

Media contact:
Julie Kuenstle
713.870.0304

Winter Freeze 2026

Emaciated Juvenile Pelicans Rescued Ahead of Impending Winter Freeze

Two Young Pelicans Now in the Care of Houston SPCA's Wildlife Center

Media Assets

HOUSTON (January 24, 2026) The Houston SPCA Wildlife Center is now caring for two emaciated juvenile brown pelicans from Seabrook, Texas ahead of Sunday morning's hard freeze after wildlife staff said they were found cold, dehydrated, and starving.

“Young pelicans are extremely vulnerable in winter because they haven't mastered the skill of plunge-diving for fish,” said Brooke Yahney, Houston SPCA Wildlife Center Director. “And as fish travel into deeper waters during the winter, it becomes a challenge for juvenile pelicans. Many become emaciated and unable to survive on their own.” The pelicans are now in the Center's care where they are receiving much-needed fluids, including electrolytes, until they are strong enough to consume smelt.

Residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for native wildlife that may be ill, injured or orphaned during and after the freezing temperatures. If they find wildlife in need, they should bring them to the Wildlife Center as soon as possible. More information on how to handle injured wildlife can be found at HoustonSPCA.org.

The Houston SPCA Wildlife Center is one of the most comprehensive trauma and wildlife rehabilitation centers in the country. They care for more than 17,000 ill, orphaned, and injured wild animals each year and are open to the public for intake from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.

Follow @HoustonSPCA for the latest updates on all things wild. To support wildlife in need, visit [here](https://HoustonSPCA.org).

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