WHAT TO DO ABOUT
BABY BIRDS

IF POSSIBLE, PUT THE BIRD BACK IN ITS NEST AND/OR PUT THE NEST BACK IN THE TREE. THE MOTHER BIRD WON'T REJECT THE BABY BECAUSE YOU'VE HANDLED IT.

IF THE BIRD IS FEATHERED & HOPPING AROUND - A PARENT BIRD IS PROBABLY NEARBY WATCHING IT - AND HOPING YOU'LL LEAVE IT ALONE. KEEP DOGS & CATS AWAY.

HOUSING

IF YOU'RE SURE THAT THE BIRD NEEDS HELP, MAKE IT A WARM CLEAN NEST BY LINING A SMALL BOX OR BERRY BASKET WITH KLEENEX (DO NOT USE AN OLD NEST - THEY CAN BE DIRTY AND HARBOR PARASITES). PUT THE NEST BOX IN A CARTON OR CAGE; COVER AT NIGHT.

FEEDING: BABY BIRDS NEED TO EAT AT LEAST EVERY HOUR FROM 7 A.M. - 7 P.M. THEY DO NOT EAT AT NIGHT. FOOD SHOULD BE WARMED TO ROOM TEMPERATURE & SERVED WITH A TOOTHPICK OR MATCHSTICK.

TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE ALL-PURPOSE FOOD: MASHED HARDBOILED EGG YOLK MIXED WITH PABLUM AND WATER.

FOR SEED EATERS (SHORT FAT BEAK): CANARY NESTLING MIX (FROM THE PET SHOP) MIXED WITH WATER.

FOR INSECT EATERS (LONG NARROW BEAK): 3/4 C. MOCKINGBIRD FOOD (PET SHOP) MIXED WITH STRAINED BABY FOOD - 1 JAR BEEF HEART, 1 JAR EGG YOLKS, ½ JAR CARROTS. THIS CAN BE FROZEN BY SPOONFULS ON WAX PAPER AND THAWED AS NEEDED.

<u>FOR FURTHER INFORMATION</u>: CONTACT A MUSEUM, ZOO, HUMANE SOCIETY, OR AUDUBON SOCIETY. GET A BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY - <u>CARE OF THE WILD FEATHERED AND FURRED</u> BY HICKMAN AND GUY IS EXCELLENT.

GOOD LUCK! DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED IF YOUR BIRD DIES - SOME YOUNG ARE PUSHED FROM THE NEST BY THE MOTHER BECAUSE THEY ARE SICK OR DEFECTIVE.

KIDS & CRITTERS

San Bernardino County
Department of Public Health
Animal Care & Control Program
(800) 472-5609