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ON THE WING

International Bird Rescue Research Center

35 Years of Saving Wildlife

IBRRC Anniversary Issue

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Doing the work for 35 years: An IBRRC retrospective

By Jay Holcomb
Executive Director

Oiled scoter: Original poster from big 1971 oil spill on San Francisco Bay.

Director's message

As we start the new year, we are now just celebrating IBRRC's 35th year of existence. The reason for this delay is due to the fact that 2006 was one of our busiest years ever. The anniversary open houses we planned on never happened because there was no break in our patient load or oil spill work. Since January 2006 we have cared for a record number of brown pelicans, over 350; raised the only survivors of a rare tern colony massacred in Long Beach, California; cared for dozens of baby and adult common murres; worked at oil spills in Estonia, California and Argentina. So, rather than celebrating the work, we are "doing the work" we are known for. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate than by applying what we have learned over the years to the animals that come to us for care.

Jay Holcomb

None-the-less, we did make plans to do this anniversary newsletter that highlights some of the watermarks since IBRRC began back in 1971. It is impossible to list the 175 plus oil spills we have been involved in so we have highlighted a few of the more well known ones. We also wanted to bring into focus what I believe is our greatest achievement and contribution to the world; the rehabilitation of oiled and non-oiled aquatic birds. It is through our rehabilitation efforts in oil spills and at our rehabilitation centers that we have helped countless animals, continually working to improve and advance the field of aquatic bird rehabilitation and train others worldwide.

Also included in this issue is a summation of the incredible media attention that we have received over the years, especially this year's Alien in a Duck x-ray phenomenon. A timeline shows some of our historical highlights since our humble beginnings in 1971 including meetings with the President of France, the King of Spain and other interesting pieces of our history.

Alice Berkner and I have always said that IBRRC is literally "for the birds." We do everything we can to work in their best interest and IBRRC is where we achieve this. I am proud of our unique body work and I invite you to look back on 35 years of IBRRC's accomplishments.

How it all began

On a fog shrouded morning in February 1971, two oil tankers collided near the Golden Gate Bridge off San Francisco resulting in a spill that stained 50 miles of coastline with thick bunker crude. It killed thousands of birds and moved people to action. It was the genesis of IBRRC 35 years ago.

Mess on the bay: Oregon Standard, (above) gushes crude oil near Golden Gate Bridge on San Francisco Bay. Life ring from rammed tanker (right) that washed up on shore and given to IBRRC after spill. (Far right) Early bird center volunteer poster.

From humble beginnings to state-of-the-art oiled bird centers

History

We would not say that IBRRC is a "rags to riches story," by any means. But, the song "Movin'on Up" from the TV sitcom, The Jefferson's, pretty much sums up IBRRC's path from sparse beginnings on an old rooftop to two state of the art oiled bird rehabilitation facilities that can each house a thousand birds at a time.

IBRRC started its humble beginnings in 1971 in a temporary, makeshift oiled bird center in Richmond, California, that was used for some of the birds impacted in the Oregon Standard oil spill. Once that spill, the one that started it all for us, was officially over, we moved into an old vacant building in Berkeley where we spent the next few years. The Berkeley Humane Society generously loaned us a warehouse that was formerly a screen-making factory. It came complete with a large scary rooftop where shallow pools were kept, a second floor office area and a ghost. By 1975 we secured an agreement with the city of Berkeley to use an acre of land down the street in Aquatic Park that had two small buildings on it. It was conveniently located next to three brackish lakes that were perfect for the birds. This became our bird rehabilitation center, complete with a clinic and office buildings, where we remained for 25 years.

Old: Berkeley, CA bird center

The phrase "never judge a book by its cover" really applies to our facility in Aquatic Park. Our little center was a bit rough and limited but it worked for the most part. It is where we learned and tested a lot of the concepts and ideas that have become the standard state of the art aquatic bird rehabilitation techniques that are used to save thousands of animals worldwide. Interestingly enough, our funky center somewhat emulated the basic types of facilities that we would often come to use in remote oil spills. So, in many ways it helped to prepare us for the road. Whatever anyone thought of the place, it was the think tank and a laboratory where we applied the new rehabilitation techniques that allowed us to grow in knowledge and experience. We have fond memories of our center in Aquatic Park and can never thank the city of Berkeley enough for giving it to us rent-free for 25 years!

New: At the San Pedro, CA bird center (right) the 93-foot pelican (above) aviary readies birds for release back into wild.

In February 2001, on our 30th anniversary, we celebrated in grand style. IBRRC moved into the newly built and specially designed San Francisco Bay Oiled Wildlife Care and Education Center, in Cordelia California. Located on three quarters of an acre on the edge of the Suisun Marsh, the new headquarters was a dream come true; everything was new, and state of the art. Being on the marsh, many of the birds we saved could be released in our backyard! One month later we opened The Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and Education Center in San Pedro. Both centers were opened with great fanfare, to show off what a perfect rehabilitation center for oiled wildlife looks like.

These key centers of the OWCN were funded through the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act that was passed in 1990. This act required the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) to establish rescue and rehabilitation stations for aquatic birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals along the coast of California.

This legislation also required the creation of a network of centers along the coast of California. The creation of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) was to "ensure that wildlife exposed to petroleum products in the environment receive the best achievable treatment by providing access to permanent wildlife rehabilitation facilities and trained personnel that are maintained in a constant state of readiness for oil spill response within California."

As the recognized leader in the field of oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation, IBRRC was asked to help design, implement and manage the two regional oiled wildlife centers. Our rehabilitation program was expanded to include Southern California and we continue to manage these facilities, work on oil spills as a member of the OWCN and run our aquatic bird rehabilitation programs out of them.

New: Opened in 2001, IBRRC's new headquarters is part of a 10,000 sq. ft. state of the art facility. (left) The wash room.

Timeline: 1970s

1971
Alice Berkner volunteers to help treat birds at Oregon Standard oil spill in San Francisco Bay. Over 7,000 live birds were treated after spill fouls 50 miles of coastline.

1971
The International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC) is founded and moves into warehouse in Berkeley, CA.

1973
IBRRC receives personal letter of thanks for oil spill response work from California Governor Ronald Reagan.

1975
The city of Berkeley gives IBRRC buildings and land in Aquatic Park for $5 rent a year. Governor Jerry Brown sends a letter of support to IBRRC.

