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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

San Pedro, CA – A new surge of injured and starving Brown Pelicans arriving into care is causing real concern among wildlife specialists. Since April 20th, over 110 new pelican patients have arrived at the organization's two California wildlife centers.

The birds are having difficulty finding fish and at least 40% are arriving with significant injuries – many entangled in fishing line and hooks.

“We urgently need donations to help care for these starving birds,” said Kylie Clatterbuck, Los Angeles Wildlife Center Manager. “As a non-profit we rely on the generosity of the public to help pay for additional medicine and the extraordinary cost of fish.”



The public can donate online: www.birdrescue.org/donate

Diagnostic testing has not revealed any evidence of diseases such as bird flu that may be causing these strandings. 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.”

The public should be aware that many of these birds are being found in odd places – sometimes away from their usual coastal habitats. Pelicans this past week were rescued from a lake at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. Another starving pelican showed up at a fire station in Malibu.

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 line wraps around limbs, cutting off circulation.”

If you have found a pelican in need of care, the public is urged to contact the organization's Bird Helpline at 866-SOS-BIRD (866-767-2473). After hours, they should contact their local animal control office.

Bird Rescue operates two California wildlife centers, one in San Pedro near the Los Angeles Harbor and another in the San Francisco Bay-Delta area.

A major fundraiser for the 50+ year organization will be held on **June 8th** at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. **The Soaring Twenties Benefit** will feature a keynote speaker: **Tammah Watts**, best-selling author for her book, *Keep Looking Up: Your Guide to the Powerful Healing of Birdwatching*. The host for the evening will be **Hailey Winslow**, FOX Los Angeles reporter and adventure travel television host.

Tickets are \$200. Early-bird pricing ends May 15. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.birdrescue.org/twenties

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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](https://www.birdrescue.org/locations/los-angeles-wildlife-center).

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