2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A Voice for Birds in a Changing World

INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE

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Our mission is to inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis.

We dream of a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves.

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For many years, our logo has featured two of our most beloved waterbird species: Brown Pelican and Common Murre. We have worked hard to be an ally to both over the years, and both have seen significant wildlife emergencies in the past 15 years: from oil spills to fishing gear injuries to large-scale strandings. We have seen eight pelican and murre emergencies just in the time since 2009. Read more about the Brown Pelican stranding events inside this annual report.

While the times are changing and science itself faces a crisis in the public arena, the climate is changing too. Wildlife is less protected and will face even more perils than ever before. Read about our efforts to engage youth as environmental stewards and to increase wildlife literacy, especially in this moment of uncertainty with bird flu.

International Bird Rescue was formed in a time of crisis by a determined group of volunteers who dared to face the unsolved challenge of birds affected by oil spills. We invite you now to recommit with us to face the ongoing challenges with unrelenting focus on conservation in our communities; on pursuing the very best in avian veterinary care and research; and on building and training the team that will face tomorrow's wildlife crisis responses.

Won't you join us?

JD Bergeron
CEO

RESEARCH & REHABILITATION IN ACTION

Pelicans in Peril Through the Years

Brown Pelicans were already endangered from DDT exposure when Bird Rescue was founded in 1971. They were delisted in 2009, but have endured crisis after crisis over the last 20 years including starvation and contamination.

2009

126 PELICANS TREATED

Pelicans from Washington and Oregon migrated south in December 2008, encountering **cold weather** that resulted in emaciation and frostbitten toes.

The Blue-banded Brown Pelican Program was initiated after Brown Pelicans were moved off the Endangered Species List.

2010

540 PELICANS TREATED

Just after the new year, wet and dying pelicans arrived at Bird Rescue's wildlife centers following **heavy rains**, flooding, and pollution from run-off along the California coast.

© IBR Archives

© IBR Archives

2012

900 PELICANS TREATED

Following a successful breeding year, too many **fledgling pelicans were competing for limited resources.** While this is a natural event, the sight of struggling birds sparked public concern.

2022

390 PELICANS TREATED

Starting in spring, mostly in Southern California, pelicans of all ages were found cold and **starving in unusual places,** and many injured during desperate attempts to find food.

© Emily Werdal

2024

425 PELICANS TREATED

Beginning in spring, **pelicans of all ages were starving** along the coast again, primarily in Northern California, many with serious injuries and entangled in fishing gear consistent with desperate attempts to find food. Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to provide them with care, while the community stepped up with an overwhelming wave of support, providing essential supplies. More than 100 of these rehabilitated pelicans have already been spotted thriving in the wild, proving just how resilient these magnificent birds truly are.

- **222 STARVATION CASES**
- **158 BIRDS WITH INJURIES AND ISSUES**
- **80 SURGERIES ON 65 PATIENTS**
- **16 OILED CASES**

TRACKING BROWN PELICANS WITH ELECTRIC BANDS

© Ariana Gastellum

Eight former Brown Pelican patients were released this year with an additional leg band along with their usual federal and blue bands: a miniature electronic device purposed to track their whereabouts and aid conservation research. Led by Deborah Jaques of Pacific Eco Logic, this project is exploring the use of the newly-designed leg bands and the Motus Wildlife Tracking System to understand post-rehabilitation and fledgling dispersal and survival of the California Brown Pelican.

BLUE-BANDED TRAVELER REACHES OREGON

Less than two weeks after getting released on May 26, 2024 in Sausalito, CA, Brown Pelican 3H9 was found more than 600 miles north at Yaquina Bay South Jetty in Newport, OR, on June 7. After spending 33 days in care, she recovered from emaciation, dehydration, and a parasite infestation, regaining nearly half her body weight. 3H9 was the first pelican from the 2024 Brown Pelican Crisis to be re-sighted in the wild.

© ROY LOWE

Increase impact! Visit **birdrescue.org/conservation** to learn more.

© Kelly Belfa

CONSERVATION

Rehabilitating Species of Special Concern

Every individual is essential to the biodiversity and survival of a threatened species. Bird Rescue sharpened its skills caring for Western Snowy Plovers in recent years and saved more of these tiny shore birds than ever before in 2024.

