

## **CAYMAN WILDLIFE RESCUE**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE:** Mar 8, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



### **Successful Release of a Juvenile Brown Pelican**

Cayman Wildlife Rescue volunteers successfully released a juvenile Brown Pelican that was rescued in Pease Bay.

### **Winter Migrant Exhausted**

The pelican was found by a concerned member of the public in February during rough weather. When the bird did not fly away upon being approached, it was apparent it was suffering from the inclement weather and needed emergency care.

Upon arriving at the scene volunteers captured the pelican and took it to the vet. The bird was found to be slightly underweight and dehydrated. After assessment by the staff at Island Veterinary Services, the Pelican was taken to the Cayman Wildlife Rescue facility, where a dedicated band of volunteers ensured that he was fed sprats twice a day. He was also sprayed with fresh water everyday to keep his feathers waterproofed. This is the second pelican received this winter season into the program. The first Pelican rescued in December, was exhausted from its migration and ended up striking a power line. Alison Corbett Project Manager of Cayman Wildlife commented "It's quite common that migratory birds will be suffering from exhaustion, in this state they are prone to injury and in the past have collided with power lines or have been struck by cars. Fortunately, Pelicans do very well in care and have a very high success rate. We were very pleased to see these pelicans recover quickly and successfully released."

### **Flying Free**

On Saturday March 6, after a short week in care, the Pelican was taken back to the area in which he was found and where several other young Pelicans were frequenting. He immediately took to the water and began bathing and preening. Shortly after the release the Pelican was joined by four others; the five Pelicans then proceeded to fly together, catching small fish together in the shallows. "Wildlife rescue is a lot of hard work and it was very nice for the team to be able to observe the group of Pelicans in their natural habitat. It's releases like this that make all our hard well work worth it." Corbett added.

### **About the Brown Pelican**

Most residents of Grand Cayman are familiar with winter visits of the Brown Pelican. According to Patricia Bradley's "Birds of the Cayman Islands" (Caerulea Press, 1995) the brown pelicans that visit Cayman are casual short-stay visitors, although some birds, usually immatures, occasionally overwinter. They can be found in small groups close inshore in marine sounds.

### **About Cayman Wildlife Rescue**

Cayman Wildlife Rescue is a programme of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. This project is staffed entirely by volunteers with other full time jobs, and is financed 100% by donations from the public. If you would like to help by donating funds or volunteering time, please contact Alison Corbett at [caymanwildliferescue@gmail.com](mailto:caymanwildliferescue@gmail.com) or visit [www.caymanwildliferescue.org](http://www.caymanwildliferescue.org) for more information.

If you come across a wild animal that needs rescue, call the LIME sponsored emergency hotline, 917-BIRD (2473). For your own safety and that of the animal, members of the public are requested to not attempt to rescue or care for the animal themselves – rather call the hotline and trained volunteers will attend to the animal.

### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

For more information please contact:

Alison Corbett – 926-6474 (Cayman Wildlife Rescue Project Manager)