2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MERGING SCIENCE AND COMPASSION

INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE
EVERY BIRD MATTERS™

How it all started...

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: TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO ACT TOWARD BALANCE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD BY RESCUING WATERBIRDS IN CRISIS.

OUR VISION: WE DREAM OF A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY PERSON, EVERY DAY, TAKES ACTION TO PROTECT THE NATURAL HOME OF WILDLIFE AND OURSELVES.

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OUR WORK TAKES US FAR AND WIDE, THROUGH LONG DAYS IN THE CLINIC, AND INTO THE DEPTHS OF AQUATIC BIRD CARE.

Dear Friend,

From the vantage point of 2020, it is more important than ever to focus on good memories. 2019 started for me in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, among a million nesting albatrosses. My five weeks there deepened my commitment to the change that International Bird Rescue wants to see in the world.

Our work takes us far and wide, through long days in the clinic, and into the depths of aquatic bird care. This annual report aims to take you on a similar journey:

- From the Port of Los Angeles where we expanded our offerings with a collaborative wildlife study creating new ways to help wild birds,
- to Oakland for a three-day rescue of baby birds from a fallen nesting tree,
- to Alaska for a meaningful re-encounter with a sea duck we saved in a 1996 oil spill,
- to South Africa for a large-scale flamingo crisis where we shared knowledge and innovation to help protect an endangered species.

We are grateful to our supporters, partners, clients, and volunteers for being on this journey with us. Together we are inspiring others to act toward balance with the natural world, one bird at a time.

Be well,

JD Bergeron
Executive Director

MAJOR HEADLINES

2019 was a year full of new challenges and noteworthy accomplishments for our team at International Bird Rescue. Here are a few top highlights from the year that made headlines.

1 KING EIDER BAND RETURN

ALASKA

Spectacular news for our research and oil spill response work arrived in the form of a band-return report for a King Eider in Alaska. The bird had been oiled during a 1996 spill and then successfully washed, rehabilitated, and released by our response team. This report 23 years after release marks the oldest band-return report ever for this species. Moreover, it supports what Bird Rescue has been advocating from its beginnings: oiled birds can and DO survive to live normal lives after oiling when rehabilitated by skilled staff equipped with appropriate resources.

2 KIMBERLEY FLAMINGO INCIDENT

SOUTH AFRICA

In early 2019, Bird Rescue sent two teams to South Africa to assist partner organizations - including our friends at SANCCOB - in caring for hundreds of endangered Lesser Flamingo chicks abandoned because of severe drought conditions in the area. The young flamingos had to be carefully hand-fed and given regular checkups to monitor their development in preparation for returning them to the wild. In a world threatened by climate change, we will likely be faced with similar crises in the future. With the support of our donors, Bird Rescue will be ready to respond.

3 OAKLAND HERONRY RESCUE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Barely a month after the City of Oakland, CA, declared the Black-crowned Night-Heron as the official bird of the city, our team was alerted by phone to the partial collapse of a huge heronry tree outside the downtown Oakland post office. Our team immediately jumped into action, arriving on scene to collect injured baby birds that were trapped in the collapsed canopy. A three-day rescue mission ensued in which our staff, volunteers, and tree care professionals carefully removed nestlings and eggs from the remaining half of the tree. We ultimately brought a total of 90 heron and egret chicks and eggs into our care. After many weeks in our clinic, the survivors were successfully released back to the wild.

