Found a baby bird out of the nest?

Fledglings have all or most of their feathers and leave the nest just before they can fly. Nestlings are baby birds that have little or no feathers, which will not survive long outside the protection of the nest.

Birds take far better care of their babies than humans can, so baby birds should only be taken into care as a last resort. It’s usually best to keep pets away, leave the fledgling alone and monitor, as the parents are usually nearby and feeding the bird. Nestlings, however, should be renested where possible.

Do any of the following apply to the baby bird:
- Is it known that the parent birds are dead?
- Is it sick or injured?

- Does the baby bird have feathers?

- Has it been more than two hours since you confined the fledgling?
- Is the baby bird in a position of danger?

- This is a fledgling
- Already confined a healthy fledgling?

- This is a nestling
- Further advice can be found on the nestling flowchart available at: rspca.org.uk/babybirds

- Contact the local wildlife rescue centre or vet.
  If neither available call us on: 0300 1234 999.

- If there is no adult returning, safely confine the baby bird in a ventilated cardboard box lined with a paper towel.

- Leave alone and monitor for at least two hours. Are adult birds returning?

- Great, but if possible check back on the baby bird in 24 hours!

- Return the baby bird to where they were found.

- Move to a safe place nearby.

Visit: www.rspca.org.uk/babybirds for more advice and video examples of renesting. Specific advice is also available for species including young waterfowl, gulls, swifts, corvids and birds of prey.

REMEMBER to wear sturdy gloves any time you handle wildlife and don’t give the baby animals food or water. Avoid handling unless absolutely necessary, so you don’t cause unnecessary stress and make sure you keep any pets well away from the birds.