Founder Alice Berkner reflects on IBRRC's history

Shortly after midnight, January 16, 1971, two gigantic oil tankers collided near the Golden Gate Bridge spilling more than 800,000 gallons of oil into the waters off San Francisco and into the Bay. Thousands of birds and animals were oiled and many people's lives changed, and were even defined, by this disaster. One of those people is Alice Berkner.

As part of our 35 year retrospective, Jay Holcomb, IBRRC's executive director, interviewed Alice on December 1, 2006. The interview begins here and continues on our website at www.ibrrc.org.

Alice, how did you get involved with the devastating Oregon Standard oil spill that occurred in January, 1971?

A friend of mine was a veterinarian. He was going down to the Richmond bird care facility, one of the emergency bird centers that had been set up, to see if he could do anything to help and asked if I cared to go along.

Involved: Alice Berkner with long-tailed duck at oil spill.

What was your experience in that spill that impressed or concerned you the most?

I was impressed with the energy of the people caring for the birds but as a registered nurse I saw a great deal of room for improvement in organization and in other areas. The anthropomorphic attitude of the people really disturbed me. I felt that if attitudes could be redirected towards a more rational way of thinking, the level of care might be improved.

Oregon Standard spill: Using a converted Richmond, CA warehouse (above), volunteers work to save oiled birds in 1971 spill.

It was a new field with no history or guidelines of care or treatment. Additionally, the often-contradictory advice of wildlife professionals and veterinarians resulted in confusion and ultimately poor, although well meaning care that was detrimental to the birds. The emotionalism was understandable and it was just a matter or changing from an emotional to a rational point of view. Crisis situations have their own psychology and I was only beginning to realize that at the time.

What encouraged you to stay involved and start IBRRC?

It was a mystery! It was the challenge of solving a problem that would continue to arise in the future. I wanted to find the answer. It was a why, how, what, where, when situation. What can be done to make this work? I knew it had to combine science and good nursing care as it was a multi-faceted problem, not a laundry problem as some people tended to think. I saw and understood the complexity of it. For example, you should have a basic knowledge of everything from avian physiology, husbandry, and natural diets, to what makes a bird waterproof, as well as when and how do you release them. It was a big puzzle that I was compelled to solve.

I was also deeply concerned about the impact of oil spills on threatened and endangered species. I felt that if we learned how to rehabilitate common species, this would be crucial to rehabilitating species that were in danger of vanishing. The Treasure oil spill in the year 2000, when over 19,000 oiled jackass penguins were successfully rehabilitated using many of the techniques we developed in the early days, and then improved on over the years, proved me correct.

I did not accomplish this on my own. A group of volunteers from the Richmond center, including myself, established IBRRC. In the early years we had help from the California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the US Coast Guard, faculty from the University of California, Davis, the petroleum industry and others. But attitudes had to be changed and I set out to accomplish this. Many did not see the value in cleaning oiled birds, nor did they think it would work, but the public demanded that something be done. IBRRC became the answer to that concern.

See: The remainder of Alice Berkner's interview can be found on IBRRC's website.

Timeline: 1970s

1976
World Wildlife Fund "Concert for Wildlife" benefits IBRRC. Paul Winter Consort and Country Joe McDonald preform at Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco.

1977
IBRRC signs first oil spill response contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in Alaska.

1978
• More than 400 birds treated at Chesapeake Bay, Virginia oil spill.
• Research indicates Dawn detergent is an effective and safe cleaner.

1978
First edition of book called "Saving Oiled Seabirds" is published by IBRRC.

1978
Founder Alice Berkner recipient of Sol Feinstone Environmental Award for work with IBRRC and oiled seabirds.

1979
One of our most famous patients, an albatross named "Munch" was imped and flown by jet to Midway Island, for release.

Proving its worth: Alaska Wildlife Response Center

During the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, the massive scale and geographical circumstances once again emphasized the fact that centralized rehabilitation facilities in remote regions make very good sense. Logistical continuity must be a priority during oil spills that impact wildlife.

In 1990, IBRRC proposed the concept of an oiled bird rehabilitation facility in Anchorage to the petroleum industry and the idea became reality the next year. The Alaska Wildlife Center (AWRC) provides the state with a centralized and specifically designed "turnkey" oiled wildlife response facility, operated by IBRRC.

Funding for the Alaska Wildlife Response Center is provided by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Alaska Clean Seas and Alaska Chadaux Corporation. Since its inception the center has been activated for three significant oil spills and numerous individual oiled birds.

Alaska center: Crested auklet (above) and long-tailed duck (right) float in AWRC pools in IBRRC's Anchorage, Alaska facility (above far right).

Citrus Oil Spill: Rehabilitating king eiders from Pribilof Islands, AK

The Pribilof Islands are part of a five island archipelago in the Bering Sea. The city of St. Paul is located on St. Paul Island, the largest of the five, 300 miles west of the Alaska mainland. This little known but important oil spill killed about 2,000 king eiders and other birds.

In February 1996 reports of oiled king eiders showing up on the beaches and in the town of St. Paul on St. Paul Island prompted an investigation by US Fish & Wildlife Service. Soon thereafter, an IBRRC search and collection team was deployed. In the following days 186 live oiled birds were captured.

The birds were stabilized on the island and then flown to our Alaska Wildlife Response Center (AWRC) in Anchorage where they were rehabilitated. Of the 186 birds captured, 148 were king eiders. A total of 126 birds, 115 of them eiders, were successfully rehabilitated and flown back to St. Paul Island for release. (77% release rate)

This was the first time the AWRC was activated. It proved the importance and value of regional oiled wildlife response facilities in areas where remote spills are likely. It also allowed IBRRC to sharpen our remote spill response capabilities, transport sensitive birds over long distances, and work with king eiders who presented their own unique challenges in rehabilitation.

In years since, the bands of three hunted king eiders have been returned indicating they survived and flourished in spite of their ordeal.

IBRRC remains involved as a member of a group of Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Contacts that works on wildlife preparedness and response activities for the Pribilof Islands. IBRRC has already provided two bird capture and stabilization trainings on St. George and St. Paul islands.

Clean: Their ordeal almost over, king eiders await release.

Timeline: 1980s

1980
First out of state spill response: Platte River Spill, Wyoming. Mammals and birds rescued.

1984
Net bottom cages that help prevent pressure sores in birds developed during Puerto Rican oil spill, San Francisco Bay.

1985
"Rehabilitating Oiled Seabirds: A Field Manual" published. Second book put out by IBRRC on handling oiled animals.

