



by Peter Breinig

Volunteer wildlife rescuers waded into the surf at a Bolinas beach to bring in some of the oil-sodden birds

Thousands Join the Rescue

By Scott Thresher

Thousands of volunteers immersed themselves yesterday in an arduous, messy and sometimes hopeless effort to save the countless waterfowl drenched with gooey oil after Monday's big spill.

Singly or in organized patrols, they stalked the beaches, coves and precipitous

shoreline areas of San Francisco Bay and nearby oceanfront areas in search of oil-soaked birds.

Then they took them to the many receiving stations which sprang up overnight around the bay — stations where the birds were given intensive treatment, or held for transfer to a treatment center.

Despite efforts to the contrary, the campaign still was largely uncoordinated yesterday.

And helpful volunteers far outnumbered oily birds in hand.

It was impossible to estimate the number of birds coated with oil, fatally or otherwise.

Those involved in the

collection and treatment process would only estimate the soaked birds "in the hundreds."

A major effort to coordinate the bird-rescue effort was being made by a team of officials of the State Department of Fish and Game — veterans of the 1969 Santa Barbara disaster — headed

See Back Page

Trying to Save the Birds

From Page 1

by Captain W. H. Putman.

Putman's chief spokesman, information specialist Frank Hubbard, said his agency — acting for both state and federal wildlife agencies — had designated three major Bay Area centers to which oil-soaked birds should be taken.

These are:

- The National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary at 376 Greenwood Beach road, near Tiburon.

- The San Francisco headquarters of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 2500 16th street.

- The Standard Oil Co. of California's Long Wharf in Richmond.

Standard Oil, which owns the two tankers which created the spill in an early-morning collision in dense fog near the Golden Gate Bridge, was offering cleaning materials and expert advice to those involved in the bird-rescue effort.

Birds were actually being treated at only one of the three major collection points: The Audubon sanctuary.

VOLUNTEERS

There, teams of volunteers — mostly young and unquestionably cutting classes — worked at tubs inside a small building, carefully washing down the frightened, oil-blackened birds with mineral oil, then drying them thoroughly.

Sporadically, a truck would haul a group of birds to the Pleasant Hill veterinary hospital of Dr. James L. Naviaux for further treatment.

Birds collected at the SPCA here and the Long Wharf in Richmond were being trucked to a Fish and Game Department facility in Yountville for cleaning with something called Poly Complex A-11 — a substance that Fish and Game spokesmen said is superior to mineral oil.

Whatever the cleaning

agent used, spokesmen agreed, the birds must be cleaned thoroughly "inside and out" and kept in protective custody for "up to two weeks." It takes that long for their feathers to regain the natural oils that enable the birds to float.

The treatment also includes a special diet with heavy emphasis on vitamin B, a spokesman said.

There were other bird-collection centers set up all around the bay — some just for collecting the birds, others for treating as well.

Most of these birds, cleaned or not, were eventually taken to one of the three main centers named by the Fish and Game Departments.

SHIFTS

Mrs. Norman McIntosh, who helps her husband run the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, said yesterday that volunteers for the collection-cleanup effort were plen-

tiful except for shifts such as 8 p.m.-midnight and midnight-4 a.m.

She and others suggested that volunteers who find oil-soaked birds should not attempt to treat them, but instead get them to the nearest collection center.

An oily bird should be wrapped in rags or old towels for warmth and wrapped in such a way that only its head protrudes, so that the bird can't ingest the poisonous oil by trying to preen itself.

DETERGENT

In no case should any sort of detergent be used to clean a bird, she emphasized.

Mrs. McIntosh was directing the collection cleanup at the Tiburon site yesterday while her husband was out in a boat checking on birds within the 900-acre water sanctuary.

No oil had reached the sanctuary yesterday. Thousands of birds had taken ref-

uge there.

But volunteers were bringing in oily birds from such places as the Sausalito waterfront, the beaches at Forts Barry, Baker and Cronkhite, and ocean beach areas as far north as Bolinas.

OTHERS

Other collection and/or treatment centers in operation yesterday included:

Richmond: The University Service Center at 1414 South Tenth street

San Francisco: 2427 47th avenue, 1333 Ninth avenue, 640 Clayton street, 1748 Sutter, 815-A South Van Ness, 33 Clementina and Poor Richard's Ballroom at 660 Great highway, open 24 hours a day.

Marin: Marine Biology Laboratory of the College of Marin, Wharf road in Bolinas; Boyd Science Museum, 76 Albert Park lane in San Rafael.

A collection station also was being set up at Pacifica on the south coast.