

## Ship Report Transcript

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

By Joanne Rideout

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It's time for the Ship Report the show about all things maritime. I'm Joanne Rideout. It's Wednesday, June 12th, 2024.

Let's start with a look at our marine weather. And after that, we'll hear part two of my interview with the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator from the Wildlife Center of the North Coast. They have been, since late May, handling oil soaked birds from an oil spill that has affected the Long Beach Peninsula and the Oregon coast and our area.

In our marine weather forecast. We have high pressure that's going to build into Thursday this week. Then high pressure will weaken late on Thursday and Friday and the next weather front arrives and that means rain. Well, the potential for rain will come into the forecast. So it seems like we're in a familiar pattern that those of us who live here know well, that every few days it rains. So a good reminder to get out there and enjoy those lovely days when they are happening. We have a small craft advisory in effect through Thursday evening.

Well, today we'll hear part two of my interview with Ginger Neilan, rehabilitation coordinator at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, located in only Oregon. Yesterday, we learned a little about the center in their work trying to save oiled birds in a recent oil spill that happened in late May on local beaches in Oregon and Washington. Today will resume that interview and hear the rest of it. We'll talk about how successful the oiling efforts are with birds and how likely it is that a bird will be able to resume normal life after such a toxic encounter. We'll talk about what you can do if you find an oil soaked bird or any injured wildlife locally in Oregon or Washington. So let's pick up where we left off yesterday. This interview was recorded last week.

JR: So they can kind of over time, they can kind of restore themselves to where they were before once you clean them?

GN: Mm hmm. Exactly. Okay. What's the general success rate for birds in this situation? I mean, do you save most of them or is it is it kind of a really a difficult thing, I guess? Yeah, it's definitely, definitely more on the difficult side. So a lot of times these birds are coming in not only oiled but emaciated as well. And so they tend to have a much poorer prognosis when that's the case. So, you know, we do our best with trying to, you know, get them rehydrated and re fed. But the truth is that, you know, three of these of the six that we have, six birds that we've gotten in, only two of them have made it this far. You know, one was unfortunately dead on arrival and the other three died in care after a few days. It's pretty challenging, you know, and the medication definitely complicates things. But the other two have been doing pretty well. There were a lot more healthy when they were first admitted. So that makes a really big difference.

JR: So when a bird is healed, can you then just return them to the wild? Is that feasible?

GN: Yeah. Mm hmm. Exactly. So we always put birds right back where we found them. Unless they were in a place where we wouldn't want to put them since this specific loon was found in somebody's yard so we wouldn't put them right back there. That's not where they go. So we'd find the nearest

closest waterway or get a recommendation from our DFW district biologist. If there's not a clear place that it should be going.

JR: Now, about the spill, I know you really don't have much information about the spill itself, but are you still seeing birds? Are people still sending birds to you or is that kind of stopped at this current moment?

GN: Yeah. So we haven't gotten any birds in in the past week. The last one to come in was the Pacific Loon, and that was last Thursday. So we haven't seen any come in this week, which is hopefully a good sign. But, you know, we don't know whether there's some slow leak or something somewhere that will continue to affect birds periodically or if it's or if it's over. We just don't know at this point.

JR: Okay. In the process of cleaning the birds, have you learned anything about, you know, the cause or what kind of oil they were covered in? Is it are you able to tell sometimes when you're doing that sort of thing?

GN: It's definitely you know, it definitely had a tarry sort of petroleum smell to it when the birds first came in. So it definitely you know, the smell was kind of an indicator there that it wasn't just some. Like, sometimes we've gotten oiled birds that got into some like discarded fryer oil and they smell like french fry. So we knew it wasn't that.

JR: If people find a bird in trouble locally here, what should they do? Can they call you or how do they get in touch with you?

GN: Absolutely. So the first thing that they should do is to call the one 802 to Birds Hotline. And that is good for both Washington and Oregon. After they report it there, if they are located in Oregon, if they're located in Washington, that's all they need to do. They'll take it from there. But if you're located in Oregon, my neighbor in Oregon, definitely call us next. Call our center hotline. They can also get in touch with DFW directly. We will coordinate with DFW to try to get capture and transport for the bird or the animal. Oh, DFW does ask that the public not try to capture and transport birds by themselves. You know, generally takes a trained responder and special handling to to deal with the birds. One final thing about your organization. You're a nonprofit and you're raising money. How can people help you? Yeah, absolutely. We take donations. We are always really grateful for in-kind and monetary contributions. So if you're interested in donating to help out oiled wildlife or to our caring for over 60 ducklings at the moment, they can go to Coast wildlife dot org slash donate.

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And that was the second and final segment of my interview with Ginger Neilan, wildlife rehabilitation coordinator at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, based in Olney, Oregon. They've been caring for oil soaked birds following an apparent oil spill on the coasts of Oregon and Washington and our area.

A reminder that the hotline to report an oil soaked bird in Oregon or Washington is 1-800-22BIRDS. If you'd like to reach the wildlife center of the north coast, they're wildlife rescue hotline number is 503-338-0331.

And it looks like this spill may have affected wildlife on the Long Beach Peninsula even more severely than Oregon. According to Peninsula, Wild Care, a wildlife rehab nonprofit based in Ocean Park, Washington. Their organization has taken in at least 16 oil soaked birds, one loon and the rest Common Murres on Saturday. Oregon Public Broadcasting reported, "Nearly three weeks after oil coated and

killed several birds on the Oregon and Southern Washington coasts. Officials say they still don't know where the sticky petroleum product came from.”

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