Year in review

Volume 5, Number 5 – Winter 2005

ON THE WING

International Bird Rescue Research Center

New IBRRC adopt-a-bird program really takes off

When we began our Adopt a Bird program in the summer of 2004, it really was out of necessity. With more than 100 starving juvenile brown pelicans to feed and medicate, we needed $20,000 immediately. The cost of rehabilitating each pelican is at least $200, and without immediate funding we would be forced to turn them away. So we asked for your help. The response was immediate and overwhelming. We were able to feed and release these wonderful birds, who remain an endangered species, back into the wild.

This year, IBRRC's rehabilitation programs at our two centers received a record number of birds, almost 5,000, in need of help. We treated nearly 100 different species including many threatened or endangered species: California Common Loons, a Red-tailed Tropic bird, Least Terns, American Bitterns, White Pelicans, Tufted Puffin, a Brant Goose and 82 California Brown Pelicans.

In order to fund our rehabilitation program we need your support. Adopting a bird for yourself or a friend is a wonderful way to give a gift of life to other bird lovers and help birds in need. Your adoption package includes a beautiful certificate of adoption that includes the band number of your bird, place and date of release. Every adoption also includes a year long membership to IBRRC. We've had birds adopted as wedding presents, memorials of people, pets and special animals, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, anniversary presents and celebrating the birth of a baby. Children have adopted ducklings for other children, from as far away as the UK. The bird you adopt got a second chance at life because of its own determination, the hard work of the dedicated staff and volunteers of IBRRC, and most importantly your donation.

Pelican partners: Lisa and Bruce Toloski witness their adopted brown pelicans release in San Pedro, CA.

Our centers are never empty. We have birds in need year-round. If there is a California waterfowl or aquatic bird species that is special to you, there is a good chance we have rehabilitated one. Feel free to make a request and we'll do our best to fulfill it.

For more info see: www.ibrrc.org

Pelican adoption program expands to include actual bird release!

Pelican lovers can now become Pelican Partners in our exciting new expanded pelican adoption program. Here's how it works:

Sign up to become a Pelican Partner and you and your family will have the opportunity to personally release your own pelican!

For the $500 adoption fee, when your pelican is ready for release, you will be invited to our San Pedro Center and watch as our staff gives your bird its final examination, evaluation, approval and numbered Federal band. You and your family will then accompany IBRRC staff to release your pelican at a local site. You will be the one to open the cage, let your pelican go free and take photos or video of this wonderful experience.A beautiful commemorative certificate will include your name, the date and place of release and your pelican's band number. You will also receive an IBRRC T-shirt. The adoption forms are available online at: http://www.ibrrc.org/pdfs/adopt_bird_form.pdf.

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On the Wing

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On the Wing is a bi-annual newsletter published by the International Bird Rescue Research Center for members, volunteers and supporters.

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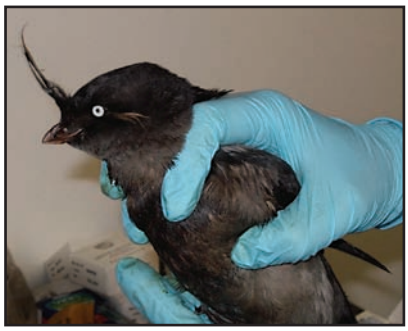
Professionalism trumps ignorance

By Jay Holcomb
Executive Director

Director's message

In December 2004, members of IBRRC's oil spill response team responded to the Selendang Ayu oil spill in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. It was a sad and frustrating experience that claimed human lives as well as thousands of seabirds and other marine animals. Severe winter storms crippled all rescue and clean up efforts and only 23 live birds were captured and brought to our center in Anchorage to be rehabilitated. The remaining oiled birds and mammals perished in the storms.

To add insult to injury, Craig Medred, a local writer for the Anchorage Daily News, recycled an editorial he did on IBRRC, its staff and volunteers in 1996 when we responded to the Citrus oil spill in Alaska. In both editorials Mr. Medred made ridiculous assumptions, most notably that "we only rehabilitate oiled birds to feel good about ourselves" and that the animals suffer horribly in the process, calling our center in Anchorage the "Anchorage Bird Torture Center".



Alaska spill victim: Oiled crested auklet at intake before being cleaned and released.

