



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2015

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Two Rare Albatross Ready For Release After Unusual SoCal Landings

One if by Land, One if by Sea, Birds Wandered Off Course; Both To Be Released Thurs. April 2

Time: 10 a.m., Thursday April 2, 2015

Place: 3601 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731
<http://goo.gl/maps/U3jo0>

What: The media is invited to the **banding only** of these two rare birds at International Bird Rescue.

Two Laysan Albatross, rare seabirds for Southern California that were rescued separately in the Los Angeles area, will be released together this week. They were each rehabilitated at International Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Center.

Note: The birds will be released far out to sea from a small Los Angeles County Lifeguard boat. **No extra space on the boat for the media is available.**



One Albatross was rescued on March 21st after being found trapped between two containers aboard a cargo ship headed to the Port of Long Beach. The seabird was also oiled by grease and was cleaned by IBR staff last week.

The other Laysan Albatross was found on March 20th in the desert city of Rancho Mirage, about 100 miles from the Pacific Ocean. It was stabilized by The Living Desert Zoo Gardens and transferred to IBR on March 30th.

We also want to say thanks to the Port of Long Beach for generously supporting the care of these majestic seabirds.

Laysan Albatross are frequent stowaways on container ships that travel the ocean highways. They have often been spotted resting or even building nests aboard these vessels.

The stowaway phenomenon is generally considered to be a simple case of mistaken identity. Laysan Albatrosses may see the flat surface of a cargo ship as the perfect new nesting island during breeding season.

With their tremendous 6 ½ foot wingspan, Laysan Albatross can glide long distances – sometimes 300-400 miles in one day. They breed on tiny islands in the North Pacific Ocean about 3,000 miles from California.

About International Bird Rescue: Since 1971 International Bird Rescue (IBR) has specialized in the rescue and rehabilitation of seabirds and other aquatic birds. IBR relies on the support of the public to care for wildlife, including wayward birds blown off course, those injured in cruelty incidents, as well as those harmed by fishing gear and other human-caused injuries.

Our team of specialists operates two year-round aquatic bird rehabilitation centers in California, which care for more than 5,000 birds every year. IBR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

To make a donation or learn more, please visit birdrescue.org

Photo of Laysan Albatross by Kelly Berry – International Bird Rescue