

The Aviary

September 2022



INTERNATIONAL
BIRD RESCUE

A Publication of International Bird Rescue

Up Close

When patients come into our clinics, they receive the most expert, gentle, and compassionate care imaginable. Here's an up close look at just one tiny Snowy Plover. The Pacific Coast population of Western Snowy Plovers is federally listed as threatened. Once numbering in the thousands, fewer than 1,500 breeding plovers remain in California. Bird Rescue routinely cares for plovers at both our Northern and Southern California facilities.



This patient came to us with oil contamination - which can be lethally harmful to birds. Natural oil seeps, as well as spills, can contaminate the habitat of these shorebirds.



Our veterinary techs conducted a careful physical examination upon admission, checking for any signs of injury, broken bones, or illness.



A thorough wash was needed to remove oil contamination. This two-person job required a delicate touch to protect the tiny patient, while still scrubbing every trace of oil away. If any oil remained, the bird's waterproofing would be compromised.



Technician Jennifer Martines, hand fed the plover to help it regain strength. Birds receive nutritional supplements and medications, in addition to food, to support recovery.

Photos by Ariana Gastelum



Sparkling clean, with effective waterproofing evident in the sheen of water droplets on its feathers, this Snowy Plover is healthy and ready for release back to the wild, where it will play an important role in sustaining its species.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

There's a new deadly threat facing North America's wild birds: a new strain of avian influenza, called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or HPAI. This strain of HPAI has been circling the globe for the past decade, and finally reached North America this past winter.

Unfortunately, on July 15, 2022 the strain was detected within California, affecting two Canada Geese and an American White Pelican at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge.

This disease is lethal to many species of birds including eagles, vultures, geese, owls, hawks, and corvids. Deaths in the wild attributed to this disease have also included a large number of species we commonly count as patients including Brown Pelicans, Canada Geese, gannets, shorebirds, gulls, and many more. Dabbling ducks such as Mallards, Gadwalls, and teals may be asymptomatic carriers of the disease.



Keeping Our Patients Safe

To respond to this threat, and help protect our current clinic patients, International Bird Rescue has put procedures in place to reduce the likelihood of infected birds entering our facilities. Tents have been set up outside each center for triage and screening of new birds, and interior spaces have been reorganized to lessen the chance of cross-contamination. Our staff members wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when screening incoming waterbirds for HPAI symptoms and conduct laboratory testing as needed. Also, to protect our patients, our facilities are currently closed to visitors to reduce the chance of transmission.

All of this comes with a cost. Your support helps ensure that we have the equipment, supplies, and laboratory testing necessary to manage this crisis.



Steps You Can Take at Home

- **Be especially careful** if you work around and/or have backyard domestic chickens, ducks, or turkeys. Use a second set of clothing and shoes for this work to avoid cross-contamination. If possible, house your poultry indoors.
- **Protect yourself:** If you find a sick bird, wear gloves and a mask. Wash your hands after handling any birds.
- **Bird feeders.** Though songbirds and hummingbirds have a lower risk of becoming ill from HPAI, feeders should be cleaned and disinfected at least weekly to avoid spreading other diseases.
- **If you find a sick or dead bird and suspect HPAI,** please alert the California Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) via its mortality reporting website.
- **Avoid** any interaction with wild birds, particularly migrating or resident waterfowl and raptors.



Pelican Crisis Update

At its peak, 350 Brown Pelicans had been admitted into care at our two California facilities. After many thousands of pounds of fish and hours of care, most of these beauties have been successfully returned to the wild. Only five remain in care at our Los Angeles facility, and only ten remain in care at our Northern California facility. Each bird was given a highly visible band upon release, and more than 35 have since been sighted in the wild.

Thank you to all who contributed to make this rescue possible.



Bird Rescue is proud to be co-hosting the Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference at the end of September with our South American partner, Aiuka[®]. This gathering will bring together experts from around the world to exchange ideas and information to increase our ability to protect and restore wildlife at risk. **Find out more at eowconference.org**

Effects of Oil
ON WILDLIFE
CONFERENCE



2022

Long Beach, California
September 26-30, 2022

Special Patients



Photo by Cheryl Reynolds

This Masked Booby would normally be in tropical seas. This wanderer was found far from its normal range in Bodega Bay at Doran Beach.



Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Pacific Loons are found in lakes and ponds. Their eerie, wailing call is similar to that of the Common Loon. This beautiful specimen was cared for at our Los Angeles Center.



4369 Cordelia Road Fairfield, CA 94534

PRE-SRT
Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID #1884
Sacramento, CA

Join us for the Seabird Masquerade
on September 29, 2022.

Find out details and purchase tickets at
www.birdrescue.org/masquerade.

