

Introduction to Field Operations



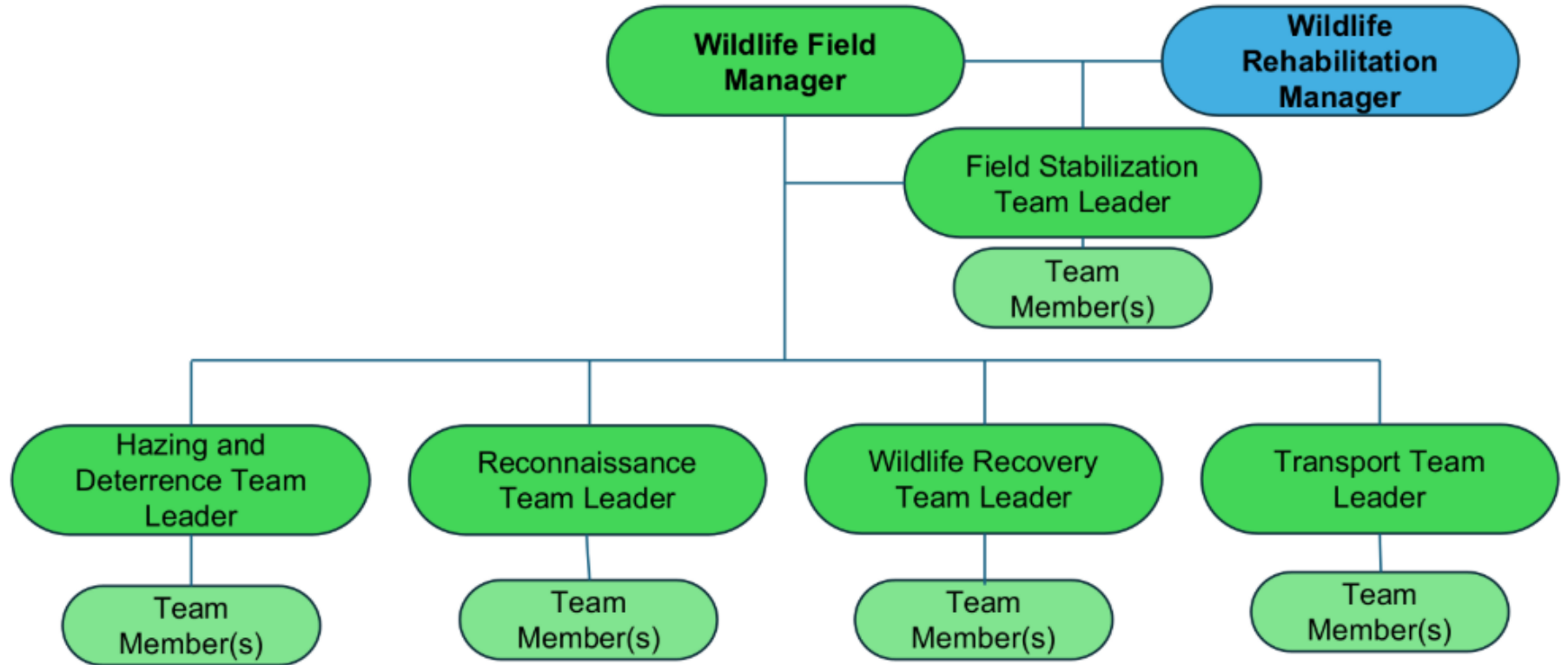
→ Pre-planning

- ◆ Species ID, Personnel, Equipment

→ Establishing Teams

- ◆ Clear goals, comms, reporting
- ◆ Safety, Training, Experience, Health

Wildlife Field Operations Team



Introduction to Field Operations

→ Using Deterrents

- ◆ Auditory, Visual, Personnel, Vehicles
- ◆ Concerns
 - Permits/Training
 - Location
 - Habituation



Credit: Lisa P Jackson, Office of the Administrator. Deep Water Horizon

Auditory



Visual



Introduction to Field Operations

→ Identifying Oiled Wildlife

- ◆ Field Awareness
 - Species Knowledge
 - Outside AOR
- ◆ Data Collection
 - Field Surveys

→ Capturing Wildlife

- ◆ Methods
- ◆ Transport







Wildlife Field Observation Form



Contact Phone #: _____

Incident Name: _____ Observation Team: _____ Date: _____

Time: Start _____ /End _____ Location: City _____ State _____ Distance Covered: _____

GPS: Start _____ ° _____ N/ _____ ° _____ W Survey Mode: Foot Vehicle Boat Other: _____

End _____ ° _____ N/ _____ ° _____ W Temperature: _____ (F/C) Cloud Cover (%): 0 25 50 75 100

Rain/Snow: None Mist/Flurry Drizzle Steady

Visibility: Clear Sun-Glare Darkness Fog (Light/Dense) Rain/Snow

Habitat: Shoreline/Beach River Ocean Bay Lake/Pond Wetlands Wooded Urban Ag Fields Rec Park

