2023
ANNUAL REPORT
A Voice for Birds in a Changing World
INTERNATIONAL
BIRD RESCUE

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Daisy Chiu
Emily Dixon
Jacqueline Fillipow
Stacy King
Phil Kohlmetz
Miles McKenzie
Annie Moore
Ron Morris
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OUR MISSION IS TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO ACT TOWARD BALANCE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD BY RESCUING WATERBIRDS IN CRISIS.

WE DREAM OF A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY PERSON, EVERY DAY, TAKES ACTION TO PROTECT THE NATURAL HOME OF WILDLIFE AND OURSELVES.

Dear Friends,

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support you have given to International Bird Rescue over the past year. Your generosity makes it possible for our team to rise to the new challenges presented by our changing climate and the ongoing threat of bird flu. Through it all, we continue to provide compassionate, life-saving care to thousands of waterbirds in need while advancing the field through our ongoing research efforts.

This year, I am especially excited to share the impacts we have made beyond the doors of our clinics with the launch of a new youth education program and increased efforts in community outreach. Now, more than ever, we hope to see every person, every day, taking action to protect our shared home with wildlife. As you read this report, I hope that you will be inspired to join us in this mission and take action wherever you are to make your community a safer, healthier place for birds.

Be well,

JD Bergeron
CEO

CONSERVING BIRDS & THEIR HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE

You can add to the impact! Visit **birdrescue.org/conservation** to learn more.

By returning patients to their populations in the wild and inspiring community action to protect and care for wild spaces, Bird Rescue is a global conservation organization for birds in a changing world.

Broadening Impact on Birds and Their Habitats

This year, Bird Rescue launched a new Conservation Action Program to provide opportunities for our supporters and partners across the globe to take action and be a voice for birds in their own communities. Individuals can sign up and receive a Conservation Action Volunteer shirt to wear as they participate in projects in their region. Already, volunteers have taken part in bird surveys supporting research in California, cleaned up litter along the shores of the Great Salt Lake, and removed barbed wire fencing from important nesting habitat.

Photo courtesy of Maggie Soffero Designs

Bart Selby

Josh Whaley

Long-lived Pelican Proves Wildlife Rehab Works

For over 40 years, we have been federally permitted to band released birds to help track their post-release survival. This August we received a report that exemplifies the value of our work: Brown Pelican C57 was spotted alive and well nearly 14 years post-release! For over a decade, this bird has been an active member of her population thanks to the care she received from Bird Rescue many years ago. Former patients of ours have gone on to continue their wild journeys, raise countless generations, and play important roles in our ecosystem.

To learn more about the post-release survival of brown pelicans, check out our recently published research paper **"Medical History and Post-release Survival of Rehabilitated California Brown Pelicans** *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*, **2009–2019."**

Bart Selby

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

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

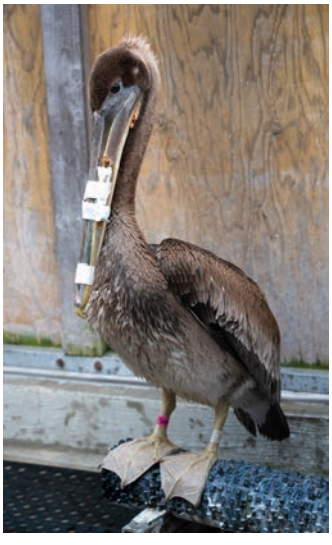
A Line of Defense Against Bird Flu

Stopping the spread of this disease is quite challenging for rehabilitators. At Bird Rescue, we have made significant changes to our intake procedures to respond to the growing crisis and to protect the avian patients in our care. New screening protocols require pre-admittance quarantine facilities and expensive testing to determine whether new patients are carrying the disease. Our team is also collaborating with state regulators to develop a rapid test to quickly identify affected birds.

