

Have you found a baby bird?

Healthy baby birds have a much better chance of survival when left in their natural environment with their parents.

STOP - PLEASE DON'T KIDNAP ME!

Do not take me from my parents, as they teach me all the lessons and survival skills that I need to know as a bird; how to fly, what food to eat, how to find food and how to avoid predators. **Please don't rescue me unless I am in immediate danger or I am sick or injured.**

Precocial chicks

Ducks, masked lapwings (plovers), swamphens, moorhens, brush-turkey.



I am born covered in down with my eyes open and can walk soon after hatching. I can feed myself but need the watchful protection of my parents until I am fully independent.

If I get separated from my parents, please help me by placing me safely under cover of a nearby dense bush or shrub and keep a watchful eye on me. My parents will return to protect me once they feel that it is safe to do so. Please don't give me any food or water – my parents will feed me when they return.

Altricial chicks

Honeyeaters, magpies, butcherbirds, magpie larks, kingfishers, parrots, pigeons, doves, raptors

I am born with my eyes closed and have no or little feathers to keep me warm. My parents look after me completely until I am old enough to leave the nest.



Featherless altricial chicks

If I have little or no feathers, I will become cold if my parents don't return quickly. Please keep me warm by providing some gentle heat (like a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel) and take me to a wildlife hospital or a wildlife carer as soon as possible. Please don't give me any food or water as I have specialised food requirements.



Fledgling altricial chicks

If I am starting to look like my parents and have most of my feathers, I have just left the nest and am learning to fly. Don't worry, my mum and dad are probably out looking for more food; they'll be back soon! If you are worried about me, place me on a branch in a nearby bush or shrub for safety until they return. Please don't feed me – I much prefer the food my parents will bring back for me!

When should you intervene?

I may need your help if:

- I have no or little feathers and I can't be returned to my original nest;
- I am injured or have been in the mouth of a dog or cat;
- I am cold and/or lethargic;
- You noticed my parents dead nearby; or
- You haven't been able to re-unite me with my parents.



Please place me gently into a ventilated small box with a soft towel on the bottom and put me somewhere warm, dark and quiet. Please don't give me any food or water as I have a very specialised diet. Please contact your local wildlife care group for more information on how to help me.



Birds that raise their young in tree hollows or closed nests (such as termite mounds), such as parrots, lorikeets, kookaburras and kingfishers, are difficult to re-nest. They have much more specialised nesting requirements and these birds should be referred to an experienced wildlife carer for advice.

Legislation

Under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, it is illegal to keep protected wildlife without an appropriate permit. Wildlife carers have been trained to provide the best possible care for our native birds and have the equipment and specialised foods that they require.

How to make a new home for an altricial chick

I may need a helping hand if I have been adventurous and tried to fly a bit too early or bad weather has blown me to the ground. You can help me by building a makeshift nest. It's very easy and don't worry, my parents won't reject me because you have helped me!

A 'baby bucket' is a great nest alternative for birds that live in open nests such as magpies, crows, noisy miners, magpie larks, butcherbirds and tawny frogmouths.

4 easy steps to making a new home:-

1

Punch several holes in the bottom of a plastic bucket to provide drainage. If you don't have a bucket, use an ice-cream container, a hanging plant basket or cane basket.

2

Place a layer of leaves or grass in the bottom. Place a stick in the bucket at an angle by securing it into one of the holes. This will allow the parents and baby bird to get in and out easily.

3

Place the baby in its new home and hang the bucket at head height in a leafy tree or bush away from direct sunlight and predators and close to where you found the baby.

4

Watch from a distance to make sure the parents return to feed the baby. If the parents do not return by dark, the baby will need to come into care.

