

SPRINGING INTO ACTION



Santa Barbara

Wildlife Care Network

SAVING & SERVING WILDLIFE SINCE 1988



PREPARING FOR BABY SEASON

Q&A with SBWCN Staff

As springtime in Santa Barbara quickly approaches, SBWCN's Director of Rehabilitation Britt Rickman took some time out of her busy schedule to answer some questions about the infamous "baby season." The SBWCN team is currently gearing up for the inevitable influx of spring patients which will start to arrive daily by the dozens. As someone who's worked three baby seasons, Britt gives us an inside look.

To those who don't know – what is baby season?

We call springtime at the center baby season for one reason: all the babies! During this time of year, we care for hundreds of different species of infant and juvenile animals. Baby season is our busiest time of the year. It is a whirlwind! It can be incredibly stressful and fulfilling.

What are some types of animals you see during baby season?

We see a wide variety of different songbird species, from towhees to warblers. We also care for lots of different mammals, including squirrels, raccoons, and skunks. During this time, it is common to have animals that have been orphaned, attacked by a predator, or sometimes accidentally "kidnapped" by people who think they're in trouble.

What sort of tasks take place during a normal day?

We have to feed babies around the clock! Baby birds alone need to be fed every 30 minutes. We also have to clean every enclosure several times a day. With so many animals, the laundry and dishes never end! We have staff and volunteers working from dawn until dusk.

How will the new Wildlife Hospital impact baby season?

Once we are moved into the new hospital everything will be more centralized. Staff and volunteers won't have to run from one building to the other across the property. The bigger rooms and upgraded facilities will just make everything better for the babies too.

How important are volunteers during this season?

We couldn't do this work without our volunteers. They go on rescues, feed all the patients, and aren't afraid to get a little dirty! They put in a lot of hours and a lot of heart.

Is there anything that might surprise people about baby season?

We are not just taking care of babies. We are still caring for adult animals with varying injuries and illnesses. And it adds up – last baby season, we received over 2,000 animals!

What motivates you through the long, stressful days?

Knowing that what we do is making a difference for the wildlife in our area.



Mallard ducklings are a common orphaned species during baby season.



Above: A woodpecker chick whose nest was destroyed. Below: Britt cares for an orphaned raccoon.



What can the public do to help during this time?

Please call us if you have any questions regarding your local wildlife! When to trim trees, how to humanely deter wildlife sharing your home, or how to help an animal in need.

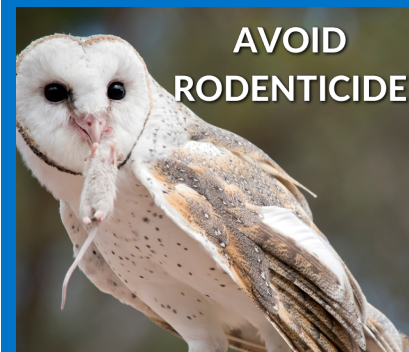


Shop the Baby Shower Wishlist! Want to help support the care of babies? Scan the QR code or visit www.sbwcn.org/donate to shop items needed for spring baby season.

SPRING REMINDERS



DON'T TRIM YOUR TREES



AVOID RODENTICIDE



KEEP CATS INDOORS



AVOID "KIDNAPPING"

