



**International  
Bird  
Rescue  
Research  
Center**  
[www.ibrrc.org](http://www.ibrrc.org)

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## **Update from oiled bird rescue headquarters in the Gulf** *Media tours of Louisiana bird treatment center available daily from 1-2pm*

Venice, Louisiana -- A Team of California bird rescue specialists from International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC) are on site in Louisiana and Alabama preparing bird rescue centers to clean up seabirds caught in the Gulf coast oil spill.

International Bird Rescue is working in partnership with Tri-state Bird Rescue & Research to prepare rehabilitation facilities in Fort Jackson, Louisiana (just north of Venice) and Theodore, Alabama. **Media are welcome to visit the Fort Jackson rescue center any day from 1pm to 2pm: [MSRC, 100 Herbert Harvey Drive, Buras, LA.](http://www.msrc.org)**

To date, rescue teams have recovered just one bird, a Northern Gannet, which is being treated in Venice and expected to recover fully. To learn more about oiled bird treatment, see [http://www.ibrrc.org/oiled\\_bird\\_procedures.html](http://www.ibrrc.org/oiled_bird_procedures.html).

“International Bird Rescue’s focus now is on preparing for the influx of oiled birds once the slick moves closer to the Gulf coast, where pelicans, egrets and terns nest and feed,” said IBRRC director and oil spill veteran Jay Holcomb. “Even after my 25 years responding to oil spills, it’s impossible to predict the kinds of impacts we might see to birds—it all depends on the tides, weather, and other factors beyond our control. Rather than waste time with conjecture, we are spending our days preparing for any eventuality, and it’s great to have such an outpouring of support from all over the country. This truly is an all hands on deck effort, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work alongside Tri-State Bird Rescue and other groups. So far, we have only rescued one oiled bird, a Northern Gannet that is being treated at the Venice facility. The bird is in a stable condition.”

International Bird Rescue director Jay Holcomb is heading the organization’s Gulf spill response team. Holcomb has responded to over 200 oil spills around the world, including Exxon Valdez and the 1979 Gulf spill. With him are a veterinarian, rehabilitation manager and capture specialist.

International Bird Rescue will be hosting a daily teleconference once the rehabilitation center set-up is complete. In the interim, you can find the latest news on our website ([www.ibrrc.org](http://www.ibrrc.org)) or blog ([intbirdrescue.blogspot.com](http://intbirdrescue.blogspot.com)). For up to the minute updates on bird rescue efforts in the Gulf, follow @IBRRC on Twitter.