



## Report for 2025 Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee Grant 9/25/25

### **Summary**

International Bird Rescue was awarded a \$19,449.66 grant in 2025 from the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee for "Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife." The grant was used to further our mission to inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis, and to address known, ongoing, Human-Wildlife Conflicts (negative human-wildlife interactions). This work benefits people and communities by:

- Preventing and addressing cruelty to animals, by giving aquatic birds that have been harmed by human impact a second chance at a normal life
- Protecting environmental resources
- Providing immediate, practical, humane, ethical, and effective means for people to take action

**To achieve the proposed goals and provide the proposed benefits, we:**

- a) Addressed the persistent-and-now-permanent HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) crisis**
- b) Replaced obsolete and inoperable equipment and materials that have been fully depreciated and are necessary to rehabilitate injured and orphaned Contra Costa wildlife**

**Invoice Details and all receipts are attached and ordered on the County-provided spreadsheet. We respectfully request prompt reimbursement of your \$19,449.66 grant at this time.**

We request that the County accept, without any change in total funding, a modification to our budgeted expenses as described in the attached forms. Due to price changes, inflation, and local permitting requirements that occurred between our initial application request and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisor's approval, we were unable to secure the single building with the necessary equipment, at the initially-proposed price.

Additionally, the Solano County permitting process for the originally-proposed facility would have caused more than a 1-year delay and a four-figure cost increase. To not delay the project past your grant deadline of December 2025, we purchased a smaller building, but needed to purchase additional, necessary items that enabled the facility to be placed in service to serve Contra Costa patients. **We want to reassure the Committee that:**

1. **NO Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund monies were used for any personnel costs, as per the Committee's previously expressed concerns to multiple grant applicants,**
2. **All purchases were made after Board of Supervisors approval, and**
3. **All purchases support the same project, achieve the same overall goals, and provide the same overall benefits listed in the two points a) and b) above**

Our San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center in Fairfield, CA admits approximately 1,750 local aquatic birds annually. We are a "referral hospital:" the place of last resort, treating the most challenging cases that are beyond the capacity or skills of other regional wildlife centers and clinics, including our partners at Lindsay Wildlife Experience, and others.

Contra Costa County residents and local Animal Control officers typically bring us over 200 wild, injured birds annually, collected from dense urban areas, and from the local shores and waterways of San Pablo Bay, Alhambra Creek, and others. Our research shows that rehabilitated animals achieve successful, long-term outcomes, including (but not limited to) completing average life expectancies, producing and rearing offspring, and serving as nutrition for other animals. Each of these outcomes is an important component of a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

In our last, complete fiscal year (FY24: 10/1/23-9/30/24), we admitted 3,076 wild, native, aquatic birds for care, representing 86 unique species. The average length of care for all patients was 19.67 days.

**In our last fiscal year, Contra Costa County intakes were up 22% compared to the prior year**, as we confronted the twin crises of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, aka “Bird Flu”), and the 2024 California Pelican Crisis. Patient data from our RaptorMed software (which we use to track medical information specific to each individual patient) shows the following FY24 results (10/1/23-9/30/24) for 268 Contra Costa patients:

127 – Egrets – Snowy, Great  
68 – Ducks – Mallard, Ruddy  
38 – Geese – Canada, Lesser Snow, Cackling  
12 – Brown Pelican  
10 – Herons – Green, Great Blue, Black-crowned Night  
8 – Gulls – Western, Glaucous-winged, California  
2 – Red-throated Loon  
1 – each – Common Loon, Sora, Wilson’s Snipe

**To date in our FY25 (10/1/24-6/30/25), we have we admitted 2,113 wild, native, aquatic birds for care (an increase from historical averages)**, representing 78 unique species. The average length of care for all these patients was 20 days.

**In this same, current, 9-month reporting period for FY25, Contra Costa County intakes (248) are 143% of the FY24 comparable reporting period (173)**, even as we confronted the ongoing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) crisis, and the 2025 California Pelican Crisis (the third such crisis in just four years). Patient data from our RaptorMed software shows the following FY25 year-to-date results for Contra Costa patients:

103 – Egrets – Snowy, Great  
66 – Ducks – Mallard, Wood  
47 – Geese – Canada  
14 – Gulls – Western, Ring-billed, California  
6 – Brown Pelican  
5 – Herons – Green, Black-crowned Night  
3 – Killdeer  
2 – Grebe, Western  
1 – each – Red-throated Loon, Sora

Unlike traditional veterinary clinics, our patients come to us with no funding, no insurance, and no one directly responsible for paying the bill. Birds injured by human impact require capable hands and large volumes of food and vitamins to be successfully rehabilitated and returned to the environment. We are able to meet the demand for our services only with philanthropic support from other concerned citizens, foundations, corporations, and municipal agencies who share our values.

