

Oil Spill

Posted By [DC Aries](#) On October 8, 2013 @ 5:49 am In [Environment - Other](#) | [Comments Disabled](#)

The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill has been the worst offshore spill ever to take place in the United States. The disaster has killed people, endangered the land, ecosystem, and marine life. Birds that live near the ocean have also been suffering from the aftermath of the spill. Over 500 birds have died since the explosion. The clean-up effort is continuous, but there is still months of work left ahead. The accident has cost millions of dollars, but the loss of wildlife is one of the most devastating effects of the oil spill.

The oil spill began off the coast of Louisiana in late April when the oil company, [British Petroleum](#), or BP, was in the process of closing off an oil well. The pressure of the well became too high and gas shot up onto the platform, catching on fire and killing 11 people. The fire could not be stopped and the oil rig, known as Deepwater Horizon, sank into the ocean. The Coast Guard initially thought that the spill was under control, but soon learned it was leaking. It has been estimated that hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil are leaking out daily. The oil could spread very quickly through the ocean and wash up onto the surrounding land as well.

This destruction from the explosion has been devastating for many types of animals. Birds are one of the most deeply affected groups in the catastrophe. Gulls, pelicans and egrets have been endangered by the large amounts of oil in the ocean. The oil also washes up onto the beaches, so it not only endangers the birds, it destroys their habitat.

[Specialists](#) have said the conditions in this situation are especially difficult because of how thick the oil is. After floating in the ocean, the oil forms into thick tarballs and sticks into the mouths and eyes of the birds. It can also separate their feathers, which leads to hypothermia or hyperthermia. All these factors make it very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to treat the birds. If the birds try to clean themselves, the oil can get into their systems, poisoning them. Not all the birds can be saved, but because of these rehabilitation centers, many of the birds have survived the oil spill.

BP is currently attempting to clean up the destruction caused by the oil spill and stop the oil from doing further damage. Centers are also continuing to give the birds the care and medical attention they need. It is a time consuming effort, but conditions are improving. With hard work and collaboration, the clean-up effort is heading toward success.

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