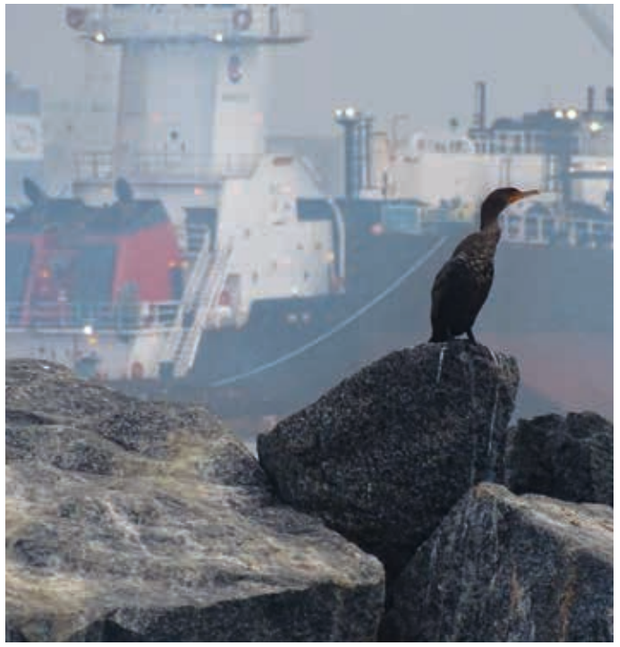
4 BUSY OILED BIRD SEASON

CALIFORNIA

The winter months of 2019 were exceptionally busy for oiled bird care. More than 150 birds contaminated by a natural oil seep from the waters off the coast of both Northern and Southern California were brought to us over a short period, necessitating that we increase our staffing to crisis levels at both of our wildlife centers. Reporters dropped in to share the story of these birds and the tireless work of our staff and volunteers with the nation.

SKILLS IN ACTION

Expert staff and dedicated volunteers work to give birds a second chance at life in the wild. Our team shares their insights and knowledge to improve avian rehabilitation techniques worldwide.



BABY WESTERN GREBE

A Western Grebe hatchling provided us with a unique learning opportunity. While we regularly care for adult Western Grebes, their chicks are rare patients for us. This unusual patient required us to innovate care techniques and housing setups to balance her need for food and interaction with her need to stay wild and maintain waterproof feathers. Our hard work and creativity paid off after two and a half months when she was fully grown and ready for release. She was driven nearly two hours to be released back where she had been found, near a large flock of her own kind.

RESPONSE TRAININGS

Our expert response team traversed the globe last year, sharing their experience at conferences in Perth, Australia; Vancouver, British Columbia; Hamburg, Germany; and New Orleans, Louisiana. We conducted training sessions and response drills for our clients throughout Alaska and Washington. We continued our global collaboration to improve preparedness for oil spills around the world.

PORT WILDLIFE IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT

June 2019 marked the completion of our special year-long project designed to assess and mitigate the human impact on wildlife in the Port of Los Angeles, the most active port in the United States. We analyzed historical data, drafted a report on suggested mitigations, and provided training to organizations operating in the Port. The project culminated in a public presentation and discussion with wildlife experts, industry representatives, regulatory agencies, and businesses operating within the Port.

MAJOR TEXTBOOK PUBLICATION

The long-awaited second edition of *Hand-Rearing Birds* was finished in 2019 and arrived as a beautiful, finished 816-page textbook. Our own Rebecca Duerr, DVM MPVM PhD, was the lead editor and author of several chapters. Additionally, six of the 51 authors are current or former Bird Rescue staff. The book covers hand-rearing methods for a wide variety of avian species, and provides both guidance and pragmatic solutions for common issues. We contributed over 40 photographs, data on growth, a chapter on baby bird basics, and detailed information on raising cormorants, herons, egrets, bitterns, coots, gallinules, rails, grebes, woodpeckers, finches, and sparrows. We also provided input for chapters covering alcids and terns.

> DONATE

2019 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Our wildlife clinics are open year-round to provide critical care to waterbirds. Since 1971 we've admitted over 125,000 birds and the count continues. These are some of our statistics from 2019.

3,518 PATIENTS CARED FOR
112 UNIQUE SPECIES ADMITTED
1,658 OF THESE WERE ORPHANED BABIES

1 IN 5 PATIENTS WAS AN EGRET OR HERON

NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS DIRECTLY CAUSED BY HUMANS

FISH HOOK & LINE INJURY	139
HIT BY CAR	110
HABITAT LOSS	50
CONTAMINATION	34
ORPHANED–KIDNAPPED	32
CAT/DOG CAUGHT	27
WINDOW/POWER LINE STRIKE	17
SHOT	16

