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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**It Takes a Village to Help Save Birds: Honoring Bird Rescue Heroes at the June 14<sup>th</sup> “Taking Flight” Benefit in Berkeley**

**Berkeley, CA** – The public is invited to International Bird Rescue’s annual [Taking Flight Awards Ceremony and Fundraiser](#) for an evening celebrating its conservation mission and honoring everyday wildlife heroes.

The event will be held Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Freight & Salvage music venue in Berkeley. Tickets are available online at <https://birdrescue.ticketspice.com/taking-flight>

The keynote speaker is **Hailey Winslow**, an actress, [FOX 11 Los Angeles television reporter](#), and adventure travel television host. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn how her role in the media is essential to sharing the important messages surrounding birds in a changing world and the need to take action for wildlife.



This year we are celebrating and honoring key wildlife heroes in Northern California:

### **Volunteer of the Year**

**Karen Sheldon:** As resident of Fairfield, CA, Karen has been a dedicated volunteer since 2006 at Bird Rescue's San Francisco Bay-Delta wildlife center. She has become one of volunteer leaders in helping develop the Cordelia Slough Youth Education Program in Fairfield.

### **Community Partner of the Year**

**Bart Selby:** What sets Bart apart, is not only his passion for wildlife, or his countless rescue and recovery missions while kayaking, but his dedication to prolific observation and tracking of blue-banded Brown Pelicans – former Bird Rescue patients now back in the wild. He was a critical helping during the 2022 California pelican crisis rescuing weak and injured pelicans. Bart lives in San Carlos, CA.

### **Wildlife Partners of the Year**

**Dr. Cori Gibble** is an Environmental Scientist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, at the Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center in Santa Cruz, CA. She researches and monitors emerging threats to seabird populations. During oil spills, she serves as a first responder working closely with Bird Rescue, filling a variety of roles in the field, at care facilities, and in the incident command post.

**Laird Henkel** is the Director of the Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center for California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response in Santa Cruz, CA, where he maintains staff and equipment readiness for oil spill response and investigates health issues of sea otters and marine birds. Laird helped Bird Rescue in 2022 by encouraging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to utilize oil spill mitigation funds to buy multiple tons of fish to support hundreds of starving Brown Pelicans in care at the Los Angeles wildlife center during a mass stranding event.

The catered event will include scrumptious food, and “flights” of wine and beer. Live music will be by [Duo Gadjó](#), jazz with a French twist that is largely inspired by the sounds of the 1920s and 1930s.

A silent online auction features experiences, trips, and gorgeous avian artwork and photography. [An online auction is live now.](#)

More info on the winners: <https://www.birdrescue.org/taking-flight-takes-a-village/>

**The event is transportation friendly and close to BART: 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](http://www.birdrescue.org).

**International Bird Rescue**, 4369 Cordelia Road, Fairfield, CA 94534

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