ORGANIZATION STORY
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.


MISSION
To inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis.

VISION
We dream of a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves.
Dear Friends and Supporters of Bird Rescue,

First off, I offer a sincere THANK YOU to each and every one of you reading this Annual Report.

As a former U.S. Coast Guard Captain of Port, I know firsthand the importance of a well-functioning team in which each member understands their role and how to push toward success. And YOU are part of the team.

As Board Chair these past few years through a transitional period, it has been my pleasure to see each member of the team step up and take the needed actions that carry Bird Rescue’s mission forward. We have steadied the boat and we are poised to have even greater impact on environmental challenges.

Donors: Most of all, I want to thank the largest part of our team, our donors, who partner with us to make all this life-saving work possible. You are a wildlife rescuer, a critical part of the solution, and we are deeply grateful for your support and trust.

Volunteers: I give thanks to the hundreds of clinic volunteers who make sure each bird gets a clean cage, the right food as many times a day as needed, and who act as the “glue” that fills any needs the wildlife clinics may have. I also thank the outreach and “Bird Booster” volunteers who help to spread our message and host engaging events for members of the public that show how to better protect the natural world.

Staff: My gratitude also goes to the incredibly dedicated staff members of Bird Rescue who run the wildlife centers, provide excellent service to our clients and partners, account for all the expenditures and donations, share engaging stories online and in-person, and do whatever it takes every single day to give second chances to waterbirds in crisis.

Partners: I am thankful for partners and response service clients that allow us to put our expertise to good use, especially to Procter & Gamble and Dawn dish soap which have supported our work for so many years.

Best regards,

Ron Morris
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard Retired
Chair, Board of Directors
Dear Friends—

It is my honor to share with you this Annual Report of International Bird Rescue’s key work in 2018. Our team has made big strides in delivering our mission and rescuing thousands of aquatic birds in crisis.

Our Wildlife Emergency Response team has been busy providing excellent planning, training, and other services to our clients.

Our Wildlife Rehabilitation program has helped nearly four thousand patients again this year, including high numbers of our logo birds California Brown Pelicans and Common Murres, and every day is an opportunity to learn and improve our practices.

Our Research and Innovation projects have explored medication improvements for pelicans and our team contributed to a new edition of THE textbook on aquatic bird care.

Our budding Outreach and Education program has hosted scores of events, talks, and classroom lessons to engage growing circles of people who want to make a difference for wildlife and the natural world. We invested into Partnerships and celebrated numerous milestones in what can be done when we all work together.

As we look back on an excellent growth year, we are inspired for the three key objectives of 2019:

1. Programs and Impact – our actions to find and promote solutions to man-made challenges for aquatic birds everywhere in the world and to pursue excellence and leadership in responding to large-scale bird crises move us ever closer toward balance with the natural world.

2. Sustainable Funding – through diversified earned and contributed income streams and the creation of a Wildlife Emergency Response Fund, we aim to build a model that will allow us to grow our impact in the years to come.

3. Workplace of Choice – through board and staff development and volunteer engagement around our vision and core values, we aim to attract and retain compassionate, talented, innovative, and hard-working changemakers who will take action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves.

You can be on the frontline of these by donating toward your favorite programs and by offering your expertise where appropriate to any of these objectives. Please reach out to me at jd@birdrescue.org. I love to talk with our supporters.

Be well,
JD Bergeron
Executive Director
International Bird Rescue was created to respond to large-scale wildlife emergencies, especially oil spills. For nearly 50 years, we have honed our skills, trained and deployed responder specialists, contributed to the global body of knowledge, and built partnerships and plans against future disasters. We take this pioneering role very seriously and, as improvements in oil transport and regulation have resulted in many fewer oil spills, we aim to take what we’ve learned and apply it to new challenges facing wildlife: crises like environmental poisoning, harmful algal blooms, marine debris, and urban wildlife conflict.

This is why we do the work: saving birds and other wildlife from devastating outcomes is our calling. Effective response for wildlife in crisis demands a depth and breadth of experience (because each situation is unique) as well as relationships of trust built over time. With nearly five decades in the field, our response team offers valuable expertise and true partnership to organizations and agencies seeking to solve challenges faced by wild, aquatic birds. We are working to build up a Wildlife Emergency Response Fund that will enable us to act when no other funding source is readily apparent. We invite you to contact us for more information on participating in this fund.
Growing Partnership with Aiuká in Brazil: Tier 3 Oil Spill Drill

In August, we participated in a large-scale, full deployment oil spill exercise in Brazil. Put on by Petrobras, Brazil’s state-owned petroleum company, the exercise was intended to test their systems during a Tier 3 response: a classification given to oil spills that require resources and expertise not available locally or regionally, and which require international cooperation and mutual aid.

The scenario involved a hypothetical catastrophic spill that spread oil into a critical wildlife habitat in Santa Catarina, Brazil. Prior to this exercise, Petrobras had previously partnered with Aiuká, a Brazil-based response and rehabilitation partner, to provide Tier 1 and 2 responses, and Aiuká had partnered before with International Bird Rescue to provide support for Tier 3 responses. Established relationships like these in the lead-up to this drill help make for successful partnership in exercises, and more importantly, during actual oil spills.

This drill culminated in the full deployment of recovery teams, wildlife decoys, activation of wildlife rehabilitation facilities, and a transport plan to Florianopolis. Bird Rescue played many roles in the drill including command center support, deployment of field team members, and rehabilitation support to the center in Florianopolis. Bird Rescue’s team worked closely with our Aiuká counterparts to provide feedback to improve systems and were in turn rewarded with reciprocated knowledge and a solidification of our partnership.

Exercises like these are critical for all oil spill responders. The opportunity to work together and test systems before an emergency happens is an invaluable way to improve the outcome when disaster strikes. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with our international peers, knowing that each exercise strengthens relationships and builds a network of local, regional, and international responders which will only improve response times, decrease wildlife mortality, and minimize the impact of oil spills on wildlife throughout the world.

