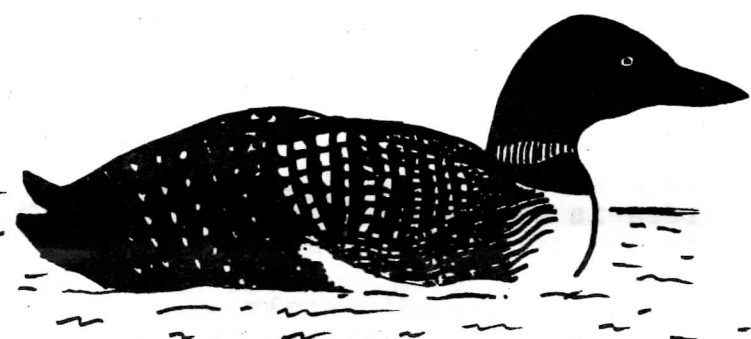


International Bird Rescue

NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of the
INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE RESEARCH CENTER
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FIRST OILED LOON SUCCESS

When a heavily oiled Common Loon was picked up by Warden Tom Lipp at Morro Bay, Bird Rescue decided to make an effort to save it.

Normally we do not run a pick-up service, but this was a very special occasion. These large birds are beautiful divers, which like so many of our seabirds winter off the California coast and migrate to the far north during the nesting season.

Loons have always been most difficult in captivity. In the 1971 San Francisco Bay Oil Spill, 38 Common Loons were cleaned. Not one of them survived. They seem to be very temperamental birds; they get depressed, refuse to eat, refuse to swim and will not preen their feathers. Occasional loons have been brought to the Center in the past four years, but the story has always been the same: after a few days or weeks the bird dies.

Not so with this bird. Speed being all-important, David Smith, who has a private pilot's license, and Alice Berkner rented a small plane (at their own expense) and flew down to San Luis Obispo to pick up the bird. As they returned, a storm was coming up and the plane dived through the last hole in the clouds to land safely.

The bird spent a quiet night and hopes were high as it was eating well. The next day four of our most experienced workers cleaned the bird with solvent. By the time they were through, the bird was very groggy due to the toxic effects of the fumes. It was kept warm all night, and tubed sucrose solution at intervals to keep it going. For the next 24 hours it lived in one of the pools on the roof, swimming, diving and eating fish. After hours of preening, the feathers were fully waterproof.

On the following day the loon was taken to the Berkeley waterfront and released. It swam out into deep water, crying out as it went. By the time we left, it was diving after fish and looking like a perfectly normal loon.

Es Anderson

Ed. Note: Our success was repeated three weeks later, when an oiled Arctic Loon was cleaned and released within 36 hours.

A.P.I. GRANT

Bird Rescue has received a grant of \$10,000 from the American Petroleum Institute. The Grant will be used to acquire information needed to offer improved recommendations for cleaning wild aquatic birds soiled with oils and fuels and for the presentation of the findings in the form of an audio-visual package for the training of workers involved in the rehabilitation of oiled aquatic birds and in the form of publishable scientific papers.

Letters to the Editor

THANKS TO:

Leslie Salt Company for 1 ton of salt.

Keith Hay of A.P.I. for his continuing interest and support.

Standard Oil of California for registration fees for the 1975 Conference on Prevention and Control of Oil Pollution.

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

Claire Behm for the shipping cage.

Bob Arthur of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for his fine cooperation.

WE NEED:

Worn terry towels
Pens and pencils
3x5 index cards
File cabinet
File folders
Adding machine
Copy machine
Electric typewriter
Worn bed sheets
Accountant service
Loan of cement mixer and other building/construction equipment.
Chain link fence

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

Nice to receive the Newsletter!
Hope the Berkeley City Council has approved of your new home at the Aquatic Park!

Love and Blessings,
Suzanne de Pichon

Dear Editor:

At Christmas time I received an intriguing little card with a grebe on it and today the first Newsletter arrived.

