



Michele Phillips has been treating baby possums and lorikeets who have fallen from their trees. N31WG208

## Injured animals on the rise

### Wildlife | Michelle Carnovale

MELBOURNE'S unseasonable rainy summer is putting wildlife rescue volunteers into overdrive, with injured birds and possums being collected daily.

Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter's Michele Phillips said the torrential rain that had hit the city in the past couple of weeks had knocked many birds from their trees.

"I have had a lot of baby lorikeets coming in," Ms Phillips said.

"They get waterlogged and fall from their trees."

Ms Phillips said that she would usually be treating possums in the hundreds at this time of year for heat exhaustion but the colder start to summer had made a "massive" change to animal behaviour.

"Everything is affected by the weather," Ms Phillips said.

"I've started getting (possum) babies in that don't usually come for another couple of months but the weather patterns have changed that cycle."

Last week, Ms Phillips' shelter was home to at least

16 baby lorikeets and 14 baby possums.

"We're also getting a lot of duck and duckling calls in but I've been telling people to leave them alone because the mother usually gets the ducklings to where they need to be," she said.

Ms Phillips said she had received numerous cat attack reports on possums, and urged owners to keep their pets indoors.

She called for Monash residents to consider helping her collect injured animals.

Phone Ms Phillips on 0411 600 591.