












What You Should Do If You See An Injured Baby Bird

What You May See	What You Should Do
 <p>Signs of an injury such as bleeding, eye injury or broken wing.</p>	<p>Contact a licensed rehabilitation center.</p>
   <p>Hatchlings (very young birds with little or no feathers, pink bodies and closed eyes) on the ground.</p>	<p>Take them back to the nest! Their best chance of survival is with their parents who will teach them the skills necessary to thrive in the wild. If the nest has fallen but still intact, place birds in the nest and then place the nest back in the tree.</p> <p>If the nest is damaged, you can make an artificial nest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punch holes in the bottom of a clean butter tub. • Punch a hole in each side of the tub. • Add grass for bedding. • Place the babies in the nest. • Hang the nest securely from a branch close to the trunk of a tree. <p>In both scenarios above, the parents will hear the babies' calls and return to the tree to care for them. If one parent is missing, do not assume the babies are orphans. The remaining parents can successfully raise them.</p> <p>If the hatchlings appear to be injured, contact a licensed rehabilitation center.</p>
 <p>Nestling songbirds (young birds with feathers and open eyes) on the ground</p>	<p>Handle the same as above.</p>
 <p>Fledgling songbirds (feathered) out of the nest</p>	<p>Do not intervene! These young birds are probably not abandoned. Just like toddlers, they are off exploring on their own. Their parents are close by but often out of sight. Unless these birds are obviously injured, leave them alone! They are still dependent on their parents to teach them survival skills such as danger awareness, foraging for food and migration routes.</p> <p>If the fledglings appear to be injured, contact a licensed rehabilitation center.</p>
  <p>Nestling hawks, owls and other baby raptors on the ground</p>	<p>Return them to their nest. Nestling hawks and owls are often blown to the ground when their nests are dislodged during spring storms. Even if the nestlings avoid injuries from the fall, their chances of survival are poor unless they can be returned to their nest and their parents.</p> <p>Since raptor nests are generally 20 feet or more above the ground, returning them to intact nests can be daunting. Constructing an alternative nest and placing it in a tree is just as challenging. Owls typically nest inside holes in tree trunks and usually they can be more easily returned.</p> <p>If you cannot restore a nest or return the nestlings to one, or if they are injured, contact a licensed rehabilitation center.</p>
  <p>Fledgling hawks, owls and other raptors on the ground</p>	<p>When to intervene: Due to their small size, raptor fledglings such as kestrels and screech owls are at risk when they are on the ground. If they have no injuries, they should be placed on a branch of a nearby tree in a spot as high as you can reach and sheltered from the sun. The parents will respond to their calls and resume care.</p> <p>When NOT to intervene: Larger fledglings, such as Barred and Great Horned Owls, are often seen on the ground as they may have outgrown their nests or were "branching" – the practice of young raptors moving about their nest and onto nearby branches, usually before taking their first flight. Or, like toddlers, they are curious about their environment and are just exploring their world. Often, these young raptors fall to the ground. Their parents are probably close by but out of sight, but they will continue to feed and protect the young raptors and may even encourage them to climb back up the tree or to fly. Unless you see obvious injuries, please leave them alone.</p>

		<p>It's important to observe the behavior of fledglings for an extended period of time. There is a chance that these birds did successfully leave their nest and are now surviving on their own. But if they are not hunting well enough to survive and the parents have not returned to help, then there may in fact be a problem and these birds likely need to be rescued. At this point, or if the fledglings appear to be injured, contact a licensed rehabilitation center.</p>
	<p>European Starlings and English Sparrows</p>	<p>Do not intervene! These species are an invasive species that compete with native cavity-nesting birds (such as Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, White-breasted Nuthatches, etc.). Most rehabilitation centers, including MRC, will not accept them.</p>