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*Illustrated*

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# ECO-INTERVENTION GUIDE

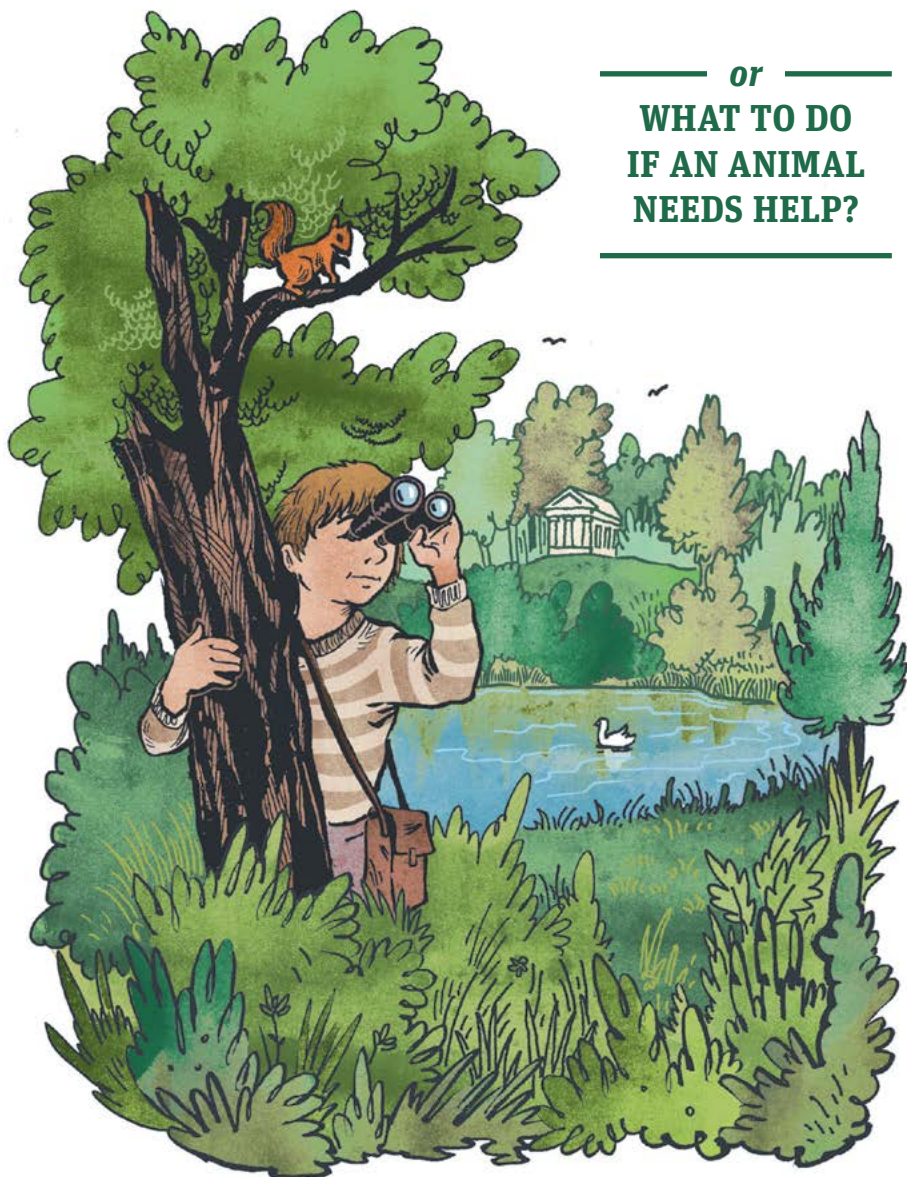
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*or*

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**WHAT TO DO  
IF AN ANIMAL  
NEEDS HELP?**

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# BIRDS

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## Spring and early summer

Before you take a bird away or call for help, make sure, that it actually needs help. Spring is a special time of year because chicks and fledglings start to appear.

### 1. YOUNG OWLS – TAWNY OWLS

From February to June, we can come across young tawny owls, that look like grey and white balls of fluff. Sometimes they may need our help.

Is it injured?

**No.**

**Just move it from the lawn to the nearest shrub or branch.**  
*The young bird will be able to climb up the tree using its talons, wings and beak.*

**No, but it's being attacked by crows, other birds or predatory mammals.**

**You should call the Museum Guard.**  
*The Museum Guard will put the young bird in a cardboard box and release it after dark, when the crows fly off to their roosting ground.*

**Yes.**

**Call the Museum Guard.**  
*The Museum Guard will alert the City Guard's Eco Patrol.*



## 2. YOUNG DUCKS (MANDARIN DUCKS, MALLARDS, MERGANSERS) AND RAILS (COOTS)

### Young ducks

- can get food on their own from the first day after hatching,
- the role of the female duck is to keep them warm and safe.

