

Wildlife Laws

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects native and migratory birds, their eggs, and occupied nests. Although these laws are complex, birds and their eggs must not be disturbed unless the birds are orphaned or injured. They only birds that are not protect under Federal law, because they are introduced species, are

1. Pigeons (rock doves)
2. European startlings
3. English (house) sparrows. However there are many different species of sparrows that look similr and it is not safe to make a species determination without an expert.

Even though these birds are not protected, we follow humane guidelines and attempt to rescue and protect these species.

Under this law, a member of the public is not allowed to keep a native bird to raise, treat, release, or as a pet. These birds must be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator or facility with the appropriate federal licenses.

If there is evidence of poisoning of any birds, it should be reported to US Fish and Wildlife Service. Although USFWS, will not prosecute for poisonings of pigeons, starlings, and house sparrows they will want to know in case protected species are also impacted.

Why should baby birds not be kept and raised by individuals?

1. Baby birds need to be raised with others of their species and age in order to properly develop socially and learn survival techniques. Many times a surrogate mother can be provided to help them learn those survival techniques.
2. Each species has different nutritional needs and babies must be fed frequently, some as often as every hour.
3. Most wild animals do not do well in capitivity. According to animal shelter sources, 60% of all wild animals who are kept as pets die within the first month of ownership; of the remainder 20% die within the first year, and only 10% are still alive at the end of the second year.
4. An animal that is not properly rehabilitated or transitioned to the wild is doomed if it is turned loose to fend for itself.
5. Many wild animals have the potential to carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans. For example, wild birds can carry salmonella.

Why should you not feed a baby bird?

Giving a dehydrated, emaciated, or injured animal food or water can actually kill it!

Does this bird need to be rescued?

If you see/know the following the animal needs to be rescued:

Flies, worms, mites, or maggot infestation (If you see flies, look for maggots which are pale yellow and laid in clumps in the feathers. They look like rice or grains.)	Get bird to a rehabilitator immediately
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Caught by cat (Cats can cause puncture wounds and must be treated within 24 hours with antibiotics. Death rate of cat-caught birds is still over 90%)	
Visible unhealed injuries	
Parents are known dead	
Renesting/reunited was unsuccessful (see below)	
Severe trauma (i.e. hit by car)	
Very cold	
Very thin or weak	

These birds may not need rescue

Caught by dog	Needs rescued unless carried gently in mouth only
Bird struck window	Keep for two hours in a warm dark quiet places unless visible injury. If does not become alert, then to rehabilitator.
Begging or following behavior towards humans or domestic animals	Unless this is nest protection, the bird may have been imprinted and needs to be taken to a rehabilitator.

Please do not attempt to handle large birds (geese, raptors, herons). Contact a local animal control agency in these cases as you can be injured.

All babies should be handled with at least thin latex gloves or garden gloves. Adult birds should be handled with heavier gloves. There is a possibility of parasites or disease being transmitted. Hands should be washed after handling birds.

All birds, except young babies, will perceive a human rescuer as a predator and will suffer stress during the rescue process. Small birds may be handled by throwing a light towel (hand or dishtowel) over them. Once the animal is in the dark, it will become much calmer.

To capture larger birds, use a heavy towel such as a beach towel folded double or triple or a padded jacket. In many circumstances, dampening the towel first adds weight and makes it even more secure when placed over the bird.

If a baby is without feathers, or it is cold, provide it with immediate warmth by wrapping it loosely in soft material (without strings) and place it beside your throat near the collarbone until it is warmer. Then it can be placed in a warm environment until it can be taken to a rescuer.

How should I contain a bird for transport?

1. Place the bird in a box or plastic pet carrier sized so the bird is comfortable but doesn't have room to turn around or hurt itself. Line the box with a towel or paper towels to keep the bird from sliding. The box must be covered (punch air holes if necessary) and the lid taped on.
2. Smaller birds can be carried in paper bags or small boxes. Birds should never be placed in a metal birdcage, especially if they have a broken wing, because of the possibility of wing or feather damage. For nestlings, or an injured bird that cannot stand upright, a small margarine tube or

strawberry container can be placed inside the box to hold the bird. Line the container with tissue or toilet paper to make a nest. A donut made with a small towel or toilet paper can also prop a bird up.

