I FOUND A BABY BIRD... NOW WHAT?

IS THE BIRD HURT OR SICK?
(unable to flutter wings; bleeding; wings drooping unevenly; weak or shivering; attacked by cat/dog)

no

IS IT FEATHERED?

yes

IT’S A FLEDGLING

IS THE BIRD SAFE FROM CATS, DOGS, AND PEOPLE?
Normal behavior to be hopping on ground; parents are still feeding it.

PUT BIRD IN NEARBY BUSHES OR ON A TREE LIMB. ARE PARENTS NEARBY?
Observe from a distance

yes

PUT BABY BACK IN NEST. ARE PARENTS VISITING?
Observe from a distance

LEAVE THE AREA
Baby is OK

no

LEAVE THE AREA
Baby is OK

yes

no

Call an LDWF licensed wildlife rehabilitator* (contact info on back) or licensed wildlife veterinarian.

no

IT’S A NESTLING

CAN YOU FIND THE NEST? IS IT INTACT?
Nestlings need help!
(BE AWARE: some birds nest on the ground and may already be in their nest)

no

yes

MAKE A SUBSTITUTE NEST
Poke holes in bottom of shallow berry basket/margarine tub; line with dry grass, the old nest, or pine needles; hang from original or nearby tree. www.helpbabybirds.ca/s/do/fallenNest.html

PUT BABY IN NEARBY BUSHES OR ON A TREE LIMB. ARE PARENTS NEARBY?
Observe from a distance

yes

PUT BABY IN NEST. ARE PARENTS VISITING?
Observe from a distance

LEAVE THE AREA
Baby is OK

no

LEAVE THE AREA
Baby is OK

yes

no

NOTE
In Louisiana, it is against the law to possess injured/orphaned birds without LDWF & USFWS Migratory Bird Rehabilitation permits, even if you plan to release them. It is also against the law to possess/import/export wildlife as pets or for the pet trade in Louisiana.

IF YOU CARE, LEAVE IT THERE
A baby’s best chance for survival is with its MOTHER!
VISIT WWW.WLF.LA.GOV/PAGE/PERMITTED-WILDLIFE-REHABILITATORS

Contact a LDWF Regional Wildlife Office:

- Minden 318-371-3050
- Monroe 318-343-4044
- Pineville 318-487-5885
- Lafayette 337-735-8667
- Lake Charles 337-491-2575
- Hammond 985-543-4777

*LDWF Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators are NOT employees of the state or the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and are not on call 24 hours/day. Most licensed individuals work separate jobs and volunteer their time and efforts. Please be respectful of the licensed rehabbers capabilities, as rehabbers often specialize in certain species or establish limits on the quantity they can accept and properly care for.

(to report injured/orphaned bald or golden eagles)

contact a LDWF Regional Office:
www.wlf.la.gov/page/contact-us
1-800-442-2511

Additional resources can be found at:
https://nestwatch.org/learn/how-to-nestwatch/faq/what-should-i-do-if-i-see-a-young-bird-fallen-out-of-the-nest

www.allaboutbirds.org/news/providing-nest-material-for-birds-dos-donts

flow chart adapted from Healers of the Wild: People Who Care for Injured and Orphaned Wildlife
By Shannon K. Jacobs
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