FILLING THE CRACKS IN A CHANGING WORLD FOR WESTERN SNOWY PLOVERS

Beginning in late May, numerous Western Snowy Plover eggs were admitted into care after being moved from a hazardous area where drying mud created deep fissures, posing significant risks to the vulnerable eggs. The chicks hatched in care and were meticulously raised by staff for several weeks until their flight feathers were fully grown, ensuring they were strong and prepared for survival in the wild. Ultimately, 19 chicks were successfully raised and united with a local plover colony.

Highlighting subspecies like the "Western" Snowy Plover is important in conservation because they often represent unique adaptations to specific habitats. Conservation efforts to protect subspecies can address localized threats and preserve their genetic diversity. This effort represents a critical contribution to the recovery of this federally threatened species, which has fewer than 2,000 individuals remaining along the Pacific Coast.

© Katrina Gastelum

YELLOW-BILLED LOON

CONSERVATION STATUS: NEAR THREATENED
CAUSE OF ADMISSION: FISHING GEAR ENTANGLEMENT

Onlookers near the Cabrillo Beach Pier in San Pedro, CA, spotted this loon entangled in fishing line and quickly alerted rescuers.

© Katrina Plummer

LAYSAN ALBATROSS

CONSERVATION STATUS: NEAR THREATENED
CAUSE OF ADMISSION: CONTAINER SHIP STOWAWAY

While en route to the Port of Long Beach, a crew member aboard a container ship rescued this bird after finding it onboard and unable to fly away.

© Katrina Gastelum

WESTERN BURROWING OWL

CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN, DECLINING
CAUSE OF ADMISSION: OIL CONTAMINATION

This owl somehow ended up in the ocean off Santa Barbara County, its feathers contaminated with oil.

The Western Burrowing Owl is a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act. This means it receives the same protections as a listed species, but a final decision on its listing status is expected in late 2025 or early 2026.

BY THE NUMBERS

This year, our work in rehabilitation, crisis response, and education was more critical than ever. Our clinics provided expert care to thousands of birds and responded swiftly to the Brown Pelican starvation event. Through our education efforts, we engaged children in learning about waterbirds and their environment while also informing the public about the pelican crisis and how they could help. Meanwhile, our Bird HelpLine continued to serve as a vital resource, guiding the public in rescuing birds in distress.

Every number on this page represents a life touched, a lesson learned, and a call answered—all made possible by our supporters and dedicated team.

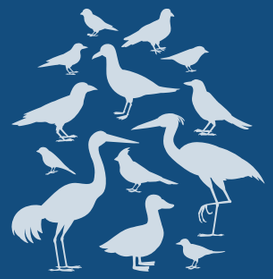
CLINIC & REHAB

3,187
TOTAL PATIENTS CARED FOR

414
SURGICAL PROCEDURES

64,843
TOTAL BIRD DAYS IN CARE

165
BIRDS WASHED



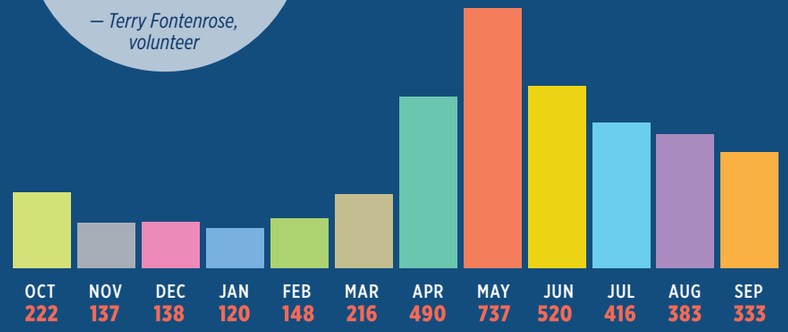
93 DIFFERENT SPECIES CARED FOR

948
ORPHANED BIRDS BROUGHT INTO CARE

276
BROWN PELICANS FITTED WITH BLUE BANDS

BIRD HELPLINE

> "Working the Helpline has taught me many things: have patience, listening is key, and understanding the problem does not always mean it is solved."
>
> *— Terry Fontenrose, volunteer*



2023-2024 TOTAL CALLS PER MONTH

3,860
TOTAL CALLS
673 MORE THAN LAST YEAR

3,714
PEOPLE HELPED

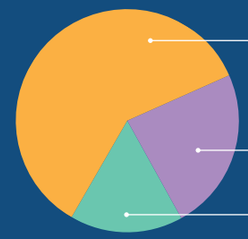
CALLS FROM...

