

Shopper Rescues Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

While walking through the Kroger's parking lot with her 8-year old daughter, Janie noticed something unusual out of the corner of her eye. Upon closer inspection, she discovered it was a very large bird, obviously in need of help. It was very thin, weak, and appeared to be in a daze. Janie desperately wanted to help this bird, but was unsure how to capture it. It was nearly 2 feet tall, and had a very long, pointed beak. She realized this could be a dangerous situation if not handled properly. Unwilling to leave this frightened bird in such a vulnerable state, Janie contacted the DFW Wildlife Coalition hotline. Sandy Schriever was on duty at the time. Sandy immediately contacted Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and Kathy Rogers, who was already in the Dallas area, responded quickly. The bird turned out to be a yellow-crowned night heron. With gloves and net in-hand, Kathy was able to quickly and safely capture the bird and take it to the rehabilitation center.

Thanks to Janie's compassion for birds and her willingness to get involved, this heron received the medical care it needed to overcome a debilitating bacterial infection. Within two months the bird regained its strength and demonstrated that it was able to hunt and capture its own food. Shortly thereafter Kathy Rogers released it back into the wild.



A Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

The Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center performs thousands of bird rescues and releases just like this one every year. Whether injured or orphaned, RWRC and their staff of volunteers care for these animals until they are self-sufficient. In some cases the RWRC becomes the permanent home for the unfortunate ones that cannot be released due to the nature of their injuries. These birds become part of their education program for teachers and children throughout the metroplex. For more information on Rogers Wildlife Center, see their website at <http://www.rogerswildlife.org>

A Few Tips on Rescuing Birds

The volunteers who answer wildlife calls on the DFW Wildlife Coalition hotline depend heavily on the advice, expertise, and care provided by Rogers Wildlife Center and other avian rehabilitators. With baby bird season now well underway, let me remind you of some important tips when finding orphaned or injured birds:

- Fledglings, birds that are feathered and hopping around, do not need to be rescued! Some remain flightless like this for up to 10 days. The parents are nearby and will bring them food. Keep them safe by keeping your pets away.
- If a bird has fallen from its nest and is not injured, put it back in the nest and watch from a distance. Don't be concerned if someone has handled the baby; most birds have a very poor sense of smell and will not reject their young. The mother will return if she is able.
- If the nest is destroyed, you may fashion a new one out of a small basket or something with drainage. Secure it no more than 3 feet from where the original nest was. Again, watch from a distance for the mother to return.
- A tiny bird (eyes closed, no feathers) is fed every 20-30 minutes. So if the mother doesn't return within 2 hours, contact the [DFW Wildlife Coalition](#) hotline for assistance in finding a rehabilitator. An older baby can survive a little longer, but if you have not seen the mother for 12 hours, it too must be taken to a rehabilitator.



wildlife hotline immediately.

- If it is cold or rainy, do not try to re-nest the bird. Or if the bird is injured, it needs immediate care. Call our

- Birds of prey have dangerous talons and beaks. Other birds have long and pointed beaks which can act as daggers. If it is necessary to capture one, even a young one, use a large blanket or towel, and wear protective clothing and goggles. If you are at all uncertain or uncomfortable, do not attempt this yourself. Contact the DFW Wildlife Coalition for assistance.
- Do not try to feed any compromised bird. This will likely do more harm than good. Each species has a specialized diet, and the wrong food can kill them.

DFW Wildlife Coalition Hotline (972) 234-WILD