

OAKLEIGH SOUTH

Let little birds be, says shelter

Jon Andrews

DOZENS of ducklings and baby birds have been handed in to a local shelter, according to wildlife rescuer Michele Phillips.

But while thankful the little creatures have been carefully taken to the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter, they probably didn't need to be there, Ms Phillips said.

Over the past few days, they have received 37 ducklings and 11 baby magpies, with most being brought in from Bayside suburbs including Brighton, Sandringham, Hampton, Elsternwick and Highett.

Ms Phillips said many of the birds were often mistakenly thought to be without their mother.

But that wasn't likely to be the case, she said.

"A lot of people bring us the ducklings when they see them out there on their own, but they don't realise the



Michele Phillips with two ducklings.

Picture: NATHAN DYER

mother is probably nearby, getting food or whatever," Ms Phillips said.

"People also see baby magpies that they think have fallen out of trees, but it's nature that they sometimes need to be on the ground to forage.

"Unless a baby is visibly injured, they don't need to be brought in."

The rescue centre is home to more than 60 ducklings, baby birds and possums.

They take months to nurture and are cared for in incubators and aviaries until they can go out into the world on their own.

Ms Phillips said that if any injured wildlife was found, it should be reported on [0411 600 591](tel:0411600591).