Committed and highly trained people were affected and hurt by his words. However, it made me really think about why he, and occasionally others, did not recognize the value of each animal's life, the proven track record that IBRRC and others have in rehabilitating them, and why we know it is our responsibility to do what we can to help them. First of all I want to clarify something. I know of no person in our field that cares for frightened and debilitated oiled birds so that they can feel good about themselves. That is beyond absurd but it has come up a few times! Believe me, there are so many other things we could all be doing with our time.

The United States alone sees hundreds of oil spills every year that impact wildlife. Federal and state laws now require that oiled birds receive care and that is why oiled wildlife rehabilitation continues to exist; because there is a need for it and given the right circumstances, it can be very successful.

Those of us who rehabilitate oiled wildlife are passionate about our work because we often achieve positive results by helping to restore an animal who otherwise would not have a chance. We know we are contributing to the world in a valuable and meaningful way through practical application of our time and proven skills. The passion or excitement we demonstrate in our work should never be interpreted as "we do this work to feel good about ourselves". It is the other way around! We believe in the work and its value and in turn we feel good about our involvement in it. We know animals are not only valuable but it is our responsibility to care for them, since we created the problem, not because we need it or want it. Any other interpretation of this enthusiasm is just plain ignorant.

Our work with wildlife goes far beyond oil spills. IBRRC manages two oiled bird rehabilitation centers in California as a member of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. Within these state-of- the-art facilities, IBRRC operates its own rehabilitation program. This program specializes in aquatic bird rehabilitation for birds that experience other problems such as fishing tackle injuries or displacement from urban growth. These unique groups of birds are also the species that typically are victims of oil spills, and so for the past 35 years we have been specializing in their care and applying this knowledge to oiled birds.

This newsletter is intended to provide an overview of the year's activities in oil spill response, our rehabilitation program and various other areas of our

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IBRRC's Native Waterfowl Reintroduction Program keeps growing

Cordelia raised and released 1,200 ducklings in 2005

Every year IBRRC's centers receive hundreds of wild ducks and geese in need of rehabilitation. The majority are orphaned ducklings, the casualties of human encroachment on their dwindling environment. Over the last 150 years the San Francisco Bay Area has experienced the loss of over 80% of its original wetlands, primarily due to urban sprawl and water diversion. What's left still provides sanctuary to a wide variety of waterfowl and other wildlife.

Waterfowl are determined and resilient animals and will attempt to adapt to all situations they are faced with. In urban settings wild ducks often use backyards, parks, highway medians and landscaped areas as upland nesting sites. Unaware of the hazards they will face when their babies hatch, the unfortunate result is that thousands of ducks and geese find themselves in the hands, roads and yards of humans. The scope of this problem is so big we estimate between 5,000 to 10,000, mostly wild ducklings and goslings, die every year in California as they attempt to find their way through urban environments.

In the year 2000, we began taking in growing numbers of ducklings. Pressure from the public to save them, combined with the inability of other rehabilitation organizations to care for them, called us to task. IBRRC's Native Waterfowl Reintroduction Program was born and has grown yearly. 2005 was our biggest year ever. Cordelia raised 1,202 baby ducks this year; 1061 Mallards, 30 Gadwalls; 79 Wood ducks and 32 other various species. San Pedro raised 230 ducklings. That's over 1,400 ducklings given a second chance at life!

Duckling crunch: In the wildlife hospital.

Rehabilitation

From April through August, IBRRC's Cordelia facility literally becomes a duckling factory. Ducklings are not difficult to raise and keep wild, but labor intensive to keep clean, and space consuming for the five weeks they are with us. Orphans are typically under a week old at intake and when deemed releasable, with proper feathering and weight, they receive a final exam and a federal band. They are then released either into the 116,000 acre Suisun Marsh that borders our center, or private preserves.

We are very proud of our nearly 90% release rate for ducklings, and band returns from hunter's show that many of these orphans not only survive, but also migrate throughout California and sometimes to other states. Mallards, wood ducks and gadwalls respectively dominate the species of ducklings we receive.

Our Adopt a Duckling program was well received this year when we kicked it off on Mother's Day. Many ducklings and clutches of ducklings were adopted and our goal is to adopt every duckling that comes into our care. If you have a fondness for a certain species, like wood ducks, please indicate that on your adoption application and we will do our best to fulfill your request.

IBRRC's enthusiasm for work goes far beyond oil spills

Director's message continued –

work. We cared for a record number of birds this year including over 1,300 wild ducklings and goslings as part of our native waterfowl reintroduction efforts. We also responded to eight unique oils spills in the United States and internationally that are highlighted in this newsletter.

