

Important news from:



International Bird Rescue Research Center  
3601 South Gaffey St., San Pedro, 90731 [www.ibrrc.org](http://www.ibrrc.org)

CONTACT: Paul Kelway, 310 691 9558  
[paul.kelway@ibrrc.org](mailto:paul.kelway@ibrrc.org)

## **Pelicans hit hard by Southern California Storms**

*San Pedro, Los Angeles, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 2010* // Heavy rains and flooding take their toll on California Brown Pelicans as Seabird Specialists, International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC), prepare for more cold, wet wildlife casualties at their Los Angeles seabird rescue clinic.

A series of storms battering the Southern California coast are having a severe impact on local populations of California Brown Pelicans, affected not just by the bad weather but also by the oil, grease and other contaminants washing into the ocean as a result of storm water run-off. Suffering from hypothermia, the lucky ones are being brought to the International Bird Rescue Research Center in San Pedro, Los Angeles.

“Seabird feathers provide a natural barrier to water, as well as insulation from the cold” says IBRRC Director, Jay Holcomb. “These pelicans are getting cold and wet because the water quality is so poor right now and these added contaminants are preventing the feathers from doing their job.”

“As well as coping with the storms, many of the pelicans we have received have seal bite injuries, a result of feeding frenzies due to commercial and public fishing. These injuries make it even more difficult for the birds to cope with the severe weather conditions out there this week.”

The center rescued more than a dozen pelicans yesterday and more birds are expected over the coming days. The center is asking for donations to help support the care of these animals. **To help save these pelicans please go to [www.ibrrc.org](http://www.ibrrc.org).**

If members of the public come across sick or injured seabirds they should call International Bird Rescue Research Center at (310) 514-2573.