



Great Basin Wildlife Rescue

Rehabilitation & Education.

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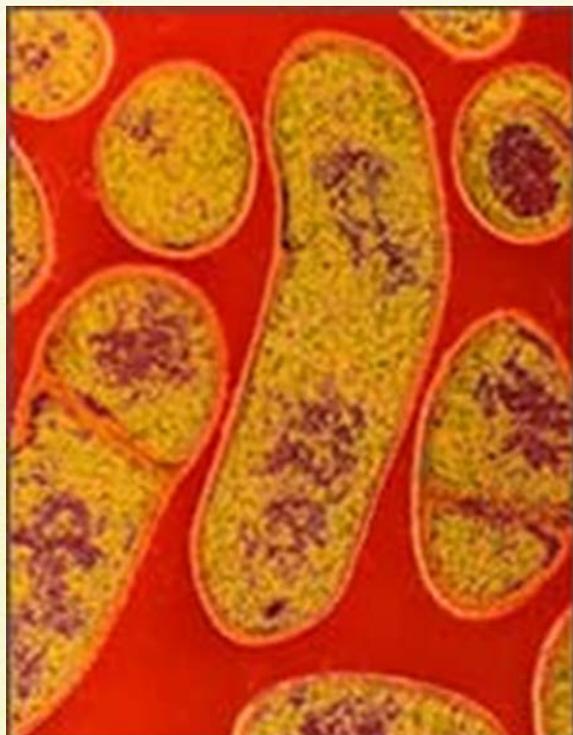


Image from <http://www.botulismblog.com>

If you encounter sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife, please contact Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, local Division of Wildlife or Fish & Game Agency.

Avian Botulism

Avian botulism is a disease caused by ingestion of a toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. It blocks nerve function and causes respiratory and musculoskeletal paralysis. Typically, birds get botulism by ingesting the toxin directly or eating insect larvae (maggots) infected with the toxin. The insects themselves only store the toxin in their bodies and are unaffected by it. Birds that eat the contaminated larvae can develop botulism after eating just a few maggots. Once an infected bird dies, maggots will consume the



carcass, becoming contaminated with the toxin and spreading it to more birds. Birds can also be infected by the toxin through open wounds and, rarely, inhalation.

Most wild birds are susceptible to botulism. Waterfowl such as ducks tend to be more commonly infected. Commercial poultry and fowl can also be infected. Botulism is also more common during the warmer months.

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Answers from Connery

How does Great Basin Wildlife Rescue train their education birds?

Great Basin Wildlife Rescue (GBWR) has many education birds that they take to schools, expos, fairs, Eagle Scout courts of honor and more. This includes a peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, raven, western screech owl, barn owl, and me (a northern saw-whet owl).

Potential educational birds first go through a screening process including temperament. All birds are non-releasable due to permanent injuries or because of imprinting. Some birds come to GBWR from falconers and have already been trained by them. The other birds are trained by staff at GBWR.



First, they are outfitted with anklets and jesses. (Think of little bracelets with straps attached to them.) The bird handler holds the straps while training the bird to stand on their leather glove. After a few months, once this is mastered, the bird is brought to small events to help it get used to people. Over the years, the bird then works its way up to larger events.

Did you know that GBWR can come to your next event? For pricing and scheduling, please contact Great Basin Wildlife Rescue at (801)310-0186.



Janet with Moonshine the barn owl at the International Sportsmen Expo

Northern Saw-whet owls nest in tree cavities and nest boxes. Females lay four to ten eggs in a clutch. Chicks are born helpless, covered in white down. The female stays with the eggs to incubate them while the male brings food to the female.



Find Connery Saw-whet on Facebook!!

Volunteer Spotlight

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP



Image from <http://dantallmansbirdblog.blogspot.com>

(Botulism continued from page 1)

Symptoms of botulism in birds are loss of muscle function, paralysis in the legs, wings, neck, and eyelids, diarrhea, and respiratory problems. Birds infected with botulism often die from secondary causes such as drowning during paralysis, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, respiratory failure, and predation. Healthy and unhealthy birds are often found in the same area. Birds that live beyond two days after infection usually recover. With access to clean water and shelter from weather and predation, birds can recover from low levels of exposure to the toxin.



If you encounter a live or dead bird that you believe may be infected with botulism, do not attempt to catch or touch it. Also, keep pets away from any dead or sick bird that you may find. Instead, please inform your nearest Division of Wildlife or Fish and Game Agency. One sick bird has the potential to infect many others, and you could save lives by reporting sick birds to the proper authorities.



Each summer, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue holds a youth volunteer group for those 14 years and older. The program runs from June thru the end of August. It is held each Wednesday from 4-6:00pm. Youth learn raptor care and maintenance. This also helps youth that are studying for their falconry exam Youth have to be at least 14. If you are interested in joining our youth group next summer, contact Great Basin Wildlife Rescue at greatbasinrehab@yahoo.com.



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead