

How to Re-nest Baby Bird, Hawk or Owl

Step 1: Identify 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)