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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **100<sup>th</sup> Rescued Brown Pelican Returning To The Wild** Releasing healthy birds from Pelican Crisis on Friday, June 24th

**Where:** White Point Park, 1801 W Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90732 ([Location](#))

**When:** Friday, June 24, 2022 at 1 PM.

**San Pedro, CA** – This week International Bird Rescue will be releasing its 100th rescued Brown Pelican from the California pelican crisis. The media is invited to the release in San Pedro on Friday, June 24, 2022 at 1 pm.

Since mid-May the non-profit organization has received 320 injured and starving Brown Pelicans at its two California wildlife centers. Most of these rescued birds have flooded into Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Center in San Pedro.



The majority of the birds have been rescued along the coast in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, with more than 150 birds rescued from LA County. In Northern California about 40 birds have come into care from primarily Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

It's still a mystery what's causing these birds to not thrive in the wild. Whatever the cause, the birds have been failing to find enough to eat and taking extra risks when foraging for food. Initially most admissions were second year or older birds, more recently, younger birds have been admitted. These large seabirds are clearly arriving emaciated, weak, and with fishing tackle or other traumatic injuries. All the uninjured birds have appeared to be starving.

“I’m so happy to see so many that are now strong and ready for release,” said Dr. Rebecca Duerr, Bird Rescue’s Director of Research & Veterinary Science. “Some of them have nearly doubled their body weight since being rescued, and are now feisty rather than weak and on the verge of dying.”

All birds released by International Bird Rescue have been banded with large blue leg bands to help spot them in the wild. One patient rescued in Marina del Rey on May 25th was released on June 13th with the band Z38. This bird was spotted this week 350 miles up the coast in San Mateo County.



### **How the Public Can Help**

When Pelicans are in trouble they will appear weak, listless, and be found in unusual places. They may seem friendly or approachable, or may be sitting down looking sleepy, while in reality they are simply too weak to move away. The public can help by establishing a six-foot perimeter around the bird, while calling local animal control. Along the Los Angeles County coast, many of the beach cities have animal control officers that will capture pelicans and deliver them to Bird Rescue in San Pedro. Lifeguards often also have resources to help. In other areas of California, call your local wildlife center. If in doubt who to contact, call International Bird Rescue’s Bird HelpLine at 310-514-2573.

With hundreds of hungry pelicans in care, Bird Rescue welcomes the public’s support. Donations can be made online at <https://www.birdrescue.org/donate/>

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### **Download photos and videos from pelican crisis:**

<https://birdrescue.app.box.com/folder/163191881298?s=it422ajkcsrqjzzzfwxmootwa3mcdzyf>

### **Blue-banded California Brown Pelican Program**

The California Brown Pelican represents a species of special interest to Bird Rescue. These birds continue to face many challenges including oil spills, fishing tackle entanglements, prey shortages, and climate change.

To help us track this iconic seabird, each one of Brown Pelicans we release receives a large, blue plastic leg band bearing easily readable white numbers. Bird Rescue started this program back in 2009 when these seabirds were de-listed from the endangered species list. With the help of citizen scientists, the blue-banded pelicans spotted in the wild can be reported on online: <https://www.birdrescue.org/contact/found-a-bird/reporting-a-banded-bird/>

### **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 <https://www.birdrescue.org>

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