3. Do not put water inside the box, as the animal may fall into it and drown.
4. Keep the bird warm, covered, and in dark quiet surroundings. For a baby without feathers, place a small jar or ziplock bag filled with warm water or a sock filled with rice and warmed in a microwave and water in several layers of material inside the box, beside the baby. If a heating pad is used, it should be placed so that it is only under half the animal. In either case, the baby must be able to move away from the heat.
5. Handle the baby as little as possible. Perform all movements slowly. Try to cover the bird before attempting to pick it up. Scoop up the animal; do not dangle the lower body.
6. Keep children and pets away.
7. Do not give food or drink unless directed to do so by a professional. Animals may be in shock and food or water given when in shock can kill them. Food given to a dehydrated animal is also dangerous. Also food or water given improperly can choke a bird or give it pneumonia.

The most common misconception about birds is that if babies are handled by humans the mother will abandon them. In fact, birds have a poor sense of smell and minimal handling of birds will not cause a problem. Prolonged disturbing of a nest may cause parents to abandon it.

Altricial Birds—Basics

Survival and development of a normal nestling depends on receiving the parents saliva and immunities with its food during the first 2-3 days of life. Rehabilitators cannot recreated the mother's immunities and babies who are brought in so young rarely survive. Do not attempt to hatch abandoned eggs because of this as well as the problem of duplicating optimum hatching conditions for the eggs- temperature, humidity, and rotation schedule.

Nestlings can fall out of the nest for a variety of reasons- predators, storms, or overcrowding. Adult birds cannot pick up and renest their own babies. An adult bird that picks up a baby is a predator. Try to renest babies as long as the parents are still around, but if renesting is not successful, the nestlings must go to a wildlife rehabilitator.

Fledglings are older birds who have left the nest. They have feathers, short tails (1/4 to 1/2 inch) and can walk, jump, hop, and fly a little. They can cling to a branch in a bush. Once on the ground, the parents care for them for several days while they learn to identify and pick up natural foods, recognize predators, and develop the strength and tail feathers to fly. The bird will not be easy to catch and will attempt to run away. One or more parents will be seen nearby and calling to the baby. Fledglings are particularly vulnerable to being caught by dogs and cats so keep pets inside. It is not appropriate to rescue fledglings, as they will develop more slowly with a rehabilitator then with their natural parents.

Owls will not feed their babies if found on the ground, they need to be taken to a rehabilitator.

Precocial Birds—Basics

These include ducks and geese. Because of their tendency to build nests in inappropriate places, many parents face obstacles in getting their babies to water after they are hatched. Mother and chicks have to cross streets, babies fall through storm drains, etc. During this movement babies may be separated from their parents. Canada geese will adopt/foster any Canada gosling. Mallards and other ducks will reject and kill a duckling not their own. If there is an attempt to reunite a baby with its parents, the person must keep watch to make sure the

baby is accepted. Newly hatched ducklings/goslings are not waterproof yet and should not be placed in water.

One common concern about Canada geese is a “broken wing.” This is difficult to diagnose because it may actually be “angel wing” a condition caused by poor nutrition, or it may be an old injury that healed improperly. In either case, there is little that can be done as long as the bird otherwise appears in good health. There are also many cases of Canada geese that are limping or have a broken leg. Again, as long as they can fly there is little that can be done, and most of these conditions will heal naturally.

Some waterfowl such as loons, coots, and ruddy ducks, are unable to walk on land and must be on water to take off. They may land on wet pavement thinking it is a body of water. If uninjured, they must be transported as quickly as possible to an unfrozen body of water large enough to serve as a runway.

Inappropriate nests













Many times startling, house sparrows, and other cavity dwellers are attracted to dryer and stove vents or gutters. They may also nest high in chimneys or attics. Most cases of birds trapped in vents are really birds that have built nests there and are not trapped. Occasionally, however, a bird may slip down into a vent and become trapped.

Swifts can only build nests inside tall, silo-like structures. Their primary nesting sites, old growth forests, have been virtually destroyed and they have no alternative but to nest in chimneys. They make a nest of saliva and sticks on the side of the chimney. The nest often falls down or if the damper is not closed a baby may fall into the fireplace. Swifts cling rather than perching so they are easy to renest and the parents will continue to come down the chimney to feed them. The babies make a chattering or hissing noise when disturbed or begging for food which is sometimes mistaken for rats, bats, baby raccoons, or even snakes.

