



# 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)

yes

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

no

**IS IT FEATHERED?**

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)



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.



no

yes

yes

no

**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](http://www.helpbabybirds.ca/s/do/fallenNest.html)

**PUT BABY BACK IN NEST. ARE PARENTS VISITING?**

Observe from a distance

no

yes

**PUT BIRD IN NEARBY BUSHES OR ON A TREE LIMB. ARE PARENTS NEARBY?**

Observe from a distance

yes

no

**LEAVE THE AREA**

Baby is OK

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Baby is OK

yes

no

**PUT BABY IN NEST. ARE PARENTS VISITING?**

Observe from a distance

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

**IF YOU CARE, LEAVE IT THERE**

A baby's best chance for survival is with its MOTHER!

**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.

# FIND AN LDWF LICENSED WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR\* IN YOUR AREA

VISIT [WWW.WLF.LA.GOV/PAGE/  
PERMITTED-WILDLIFE-REHABILITATORS](http://WWW.WLF.LA.GOV/PAGE/PERMITTED-WILDLIFE-REHABILITATORS)

Contact a LDWF Regional Wildlife Office:

Minden	318-371-3049
Monroe	318-343-2417
Pineville	318-487-5634
Lafayette	337-262-2080
Lake Charles	337-491-2580
Thibodaux	985-447-0821
Baton Rouge	225-765-2800
New Orleans	504-284-2023



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*\*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.*



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## TO REPORT INJURED/ORPHANED BALD OR GOLDEN EAGLES

contact a LDWF Regional Office:

[www.wlf.la.gov/page/contact-us](http://www.wlf.la.gov/page/contact-us)

**1-800-442-2511**



Photo by Victorias101, Wikimedia Commons

Additional resources can be found at:

[WWW.HELPPBABYBIRDS.CA/S/DO/  
FALLENNEST.HTML](http://WWW.HELPPBABYBIRDS.CA/S/DO/FALLENNEST.HTML)

[WWW.ALLABOUTBIRDS.ORG/NEWS/PROVIDING-  
NEST-MATERIAL-FOR-BIRDS-DOS-DONTS](http://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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