

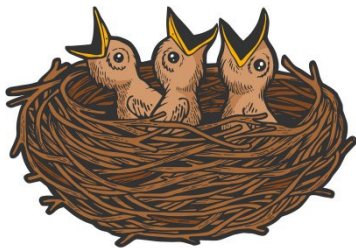
I Found a Baby Bird... *Now What?*

**START
HERE**

**IS THE
BIRD
INJURED?**

This could look like:

Unable to flutter wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, weak or shivering, or attacked by another animal.



NO

YES



**Contact a
licensed wildlife
rehabilitator.**

**DOES THE BIRD
HAVE FEATHERS?**

IT'S A NESTLING.
A NESTLING IS TOO
YOUNG TO LEAVE
ITS NEST.

NO

YES

IT'S A FLEDGLING.
Fledglings hop
around on the
ground and
parents are still
feeding it.

**MAKE SURE FLEDGLINGS
ARE SAFE FROM CATS,
DOGS, AND PEOPLE.**



**CAN YOU FIND AN
INTACT NEST?**

NO

YES

PUT THE BABY IN THE NEST.
KEEP AN EYE ON IT FOR 1 HOUR.
WATCH FOR A PARENT TO
RETURN.

MAKE A NEW NEST.
HANG IT CLOSE TO THE
ORIGINAL LOCATION. PUT
THE BABY IN NEST AND
WATCH FOR 1 HOUR.

**ARE THE
PARENTS
RETURNING?**

YES

**LEAVE THE AREA, THE
BABY BIRD IS OK.**

NO

**CONTACT A
LICENSED
WILDLIFE
REHABILITATOR**



How to Rescue Baby Raptors and Waterbirds

Call a wildlife rehabilitator for specific advice before attempting to handle adult birds.

- 1. Note exactly where the bird was found.** Look for a possible nest in a nearby tree. Note if its parents or siblings are in the area. This will be very important for release.
- 2. Prepare a box.** Place a cloth with no frays or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box with holes punched in it or cat/dog carrier, and secure it closed.
- 3. Protect yourself.** Wear thick gloves, if available. Even sick and injured birds may try to stab with their beaks, grasp with their talons (claws), or slap with their wings. Birds may carry diseases or parasites such as lice, ticks, and intestinal parasites.
- 4. Cover the entire bird with a light sheet or towel, including its head.**
- 5. Pick up the bird.** With its wings folded up against its body, pick up the bird by its sides. If necessary, gently restrain the head so it does not bite or peck you. Mind the feet so they do not grab you. Place the bird into the prepared container.
- 6. Warm the bird if it is cold or featherless.** Use a heating pad under half of the box on low, or fill a water bottle with hot water and wrap it with a cloth and place it next to the bird inside the box. Double-check to make sure it does not leak to prevent the animal from becoming wet.
- 7. Secure the box shut.**
- 8. Keep the bird in a dark, quiet place away from drafts.** Do not give food or water. To reduce its stress and habituation, do not handle or talk to the bird. Keep children and pets away.
- 9. Sanitize after contact with the bird.** Wash anything the bird was in contact with including your hands and clothes.
- 10. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.** Do not keep the bird longer than necessary. Keep the bird in a container; do not let it loose in your house.
- 11. Get the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.**

Marine Science Center Bird Hospital
4965 S. Peninsula Dr.
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127
(386) 304-5530
Hospital Hours
Open 7 days a week: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

It is against the law attempt to keep wild animals without a permit even if you are planning to release it.