

For Immediate Release

Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society
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NESTLING AND FLEDGLING BIRDS: DO THEY NEED OUR HELP?

Calgary, Alberta—It is common to see young birds on the ground at this time of year; the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society would like to inform the public of what natural behaviour and what unnatural behaviour looks like in young birds. Know the signs to prevent harm!

The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society receives hundreds of nestling and fledgling birds every year and would like to remind the public of what behaviours are normal and natural for young birds, and what behaviours or signs indicate injury or abandonment.

Nestling Birds



Nestling birds are naked or partially feathered and are unable to stand or perch. If you find a nestling bird on the ground try to return it to the nest. If the nest cannot be located or safely accessed, keep the baby warm and call our hotline – 403-239-2488.

Fledgling Birds



Fledgling Birds are fully feathered “teenage” birds that are not yet able to fly. Most birds spend 7 – 10 days on the ground learning to fly. Fledgling are fed and protected by their parents and should be left alone unless obviously injured. Some fledglings can be easily identified: Robin fledglings have a spotted breast, Magpie fledglings have blue eyes and a short tail, and Crow fledglings have blue eyes. The best way to help fledgling birds is to keep your cat indoors and give them a wide berth.

Birds found with drooping wings, laying on their side, or having difficulty breathing need help and should be brought to the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society. The public are encouraged to phone the CWRS Wildlife hotline with questions or concerns about local wildlife. 403-239-2488

The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (CWRS) is a registered not-for-profit organization that was

established in 1993 to provide professional care and facilities for wildlife rehabilitation. CWRS rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned wild animals in the City of Calgary and surrounding areas. They are an accredited (ABVMA) veterinary hospital, open 365 days a year, and are the only wildlife rehabilitation center in Calgary. The professional staff and volunteers are dedicated to providing medical and rehabilitative care for all injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning them to their natural habitat. CWRS also provides valuable outreach and educational services to the community in addition to engaging their volunteers in motivational work and skill building experiences. For more information, visit www.calgarywildlife.org.