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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## International Bird Rescue Responds To Major Pelican Crisis in Los Angeles; 55 Sick Brown Pelicans in Care

**San Pedro, CA** – Something is causing Brown Pelicans harm in Southern California.

International Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Wildlife Center is being inundated with many of these seabirds. More than 55 new pelican patients have arrived for care in the past four days, with more pelicans expected this week. Many of them are injured and all of them are in need of Bird Rescue's specialized rehabilitation skills. Several in the latest group came in with multiple fish hooks on each bird but some have been hit by cars or have fractures for unknown reasons. A few are just cold and starving.



Birds in a changing world face new challenges which take time to research and understand. In this case, Bird Rescue suspects that part of the problem is a lack of available fish stocks leading to birds failing to find enough to eat or taking extra

risks when foraging for food. That, combined with a new crop of young pelicans having to learn to feed themselves, may explain the current influx.

“We’re seeing a mix of fledglings, second-year birds, and mature adults, which makes me think it could be a food supply issue rather than a simple influx of starving fledglings”, said Dr. Rebecca Duerr, Bird Rescue’s Director of Research and Veterinary Science.

Brown Pelicans were added to the endangered species list in 1970 due to exposure to DDT and then removed in 2009. In 2010 and 2012, there were similar inundations of Brown Pelican patients at Bird Rescue’s wildlife centers. [The influx lasted for months as hundreds of pelicans needed care.](#)

“Rescue efforts like in 2010 and 2012, and the one we’re undertaking now help keep pelicans off the endangered species list,” said JD Bergeron, CEO of Bird Rescue.

“Thanks to our banding program, we recently spotted a former patient feeding its young four years after its release in the wild,” added Bergeron. “This proves that the hard work to save one bird at a time can affect future populations.”

Read more about this [Brown Pelican success story.](#)

Bird Rescue would like to remind the fishing public to not cast lines into groups of feeding birds to avoid snaring the birds. Also, until this flood of birds stops, please keep an eye out for pelicans landing in unusual locations such as along Pacific Coast Highway.

If the public finds a pelican in need of care, please contact International Bird Rescue’s Bird HelpLine at 310-514-2573. After hours, please contact your local animal control – in Los Angeles County, many of the beach cities have animal control officers that will capture pelicans and deliver them to Bird Rescue in San Pedro, as will [Marine Animal Rescue](#) and beach lifeguards. If pelicans are found in Malibu, call [California Wildlife Center](#) at 310 458-WILD (9453).

Brown Pelicans are expensive birds to care for and we depend on the public for help to respond to a crisis like this – donations for food and medical supplies can be made at <https://www.birdrescue.org/donate/>

### **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](http://www.birdrescue.org).

**International Bird Rescue**, 3601 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

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