

FLEDGLING BIRDS!

What is a fledgling?

A fully feathered baby bird that has come out of the nest and is learning to fly.

It can take a couple of days for them to gain the strength to fly away properly but this is natural and wherever possible, should be left alone to do this; their parents will be close by and still feeding them. *See photos*

How can you help?

If you are concerned they will be at risk of predators you can make a box for them to hide in. This can be made from cardboard/plastic with a small hole cut in the side that they can get in and out of, but that is too small for cats etc to gain entry.

When should you intervene?

- When the bird makes no attempt to fly or escape when approached, is 'pink' (featherless) or has fluffy, downy feathers.
- If the bird seems unwell: lying down, panting or not reacting when approached.
- If the bird has an injury: not using one leg, has a dropped wing (looking droopy) or you can see blood, or know it to be a cat victim. If this is the case Please call a vet ASAP. Cat victims can succumb to sepsis quickly so it is important a vet administers antibiotics for this.

How do you catch the bird?

- Pick up the bird carefully and put in a ventilated box lined with kitchen roll or a towel for grip.
- For larger birds such as crows or pigeons, throw a towel or pillowcase over the bird and quickly scoop up and put straight into a ventilated box, ensuring the bird is able to get their head out of the towel once inside.
- Call RSPCA North Wiltshire Oak and Furrows on 01793 751412 and we will discuss bringing the bird to us, or if you live out of our area please search online for your nearest rescue.

Please note that due to Covid-19 restrictions we are running on skeleton staffing so are unable to collect animals at the present time. If you have no transport or neighbours/relatives able to bring the animal to us, please call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999, choosing the option for a contained wild animal, and an inspector will collect the animal to bring to our centre.

Please be aware that the RSPCA cannot visit the homes of individuals displaying symptoms of Covid-19. If you are and spot an animal in distress please call straight away and remain in your home, monitoring from indoors.



We need help!





We are learning to fly,
monitor and follow the
instructions above.

