

International Bird Rescue

NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of the
INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE RESEARCH CENTER
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PELICAN

It was a dark and stormy night, the kind of evening suited only for curling up with a good book. That is exactly what I was doing when David called. He wanted to know if I was interested in saving a pelican. How could I refuse much less resist?

A former student called saying he had spotted a white pelican with a fractured wing. The bird was in the Napa marsh just off a road. Mr. Woodside had come across the bird while duck hunting and felt that he could not handle the bird alone.

A four-mile walk brought us to the area "just off the road" where the bird had been sighted. After an hour long search the pelican was found and captured. The hike back to the car was made bearable by wrapping the bird in my coat. This was accomplished by sticking the bird's bill down the sleeve and buttoning the coat around him.

We had left the Center at 7:30 pm and returned at 1:30 am. All involved were wet, muddy and very tired. We had on hand a 13 pound bird with an old fracture. The damaged wing had healed at an angle and constantly rubbed against the ground.

After two weeks rest and a weight gain of 6 pounds, Dr. Harris amputated the wing. Pelican withstood the procedure well and was soon back in his private pool. Healing was rapid and recovery was uncomplicated.



"Pelican" proceeded to become a great favorite at the Center but it was obvious that we could not keep him for long. His appetite was gargantuan and we needed his pool for other birds. A phone call to Sea World in San Diego solved the problem. They would be delighted to take him.

Eight weeks after we got him "Pelican" was put in a crate and driven to San Francisco Airport. The shipping form at REA Express read "One live White Pelican, collect to Sea World". Frank Todd met the bird at San Diego Airport and called to assure us that he was fine. We sincerely hope he stays that way.

Alice B. Berkner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU:

Larry and Sandra Nager and Ethel Rene for office supplies.

Consolidated Printers for printing new " Thank You " cards.

Leslie Salt Company for salt used in our pools.

All our members who responded so overwhelmingly to our financial crisis (without being asked!).

ABC Diaper Service for the dozens of old diapers needed to dry oiled birds.



WE NEED:

A copy machine

A telephone answering machine

Cotton balls and gauze

File cabinets

Empty "Bull Durham" tobacco bags to be used as booties to protect bird's feet while drying after being cleaned.

Please tell others about us.
Our subscription rates are:

Student	\$2/year
Regular	\$5/year
Family	\$10/year
Contributing	\$25/year
Supporting	\$100
Sustaining	\$250
Corporate	\$500/year

Dear Bird Rescue,

My aunt gave me this money as a birthday present - this was my wish as to how to spend it.

Please get all the publicity you can. I read about your problem in the Gazette - but many people in Berkeley do not read the Gazette - how about the Chronicle?

Hope you are getting a good response.

Sincerely,

Louise Harris

This is the Blue Heron's very own money for him to spend as he needs - water - fish - even a coke if he really wants one.

M.S.A.

Dear Friends:

Here's a little donation - a fee I picked up for an "extracurricular" evening talk. Of all the impassioned, heart-throbbing or insistant appeals for money in my visit - I decided yours was the most urgent of the moment! (tho you hadn't even sent an appeal very recently) Try to stay in there!

Sincerely,

Paul F. Covel

GOOD EGG AWARD

The 1973 "Good Egg Award" is presented to KTVU in recognition of their valuable contribution in the field of publicity for International Bird Rescue.



IBRRC & PG&E

For the first time that we are aware, an industry is training people and stockpiling equipment in preparation for the rehabilitation of oiled birds. If a seabird is caught in oil spilled by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) at Moss Landing, California, it will have the benefit of a truly remarkable program. PG&E is not interested in doing a half-baked job in order to reap some publicity; they are intent upon achieving a truly effective state of readiness in order to save as many oiled birds as possible.

This situation was made possible through a series of events which lead me to believe that the electorate in this country have some voice yet. In 1972, the people of California voted for Proposition 20 which established the California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission (CCZCC). When PG&E determined that it would be necessary to alter and expand the facilities at their power generating plant in Moss Beach (near Monterey, California) they were required to submit their plans to the Central Coast Regional Commission of the CCZCC. Together with the California Department of Fish and Game, a number of stipulations were devised in order to insure that environmental damage would be minimized. The alterations to the plant would allow PG&E to use heavy oil, such as crude and bunker oil, thus posing a threat to the marine life in the area in the event of an oil spill. One of the stipulations requires that "PG&E shall fund the planning and effectuation of a bird rescue training and implementation operation in cooperation with the Monterey Audubon Society and the International Bird Rescue Center, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game."

