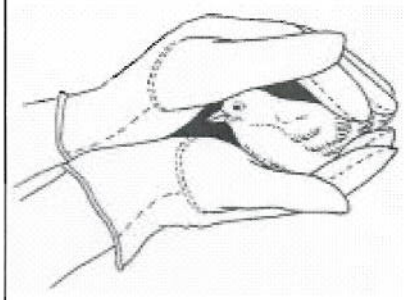
I Found a Baby Bird

Now What?

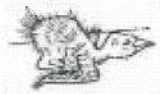


Is bird hurt or sick (unable to flutter wings; bleeding, wings drooping unevenly; weak or shivering; attacked by cat/dog?)

- **Yes** → **Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**
- **No** → **Is bird feathered?**

Is bird feathered?

- **No** → **It's a nestling.** (needs help!) *Can you find the nest? Is it intact?*
- **Yes** → **It's a fledgling.** (Normal behavior to be hopping on ground; parents are still feeding it.) Is bird safe from cats, dogs and people?



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

- **No** → **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 in nest.** Observe from a distance. *Are parents visiting nest?*
  - **Yes** → **Leave the area.** Baby is OK.
  - **No** → **Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**
- **Yes** → **Put baby back in nest.** Observe from a distance. *Are parents visiting nest?*
  - **Yes** → **Leave the area.** Baby is OK.
  - **No** → **Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**

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

- **No** → **Put bird in bushes or on a tree limb nearby.** Watch from a distance. *Are parents nearby?*
  - **Yes** → **Leave the area.** Baby is OK.
  - **No** → **Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**
- **Yes** → **Leave the area.** Baby is OK.

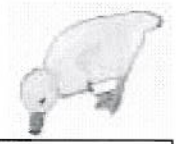
To Find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact

- Your state wildlife agency
- Humane Society
- Audubon Society
- Wild bird stores
- City Animal control officer
- Veterinarian (wildlife/exotic)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Wildlife Rehab Info Directory: (wildliferehab.virtualave.net)

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

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

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



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

- If you know the mother is dead, or if 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, rescue the baby (see instructions on back).

A baby's best chance for survival is its mother

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