To activate International Bird Rescue for emergency oiled wildlife response or an oil spill drill, call +1 (888) 447-1743

Roseate Spoonbill wash during the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Bird Rescue is prepared to respond to any bird species in the world if called to a Tier 3 response. Photo courtesy of Brian Epstein
Best Outcome for a Risky Spill Response

In February, Bird Rescue was called to respond to an oil spill in the remote islands of the Kodiak Archipelago, in the Shuyak Straits of Alaska. Acutely strong winds of 80mph caused a dockside building to collapse and fall into the ocean, leaking approximately 3,000 gallons of a heavy-weight fuel oil that was stored inside the building.

Our client and partner, Alaska Chadux, contacted us right away to notify us of the spill. After consulting with Chadux on likely impacts as well as the response challenges posed by the remote location of the site, Bird Rescue immediately deployed three Bird Rescue response staff to our Anchorage Command Center.

Because of the high winds and dangerous conditions in the Shuyak Straits, Bird Rescue field responders were not deployed to the spill site. Instead, team members monitored the information coming from the site and provided ongoing recommendations for response activities from within the incident command post.

Luckily and perhaps due to the high winds and extreme cold, no wildlife was found to have been contaminated by this spill, as the oil remained somewhat gelatinous and clumped together rather than dispersing. It was a very lucky accident!

When wildlife ARE impacted by oil, every second counts: early actions save lives - and reputations. We commend the Incident Command and our partners in Alaska for immediately initiating a wildlife response. We remain on-call 24-hours per day and 365 days per year for incidents such as the Shuyak Spill.

“IT IS INCREDIBLE TO WORK WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL AND DEDICATED TEAM OF PEOPLE WHO SHOW EVERY DAY THEIR LOVE OF BIRDS. WHETHER IN RESPONSE, RESEARCH OR REHABILITATION OUR TEAM SHINES AND IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE ON THE BIRD RESCUE TEAM!”

Barbara Callahan, Senior Director, Response Services

LOOKING AHEAD
Building a Global Wildlife Emergency Response Capacity

The demands of wildlife emergency response continue to change over time. While there may be fewer major oil spills now than in the past, there are new risks as oil is being transported by railway and pipelines. The need to prepare for accidents is as critical as ever. Where wildlife is concerned, the expertise and resources that Bird Rescue provide have never been more important.

Bird Rescue provides a variety of training for all levels, from volunteers to professionals. Our interactive training events aim to meet each client’s specific needs, including risks, available resources, response priorities, and geographic and cultural differences, in a way that will build skills and understanding.

Bird Rescue’s trainers are response team members with passion and real-world experience and are popular speakers at conferences, trainings, and seminars in the U.S. and abroad. Topics covered in these presentations include all areas of wildlife emergency preparedness and response, from planning and management to field operations to waterproofing once-oiled feathers to aquatic bird rehabilitation.

We will continue to work tirelessly to improve wildlife response capacity on a global scale. Given that many crises occur in regions of the world least equipped to effectively care for injured and contaminated wildlife, a unified network of responders is needed in the event of an emergency. Building upon our existing international partnerships to increase our capacity and that of our partners is the most effective way to reach this common goal.
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION: SECOND CHANCES FOR SEABIRDS TAKING ACTION EVERY DAY

Our work doesn’t stop when headlines fade. International Bird Rescue’s wildlife clinics are open year-round to provide critical care to seabirds and other aquatic species. In 2018, rehabilitation teams admitted nearly 3,700 birds between our two California locations. These patients were brought to us by the general public and affiliated wildlife groups. Our focus has been to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis – since 1971, we’ve admitted over 100,000 birds and the count continues.

Waterbirds and a Changing Global Environment

The Pacific Flyway is a major north-south thruway for migratory birds traveling anywhere between Alaska and Patagonia. Many of these animals are indicator species, meaning that the changes in their patterns or habits may be signals for a change in the environment. Many experts believe that critical hardships faced by pelicans, murres, and loons could be related to environmental shifts caused by warming oceans, pollution, collapsing fish stocks, and harmful algal blooms. Our work is closely connected to these dynamics. Seabirds provide a constant indication of the status of many important fish populations, including sardines and anchovies – both key links in the oceanic food chain.

Two Fishers, Two Vets, and One Pelican Rescue

In January two local fishers captured an adult female Brown Pelican with a large laceration affecting the entire right side of her pouch. These awesome fishers had rescued injured seabirds several times before and they knew exactly what to do to get the help this bird desperately needed! We thank every individual who acts to protect the natural world around them.

Pelicans with large injuries to their pouch are generally unable to eat since they are incapable of effectively capturing and swallowing fish. This pelican arrived very skinny and hungry and we were reasonably confident that the wound was caused by a fish hook ripping the tissue.

Two veterinarians, Dr. Rebecca Duerr and her husband Dr. Guthrum Purdin, collaborated to stitch from each end and meet in the middle. Despite being only about 1mm thick, a pelican pouch heals fastest if it is sutured in two layers with fussy small stitches, which makes it time-consuming to repair but reduces the amount of time the bird has to stay in captivity. This worked out quite well and after a strong recovery, we sent this beautiful patient back to her wild home. For this fortunate pelican, four hands were even better than two in both rescue and recovery!

Photo 1: Four hands! Drs. Duerr and Purdin team up to close the large pouch laceration from both ends simultaneously.
Photo by Angie Trumbo

Photo 2: Recovering in our aviary a few days after surgery. She may have missed breeding season due to her injuries, but you can see a bit of her breeding colors in the bright red at the tip of her bill.
Photo by Angie Trumbo
“Partnering for Wildlife”: Bird Rescue Co-hosts the NWRA Symposium

This year we were pleased to co-host the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association event in Anaheim, CA, along with California Wildlife Center, Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center, and Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network. Staff and volunteers spent many hours preparing presentations, labs, special events, and entertainment for the symposium. Those hours were invested well as “Partnering for Wildlife” was a huge success!

This symposium truly was an event of partnership. Staff worked with representatives from Focus Wildlife, Bird Ally X, Oiled Wildlife Care Network, and Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Center to hold an all-day Oiled Wildlife Seminar on rehabilitating oiled birds – from intake to release.

