

HELP, I FOUND A BABY BIRD!



Hatchling

Eyes not yet open

I HAVE A HATCHLING OR NESTLING!

CAN YOU SEE THE NEST?

Yes

No

Return the bird to its nest. Fear not – the parents won't "smell" you on the baby!

Make a nest in a safe, shady location off the ground. Parents will find them and nurture them in their new dwelling.



Nestling

Eyes open; few or no feathers

I HAVE A FLEDGLING!

IS IT SAFE FROM CATS, DOGS,
AND PEOPLE?

Yes

No

Do not intervene!
Leave the area so the parents can still feed it. The baby is okay!

Put the baby on a nearby limb or bush. Keep pets inside or leashed until the fledgling is fully flighted.



Fledgling

*Feathered;
awkwardly hops
or flutters.*

THE LIFE OF A FLEDGLING

DO I HAVE TO LEAVE?



When home gets too crowded for comfort, parents begin the process of luring their babies out of the nest to begin their fledgling phase. Staying in the nest too long can be tremendously dangerous for young birds. Their large size and newly developed vocal cords act as a beacon for predators.

WHAT NOW?

It's like college for baby birds! Fledglings will spend roughly two weeks hopping on the ground before learning to fly. It's a natural process and the parents are always nearby to provide food and protection.



Remember—the best chance of survival for young animals is with their natural parents!