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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# After 500+ Stitches to Repair Slashed Pouch, Brown Pelican aka "Blue" to Be Released

\*\* [Download photos and videos of Brown Pelican aka "Blue"](#) \*\*

**What:** Release of Brown Pelican aka "Blue"

**When:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 @ 11 AM

**Where:** San Pedro, White Point Park: 1801 W Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90732 [Google Map](#)

**San Pedro, CA** – The Brown Pelican that was rescued in March with a severely slashed pouch will be released this week by International Bird Rescue.

Nicknamed "Blue" for the color of her temporary band, the pelican required multiple surgeries – including over 500 stitches – to repair the bird's slashed pouch. The female adult pelican spent 45 days in care, gaining weight – eating approximately 300 pounds of fish during her stay. Total care cost was over \$10,000 in staff time, medicines, surgical supplies, and food.



**Healed pouch:** Brown Pelican "Blue" after surgeries.  
Photo: Ariana Gastelum-International Bird Rescue

The bird entered care after a rescuer noticed she had a hole in her pouch and was unable to swallow fish. The injured pelican was delivered to Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Wildlife Center in San Pedro.

"The bird is alive today because of a rescuer's quick action, and the expert care it received at our wildlife center," said JD Bergeron, CEO of Bird Rescue.

"Thanks also go to our wonderful supporters who donated to help fund Blue's recovery," added Bergeron. "Bird Rescue can't do this life-saving work without donations from people who appreciate these majestic seabirds."

The severe injury to this pelican showed clear signs it was caused by a human.

"We see many pelicans with pouch trauma due to fishing gear and eating dangerous sharp items like fish skeletons, but the wounds do not look like this," said Dr. Rebecca Duerr, Bird Rescue's Director of Research & Veterinary Science.

"The cuts are reminiscent of a knife, machete, or other sharp object," she added.

If anyone witnessed this attack back in March 2024, they may report the information anonymously to the **CALTIP Line at 888-334-2258**.

Patients like Blue rely on the generous public support to fund their care. Bird Rescue welcomes donations at: [www.birdrescue.org/helpblue](http://www.birdrescue.org/helpblue)

The public is invited to [Bird Rescue's June 8<sup>th</sup> Soaring Twenties benefit](#) in downtown Los Angeles at the historic Biltmore Hotel. Revelries can don 1920s outfits to enjoy dinner, dancing, and a silent auction that will support a non-profit global conservation organization with 53 years of experience treating injured, orphaned, oiled, and sick waterbirds.

**More info:** [Understanding the difference between human vs not human caused pouch slashing](#) (video from 2020).



**Wing stretch:** Brown Pelican "Blue" (left) in flight aviary during her 45 days in care at Bird Rescue in San Pedro, CA. Photo: Ariana Gastelum-International Bird Rescue

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## 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.

Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Wildlife Center is located at [3601 S Gaffey St. San Pedro, CA 90731](#).

For more information, please visit [www.birdrescue.org](http://www.birdrescue.org).