






I found an injured bird. What do I do?

Stage	Hatchlings/Egglets	Nestlings	Fledgelings	Juveniles	Adults
Picture					
Stage	Recently born	A couple days to 1-2 weeks old	2-3 weeks old	Near adult	Fully grown
Description	Usually bald and pink bodies that may have fuzz. Eyes generally closed.	Beaks/legs more pronounced, some "down" and pin feathers.	Tufts of white feathers on both sides of the head, grumpy look. More feathers but not enough for flight.	Can have a younger look, some baby feathers remaining. Flighted.	Flighted, fully grown feathers.
Parents Involvement	Need warmth and attention.	Still involved, need attention.	Monitored by parents but semi-independent as well. Mobile, hop around attempting to fly.	Most species - basically on their own. Juvenile pigeons may still be nest bound until they've flown off.	No parents involved (may be parents themselves).
If found and uninjured (after confirming with rehab)	<p>Look for nest right above you. If you see a tree, try to locate the nest and return the bird asap. Some birds make nests in openings or cavities above or even below you. Try to make sure the baby is warm before returning it to the nest.</p> <p>If there is no nest, and especially if there are multiple babies, make a <u>makeshift nest</u>: use materials that can't get soaked (vented plastic containers or baskets), fill with natural dried/dead materials (leaves, twigs, grass), place it as close to original nest as possible. Secure the nest (use a string, staple). Place twigs/branches inside that extend out of the nest for easy foothold exit for bird.</p> <p>Monitor nest for some time to see if the returning parents find the babies and are able to tend to it. If not, <u>bring them to a rehab</u>*. This is especially true if there is only one baby in need of help.</p>		<p>Don't accidentally be a fledgeling kidnapper - if it is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Spring time, 2) looks healthy (alert eyes, some mobility), leave it where you found it. <p>If found in the middle of nowhere/dangers nearby (cats, traffic, harsh weather), move to a nearby bush or small tree. Confirm fledgling is being cared for by monitoring far away (~30 feet, close enough that you can still see the baby) until you see parents attending.</p>		<p>Leave it alone - healthy adult birds are mobile, apprehensive of being approached, and quick to escape.</p>
If found and injured (after confirming with rehab)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Get into a ventilated, sealed, marked ("bird inside") container and 2) <u>bring to rehab</u>* or 3) if you can't right away (or are unable to get bird into nest right away), then bring bird inside, place on padded (paper towels/sheet to prevent overheating/burns) heat warmer or a warmed (microwaved) sock with dried rice, in same container in dark, warm, quiet place. If holding overnight, check temp of supplemental warmth and add/remove accordingly. 4) No food or water! 		<p>If signs of injury (droopy/closed eyes, puffy feathers, heavy panting, not standing on feet), and especially if found outside a reflective/see-through window/building:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) get it into ventilated, sealed, marked ("bird inside") container and 2) <u>bring to rehab</u>* or 3) if keeping overnight, keep it in the same container in warm (especially if puffed up), dark, quiet, place. 4) No food or water! 		

*Any person who finds a sick, injured, or orphaned migratory bird may, without a permit, take possession of the bird for immediate transport to a permitted rehabilitator or licensed veterinarian (50 CFR 21.76(a))