Founded in 1971, International Bird Rescue (IBR) is a nonprofit wildlife organization dedicated to mitigating the human impact on seabirds and other aquatic bird species worldwide.

Through the merging of science and compassion, we envision a world where Every Bird Matters. And each day, we work toward this goal by providing expert rehabilitative care, emergency response, innovative research and compelling education for the world.
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In July 2013, International Bird Rescue received an emergency call for help in an unusual spill threatening birds on the cusp of fall migration. A remote lake in Canada’s oil sands region was filling up fast with bitumen, a sticky, semi-solid form of petroleum that’s often used in roofing projects. Among the aquatic birds found coated in this viscous substance were American Coots—known for their distinct lobed feet and colorful chicks—and Black Terns, graceful birds that return to northern freshwater marshes each year to find a mate and build floating nests.

Along with many of my colleagues, I spent several months as part of this response team—collecting birds day and night, transporting patients to a rehabilitation facility four hours away in Edmonton. All the while, we successfully kept birds away from the oiled area by deterring them from landing on the lake. This “proactive hazing” was key to preventing new victims. It was exhausting, round-the-clock work for all of us, and downtime was a rare luxury.

Why does IBR go to these lengths? It’s simple, really. Birds are amazing creatures that deserve our care when harmed by human activity. We see this work as both a duty and an honor.

As the world goes to further lengths for natural resources, we know the risk of negative impact to wildlife is likely to rise. That’s why in 2013 we focused on securing a solid future for the world’s leading seabird rehabilitation group. Whether at the wildlife centers we operate in California or at a distant oil sands project on North America’s Central Flyway, we’re committed to improving what we do every day to earn our place among the world’s foremost experts in aquatic bird care.

It’s my distinct pleasure to present to you this annual report, a summation of our year in caring for injured, oiled, orphaned and abused birds.

Sincerely,

Susan Kaveggia
Chair, International Bird Rescue Board of Directors
International Bird Rescue was born during the heat of crisis, when two oil tankers collided near the Golden Gate Bridge in 1971. As with most spills, birds were the immediate victims. This was a different time—an era when research and protocols for oiled wildlife were spotty, when emergency response coordination was non-existent, when rehabilitation strategies were often contradictory and ineffective. Most of the Surf Scoters, Western Grebes and other seabirds rescued from the fouled shorelines of the San Francisco Bay ultimately died, despite our resolve to save them. It was as horrible as you can imagine.

There are lessons to be learned out of any tragedy, of course. Following this disaster, IBR pioneered research into oiled wildlife and the unique needs of aquatic birds that swim into harm’s way. And in doing so, over the past several decades we’ve built a world beyond oil spills, one that encompasses care for seabirds and other marine animals that face an array of environmental threats to their existence.

We’ve been through many difficult times, but our commitment to these animals has never wavered. Our dedication is not just to the endangered or threatened species in our care every year; it’s for all the birds that come through our doors. The life of a duckling is no less precious than that of an albatross.

As a supporter of IBR, you affirm that the mission we sustain 365 days a year fundamentally matters. And I can’t tell you how important and moving that is for those of us who’ve worked hard and sacrificed in many ways to make it happen. Thank you. In this report, we look forward to showing you how IBR is meeting the challenges of wild bird care and rehabilitation in an uncertain and complex world.

I’ve devoted my career to wildlife rehabilitation. It’s an often unsung, crisis-based field, and the challenges in the work are many. But I can’t think of anything more rewarding I could have done with my life.

Jay Holcomb
Executive Director

Opposite: An orphaned Pied-billed Grebe chick raised at IBR’s San Francisco Bay center, summer. (Cheryl Reynolds)
Where There is Harm, We Give Hope.

Seabirds and other aquatic wildlife are among some of the most imperiled animals on the planet. Here are just some of the problems they face:

**Coastal Development** Ongoing development reduces key nesting habitat and puts seabirds perilously closer to urban areas. More than ever, we care for birds struck by cars, chicks separated from their parents by freeways and wild animals otherwise harmed by the urban environment.

**Human Activity** From agricultural runoff that causes toxic algal blooms to commercial fisheries’ effects on prey availability, the lives of seabirds are deeply intertwined with our own.

**Oil Contamination** Whether it’s a major disaster like the Gulf oil spill of 2010 or smaller accidents, aquatic birds are often the most immediate victims. Other types of contaminants, such as fish oil runoff at commercial cleaning stations, can be just as harmful to birds.
Fishing Gear Injuries Birds often fall victim to fishing gear left behind in the environment. For example, about one-third of the pelicans we care for have confirmed or suspected injuries from fishing gear, such as swallowed hooks and constriction wounds from monofilament fishing line. The Pied-billed Grebe shown here was treated for injuries sustained by a swallowed hook.

Plastic Pollution The North Pacific is home to one of the world’s giant gyres of floating plastic. Albatrosses, fulmars and other seabirds can mistake this debris as prey, feeding it to their young and dying from starvation.

Animal Cruelty Some of the most heartbreaking cases we see involve deliberate and illegal harm at the hands of humans. In 2013, we cared for animals affected by attempted poaching, wing clipping, beak cutting and pelican pouch slashings.

International Bird Rescue is committed to advocating for bird welfare while working on the front lines of wildlife emergencies. Our mission is composed of response, rehabilitation, research and reaching communities.
Bringing 42 years of experience to complex emergencies. IBR has responded to over 200 oil spills on six continents. As we saw in 2013, thankfully not all emergencies result in oil-soaked birds. In fierce January storms, an offshore drilling rig broke free of its tow line and ran aground on a remote island in the Gulf of Alaska. This region is a BirdLife International-designated Important Bird Area home to such species as the Steller’s Eider, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Well before the rig hit land in rough seas, IBR response team leaders were embedded in the command center, working with industry and governmental agencies to develop a wildlife plan that would safely and effectively collect oiled wildlife. We prepared for a worst-case scenario as international attention mounted. In the end, the island, the sea and the animals that call it home were spared any spill. But our partnerships with trustee agencies and industry were only strengthened to prepare for any future accident.

