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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rehabilitated Brown Pelicans Found Starving in Southern California, To Be Released Wednesday, June 5th in San Pedro

When: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 12:00 PM

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

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

San Pedro, CA – Following weeks of care at International Bird Rescue for starvation or injuries, the first Southern California group of rehabilitated Brown Pelicans will be returned to the wild on Wednesday, June 5th at 12 PM, at White Point Beach in San Pedro.

Hundreds of these starving seabirds were found beginning in mid-April. Between its two California wildlife centers, Bird Rescue has admitted more than 350 emaciated and injured pelicans.

“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 on the tarmac at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

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 stranding 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 San Pedro serving the Greater Los Angeles area and another Fairfield serving Northern California.

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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.

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