

Information for “Found” Birds

(Provided by the Wildlife Care Alliance)

FOUND A BABY BIRD:

- If the young bird is hopping and running away from you, leave it alone. His parents will find him. Watch from a hidden location, distant from the bird. The parents will not go to the bird if they see/sense you! It can take up to one or two hours before the parents return. Contact a local Wild Bird Rehabilitator for more information only if you do not see the parents return.
- If he is in immediate danger of outdoor pets, scoop him up and put in a nearby bush or shrub out of harm's way.
- If you find a baby with little or no feathers and you know where the nest is, then return the bird to its' nest.
- If the baby/fledgling is very cold to the touch, take it inside to warm before placing back in the nest. Nestle the bird in a *warm* towel or use a hot water bottle *with a towel between the bird and the bottle*. **Be careful not to overheat the bird.** Place the bird in a warm dark, quiet place away from children and pets. Contact a local Wild Bird Rehabber for more information.
- **Do not attempt to feed baby birds or fledglings!** Do not give the bird water. If you cannot find the nest or the bird appears to be sick, injured or your pet brought the bird home still alive, contact a local Wild Bird Rehabilitator.

ALL CAT CAUGHT BIRDS:

- **Cat caught birds need rehab care immediately** even if you do not detect anything “wrong” with the bird. Cat saliva is deadly to birds. Puncture wounds in birds heal almost instantly! Puncture wounds are not easily found. Birds do not bleed like humans or other animals do. **Do not return cat caught birds to the wild.** Call a Wild Bird Rehabilitator immediately as they need to have treatment ASAP!

BIRD NEST DESTROYED:

- If the nest has been destroyed, you can construct a makeshift nest using a small basket or Cool Whip/plastic container punch small holes in the bottom for drainage.
- Make sure there are holes in the bottom of container for drainage.
- Line the container with material from old nest or dry grass or leaves.
- Wire your “nest” to a branch or place it securely in a branch fork close to or in the same spot as the old nest. If you are not sure where the bird was nesting, contact a local rehabilitator.
- Place birds into new nest.
- **Do not attempt to feed baby birds or fledglings.**

FOUND BIRD TANGLED:

- If the bird is caught in something simple; such as twine or string have someone assist you in:
- Holding the bird in a clean towel;
- Using baby scissors, gently cut knots out of the string/twine.
- If there is no signs of other injuries; return bird back to bush or shrub;
- Any signs of injury, then contact a local rehabilitator.

FOUND BIRD WITH WING INJURY:

- If bird allows you to catch it and does not attempt to fly away:
- Place bird in brown paper bag and then contact a local rehabilitator.

BIRD LYING ON ITS SIDE:

- If the bird is alive but not standing:
- Place bird in brown paper bag or towel lined small box and contact a local wild bird rehabilitator.

FOUND A BIRD'S EGG:

- If wind knocked egg out of nest;
- And you can locate nest, gently place egg back into nest.
- If nest cannot be found, place egg under a small shrub or bush.

BIRD CAUGHT IN MOUSE TRAP:

- If bird is caught in a traditional mousetrap, and is still alive, contact a local Wild Bird Rehabilitator.

BIRD COATED IN OIL OR GLUE OR ANYTHING STICKY:

- Immediately contact your local rehabilitator.
- If the bird is caught in a sticky mouse trap or fly paper, or if the bird is fully coated in oil or rubber material and if material is very sticky, like honey, cover the bird's head to prevent inhalation of powder. Then dust small amounts of flour or corn starch on sticky spots to prevent bird from re-sticking to itself or to anything else during transportation to a Wild Bird Rehabilitator.
- Uncover bird's head. Place bird in small box and transport to a local Wild Bird Rehabilitator.

BIRD CAUGHT IN HOUSE:

- If bird is caught in house, lock all pets away. Darken room by closing blinds, shades, close all other doors/windows but leave only one exit (large bright sunny) opening for the bird to fly out. Door or window will do.

ALL OTHER GENERAL BIRD NEEDS:

- If a bird is fluffed and lethargic, or if a bird flies a short distance and then falls to the ground, or if a feathered bird allows you to pick it up, place the bird in a small box with a towel “nest”. Keep the bird in a quiet place.
- Call, and take the bird to your local Wild Bird Rehabilitator.

Call one of the following organizations

Wildlife Center of Virginia (540) 942-9453

Wildlife Care Alliance (540) 587-4007

Maureen Eiger - our bird club's State and Federal permitted bird rehabilitator (540) 342-4890.