A few months later, we responded to another remote emergency—this time in northern Canada, where several thousand barrels of bitumen had leaked into a lake adjacent to an oil sands project. The area is directly on the Central Flyway, a migratory bird freeway that counts ducks, geese, plovers and terns among its commuters.

Working with two Canadian wildlife groups, IBR spent several months conducting field and rehabilitation operations, and saving a range of oiled animals, from Black Terns and Green-winged Teals to mammal species such as beavers and muskrats.

The types of energy extracted and the potential risks they pose may be changing. But the need to prepare for accidents is as critical as ever. And where wildlife is concerned, the expertise and resources that IBR provide have never been more important.

Investing in our future. Following the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989, IBR in conjunction with industry partners created the Alaska Wildlife Response Center (AWRC) in Anchorage, a centralized facility that provides high-quality care and is specifically designed by our response professionals to meet the needs of oiled birds in the nation’s largest state.

By the end of 2013, we were proud to begin work on a new center, also located in Anchorage and featuring greater space and updated equipment. As the only “turnkey” wildlife center in the state dedicated to emergency response, the new, 4,800-square-foot facility provides a foundation for all of our work in Alaska, spanning comprehensive contingency planning.
preparedness training and oiled bird care—from stabilization to release.

Drawing on the IBR response team, the AWRC can be fully staffed with wildlife care professionals within a few hours. Bald Eagles, Thick-billed Murres, Crested Auklets, King Eiders, Tundra Swans and other avian species have all been cared for at this facility.

The AWRC is supported through our contracts with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Alaska Clean Seas, Alaska Chadux, CISPRI, SEAPRO, and other corporate and public contributions.

**Broadening our global reach through strategic partnerships.** IBR has worked tirelessly to improve wildlife response capacity on a global scale, beginning in 1991 when we assisted an ad hoc group of students in their efforts to rehabilitate oiled penguins in Patagonia. In 2013, we worked with our worldwide partners to lay the foundation for the Global Oiled Wildlife Response System, a proposed network of responders with unprecedented reach. Given that many spills occur in regions of the world least equipped to effectively care for oiled wildlife, this network seeks to create a unified front of responders where they are needed in the event of an emergency.

We also continue to build upon existing international partnerships to increase both our capacity and that of our partners. In Angola, we’re working with Sea Alarm, the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) and the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) on preparedness and response. In Brazil, we partner with the group Aiuká on wildlife training for Brazil’s rapidly expanding offshore oil industry. Three years after the MV Rena spill in New Zealand, our partnership with Massey University continues to build.

The Global Oiled Wildlife Response System is a key aspect of our long-term vision. As such, we’re dedicating the resources necessary to make this happen. With our unparalleled experience in global oiled wildlife response, IBR will be an integral component of this sophisticated coalition. The goal: to better serve Earth’s wildlife in need.

**Sharing our knowledge with the world.** IBR provides a variety of training for all levels, from volunteers to professionals. Our interactive training events aim to meet each client’s specific needs, including risks, available resources, response priorities, and geographic and cultural differences in a way that will build skills and understanding.

IBR’s trainers are response team members with passion and real-world experience, and are popular keynote speakers at conference presentations, trainings and seminars in the US and abroad. Topics we cover in these presentations include all areas of oiled wildlife preparedness and response, from planning and management to field operations and oiled wildlife rehabilitation.

Our annual participation in a variety of conferences and symposiums provides us with opportunities to share knowledge as well as to learn from the experiences of others. These events include Clean Gulf, the International Oil Spill Conference, the Oiled Wildlife Care Network’s annual Oilapalooza conference in California and the Petrobras Oiled Wildlife Response Workshop in Brazil.

**Above:** An offshore drilling rig runs aground in Alaska, January. ( Petty Officer 1st Class Sara Francis/ U.S. Coast Guard)

**Below:** Map of historic oil spill response efforts by IBR.

**Opposite:** An oiled Common Murre undergoes a wash in California, February. (Bill Steinkamp)
Treating injured, oiled and abused wild birds. The Pacific Coast boasts a wealth of aquatic bird biodiversity. Many of these animals are indicator species, telling us a great deal about fish populations, marine debris, even climate change. IBR is the lead organization in the region when it comes to caring for injured and oiled aquatic birds.

For over a decade, we’ve operated two world-class centers in California, located in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay. These facilities cared for nearly 4,000 birds in 2013, primarily brought to us by the general public and from affiliated wildlife groups.

Many of the species we care for increasingly are commonplace in urban areas. California Brown Pelicans, for instance, have faced myriad challenges in recent years despite their removal from the Endangered Species List in 2009. Often they’re starving and going to great lengths in search of food, and the inland places where they’ve ended up happen to be some of America’s largest cities. They also commonly become entangled in discarded fishing gear and monofilament fishing line—both of which can cause life-threatening injuries.

Diving bird species such as Common Murres and Western Grebes can fall victim to natural oil seepage in Southern California’s Santa Barbara Channel as they migrate along the coast. In January through March, we cared for over 100 oiled murres found on popular beaches in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Malibu and Santa Monica. A smaller percentage of birds we treat have been targets of animal cruelty. Sadly, clipped wings, gunshot wounds and pelican pouch slashings are not rare cases.

Whether the reason for intake at our centers is human-caused or naturally occurring, we’re here to help.

