

## Bird Hints and Tips

### BABY BIRDS

Often what we assume is an “orphaned” baby bird is not orphaned at all. Although a baby will occasionally jump from his nest before he can perfect his flying skills, his parents are usually quite aware of his eager anticipation to fly and will continue to feed and care for the baby even though he might be unable to get back into the nest. Other times a baby has just fledged from his nest and is simply accompanying his parent on the hunt for food. In this case, the parents may be nearby collecting food, or simply waiting for you to leave the area.



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The best plan of action is to leave the baby bird alone and watch from a distance. If you feel the area is not safe or the parent has not returned for some time, you can try putting the bird on a safe perch off the ground. (The bird’s parents will not abandon the bird because you have touched it!)

A baby bird that has fallen from his nest looks quite different from one who appears to have been abandoned or lost. Nestlings have little or no feathers and may still have closed eyes. If you know which nest the bird fell from and feel that it is safe to return him to it, you can do so, carefully making sure not to startle the other babies who might still be there. Your scent will not keep the bird’s parent from caring for it! If you are unable to return the baby to the nest, or you are unsure as to which nest he came from, we suggest the following:

Place the nestling in a small box with some soft, warm materials (grasses, leaves, or shredded newspaper) and nail the box to a tree or hang it from a limb in the area where he was found. The box does not have to be very high -- the main goal is to get the nestling off the ground where he could become easy prey for cats, dogs or other animals. The baby will generally call out to its parents who will continue to care for him.