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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](mailto:greatbasinrehab@yahoo.com).*

## International Sportsmen's Expo



This March 17-20<sup>th</sup> 2016, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue will be at the International Sportsmen's Expo at the South Town Exhibition Center in Sandy, UT (near Salt Lake City). If you've ever wanted to see one of our education birds up close, now is your chance! We will have several of our animal ambassadors there for a meet and greet as well as photo opportunities. In addition to our education animals, we will have a booth set up with information about Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, conservation, and further ways you can support Great Basin.

## Great Deals on Educational Programs

Great Basin Wildlife Rescue offers



great, competitive rates on all of our education programs. We can customize the perfect program for your event. Great Basin can travel to local schools, home school groups, camps, churches, scouts, expos, fairs, art groups and many more. Our education programs are designed to encourage interest and concern for Utah's unique native mammals and migratory birds of prey, and instill a greater understanding and appreciation of the world we share.

Live bird programs make learning a deeply personal experience and are the best way to provide an education about wildlife. Handouts and posters are provided for each group! Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We look forward to sharing the exciting world of the great outdoors and some of its incredible creatures.

## Questions for Rose, our Northern Saw-Whet Owl

### Do bears really hibernate during the winter?

Yes, they do! Though for many years bears were not considered true hibernators because their body temperatures don't drop as much as other hibernators, today many scientists agree that despite this, bears do hibernate. During mid-summer or fall, bears eat more than usual to store up body fat. Then during the fall, as the time for hibernation nears, bears start eating less food but still drink water. Their body processes start to slow, and they sleep for much of the day.

Depending on the latitude and when winter weather begins, bears can start hibernating anytime from September to December after they find or make a den. While they hibernate, bears' breathing drops to about one breath every 45 seconds, their heart rate also drops, and they do not urinate or defecate. Because a bear's body temperature only drops about 10 degrees or so while hibernating, they can wake up more easily and respond more quickly to danger.



Northern saw-whet owl.

Bears wake up from



Black bear, *Ursus americanus*

Bears wake up from their hibernation around March or April, when the weather begins to warm and there is food available. For a few weeks after they wake up, bears eat and drink less than normal as their bodies readjust. Then during spring and summer, bears live their normal lives until the hibernation process begins again.

## Is it spring yet? How birds survive the winter

During the winter, even us humans get cold, so it's hard to imagine how something as small as a bird





American robin, *Turdus migratorius*

First, some birds migrate. They leave before the cold weather comes and spend the winter somewhere warmer. The ones that stay need to eat either more or higher calorie food during the winter to survive. They also puff up their down and other feathers to provide insulation and spread an oily substance that their body produces over their feathers to further help with insulation as well as waterproofing. Birds may also tuck one or both legs up into their feathers to keep them warm. On sunny days, birds sit in the sun, and they try to stay out of the wind. Some birds also stay in flocks in the winter to share body heat. Being in a flock also protects them from predators and increases the chances of finding food. Birds also shiver, which increases body temperature.

#### Picture Credits

p.1. Great Basin van with volunteers and education birds, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

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

Bottom, black bear *Ursus americanus*, <http://www.ForestWander.com> in

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black-bears-sleeping-snow\\_-\\_Virginia\\_-\\_ForestWander.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black-bears-sleeping-snow_-_Virginia_-_ForestWander.jpg)

p.3. American robin *Turdus migratorius*, Jerry Friedman,

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could survive the freezing temperatures and snow. But birds have many adaptations and techniques that help them make it through the winter. Not all birds do all of these things, but here's a general overview.