

Legislation.

Under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, a person must not take protected wildlife from the wild.

All native birds in Queensland are protected under this Act.

The only exception is if the bird is genuinely sick or injured and needs care. If this is the case please call QPWS on 1300 654721 for advice.



Crested shrike tit

Interesting Facts.

Some chicks, such as Scrub Turkeys, are "on their own" the moment they hatch out of the egg. They are rapidly forced to become completely independent as their parents make no effort to protect them whatsoever.

Not only do they soon learn how to feed themselves, they also exhibit true bursts of speed and instinctively understand how to use their natural camouflage to hide from predators.



Scrub turkey chick



What YOU can do if you find a **YOUNG BIRD...**



Figbird about 2 weeks old



For Further Information

You can call...

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service: **1300 654 721**
RSPCA Qld: **1300 ANIMAL**
(or your local wildlife rescue or care group)

Or visit these websites...

RSPCA Qld: www.rspcaqld.org.au
QPWS: www.epa.qld.gov.au

Have you found a YOUNG BIRD?

Spring is the nesting season for many of our native bird species. Once the chicks leave the nest they become known as fledglings and are concentrating on learning how to fly. Under the watchful eyes of their parents they take their first steps and flutters on the road to independence. Unfortunately some people assume the fledglings are in distress and need help, and decide to "rescue" them and bring them to the RSPCA or a wildlife carer. Although well meaning, this is not usually in the best interests of the bird.

So if you find a nestling chick or a traumatised fledgling and are unsure of what to do, please ring Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) for advice.

Glossary:

A nestling is a recently born chick that is still living in the nest. A fledgling has left the nest and is in the process of learning to fly proficiently.

QPWS Phone Number: 1300 654 721

So what should you do?

Watch the young bird for a while and see if the parents come back to feed it. If they do, leave it alone. If the bird is a really young chick with down (instead of feathers), you could try to put it back in the nest.

If the bird has fallen out of the nest and is lying on the ground, pick it up and place it on a branch out of reach of cats. You could also try making a nest from an ice-cream container with holes in the bottom or similar. Secure this in the tree with the chick inside.

It is always better for the young to be raised by their natural parents, rather than by a human carer.

Running for Cover!

In their natural habitat, young birds hide in bushy ground cover. This shields them from would-be predators until they are stronger and more confident flyers.

These days many suburban gardens simply don't have the native bushy shrubs for young birds to hide in. They also have to contend with domestic cats and dogs.

By planting more of these indigenous bushy shrubs and saving tree hollows, you'll be increasing the survival rate of young birds and animals by giving them somewhere to hide from predators.



Owlet nightjar



Crested pigeon

Photos: Janene Wells, Janet Gamble, Nanda TenGrotenhuis

Responsible Pet Guardianship.

There are around 2.2 million domestic cats in Australia. Each cat with outside access has the ability to kill an average of 25 creatures every year. Both cats and dogs (even those who are well fed) are capable of killing wildlife.

Responsible people confine their cats at night to stop them interfering with native wildlife, but many animals are active during the day! Supervise and confine domestic pets on your property at all times. This can be achieved with an enclosure like the one pictured below for cats.

Companies like Catmax and Catnip specialise in making enclosures especially for containing cats. This allows our native wildlife and domestic pets to coexist in harmony.

Catmax Enclosures: 1300 306 605
www.catmax.com.au

Catnip Australia: 1800 639 998
www.catnip.com.au



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How native wildlife and domestic pets can coexist