The team taught participants about the complexities of caring for oiled wildlife, and raised awareness that the process involves far more than simply removing the oil. Topics included stabilization, nutritional needs, the importance of blood values, waterproofing, and release conditioning, in addition to the wash process itself.

Bird Rescue was honored to work alongside these groups to help improve the care of oiled wildlife across the country. NWRA is a great example of how Bird Rescue shares its 48 years of experience with the world!

Fishing Line and Hooks - a Leading Cause of Injury in 2018

Fish hooks and fishing line are a pervasive problem for seabirds and a leading cause of injury in the birds we care for at our California wildlife hospitals. Almost none of the birds who have been hooked or entangled are capable of unhooking themselves. Many hooks are ingested, requiring invasive procedures or surgery to remove them.

As just one example, our veterinarian Dr. Rebecca Duerr performed surgery on a Black-crowned Night-Heron at our Los Angeles wildlife center who had a hook lodged in its stomach tissue. Dr. Duerr created a small incision and was able to carefully remove the hook and then stitch up the heron. This beautiful bird recovered rapidly post-surgery and was released back to its wild home.

If you fish, be mindful of where your gear ends up. We know there are many responsible fishers, and it is our wish that you will spread this message to others. You may end up saving the lives of many birds.

Photo 1: X-ray showing the fishing hook in heron
Photo by International Bird Rescue

Photo 2: Human impacts: Black-crowned Night-Heron with a fishing hook safely removed Photo by Angie Trumbo

Photo left: Sharing our knowledge – Wildlife Center Manager Isabel Luevano answering questions during the Waterproofing and Protective Wraps Lab at NWRA. Photo by Angie Trumbo
It isn’t often that we receive reports of our banded birds on breeding colonies, especially considering that colonies are typically in remote, and sometimes protected, areas. However, some locations are monitored by biologists where they track nest locations, breeding pairs, chick counts, and more.

In the summer of 2017, we received a sighting report from a biologist of a previous Bird Rescue patient, blue-banded Brown Pelican “E17”, on a nesting colony in Baja California performing his “doting dad” duties with two pelican chicks. We were proud to see a patient from many years past flourishing with offspring.

This summer we received another report about “M38”, a second blue-banded Brown Pelican spotted in a breeding colony! M38 came to us in 2011 hungry and malnourished, and with bruising, abrasions and pressure sores on his feet, indicating he had been in poor condition for quite some time. With treatment he recovered quickly, more than doubling his red blood cell count and gaining about 50% of his original weight.

After his release in Alameda, CA, in late 2011, he was spotted in early 2015 at Moss Landing, CA, as captured in the stunning portrait on this page. As of now, M38 is at least ten years old.

We are happy to see that both E17 and M38 are doing so well. Their success stories showcase why rehabilitation matters for the natural world! Without the reporting of the researchers at CIES (California Institute of Environmental Science) for M38, and GECI (Group of Ecology and Conservation of Islands) for E17, we would not have had these critical updates on the wellbeing and whereabouts of both of our former patients.

While our organizations work on different aspects of saving a once-declining population, our efforts complement each other in the long-term goals of re-establishing healthy breeding populations of California Brown Pelicans.

Blue-banded California Brown Pelican Program
To help us track these iconic seabirds, each one of the Brown Pelicans we release receives a blue plastic leg band with easily readable white numbers. 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
2018: Triple-digit Intakes for Pelicans and Murres

This year, Bird Rescue took in hundreds of Brown Pelican and Common Murre patients throughout the spring and summer.

The California Brown Pelican represents a species of special interest to Bird Rescue. Not only are they frequently affected by oil spills due to their preferred habitats, they continue to face many challenges, including fishing tackle entanglements, prey shortages, and climate change.

This year was no different, as over 100 Brown Pelicans came to our California wildlife centers for care. Most were found weak, hungry, cold, and unable to fly.

Common Murres fared poorly as well throughout the summer, with over 150 entering care. Most of them were very young. The concerning uptick in Common Murres included many that were starving and some contaminated with oil.

On behalf of all the bird patients, 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 wildlife centers, to the donors who helped pay for fish and veterinary care, to the staff and volunteers who fed and medicated them. It is truly inspirational to be a part of the village of caring people who step up to protect nature. Together, we DO make a difference!

Looking Ahead

Bird Rescue aims to explore strengths and weaknesses in the global knowledge of how to help aquatic birds in crisis. In addition to improving clinical care and husbandry, we also aim to connect with other conservation experts and organizations in order to contribute to a wholistic view on progress. We commit to looking closely at the man-made challenges that bring birds to our wildlife centers and to find and promote solutions for aquatic birds everywhere in the world. If you are a conservationist specializing in aquatic birds, or you are just enthusiastic about restoring the balance with the natural world, you can support our work by signing up for our newsletter and following us on social media.
PAVING NEW ROADS THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

In 1971, there were no existing protocols or care procedures for oiled birds. The founders of International Bird Rescue had to find and perfect steps for washing and waterproofing birds in care. This instilled a spirit of innovation and curiosity in everything that we do, and still today a primary question for all staff and volunteers is, “Can we do this a better way?”

Running one of the largest rehabilitation programs in the world for aquatic birds gives us plenty of opportunities to study and improvise a variety of challenges faced by waterbirds and to share best practices through publications, classroom lectures, conferences, and ad-hoc support to fellow rehabilitation and related wildlife career professionals.

We devote intensive resources to banding and tracking past patients after their successful release from our care. These long-term data are being analyzed for trends and key learnings which will inform numerous papers and publications which have the potential to change how we see aquatic bird care on the global stage.

Saving Pelican Lives Through Research

Back in 2010, our veterinarian noticed several pelicans with serious bleeding from gastrointestinal ulcers while being treated with meloxicam for unrelated painful conditions. Because GI ulceration is a common side effect of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as meloxicam, she suspected that pelicans might have a problem with the drug.

Meloxicam is the most commonly-used NSAID in birds and has been shown to be safe and effective in a wide range of bird species. But because of her suspicion, she dramatically lowered the meloxicam dose we have been using in our pelican patients. In the intervening years, she was contacted by numerous zoos and wildlife centers suspecting their pelicans also may have been harmed by the drug.

