Greetings and Happy New Year to all of you...

As we all take time to reflect on this past year and embark on a new year filled with hope and determination, we’d like to take a moment of gratitude for those who make what we do possible. On behalf of all the staff here at Bird Rescue, who remained diligent in the face of an Avian Botulism crisis that started in August 2023, thank you for your incredible support. Whether your gift was a financial one or precious hours in your day, you are the reason we are able to continue the lifesaving work that we do. So, as we celebrate the beginning of 2024 and the world of possibilities this exciting new year brings, let’s take a look back at a few of 2023’s most significant patient stories that stood out to our staff.

We would also like to introduce a new member of the Bird Rescue family, Alex Domeyko, who has joined us as our new Director of Development & Partnerships. You will be hearing more from him in the near future. In the meantime, feel free to reach out at gifts@birdrescue.org

With Appreciation,
The Development Team

Northern Shoveler Released after Botulism Outbreak

Photo By: Ariana Gastelum

August 2023 was the start of an Avian Botulism outbreak affecting waterbirds in California’s San Joaquin Valley. Migrating birds spending time at Tulare Lake (a mostly dry lake for the last 100 years) were exposed to a neurotoxin that causes paralysis and death. Clinical signs of waterfowl with botulism include weakness, lethargy, and the inability to hold their heads up or fly, leading to drowning.

Throughout the month, thousands of dead birds were collected at Tulare Lake forty miles south of Fresno, California. The crisis prompted a response by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which in turn enlisted the help of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) and its members, including International Bird Rescue, to manage the response. International Bird Rescue sent responders to the Tulare Lake area to provide expertise and bird care. Many different species of birds were treated, including White-faced Ibis, Black-necked...
Norhtern Shoveler Released after Botulism Outbreak

Stilts, dowitchers, Northern Pintails, American Green-winged Teals, and American White Pelicans.

One of the species most affected by this outbreak was the Northern Shoveler, a migratory duck with a distinct spoon-shaped bill that widens towards the tip. Shoveler males have a striking green head and neck, yellow eyes, and a white stripe that extends from the breast amongst the patches of gray, brown, and black flank spots. The females have a light brownish head adorned with a black crown and their plumage is speckled brown throughout. These unique birds are built for survival with specialized comb-like structures on their bills that help them filter food from even very shallow wetlands. (Northern Shoveler Overview, All about Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, n.d.)

Migration Animated Adventure Comedy

The Los Angeles Wildlife Center staff and guests were invited out in December to see a screening of the feature film Migration, thanks to our partnership with Dawn Dish Soap, NBC Universal, and Illumination. The film focuses on a family of Mallards, who take off on an adventure of a lifetime and bond closer as a family.

In addition to the film screening, a Public Service Announcement (PSA) was released with the TODAY Show’s Al Roker to educate the public about the work we do with wildlife. The PSA is airing now on local television stations and available to view on YouTube.

Taking Flight Music Festival

Photos By: Ariana Gastelum

Despite the chance of rain, the Taking Flight Fall Music Festival at our Los Angeles Wildlife Center was a shining success. Nearly 200 members of the community came together to enjoy a lively music lineup, a variety of food and local vendors, opportunities to learn about wildlife conservation, and more. We look forward to continuing this symphony of support together in future events. This event was made possible thanks to our sponsors Valero Energy, Port of Long Beach, and California Resources Corporation.
2023 Highlighted Bird Cases

Bird Rescue saw a diverse range of patients in 2023 that highlighted the organization’s adaptability and commitment to helping as many birds as possible. Here are a few more cases from 2023 that give testament to the care that Bird Rescue staff members give to each waterbird.

Great Blue Heron

Photo By: Kelly Beffa

This patient was found in Moraga, CA, after falling out of a backyard nest. While returning baby birds to their nest is always the best bet, Great Blue Herons often nest too high for safe placement. Also, they are colony nesters so re-nesting them in the same area can actually displace the babies that were not disturbed. This young heron arrived weighing in at 470 grams and was already habituated to humans. To correct his behavior, staff provided the bird with a decoy and used masks to cover their faces during feedings. A great eater from the beginning, he quickly gained strength and was in care for 87 days until fully grown and able to be released back into the wild.

American White Pelican

Photos By: Kelly Beffa and Grace Gabel

This American White Pelican was found entangled in fishing line. An intake exam found multiple wounds on the bird’s neck, body, back, and wing. Dr. Rebecca Duerr placed pins to stabilize a leg fracture. This pelican was treated with courses of antibiotics and pain medications throughout its 63 days in care. The bird was released in Martinez by the rescuer.

2023 Patient of the Year

Photo By: Kelly Beffa

Bird Rescue experienced many compelling patient cases throughout 2023. However, after a nail-biting vote, the Black-crowned Night-Heron came out victorious as the well-deserved patient of the year. He was found on Friday November 17, 2023, hanging in a tree 30 feet from the ground entangled in monofilament. He was brought to Lindsay Wildlife Experience in Walnut Creek, CA, for stabilization and later transferred to Bird Rescue’s San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center, where radiographs revealed an additional life-threatening condition: a BB-gun pellet was located dangerously close to his heart. His prognosis was uncertain. Our veterinarian, Dr. Rebecca Duerr performed surgery to find and remove the pellet, and the night-heron’s heart rate normalized. Once he was healed and clear to fly, he was released back into the wild on December 6th, 2023.
Seabird Circle

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

This is where our Seabird Circle takes flight. Recurring giving from Seabird Circle supporters helps keep our lights on and our clinics open, and it allows us to invest in training and other preparations so we can be ready for the next bird crisis.

Scan our code or visit at our site at www.birdrescue.org

Upcoming Events

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming events for 2024, and would love to see all of our supporters come out to enjoy the festivities. Whether you are in the San Francisco Bay area or Los Angeles area, we hope to be able to celebrate the 52-year history of International Bird Rescue and the continuing work that is being done at both of our center locations.

- Northern California Wildlife Center Open House: **Saturday, May 11, 2024**
- Soaring Twenties Benefit: **Saturday, June 8, 2024** at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles
- Southern California Wildlife Center Open House: **Saturday, August 3, 2024**
- Seabird Masquerade: **Saturday, September 28, 2024** at the Exploratorium San Francisco

Amazon Wish List Top Five Requests:
http://tinyurl.com/3v7jdszz

- **3M Tegaderm Transparent Dressing** With Label 4"x4 3/4" (10x12) 25 per Box
- **Simple Green 13022** All Purpose Cleaner. 22 oz
- Chapin 2000 Made in USA 1- Gallon Lawn and Garden Pump Pressured Sprayer
- Lefree Garden Hose 100 ft, Garden Hose Expandable
- **Black + Decker 20V MAX String Trimmer** and Edger, Cordless, 12 inch, 2-Speed Control

Chewy Wish List Top Eight Requests
http://tinyurl.com/bird-rescue

- Andover Healthcare Bandages
- Brinsea TLC-50 ECO Series II Brooder Parrot Intensive Care Unit
- Mazuri Waterfowl Maintenance Duck & Geese Food 50 lb bag
- Mazuri Waterfowl Starter, Duckling & Gosling Food 25 lb bag
- Digital Thermometer
- K&H Thermo- Peep Heated Pad
- Medline Pill Splitter
- Petmate Litter Pan, Color Varies, Jumbo