



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOUNG SHOREBIRD TO BE RELEASED AT INDIAN POINT

WHO: The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP)
Rachel Wilkin, St. Francis Rehabilitation Center

WHEN: Thursday, June 13, 2002
2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Indian Point Pier on Corpus Christi Beach
Located on Highway 181 between Corpus Christi Beach and Portland

WHAT: The young bird that was featured on the front page of the Corpus Christi Caller Times on May 23, 2002 will be released back into nature's hands on **Thursday, June 13th at 2:30 p.m.** at **Indian Point Pier** along Highway 181. The month-old American Oystercatcher has been in rehabilitation for the last 21 days under the care of local bird rehabber, Rachel Wilkin of St. Francis Rehabilitation Center. Gene Blacklock, CBBEP Bird Specialist, confirmed that the juvenile exerted mature enough behavior to be released back into the wild. Time is of the essence; it is critical for the young shorebird not to "imprint" on humans.

Mr. Blacklock selected the location at Indian Point for the bird because it will be safe from humans, have an abundant food supply, and be exposed to a pair of American Oystercatchers nesting in the area. Moreover, having relatives in the same location is important for the young shorebird to associate with and to learn from in the wild.

The American Oystercatcher has unique adaptations that allows it to "scissor-open" an oyster. It waits until the oyster narrowly opens its shell to begin filter feeding. The oystercatcher swiftly and quickly sticks its bill into the shell and has the ability to clip the muscle like a scissor. Hence, its name - the American Oystercatcher.

VISUAL: Young American Oystercatcher being reintroduced into the wild.

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