



WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

CONSERVATION

REHABILITATION

EDUCATION



BOARD PRESIDENT STATEMENT

Greetings to all!

I am so proud to be writing this note to close our 2019-2020 fiscal year as we are powering through the next one. Not only did World Bird Sanctuary survive this past challenging year, but we have come out of it stronger than ever before.

Despite losses of almost \$800,000 in normal income, the staff responded in creative ways to ensure an alternate income stream by launching new programming, and monetizing our sanctuary site once we were able to open again. Together with increased donations and help from the government via PPP loans, we were able to continue to serve our mission.

The PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) payments were possible as a result of our determination to retain all our valuable staff members through the COVID crisis. Our staff is comprised of some of the best individuals in the national community of avian training, husbandry, rehabilitation, breeding, education, and management. Losing just one of our staff members would have been unacceptable.

We are grateful to each and every one of you who helped us through this challenging year. We will respond with many more years of faithful service to our mission of saving and serving birds worldwide.

BILL BERTHOLD

Board President

ABOUT WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY

World Bird Sanctuary was founded by ornithologist Walter C. Crawford Jr. in 1977, and incorporated in July of 1979 as a not-for-profit entity under the direction of its Board of Directors.

The World Bird Sanctuary staff of 28 and the organization is now led by Executive Director - Dawn Griffard, along with CFO - Roger Holloway, Assistant Director - Daniel Cone, and Deputy Director - Jeff Meshach.

The Board of Directors now operates under the direction of Board President William K. Berthold, and has 15 voting members in full.

World Bird Sanctuary is a registered 501 c3 Nonprofit Organization; EIN 43-1184675

Our Mission: is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and secure the future of bird species and their natural environments through the three pillars of education, conservation, and rehabilitation.

Our Vision: We envision a world in which World Bird Sanctuary contributes significantly to protecting and preserving the avian species of the world while inspiring others to do the same

The World Bird Sanctuary annual budget of operations for the fiscal year August 2019 through July 2020 was 1.8 million dollars.

Operations are based in Valley Park, Missouri (30 minutes SW of St. Louis) at 125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road. Our 305 acres of land is leased from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR. Missouri State Parks) and St. Louis County Parks.

We welcome the public to visit our birds, buildings, picnic and hiking areas 7 days a week, 363 days a year, and are officially closed only on Thanksgiving and Christmas Days.

To date, WBS currently houses 212 permanent resident birds and animals, representing 65 avian species. 44 of the 65 species represented are birds of prey.



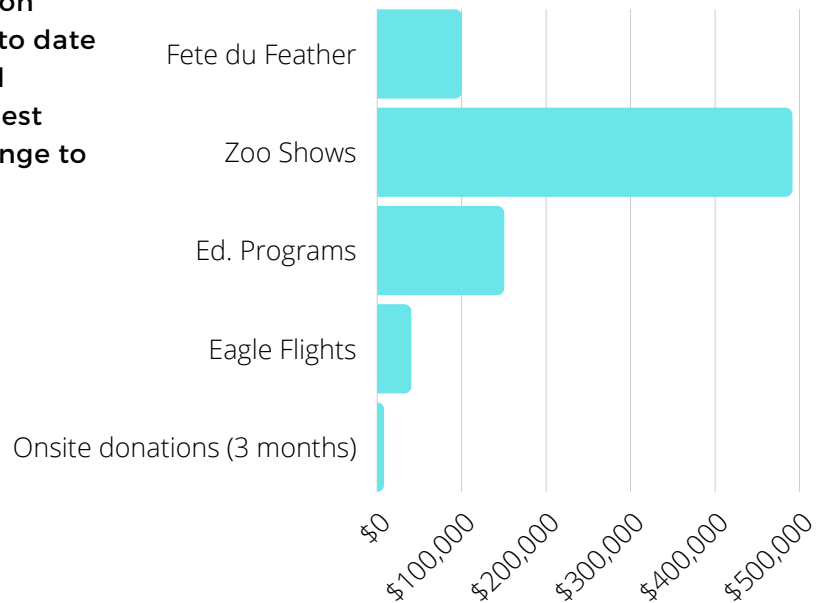
Buzz - Tawny Owl

COVID - THE REALITY

With the Covid-19-created issues regarding social gathering, the income streams for World Bird Sanctuary were heavily impacted.

Beginning with the cancellation of our largest fundraising event of the year – the Fete du Feather – followed by \$491,000 in cancelled Zoo Shows, another loss of at least \$12,000 per month in education programming, and about \$40,000 to date in national eagle flights, World Bird experienced what might be its largest deficit and resulting biggest challenge to survive in its 40+ year history.

