I Found a Baby Dove. What Should I Do?

**IMPORTANT:**
- It is a **myth** that if you touch a baby wild animal the parents will reject them – **this is simply not true.**
- **Not all wild babies need help!**

Each year, we receive thousands of baby birds who are mistakenly taken from their parents.

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**Before seeking help, ask these questions:**

1. **Does the baby bird have feathers?**
   - **YES**
   - **PARTIALLY**
   - **NO**

2. **He is a hatchling.**
   - **Is he warm to the touch?**
     - **YES**
     - **NO**

3. **He needs help.**
   - **Bring him to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.**
   - **Do not give food or water.**

4. **He's a nestling.**
   - **Is he bright and alert?**
     - **YES**
     - **NO**

5. **Do you see his nest?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

6. **Create a makeshift nest with a basket lined with soft tissues.**
   - Make certain the new nest is deep enough so the baby does not topple out. Hang the basket within 20 feet from where baby was found, and as high up as possible. Check back in one hour. **Has a parent returned?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

7. **Most healthy babies can be successfully reunited with their parents.**

   **Note:** It is **illegal** for an unlicensed individual to possess a wild animal for more than 24 hours.

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Please call our hotline if you have any questions or find a baby bird.

(830) 336-2725

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**He is a fledgling.**
He didn't fall; he left the nest. This is what all fledglings do. His parents will still care for him while he learns to fly from the ground. If he's in an open area, move him to a nearby bush or low lying trees.

**This bird needs help.**
Bring him to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. **Do not give food or water.**

**Is the nest you see stable and well supported?** You may need to construct a new nest as dove nests are often loosely constructed.

**Please leave him be.**
His parents are caring for him.

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