As a result of an ongoing concern for pelicans everywhere, in early 2018 she recruited a veterinary student named Molly Horgan from UC Davis to work on the problem. In summer of 2018, Bird Rescue staff completed sample collection for a study on the metabolism of meloxicam in pelicans and a paper about the study was recently submitted for publication.

Sure enough, results showed that pelicans have a prolonged metabolism of meloxicam, with the drug having the longest half-life of any bird species yet evaluated. This work will help improve the health and safety of pelicans undergoing medical treatment worldwide, and serves to remind us all that a bird is not a bird, and what is safe for one species may be a hazard to another.

Staffer Devin Hanson giving a Brown Pelican patient an exam. Photo by Angie Trumbo
Specialized Diving Birds Require Specialized Care During Rehab

Specialized diving birds like loons and grebes are prone to getting serious injuries to their keels, hocks, and toes when they are out of water for too long. The simple pressure of their body against whatever hard surface they beach upon can cause the skin at their bony prominences to be damaged or die, especially if they have poor blood flow due to being cold and starving. This skin damage can also develop during rescue transport, or even during care when birds cannot be housed in water due to their feathers not being waterproof.

Once the skin is damaged, tendons, joints, and bones beneath the skin are at risk for becoming infected, and these injuries can quickly become life-threatening if not treated. In a recent study, we found that more than 75% of Western Grebes admitted to our LA Wildlife Center already have at least one of these injuries at arrival, but that even birds with a large number of these injuries can be successfully treated and released.

Minimizing these injuries is why Bird Rescue puts intense focus on prevention, with the use of protective wraps and modified housing when birds must be out of water, and restoring birds’ waterproofing as fast as possible. To treat these problems, we use specialized supportive care and innovative treatment techniques to give birds the best possible chance to successfully recover from their injuries and return to the wild as healthy birds.

Sharing our Knowledge: 2nd Edition of “Hand Rearing Birds” Book Written in 2018

In 2007, our veterinarian co-edited and authored several chapters in a 441-page, 38 chapter hardcover textbook called Hand Rearing Birds, which has since been used as an important resource by zoos and wildlife centers around the world. A few years back, she was approached by the publisher to create a new 2nd edition, which has become a multi-year project involving 52 authors from the wildlife rehabilitation, zoo, aquaria, and aviculture realms. The bulk of the writing for the 2nd edition occurred in 2018 and features several chapter contributions from Bird Rescue’s current and former staff, including new chapters on “Cormorants” and “Coots and Rails”. This time, the now 550+ page book will have more than 250 color photos throughout, with many chosen from the fine images captured by Bird Rescue’s photographers. Bird Rescue is very proud to have our staff share their expertise with the world to improve outcomes for captive-reared birds worldwide.
For waterbirds, healthy and clean feathers are the difference between life and death. From tiny Eared Grebes that spend their whole lives on the water, feeding on bugs and diving for small fish, to Brown Pelicans who plunge dive into open water from great heights, staying dry and warm thanks to the incredible structure of the feather is critical to their survival.

Each feather functions together with its neighbors to hold warm air against the bird’s skin and block out water. Waterproof feathers provide birds with insulation, buoyancy, and a streamlined shape for swimming and flying. Even the smallest bit of contaminant, such as oil, soap, or blood (if the bird is wounded), can disrupt feather structures and cause a bird to lose its waterproofing.

A cold, wet bird in the ocean quickly burns calories and starts to starve because it can’t hunt for food and might not be able to fly to get out of the water; it might even need to swim miles to shore to avoid drowning. The lucky ones are rescued by kind-hearted people and arrive at our clinics for care.

At Bird Rescue, our staff and volunteers are trained to ensure that EVERY bird we work with has perfect waterproofing by the time they are released. In order to accomplish this, we take special care to provide each bird with access to clean, fresh water to encourage bathing and preening. This involves labor-intensive work of going back and forth from dryers to pools with thoughtful “lifeguarding” and waterproof checks until each bird is floating and remaining completely dry.

Every bird that comes through our door is injured, contaminated, sick, or debilitated, and without the attention to this critical component of their life history, we would not be able to successfully release so many back to the wild for their second chance at life.
Expanding Public Engagement in 2018

Activating our vision - “We dream of a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves”, Bird Rescue partnered with Sierra Club’s Solano Group for a special birdwatching experience in conjunction with the 2018 Flyway Festival, an annual celebration of migratory birds travelling through the San Francisco Bay-Delta area.

Walking that day were both first-time birders and long-time naturalists alike. The mix of skill and interest levels meant lots of opportunities for education and engagement with the goal of bringing everyone one step closer to a feeling of personal responsibility for the natural world. Programs and partnerships like this allow Bird Rescue to nurture new advocates for birds and nature as we put our mission into practice.

Nurturing the love of birds: Bird Rescue partners with Sierra Club. Photo by Phil Kohlmetz

Taking Action! Two Trash Cleanups Help the Environment and Aquatic Birds

Each year Bird Rescue’s wildlife centers treat hundreds of patients that have ingested or become entangled in fishing tackle and debris, and we aim to make beaches and shorelines a safer place for the public, wildlife, and especially seabirds.

During the summer, we were joined by partners from Golden Gate Audubon, East Bay Regional Park District, the City of Oakland, and Lake Merritt Institute for a “Day of Action”. We were able to clean up a significant number of cigarettes, plastic wrappers, and pieces of glass, all of which are quite harmful if ingested by wildlife.

In September, we partnered with the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council for Coastal Cleanup Day organized by Heal the Bay in Los Angeles. More than 150 volunteers joined us at White Point/Royal Palms Beach in San Pedro for a morning of trash pick-up. Together we collected almost 300 pounds of trash!

Photo above: Lots of energy and smiles at the Heal the Bay cleanup in San Pedro, CA. Photo by Angie Trumbo

Nurturing the love of birds: Bird Rescue partners with Sierra Club. Photo by Phil Kohlmetz
“Running for Good” Raises Awareness and Builds Community!