120 BLUE BANDED PELICANS SIGHTED

1420 BLUE BANDED PELICANS OUT IN THE WILD AS OF DEC 2019

TOP 4 CAUSES OF ADMISSION

ORPHANED

CONTAMINATED

FISH HOOK & LINE INJURY

HIT BY CAR

266 CONTAMINATED BIRDS WASHED

256 SURGERIES PERFORMED ON 201 BIRDS

62,563

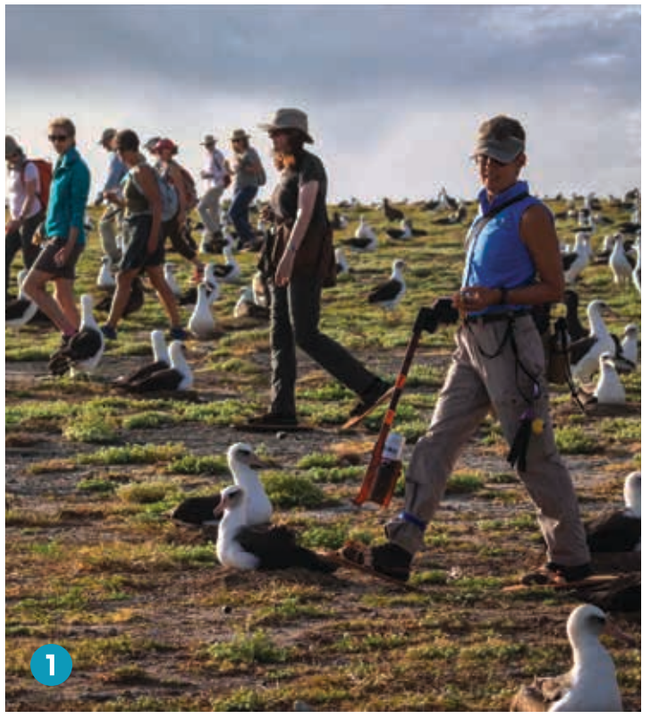
TOTAL BIRD DAYS IN CARE

COST BREAKDOWN OF A BIRD'S CARE

EXPERT CARE	52%
ENCLOSURES	17%
UTILITIES	11%
FOOD	7%
MEDICAL SUPPLIES	6%
ADMINISTRATION	5%
CLINIC SUPPLIES	2%

INSPIRING PEOPLE

Doing our part to create a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect our natural home.



1 FINDING WISDOM ON MIDWAY ATOLL

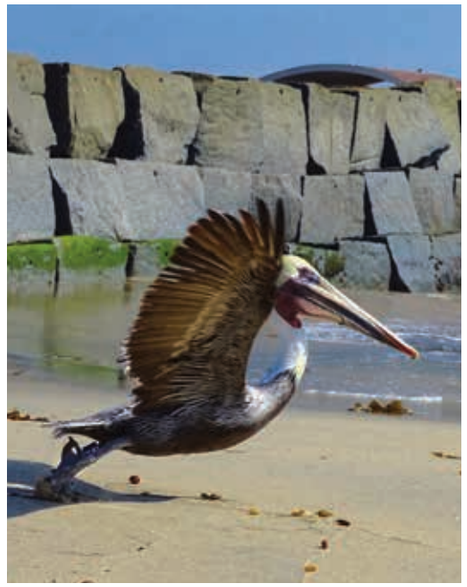
After spending a month on Midway Atoll volunteering in the annual nesting Albatross Census, Bird Rescue's Executive Director, JD Bergeron, launched a speaking tour with a special presentation at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, CA. In his "Finding Wisdom on Midway Atoll" talk, Bergeron shared his experiences and inspirations from his time helping to survey over a million albatrosses. Over the course of 2019, he presented more than ten times, reaching an audience of more than 400 people. You can email **JD@birdrescue.org** to request the presentation for your group.

2 NIGHT-HERON MASQUERADE

Scores of Bird Rescue supporters and friends gathered on the beautiful Ohana Floor of Salesforce East in San Francisco and donned hand-painted bird masks for our inaugural Night-Heron Masquerade. The October evening was a joyful celebration of our work and the birds that we care for, and featured live music, vegan treats, and a signature cocktail. An uplifting presentation and numerous donor bidding opportunities helped this distinctive event generate more than $80,000 in community support.

3 CONQUER THE BRIDGE

Bird Rescue's Run/Walk Team, "Yes We Peli-CAN," got together to Conquer the Bridge again this year, this time in two locations. In San Pedro, CA, 45 team members joined with thousands in their community to cross the Vincent Thomas Bridge and raise awareness about Bird Rescue's work in the area. At the same time, team members in Northern California joined their community members in crossing the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to support Bird Rescue's work in that region.



PATIENT OF THE YEAR

Our supporters selected a Brown Pelican as our 2019 Patient of the Year. This pelican had been successfully rehabilitated and released after suffering a severe pouch laceration. She is a prime example of not only the negative impacts humans can have on wildlife, but also the extensive care that we can provide to bring out the remarkable resiliency of these majestic creatures. This case highlights how compassionate individuals taking action can offer even such a gravely injured bird as this one a vital second chance at life.