A Remarkable Recovery

One May afternoon, a member of the public encountered a debilitated pelican in a parking lot in Culver City, CA. She immediately took action and brought the bird to our wildlife center. The pelican had broken both sides of her lower mandible, rendering her unable to eat on her own.

The bill repair required a complex surgery involving reshaping the lower bill and pinning the bones in place. After taping the bill closed for added stability, staff had to diligently hand-feed her until the bones fully healed. After several weeks, the pins were removed revealing a properly functioning bill. Two months after she arrived, this pelican was re-leased back to the wild by her original rescuer. Look out for her blue band number 1E6!



EDUCATION

INSPIRING TOMORROW'S WILDLIFE HEROES

The Pacific Flyway Fund granted Bird Rescue use of 40 acres of stunning wetland habitat at the Cordelia Slough in Solano County, just two miles from our wildlife center. Together, we are working to bring the outdoor experience to youth and inspire the next generation of advocates for wildlife.

This year, Bird Rescue hosted over 200 students at our Cordelia Slough outdoor education program in Solano County. Participants, guided by volunteer docents, learned about feather anatomy, the importance of protecting natural habitats, and the need for proper trash disposal as they explored the wetland habitat. Participants also had the opportunity to conduct bird counts on the property and learn about citizen science.

Birds in a changing world need young minds with fresh ideas from all walks of life to learn, appreciate, and advocate for wildlife. This program allows us to conserve important natural habitat for wild waterbirds while providing a space for children to learn and be engaged as stewards of the natural world.

CLICK HERE TO REQUEST A FIELD TRIP.

BY THE NUMBERS

This year, our team has made an impact in many ways for our patients, the public, and our partners. Our wildlife clinics treated patients spanning 101 different species. Volunteers educated people through the Bird HelpLine, presentations, community events, and more. We were also activated by the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, along with other member organizations, to assist in a large-scale Avian Botulism rescue and rehabilitation effort at Tulare Lake. Here are some numerical highlights from the year.

CLINIC & REHAB

2,566
TOTAL PATIENTS

2,196
ADDITIONAL BIRDS AIDED THROUGH THE BIRD HELPLINE

48,314
TOTAL BIRD DAYS IN CARE

270
SURGICAL PROCEDURES

164
BIRDS WASHED

1,087
ORPHANED BIRDS BROUGHT INTO CARE

148
REPORTS RECEIVED ON BANDED BIRDS

50
BROWN PELICANS FITTED WITH BLUE BANDS

DID YOU KNOW?

41 of these patients were likely kidnapped by well-meaning members of the public. Click here to learn to identify when a young bird needs help and when they are best left alone.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

