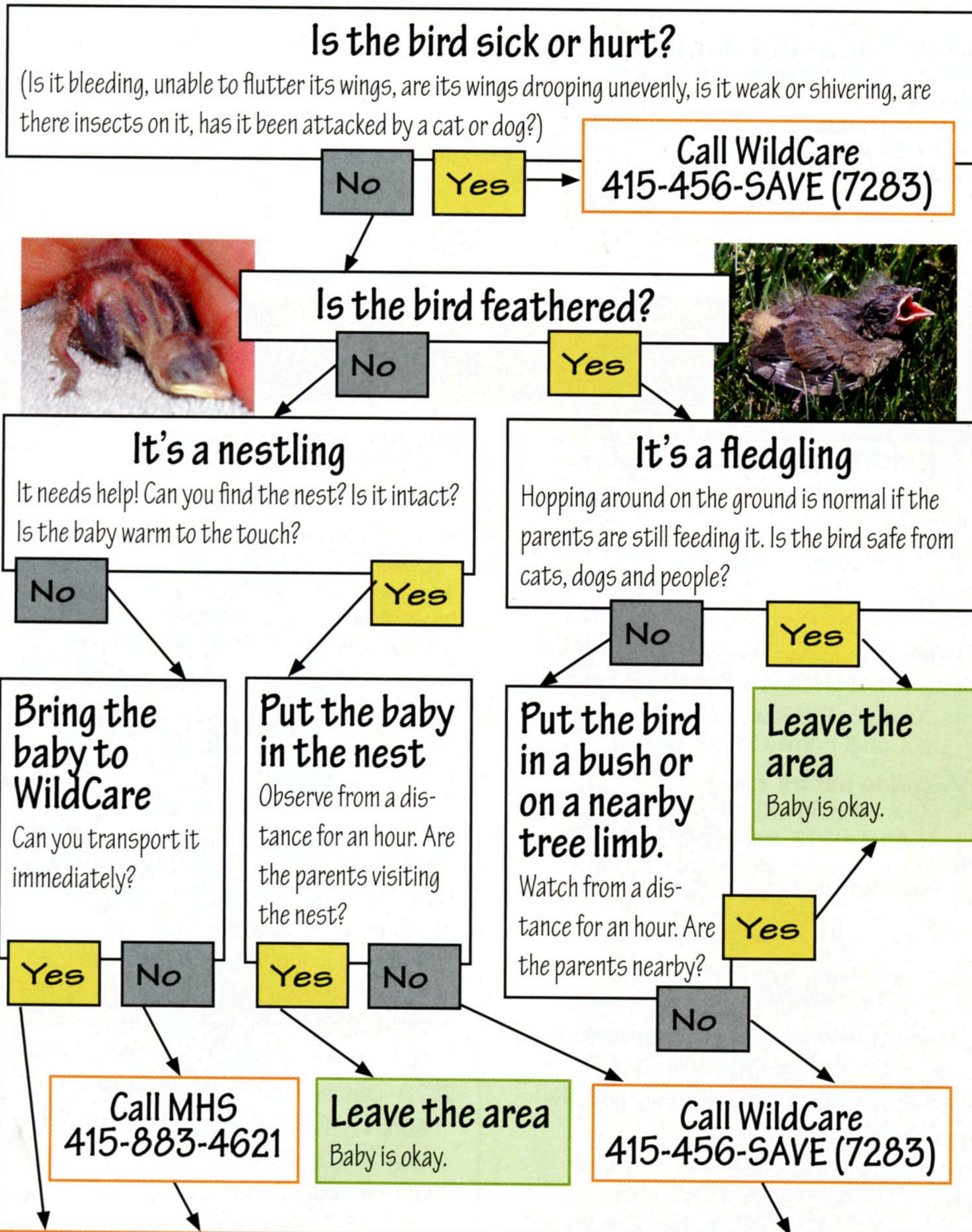


I Found a Baby Bird

Wild birds live among us in our gardens and parks. Sometimes they need our help and sometimes they don't. How can you tell?



If you need to bring an injured or orphaned bird to WildCare

1. Prepare a container. A shoebox with air holes in the lid, lined with a small towel, works for most songbirds.

2. Protect yourself. Even sick birds may try to protect themselves with their beaks or talons. Wear gloves if possible. Birds may have parasites or carry diseases. Wash your hands after handling.

3. Put the bird in the box. Cover the bird with a light cloth and gently put it in the shoebox.

4. Keep it warm. If the bird is cold, put one end of the shoebox on a heating pad set on low.

5. If you can't transport it immediately:

- Call the Marin Humane Society 415-883-4621
- Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place.
- Do not give it food or water.
- Do not handle it.
- Keep children and pets away from it.

6. Transport the bird to WildCare. Keep it in the shoebox, keep the car quiet (radio off, etc.).

7. Complete WildCare's intake form. Provide complete information on the circumstances of your rescue. Provide your personal information clearly in the event we need to contact you.

Fact or Myth?

1. Birds can smell the scent of humans on a baby that has been handled.

☐ Fact ☒ Myth

Myth. Birds' sense of smell is not well understood, but it is clear they show no fear of babies that have been touched by humans.

2. Birds recognize their babies' voices and will come when they call.

☒ Fact ☐ Myth

Fact. Parent birds respond to the begging calls of their young, and will feed them if they can reach their babies.

3. Birds carry diseases that can be transmitted to people.

☒ Fact ☐ Myth

Fact. Birds can carry a number of parasites, bacterial, fungal and viral infections that can affect people. If you have handled a wild bird, you should wash your hands and other objects the bird has been in contact with.

4. A bird that has been caught by a cat should be let go if it can still fly.

☐ Fact ☒ Myth

Myth. Cats' teeth cause nearly invisible puncture wounds on their prey. The bacteria from their saliva in these wounds can cause deadly infections 3-5 days later. Birds caught by a cat should be brought to WildCare.

5. It is illegal to keep a wild animal without a permit, even if you are trying to care for it and plan to release it.

☒ Fact ☐ Myth

Fact. Wild animal care requires very specific skill and knowledge sets. Wildlife rehabilitators are licensed by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife to rehabilitate wildlife, and are the only ones permitted to treat wild animals. This ensures the best chance for their survival.

5. A licensed veterinarian can help you treat an injured wild bird.

☐ Fact ☒ Myth

Myth. Veterinarians are licensed to treat only domestic animals. The California Department of Fish and Game permits veterinarians to stabilize a wild animal for no longer than 48 hours unless they are working under the permit of a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

6. Orphaned baby birds like to be cuddled and talked to.

☐ Fact ☒ Myth

Myth. They are terrified of us and think we are predators. Not being able to see or hear us helps calm them.