



June 28, 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Returning to The Wild: Rescued Brown Pelicans**

Release of seabirds: Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> in Sausalito

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**Where:** Fort Baker, Sausalito (Google Maps: [Location](#))

**When:** Friday, June 29, 2018 at 11 AM

**Fairfield, CA** – After weeks in care, young brown pelicans that came in sick and starving will be returned to Northern California waters this week. A handful of pelicans that have recuperated at International Bird Rescue will be released in Sausalito at Fort Baker on Friday, June 29, 2018 at 11 AM. The media is invited.

The birds scheduled for release are among 88 brown pelicans that have flooded our two California wildlife centers since late April. They were found weak, hungry and cold, and unable to fly, at parks and beaches as far south as Monterey. One pelican was even rescued in front of a coffee shop in downtown San Francisco.



"We want to thank Frank from Crows Nest, South Carolina, who found a sick and weak pelican with a severe wing injury while in Santa Cruz and took action that ultimately saved its life." said JD Bergeron, executive director. "At Bird Rescue, we are inspired by people like Frank who take action to help wildlife in crisis."

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"We send our deepest thanks to all the people who first saw these birds in trouble, to those who helped capture and bring them to our center, to the staff and volunteers who fed and medicated them, to the donors who helped pay for fish and veterinary care. I am so inspired by the village of caring people who step up to protect nature."

The cause of the grounding of these sick and starving birds is still unknown, but we suspect that changing ocean conditions, including warming water temperatures and the lack of available fish, are main factors.

Bird Rescue continues to ask for the public's help in caring for these brown pelicans in need. Donations can be made online at [www.birdrescue.org](http://www.birdrescue.org) or mailed to the center directly. We encourage anyone who spots a sick or injured pelican to call their local animal control or contact us directly at 707-207-0380.

### **Blue-banded California Brown Pelican Program**

The California Brown Pelican represents a species of special interest to Bird Rescue. These birds continue to face many challenges including oil spills, fishing tackle entanglements, prey shortages, and climate change.

To help us track this iconic seabird, each one of Brown Pelicans we release receives a large, blue plastic leg band bearing easily readable white numbers. Bird Rescue started this program back in 2009 when these seabirds were de-listed from the endangered species list. With the help of citizen scientists, the blue-banded pelicans spotted in the wild can be reported on online:  
<https://www.bird-rescue.org/contact/found-a-bird/reporting-a-banded-bird.aspx>

**About International Bird Rescue:** In 1971 after 800,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the bay, concerned individuals led by a registered nurse named Alice Berkner jumped into action, bringing International Bird Rescue to life. We have always had to pave a road where there is none. Staff and volunteers work with tenacity alongside clients, partners, and the public to find solutions. Today, we research best practices at our crisis response hospitals in California and Alaska and share them worldwide. 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.

Learn more at <https://www.bird-rescue.org/>

[International Bird Rescue – San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center](https://www.bird-rescue.org/)  
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