7 COUNTRIES: *AUSTRALIA, CANADA, EGYPT, MOROCCO, MAURITIUS, SOUTH AFRICA, USA*

17 STATES: *AK, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, ID, MD, MT, NJ, NM, NV, OH, OR, TX, UT, WA*

38 COUNTIES

TOP THREE INQUIRIES



1,309 WILD BIRDS
NON-NATIVE OR NON-WATERBIRD SPECIES LIKE HAWKS, PIGEONS, SONGBIRDS, ETC.

513 DUCKS & DUCKLINGS

350 PELICANS

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

304
PEOPLE ATTENDED WEBINARS

11
RESPONSE TRAININGS AND DRILLS

5,657
IMPRESSIONS FROM OUTREACH AND PRESENTATIONS

92
EVENTS ATTENDED/ HOSTED

1,356
K-12 STUDENTS ENGAGED IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

47
PEOPLE BIRD RESCUE TRAINED TO BE HAZWOPER CERTIFIED

EDUCATION

Impacts on Young People

In 2024, Bird Rescue expanded educational programs in habitats beyond our walls in the hopes of building compassion for wild birds and inspiring the next generation of children to be stewards of the natural world.

HOW VOLUNTEERS LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING AT CORDELIA SLOUGH

The Cordelia Slough Youth Education Program, established by Bird Rescue, connects Solano County students with nature, inspiring them to appreciate and protect local wildlife through the efforts of dedicated volunteers.

The volunteer program has three interconnected parts: land maintenance, citizen science, and our docent program:

- **Land Maintenance:** Volunteers work to keep pathways clear and address safety concerns, ensuring a welcoming environment for visitors.
- **Citizen Science:** A bi-monthly Bird Census is conducted to track numerous bird species, helping us understand the health of our local ecosystems.
- **Docent Program:** Enriching field trips in the Suisun Marsh introduce students to diverse wildlife.

These three components ensure the program evolves: as land maintenance highlights habitat changes, bird census data guides seasonal education, and together they foster care, observation, and learning.

GAINING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE FOR A GREATER CAUSE

At Bird Rescue, we offer a variety of internships that provide hands-on experience in different aspects of our mission. These opportunities allow interns to support critical projects while developing valuable professional skills.

- **Clinic internship:** Seven individuals completed a full-time, four-month program, gaining hands-on experience in all aspects of an aquatic bird hospital. Their dedication was crucial in providing vital support during the Brown Pelican crisis.
- **Social media/graphic design internship:** Over the course of a year, a Digital Communication and Design student from Jessup University used her skills to create social media posts and graphics that promoted conservation messages and assisted with projects to further connect the public to our efforts.
- **Public Relations:** In the spring, education and outreach staff collaborated with Public Relations students from California State University, Fullerton, on their senior project to provide pro-bono PR support to a nonprofit and apply their skills.

"I had never seen an owl before, let alone held one in my arms. I was just glad to be part of this bird's journey to recovery and return to the wild."

— Roaa Abdalla
Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern

© Ariana Gastelum

RESPONSE

Expertise in Action

For birds in a changing world, Bird Rescue is an essential first responder to threats like oil spills, fishing gear, and habitat loss. The organization leads the field in wildlife emergencies, veterinary care, and research and wildlife crises response.

© AVAK

BIRD RESCUE'S RESPONSE TEAM ARRIVES BY HELICOPTER TO A REMOTE SPILL SITE NEAR THE ARCTIC OCEAN TO HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE WILDLIFE FROM CONTAMINATION.

SKILLS APPLIED TO ARCTIC MYSTERY SPILL

Bird Rescue leaned into the deep skillset and years of experience of the wildlife responsibility team to respond with agility to a spill in Utqiagvik, AK in June 2024. Vulnerable species including the endangered Steller's Eider and threatened Spectacled Eider nest in this area, and it is also the winter denning area for polar bears. It was still early spring in the Arctic, and while the sea ducks had arrived on the tundra, they had not yet begun nesting. The team's mission was to implement a wide range of passive hazing techniques to protect the ducks and other wildlife from contamination. The spill site was 20 miles outside of the nearest village, and the team relied on a helicopter to get to and from the spill site.

MULTI-SPECIES CARE IN BOTULISM EVENT

Bird Rescue has responded to multiple botulism outbreaks throughout California since its founding. Between September and November 2023, more than 1,200 migrating birds visiting Tulare Lake in Kern County were exposed to a neurotoxin produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum. With prompt rescue and supportive care, birds with botulism usually recover quickly and can be ready for release within two weeks.

