Photographic Tour of Tri-State Oiled Bird Rehabilitation Center
Pensacola, FL

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The Tri-State rehabilitation facility with cages for oiled and clean birds, cleaning stations, and room for expansion if necessary.
Looking towards the “hot zone”, the area where oiled birds are housed and cared for until cleaning.
Cages for oiled birds are at one end of the facility, while clean birds are housed at the other end. Currently there are 34 cages ready for use, but more can be added if necessary.
Food and medication preparation area for the birds.
Rehabilitators may wait to wash birds with minor amounts of oil until they are healthy enough to survive the stress of the washing procedure. Personal protective equipment will protect both the humans and birds.
Nitrile gloves and safety glasses will complete the protective gear.
Cages at this end of the facility house oiled birds. Preparing to tube feed an oiled bird.
Wrapping the bird in a towel makes it easier to handle and safer for everyone involved...bird and human.
Placing a feeding tube down the throat of a northern gannet. The bird was rescued in Gulf Shores, Alabama with a “bath-tub ring” of oil around its body indicating it swam through the slick.
Feeding a Northern Gannet. Gannets feed on fish by plunging into the Gulf from the air. Gannets, pelicans, and other coastal birds that plunge or dive into the water to feed are likely to encounter oil.
Feeding a Northern Gannet. This bird has not yet been washed as rehabilitators make sure it’s healthy and stable before the stress of washing.
The washing and cleaning stations. All water is retained in this area as once it has oil mixed with it, it becomes a hazardous waste that must be disposed of properly so as not to pollute the environment.
Demonstrating the wash cycle. Depending on the type and amount of oil, birds may go through several wash cycles from tub to tub. It is a stressful process for the birds, so rehabilitators test wash a feather to determine the best washing procedure for each bird.
The rinsing station. Notice that the entire floor area is boomed to retain all water, even splashes.
All water from the tubs and floor is pumped to this tank. It will be hauled off and disposed of properly.
Personal protective equipment and supplies for workers. Once contaminated with oil, this gear also needs to be disposed of properly.
This brown pelican was found in Panama City covered in oil on May 24th. Oiled animals may still be able to fly and move significant distances from where they came in contact with oil. Now clean, this pelican is recovering from a non-oil related foot injury before being released.
Oiled Wildlife: Additional Information

- If you find oiled wildlife, please do not attempt to rescue the animal yourself. Call the Oiled Wildlife Hotline: 866-557-1401
- Be ready to provide the location, type of animal, and condition.
- Realize that oiled birds may still be able to fly and may leave the area before responders arrive.
- Many people express an interest in volunteering to assist wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. While this interest is appreciated, wildlife responders are trained professionals with experience handling these animals.
- Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research is a recognized leader in oiled bird rescue and rehabilitation. Tri-State is working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and each impacted State’s Fish and Wildlife to provide these services.
- For questions and more information about the impacts of the spill on wildlife, contact:

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