PG&E employs several research biologists who study the environmental impact of all their proposed projects. These biologists have approached the oiled bird directive with enthusiasm. One of these biologists, Gary Meneghin, is the chairman of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Wildlife Society. As a result,

PG&E is demonstrating all good faith in order to meet the stipulation concerning oiled birds.

We at IBRRC are working in earnest to meet our responsibilities in this project. We will keep our readers informed of further developments in this gratifying and hopefully precedent-setting situation in coming issues of the NEWSLETTER.

SNOWY OWL

Snowy Owls live in the arctic, right? So why in heaven's name was a Snowy Owl sitting on a telephone pole at IBRRC? A quick perusal of the literature yielded the information that a Snowy Owl last visited the San Francisco Bay area in 1896!

It seems that every few years the rodent population in the arctic crashes resulting in a lack of food for owls and other birds of prey. A number of Snowy Owls then migrate south in search of other food. This routine results in the sightings of these birds in California about every 5 years or so.

According to our sources, seven Snowy Owls were seen recently in Humboldt County, California. Of these, five were shot by brainless idiots. Three of the wounded birds are still alive. IBRRC and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Council are arranging for these owls to be transported to Alaska upon their recovery.

Let's return to Berkeley and the Snowy Owl on our telephone pole. Although Snowy Owls are sighted occasionally in central California, one had not been seen in the Bay Area for 78 years. So why did this particular bird select one of our telephone poles as its perch?

Beats me.

David Smith

WILD BIRDS TREATED

The following list represents birds cared for by IBRRC during 1973. Approximately 300 of them were housed at Yountville in a joint effort by Bird Rescue and the Department of Fish & Game to rehabilitate them following an oil spill.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TREATED</u>	<u>SURVIVED</u>
COMMON LOON (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	1	
ARCTIC LOON (<i>Gavia arctica</i>)	2	
RED-THROATED LOON (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	4	1
HORNED GREBE (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)	15	
EARED GREBE (<i>Podiceps caspicus</i>)	2	1
WESTERN GREBE (<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>)	46	14
PIED-BILLED GREBE (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	29	2
FULMAR (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)	3	
SOOTY SHEARWATER (<i>Puffinus griseus</i>)	1	
WHITE PELICAN (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)	1	1
BROWN PELICAN (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	2	1
BRANDT'S CORMORANT (<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>)	4	1
PELAGIC CORMORANT (<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>)	2	
CORMORANT SPP.	4	1
GREAT BLUE HERON (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	3	2
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>)	3	1
CANADA GOOSE (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	2	
SNOW GOOSE (<i>Chen hyperborea</i>)	1	1
DOMESTIC GOOSE	1	1
MUSCOVY	2	2
MALLARD (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	18	15
MALLARD CROSS	5	2
MALLARD, DOMESTIC	5	3
PINTAIL (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	2	2
CANVASBACK (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)	12	9
GREATER SCAUP (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	11	7
LESSER SCAUP (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)	17	13
SCAUP SPP.	9	2
COMMON GOLDENEYE (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	21	7
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (<i>Bucephala islandica</i>)	1	1
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>)	5	
SURF SCOTER (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>)	6	1
SCOTER SPP.	4	1
RUDDY DUCK (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>)	21	2
CLAPPER RAIL (<i>Rallus longirostris</i>)	7	3
SORA (<i>Porzana carolina</i>)	1	1
AMERICAN COOT (<i>Fulica americana</i>)	119	69
KILLDEER (<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>)	2	2
LONG-BILLED CURLEW (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	1	
DUNLIN (<i>Erolia alpina</i>)	1	
WESTERN SANDPIPER (<i>Ereunetes mauri</i>)	2	
SANDPIPER SPP.	1	1
AMERICAN AVOCET (<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>)	1	
PHALAROPE SPP.	1	
GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (<i>Larus glaucescens</i>)	2	1

<u>Species</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Survived</u>
WESTERN GULL (<i>Larus occidentalis</i>)	27	13
HERRING GULL (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	2	2
CALIFORNIA GULL (<i>Larus californicus</i>)	11	6
RING-BILLED GULL (<i>Larus delawarensis</i>)	1	1
MEW GULL (<i>Larus canus</i>)	3	2
BONAPARTE'S GULL (<i>Larus philadelphia</i>)	1	1
HEERMAN'S GULL (<i>Larus heermanni</i>)	3	2
GULL SPP.	9	2
CALIFORNIA MURRE (<i>Uria aalge</i>)	221	76
RHINOCEROS AUKLET (<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>)	1	
COOPER'S HAWK (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	1	1
RED-TAILED HAWK (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	1	1
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)	2	1
MARSH HAWK (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	1	1
AMERICAN KESTREL (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	1	1
BARN OWL (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	2	2
SAW-WHET OWL (<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>)	2	
BAND-TAILED PIGEON (<i>Columba fasciata</i>)	1	1
ROCK DOVE (<i>Columba livia</i>)	5	2
MOURNING DOVE (<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>)	2	2
FLICKER SPP.	1	
ROBIN (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	2	
HERMIT THRUSH (<i>Hylocichla guttata</i>)	1	
CEDAR WAXWING (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>)	1	
HOUSE FINCH (<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>)	1	
SPARROW SPP.	1	
FOX SPARROW (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	1	1
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>)	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	709	290