I'm glad to know about your work and think your Christmas card idea is excellent- hope it paid off in new members like myself.

Sincerely,
Gladys Conklin

Ed. Note: The response to Bird Rescue's Christmas cards was very gratifying. Over \$600.00 was donated to the Building Fund by our supporters who used the cards. We want to thank all of you who responded so generously.



STATE FUNDING

Bird Rescue is deeply indebted to California State Assemblyman Bill Lockyer for his introduction of Assembly Bill 4520. This bill was passed and provides Bird Rescue with \$5,000.00 to be used for our new Quarters. The funds are administered by the California Department of Fish and Game and will be used for needed fencing and improvements.

WHERE IS BIRD RESCUE ?

Good question. At the time I am writing this article we are still at 2701 Eighth Street in Berkeley but only by the skin of our teeth and the graciousness of the Berkeley Humane Society, our landlord. By all rights we should have been thrown out by now. But where to? We hope the Berkeley City Council will soon grant us the privilege of occupying two worn down "temporary" buildings at Aquatic Park in Berkeley. This whole matter has dragged on ad nauseum, making us feel like homeless waifs begging for a crust of bread.

The building we now occupy is beginning to undergo remodeling to accommodate the new tenants who have already established a beachhead in a room previously used by geese. We are in their way, but nothing can be done until we have someplace else to go.

Even if we are allowed to occupy the Aquatic Park site, the amount of work needed to renovate and construct the necessary new facilities there is truly staggering. We established a building fund late last year that contains nearly \$700 to date, far short of the \$7000 needed merely to cover basic expenses. In order to do justice to the wildlife we treat, about twice that amount must be raised. And we are not talking about anything fancy; we are talking about modifications demanded by building codes and enclosures suitable for aquatic birds. Seabirds need salt water so we have to build a salt water system to pump water out of San Francisco Bay. They need durable concrete pools of water that require minimal maintenance. Oiled, ill and injured birds need the protection afforded by an indoor facility with thermostatically controlled heat. The birds need to be protected from dogs and people, so chain link fencing is a must.

How can you help? Volunteer your services for a day to clean, paint, saw, dig, hammer, etc. For



our supporters who live out of the Bay Area, a donation to the building fund will go a long way toward re-locating our truly unique research and rehabilitation center. It would be tragic to cease the work that has made Bird Rescue known to wildlife scientists, organizations and agencies around the world.

Where is the Bird Center? In a good place; and with your help, in a better place.

David C. Smith

1975 CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF OIL POLLUTION

David Smith and Alice Berkner had the pleasure of attending this conference aided by a grant from Standard Oil Company of California. David presented a paper describing the problem of oiled birds and the current state of the art of rehabilitating such birds. Reprints of the paper are available from Bird Rescue upon request.

The conference was held at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco and hosted participants from around the world. Sponsors were the American Petroleum Institute, The Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Coast Guard. Elaborate displays featured the latest equipment designed to clean up spilled oil and some of the equipment was actually in the process of removing oil from large pools of water that had been set up in the exhibit area. Also on display were instructional materials for petroleum workers and executives stressing safe practices for avoiding spills and how to clean them up once they occur.

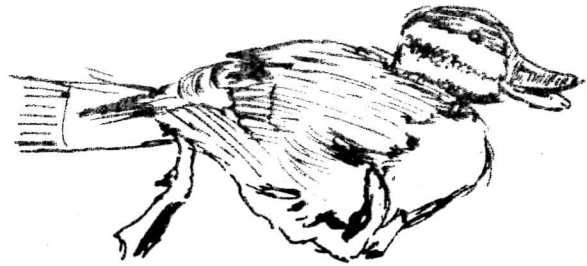
In general, it is obvious that the oil industry is serious about the prevention of spills and is willing to accept the responsibility for the damage they cause. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees as to the true extent of injury to ecosystems caused by oil spills. Also unfortunate is the fact that spills continue due to the fallibility of machines and men.