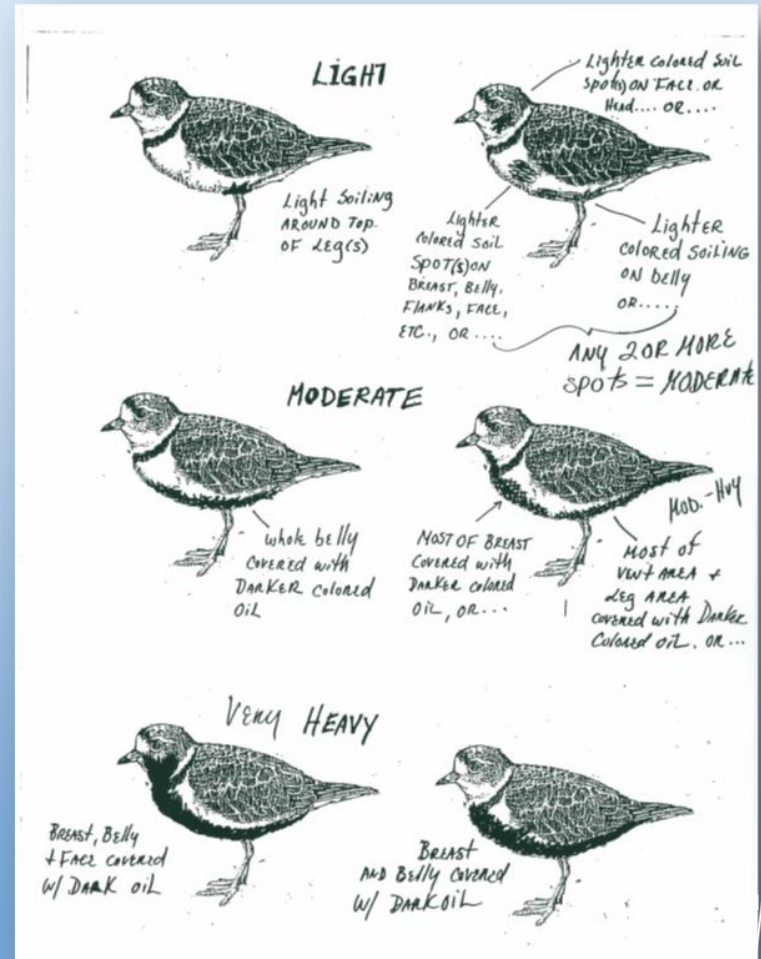
Additional Comments: _____

Species	# Animals		Oiling (H/M/L)		# Oiled/ Total	# Collected		Photo (Y/N) (record in log)	Additional Comments (GPS position, etc.)
	Live	Dead	Live	Dead		Live	Dead		
A									
B									
C									
D									
E									
F									
G									
H									
I									

Page _____ of _____

Degree of Oiling

- Location Of Oiling
- Product Spilled
- Percent of Contaminated Surface Area on the Animal
- Depth of Oil Penetration
- Species
- Behavior of the Animal in Natural Habitat



Recognizing Oiled Wildlife

→ Clinical Signs

- ◆ Shivering
- ◆ Excessive preening or grooming
- ◆ Abnormal coloration
- ◆ Riding low in the water
- ◆ Struggling to fly

→ “Goth Heron”





