

# I found a baby bird...Now what?

If you find a baby bird in a questionable situation, use this guide to find the right course of action.



## Call a wildlife rehabilitator

- Your state wildlife agency
- Humane Society
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

## Is the bird hurt or sick?

Unable to flutter wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, weak or shivering, attacked by cat/dog/wild animal?

Yes

No

## Is the bird feathered?

Yes

No

## It's a fledgling!

Normal behavior is to be hopping on the ground. Parents are still feeding it.  
Is the bird safe from cats, dogs, and people?

No

## Put bird in bushes or on a tree limb nearby.

For several hours, watch from a distance.  
Are parents nearby?

No

## Call a wildlife rehabilitator

Yes

## Leave the area

Baby is OK

## Put baby back in nest

For several hours, observe the nest from a distance.  
Are the parents visiting the nest?

Yes

No

## Call a wildlife rehabilitator

## It's a nestling!

It needs HELP! Can you find the nest?  
Is it intact?

No

## Make a substitute nest

Poke holes in the bottom of a berry basket/margarine tub. Line with dry grass or the old nest, and hang from a nearby or the original tree.

## Put bird in nest

For several hours, watch from a distance.  
Are parents nearby?

No

Yes

## Leave the area

Baby is OK

## 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.



## Wildlife In Need Center

W349 S1480 S. Waterville Road, Suite B  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262-965-3090

[www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org)

A baby's best chance for survival is its mother