WBS income-generated programming was heavily dependent on groups of individuals attending bird programs, or “shows”. These were fully cancelled beginning the last week of March 2020 at which time WBS was closed to the public and did not fully reopen until June 2020.



Total Loss = \$788,840



Volunteer Elise Lederer and Patriot

COVID - OUR RESPONSE

Beginning in July 2020, the WBS response to the loss of funding due to Covid-19 required a sanctuary-wide shift from off-site, program-generated income to the monetization of our physical site. With the safety of both the staff and public in mind, new events and experiences were designed to continue to engage our public and bring funding in, yet limit the interaction of those individuals with each other and the staff.

\$8.00 Per Suggested Donation at the Gate – A greeter was placed at the WBS gate from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM daily to request donations upon visitor entry.

Drive-Through Safaris – Visitors remained in their vehicles and drove through our sanctuary to see our birds perched on Naturalist's arms and listen to the Naturalists speak about the birds. \$10 per car

Animal Encounters – 30-minute animal shows in our amphitheater at 11 and 3 every day. \$10/\$5 pp

Guided Tours – Staff guided tours of our sanctuary at \$10 per person.

One on One Animal Experiences – Visitors could engage one-on-one with one of our animals, such as one of our emus. \$20/\$30

Date Night Dinner & Show – Couples were treated to a charcuterie dinner and drinks while watching a WBS bird show. Social distancing enforced. \$75

Semi-Annual Appeal – WBS launched a "Critical Appeal" on the website and through social media and an Eblast.

Virtual Education Programs – Virtual versions of our Education Programming presented via YouTube; individually purchased.

PPP Loans Received May 2020, February 2021 - \$404,730 Total

ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGIES COMBINED CARRIED WBS THROUGH THE MOST DIFFICULT TIME IN ITS HISTORY. IT TOOK THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE TEAMWORK OF WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED AND THAT WE KEPT ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES WORKING THROUGH ALL OF IT.

NOW WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING OUR MISSION TO THE NEXT LEVEL AS NEW OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT.



CONSERVATION 2019-2020

World Bird Sanctuary is focusing conservation resources on the world's most endangered species.

As a group, Old World vultures have declined most dramatically over the past several decades through both direct and indirect persecution. To address this decline, WBS is creating or participating in conservation breeding programs for a variety of vulture species.

In 2020, World Bird Sanctuary became the second zoological institution in North America to ever work with Europe's most endangered vulture: the bearded vulture.

Sofia, a 22 year old female, arrived from Almaty Zoo in Kazakhstan to be part of a breeding program led by the Vulture Conservation Foundation (Europe) to secure the future of the species. WBS is now in the process of acquiring a mate for her, and their offspring will be sent back to their native range at the direction of the VCF program coordinator.

WBS also acquired three endangered Egyptian vultures from Kazakhstan. As very few institutions in North America have this species, there is no formal breeding program for them here. It is our goal to establish a breeding pair, acquire additional birds, and create a cooperative breeding program with zoos across America. The end goal for these programs is always to create a self-sustaining captive population from which chicks can be taken and sent to the native range for release.

At the direction of the Species Survival Plan coordinator, WBS acquired a female hooded vulture to pair with our male. Hooded vultures are a critically endangered species native to the open grasslands of central and southern Africa. Breeding this species will be a great success for both WBS and the conservation program as a whole.

Over the past few decades, WBS has bred and released American barn owls across the state of Missouri. This species, as with many other raptor species across the United States, had declined significantly from the use of the pesticide DDT. Over 1,000 captive bred barn owls have been released by WBS, and in 2020 we released over 30. The species is now a conservation success story, as the species is no longer listed even as a species of conservation concern in the state of Missouri. We are excited in the success of our work and will be phasing out of the program.



Egyptian Vultures

CONSERVATION 2019-2020

World Bird Sanctuary initially acquired several different species of pheasants in early 2019 as a way to transition from having chickens to species with more of an environmental conservation status. With a generous donation from the Gaylord Foundation, we were able to build four, connected aviaries for guests to see along our Avian avenue.

The Golden and Silver pheasants came from families who were no longer able to take care of them. The Edwards pheasants and Cabot's tragopans were obtained from facilities and private breeders across the country. Once everyone was settled into their new homes they quickly started to show natural behaviors and interest in each other leading to nesting behaviors. Cabot's tragopans are native to the jungles of south-eastern China where they have been listed as vulnerable since 1994 with a heavily decreasing population due to habitat loss and poaching. World Bird Sanctuary has joined the Cabot's Tragopan species survival plan to help boost their numbers and spread genetically diverse bloodlines across the United States by networking with other facilities.

