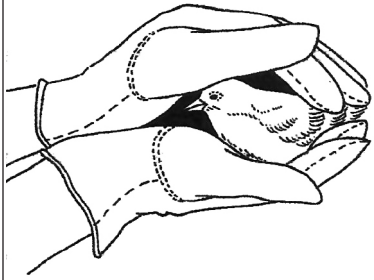


# I Found a Baby Bird! Now What?

Remember: A healthy baby's best chance for survival is with the mother.



**Is bird hurt or sick?**  
 Bleeding? Unable to flutter wings?  
 Wings drooping unevenly? Weak?  
 Shivering? Attacked by another animal?

NO

YES

**Is the bird feathered?**

NO

YES

**Call a wildlife bird rehabilitator\***

like The Raptor Trust:  
 908-647-2353

**It is a NESTLING and needs help.**  
 Can you find the nest? Is nest intact?



NO

YES

**It is a FLEDGLING.**  
 It is NORMAL BEHAVIOR to be HOPPING and FLUTTERING on ground, parents are still feeding bird.  
 People often needlessly "rescue" these babies. Fledglings are "toddlers" learning to fly! Is bird safe from cats, dogs and people?



NO

YES

**Make a substitute nest:** Poke holes in the bottom of a basket or margarine tub. Line with the old nest or dry grass and hang from the original or nearby tree.

**Put baby back into nest.** Observe from a distance. *Are the parents visiting the nest?*

**Put bird in bushes or on a tree limb nearby.** Watch from a distance. *Are the parents nearby?*

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

YES

NO

NO

YES

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

**Call a wildlife rehabilitator.\***

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

**Put baby in nest.** Observe from a distance. *Are parents visiting nest?*

YES

NO

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

**Call a wildlife rehabilitator.\***



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

- If Mom is definitely dead or if baby is injured, get baby to wildlife rehabilitator.
- If baby is separated from Mom and you know where she is, place baby close by so Mom can hear baby. Watch from a distance.
- If Mom is not found or does not claim baby, rescue baby. See instructions on the reverse side and contact wildlife rehabilitator.

**\*Resources**

**List of N.J. Wildlife Rehabilitators:** [www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab\\_list.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab_list.pdf)

**The Raptor Trust:** 908-647-2353 • [www.theraptortrust.org](http://www.theraptortrust.org) (See their "how-to" videos)

**Wildlife Helpline:** 1-877-472-8945 (recording)

# How to Rescue Birds

Only adults should rescue, seek help from wildlife rehabilitator

1. **Prepare a container.** Place a soft clean cloth without loops at the bottom of a cardboard box or dog/cat carrier with a lid. If need be, make air holes.
  2. **Be careful and protect yourself!** Wear gloves and goggles, if possible. Because they are scared of you, some birds can stab you with their beaks, slice with their claws or slap with their wings.
  3. **Cover bird with a light sheet or towel.**
  4. **Carefully pick bird up and place into the prepared container.**
  5. **Securely close the box, use tape.** Make sure there are air holes!
  6. **Keep bird warm:** Place one end/half of the container on a heat pad set on "LOW". DO NOT set it higher or you can overheat and kill the bird. Or fill a ziplock bag or plastic container with a secure lid or rubber glove with hot water. Wrap in a cloth and place near bird. Make sure it can't leak or bird will get wet and chilled.
  7. **Note exactly where the bird was found.** This is important for the return.
  8. **Place the bird in a warm, dark quiet area.** Do not give food or water (**unless you are specifically instructed by a wildlife rehabilitator**) Leave the bird alone—do not handle or disturb. Keep children and pets away.
  9. **Contact a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.** Keep bird in container, do not let loose in home or car. Do not keep bird at your home longer than necessary!
  10. **Wash your hands and all things that were in contact with the bird** to protect yourself and pets from any parasites or diseases.
11. **It is against the law in most states to keep wild birds, even if you plan to release them. A wildlife rehabilitator knows the specific needs of each wild bird and offers them the best chance of recovery. Get the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator ASAP!**
12. **WILD BIRD REHABILITATOR: THE RAPTOR TRUST • 908-647-2353 • Watch their videos at [www.theraptortrust.org/](http://www.theraptortrust.org/)**
  13. **List of NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators:** [www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab\\_list.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/rehab_list.pdf)
  14. **Wildlife Helpline** 1-877-472-8945 (a recording)