872
K-12 STUDENTS ENGAGED IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

4,030
IMPRESSIONS FROM OUTREACH AND PRESENTATIONS

9
INTERNS RECEIVED TRAINING AT OUR FACILITIES

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES IN CARE

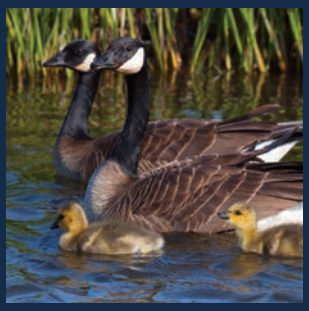
455 MALLARD

285 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

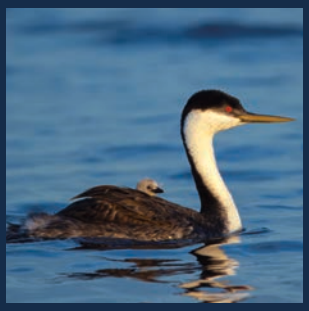
271 WESTERN GULL

218 SNOWY EGRET

143 BROWN PELICAN



140 CANADA GOOSE



134 WESTERN GREBE

5 WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER CHICKS RAISED IN CARE AND RELEASED

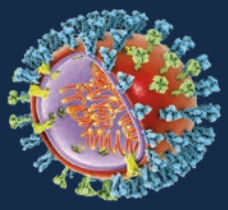
BIRD HELPLINE

3,187
TOTAL CALLS

3,035
PEOPLE HELPED

CALLS FROM
7 COUNTRIES,
13 STATES, AND
46 DIFFERENT COUNTIES

MAJOR CONCERNS FOR BIRDS THIS YEAR



AVIAN INFLUENZA
BOTULISM
FISHING HOOK & LINE INJURIES

WILDLIFE LITERACY

54,046
IMPRESSIONS FROM WILDLIFE LITERACY MESSAGING

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT EMERGENCY

As a world leader in the field of oiled wildlife response with over 50 years of experience, we know that the most successful wildlife responses are those that have been planned and prepared for.

Always at the Ready

Our wildlife emergency response team works throughout the year to ensure that our staff, volunteers, and partner organizations are ready to take action and provide positive outcomes for wildlife during times of crisis. This year, our response team conducted 24-hour HAZWOPER trainings at both of our wildlife centers and for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our team also provided Wildlife First Responder trainings in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, as well as online, and conducted five drills and exercises with our partners.

To help share our knowledge and improve wildlife emergency response across the globe, Bird Rescue team members gave presentations and offered workshops at four spill conferences this year.

Perpetual Training Program

The staff, volunteers, and interns at our two California wildlife centers receive training throughout the year to hone their skills in caring for oiled, injured, and orphaned waterbirds. This provides us with an experienced team of wildlife rescuers ready to activate at a moment's notice.

BRINGING PASSION, KNOWLEDGE, AND BROADER BACKGROUNDS TO BOARD LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors sets the strategy for International Bird Rescue and helps to make sure the organization has the resources it needs. We are currently seeking interested individuals with expertise and knowledge in public relations and media engagement, event planning, strategic partnerships, and the conservation of Pacific Flyway birds.

SCAN CODE OR CLICK HERE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

This year, we welcomed the following Board members:

1

2

3

4

1. **Joel Minamide**
Retired banker and current wildlife center volunteer

2. **Shah Selbe**
National Geographic Explorer and Founder of Conservify and FieldKit

3. **Anjul Patney**
Principal Research Scientist at NVIDIA

4. **Timothy Hayes**
Region Manager at Marathon

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful for the support of our donors — at all levels — whose generosity truly makes our work possible.
Every dollar makes a definite difference for birds in need.
Below are some of our 2023 donors; for a full list of this year's donors, visit our website: www.birdrescue.org/donors2023

In the event that we have accidentally omitted your name from this list, please contact us at **gifts@birdrescue.org** and we will update the donor roll immediately.

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Janet Yeutter

Seabird Circle donors give monthly, and are our key partners in supporting waterbirds in crisis.

IN MEMORY GIFTS

In Memory of Betty I. Coven
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Eve White

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JD Bergeron
Michelle Morris

In Memory of Martina Scabini
Ada Ormsby
Donatella Scabini

Karen Reggiardo in memory of Sophia Antona
Janine Shafer in memory of John Artusa
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JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY

Planning a legacy gift for International Bird Rescue ensures that wild birds will thrive perpetually because of your gracious forethought and generosity. When you let us know, you become a member of our esteemed Legacy Society so we can honor you now, as well as later.

Please contact us to discuss how planned gifts and legacy contributions enable us to save thousands of wild birds year after year.

gifts@birdrescue.org

HONORING WILDLIFE HEROES

VOLUNTEERS ARE A CRITICAL PART OF THE WORK WE DO every day at International Bird Rescue. From tasks in our clinics like cleaning, food prep, and animal care, to engaging with the public at outreach events and school presentations, as well as handling calls on our Bird Helpline, our volunteers are true wildlife heroes and advocates.

Karen Sheldon (top) and Terry Fontenrose (bottom).