### Coots

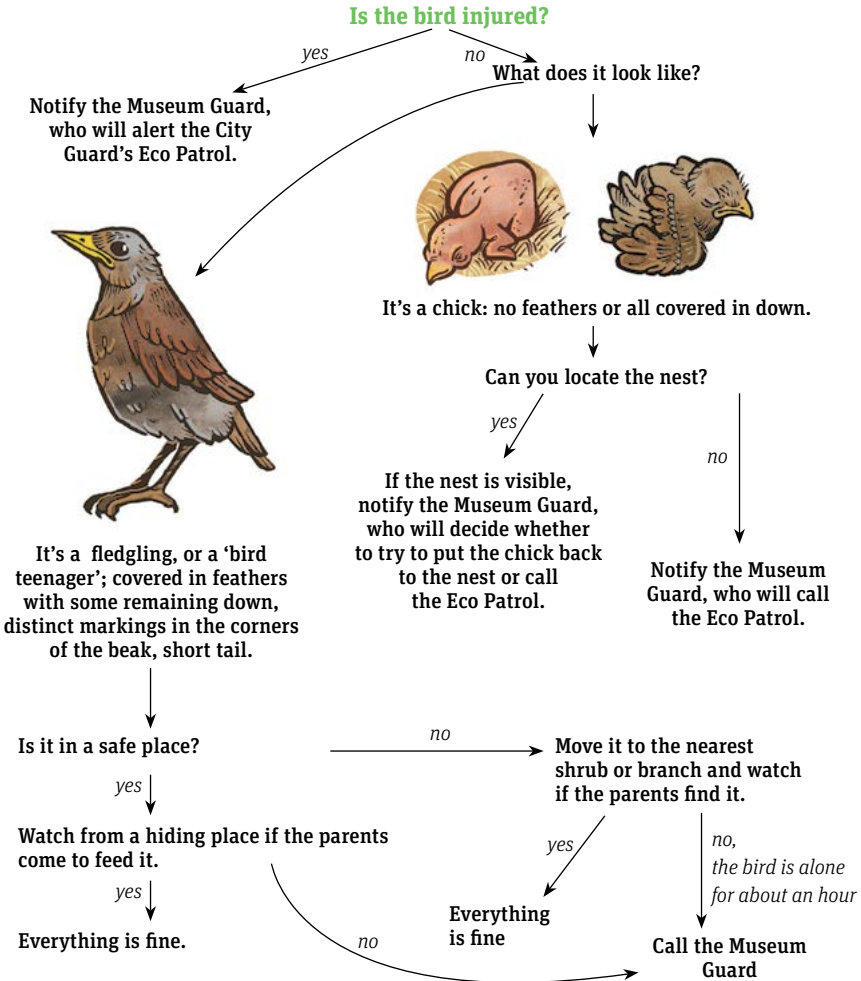
- need additional feeding,
- need protection and warmth.

If you find a duckling or coot chick alone on the shore without its parents and if it looks exhausted or is injured, call the Museum Guard. It will provide first aid and call the City Guard's Eco Patrol. Until the arrival of the Museum Guard, the chick should be kept warm, for example in the palms of your hands, so it doesn't get too cold.



### 3. THE YOUNG OF OTHER BIRD SPECIES

At Łazienki, you may come across several dozen breeding species of birds. What should you do, when you find a bird on the ground?



**Important: Pay attention to what the birds are trying to tell you!**

- If you are standing near a young bird, and adult birds are flying around you and are making alarming sounds, it means that the young bird doesn't need help (unless it's injured) and is under the care of its parents.
- Tawny owls and crows defending their young may try to attack you!

# BIRDS

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## *Summer and autumn*

In summer, ducks start to change their feathers. If you find a duck that doesn't fly and is not injured, you don't need to worry. During this time, ducks lose their ability to fly for about 5 weeks until they grow their flight feathers again. The behaviour of swans can be confusing, as they often swim with one leg resting on their back, sometimes for hours. If you can't see any fishing line or string near the leg, it means that the swan is healthy and is just resting like this.



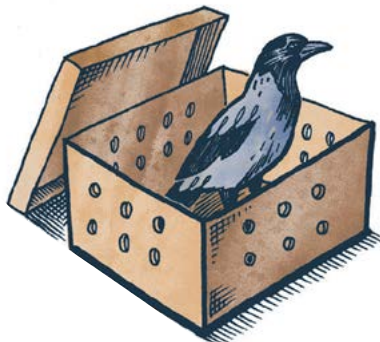
Autumn is the time of bird migration. During that time, we can often come across stunned birds that have collided with a building wall, window or other transparent surface.