1986
Back to back oil spills: Arco Anchorage, Port Angeles, WA and Apex Houston which fouls Northern California coastline killing 9,000 seabirds. IBRRC creates first spill response team.

35 years of advancing aquatic bird rehabilitation & research

Groundbreaking oil spill response work

In the early 1970's IBRRC's founders quickly learned that little to no information existed about how to house, feed and rehabilitate the birds that were impacted by oil spills. Birds such as loons, albatross, grebes and pelicans weren't kept in captivity. The field was wide open to discovery and IBRRC took the lead. From medical treatment and proper diets to safe and effective cages and pools, IBRRC entered uncharted territory. We now have a 35 year history of advancements in oiled and aquatic bird rehabilitation.

Tens of thousands of birds and people from around the world have benefited from IBRRC's groundbreaking work and invaluable experience. We would like to share with you some of the "breakthroughs' that have allowed us to influence this unique field of work.

Development of written protocols

In 1978, IBRRC produced the first comprehensive booklet addressing the rehabilitation of oiled birds, ***Saving Oiled Seabirds***. Updated and expanded in 1985, ***Rehabilitating Oiled Seabirds: A Field Manual***, was the most comprehensive source of information available on the subject at that time.

1978: "Saving Oiled Seabirds" published.

The creation of California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) in 1993 necessitated updating the protocols. Through collaborative efforts, mainly between IBRRC and the OWCN, protocols were updated and modified for use within the OWCN and continue to evolve to this day.

Washing and the use of detergents

Before the Oregon Standard Oil spill in 1971, there was no known way to care for, much less clean the animal victims of these tragedies. Alice Berkner writes in her "Founders Perspective" on IBRRC's website: "One of the first and I feel, most valuable things we did was to institute a literature search in the area of seabirds, their anatomy and physiology, how they were affected by oil, the use of medication in birds and anything remotely connected to the problems we had experienced. We actively investigated the use of solvent to clean oiled birds but were very concerned with the toxicity factors involved with its use. It was during our four years at the Humane Society site that we read of detergent cleaning techniques developed in England."

Determined to find something that worked and that was safe, Alice continued her research into the use of detergents. In 1978, 22 products were tested on feathers coated with oil. The discovery that Dawn® dishwashing liquid cleaned the birds without harming them was IBRRC's first and most important breakthrough. The first time Dawn was used at an actual spill was the Platte River Oil Spill (1980) in Wyoming.

Early years: Cleaning birds with solvents in the 1970s required respirators.

Using several pans of soapy water warmed to 108 degrees Fahrenheit, birds were cleaned by gently but firmly agitating soapy water through their feathers. The process requires two people; one keeps the bird submerged in the tub and controls the bird's head. The other person agitates the soapy water through the bird's feathers and cleans its head and neck using tooth brushes, q-tips and Waterpiks®. The bird is moved to new tubs of soapy water until the water in the tub is clear and no oil remains. This process can take from 10 minutes to an hour depending on the size of bird or amount of oil that has to be removed.

The Discovery of Oxygenic Showerheads

Rinsing a bird's feathers of soap is a vital part of completing the washing process. The detergent must be thoroughly removed from the feathers in order for the bird to naturally waterproof itself. Warm soft water with high pressure is the best way to achieve this as the water must get down to the bird's skin to flush out all of the detergent.

Waterproofing: A western grebe gets rinsed with an oxygenic showerhead.

In the beginning an assortment of garden spray nozzles were tried, but they were far from ideal, resulting in longer rinse times

Timeline: 1980s

1986
A leaking barge, the Apex Houston, impacts over 3,000 common murres. IBRRC responds to spill along coast that affected birds from Pt. Reyes to Monterey.

1988
"Munch" the albatross discovered sitting on egg on Isla Guadalupe Island, Baja California. In 1978, Munch was imped in Berkeley and released on Midway Island in the Pacific.

1989
Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska, IBRRC staff spends six months managing three bird centers and two search and collection programs. Eagles, puffins, murres and other seabirds treated.

and more stress to the birds. In 1985 at the Arco Anchorage oil spill in Port Angeles, WA, we used the Oxygenics® 200 series showerhead made by ETL. It cut water usage and rinsing time in half, and most importantly, faster washing time meant less stress to the birds.

These little showerheads have traversed the globe. When ETL learned we were using them, they donated 1,700 showerheads to IBRRC, and we in turn distributed them to other oiled wildlife response organizations around the world.

Net bottom caging

One of greatest challenges in housing aquatic birds is accommodating their unique physiology. Diving birds that use their feet for propulsion such as loons, grebes, and sea ducks have legs located far to the posterior of their bodies. This adaptation for diving greatly decreases their ability to stand on their feet for any length of time.

Out of the water these heavy bodied birds rest all their weight on their keels. In captivity this causes circulation loss and trauma to the thin soft tissues covering this breast bone. The resulting keel lessions resemble bed sores that people get from laying in one position for a long time. Once these wounds occur they are difficult to treat.

Other sea birds such as puffins and murres, rest all their weight on their hocks when out of water. Keels and hocks are covered in very thin layer of skin and cannot sustain the bird's weight for long periods of time. Within days of being out of water these species can develop keel sores, swollen hocks and foot lesions.

Significant development: Net bottom caging developed by IBRRC helped prevent keel sores on oiled aquatic birds.

Complicating matters, feces can accumulate on the feathers, resulting in feather decay and waterproofing issues until new feathers grow in. When these waterproofing problems occur, the bird has little chance of surviving the rehabilitation process. In the early years, as we were learning, many birds died due to these "captive care" problems.

In 1984, Jay Holcomb began experimenting with a concept he called "net bottom caging" which was a heavy-duty cotton mesh net stretched tightly over a frame made of PVC tubing. This simple and inexpensive design created a soft and clean substrate with some give so the bird's weight was distributed over a slightly larger area. The bird's feces fell through the netting keeping the bird dry and clean.

The discovery of net bottom caging was significant as it gave each bird a few more days to be in captivity before cage related problems set in. Net bottom cages have been modified and changed over the years and are still considered one of the most significant advancements we have made in the husbandry of these species.

The "donut" advances rehabilitation success even further

Even with net bottom cages, birds still rested their weight on their keels. Unless the bird is housed on water, captivity eventually creates sores that are usually untreatable. In 1995 the rehabilitation staff developed a U shaped donut made from a towel. This simple invention elevated the bird's keel, allowing it to rest its pectoral muscles on the donut .With the bird's weight distributed over a larger area, pressure was kept off the keel.

U-shaped bumper: A "donut" helps prevent bird keel sores.

