

# How to Rescue Baby Birds

*(Only adults should rescue baby birds. Before rescuing adult birds, seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.)*

- 1. Prepare a container.** Place a clean, soft cloth with no strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier with a lid. 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. Some birds may stab with their beaks, slice with their *talons* (claws) and slap with their wings, to protect themselves, even if sick; birds commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
- 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 animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Put one end of the animal's container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap the warm container with cloth, and put next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal 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 a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.**  
Don't keep the bird at your home longer than necessary.  
Keep the bird in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.
- 10. Wash your hands after contact with the bird.**  
Wash anything the bird was in contact with — towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier — to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
- 11. Get the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.**

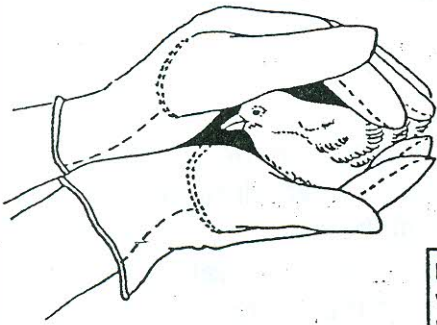
**It's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.**

## Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center

- \* We are located at 21900 Pacific Cast Highway, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 (corner of Pacific Cast Highway and Newland St)
- \* Telephone number 714-374-5587 FAX 714-374-7098
- \* Our hours for admitting animals are: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

\* We do not accept Rock Doves (Pigeons) European Starlings, House Sparrows, Peking Ducks or domestic animals. Crows and/or Ravens

# 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)?

No

Yes

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 and Wildlife Service

Call a wildlife rehabilitator

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

If you're unable to reach any of the above, see instructions on back of this page: "How to Rescue Baby Birds."

Is bird feathered?

No

Yes

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



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?

Yes

No

Leave the area. Baby is okay.

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

Yes

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

No

Yes

Leave the area. Baby is okay.

Leave the area. Baby is okay.

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

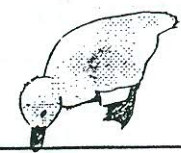
Put baby in nest. Observe from a distance. Are parents visiting nest?

Yes

No

Leave the area. Baby is okay.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.



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.

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