

# Don't get in a flap over birds

Animals | Tim Michell

A WILDLIFE carer is pleading with residents not to interfere with injured birds this breeding season.

As magpie and duck numbers skyrocket across Monash, Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter's Michelle Phillips said the best way to care for injured animals was often to leave them to their parents.

"What people don't realise is they don't lay eggs at parks, they often lay them in people's yards," Ms Phillips said.

"They will often look for a backyard where there is a swimming



pool, then the mother will lay her eggs and teach the babies how to swim.

"If people see them and go to pick up the babies they can actually do more harm than good, so it's best to leave them to be cared for by their mother."

Ms Phillips rescued five magpies in a night last week and said the number of wattlebirds and lorikeets was rising.

"This is the peak breeding season for all birds, and it will go all the way through to the end of the year," she said.

"The last few weeks have been crazy, I just haven't stopped."

Ms Phillips said she was also hoping for help from the Monash community to fix the window on her car, which was damaged in a recent rescue.

**To volunteer at the Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter, contact Michelle on 0411 600 591.**



Local wildlife carer Michelle Phillips with a seagull she is nursing back to health.

Picture: EUGENE HYLAND N14WG200