The following situations must be referred to a rehabilitator

- Birds caught on mouse or insect pest strips or sticky glue traps
- Oil covered birds
- Birds covered with a sticky substance (there are nuisance bird replants that use these types of products)
- Birds poisoned by toxic chemicals
- Birds shot by guns, BB guns, or arrows
- Birds burned in attempts to smoke them out of a fireplace
- Birds caught in trash or fishing line. However, often these birds can still fly or swim in which case it is almost impossible to do anything to help until it becomes so weakened it no longer tries to escape.

Bird on the Ground

<p>Adult or baby bird with any of the following: Injured, infested with flies or maggots, cat or dog caught, very cold or weak, convulsions, long fall onto hard surface? Head tilt, bleeding, wing droop, twist or curvature, etc.</p>	<p>YES </p>	<p>Refer to rehabilitator (Note: for a bird, particularly a bird of prey that “looks funny” or is hunched over, it may be guarding food by the side of the road or resting during migration. Raptors are attracted to rats and mice that are attracted to garbage next to highways and median strips. If it is out of reach or flies away when approached, it is fine.)</p>
<p>NO </p>		
<p>Adult stunned by head strike against window or building, but no signs of injury</p>	<p>YES </p>	<p>Put in a warm, dark, quiet place. Leave 2-3 hours. Try to release. If cannot fly away after 2-3 hours, refer to rehabilitator.</p>
<p>NO </p>		
<p>Baby bird: mother/parents known dead or disappeared, or gosling/duckling separated from parents and whose location unknown.</p>	<p>YES </p>	<p>Refer to rehabilitator. Note: baby birds and ducklings chill very easily. They must be kept warm until taken to a rehabilitator.</p>
<p>NO </p>		
<p>Fledgling? Juvenile birds who have left the nest but cannot fly. Feathered but with short tails, can walk, hop, and fly a little</p>	<p>YES </p>	<p>See fledgling information box</p>
<p>NO </p>		
<p>Nestling (altricial—born featherless and unable to stand) Whole nest down?</p>	<p>YES </p>	<p>See information on repairing or replacing nest</p>
<p>NO </p>		
<p>Nest within reach?</p>	<p>YES </p>	<p>See information on renesting procedures</p>
<p>NO </p> <p>To rehabilitator</p>		

Renesting a Baby Bird

Renesting a baby bird when the nest is intact

Unless the parents are known dead, an attempt should be made to renest baby birds that have fallen out of the nest and are not injured or infested. They should be warmed carefully in the hands and then returned to the nest. The rescuer should watch the nest from a distance, returning every hour to warm the babies until the parents return. If the parents have not returned in two hours or by dusk, retrieve the babies, put them in a box in a warm, dark, quiet place and call a rehabilitator.

If it is a cold or rainy day, or late in the afternoon, call a rehabilitator if the parents do not return.

Never leave a nestling in a nest alone unless you know the mother can brood it. Do not put a nestling in a separate container from the main nest, because the mother cannot keep both nests warm. If the baby cannot be returned to the main nest, refer to a rehabilitator.

Repairing or replacing a nest when the whole nest is down

To repair a damaged nest, carefully retie the nest with string or wire, then replace the young. Do not leave loops, tangles, or sharp points that could injure parents or nestlings.

If the nest has been destroyed, you can replace it with a substitute.

- Suggest they use a berry basket, plastic plant pot with drainage holes, wooden or straw basket. Even a craft store bird's nest works. A margarine tub is a last resort and only if it has drainage holes punched in the bottom. Another option is a plastic jug for birds in a vent.
- Line it with nest debris, leaves, and clean straw. Do not use grass or paper which will get wet and mildew.
- If the nest can't be replaced in the original spot, select a place as close as possible. Hang, if possible, or use duct tape to attach. Be sure it has some protection from direct sun, wind, rain, and is out of the reach of children and cats.
- After the nest is replaced, it should be carefully monitored for two hours for the return of the parents. If the parents do not return to feed and brood the nestlings, the nestlings will need to be taken to a rehabilitator.

Fledglings

If the bird has feathers, a short tail ($\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ "), and can walk, hop, and fly or flutter a little, it is probably a fledgling. It should be able to cling to a branch in a bush, and should be spirited enough to try to get away from a human. *If the bird is lethargic, not standing erect, or approaches for help, it should be rescued immediately.* Crow fledglings are particularly obvious and are often mistaken for adults. The crow family will gather around for encouragement. This can be quite noisy.

