

To rescue and reunite...

Over 1500 young and baby birds come into the care of the NATF^{Inc} Hunter Wildlife Rescue each year. Many are not injured and are picked up by well meaning members of the public. If you find a baby bird that **is not injured**, see if you can give it the best chance of survival by keeping it with its parents. *Here are some hints on how you can help.*



A baby bird's best chance for survival is its parents

Or not to rescue...

- If the baby bird has an **obvious injury**, eg
 - is lying on its side and is floppy
 - has a droopy wing or limps
- If the bird has been caught by a cat, it will need vet attention
- If the nestling bird has fallen from a tree hollow eg parrot or kookaburra

then call:

NATF^{Inc} Hunter Wildlife Rescue

24hr Rescue Hotline

on

0418 628 483

0418 NATIVE



Native Animal Trust Fund^{Inc} Hunter Wildlife Rescue



In any year the NATF^{Inc} Hunter Wildlife Rescue volunteers respond to over 13,000 calls for advice and assistance to our local wildlife.

For further information, visit our website:

www.hunterwildlife.org.au

Help support Hunter wildlife.
Send your tax deductible donation to

Friends of NATF^{Inc} Wildlife Rescue Service
PO Box 1052
TORONTO NSW 2283 or

donate online at www.hunterwildlife.org.au

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FOUND A BABY BIRD?

Learn how you can help keep baby birds with their parents



A baby bird's best chance for survival is its parents

Above: Nesting Satin Bower Bird

Giving Wildlife a Second Chance



Identification



ALTRICAL birds are born with no feathers, eyes closed and entirely dependent on parents to feed and protect, eg kookaburras, parrots.

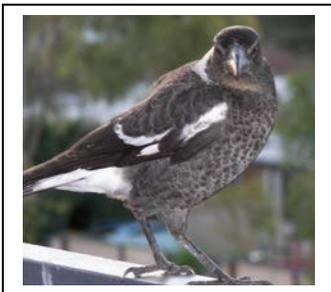


PRECOCIAL birds are born with downy feathers, eyes open able to stand and follow its parents. They can feed themselves eg ducklings, plovers.

There are two types of Altrical birds: **NESTLINGS** and **FLEDGLINGS**. Both need their parents to survive.



NESTLINGS are baby birds that still live in the nest. They may be covered in down, have few or no feathers and are totally reliant on their parents for all aspects of survival.



FLEDGLINGS are fully feathered baby birds that have left the nest and are learning to fly. They still need their parents for feeding and protection.

Although well meaning, it is usually not in the best interest of the baby bird, so please....don't feed or give baby birds a drink and avoid excessive noise and handling.

What to do with fledgling birds



A baby bird's best chance for survival is its parents

Spring is the time for baby birds and many fledglings leave the nest to try out their new wings only to find themselves on the ground. They just need a few days to exercise those muscles before they are as free as a bird.

Unless sick or injured

Step 1: Pick up the bird and put it as high as possible in a nearby tree for safety. The parents are nearby and will find it. Try popping it onto a broom head to give that little extra reach!



Step 2: Keep an eye on the young bird and if it flutters to the ground again, repeat Step 1.

It is always best for a bird to be raised by its natural parents, rather than a human carer.

What to do with a precocial chick

See if you can locate the parents. Leave with the parent birds.

- Don't put ducklings in water. Without mum and dad, they can get too cold and die.

What to do with nestling birds

Unless injured, don't take me from my parents! They will teach me all the lessons I need to survive: how to fly, what food to eat, how to find or catch food, how to avoid predators, how to recognise my own species and lots more.

If you find a nestling on the ground, look for the nest and try to get the nestling back into the nest. If the nest is too high or has fallen from the tree try making an artificial nest.

4 steps to make a new home

1



Take an ice-cream container or similar item and put some holes in the bottom for drainage. Put some more holes at the top to make a handle.

2



Put some leaves or grass in the bottom. Use the original nesting material if the nest has fallen from the tree. Place baby bird in its new home. Mum and dad won't mind that baby has been handled by humans.

3



Secure the container at about head height or higher in a leafy protected area, away from direct sunlight, as close to where you found the baby bird. It does not even have to be the original tree.

4



Watch from a distance to make sure the parents return to feed baby. This may take several hours so be patient. If the parents have not returned by dark, call the NATF^{INC} Hunter Wildlife Rescue.

(Note: Nocturnal parent birds like tawny frogmouths will return at night to feed their young.)