

How to Rescue Baby Birds

(Only adults should rescue baby birds. Before rescuing adult birds, seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.)

Prepare a container. Place a clean, soft cloth with no strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard or cat/dog carrier with a lid. If it doesn't have air holes, make some. For smaller birds, you can use a paper sack with air holes.

Protect yourself. Wear gloves, if possible. Some birds may stab with their beaks, slice with their *talons* (claws) and slap with their wings, to protect themselves, even if sick birds commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.

Cover the bird with a light sheet or towel.

Gently pick up the bird and put it in the prepared container.

Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled. Put *one end* of the container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water, wrap warm container with cloth, and put it next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.

Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.

Note exactly where you found the bird. This will be very important for release.

Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place.

Don't give it food or water.

Leave the bird alone; don't handle or bother it.

Keep children and pets away.

Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.

Don't keep the bird at your home longer than necessary.

Keep the bird in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.

Wash your hands after contact with the bird.

Wash anything the bird was in contact with – towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier – to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or pets.

Get the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

It's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.

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