

 BIRDWING

Formerly Auckland Bird Rescue Inc.



Preserving and caring for
the bird life in our natural
environment.

Introduction

The presence of birds in our environment enriches our lives. Their song, which is ever present, provides joyous sounds to enhance our quality of life. With urbanisation their ability to live amongst us in freedom is greatly reduced, and needs to be preserved. In this booklet we provide advice on how each of us can provide a haven for our feathered friends, how we can assist them in times of need, and how we can support those volunteers who dedicate themselves to their welfare as members of the SPCA BirdWing.



The birth of the SPCA BirdWing Centres

In 1971 the Wildlife Service endorsed the work of the Tamaki Bird Rescue Centre, situated close to the Cormorant colony in the outlet to the Panmure Basin, where many sea birds were suffering from water pollution and harmful human activities.

Auckland Bird Rescue Inc. was established in 1984 by a group of interested volunteers who realised the need for a co-ordinated bird rescue service. The organisation did some sterling work, but eventually closed down due to a lack of funds. Those who continued their volunteer work were brought under the umbrella of the SPCA, and were known as SPCA BirdWing. The SPCA continues to provide ongoing support to these activities.

Several centres operate North to South in the Auckland Region. Many of the expenses are met by the volunteers themselves who rehabilitate all birds, whether they are New Zealand natives, garden or pet birds.

Most of the summer months are dedicated to hand rearing orphaned birds who are released back into the wild, a process that can take weeks, sometimes months.



Important services are offered to the community by way of advice, education programmes through schools, community groups and seminars, also assisting Vets and Vet Nurses.

A re-homing service for pet birds is also

offered, and lost pet birds are often reunited with their owners through contact with the SPCA BirdWing.

SPCA BirdWing also provides a voice for the birds in environmental issues including pollution, set nets, jet skis and displacement from natural habitats being some examples of important ongoing projects.

BirdWing volunteers are often involved in rescue operations involving many birds in our public parks, waterways and other areas.

The following information is provided to assist you in supporting the work of our volunteers and to directly contribute to the welfare of birds in our community.



How to rescue a bird

FLEDGLINGS

In the late Spring and early Summer many baby birds, known as fledglings, may be separated from their nest and their mother. There is a simple procedure that can be adopted in rescuing these vulnerable little birds who have left their nests in their early attempts in learning to fly.

Should you find a fledgling that is not injured but cannot quite fly yet, we suggest the following three alternatives.

1. Try to locate the nest and place the youngster back into it. If the nest has fallen out of the tree, wedge it securely back into place.
2. Place the young bird on top of a thick hedge. This will provide a good platform from which to eventually take off. The youngster will call



out for its parents and will likely be fed by them until it's time to take that first major flight, hopefully within a week or so.

3. If no hedge is available, you can create a nest of your own: Get an ice cream container or cardboard / plastic milk container – cut in half and discard the top part. Punch small holes in the bottom (for drainage) and holes in the side (small enough to feed string, thread or wire) and hang it from either a tree branch or clothes line.

Put bark shavings, leaves, etc. in the bottom of the container. Again, the bird should call out and be fed by the parents until it gets its full flying wings and is ready to leave.

Ensure that there is as little human handling of the fledgling as possible and it is always better for the young to be raised by their natural parents rather than by a human carer. Whatever action you take remember to keep a watchful eye open from a distance in the hope that the mother or father will return to be reunited with their young.

INJURED BIRDS

Important things to remember:

- Do not endanger yourself or the bird
- Do not 'birdnap' (make sure that the bird is in need of assistance before you interfere)
- Extra care should be taken when handling large birds
- Watch for beaks and claws, they can be painful

HELP A BIRD IF:

- There is blood, an open wound or a recognisable break
- It cannot stand on its own
- One of its legs is dangling uselessly
- It cannot fly and it is not a nestling or fledgling being coached by nearby parents
- The beak is damaged
- It has oil on its feathers
- It is caught in a trap or bush
- There is fishing line or string caught on the bird
- The bird has been caught by a cat even if it seems fine – birds shock easily
- The bird is unconscious
- If there is any difficulty breathing



Once you have assessed the situation and you have decided there is a need to pick up the bird, and it can be undertaken without endangering yourself or others, do so quickly and quietly.

Use a towel or light-weight blanket to throw over the bird, it is usually quicker and therefore less stressful. Place the bird in a box and cover the top – the darkness will calm it.