If the bird seems to be normal,

- put it in a bush (not a tree) near where it was found, away from street.
- keep dogs, cats, and children away.
- Watch for two hours to see if the parents return.
- If the parents do not return, refer to a rehabilitator.

Common Objections to Leaving Fledgling Alone

Objection	Response
<i>Neighbor's dog or cat in the yard</i>	Ask the neighbor to put the animal in for a couple of days. Put the baby in a bush. If this is not possible, take the baby to a neighboring yard. It's OK to take the baby as much as a block away. The parents will hear its call.
<i>It's dark outside</i>	Put it back as early as possible in the morning. Observe.
<i>It's cold and rainy outside</i>	Birds need to be exposed to the elements to develop proper feathers. The mother will keep it warm.
<i>It's too hot</i>	Put it in the shade. Birds need to be exposed to the sun (Vitamin D) to develop proper feathers.
<i>There are no trees or bushes in my yard</i>	Find a nearby yard with a bush or tree. As a last resort, put it on a fence, roof, in a hanging basket, or in a protected corner of the yard.
<i>The nest fell down</i>	This is immaterial for a feathered baby. He wouldn't stay in the nest anyway. (If it is naked, see information on nestlings.)
<i>I am helpless (elderly, handicapped, child)</i>	Ask a neighbor to help. Often teenagers are eager and competent. If the caller is a child, ask to speak to an adult.
<i>Neighborhood children are bothering it</i>	Insist the children leave the baby alone. Then put the baby in a bush after the children are gone.

Nest and Egg Questions

Nest appears to be abandoned

It is rare for a nest to be abandoned. The older and more feathered the baby bird becomes, the less often the parent is sighted, and the quieter the babies are. When approached, the babies will get down and remain still and quiet. The parents zip in and out very quickly to feed. Someone must watch the nest constantly (from a distance) for a least 45 minutes to see if the parents return. *If you know that one or more parents have been killed, refer to a rehabilitator.*

Children disturbing a nest

Try to replace babies and/or nest. Warn children to stay away. If problem persists, refer to rehabilitator as the parents may abandon the nest.

Predators disturbing nest

House sparrows often will go into a nest box and eject inhabitants to take possession of the box. Sometimes putting up another nest box will solve the housing crisis.

Black snakes, raccoons, crows, blue jays and many other predators raid nests and eat nestlings and eggs. There is usually nothing that can be done and nature must take its course. If a nest box is being used there may be alternatives or design modifications – contact a bird store.

Unhatched bird eggs found

If an egg has fallen from the nest it may be returned if it has not been more than 2 hours.

If the mother has disappeared or a nest has been down for more than 2 hours, you should dispose of the eggs. Eggs can only be left at most a couple of hours without brooding.

There are 3 factors to proper egg hatching, and there is not much known about the successful combination of these factors:

1. Rotation: the mother turns the eggs several times a day
2. Humidity: a proper range must be maintained
3. Temperature.

Even if the egg should hatch, the baby bird is not likely to live. Birds not raised by their mothers during the first three days have a very high mortality rate. During the feeding process, the saliva of the mother transmits natural immunities to the babies. Without this immunity transfer from the mother, it is unlikely the baby will live more than three day.

Nest in an unsafe or undesirable place

Bird nests may not be disturbed if there are eggs or babies in them (Federal Law). The only exceptions are pigeons, European starlings, and English (house) sparrows. If the eggs are not yet laid, it is fine to tear down the nest. The bird will attempt to rebuild it but eventually should give up and build elsewhere.

Nest in parking lot, on sidewalk, rooftop, etc.

Killdeer like pavement for nesting and will build nests in parking lots, construction sites, etc. Other birds, which nest various places on the ground, include quail, ducks, and geese. These nests must be left alone and may be protected by barricades or signs.

Canada geese in particular frequently build nests on top of parking structures, on balconies, or across busy streets from water. They will build where they can see water, but may have difficulty getting the non-flying goslings to water after they hatch. Prepare for the hatching by getting a group together who will assist the family in getting to water (approximately 28 days after the mother begins to sit on the nest).

Birds in vents and gutters:

Birds in stove or dryer vents are often starlings. Starlings are cavity nesters and can easily slip under a vent flap. They are great escape artists. Whenever possible, wait it out until all the babies have left the nest, then clean out nest residue and screen over the vent. Starling will return when it is time to nest again if the vent is not screened.

