



# Great Basin Wildlife Rescue

Rehabilitation & Education.

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## Happy Holidays from our Family to Yours!

Dear Great Basin Wildlife Rescue Supporters,

Happy holidays everyone! The holidays are a time for family, friends, and giving to others. We would like to take this time to thank you for your support over the last year. Did you know that Great Basin receives over 200 injured birds of prey per year? We are also the only organization in Utah licensed to rehabilitate black bear cubs. Further, we are completely staffed by volunteers. We could not have done it all without your help!

As the year draws to a close, please consider donating to Great Basin Wildlife Rescue. As a 501(c)3 non-profit charity, we are funded completely by donation. Also, your donation is completely tax-deductible. You can donate on our website at <http://greatbasinwildlife.net/Donate/Donate2.html> or you can contact Patti at (801)310-0186 for further ways to donate. We wish you and your family the best during this holiday season and for the rest of the year!!



## Education Programs

### Meet our newest animal ambassadors!

Targaryon is a male golden eagle. He joined our education team last month and has already completed a few Eagle Courts of Honor and Pow Wows. Despite a permanent wing injury that prevents Targaryon from being released back into the wild, he is a great bird and has a sweet disposition.

We are also excited to welcome a bald eagle to our education crew. He arrived at Great Basin at the beginning of December. Although unable to be released back into the wild due to a severed wrist, we are excited to have him join our team.



Great Basin Wildlife Rescue provides excellent education programs to the public. We travel throughout Utah County with our education birds and provide presentations to schools, fairs, expos, Eagle Scout courts of honor and many more!

If you are interested in having us attend your school or event, please contact us for pricing and scheduling information.



## Summer Bears

This summer and fall has been a busy one for us here at Great Basin. In addition to rehabilitating injured birds of prey, Great Basin was privileged raise two orphaned black bear cubs, Baloo and Pooh. The bear cubs have since been released back out into the wild 2 hours east of Cedar City. Thank you to all of the local families and businesses that donated resources to help us raise the cubs. In addition, thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with the bear cubs.

**How can birds walk**

## in the snow without freezing their feet?

Considering how cold our own feet can get when we're out in the snow—even with shoes on—you might wonder how birds can walk, waddle, hop, and otherwise get around during the winter without freezing their feet. The answer has to do with heat exchange and birds' physiology. For many birds, the arteries (carrying blood from the heart to the feet) and veins (carrying blood



back from the feet to the heart) in their legs are close together. This means that since the blood in the veins is cooler than the blood in the arteries, the blood in the veins will lower the temperature of the blood in the arteries as it passes by. With the blood in the legs now relatively cool, there isn't much heat loss between the birds legs/feet and the cold ground. Plus, there isn't much soft tissue in birds' legs and feet, which means that the blood in that part of their body doesn't need to stay as warm.

## Answers from Connery

### What birds in are in Utah during the winter but not the summer?

You may think that winter is a bad time to go bird watching, but actually there are some birds in Utah that you can only see in the winter (with varying degrees of abundance). According to [utahbirds.org](http://utahbirds.org), these birds include:

- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Merlin
- Herring Gull
- Thayer's Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Anna's Hummingbird



- Northern Shrike



- Blue Jay
- Varied Thrush
- Lapland Longspur
- Snow Bunting
- American Tree Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Harris's Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Common Redpoll

## Volunteer Spotlight

Ali W. is studying Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation at Brigham Young University. Her hobbies include biking, hiking, swimming, backpacking, skiing, and birding. She also loves photography, reading and learning new things. She is learning to play the guitar (and banjo) and to become a better runner. Ali heard about Great Basin by looking them up online. She had volunteered at another birds of prey rehabilitation center before and had benefited from the experience, so wanted a chance to volunteer again. She also knew a few classmates who wanted a chance to volunteer again. She also knew a few classmates who have volunteered at Great Basin and enjoyed it, so when Great Basin was looking for new volunteers, she applied.



Ali believes wildlife rehabilitation is important because of the good it spreads in its immediate environment. Wildlife rehabilitation benefits the wildlife greatly through conserving individuals and populations. Wildlife rehabilitation also has the incredible ability to spread education and support for wildlife by bringing wildlife closer to the view of the general public. Educating the public about wildlife promotes support and can in turn help rehabilitation to achieve its goals of conservation. In addition, anyone who gets the opportunity to aid in wildlife rehabilitation gets the opportunity to learn more intimately about wildlife!

Her favorite bird of prey is the Northern Goshawk because they are so beautiful and unique! She is fascinated by their ability to survive and hunt in the forest and has only seen a goshawk once, which adds to its mystery.

**Picture Credits**

p.1. top: Golden eagle, bottom: bald eagle, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

p.2 top: Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, bottom: American pipit,

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bird\\_walking\\_on\\_snow.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bird_walking_on_snow.jpg). Author: Kashyap Hosdurga.

p.3: Connery, northern saw-whet owl, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, bottom. Blue jay,

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cyanocitta-cristata-004.jpg>.