



Great Basin Wildlife Rescue

Rehabilitation & Education.

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Great Basin Wildlife Rescue is a 501 c3 non-profit wildlife rehabilitation center located in Utah County. We take in over 200 bear cubs and birds of prey a year. Our mission is twofold. First, it is to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife so they can be released back into the wild. Second, it is to educate the public how they can make a difference in wildlife conservation and to expand their knowledge of wildlife in general. We travel within Utah County providing educational programs to local schools, Eagle Scout courts of honor, fairs, and expos. If you are interested in having us attend your school or event, please contact us at greatbasinrehab@yahoo.com.

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An Unexpected Water Bird

When you think of birds that live around water, you



American dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus*

Dippers get their name from the dipping motion they make before they dive into the water. That's right! They swim! They don't have webbed feet, but this songbird does have other adaptations to help it move through the water, like extra oil for its feathers, nostrils that close, and an extra eyelid that helps it see under the water. Dippers also build their nests near running water, sometimes even behind waterfalls!

If you think American Dippers sound interesting, you're in luck, because they live in Utah. You can find them in various places along the Provo River and fast moving mountain streams. Just look for a small gray bird bobbing and dipping before it suddenly rushes into the water. But you'll have to look closely, because American Dippers look just like the river rocks they stand on!

probably think of waterfowl, like ducks, geese, and swans. But did you know that the American Dipper also makes its home near water? In fact, this small songbird only lives near mountain streams and eats the insects, larvae, and small fish it finds in the streams. Dippers love running water so much that during the winter, if their stream freezes over, they'll just move downstream to where the water is still running.

Answers from Connery

Can bird nests affect human construction plans?

In the book *Hoot*, by Carl Hiaasen, and the 2006 movie based on the book, a group of kids team up to save a colony of burrowing owls whose presence upsets the construction of a restaurant. Although the book is fictional, it's true that the presence of certain birds or their nests can affect human construction of buildings, roads, pipelines, and other projects.

Two of the major laws that govern how certain birds can affect human projects are the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (in conjunction with Executive Order 13186) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects migratory birds and their eggs and nests from being killed, captured, or sold, and Executive Order 13186 helps protect the habitat of migratory birds. The Bald and Golden Eagle



Protection Act lives up to its name by protecting these birds and their nests and eggs from being harmed or disturbed, whether they're alive or dead.



Burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia*

Connery the northern saw-whet owl.

When companies are planning construction projects that might conflict with these laws, they have to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service and other state and federal agencies to come up with a plan that will help them decrease the negative impact on birds protected by law, especially their nests. These plans include clearing land outside of nesting season, leaving buffer zones around nesting sites, working with biologists to identify and monitor nests, and working to restore some of the habitat once construction is done.

Picture Credits

p.2. American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*,

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p.3 top: Connery, northern saw-whet owl, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue,

bottom: Common raven, *Corvus corax*,

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