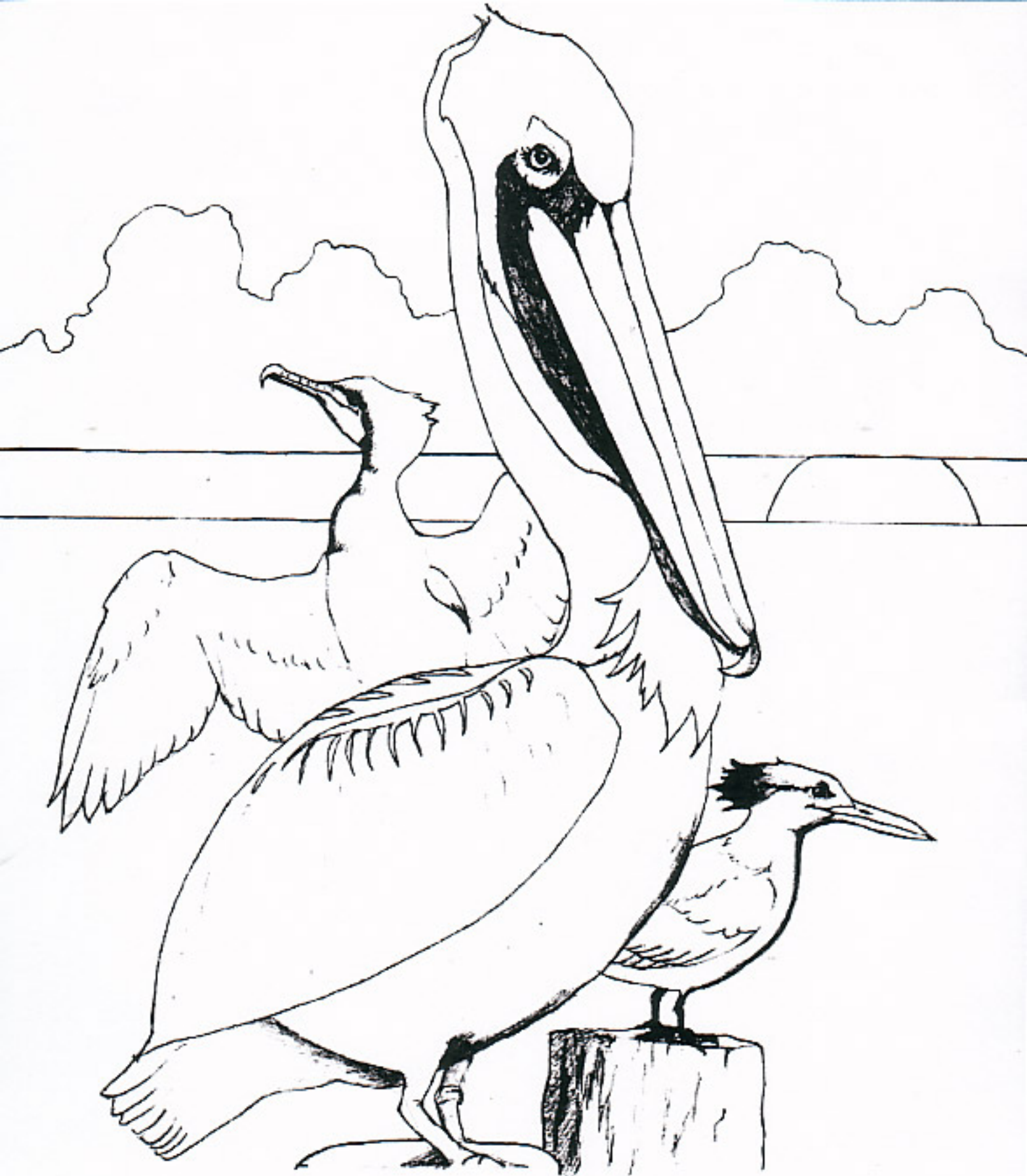
Once upon a time not so long ago, many pelicans became very sick from eating fish. This was because the fish became polluted from all of the bug sprays called **pesticides**. Farmers sprayed **pesticides** on their fruits and vegetables to keep insects off their plants, but it seeped down into the ground water and poisoned the fish. It caused our egg shells to become very thin. Our babies began to die in large numbers and Brown Pelicans began to disappear. People called us **Endangered**.

**Pesticides** are still in use, but they are controlled these days. Humans have learned from us that **pesticides** are dangerous for all life forms. We have recovered well and Florida pelicans are doing great! See you at the beach!

**H**ow do you do? I am a Royal Tern. (I am the handsome one on the right.) My real name is Randy, short for Randolph. People call us *royal* because they think we have crowns on our heads. Kings and queens wear crowns! Between you and me — it's our feathers!

Feathers are ever so important to us. Without them — we couldn't fly, and flying is our life! Personally, I could talk forever about flying, but there are other things that need to be said. Royal Terns like salt water best; we eat only fish and we are not sea gulls! We are a completely different **species**, even though we are in the same family.

Royal Terns spend their whole lives living, flying, feeding and nesting along coastal waters. Beaches are our homes. Humans like beaches as well. My close relation, Lawrence the Least Tern, will explain to you further about humans and terns sharing the beaches. I get far too upset talking about such matters. Please excuse me. Farewell, dear ones.



**BROWN PELICAN** Adult – eye: blue; around eye: red; bill: light grey and pink; forehead and head: yellow with a yellow chest patch; back of head and neck: white; body and wings: tan with grey and brown feathers. **CORMORANT** – eye: green-blue; bill: light grey; face pouch: orange; body and wings: black. **ROYAL TERN** – bill: orange-red; body: white; wings and back: soft grey.