

DON'T BE A BIRDNAPPER!

Educate your children, neighbors and friends not to pick up healthy baby birds.

LEAVE BABY BIRDS WITH THEIR PARENTS... THEY RAISE THEM BEST!

Barn Swallows



James R. Gallagher, Sea & Sage Audubon

Birds and active nests are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is illegal to possess native birds, their eggs or nests, or keep any wild bird as a pet. Rehabilitation of native wild birds must be done by a permitted Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Temporary Care Instructions for All Birds

1. **NO** food or water
2. Keep the bird warm. (Tissue filled shoebox or other small box with holes in the lid. Place on a heating pad on "**LOW**")
3. Keep bird a dark, quiet place.
4. Leave the bird alone; don't handle or bother him.
5. Keep children and pets away.
6. Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator..

Donations are very much appreciated!



Songbird Care and Education Center
Non-profit 501(c)3

For questions regarding Baby Birds call:
Vicki Andersen: 714-964-0666
Susan DiGregorio: 562-598-8028



Are You A Birdnapper?

House Finches



Trude Hurd, Sea & Sage Audubon

You found a baby bird on the ground... Now what?

Songbird Care and Education Center

Vicki Andersen, Founder

Phone: 714-964-0666

E-mail: vicki@songbirdcareandeducation.org

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Facts about baby birds and their parents

Parent birds will feed their babies after you have touched them.

Birds have a poor sense of smell and the parents won't know that you have touched their babies. They will even be foster parents for an abandoned baby of the same species and age as their own young.

Parent birds will search for their babies even after 24-48 hours of absence.

Most birds have their own territories. Even if the nest and babies are gone, the parents remain in their home territory, waiting to welcome their babies home.

Birds only need to be rescued if they are injured, cat caught, icy cold, naked or abandoned.

Symptoms of injury of illness

- Falling over on side
- Unable to flutter wings
- Weak or shivering
- Attacked by cat or dog
- Wing tweaked upward
- Wings drooping
- Feathers fluffed
- Bleeding
- Mites

Differences between a fledgling and a nestling bird

Nestling birds are naked, have pin feathers or down. They cannot hop or perch and may lay fairly flat. Nestlings are dependent on their parents for warmth and food and must be returned to the nest whenever possible.



Nestling

Fledgling birds are feathered with short tails. They can hop or walk on the ground and will sometimes perch on a small branch.

They are learning to fly, a process that may take one to two weeks. They should be left alone to practice hopping and fluttering from low shrub branches to the ground.



Fledgling

The parents are close by and continue to feed the babies until they learn to fly and eat on their own. Parents will guide the fledglings into the bushes at night to hide from predators.

If you have a fledgling bird in your yard you will need to keep your cats and dogs indoors until the bird can fly and keep children away from the area so the parents will take care of the bird.

IMPORTANT: If you have the bird in a box, check the feces.

- Clear with white poop (or green bile) indicates a baby bird is not being fed and is likely abandoned
- Color in the poop indicates that the parents are feeding the baby and that the bird should be put back where found.

Fallen Babies (Nestlings)

Naked and pin-feathered birds should be kept warm while trying to locate the nest (See Temporary Care Instructions on back).

Re-nesting

An entire nest of birds can be placed in a small wicker basket or butter tub with tissues and drainage holes in the bottom. Secure new nest back near original location, safe from sun and predators.

One single baby nestling (bird without feathers) must be returned to the original nest with his siblings as the parents will only feed and care for the babies in one nest. If the nestling cannot be returned, call a Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Safe Return of the Fledgling

1. Keep pets and children indoors so that the parents will return to the baby.
2. If a bird can perch on your finger, place him on a branch in a bush near the area you found him.
3. If you found him in a high traffic area, move him to a safe area under the cover of bushes
4. Parents communicate with their young by a series of voice calls. They are able to locate their babies and direct them to where they want.
5. At a distance (indoors is best), watch continuously for 1 hour for the parents to return. They fly in and out very quickly. If the parents don't return, call a Wildlife Rehabilitator.