Partnering in oil spills and other wildlife events is key to our success and we are proud of these joint efforts. IBRRC staff, utilizing their emergency response experience, played a crucial role with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) coordinating pet rescue and transport efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, we are working with UC Davis Wildlife Health Center to provide the best medical care for the patients in our rehabilitation program and on a number of research projects aimed at understanding new threats to wild birds including West Nile Virus and Avian Flu.

In 2006, IBRRC enters our 35th year of existence. There are still oil spills throughout the world and many birds in need of care. We have ventured out internationally to help others in similar situations be better prepared and learn key skills in caring for oiled wildlife. We continue to work towards our mission:
"To mitigate human impact on aquatic birds and other wildlife. This is achieved through rehabilitation, emergency response, education, research, planning and training."

Internships in 2005: A valuable asset for all

Individuals wishing to pursue a career in general or oiled bird rehabilitation or veterinary medicine can apply for an internship with IBRRC. For them, the program's most valuable component is the hands-on training that is gained working with staff and veterinarians at our centers. For us, their help in the clinics is invaluable.

We are proud to have worked with the following interns in 2005:

José "Chema" Barredo, Mexico

Alexandra Poncet, France

Shanna Norwood, Texas

Katy Siquig, California

Kristen Rzemien, Vermont

Amanda Beno, Arizona

Janet Ekstrom, California

Lorea Cardas, Spain

For more information, go online: www.ibrrc.org/internship_program.

Oil spill Response: From routine to devastating, U.S. to International

Selendang Ayu: Unalaska Island, Alaska

IBRRC staff and response team members started out 2005 at the worst Alaska oil spill since the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster. On December 8, 2004, the Selendang Ayu, bound for China carrying 60,000 tons of soybeans and 440,000 gallons of fuel, lost power and grounded off the coast of Unalaska Island. Seas as tall as a three-story building battered the carrier, breaking it in half. Storms made rescue efforts difficult and complicated. Six crew members from the Selendang Ayu died after a Coast Guard helicopter sent to rescue them crashed into the sea. The spill occurred off the sprawling Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, an area important for commercial fishing, seabirds and wildlife.

The search for oiled animals was called off in early January 2005. Severe weather and strict safety protocols slowed down all clean up and animal capture operations. Only 23 live birds rescued by our team made it to IBRRC's Alaska Wildlife Response Center in Anchorage. Of those, 10 were released. According to Incident Command reports, more than 1,600 birds and five otters were eventually found dead over the next few months.

Also see: Director's Message, page 2

Alaska search and collection: With grounded soybean freighter in the background, Bruce Adkins, IBRRC response team member, searches for oiled animals off Unalaska Island.

Louisiana: Breton NWR

When tropical storm Arlene hit the Louisiana coast in June, thousands of birds were nesting at the Breton National Wildlife Refuge. As the storm swept into the refuge, it

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Ventura, CA: Natural seepage spill

Barely thawed from the Selendang Ayu oil spill in Alaska, our team responded to a mysterious oil spill in Southern California. On January 13, 2005, oiled Western Grebes began showing up along beaches from Santa Barbara to Long Beach after severe winter storms hit the area.

An immense effort was launched to capture and rehabilitate the birds. This was the largest California spill in 15 years and the first major test of the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and Education Center in San Pedro, managed by IBRRC. This facility which opened in March 2001 was built with the capability of holding up to 1,000 oiled birds at a time. It took tremendous team effort to expand the center's capabilities to house so many oiled birds at one time.

Even in the best of circumstances grebes can be difficult to rehabilitate because of sensitivity to captivity and oil ingestion related problems. More than 500 cold and weakened grebes were received in one day alone. Although 1,400 birds were rescued, only 250 birds were released, mainly due to these factors.

Oiled: Western Grebe

The California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) determined the source of the spill to be natural seepage distrubuted by strong winter storms.

Oakland, CA Estuary

In February a pipeline leak spilled 500 gallons of jet fuel into the Oakland Estuary near the Port of Oakland, California. Numerous birds, mainly American coots, were impacted. IBRRC staff captured 14 live American Coots and also identified new oil releases during the rescue.

California: Pyramid Lake

Storms and flash floods broke a pipeline in March, spilling 126,000 gallons of crude oil into Pyramid Lake in the mountains of Southern California. IBRRC personnel responded to the spill and assisted in search and collection of oiled birds. Only one live and three dead birds were recovered.

