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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.

What to do when you find a fawn



During the spring and summer we get a lot of calls concerning fawns. The most common question is “I’ve found a fawn. What do I do with it?” In most cases, unless the fawn is injured or in harms way, the answer is simple: leave it where you found it. While you might think the fawn is abandoned, it is actually very common for does to leave their babies while they go off to find food to eat. Fawns are incapable of walking long distances and therefore wait for their mother to come back. Sometimes the mothers

have to travel long distances to find enough food to be able to produce milk for their babies. Once the mother leaves to forage, the baby deer then “hide” in the area where the mom leaves them.

To camouflage themselves with their surroundings, fawns will lie on the ground and hold very still. When approached, many fawns will continue to lie in their “hiding spot” to try to avoid detection. In other cases, some fawns may run away. Often, if a person tries to pick them up, fawns will hug their legs to their body and flop their head forward. Other times, the fawn will allow their whole body to become limp. This does not mean that there is something wrong with the deer. Unless you see an injury or feel that the life of the fawn is being threatened in some way, leave the area and allow time for the mom to come back. The mother deer will come back to get the fawn but will not do so if you remain in the area. Deer can travel large distances, so it may be awhile before the mother returns. In some cases, if you see and uninjured fawn on the side of the road, you may move the fawn off of the road and then leave it alone for the mother to find.

Do not put the fawn in your car or try to pick the fawn up. It is a natural tendency of humans to try to care for what they think are abandoned animals. It is important to understand though, that humans cannot take care of a fawn like the doe can. Humans cannot teach the fawn what it needs to know to survive in the wild. Further, deer have complex diets and by feeding the deer what you think it might eat, can cause more damage than leaving it alone. For instance, human and domestic animal formula can cause scouring, dehydration and death. In addition, petting the fawn, talking to it and holding it will not comfort it. Fawns are wild animals and should be treated as such.

If you find a fawn that is ill or hurt, please contact your local fish and game, department of wildlife services, or wildlife rescue. They are best equipped to help injured wildlife.

Education Programs



Targaryon, Great Basin's golden eagle

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.

Questions for Connery

Do birds pollinate flowers?

Yes, they do! There's even a word for it: "ornithophily." In the continental United States, the main bird that pollinates is the hummingbird. Most flowers use insect pollinators, but flowers in places that don't have a lot of insects, like high elevations, dry climates, and islands, may use bird pollinators.

Flowers that use birds for pollination often are brightly colored (red, orange, yellow, etc.) but don't have a strong scent, since birds have better eyesight than smell. The flowers are also often a tube shape and have lots of nectar. The nectar attracts the birds, which then get pollen stuck to their feathers when they drink the nectar. When the birds fly to the next flower, the pollen that's stuck to them pollinates the new flower. Birds that pollinate often have a long beak and can either hover while flying or are light enough that they can perch on the flower without breaking it.



Connery the northern saw-whet owl.



Green vireo, *Colibri thalassinus*

Hummingbirds use so much energy to fly that they have to drink several times their body weight in nectar every day! If you want to attract hummingbirds to your yard, try planting shrimp plants, verbenas, bee balm, honeysuckles, fuchsias, hibiscus, or bromeliads. Besides hummingbirds, the most common bird pollinators worldwide are spiderhunters, sunbirds, honeycreepers, and honeyeaters.

Ideas for Keeping Wildlife Safe from Trash

It's summertime, and that means many of us are spending lots of time outside enjoying the warm weather. But where humans go, our trash often follows, and what seems like trash to us can often seem like food to wildlife. Unfortunately, our trash can harm and even kill the curious animals and birds that come across it and try to eat it or eat what's inside. Not only can eating the plastic and other trash kill them, but they can



Herring gull, *Larus argentatus*

also get trash stuck on their heads, paws, fins, and other parts.

So here are some ideas you can try this summer to help keep wildlife safe from our trash:

- Don't throw trash out your car window. Wait until you reach your destination and throw it away. Even tossing biodegradable products like apple cores out the window can harm wildlife because it attracts them to the roadside, where they can be hit by a car.
- Rinse containers you recycle or throw away before putting them in the bin to decrease the chance that wildlife will be attracted to them. Likewise, make sure your trashcan and recycle bin lids are securely closed.
- Make sure any balloons you use at outdoor parties and events are securely tethered so they don't fly away and land somewhere wildlife will encounter them. Don't release balloons at events either.
- If you go to a park or a beach, make sure you put your waste in trashcans. If there aren't any trashcans, take your trash home with you. Similarly, if you go hiking, take your trash with you when you leave, and when you camp, make sure your campsite is clean before you leave.
- When you go fishing, take tangled fishing lines and broken hooks and bobbers with you when you leave.
- Use reusable shopping bags.
- When you go out on a walk or hike, take a bag with you and pick up any trash you find along the way.

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p.2. top: Golden eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

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

bottom: Green violetear, *Colibri thalassinus*, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Trochilidae#/media/File:Colibri-thalassinus-001-edit.jpg>, Wikipedia Commons.

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