

How to Safely Contain an Injured Large Bird



1. Our first priority is your safety! The primary means of defense for most large birds are their beaks – either through biting or jabbing. Large birds such as herons and cranes will jab at your face with their pointy beak, and it is essential that you protect your eyes when handling these birds. Remember that even a sick or injured bird will give everything it's got to defend itself. They don't understand we are there to help.
2. Gather your equipment. We suggest the following:
 - Personal protective gear
 1. Heavy leather gloves
 2. Safety glasses (essential for cranes, herons, loons and cormorants)
 - A secure transport container large enough to easily fit the bird. A large cardboard box is ideal.
 1. Line the container with a layer of ravel-free non-slip material.
 2. Be sure there are adequate ventilation holes in the container.
 3. Avoid wire cages as these can cause damage to the bird's feathers.
 - A flat lid, piece of cardboard or plywood that will completely cover the opening of the container.
 - A blanket or towel large enough to completely cover the bird (Method 3).
 - Duct tape, bungee cord, twine, or other method to secure the lid onto the container.
3. Put on your personal protective equipment. Take note of the location you have found the bird – this information will be helpful at the time of release.



Method 1 - RECOMMENDED	Method 2	Method 3
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slowly approach the animal with the transport container. Place the transport container over the top of the animal. 2. Use the flat piece of cardboard (or other lid material) to slowly and carefully slide under the container and the bird. 3. Secure the cover to the container using duct tape, a bungee cord or tie with twine or rope. 4. Gently and slowly turn the container upright. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tip the transport container on its side next to the animal. 2. Use a broom to gently push the animal into the container, or use a shovel to gently pick up the animal and place it into the transport container. 3. Cover the container, secure the lid, and then slowly tip the container upright. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slowly approach the bird from behind with your towel or blanket held out in front of you. When you are near enough to the bird, place the towel or blanket over the top of the bird to completely cover it. 2. Reach in over the bird's back, and gently fold the wings into its body with your gloved hands over the outside of the blanket or towel, keeping the head of the bird facing your back. 3. Gently pick up the bird and place it into the transport container. You can leave the towel or blanket in the box with the bird.

4. After containing, place the container in a quiet, dark environment until transport. If the container does not have solid sides, cover the entire container with lightweight sheet or blanket to restrict the visual stimuli for the bird.
5. Do not feed the bird. Most injured birds are dehydrated, and often emaciated, and feeding them before providing stabilization can result in their death.
6. If you don't already have an appointment, please call Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center right away at 608-287-3235. The law allows a member of the public 24 hours to transport the bird to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, but the sooner the bird receives care, the better its chances of successful treatment.
7. During transport to the wildlife center, please keep the car quiet by leaving the radio off and keeping voices low. For more information about safely transporting wildlife once contained, please click [HERE](#).