

Orphaned birds

Most babies' birds leave the nest without being able to fly properly. For around a few days to a week a bird will just be able to run around and flutter, relying entirely on their parents for protection and food. If you see a baby bird alone sitting on a lawn please observe the bird and ask yourself **'It is really an orphan?'** 9 times out of 10 its parents are around and it does not need rescuing.

When you find a young bird we recommend you:

- **Check first.** Does the bird look healthy, bright and alert? Is it fully feathered? If the answer is yes, it is a fledgling; please leave it alone. Keep away dogs, cats, and children. If concerned, observe from a distance to see if parents are coming to feed it. If necessary, you can place it in a shrub or somewhere safe above the ground.
- If after an hour or more no parents are coming, put it in a small box and call **ACT Wildlife on 0432 300 033** so we will put you in contact to our nearest wildlife carer.
- Does the bird look too young to be alone, naked? With very fluffy feathers? Unable to stand or perch? Then it is a nestling. It possibly fell out of the nest due to human disturbances or high winds. You can try to locate the nest to put it back in. Do not put yourself in danger. If it does not work, put it in a small box, keep it warm and call **ACT Wildlife**.
- If the bird look sick or injured put it in a small box, lined with paper towels, with a few holes for ventilation, keep it warm and call **ACT Wildlife**.

Do not:

- Rush out to grab the bird if it does not need your help. You will do more harm than good and cause distress to the bird's parents.
- Try to raise it yourself. Each species have specific diet requirements, difficult to match correctly. A bird raised alone will become imprinted and will never be able to return to the wild. Keeping a native bird more than 48 hours is illegal unless you are a licensed/trained wildlife carer. See our factsheet **'How to become a carer?'**

Did you know?

It is in the best interest to young birds to leave the nest as soon as they can. The nest is not really a safe cosy home. Vulnerable babies are all in one location and predators can find them to kill them.

Some birds like magpies are 'better' parents and feed equally each baby in the nest. Others feed more to the one which begs more vigorously to the detriment of the others.

For information on birds follow the links:

www.birdsinbackyards.net/help/faq#faq-category-2139

canberrabirds.org.au/our-birds/bird-finder/

For more information or advice contact ACT Wildlife Inc. on **0432 300 033** or visit our website www.actwildlife.net