If the nest has to be moved or falls out or if babies have been removed, you can make a new nest in a *clean* one-gallon container (preferably with cap on). A hole is cut in the side for the mother to get in and drainage holes poke outward on the bottom and filled with the old nest, straw or dried leaves, etc. Hang it near the original nest outside of the house (out of direct sun), where the mother will pass by. Watch to make sure the parents return. If the nest is not accepted, refer to a rehabilitator.

Sparrows will also nest in small vents and gutters.

Birds in chimney:

They are swifts, often mistaken for bats. Because they cannot perch like songbirds, swifts must have deep shafts in which to raise their families and roost at night. They make a chattering or hissing noise, which is sometimes mistaken for rats, bats or even snakes. Swifts eat flying-insect pests, and the noise will be gone within three weeks when the youngsters fly away. It is illegal to remove nesting swifts (even for chimney cleaning companies). Swifts migrate in the fall. Adults look like cigars with wings when flying.

Swifts make a nest of saliva and sticks on one side of the chimney, however these nests often fall down. The caller can make a nest from a basket and place it back up on the ledge above the flue, closing the damper. If the babies are cold, they must be warmed before replacing them in the nest. The parents will come all the way down the chimney to feed. If babies can cling to side of chimney, you can stick the baby back up, close the damper, and the babies will work their way up the side of the chimney, back to the nest. If swifts get into the house from the fireplace and can fly around, follow the instructions for birds trapped in the house, or corner the bird, pick it up and stick it back up the chimney. A chimney cap is suggested if you do not want the problem to reoccur.

Duck and Goose

A family of ducks/geese trying to cross the busy highway

This situation is dangerous for the waterfowl and motorists alike. You are advised to contact the local law enforcement (State Police for the Interstates) and have traffic stopped and the family herded across.

If it is a local or residential road, several neighbors can stop traffic to let the waterfowl across.

Ducks and geese will normally return to the nest for one or two days, so it may be necessary to do this more than once until they settle in at the water.

A nest of geese/ducks hatched and is trapped away from water

To relocate the family, several people should move quickly so as to stress the birds as little as possible. If there is water within walking distance but streets must be crossed, stop traffic and herd the family across, fanning out to keep them tightly bunched. Herd the chicks, and the parents will follow. If necessary, such as when the babies must be taken down in an elevator, or it is a farther walk, you should quickly put the babies in a cardboard box and carry it, lid open, so that the parents can hear the cheeping. The parents will stay with the chicks as long as they can hear them. *You must go slowly so that the parents will follow.* Rescuers should wear long sleeves and gloves, as the parents may start getting agitated when the babies are put in a box. If it is impossible to walk to water, and the family must be driven, a mallard mother may be placed in the box with her chicks. However, she may resist capture, so other methods are preferable. If all precautions have been taken and the parents refuse to follow, or there are other complications, refer to a rehabilitator

Feeding geese and ducks General feeding of ducks and geese is not recommended. However, it is fine to feed in special circumstances such as when a mother is brooding, when a bird is injured, or winter weather is severe. Both geese and mallards will eat dry corn, whole or cracked (whole has less waste and is less messy). This can be obtained at a bird store, pet store, or feed store. Although birds eat bread, it does not provide the nutrition that is needed, particularly during cold weather or when brooding.

Catching an injured Canada goose

In most instances, an injured Canada goose that can still fly should be left alone, particularly if the injury is an old one and the goose is getting by. You should just observe the goose for a while and if it seems to be getting along all right to leave it alone. If you are insistent on the goose going to a rehabilitator, then you will need to capture it first. However, there are too many geese with old injuries to be placed with rehabilitators. They are better off on their own.

There are circumstances when catching it is more important – these include a fresh injury (particularly one showing infection) or when it has constricting garbage (fish line, six-pack ring, etc.) wrapped around it.

There are many pitfalls surrounding catching a Canada goose, including attack by the mate and possible injury. You refer to a rehabilitator or goose rescuer to talk through the process and determine what action should be taken.

Non-migrating goose wintering over by itself

Sometimes a goose with a broken wing or angel wing that is unable to fly will stay behind in the fall when other geese migrate. Winters in this area are not usually severe and the goose should survive; many geese in this area do not migrate. The greatest problems could be the inability to find food sources and attack by predators if the water freezes over. This is a situation where supplemental handouts of nutritious food, such as corn, may be helpful. Do NOT contact a waterfowl rescuer for these cases

Ducklings fallen through grates

If the mother and some of the babies are still around, they should be detained if possible (put them in a box) so they can be reunited after the rescue. Do NOT scare the mother away from the remaining babies.

