

Volunteer Transports to Avian Haven



It works like this: if we are contacted by someone who has rescued a bird but can't/won't bring it here, we go down a list of people in that area. If we call you and you're available, we give you the person's phone number; you contact him/her and make arrangements to get the bird. Meanwhile, depending on the location and whether you would be coming all the way here, we may be making arrangements for you to meet another person in a relay. If we call you and you're not available, that's fine - we'll go on to the next person on our list.



We wouldn't be calling you every day, and probably not even every week (except possibly in the summer!). You can let us know what days you are likely or not likely to be available, and any daily "windows" on your availability, such as what time you usually are up and about in the morning. We rarely take calls after our 6 pm closing time and have detailed rescue instructions on our outgoing message for people who find birds after hours. Therefore we would not be calling you in the middle of the night!

There isn't much to know about transporting -- most of the time, the caller already has the bird in a box, so all you have to do is get on the road with it.



On the few occasions when the person has not secured the bird, it's usually just a matter of dropping a towel or old t-shirt over it, gently gathering it up, and putting it into a box that has some padding on the bottom, like a folded-up towel, old sweat-shirt, etc. If it's something other than a songbird, we will talk you through any special handling considerations - for example, keeping your bare hands away from the feet of a hawk or the beak of a gull.

The towel dropped over the bird is usually sufficient for hand protection, but for larger birds, an extra precaution would be wearing gloves. Most of our transporters keep a pair of gloves, plus a few boxes of various sizes that can be closed securely, plus a few towels for box padding and capturing.



A few holes can be punched in your boxes for ventilation; just make sure they are not large enough for a small bird to escape through. In the interest of preventing escapes, don't use boxes that come with hand-size holes for easy carrying. Plastic totes with tight-fitting lids should be used only if a large number of small air holes are made in the top.

Use caution and common sense with regard to checking the box while en route. You may want to make sure the bird is okay, but remember: a bird that had earlier seemed too debilitated to move may have recovered to a point of being able to jump out of the box and become lost in your vehicle.

To keep baby birds warm en route, you can fill plastic bottles with hot water and add them to the box. Just make sure they are securely positioned and cannot roll on top of a small bird.



If you become part of our "avian ambulance" team, you would be using your vehicle on behalf of a charity - therefore, your mileage is tax-deductible. Folks who itemize their tax returns can keep a small notebook in the glove compartment, and record the mileage each time they make a trip for us. If the cost of gas stretches your budget, we are happy to reimburse you - it's your time that is priceless to us!



Thank you for considering the possibility of joining our team!
If you would like any more information, just let us know.