

# I Found a Baby Bird *Now What?*



To Find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact

Friends of Free Wildlife  
082 561 3681  
(Northern Suburbs)

Wildlife in Crisis  
073 112 1131  
(East Rand)

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.

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



No

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?



No

Yes

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

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.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

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.

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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