Survival rate: 40.8%

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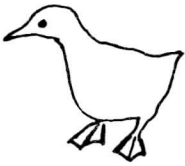
CLEAN BAY, INC.

The petroleum industry has expressed interest in the past about oil spills and has now developed a new tool that is proving effective in cleaning and containing spills, the oil spill cleanup cooperative. The San Francisco Bay Area is very fortunate in that one of these agencies, Clean Bay, Inc., is located in nearby Concord.

Clean Bay was founded in 1971 and consists of 12 member companies ranging from major refineries to pipeline operators. According to Reese W. Norton, Executive Vice President, Clean Bay can respond to any spill in the Bay Area including 340 miles of surrounding coast. Objective capabilities include containment of 100,000 barrels on the water and removal from a tanker of another 400,000 barrels.

Clean Bay is constantly investigating and testing the latest methods and equipment used in spill cleanup. They maintain a continuing education program for their 300 man response team and have made available this training to such governmental agencies as the U.S. Coast Guard. Clean Bay is also consulted on the handling and cleanup of petrochemicals spilled on land.

Bird Rescue is indebted to Mr. Norton and Clean Bay for their assistance and help. In the past year they have donated over \$600 worth of Solvent 70 and the equipment needed to build our new bird cleaning apparatus.



JUNIOR BIRDGIRL

Hello again! I am quite sorry about not having an article in the last Newsletter, but you see, I have been in mourning. About five months ago I found my ducks, Tina and Socrotesse, somehow torn up inside their pen.

About one month after their death my mother brought home what we thought to be a chicken. She named it Phineas J. Thundercluck. On the second night around one o'clock Phineas made the most outrageous noise. When my mother looked out her window she saw something trying to get in. My dad went out and put him in the garage for the night. After that he spent his nights in the garage and in our back yard in the daytime.

A while ago I read a very touching story. It was called "The Great Auk" by Allan W. Eckert. The story is about how the last Great Auk in the world tried, but alas failed, to keep his kind going. The Great Auk is now extinct thanks to Jon Brandsson, Sigourour Isleffson and Ketil Ketilsson who smashed the last egg of the Great Auk. I greatly recommend you try and get a hold of this book for it shows you what people are doing to the creatures on the face of this earth.

Judy Berkner



WHO'S WHO AT BIRD RESCUE

KRIS LOOMIS, IBRRC's Librarian, began working at the Center in March of 1973.

Kris received her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Kris believes our library is particularly important because it provides a service that is not being provided by the public libraries or any other general information service.

Kris hopes to expand our library as a collection center for information pertaining to wildlife rescue. With growing interest in wildlife conservation and rescue she feels it is essential to make our library's information available nationwide.

APRIL E. FLETCHER, a part-time volunteer for the Center, has worked wherever needed -- from publicity to public relations and administrative assistance.

April, also a veteran of the 1971 San Francisco Bay Oil Spill, managed the office at the Richmond Bird Center. A former zoology major, she saw the need for keeping records of that bird rescue effort and set up a record-keeping system. It was from those records that David Smith extracted the data reported in our former Newsletters.

In the summer of 1971, April worked for the Division of Biological Control at the University of California as a laboratory assistant. From October 1971 until her return to school she was a legal secretary for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund.

April will be receiving her Bachelor's Degree (at long last) from the University of California, Berkeley in June 1974 in Conservation of Natural Resources (with an emphasis in wildlife).

"YOU SHOULDA BEEN THERE"

It was recently brought to my attention that many of the most faithful readers of this newsletter have never had the opportunity to visit the Rescue Center and, thus, know not what the place is actually like. Suggesting that I describe it for these readers, David Smith explained that I was just the man for the job as I'm visually alert and aware and otherwise totally naive about birds... Fortunately, David and I have been friends for a long time.