Bird Rescue staff, volunteers, and supporters came together this summer as “Team Yes We Peli-Can” to participate in a fun run, Conquer the Bridge, located in our own backyard of San Pedro, CA. The 8.5k course crosses the Vincent Thomas Bridge, an iconic suspension bridge which spans the Los Angeles harbor and connects San Pedro to Terminal Island. These two areas represent important foraging, roosting, and nesting habitats for many of the aquatic birds that Bird Rescue strives to protect. Our team helped raise awareness surrounding the care of injured, oiled, and orphaned aquatic birds in the Port of LA area and raise funds to support Bird Rescue’s mission.

2018 Conquer the Bridge Team “Yes We Peli-Can” had fun and raised funds for the birds! Photo by Angie Trumbo

Artist credit to Carl William Raggio IV. Carl was an animator and storyboard artist that had a deep appreciation for nature and loved the opportunity to design this mascot for Bird Rescue.

Hundreds of people attended a fun and educational day at the SF Bay-Delta open house. Photo by Russ Curtis

Opening Our Doors

Every year our two wildlife centers in California welcome the public for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at how we rehabilitate injured, orphaned, and sick birds.

Held every May, Bird LA Day celebrates the birds of Southern California and LA’s amazing biodiversity. On this day, International Bird Rescue’s wildlife center in San Pedro is central to raising awareness about seabirds. Bird-themed events are held throughout the greater Los Angeles area to shine the spotlight on nature, and remind the world that Los Angeles has a lot more to offer than just film, fashion, and celebrities.

In October, our SF Bay-Delta wildlife center hosted an open house. Hourly educational talks focused on wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife emergency response, and research advancements, as well as providing simple ideas for a more bird-friendly way of life. Our interactive tables showcased how oil is washed from feathers, and how ocean debris affects the health of seabirds. We are inspired by the dedication of the public who attend our events to make the world a better place for birds and people alike!
Celebrating 40 Years with Dawn Dish Soap

This year we celebrated our 40th year in partnership with Procter and Gamble and Dawn dish soap. Ever since we discovered that Dawn was a solution to cleaning oil from aquatic birds, Procter and Gamble have become one of our biggest supporters, donating countless bottles of Dawn dish soap and committing hundreds of thousands of dollars to support our wildlife rehabilitation, research, and crisis response work. We thank Procter and Gamble for helping us do the hard work of washing oiled birds and sending them back to their wild homes.

Bird Rescue Joins the Pacific Flyway Center Planning Board

We are pleased to be joining forces with the Pacific Flyway Center, a new education and conservation center with a focus on waterbirds. To be located in Fairfield, CA, just a short trip from Bird Rescue’s San Francisco Bay-Delta wildlife center, the new Pacific Flyway Center (PFC) is scheduled to be developed over the course of the next few years. We’re delighted to welcome the Pacific Flyway Center to the neighborhood and join forces with them to keep birds in our region and beyond healthy and flying strong!

Harbor Community Benefit Foundation Continues Strong Partnership with Bird Rescue

Bird Rescue and Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF) have built a strong partnership over the past five years. This year, HCBF has offered an opportunity to study issues affecting wildlife in and around the Port of Los Angeles, and to suggest mitigation measures.

As part of the resulting Port Wildlife Impact Mitigation Project, we are analyzing historical information and assessing common threats to local wildlife in order to provide a more complete view of the overall health of the Port. We are also helping to identify opportunities for further improvements to the health and safety of both marine wildlife and people. We will share our findings with a diverse group of companies and organizations that work within the Port of Los Angeles, as well as with the general public.

San Francisco Bay Bridge Demolition Project

For the past few years, we have worked alongside Caltrans biologists during their demolition work of the old San Francisco Bay Bridge. Partnering with them means that any birds, mainly chicks and eggs, that are in a hazardous area will be captured and brought into our center for continued care. Once brought into care, Caltrans financially supports the birds for the duration until the birds are released. This is a winning partnership for Bay Area birds!
Years of Volunteer Service

+ = 5+ years
= 10+ years
= 15+ years

Our volunteers have an extraordinary impact on our work - without them we could not attain the successes we do on behalf of the birds. Sometimes Bird Rescue faces big challenges, and our tribe of volunteers are always there for whatever comes up next: oil spills, environmental events, seasonal peaks during spring, and more. They think less about what they can get from the experience and focus on all that they can contribute. Their love of birds and nature is clear and their dedication is inspiring!

In 2018 we called upon 267 volunteers. They responded by donating 31,442 hours!

Image: Volunteer Sherri Elinson assisting a Brown Pelican being washed in January. This bird was released on 1/26/18 with Blue-band X48. Keep your eye out for it and remember to report Blue-Banded pelicans here: https://www.bird-rescue.org/contact/found-a-bird/reporting-a-banded-bird.aspx

