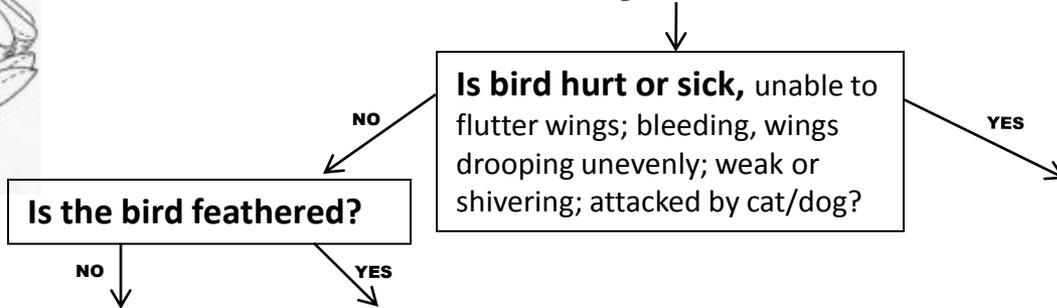
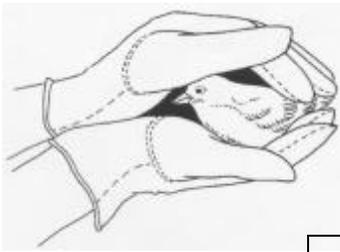


# I Found a Baby Bird - Now What?



**It's a nestling.**  
(needs help!)  
*Can you find the nest?  
Is it intact? Is it safe?*



NO → Make a substitute nest.  
YES → Put baby back in nest.

**Make a substitute nest.**  
Use a small container; line with dry grass or leaves, or the old nest; hang securely or duct tape to original or another nearby tree.

**Put baby back in nest.**  
Observe for up to an hour, while hidden.  
*Are parents visiting?*

YES → Put baby in nest.  
NO → Call WBRH 808-447-9274

**Put baby in nest.**  
Observe up to an hour, hidden from view.  
*Are parents visiting nest?*

YES → Leave the area.  
NO → Call WBRH 808-447-9274

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

**Call WBRH**  
**808-447-9274**

**It's a fledgling.** (Normal behavior to be hopping on ground; parents are still feeding it.)  
Is bird safe from cats, dogs, cars, and people?



NO → Put bird in bushes or on a tree limb nearby.  
YES → Leave the area.

**Put bird in bushes or on a tree limb nearby.**  
Watch from a distance.  
*Are parents nearby?*

NO → Call WBRH 808-447-9274  
YES → Leave the area.

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

**Call WBRH**  
**808-447-9274**

**Leave the area.**  
Baby is OK.

**A BABY BIRD'S BEST CHANCE  
FOR SURVIVAL IS  
WITH ITS PARENTS!!**  
*Parent birds WILL NOT REJECT a baby  
after being handled by humans!*

**Call Wild Bird Rehab Haven (WBRH)**  
**808-447-9274**  
Please leave a message and we'll return your call. For instructions on helping birds please read the reverse side of this flyer or visit our website:  
[www.wildbirdrehabhaven.org](http://www.wildbirdrehabhaven.org)

If you wish to take an injured bird to an avian veterinarian here is a partial list on Oahu:

- Aloha Animal Hospital, Kahala. 808-734-2242
- Feather and Fur, Kailua. 808-254-1548
- Kailua Animal Clinic. 808-263-8863
- Mililani Mauka Vet Clinic. 808-626-7600
- The Pet Doctor, Kahala. 808-733-8828

WBRH is authorized by the state of Hawaii to rehabilitate introduced species of birds. Seabirds may be taken to Sea Life Park on Oahu: 808-259-2537. Do not force food or water on sea birds. Place birds in a box with air holes, and take to a trained rehabilitator as soon as possible. Note that ground-nesting seabird parents are gone from dawn to dusk. Disturb babies only if found in an unsafe place.

WBRH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity run by volunteers and supported by caring and concerned citizens like you. Your tax deductible donations pay for wild bird rescue and rehabilitation, and are greatly appreciated!

**Wild Bird Rehab Haven**  
P.O. Box 11721  
Honolulu, HI 96828-0721

## HELP! I FOUND A BABY BIRD — NOW WHAT?

If the baby bird you found is too young to fly, cannot be returned to its nest or a substitute nest, and appears to be abandoned, congratulations on your new job as an avian foster parent! We offer the following information to help you raise a strong, healthy bird that can eventually be released back into the wild.

