

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BIRD WHICH CANNOT FLY



If you are able to approach a bird or even pick it up without it flying away then that is a concern and you should contact your local rescue centre for help.

Whilst you are waiting for advice or for the bird to be collected, place it in to a cardboard box or similar with a towel or newspaper on the base and leave the box in a quiet room. A bowl of water can be placed in to the box to allow the bird to rehydrate itself if it wishes.

DO NOT attempt to force feed food or water to a bird. If it is done incorrectly it can cause the bird to choke.

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service

24 Hour Rescue Line: 07815078234

For non emergency information or advice call: 01825 873003

Or email:

trevor@eastsussexwras.org.uk



**East Sussex WRAS is funded by
donations and fundraising event.**

If you can make a donation please call

01825-873003

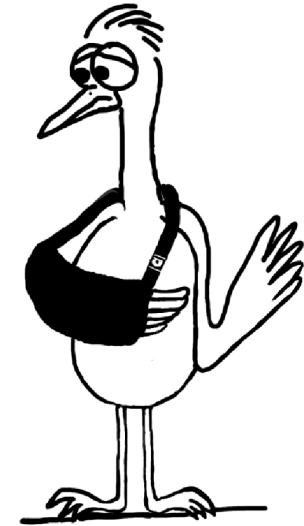
10am - 5pm 7 days a week.

Registered Charity 1108880

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BIRDS UNABLE TO FLY



Information on why it occurs and
what you can do if you find one

WHEN TO CALL FOR HELP:

If you suspect that a bird is unable to fly, the first thing you can do is approach it. Slowly walk towards the bird, if you can walk right up to the bird or even pick it up without it flying off then it is very likely that something is wrong. Similarly if it chooses to walk or run from you rather than fly then that is unusual (for most species) and there may be an illness or injury preventing the bird from flying.

If you are unable to approach the bird then monitor it carefully for any signs of illness or injury and call for advice if a bird is grounded for an extended period of time.



This Crossbill was found unable to fly in Abbots Wood due to concussion

WHAT PREVENTS A BIRD FROM FLYING?

- **INJURY** - collision with an object or a predator attack may cause damage to a bird's wing. Symptoms of a wing injury include if the wing looks drooped or out of place and bleeding.
- **UNDERWEIGHT** - Birds struggling to find food or with beak or crop injuries preventing them from eating will simply be too weak to fly
- **CROP INFECTIONS** - A bird's crop is a holding pouch where food is ground down before continuing to the stomach. Infections of the crop include canker which is the formation of lesions in the throat which are painful and prevent a bird from eating causing them to become thin and too weak to fly. Sour crop also causes a drop in weight as it is a build up of bacteria in the crop, preventing it from emptying leaving the food already present to ferment.
- **CONCUSSION** - Window strikes or road traffic accidents can cause head injuries and concussion in birds. This is usually short term with birds recovering after medication and a period to recover from the shock of the incident.



FLEDGLINGS

Fledglings are young birds which have left the nest but are not yet able to fly. Fledging is an important stage of development during which the bird may remain on the ground for anything from 1 - 10 days depending on the species as it builds up the strength in its wings to fly.

These birds must not be disturbed and do not need rescuing as their parents will still be feeding and caring for them, although much less often at this stage.

If you are worried about the safety of the bird you can place it in an area which is better covered or put the bird in a cardboard box and hang this from a washing line or branch near to where you found it so that the parents can still feed it but it is out of reach of danger.