Anyone can make a makeshift tool quickly that will pull ducklings back up through grates or other areas where they have been trapped. Use two slim poles (broomsticks, golf clubs, PVC pipe, even fishing poles) and attach a hammock of netting between them with duct tape or (less desirably) masking tape. The netting may be bird netting or even fabric, as long as the holes are small enough that a duckling won't fall through. This can be gently lowered down and scooped under a duckling, then the duckling brought straight up through the opening in the grate. In a pinch, a scoop net can also be made using a pillowcase on a long handle.

Other Frequently Asked Bird Questions

Will it give me rabies?

No. Birds do not carry rabies.

How can I catch it?

It is almost impossible to catch a bird that can still fly. If it seems weak and you want try, a makeshift net can be made by using a long handle with a pillowcase attached to the end. This won't provide much control; for more control, a wire coat hanger bent into a circle could be run through the hem of the pillowcase. A sick or weak bird that is on the ground, can easily be caught by throwing a towel over it. If possible, approach the bird with the towel between you and the bird so that it does not see your face. Once in the dark, it will be easy to handle.

Why does it keep running into or attacking the window or car? How can I stop it?

There are generally two possibilities for repeated window or car strikes:

1. Territorial birds that see their reflection in a shiny surface (window, car windshield, even shiny car surface) will attack the reflection believing it to be an intruder. Generally, they do not seriously hurt themselves when they do this, and fly away immediately. This particularly happens during the spring mating season. The solution is to eliminate the reflection for several days. Drawing drapes or putting paper inside the house is not good enough – there will still be a reflection. The paper must go on the outside of the window. Bar soap put over the window can also reduce reflection. Other possible deterrents are strips of Mylar tape, Mylar balloons – anything that moves in the wind and will scare the bird away. If one thing does not work, try something else until the behavior stops.

Some birds seem to be particularly persistent, particularly when a car is involved. In that case, another alternative might be to hang a mirror from a nearby tree to distract the bird's attention for a few days while covering or moving the car.

2. Birds may also strike windows (with more force, and frequently hurting themselves) because they can see through the window to green space and do not realize the window is there. Sheers, closing doors to eliminate the view, strips of tinfoil, hawk silhouettes, stained glass decorations, tape strips and other tactics may be necessary to eliminate this risk. It may also help to plant bushes in front of the windows.

Woodpecker Problems

Woodpecker drumming on corner of house. This usually occurs during mating season when woodpecker is trying to impress prospective mates. It should pass in a couple of weeks. If it is intolerable, try tying Mylar strips or balloons in that area to scare it away. Or reduce the resonance by using cloth, foam padding, plastic sheets, or anything that dampens the drumming.

A woodpecker pecking into wood siding could be constructing a cavity. It may have lost its nesting cavity (tree cut down) and is looking for a new home. Shallow cavities can be filled in with caulking or wood filler; larger holes with wooden plugs or wadded window screen and then caulked. Never fill in with bird or eggs inside; or when weather is very cold. If weather is cold, suggest getting a nest box designed for woodpeckers and hanging it out, then filling in the hole when weather warmer.

If the woodpecker is not creating a cavity for nesting, the siding may be infested with insects that the woodpecker is eating. The caller may need to call an exterminator and subsequently have siding repaired. During the extermination and for several days afterward, it is a good idea to cover with plastic so birds will not be endangered. They may also be distracted with suet cakes in another part of yard.

Bird trapped in house

Birds will always fly toward the light. Try the following rescue steps:

- Confine the bird to one room if possible. Cover mirrors and close curtains in that room.
- Open windows and doors and turn off the lights.
- Keep people and pets out of the room until the bird goes out.
- If there is no way the bird can get out, lead it toward a door or window by closing off or darkening the house, except for a path to the exit.
- If the bird is hurt and hiding in the room, give it an hour or so (staying out of the room) to come out in the open. Try putting out birdseed, water, or a piece of apple to tempt it. If it can't be reached or cornered, refer to Animal Control *in those jurisdictions that will come out*. Otherwise, refer to rehabilitator for advice.
- A healthy bird should be released in its own neighborhood. If the bird is obviously injured or won't fly away, refer the call to a rehabilitator.