If it is a baby bird, duckling or an adult with its feathers fluffed up you will need to keep it warm. If you have a hot water bottle, milk bottle or container that will hold warm water wrap this in a towel and place it under the bird (if the duckling still has its 'down' DO NOT put in water as it is not yet waterproof and will therefore become very cold – treat as with other baby birds).

Contact the SPCA who will direct you to your nearest BirdWing centre.

Create a welcoming environment for birds in your garden

There are many things you can do in your own garden that will attract birds and provide a welcoming environment for them.



Shelter

Given the changing elements the provision of shelter in the form of a fixed or hanging haven will protect birds from the ravages of rough weather.



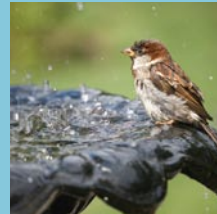
Planting

It is in this area that you can best attract and provide for the needs of birds in your natural garden. Native plants should head the list of chosen plants to include flax, together with trees and shrubs that produce foliage, flowers, nectar, berries and seeds that will attract not only birds, but insects as well. A chat with your local nursery will produce a list of many plants that will provide these essential elements for a happy bird population. Remember also that clumps of foliage and hedges also provide security for the birds in your setting.



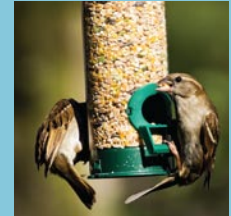
PLANT WARNING:

There is a tree, known by its Maori name, the Parapara tree (*Pisonia brunoniana*) which it is believed originated on the Great Barrier Island, which is deadly to birds. It secretes a sticky gum through its seeds / pods, to which birds can become so glued that they are unable to fly, inevitably dying, and sadly in great numbers. This is a diabolical tree and should not be in any garden. If you have such a tree, rip it out, and if you see it being sold by any nurseryman lodge an immediate complaint.



Food

Although plants and insects are the prime provider of food for birds, it is very satisfying to hang bird feeders, stocked with balanced mixtures of appropriate seeds or commercially prepared bird meals, in your garden environment. Again the satisfaction of witnessing birds enjoying these treats in your environment is rewarding.



Bathing

Birds love to bathe and, as with all animals, need constant access to water for refreshment. A bird bath or pond fulfils both of these needs as well as providing you with the pleasure of witnessing the sheer joy of birds bathing.

For more detailed information on appropriate planting visit the following website:
www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/attracting-birds-to-your-garden/

Wonderful Wetlands

Wetlands are a vital link between land and water and contain a large number of New Zealand's plants, animals and bird life and therefore should be preserved. Sadly wetlands are among the most threatened ecosystems in the country with many of them, particularly in the Auckland Region, being drained or modified for farming or urban development.

The value of retaining our wetlands must not be underestimated with their advantages to the environment which include:

- The purification and slowing the flow of water thus controlling flood water and pollutants
- A supply of water especially in drought conditions
- Trapping and retention of sediments
- Breaking down bacteria and reducing water pollution
- Wetlands store an estimated 40% of global terrestrial carbon
- Supporting our threatened plants, fish, invertebrates, frogs and approximately 20% of native bird species
- They house many endemic plants and animals found nowhere else in the world

Wetlands need to be restored and preserved.

For more information visit these websites:

www.wetlandstrust.org.nz

www.ducks.org.nz

www.arc.govt.nz/environment/plants-and-animals/



Other ways you can help wildlife

- Always keep dogs and cats under control. Cats can disturb, maim or kill nesting birds as well as young birds just out of the nest. If cats are outside put at least two bells on their collar to help alert birds that danger is nearby.
- Before you cut down or prune trees and shrubs, check very carefully for nesting birds, especially in the Spring.
- Many birds depend on insects in or around back yards, therefore limit the use of insecticides to help protect the health of our bird life.
- Reflections from windows can confuse birds. This may cause them to fly into the glass or repeatedly peck at what they see as their competition. Some simple remedies can be taken including breaking up the reflections with stickers, decals, aluminium pie pans or strips of coloured plastic to flap in the wind.
- Never litter! All species of birds can become easily entangled in man-made products such as plastic, fishing line, cans and bottles.
- If you take a bird to one of our BirdWing volunteers you can help by donating old linen or food (tinned or dried cat food, frozen peas and corn, mince). Cash donations are always acceptable.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BIRDWING VOLUNTEERS

The SPCA BirdWing is operated by volunteers who rely solely on donations to care for the many birds they handle. Here are some ways you can make a meaningful contribution:

THE BIRD NEST FUND (How to 'feather their nest')

You can assure birds receive ongoing care by donating to our special 'Bird Nest' fund with an automatic monthly payment. In return you will receive a complimentary copy of our quarterly magazine *Animals' Voice*, as well as discounts on goods and services provided through the Auckland SPCA Companion Card programme.

