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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrating Wildlife Heroes: Bird Rescue to Honor Bird Conservation Award Winners at “Taking Flight” Benefit in Berkeley on May 3rd

Fairfield, CA – Want to do a good turn for the birds? Join International Bird Rescue on May 3rd in Berkeley, CA, for a [Bird Conservation Awards Ceremony and Benefit](#), an evening celebrating the mission of this 51-year-old organization. We will be honoring those whose work has had an impact on the wildlife we love.

The featured speaker will be renowned wildlife artist Jane Kim. She is known for creating the stunning [“Wall of Birds” at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). Kim will create an original work of art live onstage at Taking Flight. The original piece she creates will be available at auction.



The in-person event will be held Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:30 PM at the Freight & Salvage music venue in the Berkeley Downtown Arts area. Tickets are available online at <https://birdrescue.ticketspice.com/taking-flight>

Guests will also enjoy “flights” of wine and beer tastings, and an Art in Flight silent auction featuring gorgeous avian artwork and photography. [An online auction is live now.](#)

Finally, we will celebrate our inaugural Bird Conservation Award Winners, honoring our Volunteer of the Year, Wildlife Partner of the Year, and our Civic Partner of the Year.

Alice Berkner Award – Volunteer of the Year:

Toni Arkoosh Pinsky: Toni has given her heart and soul to Bird Rescue since arriving as a clinic volunteer in 2015. In addition to her clinic hours, she has been a member of the Board of Directors for five years and currently serves as Chair. Toni lives in San Anselmo, CA.

Wildlife Partners of the Year:

Melissa Borde: Melissa is the Reserve Manager at [Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve](#) in Orange County, California. Melissa put all her experience to work helping to make the rescue of the Elegant Tern chicks possible at the [Long Beach seabird rescue](#) in the summer of 2021.

Lenny Arkinstall: Lenny is the founder and CEO of the nonprofit organization [Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards, Inc. \(LCWS\)](#). Lenny sprang into action lending his boat and spending countless hours of his personal time on the water assisting with the Long Beach seabird rescue.

Civic Partners of the Year:

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO): In August of 2021, biologists from SFBBO brought three abandoned Snowy Plover eggs to our Northern California wildlife clinic. We were able to successfully hatch and raise the chicks, releasing them back to the wild with [SFBBO](#).

Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN): The [OWCN](#) provides readiness and response activities to oil spills. We recognize OWCN for their work in the Long Beach seabird rescue, generously stepping up to help even though no oil was involved.

More info on the winners: <https://www.birdrescue.org/celebrating-wildlife-heroes-announcing-bird-conservation-award-winners/>

Special note: Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required by the venue for all attendees.

Transportation options: <https://thefreight.org/visit/>

About International Bird Rescue

International Bird Rescue is a global conservation organization for birds in a changing world. Since 1971, Bird Rescue has responded to over 250 oil spills and other wildlife emergencies, caring for more than 160,000 birds on six continents.

With crisis response centers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Anchorage, the organization specializes in emergency preparedness and response, day-to-day aquatic bird care, professional training, and scientific research. Innovations are shared worldwide to inspire the next generation of wildlife specialists.

Bird Rescue aims to give a voice to waterbirds through conservation, advocacy, and wildlife literacy that builds empathy and encourages action.

For more information, please visit www.birdrescue.org.

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