



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.

Meet Digger the Burrowing Owl

We are excited to introduce the newest member of our education team. "Digger," a burrowing owl, came to us from Tooele. He has a permanent injury from a fractured shoulder that prevents him from flying.

Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) are smaller, long-legged owls that live in open areas with low vegetation. Unlike many other owls, which nest in trees, burrowing owls live and nest in the ground in burrows excavated by other species. They also are most active during the day.



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.

Wings of Valor



Wings of Valor, a program facilitated through Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, helps veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq become falconers. Founded in 2011, Wings of Valor, along with their sponsor APF Industries of Salt Lake City, has funded six veterans in the program.

The following is an excerpt about Wings of Valor from a recent article by Patricia Amadon from Serve Daily's February publication:

"Inspiration for the Wings of Valor program took flight in 2011 when [Patti] Richards participated in a Wounded Warrior Project with one of her rehabilitated golden eagles. 'It occurred to me that the symbolism of the golden eagle being rehabilitated and released into the wild to honor soldiers who died in service to their country related directly to my vision of assisting

veterans when they returned home. I just instinctively knew that getting them outside working with birds would help them deal with their depression. What military person wouldn't feel empowered with a raptor on his arm?' Richards said.

Program sponsor APF Industries of Salt Lake City has funded six veterans in the program, but more

sponsors are needed to extend the opportunity to others. The Division of Wildlife Resources monitors the falconry program, ensuring the safety and care of the birds. Presently, only veterans who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq wars are eligible to participate.

Recognizing the importance of the eagle in the Scouting program, Richards provides Eagle Scouts with an opportunity to earn their awards by constructing shelters to house the birds. Every veteran has different needs and so the mew, or shelter, is personalized and constructed to meet any special needs for the individual. If wheelchair access is needed, the mew is built to accommodate easy access to care for the bird. Upon completion, Richards brings one of her rehabilitated eagles to the Scout's Court of Honor." (Amadon, Patricia. "Wings of Valor program helps veterans." *Serve Daily*, Issue IV.XXXIII, February 2015.)

To read the rest of this article, please visit www.servedaily.com.

To learn more about Wings of Valor, please visit our website at <http://greatbasinwildlife.net/Wings/Wings.html> or "like" Wings of Valor on Facebook.

Monogamy in Birds



Mute swans, *Cygnus olor*

Many people in Western societies consider monogamy important in their romantic relationships, but did you know humans aren't the only ones who are monogamous? In fact, about 90 percent of birds are considered monogamous.

Monogamy for birds means that a male and female form a bond for anywhere from one nesting, to a breeding season, to several breeding seasons, to life. The bonded pair raises the baby birds together, although for some birds

the male's involvement may be limited to building the nest or alerting the female to danger. A female and male in a socially monogamous pair often mate with other partners, but they still raise the chicks with the bird they are bonded to.

Some monogamous birds are said to mate for life, although this doesn't necessarily mean they only have one mate in their entire lives; some may find another mate if their partner is injured or dies, and others may abandon their mate if they find a better one. Birds that are said to mate for life include bald eagles, Canada geese, red-tailed hawks, common ravens, and blue jays.

Not all birds are monogamous, however. There is also polygynous mating (when one male mates with multiple females) and polyandrous mating (when one female mate with multiple males). But polyandry is relatively rare in the bird world.

Questions for Connery

What do songbirds eat during the winter?



House sparrow, *Passer domesticus*

Good question! Birds that stick around during the winter rather than migrating have to face cold weather and limited food resources. In the winter, birds need to eat often in order to maintain their body heat and weight, but it can be hard to find food when the things they normally eat are hibernating or hidden under the snow.

One great source of winter food for birds is berries. But not every kind of bird can eat every kind of berry. Berries that may be toxic to some birds are harmless to others, and some berries are toxic to birds only if they eat more than a certain amount. Bird species even have berry preferences, but they will resort to eating non-preferred types of berries if the kinds they like aren't available. Other sources of food in the winter include grain, nuts, and seeds, as well as hibernating insects, eggs, or larva.



Connery the northern saw-whet owl.

Picture Credits

p.1. top: Burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia*, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

bottom: Great horned owl, *Bubo virginianus*, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

p.3 Mute swans, *Cygnus olor*, [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mozzercork - Heart \(by\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mozzercork_-_Heart_(by).jpg), Wikipedia Commons.

p.4 top: Female house sparrow, *Passer domesticus*,

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Passer_domesticus_in_yew.jpg, Wikipedia Commons.

bottom: Connery, northern saw-whet owl, *Aegolius acadicus*, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