SEATTLE (AGAIN)

Alice Berkner and David Smith again travelled to Seattle for a conference. Last December they attended the first annual meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group where David presented a paper on the growth of Murres, a species of seabird that the Center often handles. This time they attended the "Conservation of Marine Birds of Northern North America: An International Symposium" and presented a paper on oiled birds written by Keith Hay, Conservation Director of the American Petroleum Institute. Their expenses were paid for through grants from Standard Oil Company of California and the American Petroleum Institute.

The symposium was sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of America, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, and the National Wildlife Federation. About 35 scientific papers were presented by people from 6 nations. It is crystal clear from the information given that seabirds are facing serious threats from exploitation of ocean and coastal resources, i.e. fish, oil, and real estate. The roles that seabirds play in the oceans' ecosystems are not well known but probably crucial. Lack of concern over the fate of seabirds, especially in the arctic and antarctic, could result in their decimation and potentially that could seriously damage all forms of life in the oceans.

The trip resulted in the making of new friends for the Bird Center and the likelihood of increased cooperation between IBRRC and other organizations.



SOUTH BAY BOTULISM OUTBREAK

During October and November of last year Bird Rescue received 173 aquatic birds affected by avian botulism, of which 102 were treated and released. The California Department of Fish & Game transported most of the birds to the Center, and nearly 20 birds were found and brought to us by interested citizens.

Avian botulism is a type of food poisoning. Birds become affected when they eat fly larvae containing toxin-producing bacteria (Clostridium botulinum Type C). The bird usually dies and the carcass becomes overrun with fly larvae, creating a vicious circle. The problem of avian botulism arises sporadically in areas of stagnant, oxygen-poor water in the late summer and early fall.

This year there was a particularly severe outbreak in the south bay area. The Department of Fish & Game collected many thousands of dead and dying birds in their attempt to end the epizootic.

The birds we received were given repeated doses of water and food by stomach tube. The water serves to flush out any remaining toxin and also combats dehydration, a special problem with birds that drink seawater.

The species involved included:

DUCKS

Pintail	Cinnamon Teal
Shoveler	American Widgeon
Ruddy Duck	Green-winged Teal
Gadwall	

SHOREBIRDS

Black-bellied Plover	American Avocet
Long-billed Curlew	Least Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher	Killdeer
Western Sandpiper	Dunlin
Sanderling	Willet

OTHERS

American Coot	Gull	Common Snipe
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FINACIAL STATEMENT: 1974

Bank Balance from 1973 \$ 2,663.51
 Total Revenue in 1974 13,087.50

TOTAL FUNDS 1974 \$ 15,751.01

EXPENSES

Utilities \$ 1,857.01
 Bird Food 1,413.02
 Travel 960.84
 Professional Services 470.00
 Duplicating Costs 417.89
 Office Supplies 407.81
 Loan Repayment 390.00
 Bird Cleaning Unit 371.77
 Printing 269.14
 Library 235.92
 Medical Supplies 224.71
 Maintenance 162.86
 Insurance 155.00
 Postal Permit & Stamps 146.68
 Film & Development 121.50
 Freezer Repair 120.00
 Miscellaneous 49.00
 Petty Cash 66.50

TOTAL EXPENSES 1974 \$ 7,839.65

NET FUNDS 1974 \$ 7,911.36

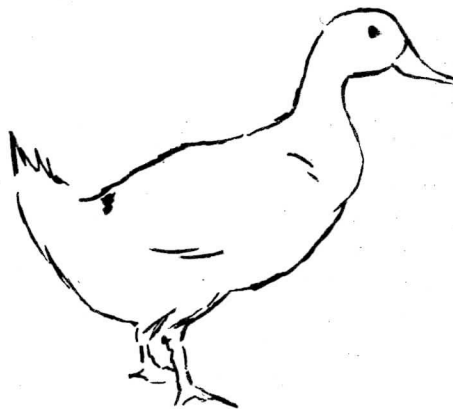
The above statement bears some explanation. Below is a partial breakdown.

