The Aviary
June 2023
INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE
A Publication of International Bird Rescue

Baby Bird Season is Here!

International Bird Rescue is at the peak of baby bird season! With your help, every year we are able to care for over 1,000 chicks during the spring and summer months. However, due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), this year we will face many additional costs to ensure the safety of all patients. HPAI is also making caring for wild orphans more challenging, as the clinics work tirelessly to implement new screening protocols to stop the spread of the disease.

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Mallard ducklings feeding

Photo by Sofie Dinglasan

What is Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza?

Bird flu, known to the scientific community as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), emerged in North America in 2022, presenting potentially catastrophic consequences to domestic and wild birds in a changing world. Wild waterfowl and shorebirds are considered to be the most at risk.

Stopping the spread of this disease presents new challenges and expenses for rehabilitators. New screening protocols require expensive testing and separate quarantine facilities to know which birds may be carrying the disease before they can be cleared to be admitted without risking other patients. At Bird Rescue, we have made significant changes to our intake procedures to respond to this growing crisis and protect the avian patients in our care. 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.

Wildlife rehabilitators aren't the only ones who can help protect birds from this virus, **YOU can make a difference too!**

How you can take action to help stop the spread of HPAI:

- **Disinfect your shoes.** If you have been out birding or walking around areas like parks and ponds with an abundance of birds, disinfect the bottoms of your shoes. First, be sure to thoroughly clean off all dirt from your shoes. Then treat the bottoms with a solution like diluted bleach and leave them in the sun to dry.
- **Manage bird feeders responsibly.** Although songbirds and hummingbirds have a lower risk of contracting HPAI, feeders should be cleaned and disinfected at least weekly to reduce the risk of spreading diseases (including salmonella, mycoplasma, avian pox, etc.).
- **Report sick or deceased birds.** Please alert your state's Fish and Wildlife Department via its mortality reporting website if you come across any birds that appear unwell. In wild birds, symptoms have mainly been neurologic [tremors, bluish eyes (corneal edema), incoordination, head-twisting, seizures], but in poultry symptoms also include respiratory problems and sudden death.
- **Be aware that some species may be asymptomatic.** Dabbling ducks, such as Mallards and their ducklings, may be infected but not show symptoms of the disease, so call your local wildlife center if you find these types of birds in places where they wouldn't normally be.
- **Take special care around domestic birds.** If you work around and/or have backyard domestic fowl (chickens, ducks, and turkeys), use a second special set of clothing and shoes for this work to avoid cross-contamination.
- **Support your local wildlife rehabilitator.** Whether it's making a financial contribution, volunteering, or simply educating yourself and others about issues like Bird flu, we need the help of all humans to rise to this challenge.

Here are just a few of the successful 2023 bird releases made possible by your generous support!

Photo by Elijah Gordon

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

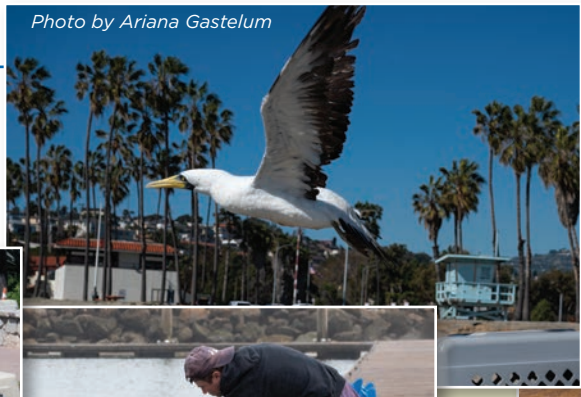
Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Photo by Sofie Dinglasan

Photo by Cheryl Reynolds

Photo by Mackenzie Preble

Update: San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center

International Bird Rescue received the first Black-crowned Night-Heron chick patient of the baby bird season. This young bird, rescued from Oakland, CA, is now in good hands at our San Francisco Bay-Delta wildlife center. The clinic staff is happy to report the chick doubled his weight after a week in care.

One of the 2023 blustery winter snow storms that hit Northern California blew an American White Pelican off course and into unfamiliar territory. He was rescued in South Lake Tahoe and taken to nearby Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, where he was stabilized and transported to Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay-Delta wildlife center. The patient received excellent care and spent his time in the large flight aviary with another American White Pelican that was recovering from fish hook injuries. We are excited to share the "Visiting Tahoe" pelican has been released back into the wild.

San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center's Amazon Wish List

Please check out our wish list at Amazon.com. Duck food is always needed during this busy baby bird season! Other items on the list include:

- Royal Duster Black Ostrich Feather Duster (14")
- Kole Imports Silver Trim Wall Mirror
- Mazuri Waterfowl Maintenance Diet (50 LB) Bag
- Brinsea Products TLC-30 Advance Brooder Intensive Care Unit for Young, Sick or Injured Birds & Small Animals

Photo by Kadi Erickson

Update: Los Angeles Wildlife Center

Five orphaned Killdeer chicks arrived at Bird Rescue Los Angeles and are receiving care. They doubled in weight within one week in rehab and continue to grow stronger each day! The Killdeer chicks were rescued by Project Wildlife in San Diego, CA and transferred to our Southern California center.

Los Angeles Wildlife Center's Chewy Wish List

Please check out our wish list at Chewy.com. Duck food is always needed during this busy baby bird season! Other items on the list include:

- Zoo Med Digital Thermometer;
- Brinsea Mini II Eco Manual 10 Bird Egg Incubator;
- Brinsea TLC-50 Eco Series II Brooder Parrot Intensive Care Unit;
- Mazuri Waterfowl Starter Duckling & Gosling Food, 25-lb bag

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Volunteer Spotlight: Our volunteers are multi-talented! Bird Rescue's Los Angeles wildlife center volunteers also help out with weeding, planting, mulching and watering of the center's new Native Garden Project.

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Letter from the Director of Philanthropy

Dear Friend and Supporter,

The new year opened with quite a bang as I was afforded the opportunity to accept a position with International Bird Rescue as the new Director of Philanthropy. I am committed to meeting each and every donor and supporter. I can't wait to learn about what inspired you to support our mission and how the development team can build a deeper and more meaningful relationship with you.

When I visit the clinic and see the patients in care, I am reminded each day of the importance of the work that we do here at Bird Rescue. Every bird that we receive in our clinics has a story to tell, and it has been amazing to see their story develop from intake to release and share these moments, rather it be a positive moment or a challenge with you. It is because of you and your ongoing contributions and dedication that we are able to continue to do this critical work.

I look forward to getting to know you and sharing my journey on what led me on this new and exciting adventure with Bird Rescue. I pledge to continue to provide you with the resources needed to support you in your generous partnership with the organization.

You are our true champion, and I thank you for all you do to help us fulfill our mission to inspire people to act towards balance with the natural world by rescuing water birds in crisis.

In gratitude,

Tiffany Rosso
Director of Philanthropy

INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE
4369 Cordelia Road Fairfield, CA 94534

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

TAKING FLIGHT

Awards Ceremony and Fundraiser

June 14, 2023

Taking Flight tickets are on sale NOW!
https://www.birdrescue.org/taking-flight/