### **What to do then?**

Put the bird in a warm, dark and quiet place.

### **If you find a bird that is jumping around, doesn't fly, rolls onto one side or looks stunned,**

call the Museum Guard. In this case, the bird should be placed in a lidded cardboard box with ventilation holes (don't give it any food or water) and left in a quiet room. After one to three hours, you should try to release it. If there is no internal injury, the bird will fly away. If it doesn't manage to fly away after that time, you should call the Eco Patrol or take the bird to the Bird Sanctuary at the Warsaw Zoo.



# BIRDS

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## Winter

Winter is the time when we can come across many species of water birds at Łazienki. The aerated ponds and their unfrozen areas are excellent wintering places for ducks, swans, herons, coots and others.

### If you notice

- a swan stuck to ice (often it is difficult to figure out whether it's stuck to the ice or just resting),
  - an apathetic heron that doesn't move for many hours,
- call the **Museum Guard**, who will contact the appropriate services. Sometimes intervention by the fire bridge is needed.

### Remember:

**NEVER STEP ON THE ICE!** Your safety comes first!

## All year round

### If you come across

- a bird entangled in a fishing line,
  - a wounded bird (with a broken wing or leg, open wounds, embedded fishing hook),
- call the **Museum Guard**.



# PEACOCKS

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Peacocks are breeding birds. At Łazienki, they roam freely all over the Gardens.

## If you find a peacock

- in a tree,
- without a tail between summer and winter,

there's no need to worry. Peacocks spend the night in the trees, and the moulting process, i.e. changing of feathers (including the tail feathers) starts at the beginning of summer.



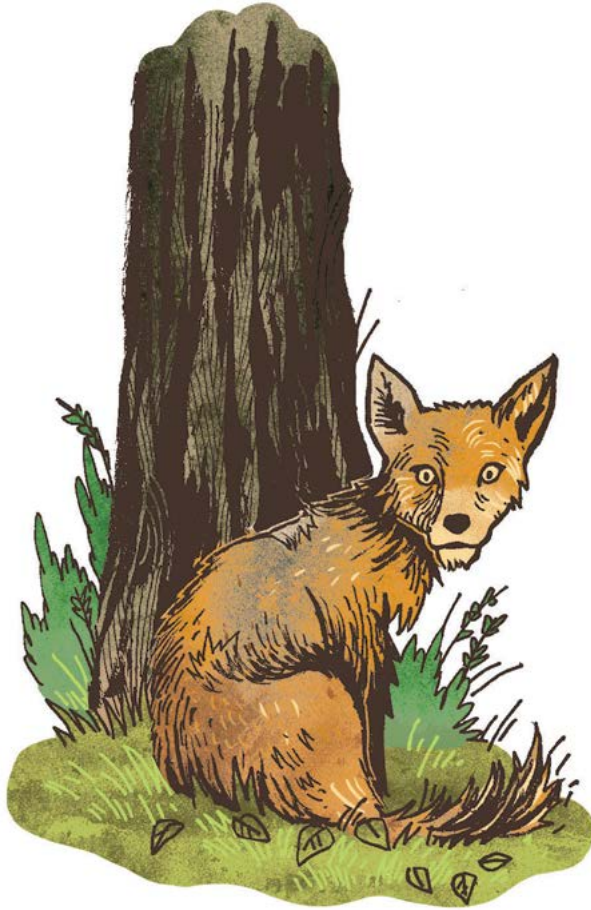
# MAMMALS

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In the Łazienki Gardens, you can come across many species of mammals, including squirrels, bats, foxes, deer, martens, weasels, mice and rats. Remember not to try to stroke the animals! Although they are used to people being around, trying to touch them can make them feel threatened and they might want to defend themselves. If you find a mammal needing help, don't touch it – call the Museum Guard, who will contact the appropriate services. Your safety comes first!







### Things you may see

- Squirrels lying down on tree branches – during hot weather, they often sleep in the treetops. They may look like they need help, but it's completely unnecessary.
- Bats on the ground – they have probably collided with some object. Call the Museum Guard, who will make the animal secure and contact a specialist.
- Foxes with some fur missing – these are animals infected with scabies, which occurs naturally in the population of this species and is one of the factors regulating its numbers. If you see an animal in a very poor condition, report it to the Museum Guard, who will contact a specialist.

## REMEMBER:

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- Do not intervene if it poses a threat to your life or health.  
YOUR safety comes first!
- If intervention is needed other than as described in this guide, please contact the Museum Guard.

**Museum Guard telephone number: +48 22 50 60 131**



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