

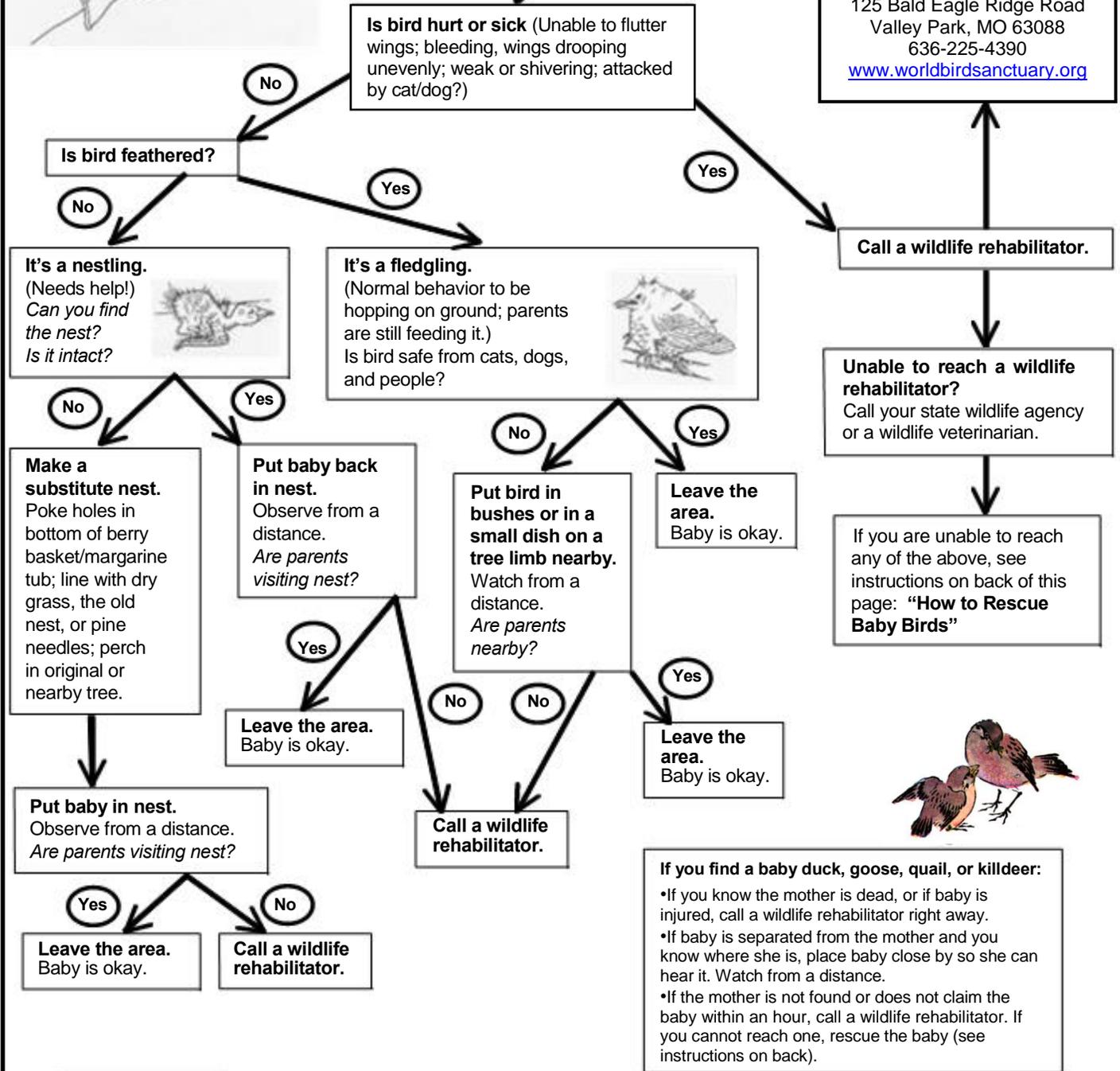
I Found a Baby Bird

Now What?



Wild Bird Rehabilitation
(songbirds only)
9624 Midland Blvd.
Overland, MO 63114
314-426-6400
www.wildbirdrehab.org

World Bird Sanctuary
(birds of prey only)
125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road
Valley Park, MO 63088
636-225-4390
www.worldbirdsanctuary.org



A baby's best chance for survival is its mother.

From *Healers of the Wild: People Who Care for Injured and Orphaned Wildlife*
By Shannon K. Jacobs

How to Rescue Baby Birds

(Only adults should rescue baby birds. Before rescuing *adult* birds, seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.)

- 1. Prepare a container.** Place a clean, soft cloth with no strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier with a lid. If it doesn't have air holes, make some. For smaller birds, you can use a paper sack with air holes..
- 2. Protect yourself.** Wear gloves, if possible. Some birds may stab with their beaks, slice with their *talons* (claws) and slap with their wings, to protect themselves, even if sick; birds commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
- 3. Cover the bird with a light sheet or towel.**
- 4. Gently pick up the bird and put it in the prepared container.**
- 5. Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Put one end of the container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap warm container with cloth, and put it next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.
- 6. Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.**
- 7. Note exactly where you found the bird.** This will be very important for release.
- 8. Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place.**
Don't give it food or water.
Leave the bird alone; don't handle or bother it.
Keep children and pets away.
- 9. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.**
Don't keep the bird at your home longer than necessary.
Keep the bird in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.
- 10. Wash your hands after contact with the bird.**
Wash anything the bird was in contact with — towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier — to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
- 11. Get the bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.**

**It is against the law in most states to keep wild animals
if you don't have permits,
even if you plan to release them.**

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