Ballona Wetlands

In August, IBRRC responded to an oil spill into Ballona Creek, in the Marina del Rey area of Los Angeles. The diesel spill was due to a generator leak at a hotel. A total of 39 juvenile and adult mallards were captured and taken to the San Pedro center. 31 of the birds survived.

Baby pelican response

U.S. response continued –

carried 12-15 barrels of light crude oil that had spilled from a nearby oil rig. Even though the spill was small by spill standards, the storm surge carried the oil over the low island where brown pelican chicks being cared for by their parents. Over 900 pelican chicks were oiled.

IBRRC was asked by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to be part of a three-organization rehabilitation team to help rehabilitate the surviving chicks rescued from the islands. Our team, accompanied by UC Davis veterinarians from the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), rushed to Louisiana to join Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research Inc. and Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education (Houston) to save as many birds as possible.

In the end, about 250 healthy pelican chicks were returned to the islands to be "hacked out" while still flightless.

The birds were fed twice a day by our team members until they fledged. During this time adult pelicans visited the chicks daily. As the chicks fledged they followed adults until they were able forage for themselves.

In the 1960s, Federal officials used this successful reintroduction technique to restore pelican colonies back to Louisiana. This was done by transplating pelican chicks from Florida to three sites in Southern Louisiana.

Each bird from this spill wears a federal band and plastic yellow band to identify it as a bird from this spill.

There was an initial high mortality from this spill due to the time it took to get to the birds, complications from dehydration, and the severity of the burns they received when their sensitive skin was exposed to oil and sun. Specially designed outdoor aviaries were constructed to allow them to exercise and bathe while they recovered.

Chile rehabilitation: Peruvian brown pelicans were fed, cleaned and released after being oiled in Northern Chile spill in November 2005. (Photo: Valeria Ruoppolo)

2005 International response

Mexico: Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz

On December 22, 2004, a pipeline explosion near the Coatzacoalcos River in Veracruz, Mexico, released 7,000 barrels of oil into the river. PEMEX, Mexico's government owned oil company, contacted IFAW asking for assistance in caring for oiled pelicans seen in the area.

The team captured and rehabilitated 183 oiled birds and small animals and successfully released 88.5% of the animals. This included 151 brown pelicans, of which 143 were released, a 94.7% release rate.

To our knowledge, this was the first professional oiled wildlife response ever done in Mexico.

Chile: Antofagasta

More than 7 km of Chilean coastline was oiled by heavy bunker fuel, when a Hong Kong-flagged cargo ship, the Eider, ran aground on the northern coast of Chile on November, 1 2005.

The University of Antofagasta was given responsibility to care for oiled animals. Since they did not have experience dealing with oiled wildlife, they called on the expertise of the IFAW Emergency Relief (ER) Team, which is co-managed by IBRRC. IFAW Penguin Network Coordinator, Valeria Ruoppolo, a seasoned IBRRC Response Team Member, was sent in as On-Scene Coordinator for the IFAW ER Team.

Team members from two Penguin Network affiliated organizations, Rodolfo Pinho da Silva from CRAM in Brazil and Sergio Rodriguez Heredia from Fundacion Mundo Marino in Argentina were joined by IBRRC international intern, Jose Maria Barredo from Mexico.

During the three week response, the team cared for and released 24 Peruvian brown pelicans, three Franklin's gulls and one Humboldt penguin. Prior to the arrival of the team, University staff was able to preemptively capture and relocate 13 rare green turtles. The total release rate for the response was 92.8%.

Thank you to all our wonderful and dedicated 2005 volunteers!

Collaboration with IFAW: New opportunities to help injured animals

As IBRRC has grown over the years, we've forged a unique relationship with another non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of wildlife; the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

IFAW's Emergency Relief Program has made it possible for IBRRC to respond to many devastating international oil spills involving wildlife. Often these spills occur in areas that have no infrastructure or resources to deal with large scale animal oiling events, such as the Treasure spill in South Africa in 2000. Over many years and responses, IBRRC and IFAW have strengthened the global emergency relief team by assembling the most experienced and trained oiled wildlife responders in the world.

Partnerships

After working collaboratively for many years, IBRRC and IFAW have partnered to jointly manage some aspects of IFAW's Global Emergency Relief Team. IFAW's Emergency Relief Program also includes working with sanctuaries, rehabilitation centers, mammal strandings and natural disasters. However, oil spill response, including collaboration on oil spill contingency plans and training, continues to be the strongest focus of the program and the main area of expertise that IBRRC brings to the team.

