



DO YOU KNOW.....?

.....that most birds have little or no sense of smell? That means touching a baby will NOT cause the parents to reject it. If you find a baby bird on the ground, feel free to simply pick it up and return it to its nest. Be sure, however, that you've found the correct nest. Adult birds, generally, will not accept a strange baby and will injure or even kill the innocent intruder. So, how do you know you've got the right nest?

Obviously, if the baby is directly beneath a nest, there's a good chance its the right one. Look into the nest and see if there are other babies that look the same and are at about the same stage of development.

Once you've returned the fallen baby, go some distance away and watch the nest. The parents should be coming and going frequently. When an adult arrives with food, it should not even notice that the missing baby has returned. It should fill an open mouth and leave quickly. Frantic activity by the adult may indicate the baby doesn't belong in that nest. You may have to rescue the youngster and bring it to us for care.

There is one other factor to consider when trying to return a baby bird to its nest; has the bird already "fledged." Many young birds leave the nest (fledge) before they can fly. Why? Because the longer the babies are all together in a nest, the greater likelihood a predator will discover them and kill them all. In nature, that is a complete reproductive failure. Once the babies leave the nest and disperse around your yard, the chance of all of them being preyed upon is considerably reduced. If even one baby survives, nature considers that a success. As long as enough babies survive to maintain a healthy gene pool and population level, all's right with the world.

If the baby is well-feathered, hopping around and appears "bright-eyed and bushy-tailed," it is probably fine. The parents are close by, feeding and watching over the youngster. Grit your teeth, cross your fingers and leave it alone. You can move it out of the road but don't remove it from the area. Remember, you can't "rescue" it from being wild.

NOW YOU KNOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

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