Bird Rescue was activated and jumped into action. Trained staff collaborated with member organizations to save affected birds – including ducks, grebes, stilts, ibises, and American White Pelicans – both on-site and at Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Wildlife Center, where many birds were transferred for treatment.

"Birds are incredibly resilient animals who continue to adapt through changes to the world they live in. Every bird I help treat reminds me that we all must come together to preserve the animals and natural spaces that bring us inner peace."

— Kylie Clatterbuck, Los Angeles Wildlife Center Manager

© Ariana Gastelum

A YELLOW-BILLED LOON, HAVING RECOVERED FROM INJURIES CAUSED BY FISHING LINE ENTANGLEMENT, IS RELEASED BACK INTO THE OCEAN.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Honoring Wildlife Heroes

Volunteering at International Bird Rescue offers diverse opportunities to make a difference. Whether providing hands-on bird care, engaging in outreach, or assisting on the Bird HelpLine, volunteers play a vital role in saving birds and inspiring others.

"I learned very quickly that I became a member of an organization very similar to the units I served in the military. That is, staff and volunteers are loyal, dedicated, and committed not only to each other but the Bird Rescue mission."

—Cynthia "CJ" Dunbar

OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

Getting involved in outreach means being a voice for birds and inspiring others to take action. Volunteers host tables at events, engage with the public, and share the challenges birds face in a changing world – from oil spills to habitat loss. They educate communities about Bird Rescue's lifesaving work and encourage support through action, advocacy, and involvement.

"I am simply awed by aquatic birds—so majestic and unreachable! I'm excited to learn more about caring for them."

—Daphna Wohl

CLINIC VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering at one of Bird Rescue's wildlife centers offers hands-on experience in every aspect of wildlife rehabilitation. Volunteers help with feeding birds, preparing specialized diets, and providing direct care to injured and oiled patients. They assist with cleaning enclosures, siphoning pools, doing laundry, and maintaining a sanitary clinic environment. Beyond daily care, they have the rewarding opportunity to release rehabilitated birds back into the wild, knowing their efforts directly contributed to each bird's recovery.

BIRD HELPLINE VOLUNTEERS

Answering the Bird HelpLine is a vital way to assist people in helping birds. Volunteers respond to a variety of inquiries, from guiding callers who've found a bird in distress to providing resources – even if it's not a species Bird Rescue treats. They also offer advice on peacefully deterring birds from properties while ensuring their safety. By offering knowledge and support, HelpLine volunteers empower people to protect birds in their communities.

"I rarely feel more motivated to spring into action than when I see birds in need of help, and never feel more joy than when I get to release them."

—Diana Burke

232 volunteers contributed **31,438 hours** in 2024

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS – WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Roaa Abdalla
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Dahlia Alamy
Skylar Andrews
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Anna Maciaszek
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Years of Volunteer Service:
● *= 5+ years*
● *= 10+ years*
● *= 15+ years*
● *= 20+ years*

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful for the support of our donors—at all levels—whose generosity truly makes our work possible. **Every dollar makes a life-changing difference for birds in need.** Below are some of our 2024 donors; for a full list of this year's donors, visit our website: www.birdrescue.org/donors2024

In the event that we accidentally omitted your name from this list, please contact us at **gifts@birdrescue.org** and we will update the donor roll immediately.

Seabird Circle donors give monthly, and are our key partners in supporting waterbirds in crisis.

