

# Oregon Coast

## Injured Wildlife: What To Do



NATIONAL  
**WILDLIFE**  
REFUGE SYSTEM

What to do if you...

# Found a baby bird?



**Is the bird visibly injured?**

Look for bleeding, gasping, weakness, shivering, or uneven / broken / non-fluttering wings.



**Does the bird have feathers?**

Fledglings are 14+ days old, and have short wings & tail. Hopping on the ground is normal behavior.



Hatchlings are <4 days old, and have closed eyes. Nestlings are 3 to 14 days old with open eyes and developing feathers in tube-like sheaths.

**Is it in immediate danger?**

Watch for threats from cats, cars, and people.



**Can you find the nest?**



**Move it to a safe spot.**

Carefully put the bird in nearby bushes or on a branch. Keep pets away.

**Leave it alone.**

It is normal for fledglings to spend a couple days on the ground while they learn to fly.

**Carefully return the bird to its nest.**

**Are parents nearby, visiting or feeding?**

Watch for 1-2 hours from a distance for adult birds. Parents won't abandon babies because of human scent.



**Leave the area.**

Congratulations for making a difference! Learn more ways to help wild birds at [chirpforbirds.com](http://chirpforbirds.com).

**Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.**

Or try a state wildlife agency or veterinarian.

**Use a warm dark box.**

If you can't let nature take its course and must intervene, place the bird in a dark box using gloves or clean hands. Keep it in a warm quiet place, don't feed or water it, and get it to a rehabilitator ASAP.





## What should I do if I see sick or dead birds?

Contact Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Health Lab at 866-968-2600 or [odfw.wildlifehealth@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:odfw.wildlifehealth@odfw.oregon.gov) if you see multiple dead birds in the same location.



## What to do if you see a young animal alone?



Leave it where it is. Keep pets away. Many animals leave their young to forage. Fawns, rabbits, and squirrels are safe from predators because of their lack of scent and protective coloring. Your presence may frighten the mother away and endanger the young.

## What if you see a young bird on the ground?

Leave it alone and give it space!  
Keep all pets away.

A feathered fledgling may spend weeks on the ground as it learns to fly; its parents will feed it and provide care.



## What to do if you see a seal pup on the beach?

Young seals are left on the beach while mothers feed in the ocean. Don't touch, feed, or try to move it. Stay back at least 100 yards and make sure dogs are leashed and kept away.



## What to do if you find a marine mammal or sea turtle in distress or wounded?



Call the Marine Mammal Stranding Network (includes stranded sea turtles):  
(800) 452-7888; (541) 270-6830

## What if a bird flies into a window and appears hurt?

Put the stunned bird in an uncovered box. Keep it in a quiet place outdoors away from sunlight and pets. Check back in an hour. If the bird has recovered, it will have flown off. If not, contact a wildlife rehabilitator.





## What should you do if you see an injured eagle?

Contact Oregon State Police or a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility. Be advised that eagles are large, powerful birds and can be defensive when injured. They could harm you or themselves; do not approach them.



## What should you do if you find a dead eagle or think an eagle nest tree is being disturbed?



For nests: make sure it is an eagle. Then contact Oregon State Police.

For dead eagles: contact Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## What should you do if you find a nest?

All active bird nests are protected under state and federal law. If the nest has eggs or chicks, leave it alone, keep pets away and the parents will return.



## What should you do if you find an injured animal and the rehabilitation centers cannot take it?

Many animals are injured or incapacitated every year; many young animals don't survive their first year. Although difficult to see, this is the way of nature. Approaching a wild animal will increase its stress load. It is better to leave it alone. If you MUST do something and can do so safely, put the animal in a quiet place and leave it alone.



**NOTE: If a downed chick is possibly a marbled murrelet, get photos to determine. These need to be taken into care as they do not survive on land. Contact Wildlife Center of North Coast or Oregon Coast Aquarium.**

**Wildlife Rehabilitators from North to South Coast:  
CALL BEFORE TAKING AN ANIMAL AS FACILITIES MAY NOT  
HAVE THE CAPACITY.**

**Organization**

**Contact Information**

**Wildlife Center of  
the North Coast  
(Astoria to  
Yachats)**

**(503) 338-0331  
[www.coastwildlife.org](http://www.coastwildlife.org)**

---

**Chintimini Wildlife  
Center (Linn, Benton,  
Polk, Lane, and Marion  
Counties)**

**(541) 745-5324  
[www.chintimini.org](http://www.chintimini.org)**

---

**Oregon Coast  
Aquarium  
(Lincoln City to  
Waldport)**

**(541) 867-3474  
[aquarium.org/](http://aquarium.org/)**

---

**Cascades Raptor  
Center (western Lane  
and Douglas  
Counties)**

**(541) 485-1320  
[cascadesraptorcenter.org/](http://cascadesraptorcenter.org/)**

---

**Note: NO rehab facilities in Oregon  
will take deer, seals, or sea lions.**

## Important numbers:

**To report a wildlife or habitat law violation or suspicious activity.**

Oregon State Police:

\*OSP or \*677 or  
1-800-452-7888  
TIP@osp.oregon.gov

**If you see multiple dead birds in the same location.**

Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

(866) 968-2600 or

Health Lab:

odfw.wildlifehealth@odfw.oregon.gov

ODFW Newport Field Office:

(541) 867-4741

Marine Mammal Stranding Network:

(800) 452-7888 or  
(541) 270-6830

National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration Newport Field Office  
Law Enforcement:

(541) 867-0580

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Newport Field Office:

(541) 867-4550

USFWS Office of Law Enforcement  
Wilsonville:

(503) 682-6131