

## “Spring” into action by leaving wildlife alone.

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Denver Parks is known for its abundance and diversity of wildlife. Each spring, calls from concerned citizens come pouring in wanting to “help” wildlife. As spring approaches, people will start to see newborn and young wildlife that appears to be “sick”, “abandoned or injured.” It’s only natural to be concerned, wanting to help wildlife by picking it up or trying to feed it. It’s important for people to understand that there is no substitute for their natural parents, so it’s best for wildlife by taking a hands-off approach and leaving it alone to let nature takes its course.

There are very few instances where human intervention is necessary.

### What should you do?

➡ Do not immediately move young birds or wildlife from where they’re found.

➡ Assess the situation: Is there an adult animal around? Is it in a safe location, hidden from disturbance?

➡ The last thing you want to do is separate a baby animal from its parents.

➡ Don’t consider picking up such finds and bringing them into your home to be cared for. Chances are very good that mom and dad are close at hand, even if you don’t see them.



### TIPS:

Determine if the young bird is a nestling or fledgling. Nestlings are featherless or fuzzy and belong in a nest. Fledglings have feathers and are old enough to leave the nest and be on the ground or in a shrub.

If you must help, place nestlings into the nest they have fallen from, if you can, but leave fledglings where you find them.

*It's not uncommon or abnormal for adult wildlife to leave their young in safe places while they go forage for food. And often, baby birds are fledging or learning to fly near their nests when they are deemed abandoned, and then picked up when they should have been left alone.*

### Wildlife concerns can be reported to:

- [pocketgov.com](http://pocketgov.com);
- Dialing 311;
- or the Wildlife Hotline at 720-913-0630.
- For wildlife emergencies, call 311 for a Park Ranger; CO State Patrol/303-239-4501, or CPW/303-291-7227. **There are no Wildlife Rehabilitators in the City & County of Denver.**