To keep the donut in place, vet wrap (an elastic wrap that clings to itself, not feathers or fur) is placed around the bird, crossing over the back like a figure eight. This allows the bird to be able to move its neck, wings, and legs with an additional, important benefit; the donut elevates the bird, allowing its legs to rest in a more normal position, reducing the chances of swelling and infection of the hocks.

Water Hardness

During the Nestucca oil spill in Grey's Harbor, WA (1988) birds that were washed and rinsed according to IBRRC's protocols didn't waterproof when placed in the outdoor pools. After many frustrating days trying to solve this problem, the decision was made to look at the feathers under an electron microscope.

Graduate students volunteering at the spill ran chemical analysis on the feathers to identify possible contaminants. Their conclusion; hard water was the cause of this problem. The water where the spill occurred was very hard which allowed calcium

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Timeline: 1990s

1990
American Trader oil spill off Huntington Beach, California. IBRRC leads effort to save over 150 brown pelicans. Assists with research into oiled pelican surviability.

1990
Alaska Wildlife Response Center, (AWRC) opens in Anchorage, Alaska as the centralized oiled bird facility for the state.

1991
South America mystery spill in Punta Tumbo, Argentina. The first time IBRRC cares for oiled penguins. More than 400 Magellanic Penguins treated.

1992
Warm water therapy pool prototype developed by IBRRC. Increases survialability of oiled aquatic birds.

35 years of learning – continued from page 7

carbonate crystals to build up in the feathers. Water softeners were installed and when the birds were washed with soft water, and put into pools with soft water, their feathers responded normally, becoming water repellent in the usual amount of time.

At the Berkeley facility, where the original research on detergents had been conducted, the water was soft. A simple water hardness test kit is now included in every response kit.

Warm water therapy pool

Warm water therapy pools

When birds are contaminated by refined products such as diesel fuels, skin burns can occur. While the burns are healing, and the bird is otherwise healthy, putting them in a cold water pool with skin is exposed from burns or feather loss usually results in hypothermia. In the early 1990's it occurred to us that birds with chemical burns might be housed on water if the water was warm. A hot tub of sorts was envisioned.

We developed a prototype of a warm water therapy pool (WWTP) and birds responded very well to this hot tub. Our rehabilitation program expanded the use the WWTP's and eventually divided it into two separate systems, indoor tepid pools and outdoor warm water pools. Indoor tepid water therapy pools are literally "water cages." The warm water therapy pools are kept outside and are used to help birds regain their water proofing, provide short term exercise for birds that can't stay on cold water, provides a chance for them to drink and calms birds that have been traumatized.

Keeping birds in these "water cages" has significantly contributed to higher release rates and they are now used at all three of our rehabilitation centers and at oil spills around the world.

Taking blood: Understanding a bird's overall health.

Hematology: a window inside of a bird

Just as your doctor will use blood tests to diagnose health problems, blood work helps us understand some of the internal effects of oil on birds. But that wasn't always so. As we were attempting to understand the internal effects of oil on birds, we were also acquiring information on what normal blood values were for acquatic species.

The importance of blood values was first recognized in 1986 when birds were randomly sampled during the Apex Houston oil spill and the Nestucca oil spill in 1988. Results showed that packed cell volumes (PCV) appeared very low for the oiled birds based on normal values for other avian species, suggesting the birds were anemic. It was during the Nestucca oil spill that birds began showing up on beaches a couple of days after release. This was primarily attributed to anemia.

Taking blood from every bird was seen as impractical at that time for several reasons; there were not enough trained people, the needed equipment was costly, and blood parameters were unknown for many wild species. We now understand that taking blood is imperative in order to develop proper treatment plans.

During the Exxon Valdez spill (1989) we made the leap and established blood parameters based on avian blood values for other bird species. Birds that were considered anemic were not washed until their PCV had recovered through more intensive and supportive care. The team observed a sharp decrease in mortalities during the wash process. Additionally, minimum blood value levels were incorporated into our release protocols, insuring healthy birds for release.

As taking blood became a standard procedure upon intake to release, the staff began to see correlations between bird mortalities and certain weights and blood values. Patients with very low PCV's and total proteins, who were also emaciated, would rarely if ever recover. Euthanasia criteria were developed and implemented to help relieve the suffering of dying birds whose parameters fall within this category.

Proactive Search and Collection

Early on, IBRRC staff recognized the value in capturing birds before they became so weakened they couldn't be saved, but limited resources usually kept us in the clinic caring for the birds. Most of the responsibility fell on the US Fish & Wildlife Service and volunteers at that time.

The very extreme nature of the Exxon Valdez oil spill created the need for an aggressive search and collection program. It made such a difference to the birds captured that after the Exxon Valdez experience IBRRC was determined to make the timely capturing of oil affected birds a priority. This was again

Timeline: 1990s

1993

IBRRC becomes a member of California's newly formed Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) and the San Pedro center is tested to the max during the Ventura Mystery spill in 2005 (right).

1995

IBRRC responds to oil spill in Tasmania and cares for 2,000 oiled Fairy Penguins when a ship runs aground on a reef in southern Australia.

1996

The Alaska Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (AWRC) is activated and IBRRC response team treats 200 oiled birds including eiders during the Citrus spill in the Pribilof Islands, AK.

proven during the New Carissa oil spill (1999) when proactive measures were used to capture 32 oiled snowy plovers before they succumbed to predators and hypothermia. All 32 of this threatened species would have perished if not for our aggressive capture program.

In the net: Using a noose trap to capture an oiled sanderling at the New Carissa oil spill.

Politics, safety and weather can delay our efforts but IBRRC's search and collection team makes the capturing of oil spill victims the highest priority. Because many birds that are oiled can still fly, capture can be incredibly challenging. However, our response team members deploy at all hours and use many different capture techniques including mist nets, funnel traps, spot lights, net guns, and the use of bait in order to maximize collection success. Ensuring birds arrive at the center quickly, and in the best possible condition, is our main goal.

Response team created in 1986

The value of maintaining a team of wildlife rehabilitators trained in spill response became clear in 1986 at the Arco Anchorage spill in Port Angeles, Washington. In order to provide the best care possible we needed experienced professionals, capable of maintaining their composure in a crisis situation, to get the job done. This is not easy because spills are emotional and often chaotic, especially for volunteers.