A.P.I. Grant--\$4,500
 Pacific Gas and Electric Training \$1,883.60
 Donation from J.M. Harris, D.V.M. \$1,468.53
 A.P.I. Travel Grant \$723.93
 Clean Bay, Inc. for solvent and equipment \$525.89
 Gulf Oil Company for use of slides \$150.00

The grant from A.P.I. does not cover everyday expenses. It does provide small salaries for two of our staff. For the first time in three and a half years, Bird Rescue is not completely volunteer. I want to see it stay that way.

Everyday needs are met by the small donations given by people who bring in birds and, of course, those of you who subscribe to the Newsletter. Response to our Christmas cards realized over \$600.00. This was for the Building Fund and has remained untouched. Income from small donations is down compared to last year but we were able to survive due to Dr. Harris' gift and the P.G.& E. training sessions. These cannot be counted on this year so I am asking for continued support. Please do not let the birds down!

Alice Berkner



EASTER DUCKLINGS

Every year about this time Bird Rescue is inundated with ducklings. Easter ducklings. Once the birds have lost the fuzzy, yellow down and turn into "teenagers" their appeal diminishes and they are no longer wanted. Many of these birds end up in ponds and lakes before they can fend for themselves and are killed by dogs or ignorant people. Often the animals have not been properly cared for and are dying of malnutrition or exposure. Should the bird survive, it will compete with native species for habitat.

If you are aware of stores that sell ducklings and chicks at Easter time perhaps a talk with the owner is in order. This is one practice that should be stopped now!

BIRD CLEANING PROGRESS REPORT

Bird Rescue (IBRRC) was founded during the San Francisco Oil Spill of 1971. Only 6% of the over 4,000 oiled birds treated then were released. The cost per released bird was a whopping \$900.

In 1973, we cared for over 500 oiled birds and achieved a 41% survival rate for less than \$15 per bird.

The three most widely used cleaners are detergents, mineral oil, and hydrocarbon solvents. All have their advantages and disadvantages.

Some detergents are low in toxicity and well suited for most fuel oils. Cleaning a bird heavily coated with a highly viscous oil requires considerable time, however. Following cleaning with a detergent, the bird must be thoroughly rinsed for approximately half an hour under jets of warm water otherwise detergent residues will cause the plumage to become soaked whenever in water. This entire method takes about an hour which is too long a period to be stressing a wild bird. A partial solution is to delay rinsing one or more days. Birds can be released from one day to three weeks later depending on numerous other factors.

Mineral oil is non-toxic and very effective in cleaning oiled birds, especially when warmed to 40° C. Following cleaning, however, sufficient mineral oil remains in the plumage to compromise thermal insulation and waterproofing. Also, feathers begin to curl after a day or two. An aquatic bird cleaned in this way requires a lot of effort and three or more weeks before it can be released.

Hydrocarbon solvents are, in most cases, the cleaners of choice. They provide the least costly and most successful method in most instances. When using a solvent, the first requirement is for human safety. The solvent does not ignite readily but once burning, burns fiercely. Therefore, it is

necessary to ban smoking and provide adequate fire extinguishers. As the fumes are slightly toxic, the area should be well ventilated and everyone should wear a suitable respirator. Some people find the solvent irritating to their skin so they should wear neoprene gloves or use a silicone cream designed to shed solvents.

At this time, we are aware of literally hundreds of solvents that are unsuitable and just one (available only in 55 gallon barrels) that can be used with any degree of success. Do not experiment with solvents!! Leave the experimenting to laboratories and research centers. If you equip yourself with industrial fire extinguishers, respirators, explosion-proof pumps, neoprene gloves and aprons, and 11-amp animal dryers then we will gladly inform you where you can buy a barrel of solvent. Obviously then, it makes better sense to use a detergent or mineral oil for small numbers of birds.

For the majority of birds cleaned with solvent, we are presented with a peculiar problem. They are able to return to the wild soon enough to be threatened with becoming mired in the very same oil slick.