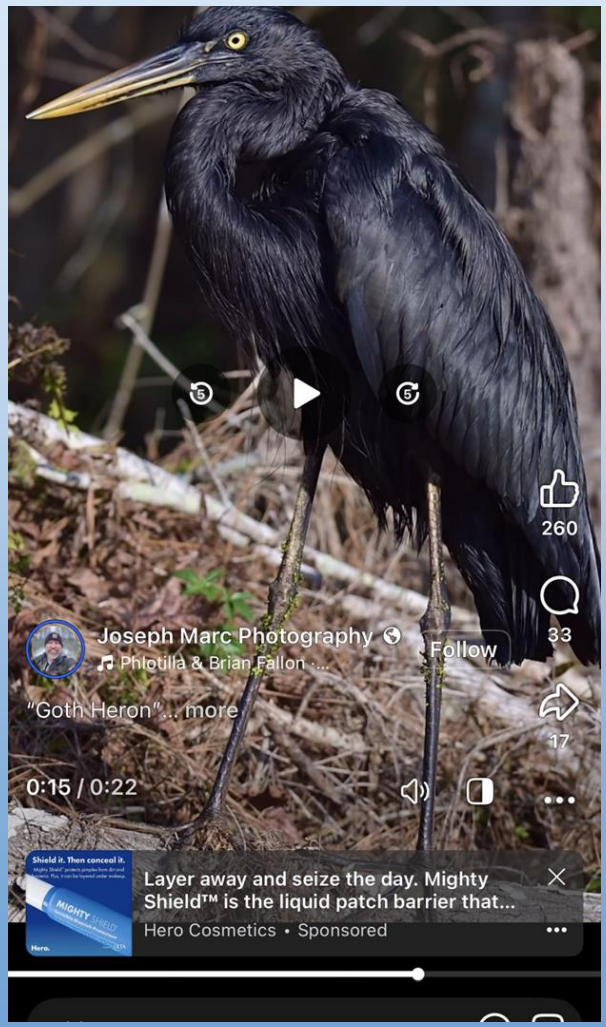
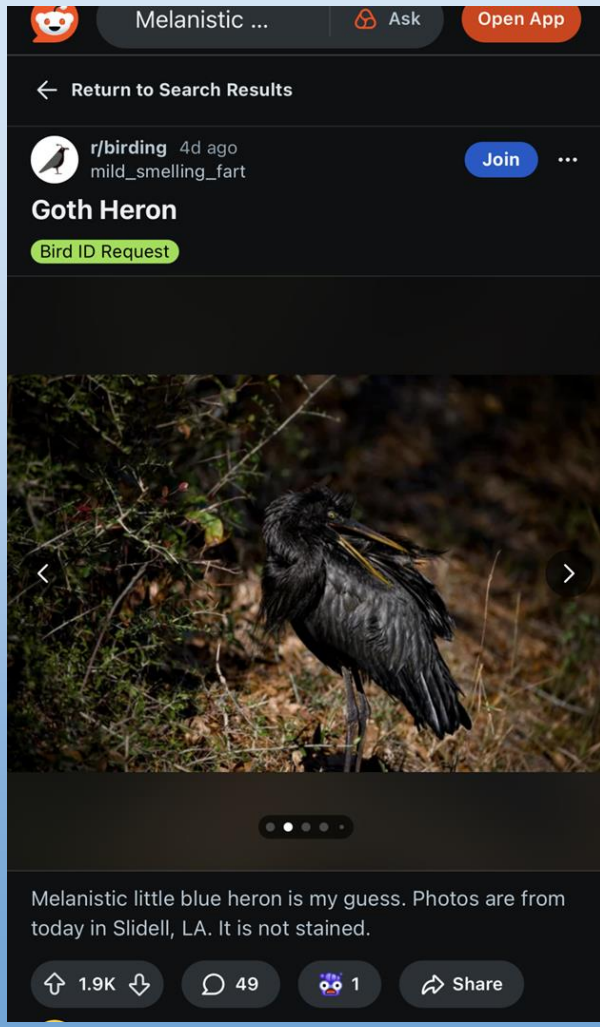
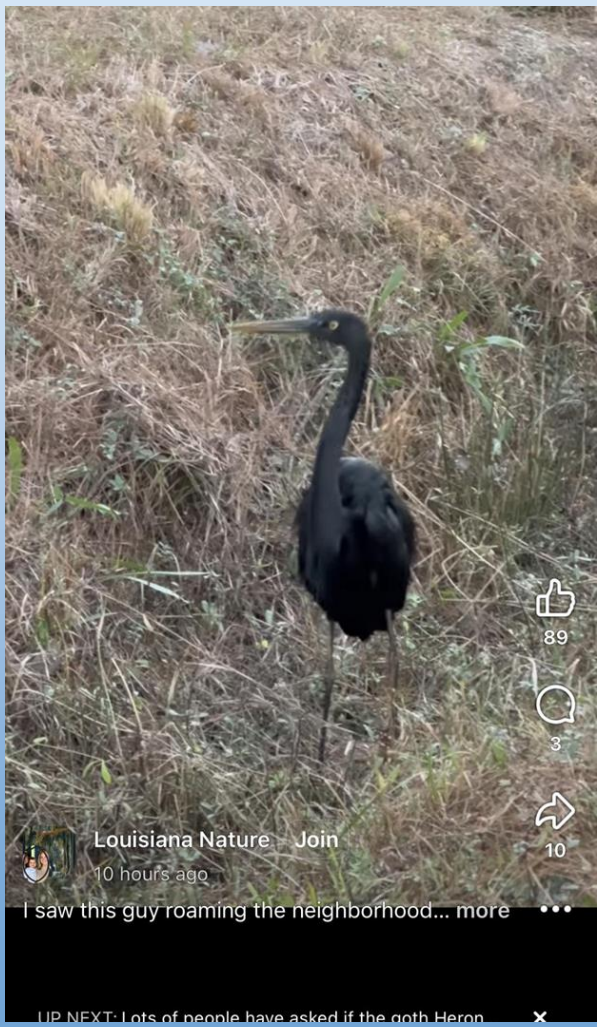
©Eric McVicker Photography



© NANCY S NOLAN



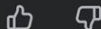
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Max Heim · 4d ·

Melanin performs a structural role in feathers — it stiffens them. So these black feathers have a different texture than normal, which may be why it appears so "shaggy" and glossy.

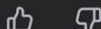
Reply  4



Roxanne Boutzis · 4d ·  by Author

A Melanistic GBH refers to an unusually dark or all-black Great Blue Heron (GBH), a rare color variation (melanism) where excess dark pigment (melanin) occurs, often leading to confusion with other dark herons or egrets, but identifiable by its typical heron shape, large size, and features like head shape and bill, despite its dark plumage, making it a prized sighting for birdwatchers, especially in North America.