World Bird Sanctuary is working closely with Species Survival Plan Coordinators, VietNature, The World Pheasant Association, and The Association of Zoos & Aquariums on a long-term action plan to return the currently extinct in the wild Edwards's Pheasant to their native habitat of Vietnam. During the Vietnam war a chemical herbicide called "Agent Orange" was sprayed from 1961 to 1971 across 12,000 square miles of tropical forest killing off all plants and insects which lead to the downfall of the country's ecosystem. The entirety of this species is derived from only 28 birds that were collected between 1924 to 1930. The bloodlines that WBS currently houses are genetically valuable since they are descendants of the French imports from the 1920's and birds that were imported during the Viet Nam war; this makes them as genetically diverse as they can be. In 2020 WBS successfully raised nine Edwards pheasants that we will be sending to Vietnam within the next year to jumpstart the breeding and release program. So far In 2021, we have hatched one chick and have nine more eggs in the incubator.



Ringo - Edward's Pheasant

REHABILITATION 2019-2020

Every year, the World Bird Sanctuary Hospital admits between 400 and 500 raptor patients from the Greater St. Louis Area.

In addition to those patients, the Hospital is tasked with providing care to our invaluable collection of education and conservation birds. In some cases, these permanent residents represent species that are critically endangered, or are even extinct in the wild. In fact, three of our individuals are the ONLY living representative of their species in the United States. The World Bird Sanctuary Raptor Hospital is critical to our overall mission.

Equipment Acquired Since 2018

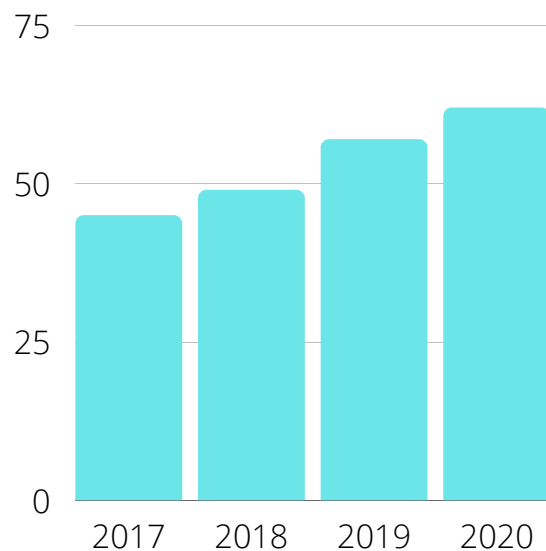
- Digital X-Ray
- Anesthesia Capabilities
- Diagnostic Laboratory
- Stainless Steel Hospital Caging
- Critical Care Incubator
- Oxygen Therapy
- Surgical Capabilities
- Doppler
- Lead Analyzer
- Autoclave
- Centrifuge
- Blood Chemistry Analyzer

The majority of our patients are injured as a direct result of human interaction.

Reasons for admission include:

- Hit by vehicle
- Orphaned
- Poisoned
- Gunshot
- Window strike
- Entanglement in barbed wire or fishing line
- Trapped in buildings
- Lead toxicity
- Cat attack
- Power line collision
- West Nile Virus
- Avian diseases, and more.

Release % of Treatable Birds over 4 years

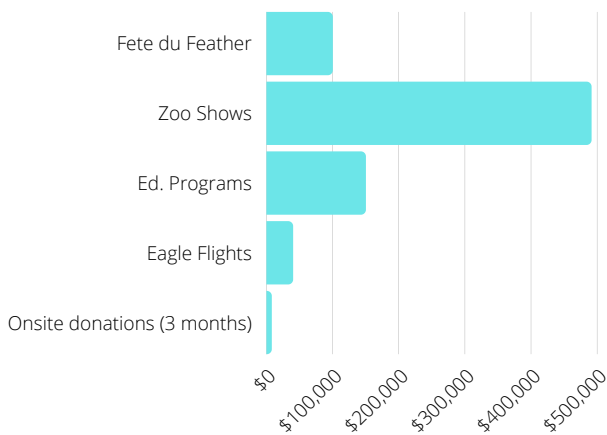


Orphaned Cooper's Hawk Chicks

EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING 2019-2020

Without question, WBS programming was the hardest hit function in 2019-2020. While social distancing was necessary to keep us all safe, it completely shut down the education programming that brings our mission to the masses, and is a great source of income for our organization.

As noted in the COVID report, the majority of our \$788,840 2019-2020 loss was in programming.



World Bird staff responded quickly to the lack of gathered groups to teach our important message of the importance of birds in our struggling environment by creating virtual programming.

These professionally recorded pieces packaged our most requested live bird programs into videos that teachers could share via their virtual teaching platforms.

In this way, we were also able to fulfill our commitment to the Missouri Department of Conservation, for the \$20,000 grant we receive from them each year to educate underserved communities.

