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

Snowy Plover Patient Update:

Over the past several weeks, we have shared with you the amazing story following some of International Bird Rescue's tiniest patients in care: two clutches of Western Snowy Plover chicks hatched at the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Center. When it comes to birds of conservation concern like the Western Snowy Plover, each individual is critically important.

The Western Snowy Plover is a small shorebird found only in California, Oregon, Washington, and Baja California, Mexico. These little shorebirds face major threats in today's changing world, including habitat loss and disturbance, natural and introduced predators, and the effects of oil spills. Since 1993, they have been listed as a federally threatened species due to their decreasing population numbers.

Raising these shorebirds from hatchlings to release is no small feat! While under the highly skilled care of Bird Rescue's trained clinic staff and volunteers, these Western Snowy Plover chicks spend their first couple weeks of life in an incubator until they are big enough to thermoregulate on their own. They receive intensive care the first few days and are fed and hydrated every 15-30 minutes for 10 hours a day. As the chicks continue to grow, they get vitamin supplements frequently and eat mealworms, bloodworms, and brine shrimp.

Snowy Plover chick looks at reflection while in an incubator
Photo by Kelly Beffa

Once Western Snowy Plovers are ready to leave our care, we coordinate with local biologists to band, release, and monitor the birds. We are happy to share that four of the plovers have been released. It is because of your continued and generous support, that we are able to share these important success stories.

Snowy Plover in care
Photo by Elijah Gordon

Where to find them: **This subspecies of the Snowy Plover can be found on sandy inland and coastal beaches in California and parts of Oregon and Nevada.**

Fun Facts:

- The oldest known Snowy Plover on record was 15 years and 9 months old.
- Snowy Plover chicks are precocial, which means they can get up and start feeding on their own not long after hatching.
- When caring for Western Snowy Plovers at our wildlife hospitals, we play the sounds of ocean waves to help them feel more comfortable.

Threats:

- Habitat loss
- Nest disturbance
- Oil spills
- People & pets
- Rising sea levels

How YOU can Help:

- Be aware when visiting coastal or inland beaches!
- Don't let your dogs off leash outside of designated dog beaches.
- Participate in a beach cleanup.

Seabird Circle Relaunch — Sustainability in a Changing World

For over 52 years, International Bird Rescue has relied on the generosity of donors and the influx of funding received during and after crisis events to sustain the organization. Not knowing when and where these disasters will strike can lead to lean times that impact the day-to-day operations of the wildlife clinics.

As Bird Rescue grows to increase service areas and the ability to care for more birds in need, plans are being put in place to create a more sustainable funding model. Expanding the fundraising goals will allow Bird Rescue to refill the emergency response reserve on a regular basis and help build capacity to respond to any new crisis that strikes. Sustainability will be achieved in part by diversifying our revenue stream to include additional fundraising events, more private foundations, new corporate and wildlife responsibility partners, and an increase in the number of our individual donors enrolled in the Seabird Circle recurring gift program.

One way our loyal supporters like you can help Bird Rescue right now achieve this financial sustainability is to contribute to our Seabird Circle monthly giving program. Monthly giving provides a steady, dependable funding source for daily operations that Bird Rescue can count on. Even just a few guaranteed dollars a month can help us budget and plan, making a world of difference. As a recurring donor, you'll be part of the fabric of Bird Rescue, playing a direct role in reaching long-term goals and advancing the mission. You're truly part of the team.

We are excited to announce the relaunch of the Seabird Circle on October 1st. The program will come with new perks and benefits to give members of the circle an inside scoop and behind-the-scenes updates into our clinic operations. If you are already a member, you don't need to do anything! New program benefits will be shared soon.

If you donate annually now, please make the switch. For example, if you normally give an annual $500 donation, consider making a $50 monthly donation instead. It has less impact on your wallet at once, but a much larger impact over time. Your generosity brings Bird Rescue's missions to life. Please partner with us in our sustainability efforts by becoming a recurring donor today and join the Seabird Circle.

Common Murre
Photo by Olivia Jenkins

Photo by Devin Bergeles

Fifth grade students from Nelda Mundy Elementary tour the Cordelia Slough in May 2023.

Conservation and Education Program

The end of summer marks the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Cordelia Slough Youth Education Program. The Cordelia Slough is part of the Pacific Flyway, a superhighway for migratory birds. The Pacific Flyway Fund awarded International Bird Rescue 55 acres of stunning riparian and marsh habitat to bring wildlife and environmental literacy to the next generation of advocates for nature.

In order to fulfill our hopes of leading educational tours on the property, we first had to establish a program - select and train volunteers, develop a curriculum, research wildlife on the property, and prepare the site for visitors. Since we began, the program has:

Brown Pelican 500 in waterfowl pen, recovering from mandible fracture reparation surgery.

Pelican 500's Amazing Story

Los Angeles resident Anne Fishbein did not expect to find a Brown Pelican standing alone in a parking lot at the end of her work day, yet here she was on May 8, 2023 in Culver City, CA. People had gathered around the listless bird, but nobody knew how to help. Anne stepped in, fearlessly grabbed the pelican, and placed her in the car. The pelican, too weak to resist, remained still on the road to International Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Wildlife Center.

