

TIPS IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD

Identify your bird

It is important to know what type of bird you have found. Some birds are ready to run almost as soon as they are born. Get advice if you are not sure.

Fluffy

If you have found a chick with fluffy down on it this is called a precocial chick. They still require the warmth of the parent birds but they are born with eyes open and can feed themselves soon after hatching.

Featherless

If it has no feathers or very few feathers, this is called an altricial chick, and will require the parents to feed and keep it warm in the nest.

Fledgling

These young birds usually have a significant number of adult-looking feathers; they hop, jump and flutter but do not usually fly at this stage. They are still getting used to operating their wings, becoming coordinated and strengthening their muscles.

Bird-napping

Do not 'birdnap' healthy precocial (fluffy) chicks or feathered fledglings. These babies do not need 'rescuing' unless they appear to be in danger, at which point they should be picked up and placed somewhere safe but close by. If you have the time, wait and see if the parents return with food but do keep your distance.

Rescue

If the chick cannot be returned to its nest for some reason i.e. the parents have been killed, it is sick or injured or you cannot identify the chick it will need to be raised by a wildlife rehabilitator.

Permits

Native, Endemic and game birds require a permit from DOC, another reason to identify your bird.



3 EASY STEPS TO BUILD A MAKE SHIFT NEST

1		If the bird is really young and has fallen out its nest, or the nest has fallen out the tree, you can make a new home using a bucket. Punch holes in the bottom of the bucket for drainage.
2		Put in a layer of soft leaves and fine twigs. Place a stick inside that will stand higher than the bucket, and fasten it to the bucket or wedge it in a drainage hole. This is so the parents and chick can get in and out when necessary.
3		Hang the bucket in a leafy protected tree, not in direct sunlight and close to where the original nest was. Provided the parents can hear and find the chick they will continue to look after it. Watch and make sure the parents do return to feed the chick. If the parents do not return the chick will need to be taken into care.