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Rare Wildlife Turning Up Injured In Broward

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Reporting

(CBS4) FORT LAUDERDALE There's an unusual phenomenon going on in South Florida. Dozens of birds, which are usually never seen in the area have turned up injured in Broward County.

Northern Gannets are not usually seen in South Florida. They don't normally come into shore except for when they're sick.

This year, several dozen Northern Gannets have already been spotted.

At the Wildlife Care Center in Fort Lauderdale this week, six northern gannets were brought to the facility underweight and in trouble.

16 other northern gannets were already being treated at the center. What has officials scratching their heads is these birds should be in Canada right now, or flying over the ocean or floating in the water, but definitely not sick in Fort Lauderdale.

Unfortunately, veterinarians do not know what is making them sick.

"They don't do well on land to begin with," said Greg Adler from the Wildlife Care Center. "They're a heavy bird. Where their feet are situated, they're more for swimming as opposed to walking."

That's why as soon as the birds are well enough to move, veterinarians place them into a pool, so they can get exercise, get stronger and can work on making their feathers water proof again.

The goal of officials at the Wildlife Care Center is to get the birds healthy enough so they can be released back over the ocean and complete their long trip back to Canada. On Wednesday, officials plan on releasing several northern gannets back into the wild.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Wildlife Care Center.

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