



Contact: Paul Kelway
Cell: 310-691-9558
Email: paul.kelway@ibrcc.org

[Download Transcript](#)

On Site: Jay Holcomb
Cell: 707-249-4870

News Release: May 12, 2010

Transcript Available from May 10 Teleconference on Gulf Bird Rescue

Venice, Louisiana – The transcript from the May 10 teleconference about oiled bird rescue on the Gulf Coast is now available as a PDF [online](#) (or attached to this email). The conference featured Heidi Stout, Director of Tri-State Bird Rescue and Jay Holcomb, Director of the International Bird Rescue Research Center. The two organizations have prepared temporary oiled bird facilities in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, and are helping with the search and rescue effort led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The groups have treated just four birds to date, including a northern gannet and brown pelican that were released Monday in Florida, but are preparing for a massive rescue effort that could be required if oil drifts closer to the offshore islands where thousands of (recently delisted) brown pelicans and other seabirds are nesting.

“This is a very unique situation with the large geographic area that the spill has the potential to impact. It’s really taking a global perspective to partner very closely with our long-time colleagues International Bird Rescue to help manage the multiple facilities that we have set-up along the gulf coast. These facilities are forward thinking and give us a forward-leaning posture so that when oiled wildlife, specifically birds, are captured we have resources at the ready to assist in their care. Part of our plan and part of how we are initiating this is to make sure we are also incorporating the vast amount of in-state resources from the gulf coast states, both state animal response teams and the wildlife rehabilitation community.”

-Heidi Stout, Director of Tri State Bird Rescue & Unit Leader for Live Oiled Birds (stabilization and rehabilitation) at the Gulf Spill

“This is the most unique spill we’ve been in, in the sense that there is a large amount of oil sitting out there that keeps flowing from the ground but it hasn’t made this massive impact on birds yet. The good thing is [that] it’s given us time to set-up centers. We’ve had times where we have come to spills where there are birds in boxes waiting for us and we had to work around them. I guess this is the silver lining in this situation. However, we know that the potential could be really great and catastrophic if it impacts the nesting

islands where all the pelicans have babies right now. But we are in a waiting pattern and caring for the few birds we have while we see what happens.”

-Jay Holcomb, Director of International Bird Rescue Research Center

Holcomb said that birds are just now hatching, and will be fledging in June and July, so this is a particularly vulnerable time for them. IBRRC and Tri-State responded to a small spill around the same time of year in 2005, in which winds and waves from a tropical storm washed oil over low islands and covered hundreds of baby pelicans.

To listen to a recording of the teleconference, dial 1-800-642-1689 (from within the U.S.), or 1-706-645-9291 for international callers.

Tri-State Bird Rescue and International Bird Rescue have responded to a combined total of 400 oil spills. For more information, visit www.ibrrc.org or www.tristatebird.org. For images from the spill, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ibrcc>.

###