

# I Found a Baby Bird

## Now What?



**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: (wildfirehab.virtualave.net)

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

No

Yes

**Is bird feathered?**

No

Yes

**Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**

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

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



**It's a fledgling.**  
(Normal behavior to be hopping on ground; normal feathers, not downy feathers) Is it safe from cats, dogs and people?



No

Yes

No

Yes

**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.**  
Observe from a distance.  
Are parents visiting nest?

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

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

Yes

No

No

Yes

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

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

Yes

No

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

**Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**

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**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.



**A baby's best chance for survival is its mother**

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By Shannon K. Jacobs  
©1998 Coyote Moon Press PO Box 6867  
Denver, CO 80206 (303) 316-4633  
[www.oneeyedcat.com/Healers\\_of\\_the\\_Wild/](http://www.oneeyedcat.com/Healers_of_the_Wild/)