



If You Find an Injured Bird...

IMPORTANT: No one will respond to an email, text, or report form. You must call a local migratory bird rehabilitator and they will do the best they can to assist. Contact with wildlife can involve exposure to diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. Take any and all precautions to safeguard your health whenever handling birds.

- It is important to act quickly to contain a bird before it moves out of reach or something harms it.
- Place the bird in a clean unwaxed paper bag or cardboard box of appropriate size, with paper towel flat on the bottom.
- Fold the top of the bag down 1 inch, then fold again and secure the top with a paper clip. Secure the lid of the box with tape.
- Place the bag or box in a safe, dark, quiet place, away from extreme heat or cold.
- Call a local migratory bird rehabilitator to arrange help for the bird.
- **DO NOT** put food or water in the bag or box.
- **DO NOT** poke holes in the bag or box.
- **NEVER** open the bag or box to check on the bird.
- **NEVER** take a bird that is not in a closed bag or box into a building.
- **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** transport the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator licensed to work with migratory birds.

Visit the <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/orphaned-and-injured-wildlife> to connect with a rehabber.

CAUTION! Do not attempt to rescue a raptor (hawk, owl, falcon) or large wading bird (heron, egret, bittern) on your own. These birds can inflict serious injuries with their beaks or talons. Call RAPTOR, Inc at (513) 825-3325.

Other Rescue Information:

If you cannot pick up and contain the bird, if it is safe for you to do so, make an attempt to move it to a protected area away from further harm; such as under a bush, or away from the street or sidewalk. Never enter a busy roadway or a construction area to capture a bird.

Once the bird is secured in a bag or box, do not be tempted to check on the bird! Opening the bag or box stresses the bird, offers the possibility for escape, and puts the bird at risk for further injury. Escaped birds can become trapped inside a building or be impossible to recapture.

Birds can breathe adequately in a closed unwaxed paper bag or cardboard box. Air holes are not necessary and can allow some birds to escape. Never place birds in plastic bags or containers.

Birds are more likely to stay still and quiet in a darkened environment. Covering the bag or box helps block out light.

Do not try to care for an injured bird yourself. It needs specialized care. It is against federal law to keep a migratory or native bird without specialized training and permits.

If You Find a Dead Bird...

While it is illegal to keep a dead migratory bird, these specimens do have value. If you have found a migratory bird that died after colliding with a building, please consider downloading the [iNaturalist](#) app and submitting it as Observation to the Lights Out Cincinnati project.

If you are able to transport the dead bird to the Cincinnati Museum Center's Geier Collections & Research Center, please email lightsoutcincy@gmail.com to make arrangements.