This year, volunteers **Karen Sheldon** and **Terry Fontenrose** were awarded the Alice Berkner Award for their significant impact on our organization and mission. Karen is one of the volunteer leaders for the Cordelia Slough Youth Education Program, which entails developing training materials, managing maintenance projects, and leading a bi-monthly bird census. Terry has helped countless people in the Los Angeles community and beyond who are calling the Bird HelpLine, inquiring about birds they've found in distress.

216 volunteers contributed **26,482 hours**

Allison Albright
Maria Alonso Diago
Brenna Amis
Gavin Amparo
Toni Arkoosh Pinsky ●
Mary Artino ●
Allison Bain
Suzanne Bake
Mark Baker ●
Tracy Barger ●
Magda Barron ●
Jo Anne Basinger
Karen Bassett
Kelly Beavers ●
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Anna Becker ●
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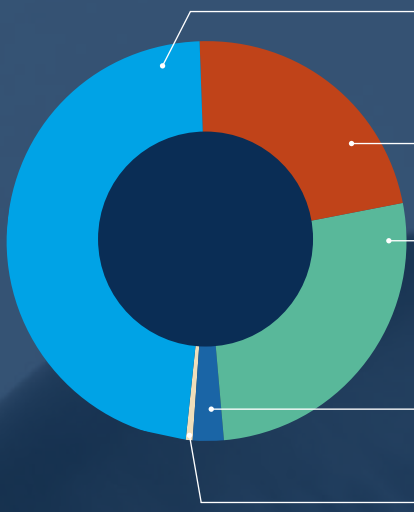
Maria Fors
Monica Frank ●
Maxine Fredericksen ●
Adilene Garcia
Drea Garcia
Near Garcia
Stephanie Garcia
Martha Grimson ●
Coleman Gross
Jesus Guzman
Suzanne Hall-Whitney
Laura Hart
Sue Hawley
Kimiye Hendee
Gay Hill
James Hill
Angie Holdeman ●
Madison Holden
Ashley Hopkins
Priscilla Horn
Josée Horton
Starlyn Howard ●
Karen Howarth ●
Vanessa Hughes
Anne Jensen ●
Deborah Jett
Tegan Johnson
Teresa Johnson
Mark Johnston ●
Martha Joseph ●
Sarah Joyce
Conrad Kaczmarek
Susie Kasielke
Joann Katz
Nancy Kaummp ●
Susan Kaveggia ●
Helen Keating ●
Avalon Keene
Tobin Kendrick
Jane Kiss ●
Nicole Kleponis
Elizabeth Koch
Judith Kordich ●
Claire Koykka
Patty Kramer
Christine Kucala
Kim Kucala ●
Gianinna Kumagai
Leslie Kvasnicka ●
Alesha Larkins
Paula Lawrence
Ryan Lee
Samuel Leweck
Kim London
Petrina Long
Adlemi Lopez
Adriana Lopez
Diane Magnette
Tiffany Marker
Carly Martenson
Dalia Martinez Cardenas
Julie Matsuura ●
Mary Mazzocco
Carolyn McCarthy ●
Kevin McCarthy
Amy McGowan
Miles McKenzie
Grace McPhaill
Mary Meister
Maritza Menendez ●
Pamela Metlicki
Paula Meyer
Carree Michel
Trina Miller
Donna Minamide
Joel Minamide
Rebecca Mink
Allyson Monsada
Lori Moon
Annie Moore
Terah Morales
Jennifer Moran ●
Linda Morgan ●
Jennifer Muniz
Luisa Mutzenbecher
Jessica Nakahira
Hailey Nunes ●
Kathy Odell ●
Jeri O'Donnell ●
Celeste Olivares
Jana Palaski
Rebecca Parsons
Ahtziri Pasillas
Ashley Patton
Christine Pazzani
Candace Perisho
Katrina Plummer ●
Susan Poirier-Klein ●
Kimberly Prado
Phillippe Prohoroff
Lisa Quach
Kay Ramsdell
Aidan Randall
Brody Resler-Miller
Yesenia Reyes
Carla Rhoda ●
Eileen Riach
Zaria Ricard
Russell Rosenberg
Betsy Rothstein
Alexis Saez
Lolo Santosuosso
Lynn Sawyer
Donatella Scabini ●
Marguerita Scannell ●
Jennifer Schripsema
America Sepulveda
Lisa Seto ●
Azi Sharif
Karen Sheldon ●
Jessica Shippey
Benjamin Simental
Nadine Skye-Davis ●
Tom Slyker
Lucy Smith
Riley Smith
Tanisha Smith
Manon Snyder
Carol Soloski ●
Sarah Soroken
Vanessa Soto
Aaron Stanford
Christina Sun
Ran Suzuki
JT Tang
Susan Terris
Mary Lawrence Test ●
Cassandra Turgman
Candace Utterback
Joan Vanhuysse
Karen Velas
Gustav Viale
Jim Walsh ●
Sonia Walsh
Margaret Walton
Nikole Watts ●
Alexis Weaver
David Weeshoff ●
Brooke Weinstein
Leslie Weir ●
Emily Werdal
Janet Yeutter ●
Catherine You