Penguin Network in South America

There's new hope for oiled penguins in South America after the recent creation of a team of experts to help study the plight of these flightless seabirds. Named the IFAW Penguin Rehabilitation and Research Network, the group's aim is to document the damage that chronic oiling does to Magellanic Penguins along the coasts of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

IBRRC manages the IFAW Penguin Network in South America which is funded by the IFAW. The Penguin Network strives to bring together South America rehabilitation organizations working with penguins and help them to increase the number of rescued animals, standardize rehabilitation protocols, share information and collect pertinent data. This year, hundreds of penguins oiled due to illegal dumping of oily bilge water have been cared for and rehabilitated through the on-going support of the IFAW Penguin Network.

Oiled penguin: South American Penguin Network will stem tide of suffering penguins.

The ultimate goal is to understand the effects of oiling on penguins and to mitigate these effects through rehabilitation, research, prevention, and publicity. Additionally, the network is compiling much needed data from this region on the effects of chronic oiling of penguins.

Hurricane Katrina: Domestic animal response

IBRRC staff was deployed to New Orleans in early September to provide on-scene coordination and logistics for the IFAW-ER Team, working to help save companion animals after the devastating Katrina hurricane.

IBRRC Director of Response Services, Barbara Callahan, was chosen to be the on-scene coordinator of the team, which included a technical rescue team, Code 3 Associates, as well as other IFAW responders. Barbara's unique skill of being able to set up facilities and get supplies into areas where none exist was invaluable in setting up the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, which became the command center and temporary rescue shelter for all animals rescued in New Orleans. January Bill and Wendy Sangiacomo were brought in as on-scene logistics coordinators.

The management of the overall companion animal response was turned over to the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) who then put a multi-organizational Incident Command Team in place, which included HSUS, American Humane Association (AHA) and IFAW. Callahan was asked to take on the role of Planning Section Chief for the Incident Command.

During the month-long response, over 5,300 companion animals were rescued from homes, treetops, kennels and the streets of New Orleans. Once at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, all were given full medical examinations, vaccinations and supportive care. Each animal was photographed and micro-chipped and then cataloged on the Pet Finder website in an effort to reunite them with their owners.

Barbara Callahan

Oiled Wildlife Contingency Planning and Training

As part of the ER Team, IBRRC continues to provide technical expertise and contingency planning in oiled wildlife response. In 2005, the team finalized plans in Baku, Azerbaijan and trained first responders there. Also, the team is working with Sakhalin Energy Investment Corporation (SEIC) on Sakhalin Island, Russia to help define response plans and develop them for the island. In early 2006, the team will be giving a workshop on oiled wildlife response in Yuzhno, Sakhalinsk.

In July 2005, the team provided a number of oiled wildlife workshops, training and presentations during a 10-day trip to Japan as part of on-going skills development in oiled wildlife response there.

Working together with UC Davis Wildlife Health Center Vets

Since the beginning of 2005, IBRRC's Cordelia staff and veterinarians from the Wildlife Health Center/UC Davis (WHC) have embarked on a close partnership. WHC vets are now an integral and valuable part of our rehabilitation program. Working together has broadened the scope of our ability to provide the best achievable care to our patients as well as the option to run more diagnostics and lab work on sick animals.

We are also working closely with WHC externs/interns on various research projects such as a "West Nile Virus in Aquatic Avian Species Study" (Tamara Vodovoz), "Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Study" (Terra Kelly), and "The Ecology of Aspergillosis in Seabirds: Evaluation and Validation of Diagnostic Tests" (Julia Burko). All of this non-invasive research has the potential to greatly advance the rehabilitation of aquatic birds.

Birds eye view education program at San Pedro center

Through an agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District, LAUSD, our center and the adjacent Marine Mammal Center at Fort MacArthur house classrooms and education space for LAUSD's site based education program called The Center for Marine Studies. Approximately 11,000 children and teachers representing 173 different school groups visited one or both centers during the 2004/2005 school year.

Students and teachers who come to our center literally get a bird's eye view of our staff and volunteers examining and treating aquatic birds. This is achieved through a large window and a set of bleachers which allows students to see into the clinic.

New pelican statue sheds light on ocean trash problems

In December, 2003, the 28-foot long mural and labor of love designed and painted by artist and master printmaker, Jill Fitterer, was unveiled at our San Pedro Center. At that time, Jill was a graduate student in the Cal State Long Beach master of fine arts program. She initially approached the center to do an independent research project but after spending time with the staff and patients, she became inspired to do a mural, something she had never done before. Jill spent 200 hours at the center completing the mural and learning about seabirds, including the dangers disposable plastic cigarette lighters cause to birds like Albatross. Once more, she was inspired.