PLATINUM $300,000+

Procter & Gamble
Marathon Petroleum Corporation

GOLD $100,000-$299,999

Marathon Los Angeles Refinery
MPC Community Fund at San Antonio Area Foundation

SILVER $50,000-$99,999

Anonymous (1)
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Nancy Hair
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Tim Hayes and Erika Kotite
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Lisa Houghton
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Marian Isaac
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Richard Johnsson
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Thomas White
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Baader Environmental Consulting LLC
Holly Bacuzzi
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Melissa Brown
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Patricia Cervantes
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Brett Byers
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Theo Devine and Rhonda Giannini
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Andrea Maroon
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Margaret Schadt
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Ann Hamilton Short
Joseph Sims
Peter-Pike Sloan
William Snell
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Dr. Juliana Sorem
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Richard Sparks
Virginia Stark
Mark Stein
Branwen Steinhauser
Richard Storrs and Kyle Smith
Karen Sulzberger and Eric Lax
Elisa Taylor-Godwin
Joan Teitler and Larry Bidinian
Lauren Thomas
Robert and Cheryl Thomas
Esther and Arlin Timberlake
Marcella Torres
Catherine Trejo
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Dr. Laraine Turk
Christina Tworek
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Max Vasquez
Diane Veca
Nancy K. Viebrock
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Whitney Werner
Donna Wigand
Penny Wilkins and Paul Grishaber
Thomas Williams
Wendy Winkler
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Leigh Wolf
Laura and Bruce Wolk
Diane Wooden
Esther Wright
Robert Wright
Xerox
David Youmans
Alina Zetu
Kelly Zidar
Elizabeth Zitelli
Lewis Zuelow

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Jill Hallett
Tomer Y. Jax Black
Arnold and Kathy Mandell

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in memory of Carol Anthony
Kenneth J. Berniker
in memory of Barbara Blofstein Berniker
M. Leslie Cordes
in memory of Carolyn Black
Cedric Kim
in memory of Sushi Blackbird
Elane and Phred Jackson
in memory of Diane Caughrean-Viera
Elisabeth Houseman
in memory of Chichan
Lore Duser
in memory of Tyler Cudd
Nancy Davidson
in memory of Judeana Davidson
Anonymous
in memory of Joel Fenster
Anonymous
in memory of Hiltrud Hightower
Erica Katz
in memory of Marlene Katz
Eddie Nishizaki
in memory of Lela Nishizaki
Jerry Bedrick
in memory of Our Turtle
Karin Rice
in memory of Harry Rice, MD
Cheryl Richard
in memory of Cinda Richard
Sabrina Drake
in memory of Ed Summers
JD Bergeron and Travis Harrell
in memory of Edward Walker
Jerry Olson
in memory of Linda Watts
Francesca Davies
in memory of William Wegner
Elisabeth Houseman
in memory of Widgeon

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Wei-Hsiu Cameron
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In honor of Julie Matsuura
Gregory Berezne
Joyce Ishimoto
In honor of Donna and Joel Minamide
Laurie Minamide
Anonymous
In honor of Toni Arkoosh Pinsky
Paul Alber
Warren and Jane Hirt
Janet Steiner
In honor of Karen Sheldon
Carol Armstrong
Carol and Bill Scott
In honor of Dave Weeshoff
Margaret Blackwell
Lawrence Weeshoff
Stacey Chartier-Grable
in honor of all the sentient beings
Gail Granewich
in honor of John Anderson
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in honor of Lenny Arkinstall
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in honor of Mary Artino
Katherine Karp
in honor of Bryan Baughman
Barbara Petersen
in honor of Djana Bock
Dennis and Susan Bunting
in honor of Christopher Bunting
Lucinda Lindsay
in honor of Diana Burke
Sharon Watson
in honor of Claudia Coco
Margaret Broughton
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Perry Gold
in honor of Celeste Ericsson
Pat Gonzales
in honor of Laurie and Gabriel Feldman
Morris Fishbein
in honor of Anne Fishbein
Jenifer J. Renzel
in honor of Jennifer Gale
Marsha Wilson
in honor of Susan Goodrich
Miriam Clark
in honor of Steven Goulden
Anonymous
in honor of Lisa Hattori
Devon Johnstone
in honor of Beth Johnstone
William Kaluzny
in honor of Kate Kaluzny
James O'Donnell
in honor of Ron Kinninger
Mary Koykka
in honor of Claire Koykka
Paula Branson
in honor of Anne Lee
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in honor of Delovely Mahaffey
Dr. Laraine Flemming
in honor of Leslie McCollum
Garry George
in honor of Regina Phelps
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in honor of Mischa Rosenberg
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in honor of Kathleen Shecter
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in honor of Mary Spease
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in honor of Kris Sullivan
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in honor of Nancy Teater
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in honor of Elena Tillman
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in honor of Mary Test
Leslie Takahashi
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Angy Volterra
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Veterinary Emergency Group, LLC
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Mary Artino and Julie Matsuura
Shelly Barbanica
Robert Beckler
Jodi Benassi and Travis Poitras
Karen Benzel
JD Bergeron
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Roberta and Norman Goldberg
Sue Johnson
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Jane Kiss
Landis Family Trust
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JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY

Your legacy gift can help protect wild birds for generations to come. By including International Bird Rescue in your estate planning, you'll ensure that birds in need will always have a place to heal—thanks to your foresight and generosity.