This pelican's condition, however, was not a simple fix. The bird's lower bill was broken on both sides and bent to the right such that her mouth couldn't close. At first, she was given a tray of fish to eat on her own, but her crooked bill could not grasp the fish after several attempts. Afraid she might break the bill completely if this continued, staff and volunteers were tasked with hand-feeding her for several days.

This bird had obviously been injured as the fractures were starting to heal, albeit in incorrect positions. Her damaged bill needed to be surgically corrected if she ever wanted to thrive in the wild again. Our Veterinarian Dr. Rebecca Duerr wasn't sure if this complex repair would even be possible, but she likes a challenge and was willing to try. (Please read the detailed surgical procedure online in our Blog: *Every Bird Matters-Setting the Bill Straight.*)

After a very involved and complicated surgery, Pelican 500 spent a few weeks getting reconditioned for life in the wild out in our pelican aviary. While in our care, she almost doubled her weight, going from a very thin 2,438 grams (5.4 pounds) to a nice robust 4,202 grams (9.25 pounds).

After 66 days in care, this formerly broken pelican was released July 13, 2023 with blue leg band 1E6. Anne, the pelican's rescuer, had the opportunity to open the crate's gate and set her free. We wish this spunky bird the best of luck out there and a long happy life of flying gracefully over the waves, hunting for fish.

Wildlife Technician Kadi Erickson and Los Angeles Center Manager Kylie Clatterbuck examine Brown Pelican 500 prior to release.

Pelican 500 is released!

Help this program grow by donating to underwrite transportation costs for bussing students to the site or donate through the Cordelia Slough Youth Education Program Amazon Wishlist.

- Recruited and trained 16 volunteers for Bird Census Counts, Land Maintenance, and Docent duties for field trips
- Hosted three community events with 56 visitors (17 children, 39 adults)
- Hosted five classrooms and one service-learning group for field trips with 244 visitors (191 students, 53 chaperones)
- Attended community meetings and networking events
- Completed 18 bird census counts (as of 7/5/23), tallied over 95 species and over 6,500 individuals (birds)
- Completed several site clean-ups including removing invasive artichoke thistle, weeding and mowing major walkways, maintaining soft spots, preventing potential trip hazards and removing hidden trash
- Highlighted Cordelia Slough Youth Education Program and Pacific Flyway Center with a website

In this next year we hope to achieve:

- Hosting more community events (quarterly)
- Expand curriculum to include high school students - biodiversity counts, STEM Wildlife Career Paths
- Engage new partners for expanding education program and recruiting new schools / school groups for field trips
- Continue researching funding opportunities
- Research sponsorships / partnerships for land maintenance and porta-potties

Photo by Jennifer Martines

Western Grebe and Clark's Grebe chicks in care.

4369 Cordelia Road Fairfield, CA 94534

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Los Angeles Center Highlights

Three grebes are currently in care. These orphans are rare for Bird Rescue to have, especially three at one time. Like the adults, grebes can be difficult species to rehabilitate due to the intricacies of their natural behaviors and overall needs for care. For the first few weeks, these chicks need to be fed every 30 minutes while at the same time being careful not to habituate them.

Chewy Wish List Top 3 Requests:

- Speedy Dryer Table Top Dog Hair Dryer These are dryers that would help dry oiled birds after wash
- Brinsea TLC-50 Eco Series II Brooder Parrot Intensive Care Unit
- Mazuri Waterfowl Starter Duckling & Gosling Food

San Francisco Bay Center Highlights

Our first baby murre of the season is in care. Each individual bird is tested for a blood parasite called babesia that is common in this species. Two Common Merganser chicks are also in care who are incredibly expensive to feed. Since they only eat live prey, the clinic will go through about 700 live fish a week.

Amazon Wish List Top 3 Requests:

- Poolmaster Deluxe Vinyl Liner Swimming Pool Vacuum, Premier Collection for pool siphoning the outdoor pools.
- 3M Tegaderm Transparent Dressing with Label 4" x 4 3/4" (10 x 12 cm) 25 per Box #1626W (25 Box) for wound dressing
- CHAPIN 20000 Garden Sprayer 1 Gallon Lawn to help with cleaning

Birds Released!

Northern California: 10 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1 Canada Goose, 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Great Egret, 2 Mallards, 2 Pied-billed Grebes, 3 Snowy Egrets, and 4 Western Snowy Plovers.

Southern California: 3 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 7 Mallards, and 4 Western Gulls.

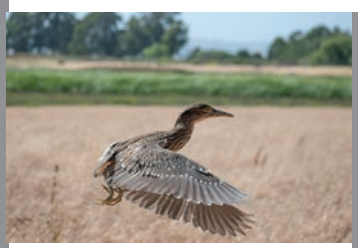

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron is released at American Canyon Wetlands.

Photo by Ariana Gastelum

Snowy Egret is released at American Canyon Wetlands.