Giving orphaned baby birds a second chance. Egrets nesting on traffic medians, heron rookeries perched on trees at industrial ports, mother ducks crossing eight-lane freeways with clutches in tow: The urban environment is an unforgiving place for many aquatic bird species and their young.

During 2013, we received hundreds of orphaned baby birds unable to be re-nested or returned to their parents. This presents a conundrum: How do we raise these animals so that they stand a good chance of thriving in the wild? IBR’s staff and volunteers work hard to prevent human habituation as they care for orphans. Whenever possible, we house baby birds with other birds of the same or similar species and limit human contact. For injured patients, our veterinarian’s expert orthopedic work......
improves the prognosis for birds such as herons and egrets that may have broken bones after falling from high nests.

On release day, we’re confident that birds in IBR’s care have an excellent chance of survival.

Protecting vulnerable species. In November, IBR’s San Francisco Bay center team cared for this Black Rail (above), one caught by a dog and suffering from a leg fracture. The smallest of rail species, Black Rails are formally listed as threatened in California due to habitat loss and pollution.

Our successful release of this bird into suitable marsh habitat is one of many such stories at IBR, which is well equipped to care for sensitive species, whether endangered, threatened or near threatened. These include the Marbled Murrelet, Ashy Storm Petrel, Snowy Plover and Piping Plover.

Going the extra mile. Crude oil and petroleum products can cause other injuries in addition to the loss of a bird’s waterproofing. And the damage done can take significant time and resources to heal.

In mid-summer, we received this Great Blue Heron (below), covered from beak to tail in thin oil after it was found at a Southern California refinery. What’s more, the petroleum had burned over one-quarter of the bird’s body. After months of supportive care and multiple surgical procedures, we were thrilled to return this animal back to local wetlands.

Whether it’s an oiled heron, a pelican found with its wings crudely clipped or a grebe with foot lesions requiring surgery, some patients need extended care from our team before they’re deemed releasable. Few rehabilitation groups in the world can devote the resources necessary to do this. We feel it’s true to our organizational mission that we’re one of them.

An everyday emphasis on safety and sustainability. As a leader in aquatic bird rehabilitation, IBR continuously strives to create a safe environment for people and animals. Whatever the scenario, we’re committed to the well being of our team. Staff and volunteers undergo annual safety training as well as continuing education on best practices in wildlife rehabilitation.

IBR also believes that to truly care for animals, we must do our absolute best to protect the environment they call home. We’re always looking for ways to improve our sustainability, from using eco-friendly cleaning products and reducing our water use to reusing materials when possible.

Fishing gear injuries, such as swallowed hooks and constriction wounds from line entanglement, are common in many seabirds we treat. IBR is dedicated to educating the public on how to reduce this problem while providing the best available care to affected animals.

Above, left: Staff band a threatened Black Rail injured by a domestic dog attack. (Cheryl Reynolds)

Above, right: A Brown Pelican is treated for injuries sustained from an embedded fishing lure.

Below: A Great Blue Heron is treated for oil contamination and resulting burns. (Paul Berry)
Expanding the Field of Aquatic Bird Research

In June, we were thrilled to congratulate staff veterinarian Dr. Rebecca Duerr for completing her PhD studies and contributing invaluable research to the complex field of oiled wildlife care. A new member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's Board of Directors, Dr. Duerr is routinely invited to symposiums and conferences across the country to share her knowledge of comparative avian physiology and wildlife rehabilitation medicine.

**Investing in post-release tracking and research.** In 2009, as federal authorities removed the Brown Pelican from the Endangered Species List, IBR launched the Blue-Banded Pelican Project to better monitor this iconic bird, one that continues to face many challenges to survival. This unique program features lightweight, blue leg bands with large letters for all pelicans we release into the wild. The smaller, silver federal band is still placed on pelicans, though the blue band ID ("A10," for example) is much easier to read from afar. Over 1,000 of these rehabilitated and released pelicans have been banded since 2009, and more than 400 birds have been re-sighted after release.

Expert birders and amateur enthusiasts alike have reported sightings of blue-banded pelicans from Baja California to British Columbia. Through widespread participation by the public, we’re better able to track mortality rates and migration patterns, among other data points.

Building off the success of this program, IBR also has implemented the Red-Banded Egret Project for these wonderful wading birds. In 2014, we will color-band Black-crowned Night Herons, another species commonly cared for at our wildlife centers.

**Improving methods of care.** Rehabilitating aquatic birds is difficult work, in part because many of the animals we treat live the vast majority of their lives in water. Species such as loons and grebes require custom body cushions to prevent keel sores, an affliction seen in pelagic birds that are kept out of water during a portion of their time in care. These sores can easily change the prognosis for an injured bird from excellent to poor.

In an in-house study at the Los Angeles center, our team is evaluating the effect of different keel cushion styles on the behavior of newly arrived Western Grebes. This research involves filming birds immediately after applying keel cushions to assess comfort level, as well as to evaluate whether different cushion styles affect the frequency of birds flipping over and risking injury.

Foot and toe lesions are also common problems for aquatic birds. To save foot-swimming birds that are suffering from severe toe injuries, our veterinarian, Dr. Rebecca Duerr, has advanced a technique known as "bone deletion," where an infected toe is partially deboned, but the soft tissue is left behind to heal and maintain the integrity of the webbing, vital for swimming.

**Making original contributions to oiled wildlife science.** IBR’s Los Angeles center team assisted Dr. Duerr in completing a nutritional comparison of critical care diets as part of her PhD project. This work used Common Murres and Western Grebes contaminated by natural oil seepage off Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to look...
at differences in nutrient digestibility among several diets. This was the first time real oiled birds have been used in such a study. Digestibility of dietary fat is an extremely important issue for oiled birds because if birds are fed more fat than they can digest, they may excrete the excess into pools and risk re-oiling themselves. Dietary fat is also a high-calorie nutrient for malnourished birds, so this study helped us learn how much fat is ideal to feed. By looking at the movement of protein through the birds, Dr. Duerr was able to identify which diet was best for rapidly rebuilding the muscle mass of our emaciated patients.

