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.

**Attemping 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.