

# Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife offers tips on what to do when you encounter helpless baby birds

“While baby birds may look helpless, they usually do not need your assistance unless you see visible signs of injury.

If you find a hatchling or nestling (young birds without feathers) outside the nest, you can try to safely return it to its nest. The parents will not reject it if you touch it. If you find a fledgling (a young, fully feathered bird) outside the nest, leave it be.

While it is spending some time hopping around on the ground learning how to fly, its parents are likely nearby still taking care of it.

More tips on young wildlife: [bit.ly/young-wildlife](https://bit.ly/young-wildlife).”-  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.