Image above: Photo by Cheryl Reynolds

Abe, Kentaro
Aldana, Cristiane
Ams, Shannon
Arkoosh Pinsky, Toni
Artino, Mary
Awtry, Gina
Baker, Mark
Barger, Tracy
Baron, Karen
Barron, Magda
Bartens, Deborah
Beavers, Kelly
Becker, Anna
Belteu, Laura
Benson, Regina
Boersma, Kathy
Boning, Christine
Brackett, Eddie
Braithwaite, Tyler
Branch, Jaydah
Brooker, Margaret
Burke, Diana
Burke, Emily
Burke, Nancy
Bursch, Nancy
Caldwell, Susan
Callison, Donna
Calvetti, Walter
Carter, Diane
Carter, Doug
Castellanos, Marisol
Cellini, Toni
Chamberlin, Nora
Chen, Tiffany
Chen, Wendy
Chin, Joanna
Coccia, Julia
Cohen, Katrina
Coles, Kelly
Creighton Wellings, Jennifer
Daniel, Sarah
Davis, Arlene
Deakin, John
DeVoe, Maddie
Duboff, Lisa
Edeal, Marti
Elinson, Doug
Elinson, Sherri
Elliott, Marjorie
Endo, Haruka
Eppick, Leslie
Esperanza, Carlos
Fagundes, Michelle
Farina, Michelle
Ferguson, Donald
Ferreira, Edward
Fisher, Karen
Fitzgerald, Sheila
Fontenrose, Terry
Forde, Andrew
Forney, Angi
Forney, Rebecca
Frank, Monica
Frederiksen, Maxine
Fujimoto, Irene
Gara, Grace
Garcia, Adilene
Garcia, Aimee A.
Garcia, Ayana
Gravendaal, Amber
Grise, Richard
Guzman, Samantha
Haas, Lynda
Halder, Deborah
Hegerle, Debra
Heritage, Deborah
Hernandez, Alice
Highley, Rebecca
Hills, Dawn
Hilton, Kristin
Hoffman, Melissa
Holdeman, Angie
Holt, Diana
Holzhaus, Dominic
Horgan, Molly
Howard, Starlyn
Howarth, Karen
Hull, Summer
Ishafani, Mohammad
Jensen, Anne
Jensen, Karen
Johnson, Kathleen
Johnston, Mark
Johnston, Sal
Joseph, Martha
Kaump, Nancy
Kavegga, Susan
Keating, Helen
Keeling, Brandi
King, Eileen
King, Stacy
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Kordich, Judith
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Kucala, Kim
Kuwahara-Hu, Jonah
Kvasnicka, Leslie
Le, Chi
LeMone, Dawn
LeRoy, Kaylyn
Lill, Ashley-Frances
Lin, Joie
Lombard, Carol
Lucero, Andrea
Lucero, Katherine
Luevano, Cecilia
Luevano, Luis
Martines, Jennifer
Mathews, Tina
Matsuura, Julie
McCarthy, Carolyn
McCarthy, Susan
Mendez, Blake
Menesendez, Maritza
Metscher, Bambi
Metscher, Robert
Metscher, William
Meyer, Natalie
Miller, Terry
Montenegro, Lisbeth
Montgomery, Ernest
Mora, Lizel
Moran, Jennifer
Morgan, Linda
Moskal, Stacy
Neilhouse, Michelle
Nelson, Holly
Nicholson, Ashlyn
Nicodemus, Pat
Nixon, Allison
Norris, Larry
Odei, Kathy
O’Donnell, Jeri
Patel, Ravi
Patterson, Cheryl
Pierce, Colin
Piotrowski, Karen
Plank, Susanne
Plummer, Katrina
Poirier-Klein, Susan
Porco, Alice
Quandt-Collier, Monique
Raggio, Peter
Reuter, Debra
Rhoda, Carla
Roberts, Jerri
Romo, Amanda
Rudolph, Lynn
Salazar, Dawn
Santos, Vickie
Scabini, Donatella
Scannell, Marguerita
Schreiber, Christina
Seto, Lisa
Shanley, Brenna
Sheldon, Karen
Sickler, Anna
Silva, Carlos
Skye-Davis, Nai’a
(Nadine)
Soloski, Carol
Sorenson, Stephanie
Spicer, Patrick
Steeper, Scott
Stutz, Brooke
Teater, Nancy
Test, Mary Lawrence
Timberlake, Esther
Tocco, Brigitte
Trujillo, Tamara
Trumbo, Angela
Veenbaas, David
Verdugo, Brianya
Wakshlag, Mekel
Walsh, Jim
Wang, Arloith
Washington, Desteney
Watts, Nikoloe
Weeshoff, David
Weinberg, Carla
Weir, Leslie
Whelan, Nancy
Wong, Nina
Wunderlich, Elise
Yasuda, Ann
Yeutter, Janet
Zimmerman, Karen
Zovak, Olivija
FINANCIAL HEALTH

2018 Operating Support and Revenue

Contributed Revenue: Organizational support from corporate partners, foundations, and government grants - 44%
Contributed Revenue: Financial support from individuals - 26%
Earned Revenue: Contracts and Retainers for preparedness and other revenue - 24%
Earned Revenue: Billable Services from oil spill response and response contingency services - 5%
Other income - 1%

2018 Operating Expenses

Wildlife rehabilitation, research, and facilities management - 42%
Wildlife emergency response and preparedness - 27%
Outreach and education - 3%
Fundraising and marketing - 16%
Administration - 12%

A complete copy of our audited financial statements can be obtained by contacting: info@bird-rescue.org
DONORS

GRANTS AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS IN 2018:

$100,000+
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
Procter & Gamble

$50,000-$99,999
Anonymous (1)
Chevron
Harbor Community Benefit Foundation

$20,000-$49,999
Anonymous (1)
Phillips 66
Thelma Doelger Trust for Animals
Valero Energy Corporation

SHOEBILL SOCIETY:

$10,000+
Anonymous (1)
The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
Mary Franz
Sue D. Pinkham
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
Janet and Larry Steeper
Valero Energy Corporation

ALBATROSS ALLIANCE:

$5,000 - $9,999
Ekaterina Bassett
Christen C. and Ben H. Garrett Family Foundation
The Thornton S. Glide, Jr. and Katrina D. Glide Foundation
The Daniel and Susan Gottlieb Foundation

IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare
Richard and Darcy Kopcho
Kit Kubitz and Kate Edwards
Los Angeles County Fish & Wildlife Commission
Jean O’Neil
Donatella Scabini and Robert Knight
Gene Underwood
Dr. Edward Walker

PELICAN PARTNERS:

$1,000 - $4,999
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Alameda Support Foundation
Mary Allen
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Horizons Foundation
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Amanda Mainzer
Teresa McDaniel
Janeele and Brian Melikian
Sharon Metch
 Mildred Metzger
Mary and Richard Mills
Ron and Kandis Morris
Mount Diablo Audubon Society
Katy Murray
Amanda Nelson
Mary Lynne Oxford
Dorothy Patapoff
Kira Peroy
Regina Phelps
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Mitchell Sonners
Beverly Spector
Sunshine Polka-Dot Foundation
Jason Tester and Sasha Aickin
The Laney Thornton Foundation
Torrance Logistics Company LLC
Ben Turner and Adam Klaus
Vopak
Alice Weigel

