



WILDCARE

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Non-profit organization of wildlife volunteers in north central Texas providing care to ill, injured, or orphaned wildlife.

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www.wildcaretx.org



Contrary to popular belief, parent birds will return to their babies even if they have been touched by humans. The parents will respond to the distress or feeding cries of their baby. Follow the steps below to give parent birds every chance to do the job nature designed them to do.



www.dfwwildlife.org

WILDCARE rehabbers rely on referrals through the DFW Wildlife Coalition Hotline. The hotline is manned by trained volunteers 7 days a week from 7AM till 10PM.

DFW WILDLIFE HOTLINE
972-234-WILD

BIRDS NEEDING HELP	WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW AND THINGS YOU SHOULD DO
You have found a baby bird, now what do you do?	Before removing it from its environment, determine whether it really needs help. The bird has its best chance at survival if you can successfully reunite it with its parents. Some birds, like killdeer and quail, are walking within hours of hatching and wander from their parents. Finding a baby bird out on its own does <i>not</i> mean it needs your intervention
Is the bird injured or sick?	Was it caught by a cat or dog? Is it bleeding or have puncture wounds? Is it obviously weak, not able to use its wings or legs, has a drooping wing or an obvious break? If so, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline immediately to get the bird into the care of a trained, permitted rehabber.
Does the bird have feathers and a firm beak like an adult bird?	The bird is a fledgling. Some baby birds leave the nest several days before they are able to fly. Their parents stay close by and continue feeding the baby while it learns to fly. This is a critical phase in the development of a baby bird and it should stay with its parents if at all possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are no predators (cats, dogs or others) in the immediate area, leave it alone. Watch from a distance to see if its parents are around. This may take a long time before you see the parents. • If the bird is in danger of predation, put it on a low tree limb or bush near the area where it was found and watch from a distance. • If the parents are not seen within an hour, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline.
Does the bird have very few feathers, tiny undeveloped feathers, no feathers at all, or a soft beak?	The bird is a nestling. The bird will not survive without its parents care or the care of a permitted rehabber specially trained in fostering baby birds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the nest can be found, put the baby back in the nest. • If the nest is too high or destroyed, make a new nest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use a small basket or margarine tub with holes poked in the bottom. ○ Line with dry leaves or grass. ○ Hang from a tree near the original nest location • Put the baby in the new nest and watch from a distance for the parents. The parents should answer the hunger-cries of the baby. • If the parents are not seen within an hour, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline.
Have you found a baby killdeer, duck, goose, or quail?	These varieties of birds hatch with the ability to walk and feed themselves, and often wander away from their parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have found a dead or injured parent, call the DFW Wildlife Hotline. • If you can find the mother, put the baby close enough for her to hear it. Watch from a distance to ensure they are reunited. • If the mother has not returned within 1 hour, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline.
Have you found a baby bird of prey?	Birds of prey (hawks, vultures, owls, falcons, etc.), even as babies, will lash out with sharp talons and beaks and could injure the person attempting to help them. If possible, follow all the guidelines above, but protect yourself with heavy gloves and eye protection. If you are unsure about helping a bird of prey, leave it alone and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline.
Have you found a baby wading bird?	Although you should take specific precautions when handling all wild birds, take special note to your protection when handling a wading bird (egrets, herons, bitterns, etc.). Their first line of defense is escape. When wading birds find that they cannot escape, they will attack your face or eyes with their sharp, precise beak. The accuracy of their aim is alarming and you could be seriously and permanently injured. If you are unsure about helping a wading bird, leave it alone and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline for help.

INTERVENTION

1. Prepare a container – Pet carriers, cardboard boxes, or plastic containers with air holes work well. Line the container with soft cloth, paper towels, or tissue. Do not use terry cloth towels or wash cloths – toenails can get caught in the loops. Old t-shirts or woven sheets work well.
2. Wearing gloves, place a sheet over the bird. Gently scoop up the bird with the sheet and put it in the prepared container.
3. Keep the bird warm – Place a portion of the container on a heating pad set on "low" or put the container in a non-airconditioned area.
4. Put the container in a dark, quiet place away from pets or children. Do not give the bird anything to eat or drink unless instructed to do so by a trained rehabber or wildlife veterinarian.
5. Wash your hands well and transport the bird to a rehabber arranged through the DFW Wildlife Hotline.

Rehabbers are trained volunteers who receive no state or federal financial support to provide their services to the public. Please consider giving the rehabber a monetary donation to help offset the costs of medical care, food and supplies.