



Over 20 Orphaned Egrets and Herons from Santa Rosa Colony Get Second Chance

Note: Release organizers will have photo and video of the bird release post-event. Please contact andrew.harmon@bird-rescue.org for any film/stills requests.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA ROSA, CALIF. (June 12, 2013) – More than 20 young egrets and herons, many of which had fallen from their nests at Santa Rosa’s well-known Ninth Street colony, are set to be released together at nearby Laguna de Santa Rosa on **Thursday, June 13 at 9am.**

The Santa Rosa colony, located on a median strip of eucalyptus trees, has been an unlikely nesting site for Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and other birds for the past 15 years. Yet every year, many baby birds fall from the nests and are rescued by volunteers from [The Bird Rescue Center](#) in Santa Rosa and other local organizations, lest they fall victim to traffic and other urban ills. The birds are then transported to [International Bird Rescue’s](#) San Francisco Bay wildlife care center in Fairfield, where they are raised and treated for any injuries.

Upon release, the egrets are banded with red bands to better track them in the wild. [Several have been spotted at nesting sites in recent years.](#) “It’s our responsibility to help care for the animals that have fallen from their nests, and to return to them to the wild,” said International Bird Rescue director Jay Holcomb.

RELEASE INFORMATION:

WHEN: Thursday, June 13, 8:30am call time for 9am release. Please arrive promptly at 8:30am, as release organizers cannot accommodate late-comers.

WHERE: Meet in parking lot of [Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation](#) Headquarters, 900 Sanford Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. From there, release organizers will lead

attendees to a plowed pathway into the laguna grasslands and the release site to the west.

WHO: Representatives from International Bird Rescue, [Madrone Audubon](#) and The Bird Rescue Center are scheduled to be on hand to discuss these animals as well as the red-banded egret project. **For any direction-related information, please contact Mary Ellen Rayner, executive director of The Bird Rescue Center, at (707) 548-9408.**

Special thanks to the [Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission](#) for supporting these birds through a generous grant that helps cover the cost of their rehabilitative care.

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