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VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Our volunteers' love of birds and nature is clear and their dedication is inspiring. Without them we could not attain the successes we do on behalf of the birds.

IN 2019
286 VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED
31,208 HOURS

IN MEMORIAM

Don Ferguson was a volunteer dedicated to helping in any way he could. His presence and enthusiasm never went unnoticed and will be greatly missed.

Nancy Teater brought her love of birds and nature every time she came to the center as a caring, dedicated volunteer. It was a privilege to know her and work with her.

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Lynda Haas
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Robin Lancaster
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Kaylyn LeRoy
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Ashley-Frances Lill
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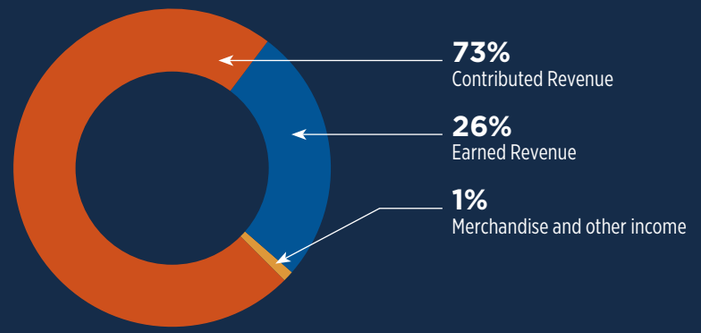
Leslie Weir
Emily Wilkie
Donna Williams
Rachel Williams
Richard Winant
Elise Wunderlich
Ann Yasuda ●
Janet Yeutter

Years of Volunteer Service:

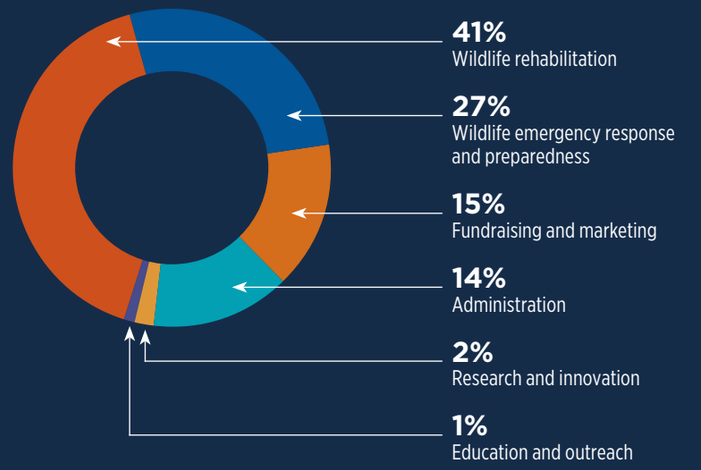
● = 5+ years
● = 10+ years
● = 15+ years

FINANCIAL HEALTH

2019 OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE



2019 OPERATING EXPENSES



Prudent management resulted in a modest contribution to our Operational Reserve for Future Crisis Response, which replenished cash reserves and supports International Bird Rescue's ability to lead worldwide crisis responses.

In 2019, management reassessed the valuation methodology of the in-kind contribution of donated facilities, which increased $200,000 over prior years. However, because in-kind income and expenses off-set one another, there is no net effect on previously audited income and expenses. Thus, no restatement of prior finance statements was deemed necessary.

A complete copy of our audited financial statements can be obtained by contacting:
gifts@birdrescue.org

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Response Services Manager
Barbara Callahan
Senior Director, Response Services
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Communications & IT Lead
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Director of Research and Veterinary Science
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Wildlife Center Manager, Northern California

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Angie Trumbo
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INTERNATIONAL BIRDRESCUE
EVERY BIRD MATTERS™

www.birdrescue.org

4369 Cordelia Road
Fairfield, California 94534
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(707) 207-0380

@IntBirdRescue

SavingSeabirds

Have you considered creating a legacy gift that sustains the lives of wild waterbirds?

Planning a legacy gift for International Bird Rescue ensures that wild birds will thrive perpetually because of your gracious forethought and generosity.

When you let us know, you become a member of Bird Rescue's esteemed Legacy Society so we can honor you here and now, as well as later.

Please contact us to discuss how planned gifts and legacy contributions enable us to save thousands of wild birds in need of crucial care, year after year.

gifts@birdrescue.org