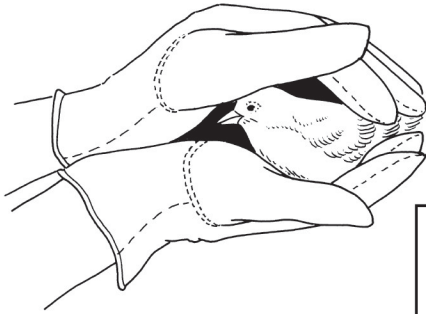


I Found a Baby Bird Now What?



Is the bird hurt or sick? (Unable to flutter its wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, weak or shivering, attacked by a cat or dog?)


To find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact:

- Your state wildlife agency
- Humane Society
- Audubon Society
- wild bird stores
- city animal control officer
- veterinarian (wildlife/exotic)
- Coast Guard or Marine Patrol
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- (online) Wildlife Rehabilitation Information Directory


Is the bird feathered?

Call a wildlife rehabilitator

It's a nestling. (Needs help!)
Can you find the nest? Is it intact?



It's a fledgling. (It's normal behavior to be hopping on ground; parents are still feeding it.) Is bird safe from cats, dogs, and people?



Unable to reach a rehabilitator?
Call your state wildlife agency or a wildlife vet.

If you're unable to reach any of the above, see instructions on back of this page: **"How to Rescue Baby Birds"**

Make a substitute nest. Poke holes in bottom of berry basket/margarine tub. Line with dry grass, the old nest, or pine needles. Hang from original or nearby tree.

Put baby back in nest. Watch from a distance. Are parents visiting the nest?

Put baby in bushes or on tree limb nearby. Watch from a distance. Are the parents nearby?

Leave the area. Baby is okay.

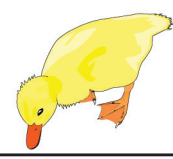
Leave the area. Baby is okay.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

Leave the area. Baby is okay.

A baby bird's best chance for survival is its mother!

Put baby in the nest. Observe from a distance. Are parents visiting nest?



Leave the area. Baby is okay.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

If you find a baby duck, goose, quail, or killdeer:

- If you know the mother is dead, or if the baby is injured, call a wildlife rehabilitator right away.
- If baby is separated from the mother and you know where she is, place baby close by so she can hear it. Watch from a distance.
- If the mother is not found or does not claim the baby within an hour, call a wildlife rehabilitator. If you cannot reach one, read rescue information on the back of this sheet.

How to Rescue Baby Birds

(Only adults should rescue baby birds. Before rescuing adult birds, seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.)

1. **Prepare a container.** Place a clean, soft cloth with no strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier with a lid. If it doesn't have air holes, make some. For smaller birds, you can use a paper sack with air holes.
2. **Protect yourself.** Wear gloves, if possible. Some birds may stab with their beaks, slice with their *talons* (claws) and slap with their wings, to protect themselves, even if sick; birds commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
3. **Cover the bird with a light sheet or towel.**
4. **Gently pick up the bird and put it in the prepared container.**
5. **Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Put one end of the animal's container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap the warm container with cloth, and put next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.
6. **Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.**
7. **Note exactly where you found the bird.** This will be very important for release.
8. **Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place.**
Don't give the bird food or water.
Leave the bird alone; don't handle or bother it.
Keep children and pets away.
9. **Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.**
Don't keep the bird at your home longer than necessary.
Keep the bird in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.
10. **Wash your hands after contact with the bird.**
Wash anything the bird was in contact with — towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier, to prevent spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
11. **Get the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.**

It's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.