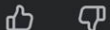
Reply  5



Bob Schlechty · 3h ·

I'm leaning toward the Black Hearing instead of Great Blue because I look at the tail as part of the equation. It looks longer than a GB which seems to be more like the Black. No idea really just taking a swing at it from all the pics I've looked at as comparison. I do know one thing. IT IS NOT OIL!

Reply



Jameson Vernon Hassell · 1h ·

very cool and i also find it humorous as it was another channel last week that someone posted it on genuinely theorizing that it was only melanistic and not oil covered. But because the person was genuine and was not completely sure, and was asking; and because this is the internet, it was very fun and entertaining to see the idiot environmentalists in the chats chirping about oil! oil! oil! 100 percent oil!!!!!!!!!!!! 😂😂 And it was very very very fun to troll them mercilessly.

Reply  1



Dara Gregory · 13h ·  by Author

One of my top birds now! I am still thinking about it 😍💙

Reply  1



Denise Klatt · 13h ·  Top fan

Grand photo ❤️ they are beautiful! Have never seen one in this color. Now when my Son and I travel I will know what it is if I see one. Thank you! 😊

Reply



Amber Rose Anderson · 1h ·

Dana Bennett look how beautiful

Reply



DAVIS LANDING CLEAN SWEEP

Jan. 10th 2026 10 am Till

A Rare Melanistic Blue Heron is living in the trash filled drainage ditches and it needs our help!

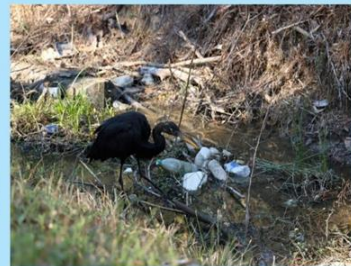
Trash Bags provided. Please bring trash grabbers and gloves if you have them!

