



Canadian Avian Society

Calgary, Alberta

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Wild Bird Rescue Guide

1. When to Help

Wild birds often do not need intervention. Help only when a bird is clearly injured, sick, or in immediate danger.

2. Baby Birds: Nestlings vs. Fledglings

- **Nestlings** (no feathers or very few): Should be returned to the nest if possible.
- **Fledglings** (feathers, hopping on ground): Usually normal. Parents are nearby feeding them.

If the bird is uninjured and safe from predators, allow the parents to continue caring for it.

3. How to Help an Injured Wild Bird

- Wear gloves if possible.
- Gently scoop the bird into a small ventilated box lined with a soft towel.
- Keep the bird warm, dark, and quiet.
- Do not feed or give water.
- Reduce handling to avoid stress.

4. Safe Transport

- Keep the box covered with a cloth to reduce stress.
- Avoid loud noises, pets, and extreme temperatures.
- Transport directly to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation centre.

5. Legal Considerations

Many wild birds are protected under the Migratory Birds Regulations. They must be handled only for rescue and must be transferred to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

6. When Not to Intervene

- Healthy fledglings learning to fly
- Birds resting after window strikes but showing quick recovery
- Birds in safe areas without signs of illness or injury

7. Contacting a Wildlife Rehabilitator

Contact your nearest wildlife rehabilitation centre for instructions and drop-off details.

8. CAS Support

CAS can offer guidance and help direct you to proper wildlife services. Contact us for questions.

Contact

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