

Media contacts: J. Holcomb, International Bird Rescue Center, (707) 249-4870
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NOTE: Media can visit the facility any day only between 1:00 and 200 p.m. at MSRC, Ft. Jackson, just north of Venice, La.

First Oiled Bird Is Recovered - Being Treated by BP Contractor -

One oiled northern gannet, a seabird, has been captured Friday by contractors in the spill area in the gulf, and is being treated by Tristate Bird Rescue and Research, which has been contracted by BP to rehabilitate wildlife. The bird was recovered in the oil slick area by contractors and delivered to the treatment facility in Venice, La.

It is in stable condition and may be eligible for release in about 10 days.

BP is working with multiple oiled wildlife response organizations and local agencies to insure that all oiled wildlife receive quality care.

A northern gannet is a native, fish-eating, diving bird, which winters here and migrates to Newfoundland in the summer.

When oiled birds arrive at the treatment facility, that has been set up just for this purpose, it receives a full physical including blood values, weight, and a thorough examination of the extent of oiling. Many oiled birds are dehydrated, so are generally given an IV and oral hydration. The birds rest for 12-24 hours. When it meets medical criteria it is washed with Dawn detergent. It takes up to four people and up to 45 minutes to wash a large bird. Up to 300 gallons per bird are needed for the cleaning process. All wastewater is controlled and disposed of in accordance with regulations. Cleaned birds are allowed to recover and preen until waterproof, and meeting release criteria. Before release, federal and state wildlife agencies help determine the best locations to release the birds. Federal bird bands are applied to each released bird.

The public is advised not to attempt to rescue oiled or injured birds or wildlife. Doing so can cause more harm than good. If oiled wildlife are found, call the Oiled Wildlife hotline established by BP at (866) 557-1401.