Bird trapped in store

Occasionally large grocery or department stores call about birds (usually a starling or sparrow) trapped in them. This is extremely difficult because frequently the suggestions you offer cannot be done (particularly in a 24-hour store). You can offer suggestions, but if they cannot turn out the lights and open a door to the outside, they may need to call a local wildlife company with proper equipment and pay a fee to have the bird caught and released.

Birds trapped in ductwork or tight spaces

A bird that has fallen into a deep or tight place may climb out on a rough branch or knotted cloth rope carefully lowered to it and fastened at the top.

Birds do occasionally get trapped in oven and dryer vents, heating and cooling systems, walls, or between chimney and chimney flashing. Sometimes (as in the case of between the chimney and flashing or behind a built-in microwave) there is nothing that can be done to rescue it unless the homeowner is willing to have a handyman cut into the wall or vent, or remove a piece of the ductwork or equipment.

A bird behind an oven may be rescued by pulling the oven away from the wall. The bird, if not injured, will fly into the room so it then will have to be moved to the outside.

If nestlings are rescued uninjured, they can be re-nested outside using a milk jug near the opening that led to the nest. Fledglings can be put in a shrub nearby. Weak or injured birds must go to a rehabilitator.

After the rescue, any nest debris should be cleaned out and the hole in screen or vent should be repaired immediately using ½ - ¾ " hardware cloth.

Bird with oil or sticky material on its body

Birds that have oil or sticky material on any parts of their body are severely hampered and may be unable to fly, eat, or breathe properly. Birds searching for insects may become attached to insect or mouse pest strips or glue traps. In their struggle to get free, they can become seriously injured. Although sometimes the manufacturer will recommend removal techniques, *removal of any of these materials is a delicate, lengthy process and must not be attempted by anyone other than a federally licensed rehabilitator.* The removal process may actually destroy the bird's waterproofing, and it may have to be re-waterproofed before it can be released.

Any large oil or chemical spill or a spill of any size in progress should be reported to the police immediately. Established, non-active spills of any size should be reported to the local jurisdiction's Fire Marshall Hazardous Materials section.

Birds with eye problems Sparrows and finches may be seen around the feeder with conjunctivitis, a crusty-looking eye condition that eventually closes the eyes and blinds them. This is highly contagious to other sparrows and finches. Although in the early stages of the disease the bird cannot be caught, at some point an infected bird will no longer be able to fly and can be easily caught. Conjunctivitis is not known to be contagious to humans, but a towel or gloves should still be used to handle the bird. The bird should be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator. Pull the bird feeder for several weeks to stop the spread of disease and to follow a rigorous cleaning protocol, including raking up all spilled seed

Birds with fishing hook, twine, or other debris twisted around them

This is a potentially lethal situation, but in most cases the bird cannot be caught until it is too ill or weak to fly any more. If it can be caught and is in poor condition, the bird needs to be examined carefully by a rehabilitator or veterinarian before it is released, and possibly receive supplemental feeding for a few days to regain its strength.

Sometimes birds get caught in a tree, tangled in string. This is usually because string has been used as a nest-building material, although sometimes kite string (frequently fishing line) is caught in the tree. If the bird can be safely reached with a ladder, try the following instructions:

- Hold the bird or put a light towel or cloth around it so it can't fly away, then cut the string.
- Immediately place the bird in a covered box in a warm, dark, quiet place until it has rested and is less stressed (about an hour).
- Take the box into a confined area (bathroom is good) where the bird has no place to go if it escapes.
- Cover the bird with a towel and gently pull out the string-wrapped limb. Cut the string off with the smallest scissors possible such as nail scissors. If the flesh is broken or swollen, or if the string will not come off (is imbedded or has a hook attached), contact a rehabilitator immediately.

If you cannot reach the bird with a ladder, there may be nothing that can be done unless they are willing to hire someone to reach it or their local Animal Control will come out. Any time a raptor is in distress, it should be referred immediately to animal control and/or a raptor rehabilitator.

Pigeons

If a concentration of pigeons is a problem, you must look carefully at eliminating food sources so they will move on.

Pigeons need a flat ledge for roosting and nesting – installing coils, wire, or a 45 to 60 degree wood or metal sheathing will discourage roosting.

Late migrating birds

Birds follow their own timetable and will migrate when they feel the time is right. Many waterfowl no longer migrate. If the situation seems very unusual, such as an individual bird that did not migrate when others of its species did (other than geese and mallards), refer to a rehabilitator.

Birds in Hanging Baskets

Water carefully around edges of basket or allow ice cubes to melt around edge in hot weather.