

Animal Rescue

I found a baby bird. What do I do?

Baby birds found on the ground are not always as abandoned as they appear. Birds rarely abandon their young, so it is quite likely that the parents are somewhere close.

Fledglings

If the bird has a good bit of feathers, a stumpy tail and can hop around on its own, it is a fledgling and it needs to be left alone. It can be put into the top of a shrub if there are predators present.

Hatchlings

If the bird does not have any feathers, it is a hatchling. A substitute nest can be made for it by using a small woven basket and pine straw. Put the nest in the tree nearest to where the bird was found at a level that can be safely reached, then leave the nest alone.

Note: Constant checking can deter the parent from returning.

Fact or Fiction?

It is a myth that birds can smell human scent on their babies.

What Should You Do?

You should contact a licensed rehabilitator. Visit www.gadnrle.org for a current list.

Attempting to take care of a baby bird yourself is not the best solution. What you should know:

It is illegal to raise an orphan without a permit;

Newly-hatched babies must be fed every 15 minutes; and

No human could ever do as good a job as the parents would.