For more info text Jessica @ 985-290-0002 or Dale @ 504-415-6265



SLIDELL, LA

MEET AT DAVIS LANDING BOAT RAMP



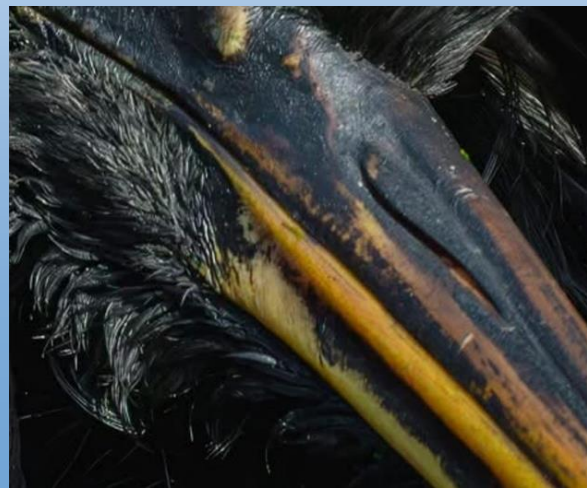


Eric McVicker Photography

4h · 🌐

A once-in-a-lifetime sight - a Goth Heron!... See more

👍 420 💬 76 ➦ 39

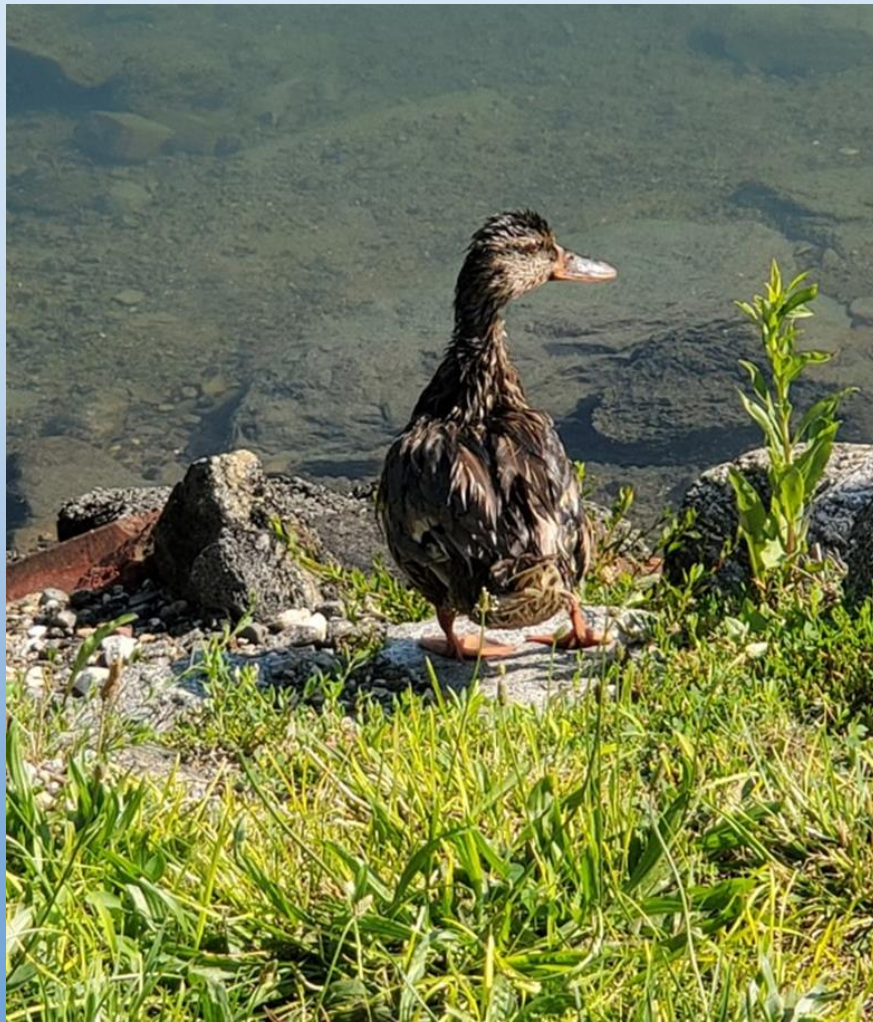




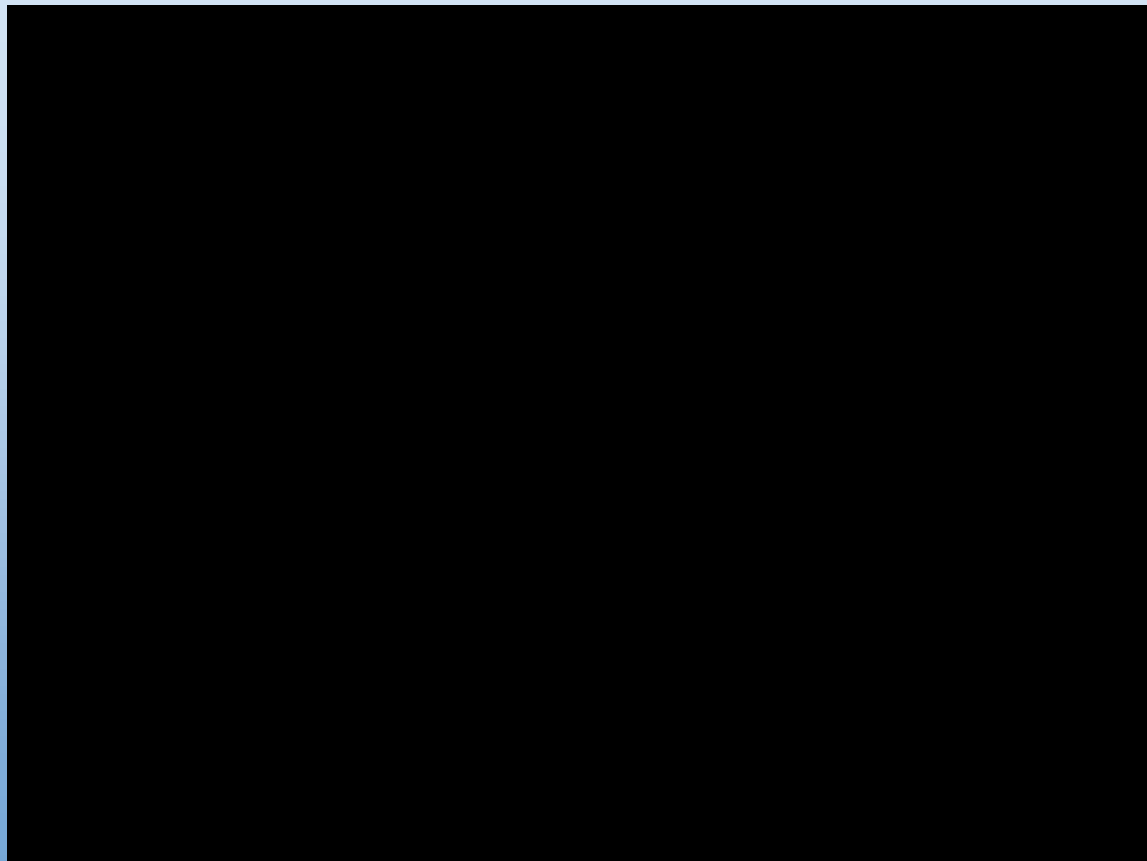












Wildlife Capture



Wildlife Capture

