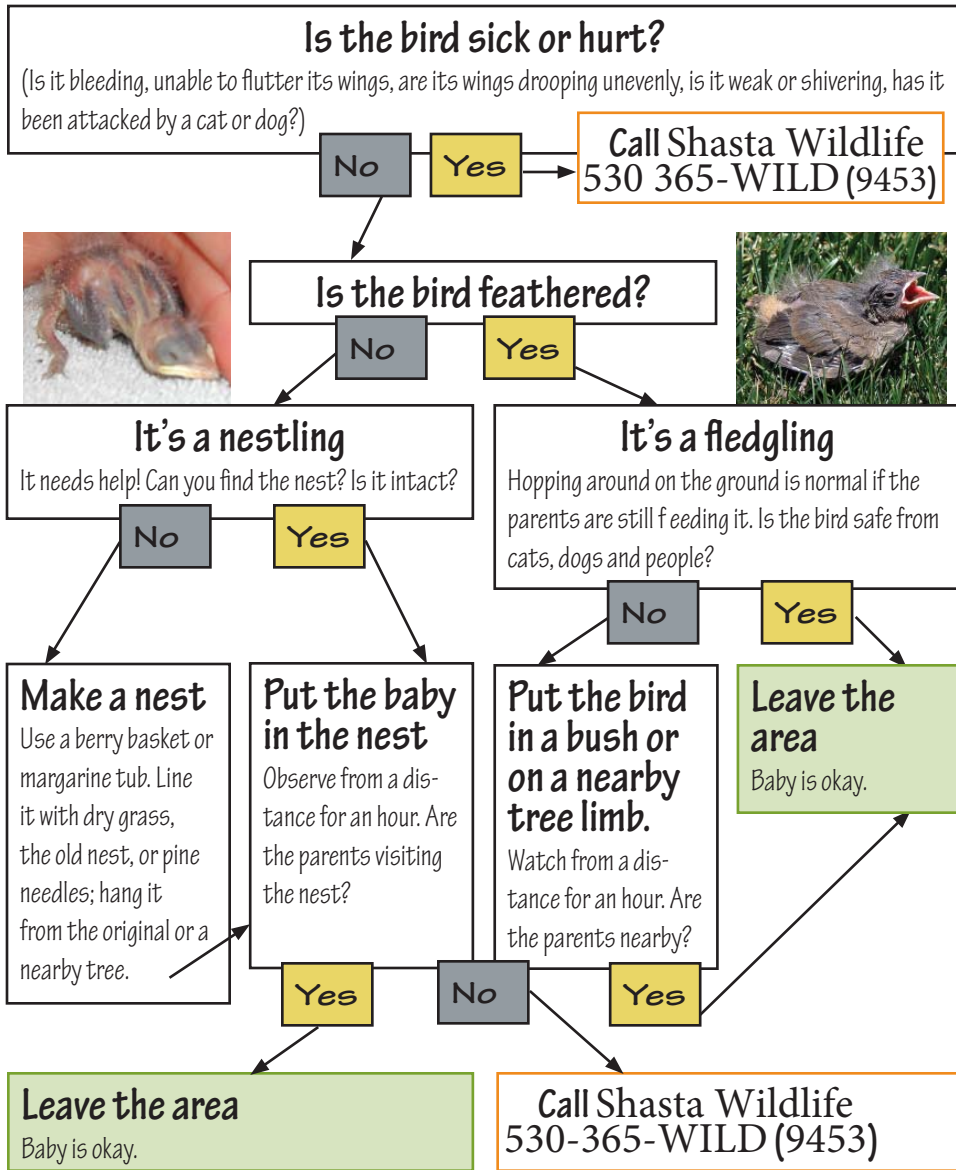


I Found a Baby Bird

Wild birds live among us in our gardens and parks. Sometimes they need our help and sometimes they don't. How do you tell?



Fact or Myth?

1. Birds can smell the scent of humans on a baby that has been handled.

Fact Myth

Myth. Birds' sense of smell is not well understood, but it is clear they show no fear of babies that have been touched by humans.

2. Birds recognize their babies' voices and will come when they call.

Fact Myth

Fact. Parent birds respond to the begging calls of their young, and will feed them if they can reach their babies.

3. Birds carry diseases that can be transmitted to people.

Fact Myth

Fact. Birds can carry a number of parasites, bacterial, fungal and viral infections that can affect people. If you have handled a wild bird, you should wash your hands and other objects the bird has been in contact with.

4. A bird that has been caught by a cat should be let go if it can still fly.

Fact Myth

Myth. Cats' teeth cause nearly invisible puncture wounds on their prey. The bacteria from their saliva in these wounds can cause deadly infections 3-5 days later. Birds caught by a cat should be brought to *Shasta Wildlife*.

5. It is illegal to keep a wild animal without a permit, even if you are trying to care for it and plan to release it.

Fact Myth

Fact. Wild animal care requires very specific skill and knowledge sets. Wildlife rehabilitators are licensed by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to rehabilitate wildlife, and are the only ones permitted to treat wild animals. This ensures the best chance for their survival.

5. A licensed veterinarian can rehabilitate an injured wild bird.

Fact Myth

Myth. Unless they are also a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or are working with a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, a veterinary license does not permit them to rehabilitate wild animals. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife permits veterinarians to stabilize an injured or orphaned wild animal for up to 48 hours.

6. Orphaned baby birds like to be cuddled and talked to.

Fact Myth

Myth. They are terrified of us and think we are predators. Not being able to see or hear us helps calm them.

If you need to bring an injured or orphaned bird to Shasta Wildlife

1. Prepare a container. A shoebox with air holes in the lid, lined with a small towel, works for most songbirds.

2. Protect yourself. Even sick birds may try to protect themselves with their beaks or talons. Wear gloves if possible. Birds may have parasites or carry diseases. Wash your hands after handling.

3. Put the bird in the box. Cover the bird with a light cloth and gently put it in the shoebox.

4. Keep it warm. If the bird is cold, put one end of the shoebox on a heating pad set on low.

5. If you can't transport it immediately:

- Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place.
 - No longer than overnight
- Do not give it food or water.
- Do not handle it.
- Keep children and pets away from it.

6. Transport the bird to Shasta Wildlife. Keep it in the shoebox, keep the car quiet (radio off, etc.).

7. Complete Shasta Wildlife's intake form. Provide complete information on the circumstances of your rescue. Provide your personal information clearly in the event we need to contact you.



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Graphic courtesy of WildCare, San Rafael, CA