When there are hundreds of birds in care during oil spill emergencies, what a response team feeds these compromised animals can be a life-or-death decision. IBR research serves as a model for wildlife rehabilitators seeking to quickly mitigate the damage of spills on the birds that fall victim.

Developing collaborative research projects. Investigating the problems of aquatic birds, whether oiled or not, often demands the expertise of a multitude of scientific disciplines. IBR currently is involved in several collaborative projects with other researchers, including the Seabird Surveillance and Response Study with seabird biologist Hannah Nevins and pathologist Dr. Melissa Miller of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In this study, we’re looking at disease processes in our pelagic and nearshore oceanic birds. This information is vital to our ability to devise treatments for the medical problems of these species while they’re in our care.

IBR also is working with researchers from the University of Colorado, Denver on a parasitology study; the Oiled Wildlife Care Network on several projects; and with University of California, Davis pathologist Dr. Patricia Pesavento in a search for marine avian viruses that may play important roles in mass stranding events of Northern Fulmars.

Training the next generation of avian experts. During the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989, IBR recognized the need for a hands-on program where students could gain valuable experience in emergency response and wildlife rehabilitation. Through the International Internship Program, we’ve trained dozens of young people who assist in rehabilitation and research, and have gone on to key positions at wildlife groups all over the world.

IBR staff gives lectures and labs to veterinary classes and to conferences such as the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association symposium and the Oiled Wildlife Care Network’s Oilapalooza conference in California. Recent topics have included oiled bird stabilization, comparative avian anatomy and improved caging methods.

“...I originally decided to start volunteering at IBR because it would give me experience working with wildlife in a rehabilitation capacity. It didn’t take long for me to absolutely fall in love with the animals, the work and the people.” –Brianna Settle, 2013 IBR International Internship Program Graduate

Above: Dr. Rebecca Duerr examines a Canada Goose at the San Francisco Bay center.
(Cheryl Reynolds)
We love birds. So do millions of people around the world. Embracing the “international” in International Bird Rescue, we believe it’s important to connect with fellow wildlife lovers, from expert birders to young people whose curiosity for the animals we care for may inspire them to do great things. By reaching communities—whether in our backyard or in other countries—we strive to raise the profile of magnificent species that deserve our protection.

**Engaging bird lovers worldwide through our social media platforms.** Social media has transformed the nonprofit landscape, and IBR is proud of our “early adopter” status that has helped us to grow our support network. Over 30,000 people “like” us on Facebook, while our Twitter following numbers more than 8,500, putting us ahead of the game for organizations our size. We also have a growing presence on Flickr, Pinterest and Vimeo.

Through social media, we keep the public up-to-date on animals in care, emergency responses, membership promotions and, every now and then, a bit of “bird nerd” fun. These platforms have become increasingly vital for us in spreading the Every Bird Matters message.

**Connecting our neighbors to wildlife in their area.** Releasing a healed bird is like watching a beautiful sunset: For a moment, it connects you to something larger than yourself. These are moving, spiritual experiences, and at our wildlife centers in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay, IBR’s team regularly organizes releases for the public to attend.

In the Los Angeles area, pelicans and other seabirds often are released at the nearby Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, where hotel guests and locals can stop by, hear the story of a bird in need and watch its return to the ocean. At the San Francisco Bay center, we raise orphaned egrets and herons, and release them in conjunction with our wildlife rehab partners and a local Audubon chapter—all who helped with these animals’ rescues.

**Becoming a go-to presence for wildlife advocacy in mainstream media.** Whether it’s on CNN’s *New Day*, ABC’s *Sea Rescue* or in front-page articles in the *Los Angeles Times* and other major newspapers, IBR is an ambassador for wildlife rehabilitation and conservation that reporters, editors and producers routinely look to for news and features.

In February, our work to save over 100 Common Murres affected by natural oil seepage off the Southern California coast attracted TV news coverage from the four major networks in Los Angeles. A Blue-footed Booby in care made headlines throughout California, while our work to save birds in a Canadian oil sands spill received international attention.

**Hosting community events celebrating IBR’s work.** The wildlife care centers we operate are world-class facilities. And we love to show them off. In June, IBR hosted the “KNX On Your Corner” community broadcast by the Los Angeles region’s top news radio station. Local partners provided wonderful refreshments for the day-long open house, which featured center tours for our guests and live interviews with IBR executive director Jay Holcomb and operations director Julie Skoglund.

In February, we launched our first-ever online “crowdfunding” campaign on Indiegogo to raise money for renovations to a large outdoor enclosure at the San Francisco Bay center. This successful “Pelican Aviary Project” culminated in a community ribbon-cutting event...
headlined by State Assemblyman Jim Frazier. We dedicated the new-and-improved aviary to the late Donna Baker, whose love of pelicans made the original aviary possible. Her family and proud sons were in attendance to celebrate this barn-raising for the birds.

**Showing our patients to the world in real time.** In 2013, we launched The BirdCam Project, a live video feed from our San Francisco Bay center of patients in care. Our premiere on-screen stars were a clutch of ducklings raised in a special “duckling box” (these birds were released once old enough to survive in nature). Gull chicks, Pied-billed Grebes, Surf Scoters, Northern Fulmars and Common Loons have all been featured on BirdCam. This video link also offers our rehabilitation staff to unobtrusively monitor patients and quickly detect any issues they may have. You can check out the project at birdrescue.org/birdcam.

