



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$5,000 Reward Now Offered in Brown Pelican Gunshot Incident

Pelican in Southern California is recuperating after surgery following discovery that bird suffered a gunshot wound that broke its wing.

International Bird Rescue, along with help from an anonymous donor, is now offering a \$5,000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for shooting an adult male Brown Pelican in Southern California.

On March 12th, a pelican that could not fly, was captured by Redondo Beach Animal Control. After being brought to our Los Angeles wildlife center, International Bird



Rescue staff discovered he had a broken wing (ulna) and a fish hook embedded in his right shoulder.

This case seemed like a straightforward fishing gear injury until clinic staff took x-rays and discovered the ulna fracture was due to a gunshot wound. Tiny speckles of metal visible were noted in the radiograph image.

The fishhook injury thankfully was superficial, but the gunshot wound was very contaminated with debris and dead tissue. A few small pieces of smashed bone that were nearly falling out of the wound needed to be removed.

IBR's veterinarian, Dr Rebecca Duerr, performed surgery to pin the ulna together on March 18. The surgery went well, but there is a substantial risk of infection still so the case has guarded prognosis for success.



Brown Pelicans are federally protected birds

under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As a species only recently removed from the Endangered Species List in 2009, Brown Pelicans have enough challenges in their lives without being shot.

Anyone with information that might lead to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for shooting this bird should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at **310-328-1516**.

IBR depends on the support of the public to care for animals injured in cruelty incidents, as well as those harmed by fishing gear and other human-caused injuries. To make a donation, please visit birdrescue.org

About International Bird Rescue: International Bird Rescue (IBR) has been helping seabirds and other aquatic birds around the world since 1971. Our team of specialists operates two year-round aquatic bird rehabilitation centers in California, which care for more than 5,000 birds every year. IBR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Learn more at birdrescue.org