We are able to efficiently and effectively rescue and rehabilitate so many wild birds because of our well-established response protocols, developed through years of direct, hands-on experience.

Each rescued bird is given an improved quality of life. Each released bird is an indicator of progress towards our goals of mitigating human impact on the environment and conserving biological diversity. Treated birds are banded so that they can be tracked by scientists, volunteers, and the Federal Bird Banding Lab. Data from the banding effort is analyzed by our veterinary care team as part of ongoing research, and the results shared at professional conferences.

*Images of the now-operational Permanent HPAI (aka “Bird Flu”) Screening Facility, including waterproof wall paneling for sanitizing, sink and faucet for sanitation, shelving, mats for health and safety, and other equipment underwritten by Contra Costa County Grant Funds, including Speedy M-625 Pet Dryers (lower left) and Hayward PowerFlo 1.5 HP Above Ground Pool Pumps (lower right)*



**Contact:**

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Fairfield, CA 94534

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This table MUST be completed with your grant reimbursement request. Please submit as an Excel spreadsheet.

Tape receipts to paper and number each page in the upper right hand corner.

**Grantee Name:** International Bird Rescue

**Name of Project:** Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife

**Contact Name Phone and Email if there are questions about this:** Phil Kohlmetz, Grants Coordinator, 707-704-0350, grants@birdrescue.org

Page number that receipt is on	Description of service/item and amount allowable from grant award	Vendor	Date on Receipt/ Invoice number	Description of service/ item on receipt (highlight item(s) on receipt)	Total Amount of Receipt/ Invoice	Total Amount of Receipt/ Invoice for reimbursement from the Grant
1	Permanent HPAI screening facility	Tuff Shed	3/28/25	Tuff Shed	\$9,026.59	\$9,026.59
2	Speedy M-625 Pet dryers	SpeedyDryers	4/21/25	5 dryers	\$2,788.81	\$2,645.00
3, 4	Pool Filter Sand	Ace Hardware	4/21/25	Quickcrete pool filter sand	\$534.86	\$534.86
5, 6	Pool Pumps	Leslies	4/24/25	Pool pump x 2 and part required for operation	\$1,135.76	\$1,135.76
7	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Sink*	Webstaurant Store	5/23/25	Sink, for health and safety	\$340.83	\$340.83
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Exam tables, fiberglass insulation, waterproof wall panelling, drywall*	Home Depot	7/9/25	Exam tables, fiberglass insulation, waterproof wall panelling, drywall, all that are able to be disinfected, and/or for habitat temperature control to support live animals during quarantine period	\$1,445.83	\$1,445.83
14	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Faucet*	Amazon	6/5/25	Faucet, for health and safety	\$61.15	\$61.15
15	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Flooring*	Home Depot	5/6/25	Vinyl flooring and concrete base that is able to be disinfected	\$665.59	\$665.59

16, 17	Permanent HPAI screening facility: HVAC mini split*	MiniSplits4Less	7/16/25	HVAC for habitat conditioning, necessary because of live animals in quarantine	\$1,281.03	\$1,200.00
18, 19, 20	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Nutrition Warmer*	Target	7/16/25	Crock pot, necessary for nutrition for live animals while they are in quarantine	\$130.04	\$130.04
21, 22	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Fluid Warmer*	Target	7/16/25	Sous vide, necessary for nutrition for live animals while they are in quarantine	\$98.61	\$98.61
23	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Medicine Refrigeration*	Home Depot	7/16/25	Mini Fridge necessary for medicine	\$270.93	\$270.93
24, 25	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Air filters*	Puroair	7/16/25	Air filter for health, safety, and habitat conditioning, necessary because of live animals in quarantine	\$547.29	\$547.29
26	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Antifatigue mats*	Home Depot	7/16/25	Mats for health and safety	\$324.91	\$324.91
27	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Foot baths*	American Floor Mat	7/16/25	Foot baths for health and safety	\$135.00	\$135.00
28	Permanent HPAI screening facility: Shelves*	Home Depot	7/16/25	Shelves for usability	\$429.17	\$429.17
29, 30	Permanent HPAI screening facility: storage tubs, table, lamps, garbage pail*	Home Depot	7/16/25	Storage tubs, table, lamps, garbage pail, for usability	\$497.65	\$458.10

\* not listed on original application due to page-limit/space considerations, and sensitivity to the overall grant request amount, but part of the same Permanent HPAI Screening project, and purchased with funds that were saved by purchasing a lower-cost Tuff Shed

**TOTAL                    \$19,449.66**