### BABY BIRDS NEED TO BE KEPT WARM, CLEAN, AND WELL FED

**Warmth.** If the baby bird does not feel warm to the touch, warm it up immediately. Birds naturally have a higher body temperature than we do, but with no body fat, simply wrapping the baby in a towel will not be enough to keep it warm. Use a warm towel from the microwave or dryer, or hot water in a watertight jar, lidded coffee cup, or plastic bag. For longer-lasting heat, place the baby's container on a heating pad set to low, or on a machine that produces steady, low heat, like a computer or a cable TV box. Warmth is the most important, life-saving care you can provide.

For safety and proper development, baby birds need to be kept in a nest-like container. Legs should be tucked underneath, not splayed out to the sides. Until the bird is well-feathered and moving around, keep a heating pad under half the container so the bird can move away if it gets too hot. Check the bird often to avoid over-heating (the bird will pant, beak open, when it is too hot). Sick and injured birds of any age need to remain on heat until they are well.

**Cleanliness.** Line the container or nest with paper towels or tissues, and change them often. Keep the bird clean; bacteria can develop quickly. Babies with immature immune systems are highly susceptible to illness. If food gets on the bird during feedings, clean gently with a tissue or cotton-tipped swab. Observe the droppings carefully; they are often the first clue to a sick bird. Babies' droppings should be well-formed and brownish in color. Rinse the feet and vent (under their tail) gently in warm water if messy. Be sure to warm and dry the baby afterwards.

**Food.** Baby birds can be rehydrated with bits of juicy fruit like papaya or mango, or drops of sugar water placed on the tip/sides of the beak. As soon as possible begin feeding the proper diet for their species. See our website [www.wildbirdrehabhaven.org](http://www.wildbirdrehabhaven.org) for species-specific diets.

Most babies can be fed commercial baby bird formula, a special powder sold at pet stores. Mix it with water and feed with an eye dropper. Use one measure of food to two or three of hot tap water. To avoid burns, do not microwave; crop burns can be fatal. Add a little extra water the first few meals so the bird does not develop digestive problems while adjusting to the formula. *Be extremely careful not to let the bird choke.* Feed small amounts at a time, giving the bird time to swallow between bites. Small birds (eg, mejiros, finches) may only eat ½ -1 cc, while larger babies (eg, pigeons) may eat up to 10-30 cc, depending on their size and age. At first you might need to gently tap or squeeze the beak open to put in a bite of food. Most babies will quickly learn to signal their hunger with chirps and wide-open beaks. However, doves and pigeons do not open their mouths to be fed. You have to gently pry their beaks open and slip the eye dropper inside.

Feed until the bird is no longer hungry. Look for a bulge indicating a full crop near the baby's neck (most birds) or chest (pigeons, doves, baby chickens).

Time between feedings varies according to species and age. Most babies eat every hour until they start developing feathers and their growth slows down. Larger babies like pigeons can eat more each time so they can wait 2-3 hours between meals. Because birds hatch with only partially-developed systems, but become fully mature rapidly, it is critical that babies be fed frequently and sufficiently. If you must delay meals, feed later into the evening so that the total nutritional intake is still the same each day. Babies normally eat throughout daylight hours. At night, the babies should not be hungry; they need to be kept in a quiet, warm, dark place to get plenty of rest.

Clean feeding utensils thoroughly with soap and hot water. Babies from different nests should not share eye droppers because new bacteria can spread quickly between birds. Although humans are not normally at risk for disease from wild birds in Hawaii, it is advisable to keep wild birds separate from your pet birds.

**Preparing for Release.** As the baby grows and weans to the proper food for adults of its species, it should be given safe space to learn to fly. Gaining strength, foraging for food, and interacting with other birds of its own age and species can best be done in a large flight cage or outdoor aviary. This helps the bird gain independence from humans too. After graduating from the aviary, your bird can be released near where you found it, if safe, or with its new social group.

***For more information about the care of your baby bird, to sign up for free classes, to make a donation for veterinary expenses, food, supplies, and our future Rehab Center, or to join WBRH as a volunteer transporter, foster bird parent, or aviary manager, please contact us at:***

***Wild Bird Rehab Haven -- 808-447-9274 (WBRH)***  
**[www.wildbirdrehabhaven.org](http://www.wildbirdrehabhaven.org)**

Ground-nesting seabird parents leave before dawn and return after dusk. The baby may look abandoned, but as long as it is waiting for mom and dad in a safe place, it is probably fine. If it is in a dangerous spot and you cannot return it to its nest, confine it, keep it warm, be careful it doesn't bite you, and take it to Sea Life Park 808-259-2537. They have a drop off area that's accessible 24 hours a day. You may offer the bird a dish of water but never force food or water on seabirds.

*Permission to reproduce these educational materials is granted.*