

# Found a baby bird?

**START HERE**

In the nesting season, birds that have recently fledged (left the nest) are sometimes found on the ground while their parent(s) are nearby feeding.

**The bird might look abandoned, but often it is not and there is no need for human intervention.**

If you find a baby bird, follow this flow chart to identify the best means of action.

Is the bird visibly injured or has a cat attacked it?

Yes

**Contact the Wildcare Helpline who will be able to provide further advice based on your location.**



Wildcare Helpline  
(08) 9474 9055.  
[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

No

What does the bird look like?



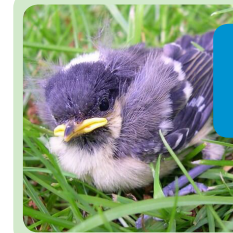
Eyes not yet open

*You have a hatchling*



Eyes open: feathers few and may be in tube-like sheaths

*You have a nestling*



Feathered; awkwardly hops or flutters; short tail and wings

*You have a fledgling*

Can you see the nest?

Yes

**Return the bird to its nest and then give the birds plenty of space.**

Parent birds will not reject their young following being handled by a human.

No

**Look for a nearby nest to return the bird to or make a substitute and hang it in a nearby tree.**

Parent birds will usually locate the nestling and continue to feed it.

Is the bird in immediate danger?

Yes

**Carefully move it to a safer spot nearby.**

Only if you **ARE SURE** there are no parents around, should you pick up the baby and take it to a wildlife rehabilitation centre. Call the Wildcare Helpline to find out your closest one.

No

**Do not intervene!**

Parent birds will return to care for their offspring. Do not attempt to feed the bird – parent birds can do a much better job.

