

# What to do if you find a SONGBIRD

Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge  
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## Do Any Of These Apply?

- Is the bird injured?
- Is it cold to the touch?
- Has it been in a cat's mouth?
- Is it covered in fly eggs?

## YES

If these signs are visible then call Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and immediately bring it in for rehabilitation. No need to give food or water.

## NO

Leave the bird where you found it or, if you found it in the street, move it to nearby grass. Watch from a distance for an hour. If the parent bird comes down to feed the bird during the time, leave it alone - it is not orphaned. If no parent bird comes, find the nest and place the bird back where it came from and observe from afar if the parent bird comes back. If no nest is visible, place the bird into a basket or container with drainage and place on a low branch nearby and watch for an hour. If the parent bird does come down to feed the young bird during the time, leave it alone, it is not orphaned. If you do not see a parent bird feed the baby then retrieve the bird and bring it in for rehabilitation. If you're unsure of the age of the bird or what to do, please feel free to call Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge for further information.

## Early Life Stages

### Hatchlings

Hatchling songbirds are naked, featherless, and helpless; their eyes are closed during the first few days of life. These birds are 0-3 days old and will be in the nest, not on the ground. Typically, the female parent will brood the babies to keep them warm. If found, try to reunite with its nest first.

### Nestlings

Older nestling songbirds are still nest-bound and very dependent on their parents for care. Their eyes are open and they are vocal. Older nestlings are preening (grooming) themselves and beginning to exercise their wings. The length of the nestling stage varies from species to species, but is usually 9-12 days.

### Fledglings

The majority of fledgling songbirds are well feathered on their body with short wing and tail feathers; they're able to stand, walk and hop; they may be able to make short flights from branch to branch or from the ground up to low branches; and they are vocal and still dependent on their parents for care. During this stage they don't necessarily need to be reunited with their nests and are free to move on their own.

