

I Found a Baby Bird—What do I do?

Is it visibly injured (blood)?
Attacked by a dog or cat?

Yes

Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. In Illinois go to

<https://www.wildlifeillinois.org/list-of-licensed-wildlife-rehabilitators/>

No

What does it look like?

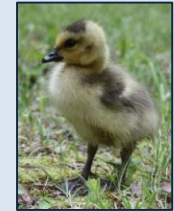
Eyes not open, lots of skin visible. This is a hatchling.



Feathers encased in tube-like sheaths. This is a nestling.



Feathered, short tail, hops or flutters on the ground. This is a fledgling.



If you find an uninjured baby duck, goose or killdeer, search the area for mom. If seen, set baby down so she can hear/see it. If the mother is dead or not seen, contact a wildlife rehabilitator.

Can you see & reach the nest?

Yes

Put baby back in nest & watch from a distance so the parents can return.

Remember that a baby bird's best chance of survival is with its mom.

No

Make a substitute nest. Poke holes in the bottom of a margarine tub/berry basket; line with grass, old nest, or pine needles & wire it securely to tree. Put baby in the new nest & watch from distance.

Is it in immediate danger?

No

Do not intervene. This is a natural step. Leave the area so the parents can return to the fledgling.

Yes

Move the fledgling to a safer spot on the ground or in low branches of a nearby bush or tree.

Never fear. Parents care for their babies even after they have been touched by humans.