

If the baby bird is injured or you are unable to put it back in its nest:

Place the baby in a loosely covered container (so it can breathe) with a soft blanket or towel (loop-free, so its toes or limbs don't get caught.)

Keep in a warm, quiet, dark place until you can get it to a rehabber.



Peace River Wildlife Center  
Punta Gorda, FL  
941-637-3830

Wildlife Center of Venice  
Venice, FL  
941-484-9657

Charlotte County Animal  
Control  
941-833-5690

Florida Fish and Wildlife  
888-404-3922

**I found a baby bird...**

**now what?**

Many baby birds spend time on the ground as a normal phase of their development.

A baby's best chance at a healthy life is with mom. "Kidnapping" it, even with the best intentions, can be harmful.

Follow the flowchart inside to determine what to do next.

# I Found a Baby Bird



## Now What?

**To Find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact**

- Your state wildlife agency
- Humane Society
- Audubon Society
- Local Animal control officer
- Veterinarian (wildlife/exotic)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Wildlife Rehab Info Directory: (WildlifeRehabInfo.org)

**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.**

**If you are unable to reach a wildlife rehabilitation facility...**

**keep the animal in a warm, dark place until you are able to transport it to a facility.**



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

**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

**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.**

**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 a tree limb nearby.**  
Watch from a distance.  
*Are parents nearby?*

No

No

**Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

Yes

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.



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