BECOME A MEMBER. Membership of BirdWing is a simple way to show your support. There are three scales of membership, all providing regular updates through our e-newsletter and discounts on goods and services provided through the Auckland SPCA Companion Card programme.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER. Our BirdWing volunteers need additional volunteers to help them in their work. For further information please call any of the numbers detailed in this brochure.

Authority for Automatic Payments

(Not to operate as an assignment or an agreement)



Important – please tick

This is a new authority.

As from

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 (first payment date*)

this authority replaces existing authorities for \$

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in favour of the same payee. *Please allow at least two weeks for the first payment date.

Payer Details

To the Manager:

Name of bank:	
Branch:	
Name of account:	
Account number:	
On behalf of: <i>(Name if other than payer)</i>	

Details to appear on bank statement:

Particulars:	S	P	C	A															
Code:	B	I	R	D	W	I	N	G											
Reference:	B	I	R	D	N	E	S	T											

Frequency and Amount

First payment date:																			
Last payment date:																			
Fixed amount of:	\$																		
Amount in words:																			

OR until further notice payable monthly

Payee Details

Pay to the credit of:

Name of bank:	ASB Bank
Branch:	Greenwoods Corner
Name of account:	SPCA BirdWing
Account number:	1 2 3 0 2 5 0 3 5 4 1 4 0 0 0 0

SPCA to complete:

Particulars:																			
Code:	B	I	R	D	W	I	N	G											
Reference:																			

Conditions

1. The Bank will use reasonable care and skill to give effect to the directions given to it in this authority.
2. Where the directions given in this authority have been given by me/us for the purpose of a business, the Bank accepts those directions without any responsibility or liability for any refusal or omission to make all or any of the payments or for late payment or for any omission to follow such directions.
3. The Bank accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy of the information contained in the payment information fields on this authority.
4. I/We undertake to advise the Bank immediately of any information about payments shown on bank statements which is incorrect.
5. This authority is subject to any arrangement now or hereafter subsisting between myself/ourselves and the Bank in relation to my/our account.
6. The Bank may in its absolute discretion conclusively determine the order or priority of payment by it of any monies pursuant to this or any other authority or cheque which I/We may now or hereafter give to the Bank or draw on my/our account.
7. The Bank may in its absolute discretion refuse to make any one or more payments pursuant to this authority where there are insufficient funds available in my/our account.
8. This authority may be terminated or reduced by the Bank or the payee without notice to me/us in respect of the payments detailed above.
9. This authority will remain in force and effect in respect of all payments made in good faith notwithstanding my/our death or bankruptcy or any revocation of this authority until notice of my/our death or bankruptcy or other revocation is received by the Bank.
10. All current Bank and Government charges for this service in force from time to time are to be debited to my/our account.

Authorisation

1. Please make this automatic payment as detailed by debiting my/our account.
2. I/We understand and accept that the Bank accepts this authority only to the conditions listed.
3. If this is a joint account, both account holders must sign below.

Name of account:	
Customer's signature:	
Phone number:	
Date:	
Customer's signature:	
Phone number:	
Date:	

BANK USE ONLY

Date:	Recorded by:	Checked by:
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“No bird soars too high,
if he soars on his own wings”

(WILLIAM BLAKE)



To contact the SPCA BirdWing central number
please phone 09-256 7300.

BirdWing volunteer centres are located
throughout Auckland including:

Rothesay Bay 09-478 8819

Manurewa 09-269 3911

Tuakau 09-236 9126

Pokeno 09-233 6681



SPCA Auckland BirdWing

(Formerly Auckland Bird Rescue Inc)

AUCKLAND ANIMAL VILLAGE

50 Westney Road, Mangere South,
Manukau 2022.

Phone: 0-9-256 7300

Fax: 0-9-256 7314

Email: info@spca.org.nz

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 43221, Mangere,
Manukau 2153, New Zealand.

\$25.00 DONATION LINE

Phone: 0900-99-SPCA (7722)



www.spca.org.nz