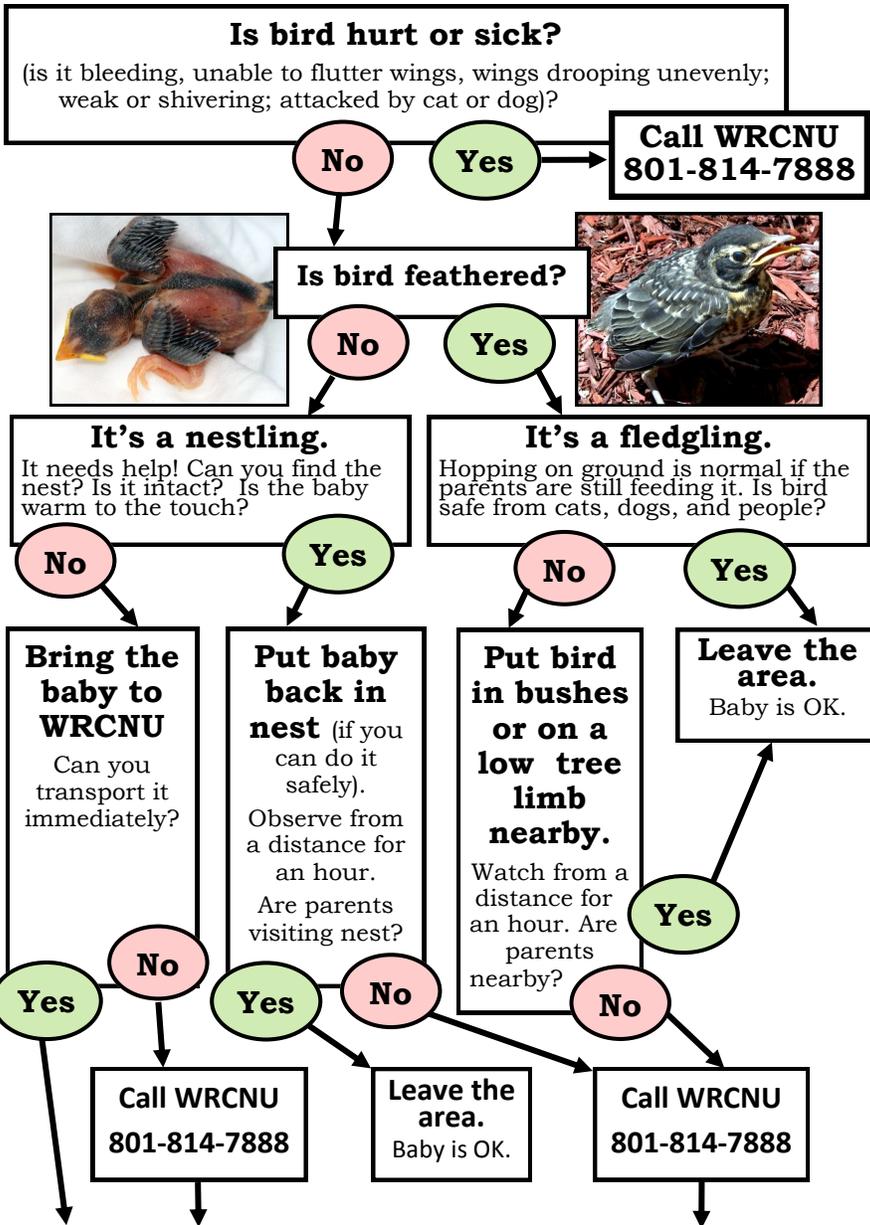


# I Found a baby Bird, **NOW WHAT?!**

Wild birds live near our homes and work places.

Sometimes they need help and sometimes they do not, but how can you tell? This chart should help, but if you are ever in doubt, please call us first, since the baby's best chance of survival is with its parents.



## If you need to bring sick, injured or orphaned wildlife to WRCNU

- Protect yourself.** Even sick animals may try to protect themselves with Beaks, talons & teeth. Wear gloves if you can and wash your hands after handling.
- Place animal in a box** or tote lined with a towel—never hand carry .
- Secure lid; keep dark and quiet.**
- Keep it warm.** If bird is cold, put one end of box on a heating pad set "Low"
- If you can't transport immediately:**
  - Call WRCNU 801-814-7888
  - Keep warm, dark, quiet
  - Do Not give food or water.
  - Do Not handle it.
  - Keep children and pets AWAY.
  - Animal's survival depends on the most timely care at WRCNU
- Transport the animal to WRCNU.** Keep it in box, keep car quiet (radio off, etc.)

## Fact or Myth?

Birds can smell the scent of humans on a baby that has been touched and won't care for it if touched.

**Myth:** birds' sense of smell varies, but it is clear they show no fear of babies that have been touched by humans; they only want to care for their babies.

Birds recognize their babies' voices and will come when they call.

**Fact:** Parents respond to the begging calls for their young and will feed them if they can reach them.

Birds carry diseases that can be transmitted to people.

**Fact:** BUT with normal care and good hygiene you should have nothing to worry about. Don't let children touch wild animals and wash your hands and other objects the bird has been in contact with.

A bird that has been caught by a cat should be let go if it can still fly.

**Myth:** Cats' teeth cause nearly invisible puncture wounds in their prey. The bacteria from a cat's saliva can cause deadly infections within 72 hrs. Birds caught by a cat should be brought to WRCNU immediately.

It is illegal to keep a wild animal without a permit, even if you are trying to care for it and plan to release it.

**Fact:** Wild animal care requires very specific skill and knowledge. Wildlife Rehabbers are licensed by Utah DWR and the U.S. FWS to rehabilitate wildlife, and are the only ones permitted to treat wild animals; giving them the best chance of survival.

A licensed veterinarian can help you treat an injured wild bird.

**Myth:** Your DVM is only licensed to treat domestic animals. They may stabilize a wild animal, but must immediately turn it over to a licensed rehabber.

Orphaned baby birds like to be cuddled, pet, and talked to.

**Myth:** they are TERRIFIED of us and think we are predators who want to EAT THEM! Not being able to see or hear us helps to keep them calm.