If You Find A Baby Songbird Out Of The Nest

by bird and moon.com

If you find a baby bird out of the nest, here’s what to do:

1. **Is it visibly injured or did a cat get at it?**
   - Yes: Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife care center. These vary by location; an internet search can help.
   - No: Proceed with the following steps.

2. **What does it look like?**
   - Eyes not yet open: You have a hatchling. It’s very young.
   - Eyes open; feathers few & may be in tube-like sheaths: You have a nestling.
   - Feathered; awkwardly hops or flutters; tail & wings short: You have a fledgling.

3. **Can you see the nest?**
   - Yes: Return the bird to its nest. Fear not – the parents won’t “smell” you on the baby!
   - No: Proceed with the following steps.

4. **Is it in immediate danger?**
   - Yes: Move it carefully to a safer spot nearby.
   - No: Proceed with the following steps.

5. **Do not intervene!!**
   - Though it looks awkward, it’s a natural step. The bird needs privacy & the parents are still feeding it.