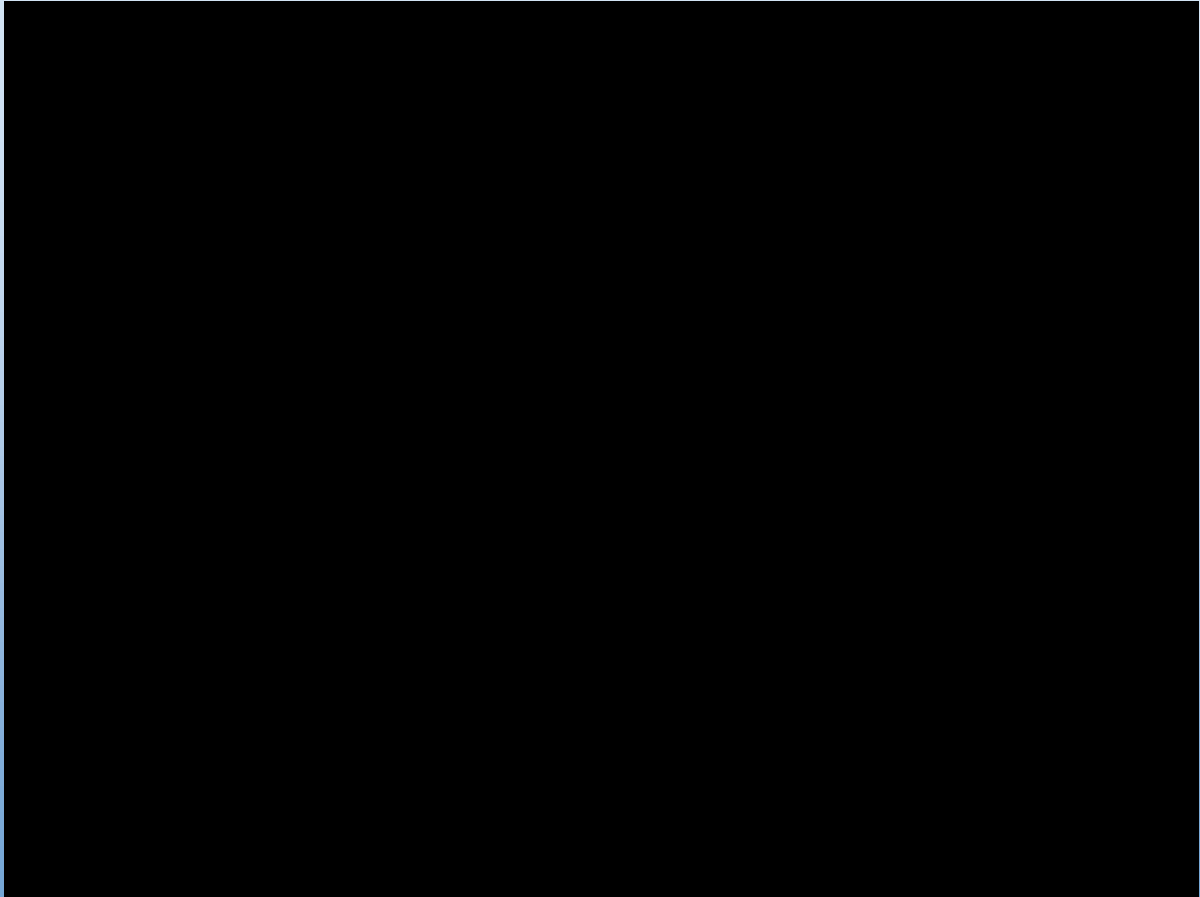


Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research

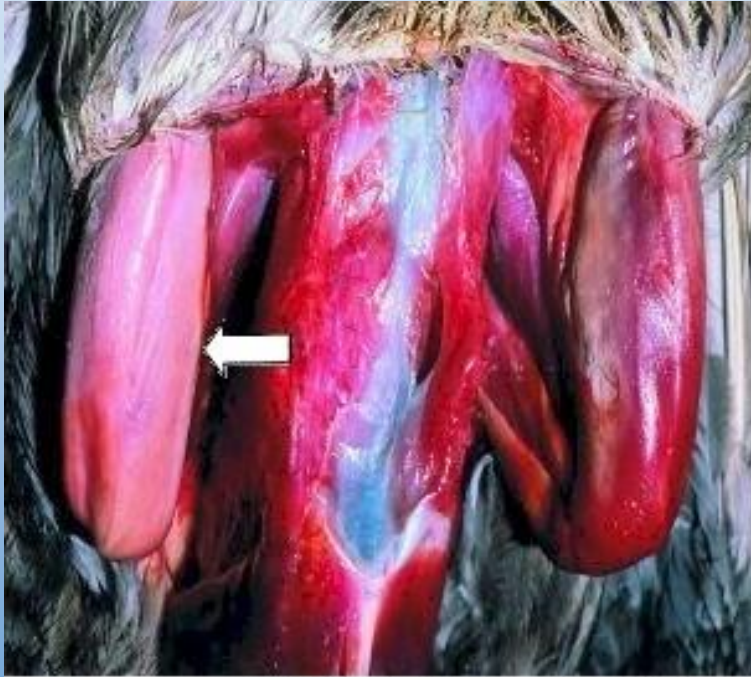
TRI-STATE
Oiled Wildlife Response

Wildlife Capture





Capture Myopathy = Stressed to Death



Photograph / Copyright - James Runnigen
Light colored muscle of leg (arrow) represents capture myopathy in a sandhill crane.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION BULLETIN

