



I found a baby bird, now what?

Is the bird sick or injured?
(unable to flutter wings, shivering, attacked by dog/cat)

No.

Does the bird have feathers?

No.

Can you find an intact nest?

Yes.

No.

Place baby back in nest with gloves. Observe from a distance.

Poke holes in the bottom of a small plastic tub and line with dried grass. Place the baby in the tub and put it in a nearby tree. Observe from afar.

Are the parents nearby? If the baby is not feathered, are the parents visiting the nest?

Yes.

Leave the area. A baby's best chance of survival is with the mother.

Not feathered



Feathered



Yes.

Contact a wildlife rehab. Find one near you online: tpwd.texas.gov

Yes.

No.

Place in a safe branch. Observe from a distance.

No.

If the baby is a duckling or baby goose:

1. If you know the mother is dead or the baby is injured, contact a wildlife rehab.
2. If the baby is separated from the mother, place it within earshot of her. Observe from a distance.
3. If the mother does not claim the baby, contact a wildlife rehab.



I found a baby bird, now what?

How to rescue baby birds:

1. Prepare a container. Place a clean, soft cloth with no strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box or animal carrier with a lid. Make sure it has air holes. For smaller birds, you can use a paper sack with air holes.
2. Protect yourself. Wear gloves, if possible. Some birds may stab with their beaks, slice with their talons, and slap with their wings, to protect themselves, even if sick; birds commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
3. Cover the bird with a light sheet or towel.
4. Gently pick up the bird and put it in the prepared container.
5. Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled. Put one end of the container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap warm container with cloth, and put it next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.
6. Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.
7. Note exactly where you found the bird. This will be very important for release.
8. Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place. Don't give it food or water. Leave the bird alone; don't handle or bother it. Keep children and pets away.
9. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible. Don't keep the bird at your home longer than necessary. Keep the bird in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.
10. Wash your hands after contact with the bird. Wash anything the bird was in contact with — towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier — to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
11. Get the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

It's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.