**Partnering with Dawn® to honor our wildlife heroes.** When we talk to people about our work, inevitably one of the first questions we’re asked is, “Do you really use Dawn to clean oiled birds?”

The answer is, “Yes!” In our scientific research dating back to the 1970s, we have found Dawn dishwashing liquid to be the most effective product for oil removal that’s safe on birds and the people who wash them. We’re grateful for the tremendous support of Procter & Gamble, owner of the Dawn brand, which celebrated its 40th anniversary of saving wildlife in 2013.

To mark this milestone, Dawn created The Big Picture, a documentary narrated by award-winning actor Rob Lowe that gives a behind-the-scenes look at the work of our animal care team, as well as the little things all of us can do to help wildlife in our everyday lives. Mr. Lowe brought this valuable message to appearances on Good Morning America, The View, CNN’s New Day and ABC News Tonight.

You can see more great features on this multi-platform collaboration at DawnSavesWildlife.com.

“*Our social media presence is one of the vital ways we inform the public about our work, as well as answer their questions, and with any luck, inspire them to help wildlife in the process.*” —IBR Communications Director Andrew Harmon, interview with HootSuite, a leading social media firm.
Our People

International Bird Rescue’s dedicated staff and volunteers have a singular mission: putting our Every Bird Matters tagline into action. We are leaders in the field, diverse in our talents and committed to a strong, nimble and vibrant organization.

Jay Holcomb 
Executive Director

Curt Clumpner 
Preparedness Director
Regional Representative, Northwest

Dr. Rebecca Duerr, DVM MPVM PhD 
Veterinarian

Michelle Bellizzi 
Wildlife Center Manager, San Francisco Bay

Russ Curtis 
Technology Manager

Marcello Lalopua 
Office Administrator

Neil Uelman 
Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Los Angeles

Kelly Berry 
Rehabilitation Technician, Los Angeles

Kylie Clatterbuck 
Rehabilitation Technician, Los Angeles

Jeanette Bates 
Rehabilitation Technician, Los Angeles

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Barbara Callahan 
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Regional Representative, Alaska

Julie Skoglund 
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Andrew Harmon 
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Erica Lander 
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Laurie Pyne 
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Suzie Kosina 
Rehabilitation Technician, San Francisco Bay
Internship Program Coordinator

Cheryl Reynolds 
Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, San Francisco Bay

Isabel Luevano 
Rehabilitation Technician, San Francisco Bay

Lauren Adams 
Rehabilitation Technician, San Francisco Bay

Jessica Solomon 
Rehabilitation Technician, San Francisco Bay

Lauren Nickerson 
Rehabilitation Technician, Los Angeles

Above: Little Blue Penguins released from the MV Rena spill, New Zealand. (Curt Clumpner)

Middle: Resident volunteer photographer Bill Steinkamp (left) and Los Angeles center manager Erica Lander board an L.A. City Lifeguard boat to release a Brown Booby.

Below: Staff and volunteers of the San Francisco Bay center offer their gratitude to IBR supporters during our year-end campaign.
The volunteer spirit is what makes IBR soar. IBR has a core group of committed volunteers who help with laundry, assist with bird examinations, clean aviaries and wash oiled patients with great care and expertise. Health care professionals, attorneys, retirees, refinery workers and homemakers alike converge every day at our wildlife centers to get the job done and give back to wildlife. Lifelong friendships are made in the process.

In 2013, we worked with community volunteers on a wide variety of projects. Here are just a few:

**Constructing bird enclosures, large and small.** The wide spectrum of avian patients at IBR demands specialized enclosures and pens to best care for them. One such project was taken on by a local Eagle Scout and his Orange County troop, who worked together to construct a number of innovative drying pens used for oiled pelicans and other large seabirds following the wash process.

Another custom enclosure is the “duckling box,” a butcher block-sized habitat that features a shallow tub of water, heat lamp, duckweed and dry food trough for orphaned ducklings not yet old enough to be housed in a waterfowl pen. Local petroleum industry workers and volunteers with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife have been helpful in constructing these and other enclosures, including the San Francisco Bay center’s pelican aviary, which underwent major renovations to improve drainage.

**IBR event ambassadors.** During the Pelican Aviary Project’s celebration in September, we were very pleased to see an abundance of support from San Francisco Bay center volunteers, new and seasoned, who staffed outreach tables, took donations and helped give tours to the community. Our Los Angeles center volunteer team frequently coordinates public release events at nearby resorts and public parks. We are grateful for our first-class representatives.

**Keeping us organized and well presented.** As you’ve by now read, volunteerism is not limited to the clinical setting. Equally valuable are our administrative volunteers who help us track patient data and aid in development leads and outreach. Department committees comprise volunteers as well as staff and board members to provide the greatest variety of input on special projects. Volunteers also help keep our centers clean and transform the grounds into beautifully landscaped facilities that we’re eager to show to our visitors.

“The time I spend at IBR is the highlight of my week.”
– Linda, San Francisco Bay center volunteer

Above: Christopher Borrayo-Cruz (center) and Orange County Council’s Troop #1149 deliver a set of custom-made drying pens. (Jenny Nguyen)

Middle: Los Angeles center staff and volunteers celebrate after releasing several species of birds in San Pedro, Calif. (Bill Steinkamp)

San Francisco Bay center volunteers staff an open house celebrating the Pelican Aviary Project. (Cheryl Reynolds)

Below: Volunteers prepare to release a Brown Pelican in Southern California. (Bill Steinkamp)
Providing key support to California’s Oiled Wildlife Care Network. During the mid-1990s, the California state legislature passed several bills leading to the creation of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), formed as part of the Office of Spill Prevention and Response and administered by the world-renowned School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. The network broke ground in the early 2000s on two wildlife facilities operated by IBR—centers that were also designed in part by our staff to put best-care practices into action and to prevent disease transmission among avian patients. OWCN comprises over two dozen California nonprofit groups.

