

# Temporary Emergency Care of Wild Birds

## 1. KEEP THE BIRD WARM

The first and most important thing to do when you find an orphaned or injured bird is to warm the bird to a normal temperature. The bird must be warmed before it can be fed!

Place paper towels or rags in the bottom of a box, small cage or other container. Place the bird inside. You may need to use crumpled paper towels to prop up the bird if it is weak so that it is in a safe position.

Place the container on a heating pad set on low. If your heating pad has auto-shutoff, be sure to check it to make sure it is still on. If you do not have a heating pad be sure to keep the bird in the warmest place available, but don't overheat the bird.

## 2. NEVER PUT WATER IN A BIRDS MOUTH!

A bird's airway is located on the bottom of their mouths behind their tongue. Because of the location of the airway it is not uncommon for the water to go into the bird's airway then to their lungs; if this happens, they could die from aspiration.

## 3. FEEDING THE BIRD -- DO NOT FEED THE BIRD IF IT IS A HUMMINGBIRD OR A RAPTOR, OR IF THE BIRD IS LETHARGIC!

After the bird is warmed, you may want to give a small amount of food. Prepare as listed.

### **BABY BIRDS:**

Take any dry cat or dog food, place it in lukewarm water and wait for it to turn soft. Once the food is softened, take small pieces of the food and squeeze the water out of it so that it is moist but not dripping. You can then place the food in the back center bird's mouth; this will give the bird moisture and protein at the same time but avoids the chances of aspiration. The baby bird will need to be fed every 15 to 20 minutes.

### **ADULT BIRDS:**

Because of the various diets that each particular bird eats it is best to offer a small variety of foods. Seed, fresh fruit and water-moistened dog food can be placed before the bird; allow them to choose which most appeals to them.

## 4. CALL US!



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