When you inform us of your planned gift, you become a valued member of our Legacy Society, allowing us to celebrate your commitment today while securing a future where wild birds continue to thrive.

We'd love to discuss how your legacy can make a lasting impact. Contact us to explore planned giving options at:
gifts@birdrescue.org

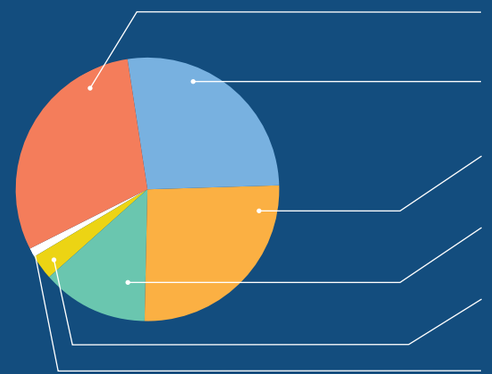
FINANCIAL HEALTH

Despite high expenses during FY24 due to the **2024 Pelican Stranding Event**, Bird Rescue successfully leveraged a diverse range of revenue streams to cover costs. The ongoing expense of maintaining the **Avian Rehabilitation & Research** program continues to rise, driven by increasing costs for food, medical care, and wildlife hospital maintenance. Additionally, emerging wildlife emergencies, such as **avian flu (HPAI)**, are becoming a growing concern. Bird Rescue's programs rely heavily on **volunteer efforts and in-kind support**, which remain essential to sustaining our mission.

Audited financial statements can be requested at:
gifts@birdrescue.org

Platinum Transparency 2024
Candid.

2024 OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE
TOTAL $3,749,795



30% • $1,106,462
Grants & Corporate Gifts

27% • $1,016,373
Individual Gifts

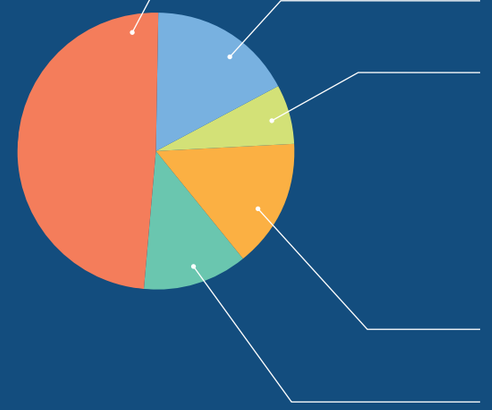
26% • $979,304
Earned Revenue

13% • $500,575
In-Kind Contributions

3% • $121,001
Special Event Revenue

1% • $26,080
Merchandise & Other Income

2024 OPERATING EXPENSES
TOTAL $3,567,999



PROGRAM EXPENSES:

49% • $1,748,320
Avian Rehabilitation & Research

17% • $606,560
Wildlife Emergency Response

7% • $249,760
Conservation, Education & Community Engagement

73% • $2,604,639
Total Program Expenses

SUPPORT SERVICES:

15% • $535,200
Fundraising

12% • $428,160
Administration

INTERNATIONAL
BIRD RESCUE

birdrescue.org

Bird HelpLine:
1-866-SOS-BIRD (1-866-767-2473)

SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA WILDLIFE CENTER
4369 Cordelia Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
P 707.207.0380

LOS ANGELES WILDLIFE CENTER
3601 S Gaffey Street Box 3
San Pedro, CA 90731

ALASKA WILDLIFE RESPONSE CENTER
651 E 100th Avenue #C
Anchorage, AK 99515

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For more than 53 years, people have rallied behind Bird Rescue during times of crisis—but birds need us every day.

Every day, injured, orphaned, contaminated, and ill wild birds arrive at our doors. And every day, our expert team provides the compassionate care that gives them a second chance at life in the wild.

By joining the **SEABIRD CIRCLE** of recurring donors, you ensure that these second chances don't just happen in emergencies—they happen all year long. **Your ongoing support keeps our clinics running, sustains our expert training programs, and strengthens our ability to respond to the next wildlife crisis.**

When you give monthly, you become part of the foundation that keeps Bird Rescue thriving. Help us protect the future of seabirds.

SCAN HERE TO JOIN THE SEABIRD CIRCLE OR GO TO birdrescue.org/get-involved/seabird-circle/