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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sudden Surge of Sick and Dying Brown Pelicans along the Coast of California

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San Pedro, CA. – Concern for Brown Pelicans that live along the coast of Southern California has been mounting as the number of sick and dying birds reported suddenly increased over the past week. Some of these cases, such as the two pelicans that crash-landed in the middle of a Pepperdine University graduation ceremony, have garnered media attention. Many more sick birds have landed on the LAX airport runway, on city streets, and in people's yards.

More than 25 pelicans have been brought to International Bird Rescue's Los Angeles wildlife center in San Pedro. The numbers have doubled in just a few days. The Brown Pelicans admitted show signs of emaciation, hypothermia, and anemia.

While it is not unusual to see an uptick in hospitalized pelicans at this time of year, those birds are usually new fledglings coming to shore, hungry. The current situation is of particular concern because the birds affected are older, primarily in their second year.

"It's normal for us to receive baby pelicans who have just recently fledged their nests," says Kylie Clatterbuck, Wildlife Center Manager, "however, what is unusual is that we are seeing many second year pelicans coming into care."

Bird Rescue is asking for the public's help in caring for these Brown Pelicans in need. Donations can be made online at www.birdrescue.org or mailed to the center directly. We encourage anyone who spots a sick pelican to call their local animal control or contact us directly at 310-514-2573.

About International Bird Rescue: International Bird Rescue is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to mitigating the human impact on aquatic birds worldwide through response, rehabilitation, research and education. We operate two year-round rehabilitation centers in California that care for more than 4,000 birds each year, as well as a wildlife emergency response center in Alaska. To learn more or donate to support ongoing bird care, visit our website www.birdrescue.org

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