We continually research cleaning agents, drugs, and procedures. The designing, engineering, construction and redesigning of our portable equipment is a continuing process. The development of our written and audio-visual materials for training volunteers at the site of an oil spill also continues. We now have the capability to fly to the scene of an oil spill with specialized equipment and materials. In certain circumstances the Environmental Protection Agency or the California Department of Fish & Game will help with expenses.

We have made considerable progress since 1971, partly because we refused to sit back and wish that oil spills would stop occurring. Oil spills continue, but now we can significantly reduce the loss of wildlife.

David C. Smith

DISPOSITION OF WILDLIFE RECEIVED AT IBRRC: 1974

SPECIES	RECEIVED	RELEASED	TRANSFERRED	ON HAND
Common Loon	3	1		
Arctic Loon	3		1	
Horned Grebe	4	1		
Western Grebe	13	6		
Pied-billed Grebe	3	1		
Fulmar	1			
Sooty Shearwater	1			
Brown Pelican	6		1	1
Brandt's Cormorant	2			
Pelagic Cormorant	1	1		
Great Blue Heron	4	2	1	
Snowy Egret	2	1		
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	2	1	
Whistling Swan	1			
Goose (domestic)	1	1		
Mallard	16	13		
Gadwall	2	2		
Pintail	32	21	3	
Green-winged Teal	9	9		
Teal sp.	1	1		
American Widgeon	8	2		
Shoveler	27	13		
Canvasback	1			
Greater Scaup	11	7		
Lesser Scaup	2	1		
Scaup spp.	2			
Bufflehead	1	1		
White-winged Scoter	2			
Surf Scoter	10	1		
Scoter sp.	1			
Ruddy Duck	75	54		1
Duck spp. (domestic & hybrid)	12	9	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			
Red-tailed Hawk	2		2	
Golden Eagle	1		1	
Clapper Rail	1	1		
Virginia Rail	1	1		
Sora	2	1		
Common Gallinule	1	1		
American Coot	42	19		
Killdeer	3	1		
Black-bellied Plover	6	5		
Common Snipe	1			
Long-billed Curlew	2	2		
Willet	1			
Least Sandpiper	1			
Dunlin	5	2		
Long-billed Dowitcher	6	4		
Dowitcher	6	5		

DISPOSITION OF WILDLIFE RECEIVED: 1974 (CONT'D)

SPECIES	RECEIVED	RELEASED	TRANSFERRED	ON HAND
Western Sandpiper	1			
Sandpiper spp.	2			
Marbled Godwit	1			
Sanderling	2	1		
American Avocet	4	1		
Phalarope sp.	1			
Parasitic Jaegar	1	1		
Glaucous-winged Gull	2			
Western Gull	25	10		3
Herring Gull	9	5		
California Gull	22	10		
Ring-billed Gull	7	4		
Mew Gull	2	1		1
Bonaparte's Gull	2	1		
Heerman's Gull	2	1		
Gull spp.	12	5		
Black-legged Kittiwake	2	1		
Forster's Tern	1			
Caspian Tern	3			
California Murre	78	14		
Band-tailed Pigeon	1		1	
Rock Dove	13	1	7	
Pigeon spp.	3		1	
Mourning Dove	6		1	
Dove sp.	1		1	
Barn Owl	3		1	
Screech Owl	1		1	
Great Horned Owl	1		1	
Burrowing Owl	1		1	
Anna's Hummingbird	1			
Hummingbird sp.	1			
Kingfisher	1			
Red-shafted Flicker	1		1	
Flicker sp.	1			
Robin	1		1	
California Thrasher	1		1	
Varied Thrush	1			
Hermit Thrush	1		1	
Cedar Waxwing	1			
Starling	1			
Finch sp.	1			
Brown Towhee	2			
Sparrow spp.	3			
Squirrel spp.	2		1	
Opposum	1	1		
Raccoon	8	8		
TOTALS	579	257	31	6