

# How to Rescue a Bird that has Hit a Window

WHEN FINDING AN INJURED BIRD, YOU HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO BRING IT TO A FEDERALLY LICENSED REHABILITATOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LONGER THAN 24 HOURS AFTER YOU FOUND THE BIRD. KEEPING A WILD ANIMAL IN YOUR POSSESSION WITHOUT A FEDERAL PERMIT IS AGAINST THE LAW.

You will need:

Brown paper bags with dime-sized holes cut about 4" from the top

Binder clips or clothespins

Freezer Ziploc bags (for dead birds)

Quietly approach the bird from behind, directly opposite the way its beak is pointing. This will put you in the bird's blind spot, making it less likely to be startled. (A startled bird can fly into a window again and re-injure itself.)

Quickly cup your hands around the bird and tuck it into a brown paper bag. To prevent escape, use your free hand to close the top of the bag around your wrist as you withdraw your hand from the bag. Fold over the top of the bag once or twice and clip it shut with a clothespin or binder clip.

Put the bag in a dark, quiet spot, and let the bird rest for an hour. Do not open the bag – the bird could escape and hurt itself again.

After an hour, carefully peek into the bag through the dime-sized hole near the top, or listen for signs of activity. If the bird is alert, it can be safely released.

Robert F. Wagner Park, south of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, is a good spot to release birds. Central Park, Battery Park, Prospect Park, and Inwood Park are also good. Go as far away from buildings as possible and open the bag to let the bird fly away. (Never "toss" a bird into the air.) If you prefer, you can hold the bird until a NYC Audubon or Parks Department representative can pick it up.

If the bird has not recovered, or appears to be injured, it should be taken to a care center with licensed rehabilitators as soon as possible.