

WHEN YOU FIND A BABY BIRD

If you find a featherless, downy, or incompletely feathered young bird, find its home and place the bird back in the nest. Birds have a poorly developed sense of smell; the parents will not reject the bird because you touched it. If you find a completely feathered young bird on the ground that looks completely healthy but is unable to fly, leave it alone. These birds, called fledglings, are out of the nest and live on the ground for approximately two weeks. The parent birds are still feeding and caring for them, and during this time the fledglings are learning to fly. If you watch, you may see the parents make their presence known by squawks or swoop-in attacks when you approach the young. It is always in the best interest of the bird to be raised by its parents. If you have a fledgling in your yard and you are concerned about pets, turn on a sprinkler to deter pets from bothering the fledgling.

RECOMMENDED DETERRENTS

To deter birds from perching in a specific area, such as a ledge, window air conditioner, balcony railing, or specific area of a roof, try one of the following suggestions.

- Stretch a slinky or bird coil over the space where you want to deter the birds. When either is stretched, it creates an unstable surface and the birds will not attempt to perch.
- For a more permanent deterrent, fasten porcupine wire. Porcupine wire can be purchased at a local home center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you find a wild animal and are concerned, leave it alone and call Brukner Nature Center at 937-698-6493, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.



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www.bruknernaturecenter.com

Brukner Nature Center is a non-profit, privately funded organization promoting the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through preservation, education, and rehabilitation.

The purpose of our wildlife rehabilitation program is to educate people regarding the natural history of Ohio's wildlife, to offer help and advice when wildlife and people conflict, and to care for, rehabilitate, and release native Ohio wildlife expected to survive in their natural environment.

Living with SONGBIRDS

in Miami County



Brukner Nature Center

The joys and entertainment found in bird watching has led it to become one of the fastest growing hobbies in America. With hundreds of species of birds passing through our state during spring and fall migration, as well as frequenting our feeders during the winter, it's easy to see how questions and concerns can arise in regards to our feathered friends.

FEEDING BIRDS



Providing bird feeding stations in our yards can bring a large number of birds to one area all at once. The following should be considered:

- Diseases are easily spread from one bird to another at feeders. One example is the rapid spread of an infectious eye disease among house finches. The ailment is not easily treated and often fatal. Other potentially fatal diseases that can spread between birds at feeders include salmonella, a bacteria; trichomoniasis, a parasite that especially affects doves; aspergillosis, a fungus that attacks birds' lungs and can grow in damp food and seed shells on the ground under feeders; and avian pox, wart-like growths caused by a virus common locally in mourning doves. People who feed birds should recognize their responsibility for keeping the feeders clean by scrubbing them and using a 10% bleach solution as a disinfectant.
- Providing feeders won't just attract songbirds! This food source will also bring in larger birds of prey that will feed on smaller birds, as well as scavengers such as skunks, raccoons and opossums that wish to clean up left over seed.

When to Feed

Feeding songbirds is most effective from November through March when the weather is colder and natural food sources are less abundant.

Alternatives to Bird Feeders

Planting native flowers, shrubs and trees that produce seeds or fruits can provide a natural food source with fewer risks for the birds. Visit your local nursery for a complete list of native plants suitable for attracting birds.

BIRDS FLYING INTO WINDOWS

Birds can fly into windows of homes or businesses. This can happen for several reasons. A migratory bird may see a reflection of the landscape and mistakenly fly into the window. A bird may see its own reflection in the window and mistakenly initiate a territorial battle with itself.

Unfortunately, millions of birds die each migration by flying into human-made objects. There are several preventative techniques people can use.

- Place brightly colored strips of material or curling ribbons on the outside of the window so they move in the wind.
- Bend Post-its in an "L" shape, and place them on the outside of the window.
- Mark the window with soap to remove reflections.
- Place a bright light in the window to remove the reflection. (Look in from the outside to make sure the light is bright enough to remove the reflection.)
- Cover the entire outside of the window with newspaper. This technique is usually only recommended when a nesting bird continually flies in the window. Leave the newspaper up for five to seven days, if possible.
- Invest in "bird tape", which is available at www.abcbirdtape.org, and follow manufacturer's directions.

If a bird has sustained obvious injuries such as bleeding, obvious wing or leg fractures, or unnatural head rotations, bring it to Brukner Nature Center.

If the bird appears stunned or unable to fly, give it some time to recuperate. Place the bird into a paper grocery sack, out of direct sunlight or under a bush. Wait two hours to check on the bird; if at that time it is still unable to fly, contact Brukner Nature Center for additional assistance.



NESTING

Birds are accustomed to utilizing many man-made structures for nesting. If birds are building a nest in unwanted places try the following: play a radio near the area to scare them, hang brightly colored streamers, strips of fabric material, windsocks or curling ribbon to keep the birds from continuing to build the nest. Areas such as dryer vents or uncapped chimneys, place hardware cloth around the area to prevent birds from nesting or roosting inside.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FIND A NEST

If a storm has destroyed a nest, a make-shift nest can be made out of a berry basket, hanging planter or plastic dish with holes poked in the bottom. Nesting material such as white tissue, paper towel, or dry grasses and leaves should



be placed inside the plastic container, and the eggs or the young put back in the make-shift nest. Place the new nest as close as possible to the old one, and watch for the

parent birds to return. Birds know where their nest is visually. If moved any more than a couple of feet, they will not be able to locate the new nest. If the parent birds do not return within a 24-hour period, call Brukner Nature Center.