



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A WILD BIRD

### **Passerines (song birds)**

If you find an injured songbird please place it in a box or a bag and give it something like toweling to cling to and put it in a warm, dark, quiet place. Don't try to feed or water as this can aggravate their condition. Putting them in a warm place is the first treatment for shock.

*Give us a call at 360-379-0802 for further instructions.* Please don't worry we will get back to you as soon as we can, but a little quiet time can be good for the bird.

### **Baby Birds**

Nestlings (Born naked, eyes closed, could have pinfeathers)

1. If uninjured can you put it back in the nest? It is *not true* that the parents will reject the baby bird. In fact sometimes it doesn't matter if the nest is even the same one. Birds can't count and they won't know if you added another nestling into their nest. Just don't add more than they can handle. 4 nestlings at the most.
2. Can't find the nest? This is probably because birds hide their nests for protection. You can build a nest as follows: Find a margarine tub, or similar shape and puncture the bottom with drain holes. Make a ring with paper towels and stuff the ring with tissue, Place the tub in a larger box and nail the box to a tree as close as possible to where you found the bird. Make sure the location has protection and shade. Also add natural vegetation to help camouflage the nest. Watch for a parent to find the nestling and continue to care for it. Sometimes it is hard to tell if the parents are going in to the baby but you can check the baby bird to see if it is looking healthy. Are its eyes bright, is there fresh fecal material in the nest? This can be a fun project to do with your kids!
3. Remember not to split a nest. If you find just one bird and know the parents are taking care of other nestlings but you can't put just one bird back you can not build a nest because they can't care for two nests. Place the baby bird in a small box with a small hand towel or washcloth and call us.

There are always exceptions. *If you have concerns call us at 360-379-0802*

### **Fledgling Bird (fully feathered but not quite able to fly)**

1. If uninjured: Many young birds fall to the ground on their maiden flight. This is a critical time in their lives when they are subject to many dangers. But, it is natural for them to face risks and develop skills like hiding. Their parents are feeding them, warning them of danger, and demonstrating how to behave in their quest for independence. If uninjured put the bird back but hide it in surrounding vegetation. Try to keep dogs, cats and children away from the area for a few days. The bird should be able to take off very soon and follow its parents.

*There are always exceptions so call us with any questions at 360-379-0802*

## **Hummingbirds**

Hummingbirds are almost always an exception because they need to be cared for right away! If you have found a baby hummingbird please call right away at 360-379-0802 for instruction.

## **Raptors (eagles, owls, hawks, etc)**

When you find an injured or orphaned raptor (bird of prey) you may want to get help before approaching the bird yourself. If you feel confident that you can throw something over the bird and wait for us to arrive, that can be helpful, but don't put yourself at risk.

Report the bird to us as soon as possible and if you can remain on scene and keep an eye on the bird that is extremely helpful!

*Call us at 360-379-0802*

## **Seabirds**

Seabirds stranded on the beach should always be checked out as it is not normal for them to be out of the water. They will need to be washed and water-proofed before being placed back in the water. Please pick them up and place them in a container like a box and keep them quiet and warm.

*Call us as soon as you can at 360-379-0802.*