In the event of an oiled wildlife emergency in California, we work with OWCN on the front lines of field collection, transport and rehabilitation. Many of these accidents are small spills in area harbors and ports that still require professional response.

One case study from 2013 involved a diesel oil spill in the Ventura Harbor, located about 80 miles from IBR’s Los Angeles center. OWCN quickly activated our team to collect affected seabirds and care for surviving animals. We’re on call year-round to manage small-spill incidents, most of which don’t make the news, but can nonetheless take a toll on marine life.

Working hand-in-hand with our global partners to build a more efficient and reliable network of oiled wildlife responders. With oil and gas exploration reaching more and more remote areas, the need for seasoned and strategic response professionals has never been greater. For over 40 years, we have built relationships with industry to ensure timely and coordinated oil spill response. No organization is more trusted in the field.

Nevertheless, we strive to do more. That’s why we’re expanding partnerships with a global network of organizations such as Sea Alarm and Oil Spill Response Limited. Our vision is to offer effective response to anyone in the world who needs it.

Saving wildlife in the spirit of teamwork. Every spring, a busy boulevard in Santa Rosa, Calif. becomes a battleground for wildlife. Colonies of Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons have made the towering eucalyptus trees on a narrow median into their rookeries. Sadly, many of their young fall from the nests. Were it not for a network of volunteers and bird organizations monitoring the site, those that survive the fall would almost certainly be killed by traffic.

Effectively saving wildlife requires ongoing cooperation and teamwork with like-minded organizations. International Bird Rescue is proud of our strong and extensive connections with fellow rehabilitation groups and wildlife agencies—in California and beyond.
That’s why IBR partners with other wildlife rehab groups and Audubon chapters to save as many nestlings as possible. Volunteers transport baby birds to us by the hundreds so that our team can give them appropriate care.

This is just one of many joint efforts we undertake with partner wildlife groups along the Pacific Coast. In Southern California, we also work with a network of organizations to ensure injured aquatic species receive the best possible treatment. Reciprocally, IBR stabilizes and washes non-aquatic species such as raptors that have come into contact with petroleum products, then transfers them to our affiliates who specialize in birds of prey, for example.

**Partnering with fellow wildlife and conservation groups to advocate for smart policy affecting species we care about.** Over the past several years, IBR has seen an influx in sick and starving Brown Pelicans. Though this iconic bird was removed from the Endangered Species List in 2009, pelicans routinely need our help for many reasons: Emaciation, domoic acid poisoning, fishing tackle injuries and oil contamination are all common problems we see.

A lot of us got involved in this work because of our love for pelicans, and it’s hard to see them in this predicament. That’s why we partnered with Audubon California to advocate for this species on multiple platforms, from legislative outreach to op-eds in major newspapers. Our goal is to ensure a coordinated monitoring effort of pelicans, including nest site observation on the Channel Islands and prey availability studies.

Sometimes wildlife teamwork reaches across borders. In winter, we worked with rehabilitators in British Columbia, Canada to transport several Brown Pelicans that had migrated far north and were found injured and ill at local ports. With the help of two airline companies, the birds were transferred from Vancouver to LAX, where our Los Angeles center team received the animals and rehabilitated them for eventual release in Southern California.

We’re proud to have the support of lawmakers in Washington and Sacramento, as well as in our local communities. Congresswoman Janice Hahn, whose district includes the San Pedro neighborhood where IBR’s Los Angeles center is located, is a longtime champion of IBR and local wildlife. In Northern California, State Assemblyman Jim Frazier gave the keynote address for our Pelican Aviary Project event in September. L.A. City Councilman Joe Buscaino (left, with volunteer Dave Weeshoff) is a recent IBR fan, having filmed his inaugural tour of our center for his website.
The Year in Bird Rescues

There are so many memorable patients from 2013 that it’s hard to keep track. Here are just a few that speak to IBR’s Every Bird Matters spirit.

**Mallard Duckling**
- Mother duck was struck by a car in Napa, Calif. Orphan hatched in our incubator 26 days later
- Released alongside fellow ducklings during Northern California in summer (Cheryl Reynolds)

**Brown Pelican**
- Victim of animal cruelty—flight feathers sheared off by unknown perpetrator
- Released in September after 14 months in care (Bill Steinkamp)

**Laysan Albatross**
- Grounded in an urban area far from sea
- Given supportive care and released off the Southern California coast in January (Paul Berry)

**Great Blue Heron**
- Severely oiled and suffering from burns requiring surgery to heal
- Released in fall at Ballona Wetlands, Calif. after extensive rehabilitation (Paul Berry)

**Blue-footed Booby**
- Found injured on a south Los Angeles sidewalk
- Treated for wounds and released in September (Bill Steinkamp)

**Common Murre**
- One of over 100 birds treated for natural oil seep contamination off the Santa Barbara coast in winter
- Washed and released far from natural seep site (Bill Steinkamp)
Baby American Coot
- Arrived as an orphan in June at our San Francisco Bay center
- Raised with other aquatic birds and released into local wetland habitat in summer (Cheryl Reynolds)

Brown Booby
- Found beached and emaciated at Point Reyes, Calif., hundreds of miles from its range
- Treated for foot injuries and released several months later off the coast of Southern California (Bill Steinkamp)

Black Rail
- Victim of a domestic dog attack; threatened species was treated for injuries at our San Francisco Bay center
- Banded by Black Rail researchers at the University of California, Berkeley and released into suitable marsh habitat (Cheryl Reynolds)

Bufflehead
- Crash-landed on a San Francisco street during fall migration
- Treated for foot injuries and emaciation prior to release in natural habitat (Cheryl Reynolds)

Elegant Tern
- Found shot with a pellet gun (an illegal act) and beached in Capitola, Calif.
- Treated for injuries and released in the San Francisco Bay (Cheryl Reynolds)

Baby Egret
- Rookery tree at the Port of Los Angeles blew over in heavy winds
- Dozens of heron and egret chicks saved and raised at IBR's Los Angeles center (Bill Steinkamp)
International Bird Rescue is committed to our long-term viability. Our improved fundraising and extensive, long-term response work in 2013 offered us new opportunities to create a stable fiscal environment. We’ve cut costs while maintaining a strong animal care team, and our ratio of program vs. administrative expenditures meets or exceeds that of major environmental groups. IBR is proud to be a highly rated charity on nonprofit audit websites such as Guidestar for our transparency and mission objectives.

