

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Francisco
Los Angeles
California



PR CONTACT:

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Press Conference

UPDATE ON PELICANS

SAN PEDRO (3601 South Gaffey St) **11:30 – 12:30** Contact: **Julie King**

FAIRFIELD (4369 Cordelia Road) **1:00 – 2:30** Contact: **Jay Holcomb**

We will not have time for additional interviews in person as we must care for the birds.

WHY this DIE-OFF is so unusual?

Typically this time of year we would see a significant die-off of **YOUNG** brown pelicans. We are seeing a larger than normal die-off of **ADULTS** - those are tremendously valuable to a population, potentially contributing to other species. This is not a good sign.

Secondly, we are seeing some common conditions - disorientation - birds landing inland, being found in neighborhoods, on roads, runways, etc. This disorientation implies something is wrong, possibly neurologically - **they are not JUST STARVING!**

We have reports of increased numbers of pelicans becoming disoriented and falling ill as far north as Humboldt and as far south as Baja Mexico. Rebecca Dmytryk is tracking this data. She can be reached at 831-840-3896. Call for numbers.

Our veterinarian is leading the investigation into the cause: **Dr. Heather Nevill 714-348-6989**

How folks can help:

Report DEAD pelicans to the toll free CA wildlife hotline 866-WILD-911 (option 2)

Report SICK pelicans to their nearest rescue group of call 866-WILD-911 for a number.

We need **volunteers!** They can call the LA center at 310-514-2573 or Fairfield 707-207-0380

Our reserve funds to cover the expense of caring for these big birds is quickly being depleted AND SO EARLY IN THE YEAR!

We're looking at our own financial crisis! Last year our food bill for pelicans exceeded \$60,000.00. We are in dire need of donations of \$5. - \$500. \$5,000. - whatever folks can afford. We are really in trouble! As are the birds.

One unique program we have is Pelican Partners - donors don't just give money - they get to be personally involved in the bird's care and release. Classrooms can also adopt a bird and be involved. More on the website ibrrc.org