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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Group Of Rescued Birds To Be Released: Herons and Egrets Saved at Oakland Tree Collapse

What: Release of Herons and Egrets from Oakland Heronry Rescue

When: Friday, July 26, 2019 at 11:00 AM

Where: Arrowhead Marsh at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Oakland, CA :: [Map](#) :: GPS coordinates: 37°44'16.4"N 122°12'34.7"W

Fairfield, CA – The first group of birds rescued two weeks ago after a large tree split and spilled wildlife onto a downtown Oakland sidewalk, will be released this Friday at 11 AM. The media is invited.

Up to ten fledgling Snowy Egrets (photo, below) and Black-crowned Night-Herons will be returned to the wild at Arrowhead Marsh located in the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Oakland, CA.

These birds to be released are part of the 90 young birds and eggs that were rescued over a three-day period starting on July 10th.



The total number of birds being released this week depends on how many will pass pre-release medical exams on Friday morning.

“As one of the on-scene rescuers, I had these tiny birds in the palm of my hand and it’s hard not to feel a connection,” said **JD Bergeron**, Executive Director with International Bird Rescue.

“The outpouring of community support has been remarkable. Just this last week, we had 60 emergency volunteers show up for our extra orientation session to bring more helping hands to the wildlife center,” added Bergeron. “While we’re good with volunteers for the moment, we [still need donations to help pay for these critical care birds](#) and to make sure we are ready for the next big event.”

Background

The Oakland Heronry Rescue event started back on Wednesday, July 10th, after a large ficus tree containing a rookery of 50+ nests in downtown Oakland, CA, split at the trunk and toppled, hurling nests and dozens of young birds onto the pavement below.

A concerned passerby saw the birds in crisis and called our San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center to come to the rescue. Our rescue team was on the scene within the hour by the Oakland Post Office at Jackson and 13th Streets and began collecting the surviving birds to take into care.

After the remaining tree was deemed unsafe for the public as well as the nesting birds, the team worked two long days in Oakland as a tree service helped trim branches and collect all the remaining eggs and birds in nests.

Meanwhile, clinic staff and volunteers worked late into the evening to take care of incoming patients. In total 90 birds and eggs were rescued including: 51 Snowy Egrets, 22 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 17 eggs in need of a warm incubator. Five of the eggs have since hatched.

Note: Black-crowned Night-Herons (photo, right) have a special significance in Oakland. This year in May, local schoolkids from Park Day School promoted and won a city-wide petition to have the Oakland City Council declare these “fun and funky” herons the official bird of Oakland. [Read more](#)



Hashtags: #OaklandHerons #OfficialBirdOakland

Donate-Adopt link: <https://www.bird-rescue.org/get-involved/adopt-oakland-rescued-heron-egret.aspx>

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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