Thanks to the support of individual donors, corporate partners, grants from environmentally minded foundations and government agencies, IBR is well positioned to achieve the goals of strengthening our rehabilitation programs in California, our response program in North America and our partnerships worldwide.

**Statement of Activities**

For the year ended December 31, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from corporate partners, government grants, foundations and individuals</td>
<td>$1,159,158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oil spill response</td>
<td>$1,112,457</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response contingency services/preparedness</td>
<td>$568,315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal care and wildlife center facilities management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oil spill response and preparedness program</td>
<td>$1,003,865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising and marketing</td>
<td>$ 204,337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$137,238</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$2,104,243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | $ 662,389 |

A copy of complete financials can be obtained by contacting reports@bird-rescue.org.
Reducing our administrative expenses. Through staff restructuring and office consolidation, IBR has reduced our administrative and fundraising overhead while adding much-needed talent to our animal rehabilitation team. During the summer, we moved our executive offices to IBR’s Los Angeles center, cutting substantially our rent and utility expenses and creating a stronger work environment across departments.

Expanding IBR’s response work to Canada. In July, we were asked to send a professional team to Canada for a bitumen spill affecting many species of birds. Our months-long contract on this response—the first time IBR has worked in this economically booming region—has created strong relationships with fellow wildlife groups and industry to ensure that any potential future spills are met with strategic preparation and aggressive response to minimize wildlife impact.

Strengthening our corporate partnerships and diversifying our fundraising approaches. In 2013, we launched a reinvigorated membership campaign, with an emphasis on monthly memberships that has doubled our recurring gift base. IBR successfully completed our first online crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo to rebuild a large pelican aviary—a project that has been used as a case study for small- to medium-sized capital campaigns on webinars sponsored by Blackbaud.

On the corporate sponsor side, our partnership with Procter & Gamble has never been stronger. We’re also excited to welcome new partners who have joined the Every Bird Matters mission.

Above: An orphaned Common Merganser is raised at our San Francisco Bay center in spring. (Michelle Bellizzi)

Below: A Great Blue Heron is released in wetlands near IBR’s San Francisco Bay center. (Cheryl Reynolds)
Supporting the Mission

International Bird Rescue is grateful to have diverse support for our work, from Fortune 500 companies and industry partners to individual bird lovers who want to see the animals we care for thrive. All donors are bird rescue heroes.

The following corporate partners, foundations, industry partners, government agencies and individual donors have contributed $250 or more in financial and/or in-kind support during the 2013 calendar year:

$500,000
Procter & Gamble

$70,000-$499,999
Chevron Corporation

$25,000-$69,999
Anonymous
Four Seasons
Resort-Punta Mita, Mexico

$10,000-$24,999
Canadian Natural Resources Limited
First Giving
Orange County Community Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
Capital Group
Chevron El Segundo Refinery
Christen C and Ben H Garrett Family Foundation
Foss Maritime
Louis C Mirabile Trust
Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission

$2,500-$4,999
Anonymous
Alex and Ani
Karen Benzel and Dan Brumlik
ExxonMobil Goleta Refinery
IBM Foundation
KnitPicks
Jean O’Neil
Pacific Gas & Electric
Theda and Tamblin Clark Smith Foundation

$1,000-$2,499
Anonymous (2)
Catherine Amparano
Berkeley Hills Realty
Kyle Boone
Byron and Joanna Chin
Bruce Choate
Alice Church
Patricia and Hugh Denton
Eagle Optics
Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman
ExxonMobil
Fentons Creamery
Genentech
Global Airport Parking
Kenneth Goettel and Kimie Dauvin
Anne Herbst
Candace and Clement Hirsch
The John Family
Mary Lou Lafner
Eleanor Laubly
Jerry and Anne Linehan
Shirley Lustig
Surinder Marwaha
Lisa and Paul Matheson
Matter Inc. / BirdProject
Soap
Noah McCormack

Below: American Oystercatchers at Ballona Creek, Calif. (Bill Steinkamp)

