



July 18, 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **A Day of Action to Celebrate Birds and the Environment**

Two Oakland events Thursday, July 19: Bird release and Lake Merritt shoreline clean-up

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### **Bird Release**

**Where:** Martin Luther King Jr Regional Shoreline, park ([Map](#))

**When:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 11:30 AM

### **Lake Cleanup**

**Where:** Sailboat House at Lake Merritt ([Map](#))

**When:** Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 12:30 PM

**Fairfield, CA** – In an effort to connect more people to their natural environment, International Bird Rescue is sponsoring a Day of Action on Thursday, July 19, 2018 in the San Francisco Bay Area. There will be two events in Oakland: a morning release of birds along the East Bay shoreline and a lunchtime volunteer cleanup at Lake Merritt. The day also celebrates the anniversary of our 40-year partnership with Dawn® dishwashing liquid as a way to encourage action every day to protect and save wildlife.

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We will be joined by our friends and partners from Golden Gate Audubon, East Bay Regional Park District, City of Oakland, and Lake Merritt Institute for these events. Each of these organizations has assisted us in making a difference in the care and well-being of waterbirds in the Bay Area.

At the first event starting at 11:30 AM, Bird Rescue will be releasing several young egrets and herons back into the wild after weeks of care. The birds were all orphaned after falling from their nests. All were treated at Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay-Delta wildlife center in Fairfield.

This year we've had 23 Herons and Egrets from the sensitive downtown Oakland rookery. This is in addition to the hundreds of Herons and Egrets that have been brought to us from the greater Bay Area. Last year we treated over 250 Black-crowned Night Herons and more than 270 Snowy Egrets. We are thrilled to be able to release these birds back to the wild!

Following the bird release, participants will meet at 12:30 PM at the Sailboat House at Lake Merritt. Volunteers will work together to pick up trash, to help make the lake a safer and healthier environment for wildlife. Birds especially often mistake plastic and fishing tackle as trash for food. Many of the sick and injured waterbirds we see each and every day have ingested or have become entangled in these discarded items.

Bird Rescue continues to ask for the public's help in caring for rescued waterbirds in need. Donations can be made online at [www.birdrescue.org](http://www.birdrescue.org) or mailed to the center directly. We encourage anyone who spots a sick or injured waterbird to call their local animal control or contact us directly at 707-207-0380.

**A 40-year partnership with Dawn®:** Since 1978, Bird Rescue has trusted Dawn®, whose grease-fighting formula is tough on oil, yet gentle on the bird's delicate feathers and skin. Dawn's partnership helps support Bird Rescue's rehabilitation and research programs, as well as its growing volunteer network and educational programs that inspire the next generation of wildlife champions.

**About International Bird Rescue:** In 1971 after 800,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the bay, concerned individuals led by a registered nurse named Alice Berkner jumped into action, bringing International Bird Rescue to life. We have always had to pave a road where there is none. Staff and volunteers work with tenacity alongside clients, partners, and the public to find solutions. Today, we research best practices at our crisis response hospitals in California and Alaska and share them worldwide. Our mission is to inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis. We dream of a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves.

Learn more at <https://www.bird-rescue.org/>

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