Our oil spill response team is comprised of a group of individuals with many different skills. They have arranged their lives to be available to respond to oils spills on an emergency basis. Spills are inconvenient and typically happen on weekends and holidays. This core team provides leadership, training and vision during oil spills around the world. The success of our spill responses is due to this team who has saved thousands of animals through their valiant and selfless efforts. A listing of our response team members and their bio's can be found on our website.

Stabilization and Transport

When spills occur in remote areas, transport of captured oiled wildlife to the rehabilitation center can take as long as a day. Birds quickly become hypothermic or hyperthermic and this combined with exhaustion can be lethal. Basic stabilization administered in the field can make the difference between life and death.

Stabilization consists of warming or cooling birds to help maintain a normal body temperature, providing oral fluids to combat dehydration, and providing them with much needed rest in a dark quiet place. After initial stabilization birds can be transported to the main rehabilitation center.

The Exxon Valdez disaster was the first major spill where field stabilization and transport were utilized extensively. In order to cover the vast coastline that had been oiled, four regional centers were set up at Valdez, Seward, Homer and Kodiak Island. Birds were often kept overnight on boats in the most remote areas. If not for stabilization before the up to five-hour boat ride to the nearest center, many more birds would have died. Stabilization and transportation has now been incorporated into many state and industry oiled wildlife search and collection guidelines.

Feeding box: Penguins line up to be fed fish in specially designed boxes.

Penguin feeding box: Feeding thousands of penguins a day

When IBRRC's response team first traveled to South Africa it was to assist the South African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCOBB) during the Apollo Sea oil spill (1994). they were searching for a way to make sure thousands of penguins in care were eating properly.

Jay Holcomb recalls, "As we were trying to figure out how to organize these birds and feed them in groups, Mariette Hopley, logistic coordinator and manager at a satellite facility, shared the same frustration. We brainstormed a design, which we called a penguin feeding box. The box had two sliding panels at opposing ends. As the penguins' lined up, one end of the box was opened. Four to eight birds were ushered in and the door closed behind them. The birds were given their fish. When they were finished, the other door was opened and out they went. The birds were fed twice a day and it took an average of two to five days for most of the birds to figure it out. It was so exciting to see this become a reality. I joked to everyone that we revolutionized penguin feeding and the truth is we really did and it saved countless lives."

The use of the feeding box meant every penguin got its ration of vitamin filled fish, or if it didn't catch on, or was thin, could be force fed. The feeding box ensures that even with thousands of penguins who look alike, individuals with special concerns aren't neglected.

Timeline: 1990s

1997
The IBRRC/IFAW ER team and others respond to a devastating oil spill in the Sea of Japan when the Russian tanker Nakhodka breaks in two spilling tons of oil contaminating Japan's coastline bird sanctuaries.

1998
IBRRC/IFAW send response team to Pallas Spill, Fohr & Amrum Islands, Germany. (right) Tube-feeding a common eider

1999
The New Carissa grounds in Coos Bay, Oregon spilling oil that kills thousands of unique bird species. IBRRC team saves 32 Snowy Plovers, a threatened species.

Partnering again with Dawn® to make a big difference

Over 25 years ago IBRRC discovered Dawn ® dishwashing liquid cleaned oiled birds, while being gentle on their feathers and eyes. Dawn's manufacturer, Procter & Gamble (P&G), donated Dawn for use at oil spills for several decades, never asking for publicity or any sort of recognition.

In 2002, P&G approached IBBRC about an idea they had for a new campaign that would focus on the effects oil has on wildlife, educate consumers about how they could make a difference in their daily activities, utilize interactive teaching lessons with the Kratt brothers to educate kids about oil pollution issues, and best of all, help IBRRC financially.

A commercial filmed at IBRRC's Cordelia center, along with a print campaign and interactive website helped launch the "Save a Duck" campaign in the fall of 2003. It was a huge success. In addition to Dawn, P&G began supplying our centers with other products made by P&G.

In January, 2006, P&G decided to launch a new and expanded campaign called the "Dawn Make a Difference" campaign. It would feature a new commercial, an expanded interactive website, and seven webisodes about a fictional oil spill off the coast of Southern California (filmed at IBRRC's San Pedro center) titled, "Released – The Drama of Wildlife Rescue." The goal of this effort would be to educate one million people about how they could reduce the amount of oil they may unknowingly put into the environment. Ellen DeGeneres joined the campaign as a spokesperson and started a virtual flock on www.dawnsaveswildlife.com. Ellen's flock and many other flocks have created an online animal community with the purpose of empowering people to make a difference. The person who generates the largest virtual animal community will enter a lottery to win an all expense paid trip to IBRRC in 2007.

Dawn ads: The "Save a Duck" print ad (above), part of the campaign launched in 2003. Print advertisement (right), for the "Dawn Make a Difference" campaign launched in 2006.

Commitments to IBRRC also include two much needed vehicles which we will use to rescue and transport animals and a new series of small water bird aviaries at our Cordelia facility.

Read more online:
http://www.dawndifferences.com

Bridging the gap in Mexico: Procter & Gamble sponsors internships in California

In 2005, IBRRC & IFAW responded to an oil spill in Coatzacoalcos, Mexico where 183 animals including iguanas, turtles and 154 brown pelicans were cared for. It was our first time caring for animals in Mexico.

We received enthusiastic support from Procter & Gamble Mexico. In addition to donating Salvo, the Mexican version of Dawn during the spill, they approached us with ideas about ways they could expand their commitment.

Veterinarian Chema Barredo's IBRRC intern experience included helping swans oiled in a mystery spill in Estonia.

An educational print campaign was created for the Mexico market and P&G Mexico committed to sponsoring four interns who would train at our California centers.

Our first intern from Mexico, Jose Marie Barredo, a veterinarian we met at the Coatzacoalcos spill, spent one year at our two centers in Cordelia and San Pedro, California. He also worked as part of our response team at spills in Argentina, Chile, and Estonia.

Timeline: 2000s

2000 IFAW/IBRRC help rehabilitate thousands of oiled seabirds, including gannets at Erika Oil Spill in Brittany, France.

2000 IBRRC/IFAW ER direct massive effort to relocate 19,500 non-oiled African penguins and rescue, rehabilitate and wash 20,000 more during Treasure Oil Spill, Cape Town South Africa. 90% release rate is achieved.

2000 IBRRC receives Legacy Award from the States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force.

People, Politics, Passions and Lessons Learned through Adversity

Today the rescue of wildlife has been glamorized by TV shows that show the rescue but don't address the political, emotional, cultural or logistical hurdles that rescuers face in order to "get to the animals."

