

IDENTIFICATION


ALTRICIAL BIRDS

are born with no feathers, eyes are closed and are entirely dependent on their parents to feed and protect.


There are two types of Altricial birds – NESTLINGS and FLEDGLINGS. Both need their parents to survive.



UNLESS INJURED, DON'T TAKE ME FROM MY PARENTS!
They will teach me all the lessons I need to survive –
how to fly, what food to eat, how to find or catch food,
how to avoid predators, how to recognise my own species and lots more.




NESTLINGS are baby birds that still live in the nest. They may be covered in down, have few or no feathers and are totally reliant on their parents for all aspects of survival.



FLEDGLINGS are fully feathered baby birds that have left the nest and are learning to fly. They still need their parents to feed and protect.

PRECOCIAL BIRDS



are born with downy feathers, eyes open, able to stand and follow their parents. They can feed themselves. e.g. ducklings, plovers.

Although well meaning, it is usually not in the best interest of the baby bird, so please...

DON'T FEED OR GIVE BABY BIRDS A DRINK AND AVOID EXCESSIVE NOISE AND HANDLING.

What to do with a nestling

If you find a nestling on the ground, look for the nest and try to get the nestling back into it. If the nest is too high or has fallen from the tree, try making an artificial nest.

4 steps to make a new home:



Step 1

Take an ice-cream container or similar item and put some holes in the bottom for drainage. Put some more holes at the top to make a handle.



Step 2

Put some leaves or grass in the bottom. Use the original nesting material if the nest has fallen from the tree. Place baby bird in its new home. Mum and dad won't mind that baby has been handled by humans.



Step 3

Secure the container at about head height or higher in a leafy protected area, away from direct sunlight, as close as possible to where you found the baby bird. It does not have to be the original tree.



Step 4

Watch from a distance to make sure the parents return to feed the baby. This may take several hours so be patient. If the parents have not returned by dark, call the NATF Inc. Hunter Wildlife Rescue.

What to do with a fledgling

Spring is the time for baby birds and many fledglings leave the nest to try out their new wings only to find themselves on the ground. They just need a few days to exercise those muscles before they are as free as a bird.

Unless sick or injured:

Step 1

Pick up the bird and put it as high as possible in a nearby tree for safety. Its parents are nearby and will find it. Try popping it onto a broom head to give that little extra reach!

Step 2

Keep an eye on the young bird and if it flutters to the ground again, repeat Step 1.

What to do with a precocial chick

See if you can locate the parents. Leave with the parent birds. Don't put ducklings in water. Without mum and dad, they can get too cold and die.

A baby bird's best chance for survival is its parents



It is always best for a bird to be raised by its natural parents, rather than a human carer.

Note: Nocturnal parent birds like Tawny Frogmouths will return at night to feed their young.