

# I Found A Baby/Injured Bird, Now What?



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

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

No

Yes

Is the bird feathered?

No

Yes

It's a nestling and needs help. Can you find the nest? Is it intact?

No

Yes

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

Put the baby back in the nest, and observe it from a distance. Are the parents visiting the nest?

Yes

Leave the area; the baby is okay.

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

No

Yes

Put the bird in bushes or on a nearby tree limb and watch from a distance. Are the parents nearby?

No

No

Yes

Call a wildlife rehabilitator. In eastern Oregon and Washington, it's Blue Mountain Wildlife at (541) 278-0215.

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If you're unable to reach a wildlife rehabilitator, please see the instructions on the back of this page on **How To Rescue Birds**.

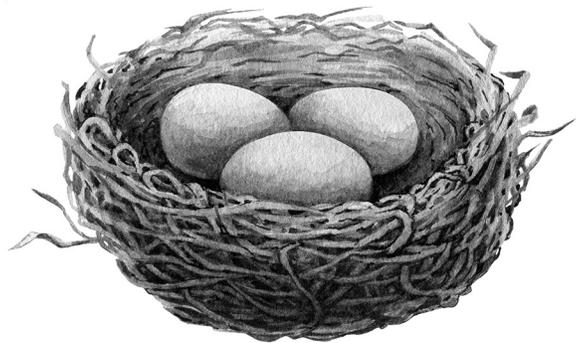
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If you find a baby duck, goose, quail, or killdeer:

- If you know the mother is dead, or if the baby is injured, call Blue Mountain Wildlife at (541) 278-0215.
- If the baby is separated from the mother, and you know where she is, place the baby closeby so that she can hear it. Watch from a distance.
- If the mother is not found, or does not claim the baby within an hour, call Blue Mountain Wildlife. If you cannot reach anyone, see the instructions on the back of this page, **How To Rescue Birds**.

# ***How To Rescue Birds***

- 1) **Prepare a container.** Place a clean, soft cloth with no strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box with a lid or cat/dog carrier. 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. To protect themselves, some birds may stab with their beaks, slice with their talons, and/or slap with their wings, even if sick. Birds commonly have parasites (fleas, ticks, lice) and carry diseases, although most bird diseases are not communicable to mammals.
- 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 bird if it's cold out, or if the bird is chilled.** Put *one* end of the container on a heating pad set on low. You can also fill a ziptop plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot (never boiling) water. Wrap the water container with cloth, and place it next to the bird. Be sure the container doesn't leak, or the bird 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 Blue Mountain Wildlife as soon as possible at (541) 278-0215.**
  - Don't keep the bird at your home longer than necessary.
  - Keep the bird in a container; don't let it loose in you house or vehicle.
- 10) **Wash your hands after contact with the bird.**
- 11) **Wash anything the bird was in contact with—towels, clothing, blankets, pet carriers, etc.—to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites.**
- 12) **Get the bird to Blue Mountain Wildlife as soon as possible.**

***It is against the law in most states to keep a wild animal without a permit, even if you plan to release it.***