



May 29, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rehabilitated California Brown Pelicans Found Starving, To Be Released Thursday, May 30th, in Sausalito

Where: Fort Baker, Sausalito (Location map: [Boat ramp off Sommerville Road](#))

When: Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 2:30 PM

**** [Download pelican photos and videos to use during media reports](#) ****

Fairfield, CA – Following weeks of care at International Bird Rescue for starvation, the first group of rehabilitated Brown Pelicans will be returned to the wild on Thursday, May 30th, at 2:30 PM near the base of the Golden Gate Bridge at Fort Baker in Sausalito.

Hundreds of these starving seabirds were found beginning in mid-April. Between its two California wildlife centers, Bird Rescue has admitted nearly 340 emaciated and injured pelicans. Most of these seabirds in Northern California arrived in need of care from the Monterey and Santa Cruz areas.



“With these releases, we’re sending them home to the ocean healthy and in great condition to fly wherever they need to go,” said Dr. Rebecca Duerr, Director of Research & Veterinary Science at Bird Rescue. “Our special banding program will show how they will do in the wild.”

While small numbers of pelicans are still coming into care, there are also signs that pelicans are successfully foraging again in most locations. “We can’t keep them in care forever, and we can’t fix what’s ailing the ocean,” Duerr added.

No conclusive proof on what is causing this crisis has been revealed. An investigation is ongoing with colleagues at California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

To pay the extraordinary cost of care, medication, and feeding for these pelicans, the public is encouraged to donate: www.birdrescue.org/savepelicans

To find food, pelicans will leave their natural habitat and risk their lives in human-populated areas. Some of the pelicans were found in odd places, including one trying to enter a Santa Cruz bar and another on the tarmac at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Perhaps the most notable Brown Pelican landed in left field during the middle of San Francisco Giants-Cincinnati Reds baseball game. After wowing the Oracle Park crowd, the wayward bird was credited for the Giants’ come-from-behind win, and quickly earned a #RallyPelican moniker on social media. However, the disoriented bird was an indicator to wildlife experts that this bird was sick with hunger.

Finding birds in unusual and unsafe locations and situations is a clear sign they may need help. The public can play a crucial role in reporting these birds to their local animal control. They can also get assistance through the organization’s Bird HelpLine at 866-SOS-BIRD (866-767-2473).

This pelican crisis is reminiscent of the spring 2022 event that saw at least 350 starving Brown Pelicans come into care at Bird Rescue wildlife centers. [See blog post](#)

Bird Rescue operates two California wildlife centers, one in Fairfield serving Northern California and another in San Pedro serving the Greater Los Angeles area.

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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 San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center is located at [4369 Cordelia Road, Fairfield, CA 94534](#).

For more information, please visit www.birdrescue.org.