

It's against the law to keep wild animals if you do not have proper permits, even if you plan to release them!

I found a Bird!

Is the bird hurt or sick?
(unable to flutter wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, weak or shivering, attacked by a dog or cat)

No

Yes

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator!

Is it feathered?

No

Yes

It's a nestling
(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)
Is bird safe from cats, dogs, people, traffic, etc?

No

Yes

No

Yes

Make a substitute nest.
Use an old butter or cool whip dish with holes poked in the bottom. Line with paper towels, grass clippings, pine needles, etc. Hang from original or nearby tree.

Put baby back in nest.
Observe from a distance.
Are parents visiting the nest?
(Note: Birds do not have a sense of smell so handling the baby will not cause the parents to stop caring for it.)

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

Leave the area.
Baby is OK!

Yes

No

No

Yes

Leave the area.
Baby is OK!

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator!

Leave the area.
Baby is OK!

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

Yes

No

Leave the area.
Baby is OK!

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator!

If you find a baby precocial bird
(Duck, Goose, Swan, Turkey, Quail, etc.)

- *If the mother is dead, or if the baby is injured, call a wildlife rehabilitator right away!
- *If the baby is alone with no parents in sight and does not have all of its feathers call a wildlife rehabilitator right away!
- *If the baby is separated from the mother, but she is in sight or you know where she is, place the baby close by so that she can hear it and watch from a distance.
- *If the mother is not found or does not claim the baby within an hour, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

A baby's best chance of survival is with its mother!!