Located in an upper-middle-class warehouse district, the Center is neighbored by an ethnic Mexican Restaurant and a soap factory. A sign on the door reads "Ring bell three times". The answer, before you ask is, "I don't know". If you ring twice, nothing at all happens and, as yet, I've not dared to ring four times. The three rings, however, instantly produces a barking German Shepherd followed shortly by a smiling person. The door opens and you are welcomed by both.

The decor is best described as "contemporary rummage". Volunteers stroll through on their way to and from their chores talking to David in a non-decipherable jargon I jokingly refer to as "Pigeon" English.

When free, David will offer to guide a tour through the Bird Center. Now, at least, you are assured that there is more to this place than a library and office.

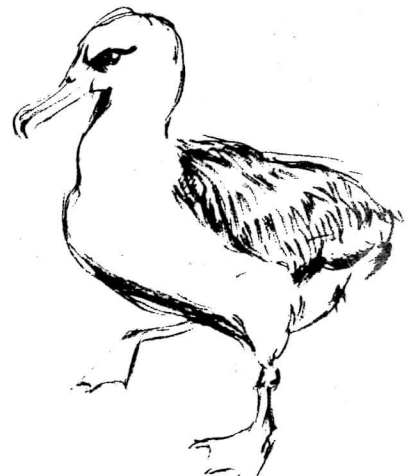
David suddenly becomes a different person... a medical-technical sort, ecologically oriented, who goes about answering questions you had no intention of asking. But the impression is undeniable that he really enjoys what he's doing, he really knows what he's doing, and that it's really worth doing.

He leads you among numerous hand-made pens identifying the variety of birds within and detailing the sometimes complex diagnosis, treatment program, and prognosis for each.

The laboratory, visually, seems to offer little more than my childhood basement set-up with a Gilbert chemistry set... with a few loose feathers added. Then David's narration begins again, and again the room begins to change. It takes on a sort of hospital emergency room atmosphere and, at least to my biological-innocence, appears well equipped.

Upon leaving the International Bird Rescue Research Center after one's first visit, the memory begins to order the various experiences of the past few hours leaving large voids in usually solid places. You must again look at your notebook to recall the address and you probably couldn't visually discriminate the building from any of the other warehouses if the signs were removed. But you are left with vivid images of some gorgeous birds and humane and sensitive humans.

Jeff Davidson



WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

1973
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Six San Francisco Bay Area organizations, known for their care of orphaned and injured wildlife, have banded together to form the Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. The groups participating in the first meetings of the newly formed Council include: International Bird Rescue in Berkeley; the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Walnut Creek; the San Francisco Zoo Wildlife Rescue Program in San Francisco; the Marin Superintendent of Schools Office in Corte Madera; the Louise Boyd Junior Museum in San Rafael; and the Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo.

Participating in an advisory capacity are representatives of the California Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

James M. Harris, D.V.M., Chairman of the Board of Bird Rescue, and Gary Bogue, Curator of the Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum, were appointed temporary Co-chairpersons.

One of the main purposes for the formation of the W.R.C. is that of "self-help". The above named organizations care for literally thousands of distressed wild creatures every year. The majority receive funding strictly from public donations. By working closer together members feel that valuable time and money can be better utilized.

Committees are now being formed to simplify and standardize data collection, to develop an animal-food and equipment exchange, to develop a placement service for permanently disabled animals, to coordinate response in any disaster involving wildlife, and to develop a code of ethics.

The existing library at Bird Rescue will be expanded to include resource material on the rehabilitation of all wildlife. As data accumulates, a bibliography will be made available to interested parties.

In the future membership of the Council will be increased and it is hoped by all concerned that wild creatures throughout the Bay Area and the world will be better served.

Bank Balance end of 1972	844.49
Total Revenue 1973	+ 7,732.72
TOTAL FUNDS 1973	8,577.21

Expenses 1973	
Bird Food	1,770.53
Telephone	731.98
Gas & Electricity	558.76
Water	487.46
Building Supplies	297.25
Printing	277.82
Answering Service	228.00
Machine Rental	180.28
Insurance	217.40
Accounting Fee	120.00
Typewriter Payment	110.00
Loan Repayment	110.00
Taxes	82.41
Office Supplies	65.84
Subscriptions	60.00
Pine Shavings	58.37
Postal Permit	45.00
Respirators	38.75
Motorcycle Registration	14.00
Miscellaneous	+ 39.85
Total	5,493.70

Liabilities, end of 1973	
Money owed:	
Loan repayment	390.00
Typewriter (balance)	+ 30.00
	<u>420.00</u>

Computation of Net Worth	
Total Funds 1973	8,557.21
minus Expenses	- 5,493.70
minus Liabilities	- 420.00
NET WORTH end of 1973	\$2,663.51

