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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beloved Local Wildlife Rescue Organization Celebrates 50th Year!

Fairfield, CA – Fifty years ago on April 20th, International Bird Rescue was founded by Alice Berkner, a local nurse, who came to the aid of oiled birds affected by 800,000 gallons of crude spilling into San Francisco Bay. Berkner's vision of protecting wildlife has grown into a world-wide organization. Over the past half-century, Bird Rescue has helped rescue and rehabilitate 125,000 birds over six continents.

Bird Rescue is widely recognized from the familiar duckling in the Dawn dish soap commercials. It continues using its vast experience to waterbirds in crisis all over the world. The organization operates two full-time wildlife centers in California and a rapid response center in Anchorage, Alaska. These centers offer expert care for injured, orphaned and oiled waterbirds.

Along the way its efforts have included rescuing wildlife contaminated by Mystery Goo, repairing the slashed pouches of Brown Pelicans and mounting a rescue operation to save nesting Herons & Egrets after a massive tree crashed to the sidewalk in downtown Oakland.

GROOVY GATHERING

Help Us Celebrate

The public is invited to a frolicking 1970s themed virtual "Groovy Gathering" fundraising party on **Saturday, May 15, 2021** from 5 pm - 8 pm. More info: www.birdrescue.org/groovy

This is the first of two events planned. An in-person musical event is tentatively scheduled for October 17, 2021 at Freight & Salvage venue in Berkeley.

How It Begun

Bird Rescue was hatched following a major oil spill in 1971 on San Francisco Bay. Thousands of birds were affected when two Standard Oil tankers collided in the fog on January 19, 1971. More than 800,000 gallons of crude polluted local waters and beaches. Bird Rescue founder Alice Berkner inspired a large group of passionate volunteers from all walks of life to help rescue the oiled birds that had washed up on shorelines – cold and hungry.

Video: **https://youtu.be/z3xeyLPZ-Wq** (One min)

Over the last fifty years Bird Rescue has responded to over 225 oil spill events including saving wildlife at the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, helping manage the rehabilitation of 20,000 oiled penguins in South Africa, and rescuing oiled wildlife during the 2010 Deepwater Horizon well blowout in the Gulf.

Thanks to our long-term partners, DAWN Dish Soap for its Marquee Level sponsorship during our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2021.

For more information about International Bird Rescue, please visit: www.BirdRescue.org

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