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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.

Pros and Cons of Backyard Bird Feeders



Backyard bird feeding can be a fun hobby that allows us humans to get a closer look at the birds that live around us. But while there are lots of positive effects of keeping a backyard bird feeder, there can also be some negative ones. Let's take a look at what some of these pros and cons are.

One great thing about bird feeders is that they help birds survive during times of scarcity, such as winter, when food is hard to find. They can also help birds deal with habitat change, like when humans build a new subdivision in a field where the birds previously found food. Bird feeders are also great at educating us about birds by providing countless opportunities for us to observe them.

However, one of the negative things about bird feeders is that they can make the birds that come to them easy prey for predators like cats and hawks. They also draw birds closer to our houses, where they might fly into a window or sliding glass door and injure themselves. Also, encouraging birds to congregate in one area may make it easier for parasites and disease to spread among them. Not to mention that the birdseed can attract squirrels and rats, which many people don't want in their backyard.

There's no right or wrong when it comes to deciding whether you should keep a bird feeder in your backyard or not. It all comes down to learning about both sides of the issue and then making the

best choice for you and the birds!

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Through www.igive.com you have instant access to about 1,500 participating stores who will donate a portion of your purchase to Great Basin! It is easy and free to register. All you need to do is go to www.igive.com and follow the easy instructions. Once you register, you can choose Great Basin Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education as the charity you wish to benefit from your purchases. Each time you want to make an online purchase, you can logon to your favorite stores through igive.com or download the iGive application to your phone or other device. Remember, there are no additional fees or costs to you for using iGive, but Great Basin will receive a donation each time you shop!!

Questions for Rose, our Northern Saw-Whet Owl

How Do Owls Hunt?

Owls have bodies specially designed for hunting. Some owls hunt during the day and others hunt at night, but their large eyes allow them to see well at both times. Owls have very sensitive ears, and some owls can hunt based on hearing alone! The positioning of the owl's ear holes helps it determine whether sounds it hears are coming from above it or below it. Owls can also tell which side the sound is coming from. The face feathers of the owl help its hearing, as they channel the sound into the owl's ears. Owls also have special feathers on their wings that help them fly silently, and they have sharp talons for catching and carrying prey.

Owls hunt for different sorts of prey depending on the type of owl. Some hunt for small mammals, while others eat insects, reptiles, amphibians, fish, or other birds. Many owls like to wait on a perch until they sense their prey, but others fly around, quartering the area for food. Owls also often like to hunt in familiar territory so that they know where the best perches are and what dangers are in the area.



Northern saw-whet owl.



Barn owl, *Tyto alba*

Volunteer Spotlight

Faith is one of the amazing volunteers we have here at Great Basin Wildlife Rescue. She began volunteering at Great Basin after hearing about us from a co-worker. She says: “I wanted to help in any way I could, I feel



so fortunate to be able to contribute to the quality of the lives of these birds. Great basin and Patti are so exciting every day is a different adventure.” Her favorite bird of prey is the golden eagle because she thinks they are “amazing, beautiful, and powerful.” She believes that wildlife rehabilitation is important because “[She] believe[s] that as humans it’s our duty to rehabilitate these animals, since a large majority of their injuries illnesses are direct results of humans. Even getting a small percent of these animals well enough to return to the wild is the least we can do.”

Picture Credits

p.1. House finches, *Carpodacus mexicanus*,

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:House_Finches_at_Feeder_\(11888967613\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:House_Finches_at_Feeder_(11888967613).jpg)

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

Bottom, barn owl *Tyto alba*, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Barn_Owl_South_Acre_2.jpg

p.3. Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.