



May 21, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nearly 320 Starving & Injured Brown Pelicans Filling Bird Rescue's California Centers, Urgent Call For Donations

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

Fairfield, CA – A surge of injured and starving Brown Pelicans arriving into care is causing real concern among wildlife specialists. Since April 20th, nearly 320 pelican patients have arrived at the organization's two California wildlife centers.

The birds are having difficulty finding fish and at least third of the patients are arriving with significant injuries – many entangled in fishing line and hooks.

“These starving and injured pelican patients require a lot of hands-on care,” said Kelly Beffa, Wildlife Manager at Bird Rescue’s San Francisco Bay-Delta Center. “We are in urgent need of donations to help us cover the extraordinary costs for medicine and fish.”



The public can donate to the non-profit online: www.birdrescue.org/donate

Diagnostic testing has not revealed any evidence of diseases such as bird flu that may be causing these strandings. No conclusive proof on what is causing this crisis has been revealed. And an investigation is ongoing with colleagues at California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Bird Rescue's staff and volunteers are working tirelessly to provide the affected birds with the best care they desperately need to recover and return to the wild.

"Most birds are coming in cold, emaciated and anemic – essentially starving to death," said Dr. Rebecca Duerr, Bird Rescue's Director of Research & Veterinary Science. "Many of them are exhibiting severe injuries – especially from fishing hooks and line."

One wayward Brown Pelican, affectionately dubbed the #RallyPelican, landed in left field during the recent San Francisco Giants baseball game, wowing fans. However, wildlife experts at Bird Rescue quickly recognized the underlying cause: the disoriented bird was in desperate search for food. The #RallyPelican was just another example of the increasing reports of pelicans venturing into high-populated areas.



Other birds have been found in odd areas including a Santa Cruz bar and on the tarmac at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). To find food, pelicans will leave their natural habitat and risk their lives in human-populated areas. Finding birds in these locations and situations is a clear sign they may need help. The public can play a crucial role in identifying when intervention is necessary and taking prompt action to help.

Watch: [NBC Bay Area sheds light on the escalating count of pelicans in rehab](#), featuring insights from various wildlife experts at Bird Rescue.

Dr. Duerr also reminds folks fishing: "If you accidentally hook a bird, please do not just cut the bird loose. The hooks cause bad infections, and the trailing line will become wrapped around limbs, cutting off circulation."

Calmly reel the bird in and place it in a big box or dog crate. Do not attempt to remove hooks yourself as this can cause more damage if not done with the proper tools. Call your local wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control for advice on where to take the bird.

The public also can get help through the organization's Bird HelpLine at 866-SOS-BIRD (866-767-2473).

The bulk of pelicans coming into the organization's Northern California center are coming from the Monterey and Santa Cruz areas. We are thankful for the help and transportation of affected birds from Monterey SPCA and Native Animal Rescue (NAR) in Santa Cruz.

This pelican crisis is reminiscent of the May 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 at the San Francisco Bay-Delta area and another in San Pedro near the Los Angeles Harbor.

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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.