Years of Volunteer Service:
● *= 5+ years*
● *= 10+ years*
● *= 15+ years*
● *= 20+ years*

FINANCIAL HEALTH

2023 OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE

TOTAL $3,346,271.00



47.9% • $1,603,816.00
Grants & Corporate Gifts

22.5% • $751,437.00
Individual Gifts

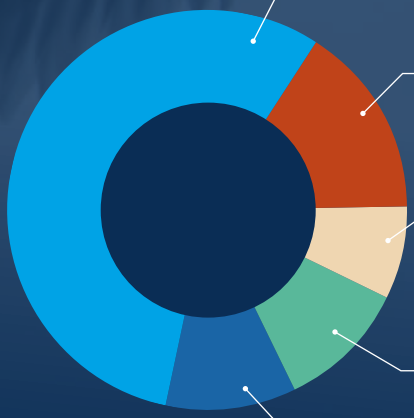
26.8% • $898,089.00
Earned Revenue

2.3% • $75,735.0
Special Event Revenue

0.5% • $17,194.00
Merchandise & Other Income

2023 OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL $3,367,371.48



PROGRAM EXPENSES:

55.9% • $1,880,841.04
Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation & Research

15.7% • $528,596.90
Wildlife Emergency Response

7.5% • $253,871.61
Conservation, Education & Community Engagement

SUPPORT SERVICES:

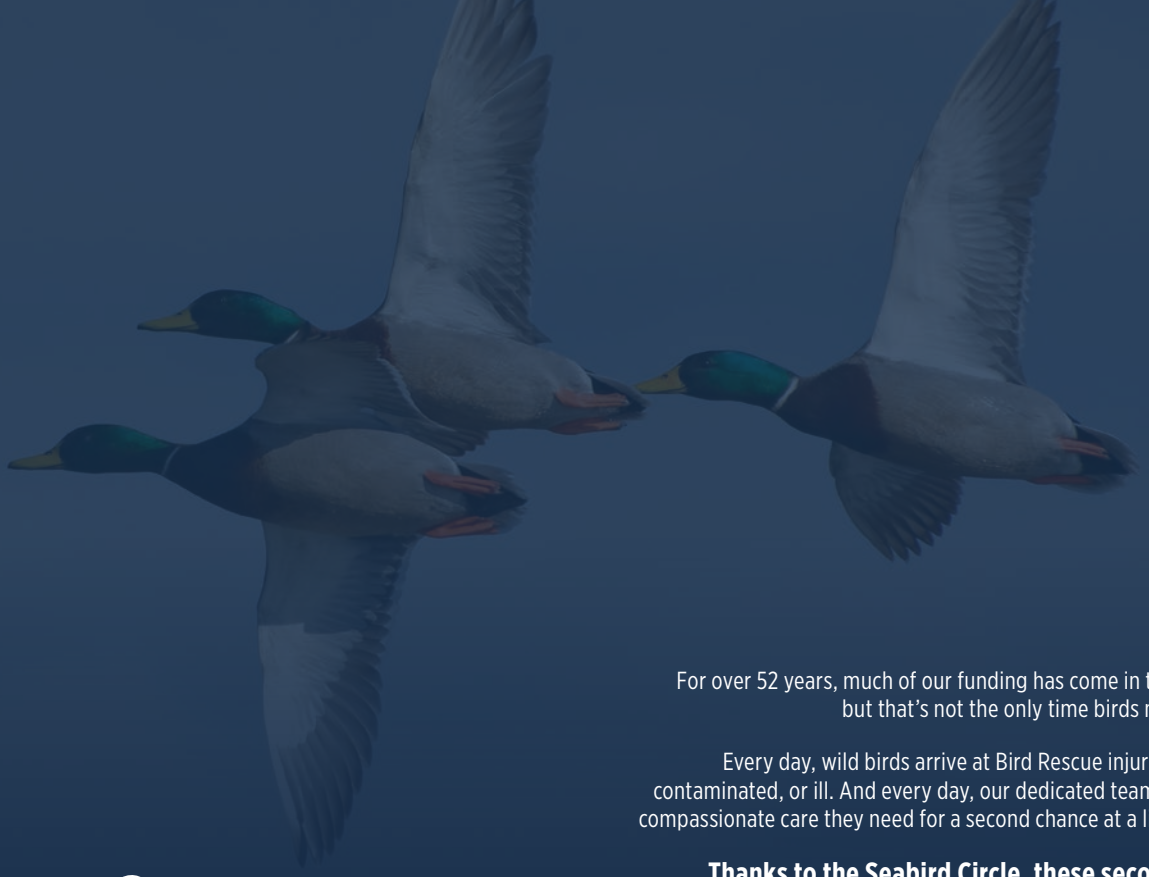
10.6% • $356,849.47
Administration

10.3% • $347,212.46
Fundraising

Several slow-moving wildlife crises kept our response and rehabilitation programs busy but did not result in the media attention and public support typical for Bird Rescue. The organization saw higher than normal staff turnover resulting in increased hiring and onboarding costs, fewer special events, and less new business. Small capital investments were made to improve both wildlife centers. Our multiyear effort to strengthen annual fundraising helped to hit our target of covering most regular operating expenses. Please note that the graphs above are based on preliminary, not yet finalized figures.

Audited financial statements can be requested at: **gifts@birdrescue.org**

GUIDESTAR PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY 2021



For over 52 years, much of our funding has come in times of crisis, but that's not the only time birds need our help.

Every day, wild birds arrive at Bird Rescue injured, orphaned, contaminated, or ill. And every day, our dedicated team provides the compassionate care they need for a second chance at a life in the wild.

Thanks to the Seabird Circle, these second chances are made possible.

Regular giving as a Seabird Circle member helps keep our lights on and our clinics open, allowing us to invest in training and other preparations for the next bird crisis. You can be part of the fabric of Bird Rescue and play a direct role in reaching our long-term goals and advancing the mission by giving monthly.

Your generosity brings Bird Rescue's missions to life. Please partner with us in our sustainability efforts by signing up:

SCAN CODE OR CLICK HERE
TO JOIN THE SEABIRD CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL
BIRD RESCUE

birdrescue.org

Bird HelpLine: 1-866-SOS-BIRD

SF BAY-DELTA WILDLIFE CENTER
4369 Cordelia Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
P 707.207.0380

LOS ANGELES WILDLIFE CENTER
3601 S Gaffey Street Box 3
San Pedro, CA 90731

ALASKA WILDLIFE RESPONSE CENTER
651 E 100th Avenue #C
Anchorage, AK 99515

@IntBirdRescue @IntBirdRescue @IntBirdRescue SavingSeabirds @IntBirdRescue

Design: Monica DuClaud