

**From:** [Perez, Chris](#)  
**To:** [Bilodeau, Stephanie A](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: San Antonio Express News/Injured Bird Mention  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 8:18:06 AM

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Fyi...

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**From:** Buzek, Aubry L <aubry\_buzek@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 8:32 AM  
**To:** Perez, Chris <chris\_perez@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** San Antonio Express News/Injured Bird Mention

Good morning Chris! Just FYI: passing along this mention of the injured bird from the San Antonio Express News. The Gladys Porter Zoo vet says in the article she doesn't think the Starship launch injured the bird: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/article/lingle-full-impact-of-spacex-launch-comes-into-17924161.php>

While the biologists did not find injured wildlife, Ken Purvis, a lifelong space fan in town for the launch, rescued a Royal Tern struggling in the tide at Boca Chica Beach.

The [white-gray seabird](#) with a black crest, tangerine bill and split tail is regal in both name and stature—Thalasseus maximus, which roughly translates to greatest fisherman of the sea. Purvis, an emergency room doctor visiting from Arkansas, couldn't ignore the injured bird that sat with an outstretched wing.

The 70-year-old carried the Tern to his Jeep and drove to the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville. The staff stayed open late to care for the creature. The bird's wing was broken in three places with one open fracture. Chances for recovery were slim, and the veterinarian euthanized the animal.

The zoo's associate veterinarian, Dr. Deborah Carboni, described the bird's injuries as "pretty typical" with what she sees daily.

“There was not significant trauma to internal organs,” or evidence of shrapnel wounds. The breaks, she said, were “very fresh—that was not a bird that was sitting on the beach for two days.”

She didn’t think the Starship launch hurt the bird. However, for Purvis it doesn’t matter. The bird’s struggle combined with seeing the concrete and steel strewn across Boca Chica Beach tempered his optimism about SpaceX and the world’s largest rocket.

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