

More Deaths Feared

Oily Birds Hold Own at Zoo Haven

By Jim Sehermerhorn

Oily birds were still being brought into treatment stations in San Francisco yesterday from many miles away, but along The City's waterfront there was little dramatic evidence of the massive oil spill in the Bay.

At the San Francisco Zoo, 85 percent of the 1200 birds brought in were still alive, and the healthiest were released into an outdoor pen with a shallow moat.

But a volunteer, one of many who have spent most of their time caring for injured birds this past week, said sadly, "We know a lot more are going to die."

Then the docents and zoo employees pitched in to begin bathing another 100 birds just trucked in from Bolinas.

Standard Men

Along the City's waterfront the most prominent sight was Standard Oil workmen in blue overalls, raking up oily straw from the beach or filling motorboats with straw plucked out of the water.

The sand was nearly spotless at Aquatic Park except for the piles of oily straw workmen and volunteers were collecting.

Winter swimmers from the Dolphin Club had already tried—the water in the little harbor, protected from oil by a long boom across the entrance.

Light patches of oil were visible in the water off the Marina Green. Here, Standard Oil had a large trailer for an office and some 91 men at work onshore and just offshore in a fleet of outboard motor boats.

Skimming Operation

Bob Humphrey, an executive at the firm's Oakland refinery, said six larger vessels with skimming equipment were working from Fisherman's Wharf to the Golden Gate Bridge.

The worst part remaining here, he said, was the oil clinging to rocks and piers which continues to wash into the water at high tides.

"When it first happened and we called for volunteers, one refinery shift that had already worked all day volunteered, and they worked another 23 hours. It's heartening to have help like that," Humphrey said.

Volunteers from outside the company were still asking to help, he said.

Ask for Work

One of the foremen said, "You know you get these long hairs. They ask what you want done and they work their tails off doing it. Only a few of 'em come down and try to walk off with the lools."

Tom Welch, a bartender, was operating the bird treatment center in another Standard Oil trailer adjacent to the St. Francis Yacht Club. "I've slept maybe 15 hours since it happened," he said.

Fewer birds were being found in The City, but many were still being recovered along the coast, he said. His station was using supplies and rental trucks given by the oil company and other firms.

Birds nested on layers of clean rags in a makeshift enclosure in the Harmon Hall at the Presidio. An Army physician was asleep on a

blanket outside the treatment room.

"He worked all night," one of the volunteers said.

Vitamins

There were six grebes and a small black duck, all looking alert, being fed vitamins once every hour.

Helpers came from as far as Palo Alto.

Welch said the Army was also helpful: It provided a helicopter to drop bales of hay in the water.

"I was speeding in here with an oily bird and an MP escorted me all the way," Welch said. "It's really beautiful the way people react."

The San Francisco Zoo is where many of the injured birds who survive the first stages of treatment will make their home for a while — as long as six months, or until their next moulting.

Docents and their children, zoo employees and others set up vast pens in the warm basement areas beneath the lion house.



BRINGING ANOTHER LOAD OF OIL-SOAKED HAY ASHORE

Volunteers using special hoist rigged for-bay debris at S.F. Yacht Harbor

— Examiner Photo

The birds now being brought in show evidence of having had better care when first picked up, but many still need washing, a zoo spokesman said.

Working with zoo officials and volunteers from treatment stations around the Bay Area was Phillip B. Stanton, instructor in biology at Fram-

ingham (Mass.) State College and one of the country's few experts in treating oil-damaged birds.

He was brought in by Standard Oil to act as an advisor.

At Ocean Beach, blue uniformed workers and volunteers worked with pitchforks and straw. Scores of people were just strolling.

Police headquarters at the Hall of Justice announced to radio cars in that area at 1:40 p.m.:

"There are great numbers of oil soaked ducks on the Great Highway."

Help was again sent in.

"Times like these bring us all together," said a lady helper at the zoo.



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