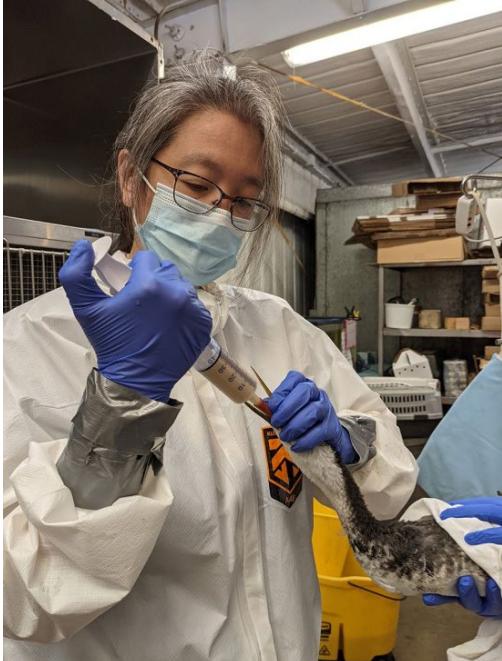


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## Local woman helps rescue wildlife after oil spill

By Sora O'Doherty



Moraga resident Jean Yim, seen here gavaging a Western Grebe with specially prepared fluids and nutritional support after the pipeline oil spill off Huntington Beach in early October. Photo provided

OWCN workers were inundated with food for the staff, who could select from a room full of donated items if they felt hungry.

Yim started as a volunteer with the Lindsay Wildlife Experience in 1999 and became part of the staff a couple of years ago. She is currently the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator for the nonprofit. She started with OWCN during the Cosco Boussan spill in the San Francisco Bay. Although that spill happened at approximately the same time of year, in early November 2007, it had a more devastating result for wildlife. More than 6,800 dead birds were documented from that incident.

OWCN is a statewide collective of trained wildlife care providers, regulatory agencies, academic institutions and wildlife organizations working to rescue and rehabilitate oiled wildlife in California. Their mandate has been expanded to include not only marine incidents, but also inland incidents. For each incident there is a legal process to identify who the responsible party is. That party then has to pay for the cleanup. To date, the OWCN has responded to more than 75 spills throughout California and cared for more than 10,000 oiled birds, mammals and reptiles/amphibians. They have also provided essential support nationally and internationally for large-scale emergencies, including the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the M/V Rena spill in New Zealand, and the Prestige spill in Spain.

From her experience working for OWCN, Yim says, "One of the things I'm really impressed with is how well OWCN responds to oil spills." Yim explained that their process is to always improve upon the lessons they learn, and remarked upon how agile OWCN is at making improvements so they can better help wildlife in the future.

You can learn more about OWCN at <https://owcn.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/about>

Editor's note: in the interest of transparency, it should be noted that Yim is this reporter's daughter-in-law.

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