Opposite: Roseate Spoonbills cared for and released following the Gulf oil spill in 2010. (Brian Epstein)
Lois Mills
Margery Nicholson
Occidental Petroleum Company
Oxygenics
Pelican Products
Plains Marketing
The Port of Los Angeles
Premier Motorcoach Company
Saatchi & Saatchi
Sacramento Zoological Society
Elisa Taylor-Godwin
Joan Teitler and Larry Bidinian
United Way
Edward Walker
William and Talitha Wegner
Arlene Zimmer
$500-999
Anonymous (2)
Marianne Adkins
Air Canada
Marilyn Ayers
Elena Baca
Margaret Blackwell
Michael Brown
Katherine Buckley
Elizabeth Carey
A. Obieta Chan
Chevron Humankind
Bernie and Paula Colen
Dyan deNapoli
Helen Dunlap
eGIS Environmental & GIS Services
Leslie Eppick
Meryl Faulkner
Jessica Forbes
MaryKay Fox and Bruce Peterson
Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay
Suzanne Golt
Rebecca Goodstein
Christopher Gustin
Andrew Harmon and Cliff Atkinson
Kelsie and Eric Holje
Stefanie Hutson
Larry Jordan
Mary Liskin
Judith Marchyn
Julie Matsuura and Mary Artino
Janalee and Brian Melikian
Julia and Doug Miller
Terry and John Miller
Katy Murray
Kristi Nelson
Northern California Girl Scout Brownies Troop #20113
Jeri Opalk
Orange County Council Troop #1149
Gerald Orcholski and James A. Phillips
Pacific Coastal Airlines
Kira Perov and Bill Viola
Regina Phelps
The Queen Mary
The Raymond Family Foundation
Chrys Ritchie
Mark Rovner
Irma Ruiz
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Shell Martinez Refinery
Beverly Spector
Kathy Stiner
Nancy Teater
Deborah Weir
Stephanie White
Dawn Williamson
The Winnick Family Foundation
Janice and Dan Yamazaki
Dan Zigmond
$250-$499
Anonymous (2)
Phil and Mary Ellen Barnes
Elizabeth Basich
Patricia Bates
Bowman Design Group
Donna Callison
John Deakin
Jacob Domizio
Suzanne Ely and Rosemary Clubb
Ben and Laura Fauber
David Finn
Guillermo Fleites
Rebecca Lee Garnett
Pamela George
Pamela Gibson-Francisco
Mary Goerner
Joan Graham
Jessreen Hansen
Carl and Sarah Hanson
In addition to our donors, we’re also proud to work together with industry and government agencies to reduce the risk of wildlife impact in the environment. Our clients include:

- Aiuká Brazil
- Alaska Chadux Corporation
- Alaska Clean Seas
- Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
- Chevron Corporation
- Clean Rivers Cooperative
- ConocoPhillips
- Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response Incorporated (CISPRI)
- Coos Bay Cooperative
- Empressa/Flopec
- ExxonMobil
- Foss
- GPC/Navy Supervisor of Salvage
- Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- Plains All American Pipeline
- Southeast Alaska Petroleum Response Organization (SEAPRO)
- Sause Bros
- State of Maine
- Tidewater Barge Lines

In the event that we have accidently omitted your name from this list, please contact us at gifts@bird-rescue.org and we will update the donor roll immediately. We are so grateful for the support of all our donors.
There are many ways to help birds at International Bird Rescue. Here are just a few. For more information, visit birdrescue.org.

**Join the Seabird Circle sustaining member program.** For as little as $10 a month, your support ensures that we are always able to meet the needs of our winged patients.

**Become a member.** With any gift of $25 or more, you will help to save seabirds by becoming an official member of IBR.

**Become a corporate and community partner.** There’s a good chance that we’ve saved wildlife in areas of the world where you do business. Let’s work together!

**Adopt a bird.** An honorary adoption is a powerful way to provide comprehensive, expert care for one injured bird—your bird. Starting at just $25, you will receive both a certificate of adoption for your bird as well as an official membership to IBR. This makes an excellent gift for a bird lover in your life.

**Become a Pelican Partner.** At our $500 level, this unique adoption program offers a VIP tour of one of our California wildlife care centers and the opportunity to participate in an unforgettable pelican release.

**Matching gifts.** Don’t forget to check with your human resources department to see if your employer has a matching gift program. Matching gifts can double or even triple the impact of a single gift.

**Leave a legacy.** Include IBR in your estate plans and help sustain our vital mission for years to come. We also offer special memorial release experiences in memory of a loved one.

**Volunteer.** Love birds and want to do more hands-on work to help? Check out the volunteer section on birdrescue.org.

**Report a blue-banded pelican.** Have you seen a pelican with a blue band? Help us follow these special birds after their release by reporting your sighting at birdrescue.org.

Opposite: A Clark’s Grebe at IBR’s San Francisco Bay center. (Cheryl Reynolds)

Below: A Barn Owl hatchling at the San Francisco Bay center. (Michelle Bellizzi)
In 2014, International Bird Rescue will keep the momentum going from our accomplishments in 2013. Here’s a sneak peek:

**Expanding our global footprint.** Our partnerships with response organizations will continue to grow, allowing us to provide effective oiled wildlife care in underserved regions of the world.

**Establishing a community internship program for the San Pedro and Wilmington communities of Los Angeles.** Through a generous grant from the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation, IBR is reaching out to the neighborhoods we serve and training the next generation of wildlife rehabilitation professionals through a new local internship program. This grant helps to fund internships and an internship coordinator for a marine life training program.

**Developing an educational pilot program on birds of the Bay Area.** We’re working with partner organizations to bring a dynamic, multi-platform, grade-school educational program on marine life in the Bay Area and human threats to their survival. An expanded webcam presence at our San Francisco Bay center will serve as a window to wildlife in treatment. We hope to integrate online learning on local wildlife that complements core state curriculum while giving students the experience of a bird center tour and release event at one of our beautiful regional parks.

**Building on our post-release research and advocacy by adding a new banding category for herons.** IBR currently bands its Brown Pelicans and egrets with colored bands that allow for easier sighting in the wild, adding to our post-release data of these animals. In 2014, we’ll expand this program to include Black-crowned Night Herons, common patients at both our California centers. This program will give us greater insight into survivability rates of rehabilitated birds.

**Celebrating the release of a new documentary.** We are proud to be featured in Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Judy Irving’s *Pelican Dreams*, a documentary several years in the making that will premiere in fall 2014.

**Caring for a new year of patients, one bird at a time.** For 42 years, we’ve stuck to our mission through thick and thin. Rest assured, IBR’s commitment endures for years to come.
Orphaned American Coot chick (Bill Steinkamp)