

Tips on How to Rescue

If a bird is entangled, here are some tips on how to rescue:

Never chase a bird. Always net any bird from head down. Keep bird's eyes covered to reduce stress and help calm him.

Keeping face well away from bird's bill, attract his attention by waving bait in front of him. Have second person net from behind. Cover bird with sheet, towel or shirt.

Make yourself lower than pelican, shake bait in front of him, grab bill with other hand.



Holding Tips

Pelican

1. Secure wings as shown.
2. All birds breathe through their mouth. Do not clamp bill shut. Prop open bill using your fingers.
3. Place hand high on bill using fingers to prop open.



Egret/Heron

1. When holding an egret or heron, hold head at jaw with face pointing away from you.
2. Fold wings to bird's body by wrapping your arms around them and tucking his feet close to his under body.
3. When birds are securely held, with their eyes covered, they will struggle less.



Cormorants

1. When handling a cormorant, secure head at the jaw keeping his head pointing away from you.
2. Never clamp or tie bill shut, he will be unable to breathe and will struggle for air.
3. Cover eyes with hat, shirt or towel, tuck wings close to his body by wrapping your arms around him.



Save Our Seabirds, Incorporated

Save Our Seabirds is a totally nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing injured native and migratory birds promptly, treating their injuries and releasing rehabilitated birds back into the environment.

Save Our Seabirds (SOS) Inc. also has a comprehensive Oiled Wildlife Response Training Program. SOS has trained hundreds of volunteers to respond to oil spills and care for oiled wildlife in their own areas. Who better to care for the animals indigenous to the area than the people that care for them on a daily basis? Ask about our training program and find out how we can help you help yourselves through what could be a disastrous experience.

Save Our Seabirds educational programs inform people of the problems wildlife is having and their misadventures with humankind and how people can help minimize the impact on them and their habitat.

Volunteering is a great way to get involved. You'll help wildlife and their environment and get hands on experience. Ask about SOS programs or rehab facilities in your area.

Donations

Donations to Save Our Seabirds Inc. are always appreciated! (AND needed!) S.O.S. is 501c3 tax exempt, not-for-profit organization so your donations are fully tax-deductible.

AND, with Save Our Seabirds Inc., 100% of your donations go to help the birds, with food, medical supplies, vet services, and to support our education programs.

Send your donations to Save Our Seabirds Inc.



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DON'T CUT! THE LINE!



Feeding Unwanted Fish & Fillet Fish Carcasses Are A NO NO TOO!

Visit Our Website
www.saveourseabirds.org

E-Mail
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Feeding Seabirds

Problems Caused by Feeding Seabirds!

By feeding birds bait, unwanted fish, or fillet fish carcasses, you expose birds to these dangers:

Exposed fish bones cause internal injury and scratches all the way to the stomach. Bones can puncture the stomach lining allowing body fluids to drip into the body cavity causing peritonitis. Once the infection starts, death follows within 48 hours.

Feeding birds makes them lazy, dependent and a nuisance to some. Not everyone appreciates pelicans, herons or egrets congregating while they fish. If considered a nuisance, humans may become irritated and harm the birds.

Feeding exposes birds to hook and line injuries that can cause nerve, tissue and tendon damage, as well as infections and compromised circulation. Severe infections can cause a bird to lose the use of a wing or leg. When this happens, birds can no longer care for themselves.

Added benefits for NOT feeding!

You can fish in peace as the birds will learn to be self sufficient. Without your hand outs, they will find their own food and teach their young to do the same.

Fewer birds will be inflicted with painful and life threatening injuries.



Feeding Our Food to Seabirds

Don't Feed Human Food To Wild Birds

Humans have a natural instinct to nurture children, pets and wildlife.

Wildlife and specifically wild birds are not pets and shouldn't be treated as such.

Each species has its own specific diet needs.

Young wildlife are taught by their parents, where and how to find food that will be nutritious and healthy for their species.

When feeding wildlife, you are putting their lives at risk in several ways.

An improper diet can cause malnutrition and human health problems such as fat around the heart, liver, and kidneys. Feeding birds also exposes their delicate systems to preservatives and dyes, which can eventually cause illness or death.

You are interfering in their natural ability to find their own food.

They lose their natural fear of man and are exposed to people who don't appreciate pesky birds. We have seen many cases of human cruelty to birds because of their loss of their fear of man.

Feeding attracts birds to areas where serious injuries occur. Anything from limb entanglement to more serious injuries, swallowed hooks are a real problem. If a bird swallows a hooked fish or is hooked in the eye, do not attempt to extract the hook yourself. Take the bird to the nearest wildlife facility or your veterinarian.



Catfish Can Kill

Catfish Are Real Killers Too!

Once in the throat of a bird, catfish flare out their spines and make it impossible for the bird to dislodge it.

Instinctively birds know not to ingest catfish, however when a catfish is thrown, the pelican will catch it as it flies through the air. Once caught, the bird tries to swallow it. The catfish flares out its spines, penetrating the bird's throat and/or pouch, never to be shaken loose. As the fish rots in the bird's throat, emitting toxins, it slowly poisons the bird until it dies.



Hook Extraction Tips



Push hook through flesh of bird until barb is visible.



With barb now showing, using wire cutters, or cutting pliers, cut behind barb and head of hook.



Back hook out.

Caution: if barb is still attached when hook is pulled out, serious tissue damage will occur.



Un-Attended Fishing Poles



Please don't leave an unattended fishing pole over your dock expecting to find dinner when you return. You may wind up with a bird attached to the hook and line that snagged a fish and a bird. Unfortunately SOS volunteers have seen too many un-repairable ripped necks on birds that thought the fish was for him.

Unwanted Fishing Line



Birds, dolphins, manatees, turtles and fish get entangled in wads of fishing line. They lose limbs, flippers and their lives.

Always dispose of unwanted monofilament line either in a mono line disposal container supplied by the fishing pier or take it home and dispose of it properly with your trash.



Don't Cut that Line



You can save a bird at the end of a fishing line. Do not cut him free and allow the bird to fly back to the mangrove trailing line that will entrap him. Unable to free himself, he will starve to death within a few days and can entangle other birds as well. Lines as short as 10 inches can be a death trap.