GREAT BLUE HERON:

$500 TO $999.99
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Elizabeth Basich
Caitlin Battles
Gary Baum
Lenore Bloss
Mary Ellen Braly
Jill Brennan
Janis Brioza
Catherine Brown
Mary Bucholtz
Suzanne Butler
Roberta Cairney
Barbara Callahan
City of Los Angeles
Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Joyce Courtney
Cydney Crampton
East Bay Community Foundation
Prof. Mary Elliott
Suzanne Ely
Jamy Faulhaber
Jessica Forbes
Amy Friend
Suzanne Golt
Vicki J. Gutgesell Fund
Kimberly Hall
Carol Harkin
Michele and Jerry Harrison
Maria Hartley, PhD
Melissa Hayes
Joseph Herron and Patricia Baird
Joan Hyra
Ian Somerhalder Foundation
Marian Isaac
Victoria Jacobson
Kathleen Kim and Kevin Anderson
Judith Kordich
Judy Langley
Law Offices of Scott D. Pinky
Mary and Jim Luck
Margaret Lynch
Calum and Leslie Mackay
Noreen Mahoney
Judith Marchyn
Frank Martin
Sasha Match and Randy Sloan
Misty Milner
Pamela Molina
Jesslyn Morrison
Pam Morris-Stendal and Bruce Stendal
Michelle Neihouse
Ed Nishizaki
Fred Paxton
Edward Piwowarski
Robyn Polashuk
Barbara Poppe
Elise Prowse
Kathi and Larry Ridley
Heather Rosmarin
Coleen Saylor
Marius Seritan
John Sifling
David and Sherry Smith
Stephanie and Bob Sorenson
Loa Sprung
Jane Stenmark
Merle Szydlow
Nancy Teater and Richard Johnson
Dr. Lawrence Thompson
Suzanna Townsend
Rosemary Wakeham
Dawn Williamson
Shirley Yuen
Heidi Ziegler and Dennis Ertms

WESTERN GREBE:

$250 TO $499.99
Anonymous (7)
Michael Achterberg
Dave Allsop
John Anderson and Gail Granewich
Martha Andreani
Lucinda Anskin
Curt Antonich
Denise Balbier
Evelyn Baron
Nolen Barrett
Magda Barron
June Bass
Diane Battilana
Melissa Berger Brennan
Margaret and Dan Birkhaeuser
Karen Born
Arlene Brack
Joan Breen
Diana Britt
Deborah Brown
Lorraine Bruno
Katherine Buckley
Dennis and Sue Bunting
Susan Caldwell
Donna Callison
Jennifer Carlson
Diane and Doug Carter
Maria Castiglione, DVM
Ricardo Charles
Miriam Clark and Steven Goulden
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Amy Dawson
Mary Delehanty
Jacob Domizio
Nancy Ober Alward  
Phil Nonneman  
Mayda Nathan  
Tim Murphy  
Motorola Solutions  
Linda Morgan and Somkham  
Ronald Moreland  
Bambi Metscher  
Herbert Mercer  
Lourdes Menendez and Marc Glassberg  
Herbert Mercer  
Bambi Metscher  
Ronald Moreland  
Linda Morgan and Somkham Outhisack  
Motorola Solutions Foundation  
Tim Murphy  
Mayda Nathan  
Pat Nicodemus  
Phil Nonneman  
Nancy Ober Alward  
Jeri Opalk  
Patrick Owens  
Nancy Pecota  
Karen Piotrowski  
Pomona Valley Audubon  
Linda Prara-Jenkins  
Laurel Przybylski  
Catalina Quintero  
Amy Ream  
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Chrys Ritchie  
Elizabeth M. Rizzi  
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Marguerita Scannell  
Margaret Schadt  
Karen Scheuermann  
Ted and Robyn Scott  
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Michael Smith  
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Jennifer Steele  
Barbara Stikker  
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Charles Von Rospach  
Byron L. Walker  
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Jan Winning  
Tina Wong  
Janet Yeutter  
David Youmans  
Kelly Zidar  
Lewis Zuelow

TRIBUTE DONATIONS

In honor of Julie Matsuura and Mary Artino:  
Joyce Ishimoto (2)  
Carol and Vernon Matsuura

In honor of Alice Berkner:  
Anonymous  
JD Bergeron and Travis Harrell  
Frances Harder (2)  
Chantal Gaiddon  
Cathy Keyes  
Amy Morris  
Karin Stenberg  
Jill Thomas  
Jerry Ting  
Richard Worth

In honor of International Bird Rescue:  
Anonymous  
Julie Lynn  
Nina Gordon in honor of Kate Blagdon  
Stacey Bursch in honor of Nancy Bursch  
Jennifer Carlson in honor of Fred Carlson  
Mary and Jim Luck in honor of Diane Carter

Anonymous in honor of Dianne Couchman  
Mary Duval in honor of Mary & Claude Duval  
Ricardo Charles in honor of Gloria and Juan Forrest  
Jennifer Rier in honor of Cathy Haffner  
Jean Halford in honor of Robin Halford  
John Knight in honor of Carlyn Knight  
Lucy Morris in honor of Maxwell Lippert  
Scott Steeper in honor of Bonnie Minkin  
Joe Robert Cole in honor of Geoffrey W. Oblath  
Dana Mackey in honor of Robert Petito  
Thomas Phelan in honor of Catherine Phelan  
Kate Nelson in honor of Anna Sabo  
Andre Goodich in honor of Elaine Shaw  
Anonymous in honor of Sandra Smart  
Michael Steenson in honor of Carol Steenson  
Robin Suter in honor of Dick Suter  
Bruce and Wendy Burns in honor of Carol Sweetapple  
Laurel Glover in honor of Jessy Wilson

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Nuna Alberts in memory of Zora Alberts  
John & Lore Duser in memory of David Pinney  
John & Lore Duser in memory of JoAnne Silverman  
Anonymous in memory of Rich Stallcup  
Sabrina and Chris Drake in memory of Edwin Summers  
Joseph Martinez in memory of Patricia W. Martinez

IN-KIND DONORS $100+

Alvaro’s Adventures  
Andover Healthcare  
Toni Arkoosh Pinsky and Scott Pinsky  
Tanya Baxter  
Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
Pauline Bingham  
Bill Brauner  
California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Cliff Bar & Company  
Arlene Davis  
Estate of Agnes Hildebrand  
Seabird Circle donors give monthly, and are our key partners in supporting waterbirds in crisis.

