What to do When You Find a Baby Bird, Hawk or Owl



www.TucsonWildlife.com 520-290-WILD (9453)

Nestling sparrow Fledgling sparrow

How to Re-nest Baby Bird, Hawk or Owl

Step 1: Identity age range of the bird by assessing the birds feather growth.

- **Nestlings** are often bare with very little feathers. They need a nest to survive. If you find a nestling, you can put the bird back in the original nest, or make a new one.
- **Fledglings** are well feathered, alert, and can be found hopping on the ground or on low branches. All birds need time on the ground in order to learn how to fly. Their parents should be nearby, continuing to care and feed them. Leave the fledgling alone or put the bird near bushes for coverage or on a low branch.

Step 2: For nestlings, look for original nest, or make a new one. For small birds, like sparrows, hummingbirds, and doves, use a small container or berry basket. For larger birds, like owls and hawks, use a laundry basket or cardboard box. Fill the make-shift nest with grass, leaves, pine needles or something soft, like tissues or grasses (no cloth). Don't forget to poke holes in your container for water drainage!

Step 3: Find a high branch in the immediate area and attach the new nest with twine, or some other safe means.

Step 4: Protect yourself by wearing gloves or using a towel to scoop up the bird. The parents will continue to care for their young even if you handle them.

Step 5: Gently put the baby in the nest and observe from a distance, as the parents will not approach their young with people and pets nearby. If the parents do not return within an hour, call Tucson Wildlife Center 520-290-9453.



Nestling doves in a make-shift nest

Nestling Great Horned Owls in make-shift nest

Need assistance or the animal is injured?

Call Tucson Wildlife Center at 520-290-WILD (9453)

Am I sick or hurt? (bleeding, shivering, lethargic, vomiting, attacked by cat/dog) Yes No Can you find my nest? If I am a bunny, my nest looks like a small Call Tucson Wildlife Center at depression in the dirt or grass lined 520-290-WILD (9453) grasses and/or fur. No Yes Put me in a shallow box close Put me in my nest. If the nest to where I was found. Make has been destroyed, repair it by sure I am warm but out of the placing me inside and lightly sun. Cover me lightly with covering me in grass so I can grass. hide from predators. Observe from a distance for 4-6 hours, or line the nest with flour. Cottontail mothers only visit the nest at dawn and dusk, not throughout the day. Did my mother return? Do you see tracks in the flour? No Yes Bunny tip: If you find an uninjured bunny about 4-5 inches long, is able to hop and **Call Tucson Wildlife Center at** Please leave me alone. has their eyes open and ears 520-290-WILD (9453) I will be okay! up- they don't need help.

What to do When You Find a Baby Mammal

Please remember that a baby's best chance of survival is to stay with their parents.

Please don't try and rehab wildlife on your own.

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