In our 35 years we have encountered tremendous challenges getting to the animals and through these situations IBRRC has developed a strong capability and reputation in effective emergency response management. Not much surprises us anymore. The following situations are examples of the adversity which have made us strong and effective.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, Alaska 1989

Volumes could be written about the politics of this infamous oil spill. Our team spent six months managing three of the four rehabilitation centers and two of the three massive search and collection efforts. Caring for the birds was the easy part. The politics were horrific and debilitating. Because we were rightfully contracted to manage the rehabilitation of the birds, and worked daily with Exxon employees, it was assumed that we "were" Exxon and that made us fair game. We were associating with the enemy! Our experience included being investigated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service due to a horrible disgruntled volunteer who made ridiculous accusations of animal abuse; continually fending off accusations that we had joined the ranks of the "spillionaires" who went to Alaska just to get rich from Exxon; a scathing article written about us by an unethical and biased writer of a well known environmental magazine; accusations of drug use because we had so much energy; being sabotaged by local contractors who did everything they could to create facility problems so they could charge more for their work; having dead animals thrown at us, and generally being treated like traitors by the media and others who will remain nameless.

Uneasy politics: The Treasure spill evokes an either/or situation: children vs. oiled penguins. Above right: Barbara Callahan, (left) changes the emotional situation in Theix, France from frustration to trust.

Erika Oil Spill, France 2000

The IFAW/IBRRC international response team includes people from all over the world but as both organizations have their headquarters in the US it is sometimes assumed that our international responses are solely "American" efforts. Nothing could be further from the truth. When we arrived in Theix, France to help with thousands of oiled birds from the Erika oil spill, many that had been sitting in boxes for weeks, we knew we would likely encounter defensiveness. However, the anti-American sentiment that permeated much of the volunteer corps was a surprise to us.

These wonderful and committed volunteers, who had given up their holidays and much of their personal time to try to help the birds, did not have current knowledge or guidance in the rehabilitation of oiled birds. Attempts to explain why "their" animals were not doing well, was initially met with resentment and anger due to their growing frustrations. None-the-less, our skilled and experienced team reasoned their way into the hearts and minds of these amazing people. Once trust was established, the volunteers were included in important decisions, assisted in euthanasia and focused their efforts on birds with the best chance of survival. When the center was functioning well we began releasing healthy strong sea birds and this became a life changing experience for everyone. A year later a new mobile unit for oiled birds was designed and planned for the Brittany Coast. Our team became honorary citizens of Theix and met Jacques Chirac, President of France, who visited the center and thanked our team and the volunteers for helping the wildlife of France. To this day we have close ties with France and support their efforts to rehabilitate oiled birds.

South Africa: Suprising cultural issues

During the Apollo Sea and Treasure oil spills in South Africa, we faced a new and surprising cultural issue. During both well-publicized spills, The Child Welfare Society, a South African NGO that provides aid to children and families in distress, placed full-page advertisements showing an underprivileged African child with pleaful statements. One said, "I wish I was a Jackass Penguin" and the other said, "Now will you help me?" with a child pouring black oil over his head.

The local volunteers were shocked and hurt as many supported child welfare organizations and firmly believed there was enough money to help people and the environment , not an "either or" situation as it was being portrayed. They overcame it by focusing their invaluable skills on the penguins and both spills resulted in exceptionally high release rates – surpassing 90% during the Treasure spill.

Timeline: 2000s

2000
Trona, CA bird rehabilitaion program begins in Mojave Desert. IBRRC helps save migrating birds landing in evaporation ponds, including this salt encrusted loon.

2000
IBRRC/IFAW ER team rushes to the Galapagos Islands when a tanker spills oil threatening some of the world's most unique and endangered species.

2001
IBRRC moves to new headquarters in Cordelia, CA and opens new wildlife hospital and oiled bird center in San Pedro - the key centers for the OWCN network.

Partnering with IFAW continues to pay global dividends

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and IBRRC continue their partnership which began in 1994 at the devastating Apollo Sea oil spill in South Africa. Many spills later, the co-managed IFAW Emergency Relief Oiled Wildlife Team remains the most effective global oiled wildlife response team in the world.

Together IFAW and IBRRC have responded to oiled wildlife events in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Estonia, France, the Galapagos Islands, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Spain and Uruguay. Our mission is unique. The cornerstone of this collaborative effort is *"to work with local and regional governments and non government organizations to increase their capacity to respond to spills in their country, as well as offering practical hands-on training in oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation."*

International partner

In February, 2006, the IFAW/ IBRRC team was activated to a mystery spill in Estonia, on the Baltic Sea. The team cared for 156 oiled ducks and swans, and trained people at the local organizations while on-site. Today, there is a team of people in Estonia who are much better prepared to help oiled wildlife and who continue to work in the field. We expect an Estonian delegation to come to IBRRC headquarters as international interns in 2007.

Lending a hand: (Above) Team members treat a oiled Peruvian brown pelican in Chile. (left) Oiled Magellanic penguins in recent Argentina spill wait to be cleaned.

Frozen in ice and oil: (Below left) Brazilian veterinarian Valeria Ruoppolo tends to a Mute Swan oiled in a mystery spill in Estonia, 2006.

Since 1991, when IBRRC responded to an oil spill with the staff at the La Fundación Patagonia Natural in Patagonia, Argentina, we recognized the need for increased response capability in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. Tens of thousands of penguins are oiled annually due to deliberate bilge dumping at sea. Over the last five years, the IFAW ER Team has worked to develop a network of wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians in these countries concentrating on raising the standards of oiled penguin rehabilitation and response. Under the direction of long-time IBRRC colleague, Dr. Valeria Ruoppolo, as well as Jay Holcomb and Barbara Callahan, the IFAW ER Team responds to spills in South America. Hard work and training have paid off. Most centers are now able to rehabilitate and release over 80% of penguins who are victims of oiling. Additionally, the IFAW ER Team is working with researchers from several institutions to study the post-release survivability, migratory patterns and natural history of the Magellanic Penguins.

Other IFAW ER projects managed by IBRRC included the development of Oiled Wildlife Contingency Plans in Sakhalin Russia and Kazakhstan. The team trained in Estonia, Sakhalin Island, Kazakhstan and Los Angeles and in a capacity building project sponsored by the European Union.

Timeline: 2000s

2001
IBRRC receives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Environmental Award.

2001
The newly built SFBOWEC in Cordelia is tested when a mystery spill off the coast of Northern California oils hundreds of common murres. In 2002 state officials would determine the cause to be the SS Luckenbach, a ship that had sunk in 1953.