In the event that we have accidentally omitted your name from this list, please contact us at gifts@bird-rescue.org and we will update the donor roll immediately. We are so grateful for the support of all our donors.
WELCOMING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS IN 2018

Bird Rescue’s Board of Directors is an integral part of delivering the mission and providing fiduciary oversight and overall support to all aspects of the organization’s growth and impact. In 2018, we welcomed two new members:

**Dr. Ian Robinson**
Dr. Robinson devoted his career to animal welfare on an international level. He has worked for the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and later rose to the position of Vice President for Animal Welfare and Conservation (IFAW) before retiring in 2016. As part of his involvement in wildlife rehabilitation and conservation, Dr. Robinson has experience with oil spills, wildlife emergencies and disaster responses globally. He brings a wealth of knowledge to Bird Rescue.

**Maria K. Hartley, PhD**
Dr. Hartley is the global technical lead in Chevron’s Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response and has been with Chevron since 2008. She is also the assistant lead of Chevron’s Environmental Functional Team which is responsible for providing technical specialists to address environmental issues during potential oil spills and other emergencies. Maria is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Rice University and currently resides in Houston, Texas.

**Board of Directors**
- **Ron Morris** Chair
- **Toni Arkoosh Pinsky** Vice Chair
- **John Sifling** Treasurer
- **Jodi Benassi** Secretary
- **Carmine Dulisse**
- **Maria Hartley, PhD**
- **Dr. Ian Robinson**
- **Beth Slatkin**
- **JD Bergeron (ex officio)**

**Staff List**

**SENIOR TEAM**
- **JD Bergeron** Executive Director
- **Michelle Bellizzi** Response Services Manager
- **Barbara Callahan** Senior Director, Response Services

**STAFF**
- **Ken Baker** Facilities Coordinator
- **Jeanette Bates** Sr. Wildlife Rehab Tech II
- **Sylvia Bauer** Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Kelly Beffa** Wildlife Rehab Tech III
- **Kylie Clatterbuck** Wildlife Center Manager, S. CA
- **Russ Curtis** Technology Manager
- **Carlos Esperanza** Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Devin Hanson** Special Projects Assistant
- **Meagan Hofmeister** Relief Rehab Tech I
- **Diane Jankauskas** Development and Programs Assistant
- **Brandi Keeling** Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Erin Kellogg** Relief Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Suzie Kosina** Relief Lead Rehabilitation Technician & Special Projects
- **Isabel Luevano** Wildlife Center Manager, N. CA
- **Jenn Martines** Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Safiya Mirza** Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Lisbeth Montenegro** Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Michelle Reyes** Relief Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Cheryl Reynolds** Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator
- **Ioana Seritan** Wildlife Rehab Tech II
- **Mimi Starr** Wildlife Rehab Tech I
- **Angie Trumbo** Communications and Outreach Coordinator
SEABIRD CIRCLE OF MONTHLY DONORS
In our Seabird Circle program, you become a key partner in supporting our critical work in oil response, wildlife rehabilitation, research and education. Monthly giving is one of the best ways to support waterbirds in crisis.

GIVING CIRCLES
$1,000 - PELICAN PARTNERS
have the chance to tour one of our California centers and help release one of our seabird patients back into the wild. Experience the once-in-a-lifetime honor of opening the cage at the release site as your partner bird takes its first steps into the open and soars away.

$5,000 - ALBATROSS ALLIANCE
members are guardians of all birds in need by making a significant and life-saving gift. They will have the chance to tour our California centers and help release a mixed flock of bird patients back to their wild home.

$10,000 SHOEBILL SOCIETY MEMBERS
are a select group of key supporters who help shape our expanding role in conservation and intervention. Members pledge to partner with us in building forward-thinking programs to some of the world’s biggest wildlife challenges, such as marine debris and climate change.

BIRD RESCUE LEGACY SOCIETY
honors those who have made a commitment to ensuring Bird Rescue’s future for generations to come by remembering organizations in their estate plans. We are truly honored to make our legacy part of yours.

MATCHING GIFTS
help boost the value of your donation through your company. Many employers sponsor matching gift programs that supplement their employees’ donations to encourage charitable giving. Contact your Human Resources Department or click below for a list of participating companies: https://www.bird-rescue.org/get-involved/workplace-giving.aspx

DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF)
helps you plan and disburse your donations. If you use a DAF for your giving, consider adding International Bird Rescue to your portfolio.

VOLUNTEER
support is critical to the care that we give our patients, whether working directly with the animals or supporting their care through answering phones, filing, cleaning, laundry, or construction. However you choose to help, you are assisting in the return of these amazing creatures back into the wild.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Whatever the size of your organization or company, we’ll work with you to tailor a custom package that maximizes your gift and excites your team. By supporting these animals in need, our partners reap innumerable benefits.

FOR GIVING CIRCLES, PLEASE GO TO:
Bird-Rescue.org/Giving-Circles

FOR ANNUAL GIVING, PLEASE GO TO:
Bird-Rescue.org/Get-Involved/Donate
ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT BIRDS

SAY NO TO BALLOONS
They can get away and land in the ocean where birds mistake them for food

BECOME A RESCUER
If you see a seabird sitting on the shore with dogs and people nearby it likely needs help

TAKE PART IN A LOCAL BIRD COUNT
Become a citizen scientist and contribute to our knowledge about birds

CLEAN UP LITTER
Birds can become tangled in or ingest trash, with negative outcomes

SAY NO TO ONE-USE PLASTICS AND STRAWS
Use refillable containers. Decline straws, or bring your own reusable one.

TAKE A CHILD BIRDING
Spark a lifelong passion for the next generation of bird lovers!