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SOCIAL MEDIA; EUTHANASIA; BuNS 2018 UPDATE
WATERFOWL SELF-FEEDING; CAPTURE MYOPATHY
RVS; CARPORT FLIGHT CAGE; NON-RELEASABLE BIRDS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT			CHAIN OF CUSTODY RECORD		FILE NO. INV.
D. AND TIME OF SEIZURE:		REGION:	EVIDENCE/PROPERTY SEIZED BY:		
SOURCE OF EVIDENCE/PROPERTY (person and/or location): ☐ TAKEN FROM: ☐ RECEIVED FROM: ☐ FOUND AT:			CASE TITLE AND REMARKS:		
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE/PROPERTY (include Seizure Tag Numbers and any serial numbers):				
ITEM NO.	FROM: (PRINT NAME, AGENCY)	RELEASE SIGNATURE:	RELEASE DATE	DELIVERED VIA: ☐ U.S. MAIL ☐ IN PERSON ☐ OTHER:	
	TO: (PRINT NAME, AGENCY)	RECEIPT SIGNATURE:	RECEIPT DATE		
ITEM NO.	FROM: (PRINT NAME, AGENCY)	RELEASE SIGNATURE:	RELEASE DATE	DELIVERED VIA: ☐ U.S. MAIL ☐ IN PERSON ☐ OTHER:	
	TO: (PRINT NAME, AGENCY)	RECEIPT SIGNATURE:	RECEIPT DATE		
ITEM NO.	FROM: (PRINT NAME, AGENCY)	RELEASE SIGNATURE:	RELEASE DATE	DELIVERED VIA: ☐ U.S. MAIL ☐ IN PERSON ☐ OTHER:	
	TO: (PRINT NAME, AGENCY)	RECEIPT SIGNATURE:	RECEIPT DATE		

☐ ADDITIONAL TRANSFERS ON REVERSE SIDE
FIGURE 3-2863 (3)/969





Personal Health & Safety During a Spill (Field & Facility)



→ Product

Personal Health & Safety During a Spill (Field & Facility)



→ Weather

- ◆ Daily variations

→ Landscape/Terrain

- ◆ Flora/fauna



Hot Zone:

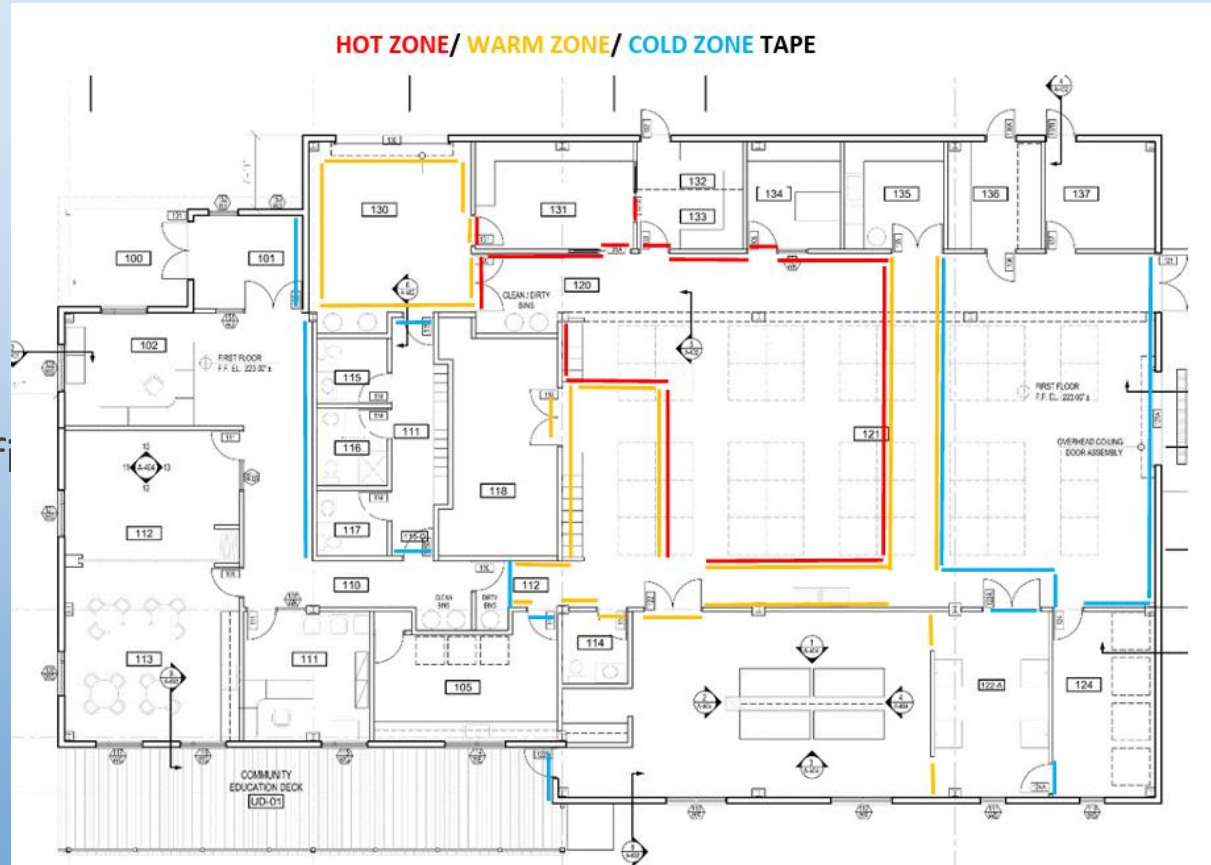
- Mark off with red tape
- Full PPE required