2002
The discovery of the SS Luckenbach that sank in 1953 explains the chronic oiling and killing of thousands of seabirds off the coast of San Francisco. The wreck is emptied of oil.

In the news: IBRRC and birds shine in media spotlight

Over our 35 year history we have had thousands of stories about us; radio, television, newspapers, magazines, all the way to blogs and even being featured in a daytime reality series! It would be impossible to list them all. As big as some of those stories were, nothing surpassed the Alien in the Duck X-Ray that made IBRRC famous around the world for almost two weeks in 2006.

For the birds: From People Magazine to The New York Times, IBRRC has been featured in hundreds of media outlets chronicling our work around the world.

It started on Sunday, May 21, 2006, when an adult male mallard was brought to our Cordelia center with what appeared to be a broken wing. Marie Travers, Assistant Rehabilitation Manager of the center, radiographed the mallard and was immediately shocked by what was revealed on the X-ray; a very clear image of a stereotypical alien face was in the bird's stomach! Every one laughed and joked about it but when a photograph of the X-ray was sent to Karen Benzel, IBRRC's media director, she knew this had the makings of a unique news story, and that it needed to be auctioned on eBay. To get the ball rolling, a few local reporters were called to do stories about the X-ray. Then, an eBay consultant was hired to create a page about the X-ray for the auction. The rest is history.

Top ten: Our Alien in the Duck X-ray was one of National Geographic News' top ten photos of 2006.

Before the X-ray finally migrated into Golden Palace.com's collection of oddities at a winning bid of $9,600, the eBay page had received over 135,000 visits. A Google search found 463,000 results for the alien in the duck X-ray. On May 30, Jay Holcomb was interviewed live on "Countdown with Keith Olbermann," MSNBC's top news show – the x-ray was the number one story! (You can watch the interview on our website). It was also featured on MSNBC's "The Most", National Geographic News, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, CNN - really every major network and cable news station in the U.S. and print and electronic media internationally. It was AOL's cover story for several days and it even became a Phil Frank "Farley" cartoon.

It's impossible to thank all of the many reporters we have worked with and who help facilitate getting important stories in the media spotlight. Just know, we couldn't do it without you and you have our sincere thanks.

Here is a partial list of media outlets that have featured IBRRC:

The BBC
CBS Evening News
The Guardian-UK
Los Angeles Times
Anchorage Daily News
Metro Santa Cruz
New York Times
Oakland Tribune
Sacramento Bee
Vallejo Times Herald
The Daily Breeze
Fairfield Daily Republic
Seattle Times
KRON-TV (San Francisco)
MSNBC
CNN
National Public Radio
San Francisco Chronicle
Chronicle of Philanthropy
Birder's World
Bird World Digest
Audubon Magazine
AVMA News
People Magazine
National Geographic
Starting Over – NBC
Good Morning America
The Atlantic
Animal Planet
Wild Rescues: Treasure spill

Timeline: 2000s

2004
IBRRC/IFAW ER team responds to one of the worst spills in history when the Prestige tanker sinks off the coast of Spain. Team is featured in People Magazine. Jay Holcomb meets King of Spain.

2003
IBRRC makes news internationally when pelicans in San Pedro are shot and wings broken. Reward tops $26,000.

2004
A pipeline running through the bird rich Suisun Marsh, the backyard of our Cordelia center, breaks spilling 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel into 240 acres of wildlife habitat.

A long way from home: "Munch" the history making Albatross

On March 26, 1979 a Laysan Albatross with clipped feathers, found wandering in San Francisco, was brought to IBRRC. Waiting for the bird to molt and grow new feathers would take too long so we had to figure out how to help this bird fly again. The bird was nicknamed "Munch" because he munched everyone's fingers when he was being fed.

A decision was made to try "imping," a technique where half of a healthy feather is spliced together with the broken one creating a "whole" feather. Feathers from a dead Laysan albatross sent from Hawaii were used and held together by tiny drill bits and saltwater epoxy glue. After the tedious procedure Munch went into his private pool and seemed oblivious to his new feathers. On May 21 a $93.98 one way ticket took him to Honolulu. Munch was then flown to Midway Island, 1,000 miles west of Hawaii, which has the largest colony of Laysan Albatross in the world. Nine years later a seabird biologist visiting Isla Guadalupe Island off Baja California found a newly established colony of Laysan Albatross. He noticed one was banded, number 977-35061. It was Munch.

Amazing Munch: Nesting on an egg in Baja California in 1998.

Munch made rehabilitation history as the first known imped albatross, and for being part of the first known colony established east of Hawaii.

A more detailed story about Munch is available on our website:

http://www.ibrrc.org/munch_famous_bird.html

Vet students gain valuable clinical experience at IBRRC

Dr. Heather Nevill, a veterinarian with the Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine (WU-CVM) in Pomona, California, has been our resident "volunteer" veterinarian at our San Pedro center since 2004. In addition to her personal involvement with our patients, she is forging a strong relationship between the IBRRC and WU-CVM.

One of the founding principles of the WU-CVM is the Reverence for Life philosophy, which means that no animals are harmed or killed in the teaching program. Dr. Nevill has secured state and federal permits allowing WU-CVM to use deceased birds from IBRRC to teach students anatomy, physiology and clinical techniques.

Volunteer vet: Dr. Heather Nevill, operates on an injured brown pelican at the San Pedro bird center.

A formal volunteer program for WU-CVM students allows them to gain hands on experience by volunteering at our center.

Students will also participate in two research projects, funded through WU-CVM and the OWCN. One project will compile data on mortality in pelicans and gulls, and the other will investigate the use of colloid (protein-like) fluid therapy and blood pressure monitoring in pelicans.

International intern training grows

IBRRC's first international spill response was in 1991. During the course of our international work, we have met many wonderful people who desperately wanted to know how they could further their knowledge about oiled and aquatic bird rehabilitation. After all, no school existed that could teach them these skills. The only way to learn was through hands on training.

Because of our limited facilities and resources, it wasn't until 2001 that we were able to fulfill the wishes of so many people who wanted to learn from us. With our new headquarters and relationships with the OWCN and IFAW, we were finally able to invite the first interns into our International Internship Program. Our first interns were volunteers we met at spills, who expressed a sincere passion to learn this work and then take the knowledge they learned back to their own countries. The benefits of this program are tremendous. The interns get one of a kind intensive hands-on training and become part of our international response team, helping us to increase global capacity for oil spill response. Most importantly, interns help build local capacity for rehabilitation of birds and oil spill responses in their countries.

