

Have you found a baby bird?

If I am pink and have very few feathers:

- I cannot keep myself warm
- If mum and dad do not return soon, I will need to be taken into care
- Keep me in a warm, dark, quiet place and transport me to a wildlife hospital or veterinary clinic.

If I have lots of feathers, I may be a fledgling. Don't kidnap me!

- It is possible that I have just left the nest and I am learning to fly... under the watchful eyes of mum and dad
- I am on the ground for a reason – do not rescue me unless I am in danger
- If I appear to be in danger (from dogs, cats or people), then place me on a branch for safety, or make me a new home.

If I am sick, injured or have been in a cat's or dog's mouth:

- I will need veterinary attention
- Keep me in a warm, dark, quiet place and transport me to a wildlife hospital or veterinary clinic.

Remember:

- It is illegal to keep protected wildlife
- A bird's parents can teach it all of the lessons and survival skills it needs to know.

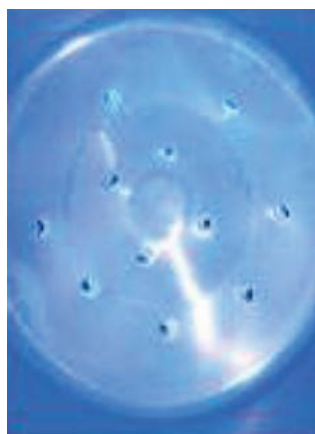
Before you 'rescue' me, I might just be learning how to fly! My parents are almost certainly watching me from afar.



How to make a new home in 4 easy steps

If the bird has soft and fluffy down instead of feathers and you are not able to place it in the original nest, then you need to make it a new home.

1. Using a plant pot or bucket (40-50cm deep), punch holes in the bottom for drainage.



2. Put in a layer of soft leaves or grass in the bottom. Secure a stick (about 60cm long), into one of the drainage holes, so the parents and baby bird can get in and out.



3. Hang the pot or bucket head height in a leafy protected area, away from direct sunlight and as close as possible to where you found it. Mum and dad do not mind if baby is in a different tree and has been handled by a human.



4. Watch from a distance to make sure the parents return to feed the baby. If the new home is disturbed, this may take hours. **If the parents do not return by dark, then the baby will need to be taken to a wildlife hospital or veterinary clinic.**



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caring for animals

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