Millions of throwaway plastic lighters litter our oceans and it is common for Laysan albatross parents to pick up lighters floating on the surface of the ocean, and feed them to their hungry chicks. Some chicks throw up the lighters but many die, leaving a pile of bones and plastic.

For the next two years Jill collected lighters that littered Long Beach -- and worked with artist David Moore to design and fabricate a copper pelican. In July, 2005, the pelican was completed and placed in permanent display in our lobby.

Art in pelicans: A copper pelican and mural now on display in San Pedro.

The base was donated and fabricated by Bill Larkins at Plastic Depot in Gardena, CA. The castors were donated by Cal Aero in Paramount, CA. There are over 2,000 cigarette lighters in the 14" diameter acrylic tube.

Please stop by and personally view this incredible piece of art, dedicated and inspired by Jill and David's love of wildlife, and their desire to help us educate the public about the dangers of plastic pollution to animals.

Now open: San Pedro bird center's public lobby

Thanks to our devoted staff and volunteers, IBRRC's lobby gift shop and visitor center at the Los Angeles Oiled Bird and Education Center is now open two days a week. Future plans include ongoing educational displays and increasing gift shop and visitor hours to 5 days a week.

After the Ventura spill, dedicated volunteer, Gay Durward, took the lead in getting our reception room and education center open to the public. The empty lobby has now been transformed into a visitor friendly room, with information and display items of educational value.

Gay is also soliciting donated items to have on sale to help fund our rehabilitation program. If you would like to donate artwork, hand made bird houses, or other items that are nature related that we can sell to help our bird patients, please call the center at 310-514-2573.

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Pelican Products again comes to our rescue!

Pelican Products has helped pelicans at IBRRC for several years now. However, when they learned we were at the Selendang Ayu spill in Alaska, trying to rescue birds in the most extreme conditions possible, they really came to our rescue! The Torrance, CA-based company immediately donated cases and spotlights to all three centers!

Pelican Products cases and lights are well known as being the most technically advanced and toughest in the world. See Pelican's website: www.pelican.com.

Saying thank you to all our fine supporters in 2005

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Alaska Clean Seas
Automobile Club of Southern California
Blowfish Corporation
Chevron Corporation
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ConocoPhillips
Coos Bay Cooperative
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Flopec
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Thorton & Katrina Glide Foundation
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Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN)
Pelican Products
Proctor & Gamble
Plains All American Pipeline
Putnam Trust
Sause Brother's Ocean Towing
Solano County Legal Professionals Assoc.
State of Maine
Tomlinson Beefmasters
Unocal

IBRRC: Dedicated to education and training

During 2005, staff presented papers and talks at these conferences:

California Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) Trainings
Oiled Wildlife Responders Training.

International Oil Spill Conference
Miami Beach, Florida, May 2005

8th Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conf., St. Johns Bay, Newfoundland, Canada

(CCWR) California Council of Wildlife Rehabilitators, Redding, CA, Sept. 2005

Advancing the Field of Oiled Wildlife Response through Training:
Alaska Clean Seas, Prudhoe, Alaska
Wildlife responders training

Portland, Oregon Audubon
Oiled wildlife responder's training.

International Wildlife Rehabilitator's Council (IWRC), Toronto, Canada
Workshop on Oiled Wildlife Response for wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians.

Partnering with OWCN in California

IBRRC is a member of The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), a legislatively mandated program in California whose goal is to ensure that wildlife exposed to petroleum products receive the best achievable care. This is done by providing access to permanent wildlife rehabilitation facilities and maintaining a core of trained personnel for oil spill response within California.

Since 2001, IBRRC has managed both the San Francisco Oiled Wildlife Care & Education Center and the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and Education Center. Each of the centers were designed to hold up to 1,000 birds in the event of an oil spill. Through these centers IBRRC operates an ongoing aquatic bird rehabilitation program and works with OWCN on oil spills, trainings and other projects.

In memory: Sheena Springer, volunteer

On September 21, 2005 the last two baby snowy egrets of the season were released into the Suisun Marsh – the Cordelia center's "back yard" – in memory of beloved volunteer Sheena Springer, who passed away in September. Sheena loved working at the birdie place, as she called it and was a valued member of our volunteer team for many years.