Since the development of this program, 20 interns from Canada, England, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the US, have spent from three months to a year at our California centers.

Timeline: 2000s

2004

The worst spill in Alaska since the Exxon Valdez takes a toll. Six people die and most bird victims can't be found in stormy weather and rough seas off Unalaska Island, Alaska when the Selendang Ayu soybean tanker runs aground.

2005

One of California's worst spills, the Ventura Mystery spill, floods the San Pedro center with 1,400 oiled Western Grebes and hundreds of volunteers. The center and everyone involved is pushed to the max.

California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network – 26 members with an important mission

The American Standard oil spill in 1971, which fouled hundreds of miles of pristine coastline and killed thousands of seabirds, marine mammals and fish showed how vulnerable and unprepared the state of California was should another catastrophic spill occur. As the years went by and IBRRC responded to ever increasing numbers of spills within California, it became apparent that a small non-profit organization, with very limited funding and resources, could not continue to do this important work alone.

In the mid 1980's IBRRC conceptualized a network of wildlife rehabilitation facilities with oil spill supplies on hand and trained volunteers who could respond to oil spills more effectively if they were prepared. Existing wildlife centers near the coast could be activated when a spill occurred, and with a pre-emptive approach more wildlife could be saved.

A presentation was made to the director of California's Department of Fish & Game (DFG), the agency that oversees and regulates wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation facilities. Although enthusiastic and supportive of the concept, there was no funding available at the time to start the process. IBRRC struggled on doing the best they could while keeping the dream alive that someday this network of trained people and stored supplies would become a reality.

Then in 1990 the State of California enacted the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act. The most important mandate of the Act was that a network of turn-key oiled wildlife rehabilitation facilities be established and funded. Preventing, preparing for, and responding to spills, and the protection of California's natural resources became the duty of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR).

The Oiled Wildlife Care Network becomes reality

California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network has 26 participating wildlife rehabilitation organizations throughout the state that incorporate the expertise of wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians and biologists and volunteers.

IBRRC is a proud member of the OWCN and we play three major roles. First, we manage the two large regional oiled bird care facilities for the state where we have been able to operate our ongoing aquatic bird rehabilitation program; second we act as a lead oiled bird response organization, under the management of the OWCN, and respond to most of the oil spills that affect birds, reptiles and fresh water aquatic mammals in California; third we help develop and teach annual trainings for OWCN participants. These trainings are designed to familiarize members with proper procedures and protocols in oiled wildlife capture and rehabilitation. The OWCN is managed by the Wildlife Health Center (WHC), a multidisciplinary program of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. As required in the legislation, OWCN members strive to ensure that wildlife exposed to petroleum products in the environment receive the "best achievable care."

Big help: Veterinarian Shannon Riggs (right) works in Cordelia center with Angelica Lindberg, IBRRC intern from Sweden.

UC Davis veterinarians bring life-saving expertise to IBRRC

In 2005, the Wildlife Health Center (WHC) at UC Davis agreed to commit full time veterinary help to IBRRC's aquatic bird rehabilitation program in Cordelia. In a typical year more than 2,000 non-oiled birds are rehabilitated.

This exciting collaboration offers opportunities for IBRRC staff and volunteers to work with veterinarians employed by one of the most prestigious veterinary schools in the world. In turn, the WHC has access to IBRRC's rehabilitation program and our patients who provide educational opportunities for veterinary students, interns, researchers and veterinarians. A consistent flow of wild patients is rarely available to vet schools. This opportunity to combine veterinary and rehabilitation expertise is exciting for us and beneficial to our patients.

Timeline: 2000s

2005
Over 250 baby brown pelicans rehabilitated with IBRRC's help at oil spill in Breton National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana.

2006
Joint IBRRC/IFAW oil spill response in Tallinn, Estonia. Rescue teams battle frozen conditions as oiled Mute Swans (right) were stuck to ice in the Baltic Sea.

2006
X-ray image of an Alien in a Duck auctioned off online through eBay. Winning bid of $9,600 helps IBRRC care for more birds.

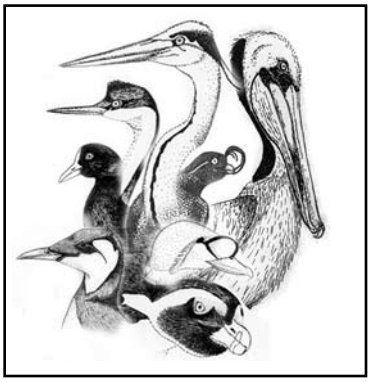
IBRRC's website: A wealth of information

Launched in 2000, our website has grown to over 350 pages! You can find a plethora of information about our work, history, research papers, volunteer information, intern programs, bird adoption programs and other ways to help: become a member and donate online.

Our website also features a breaking news section for both oil spills and rescues we are involved with, and events like domoic acid outbreaks.

The site now averages over 20,000 page views per month. Visit it often, you'll always find something new and interesting about our worldwide dedication to helping aquatic birds and waterfowl in need. Read more: http://www.ibrrc.org

New 35th anniversary IBRRC t-shirt now available



Help us celebrate the 35th anniversary of IBRRC by purchasing a handsome new t-shirt. The shirt features artist images of birds that bird center has worked with over the years: pelicans, murres, grebes, coots, herons and penguins.

The $15 white T-shirts can be ordered online: http://www.ibrrc.org/merchandise_shirts.html

IBRRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Please help support our efforts. There are many ways to contribute.

Visit our web site at http://www.ibrrc.org for details or send your donation to:

IBRRC
4369 Cordelia Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
Questions? Call (707) 207-0380 Ext 109

9th Effects of Oil Conference set for Monterey, CA in June

The 9th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife (EOW) Conference will be held June 25-29, 2007 at the Monterey Plaza Hotel in Monterey, California. The conference is co-hosted by the International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC), the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), and the California Department of Fish and Game & Office of Spill Prevention and Response (DFG & OSPR).

The EOW is designed to help mitigate the effects of oil pollution on aquatic wildlife by sharing information with biologists, veterinarians, rehabilitators, government wildlife representatives, environmental organizations, and any other interested parties.

This the most effective way to bring all interested people together to learn and improve knowledge and capabilities. Started in 1982 by Tri-State Bird Rescue Research Center as a small gathering of interested people, the event has grown into an international event that brings together delegates from around the world.

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