



Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance

Who Needs Help?



Nestling

- Downy & white
- Unable to stand
- May cry for food
- Can not thermoregulate
- Belongs in a nest

Brancher/Fledgling

- Mostly feathered
- Still has down on head
- Short tail
- Still has feather shafts
- May fly short distances
- Able to climb to safety

Juvenile/Adult

- Completely feathered
- Full grown
- Little to no down fuzz
- Should be able to fly

Is the owl on the ground?
 Is the owl cold?
 Is the owl sick or injured?
 Are the parents around?

Is the owl on the ground?
 Is the owl in an unsafe area?
 Is the owl sick or injured?

Is the owl on the ground?
 Is the owl unable to fly?
 Is the owl sick or injured?

If the answer is YES, the owl needs help!
Contact your local wildlife professional for direction.



Not all owls on the ground need our help. It can be normal, especially with fledglings. Parents will continue to care for the fledglings on the ground and many of these young birds are exceptional climbers and will climb to safety if left alone. If you are unsure if an owl or any bird is healthy, take a picture from a respectful distance and contact a local wildlife professional for direction. They will guide you from there.