



# SO YOU FOUND A BABY SONGBIRD...

AWARE Wildlife Center  
4158 Klondike Rd  
Stonecrest, GA 30038  
[www.awarewildlife.org](http://www.awarewildlife.org)

DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO THE BIRD?

- Baby is injured, caught by cat, or caught by dog
- Baby is covered in external parasites (lice/mites/fleas)

YES

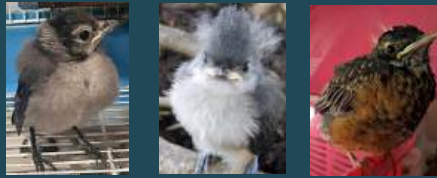
CONTACT THE  
AWARE HELP DESK  
[AWAREWILDLIFE.ORG/CONTACT](http://AWAREWILDLIFE.ORG/CONTACT)  
or find another rehabber at  
[awarewildlife.org/rehabbers](http://awarewildlife.org/rehabbers)

NO

EXAMINE THE BABY BIRD, ARE THEY...

FULLY FEATHERED, POSSIBLE BITS OF FUZZ ON THEIR HEAD,  
NO BALD PATCHES, AND A TAIL SHORTER THAN ADULTS

THIS IS A FLEDGLING



DO NOT INTERVENE

A fledgling:

- Fully to mostly feathered w/short tail feathers 1/2" to 1" long.
- Beginning to learn to fly, starts from ground up.
- Still under the care of mom and dad.

If you see one:

- Look for mom and dad nearby.
- Place under shrub/cover but still in view of mom and dad.
- Keep pets out of the area/leash-walk for a few days.

BALD W/LITTLE TO NO FEATHERS OR HAVE  
BALD SPOTS NOT CAUSED BY INJURY

THIS IS A NESTLING



EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE  
TO REUNITE MOM AND BABY

Try and locate nest to return baby to.  
It's OK to pick up the baby. The  
parents **will NOT abandon** the baby  
if you have touched it OR the nest.

## IF YOU NEED TO BRING THE BABY INSIDE

### FIRST

- Place the bird in a small, lidded box.
  - Add lining w/pillowcase/t-shirt (no strings/holes/fringe).
  - Keep in quiet, dark, warm area
- Provide a heat source. Either:
  - Microwave a sock filled with rice till warm; or
  - Heating pad, on LOW HALFWAY under the box.
  - Wrap the heat source in a towel (no holes/fringe/string) so it does not burn the baby

### NEXT

- During day, every 30 min:
  - Place **canned** dog or cat food in the baby's mouth.
  - Feed until it stops opening its mouth.
  - You should **not** have to force it, the baby should open their mouth on their own.
- At night:
  - Keep baby in complete darkness and silence.
  - No feeding necessary overnight if baby kept in a dark and quiet spot.

### IMPORTANT!

- If feeding the baby, please note:
  - Diet of canned dog or cat food is only nutritionally appropriate for a few days.
  - Longer will cause growth abnormalities that are often fatal.
- Do not attempt to give the baby any water.
- Bring baby to a rehabber as soon as possible.

IF THE NEST CANNOT BE  
LOCATED/TOO HIGH UP

See the next page for more  
thorough information on how  
to create a makeshift nest!

### NOTE:

IF THE BABY BECOMES WEAK, BARELY  
RESPONSIVE, OR STOPS POOPING FOR  
TWO DAYS THEN BRING INSIDE AND  
CONTACT A REHABBER.

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## MAKESHIFT NEST

### TUPPERWARE NEST



- A makeshift nest that mimics most songbird nests
  - Round Tupperware w/holes poked in bottom (for drainage).
  - Lined inside w/remains of old nest or w/dry pine straw.
- Nail Tupperware Nest directly to the tree at least 6ft up.
- Once nestling in position, **GO INSIDE**.
  - Mom won't return if she sees you.
  - Don't be alarmed if you don't see mom.
  - She only comes to nest for a few sec so that she does not draw attention from predators.
- Best way to tell if baby is being care for is to:
  - Check his activity levels.
    - Holding head up, vigorously begging for food when stimulated = doing well!
  - Check for poop
    - Can place cardboard down to easily check in and around nest
    - Pooping = eating
- Baby has high metabolism
  - One missed feeding causes drastic decrease in general status

- A makeshift nest that mimic cavity nesters.
  - Such as woodpeckers, chickadees, and bluebirds.
  - Typically nest in **hollowed out trees**.
  - Cut a door in empty jug w/holes poked in bottom (for drainage).
  - Lined inside w/remains of old nest or w/dry pine straw.
- Hang from a branch w/wire at **least 6ft up**.
- Once nestling in position, **GO INSIDE**.
  - Mom won't return if she sees you.
  - Don't be alarmed if you don't see mom.
  - She only comes to nest for a few sec so that she does not draw attention from predators.
- Best way to tell if baby is being care for is to:
  - Check his **activity levels**.
    - Holding head up, vigorously begging for food when stimulated = doing well!
  - Check for poop.
    - Can place cardboard down to easily check in and around nest.
    - Pooping = eating!
- Baby has high metabolism.
  - One missed feeding causes drastic decrease in general status
- If you are **unsure** if the species you found is a cavity nester, please reach out to AWARE for help with ID!

### GALLON JUG NEST