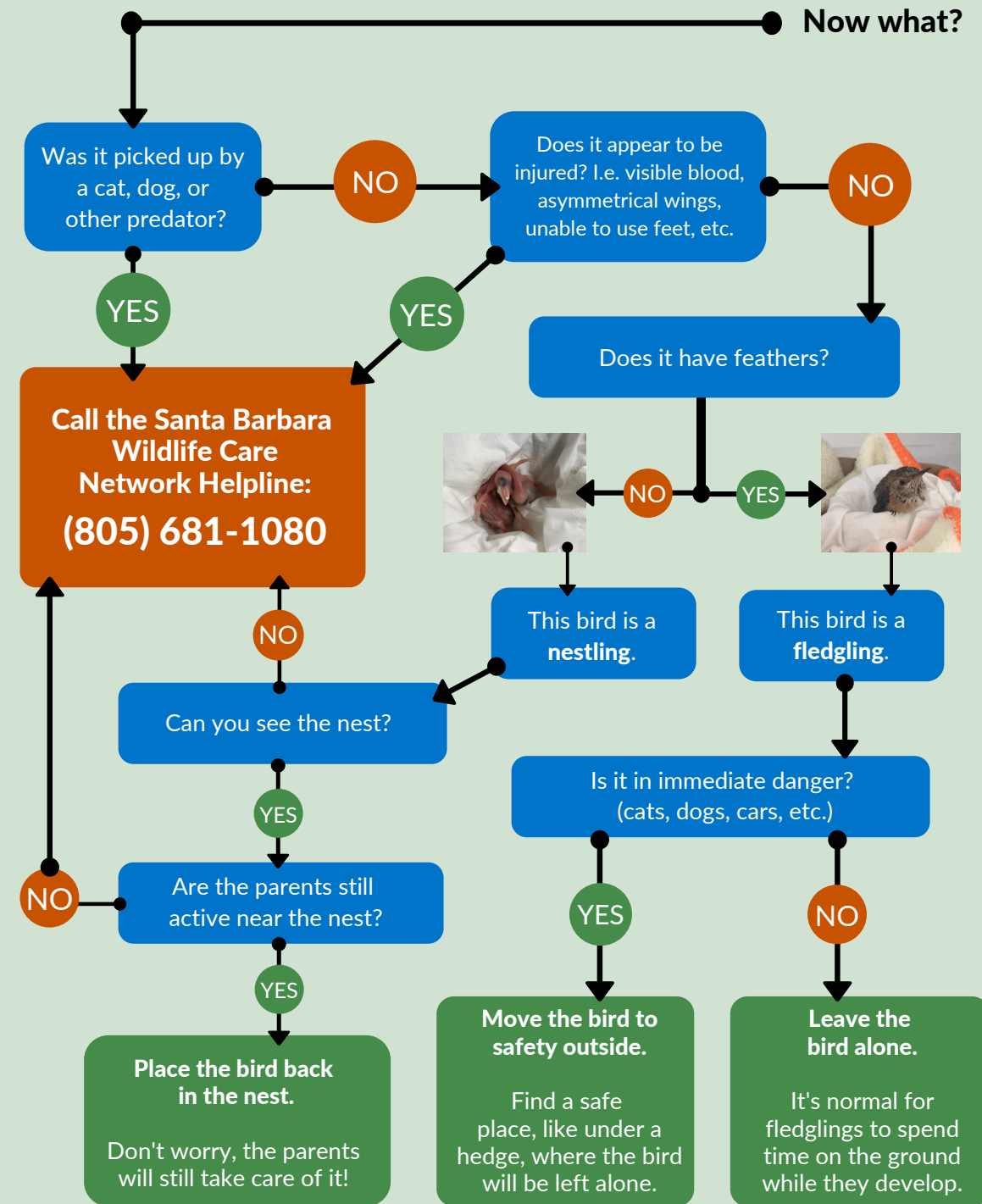
Follow the flow chart



CALL THE HELPLINE

(805) 681-1080

SO YOU FOUND A BABY SONGBIRD



Note: crows are different than other songbirds.

Young crows can look very similar to adult crows, but they spend a lot of time on the ground while learning to fly. To the untrained eye, it may look like they need help, but this is a perfectly normal behavior. If you see a crow you believe needs help, always call the Helpline first.



1460 N FAIRVIEW AVE
GOLETA, CA 93117



(805) 681-1080



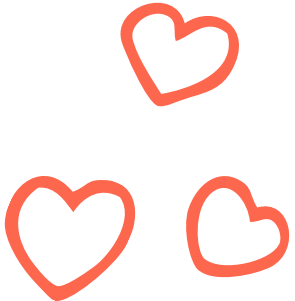

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CONTACT@SBWCN.ORG



77-0201505

For that special 
 some-bunny

Show your love for wildlife this spring by adopting an animal! SBWCN's symbolic sponsorships make the perfect gift for the wildlife lover in your life. Choose between a rabbit, raccoon, opossum, owl, or hummingbird. Sponsorships include:

- Illustrated notecard
- Embroidered hat
- Enamel pin
- Certificate of sponsorship
- Animal fact sheet

Visit www.sbwc.org/sponsor to learn more!



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

WILDLIFE HOSPITAL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Friday, May 20 | 12 PM
Online at www.sbwcncn.org

Virtually explore the new Wildlife Hospital! Tune in online for a tour of the facility and an inside look at baby season.



2021 NUMBERS

**4,163 TOTAL
PATIENTS**



**218 DIFFERENT
SPECIES**



**15,000+ VOLUNTEER
HOURS**



Susie Clothier

**1 HOSPITAL
CONSTRUCTED**





Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network
1460 N Fairview Ave
Goleta, CA 93117

*Front cover:
Striped skunks (Rebecca Gaal)*