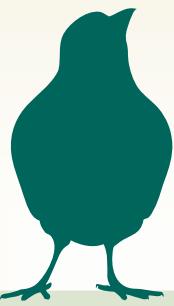


# FOUND A BABY BIRD?



## START

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

NO

Are its eyes open?

YES



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You have a hatchling, a baby that is between zero and four days old.

Can you see the nest?

YES

NO

You have a nestling. It's usually three to 13 days old.

Return the bird to the nest. Most birds don't have a well-developed sense of smell, so the parents won't know that the baby bird has been touched by a person.



Make a replacement nest using a shallow basket (2–5" high). Place dried grass in the bottom of the basket. Cut two 20" lengths of wire and push them through the bottom so there are four pieces of wire hanging down. Place the basket on the top of a branch in a nearby tree and use the wires to securely attach it. Put the birds inside.

Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife care center. For more, visit [massaudubon.org/babybirds](http://massaudubon.org/babybirds).

Is it well feathered, though with a short tail and wings, and can it walk, hop, or flutter?

NO

YES

Are its feathers few and perhaps in tubelike sheaths?

YES



You have a fledgling, a baby that is 13–14 days old or older.

Fledglings rarely need human intervention. Parent birds will continue to feed their offspring on the ground and teach them to fly. If a bird is in immediate danger (for example, if it's on a sidewalk or road), place it on top of a nearby shrub or bush and leave the area. Don't attempt to feed the baby—its parents can do a much better job!

Adapted, with permission, from Rosemary Mosco's chart at [birdandmoon.com](http://birdandmoon.com).



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