Warm Zone:

- Transition zone
- Modified PPE, Donning/Doffing Area
- Marked with yellow tape

Cold Zone:

- Marked with blue tape
- No PPE



BOATING SAFETY TIPS



Are you planning on heading out on the open water this summer?
HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND:

Before You Go:

- Take a boating safety course
- Take swimming lessons
- Have your boat checked for seaworthiness for free by the U.S. Coast Guard
- Check the weather before you go
- Talk to your independent insurance agent to make sure your boat and activities are covered

What To Bring:

- Cell phone in a water-resistant bag and a two-way radio
- Compass
- Anchor
- Tool kit
- First-aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Food and water

When You Go:

- Dress for the water temperature
- Wear a properly fitted life jacket
- Boat sober; alcohol is involved in nearly 1 in 5 boating fatalities
- Tell someone back on land where you plan to go and how long you intend to be on the water
- Have someone on board who knows how to operate the boat and where first aid supplies are



pianational.org

Personal Health & Safety During a Spill (Field & Facility)

→ Water & Boating

KNOW BEFORE YOU BOAT

CHECK THE FORECAST & CANCEL IF NEEDED

PACK BOATING & WEATHER ESSENTIALS

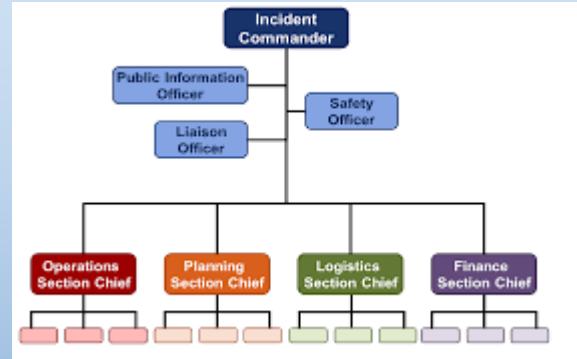
HAVE WAYS TO RECEIVE WEATHER ALERTS

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Las Vegas, NV

IRP STATE
Oiled Wildlife Response

Personal Health & Safety During a Spill (Field & Facility)

- Training
 - ◆ HAZWOPER, ICS, TSBRR
- PPE & Appropriate Clothing
- Situational/Hazard Awareness
- Rest, Hydration, Nutrition, Hygiene



Field Packs

*Not an exhaustive list

- Extra PPE
- Evidence collection materials
- Forms
- Field ID
- Emergency Tools
- Review/Restock Daily



Boat List

Field Pack Inventory (Verify before you leave the trailer **EVERY TIME**; Restock at the end of every day)

- Aluminum clipboard (Contents – 10x chain of custody; 10x wildlife observation; 1x TSBRR contact list)
- Aluminum foil
- Binoculars
- Duct tape
- Emergency blanket
- SCAT ruler
- First aid kit
- Gardening/leather gloves
- Signaling mirror
- Multi-purpose tool
- Neon flagging tape
- Nitrile gloves (appropriate sizes for both field team members)
- Rain poncho
- Safety glasses
- Sheets (3)
- Pens (2)
- Permanent marker (2)
- Pillow cases (3)
- Trash bags (3 larger/3 smaller)
- Tychem coveralls (2; appropriate sizes for both field team members)
- Whistle
- Ziploc bags (5; 1 gallon)

PPE



- Head Covering
 - ◆ Hard hat?
 - ◆ Hood
- Eye Protection
- Gloves
 - ◆ Activity-specific
- Sleeves/Pant Legs
- Footwear
 - ◆ Waterproof steel toe boots
 - ◆ Booties
- Gowns/Aprons

PPE



→ Tyvek® vs Tychem®

- ◆ Breathability
- ◆ Chemically resistant material

→ PFD

→ High-visibility vest on site?

→ Climate & Task Appropriate Clothing

→ PPE Difficulties

Donning & Doffing

→ Donning

- ◆ Bottom-up
- ◆ Remove jewelry
- ◆ Gown
- ◆ Mask before hood
- ◆ Goggles
- ◆ Double Glove
 - Tape w/tabs
- ◆ Right Fit
 - Too small constricts, too large snags/trips
- ◆ Ventilation cutout
- ◆ Buddy-system checks

Don PPE (Bottom Up)

1. Gown



2. Mask



3. Goggles



4. Gloves



Donning & Doffing

→ Doffing

- ◆ Top-down
- ◆ Dirty to Clean
- ◆ Contaminated side-in

Doff PPE (Alphabetical Order)

1. Gloves



2. Goggles



3. Gown



4. Mask

