

I Found a Baby Bird - Now What?



Ask Yourself...

Is bird hurt or sick?
 Unable to flap his wings
 Wings droop unevenly
 Weak or shivering
 Injured and/or bleeding

Phone for assistance, or take the bird somewhere safe until you can get help (see reverse side)

Emergency Contact Details
Wildlife Advice Hotline
 0800 822 8888 toll free
 or 605 8888 text/call
 also
Forest Department
 (all wildlife) 822 1524
Belize Bird Rescue
 (all birds) 610 0400

Is the bird completely covered in feathers?
 YES
 NO



It's a nestling
 It needs help

It's a fledgling
 They often end up on the ground when first learning to fly



Can you see the nest?
 YES
 NO



Make a substitute nest
 Find a container and make sure it has drainage. Line with dry grass, leaves or use the old nest if you can. Secure to the same tree or close by

Put the baby in the nest and watch from a distance

Is it safe from cats, dogs and people?
 YES
 NO

Carefully lift the bird into nearby bushes or a tree limb. Watch from a distance

Are the parents nearby?
 YES
 NO

Leave the area
 The baby will be okay

Are the parents visiting?
 YES
 NO



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ALWAYS REMEMBER
 A baby's best chance for survival is with its mother



First Aid for birds & animals in trouble

1. Protect yourself

Be careful when handling wild animals: they have sharp teeth, beaks and claws, they don't know you are trying to help. If you need to pick an animal up, use gloves or a thick towel. Always get an adult to help.

2. Protect the bird or animal

- **Comfort:** line a box or tub with something soft: a towel, an old shirt or some leaves.
- **Containment:** cover the top with the lid or a towel so that the bird or animal can't jump out.
- **Safety:** make absolutely sure that no other animals can get at, or into the box.
- **Air:** make sure there is ventilation - small holes for air to get in or the bird/animal will die.

3. Keep him warm

One of the biggest dangers, especially for babies, is the cold. Put the box somewhere warm, but not too hot like in direct sunshine.

4. Keep him quiet

Animals and birds are much calmer in dark, quiet environments. Stress will makes his problems worse so keep him quiet, away from TV, voices or barking dogs.

5. Leave him alone

- **Do not** try to give food or water
- **Don't** handle or bother him
- **Keep** small children and pets away

6. Call for help

Wash your hands! Wild birds and animals carry many diseases



Contact details for help and advice

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Please don't be tempted to try and raise the bird or animal by yourself. It's a tricky job, even for the experts. It's also against the law to keep wild animals captive without a special permit from the Forest Department, even if you eventually intend to release them



**Bird
Sanctuary &
Rehabilitation Centre**

Cayo District, Belize
Tel: (+501) 610-0400
belizebirdrescue@gmail.com
www.belizebirdrescue.org