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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.

Wings of Valor 1st Annual Barbeque



This past month Great Basin Wildlife Rescue hosted the 1st annual barbeque for Wings of Valor. Soldiers and their families, along with their sponsors were invited to attend. The guest speaker was Craig Boren who brought along his redtail hawk.

Wings of Valor provides disabled war veterans with the opportunity to experience the art of Falconry. In this sport, the falconer trains a bird of prey to fly free, hunt, and then return back to the falconer. Birds and their falconers often participate in competitions, hunt for fun and hunt for food. Falconry is an art- it requires long hours, patience, and skill.

As the parent organization, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue helps participants in the Wings of Valor program to receive support, equipment and training, which allows them

to become falconers with very minimal monetary outlay. Each veteran in the Wings of Valor program partners with a general or master class falconer and works closely in passing tests and gaining experience. Great Basin Wildlife provides each veteran a mew/chamber suitable for each bird and helps with avian medical needs. The mew/chamber is wheelchair accessible if needed. Veterans in this program feel closeness to nature and a bond with their bird of prey. To help support the Wings of Valor program, please contact Patti Richards at (801) 310-0186.



Amazon Smile



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are benefiting Great Basin. You may even want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile so that all of your future Amazon purchases can benefit Great Basin. Supporting Great Basin has never been so easy!

Questions for Connery: Introducing Rose!

Our New Saw-whet Owl is Rose

Going forward, Rose, another saw-whet owl, will be taking over the “Questions for Connery” column of our newsletter from Connery the saw-whet. So let’s get to know saw-whet owls a little better. Saw-whet owls are one of the smallest owls in North America. Adults are just 6.7 to 8.7 inches tall and weigh an average of 2.8 oz (less than a deck of cards)! They have a white face with streaks of cream and brown, and their eyes are yellow.

Saw-whet owls prefer to live in forests and woods and like to hunt near rivers and streams because there’s a lot of prey there. Saw-whets mainly eat small mammals like mice and voles, but they also sometimes eat insects, frogs, and other small prey. Because they have great hearing, Saw-whets can hunt based on hearing alone!



Connery the northern saw-whet owl.

Ideas for Keeping Wildlife Safe from Trash

Did you know that more than 150 species of birds have gone extinct in the last 500 years? Let’s learn a little about 3 kinds of birds that have gone extinct.

One type of bird that is now extinct is the moa. There were 9 species of moa living in New Zealand when humans came to the island around 1280 AD. The biggest kinds of moa were 12 feet tall and weighed over 500 pounds! The moa didn’t have wings and were herbivores. They went extinct in the 1400s due to overhunting by humans.



Upland moa, *Megalapteryx didinus*, artist's reconstruction

Another type of extinct bird is the Haast's eagle. Like the moa, this eagle also lived in New Zealand. Weighing between 20 and 30 pounds, with a wingspan of between 8 and 9 feet, the Haast's eagle is the largest known eagle. Since the Haast's eagle's primary prey was the moa, when the moa went extinct, so did the eagle.

A more recent—and well-known—bird that is now extinct is the passenger pigeon. Passenger pigeons used to be the most common birds in North America. They traveled in huge flocks, and it's reported that one giant flock took 14 hours to pass overhead. However, in the 19th century their numbers began to decline due to hunting and habitat destruction, and the last known passenger pigeon died in a zoo in 1914.

But birds going extinct is not a thing of the past. Bird species are still going extinct today, and three known species of birds are suspected of going extinct just since the year 2000. More than 1,000 bird species are currently considered threatened by extinction, and the most at risk include island species, especially flightless island species.

Picture Credits

p.1.: Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

p.2. Connery, northern saw-whet owl, *Aegolius acadicus*, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

p.3: Upland moa, *Megalapteryx didinus*,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/wiki/Moa#/media/File:Megalapteryx.png>, originally from Watter Rothschild, *Extinct Birds*, Antwerp, 1907.