

# I found a baby bird. *Now What?*

**Is the bird sick or hurt?** Unable to flutter wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, weak, or shivering? Is she alive, but unresponsive or cold to the touch? Are there insects on her? Has she been attacked by a cat or dog?

**Is the bird orphaned?** It is extremely rare for wild animals to abandon their young. Are you certain the parents are not around?

**Is the bird feathered?**

**Bring the bird to WildCare**

Can you transport her immediately?

**It's a nestling!**

The baby needs help. Can you find the nest? Is it intact?

**It's a fledgling!**

Normal behavior to be hopping on ground; parents are still feeding the baby. Is the bird safe from cats, dogs, and people?

**Make a substitute nest.**

Poke holes in the bottom of a berry basket/small plastic container; line with dry grass, the old nest, or pine needles; hang from the original or nearby tree.

**Put baby bird back in his/her nest.**

Observe from a distance. Are parents visiting nest?

**Put baby bird in bushes or on a tree branch nearby.**

Watch FROM A DISTANCE. Are parents nearby?

**Put baby bird in nest.**

Observe from a distance. Are parents visiting nest?

Visit [wildcarebayarea.org/ressources](http://wildcarebayarea.org/ressources) for a center near you.

(Marin County residents can call The Marin Humane Society 415-883-4621)

**To transport an injured or orphaned bird to WildCare**

- 1. Prepare a container.** A shoebox with air holes in the lid, lined with a small towel, works for most birds.
- 2. Protect yourself.** Even small weak birds may try to protect themselves with their beaks or talons. Wear gloves if possible. Animals may have parasites or carry diseases. Wash your hands after handling.
- 3. Put the bird in the box.** Cover the bird with a light cloth and gently put her in the shoebox.
- 4. Keep it warm.** If the bird is cold, put one end of the shoebox on top of a heating pad set on LOW.
- 5. If you can't transport immediately:**
  - Call our hotline at 415-456-SAVE
  - Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place.
  - DO NOT GIVE FOOD OR WATER.
  - Do not handle her.
  - Keep children and pets away from her.
- 6. Transport the bird to WildCare.** Keep her in the shoebox, keep the car quiet (radio off, etc.).
- 7. Complete WildCare's intake form.** Provide complete information on the circumstances of your rescue. Provide your personal information clearly in the event we need to contact you.

**Leave the area.**  
Baby bird is okay.

**Call WildCare**  
415-456-7283  
(SAVE)

**A baby's best chance for survival is her mother**

**If you find a baby duck, goose, quail or killdeer:**

- If you know the mother is dead, or if the baby is injured, call WildCare right away.
- If baby is separated from the mother and you know where she is, place baby close by so she can hear him/her. Watch FROM A DISTANCE.
- If the mother is not found or does not claim the baby within an hour, call WildCare and follow the instruction above to rescue the baby.