Together with other efforts to close the gap in income losses, the Education department was still able to pull in a respectable January through July 2020 income of \$88,200.



Mesquite - Harris' Hawk, and Erin Laute - Naturalist

SITE & SUPPORT 2019-2020

Despite the many delays, cancellations and other challenges brought about by the COVID pandemic, WBS continued with site improvements throughout the property in 2019-2020.

Our new corvid exhibit was completed in the fall of 2020 and is now in full use by our American crows, Petrie and Marvin, and our Common raven, Poe. The birds clearly are enjoying the new spaces as they provide more room to move and numerous enrichment opportunities.

The new “Hawktagon” exhibit was also completed amidst the pandemic. This tall enclosure houses a few of our hawk species including Red-tailed, Swainson’s, Broad-winged and Short-tailed. It is our first multi-species exhibit and offers visitors an excellent view of a variety of our North American Buteos.

The front porch of our rehabilitation hospital went through an upgrade as visitors can now refer to the professionally fabricated banners on the wall that describe - in detail - the processes of helping raptors. It is the next best thing to being inside to view treatments directly!

Completed in late 2020 was our drive-up donation kiosk. This facility allows WBS to greet each vehicle as it enters the property, give useful information, and collect requested donations. Security cameras will be installed in 2021, which will help us monitor our property more thoroughly in the future. It is a big step forward in the way we interact with our visitors as we look to increase our visitor numbers looking ahead.



Sofia - Bearded Vulture

THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

Current Assets - Aug 2018 - July 2019

Checking/Savings	\$68,814.21
Accounts Receivable	\$58,230.00
Other Current Assets	\$144,932.01

Total Current Assets **\$271,976.22**

Fixed Assets **\$1,190,151.67**

Total Assets **\$1,462,127.89**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$29,295.89
Other Current Liabilities	\$73,559.87
Deferred Revenue	\$14,400.00

Total Current Liabilities **\$117,355.76**

Total Liabilities **\$117,355.76**

Net Assets **\$1,344,772.13**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$1,462,127.89**

Current Assets - Aug 2019 - July 2020

Checking/Savings	\$192,931.02
Accounts Receivable	0
Other Current Assets	\$323,078.65

Total Current Assets **\$516,009.67**

Fixed Assets **\$1,105,417.76**

Total Assets **\$1,662,427.43**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$29,046.65
Other Current Liabilities	\$146,162.44
Deferred Revenue	

Total Current Liabilities **\$175,209.09**

Long Term Liabilities **\$113,286.07**

Total Liabilities **\$288,495.16**

Net Assets **\$1,333,932.27**

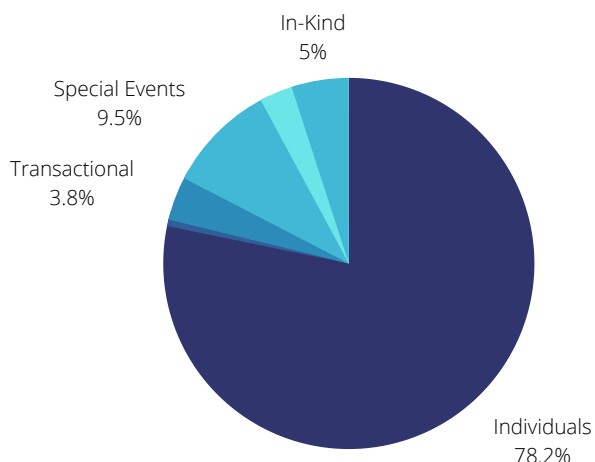
Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$1,622,427.43**



Charlie - Harris' Hawk

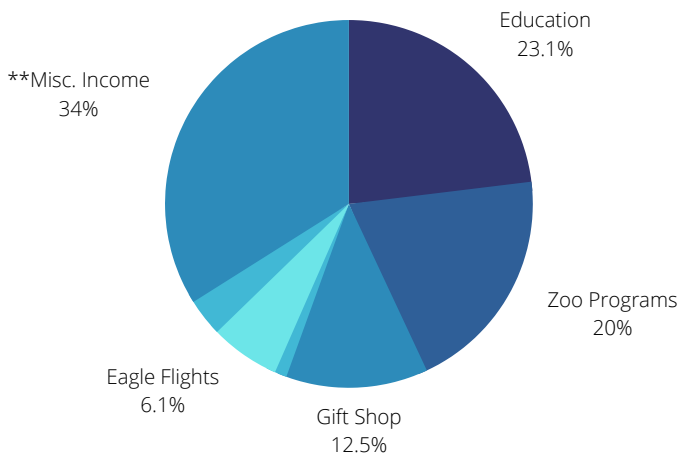
THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

Donations



Total = \$1,214,050.05

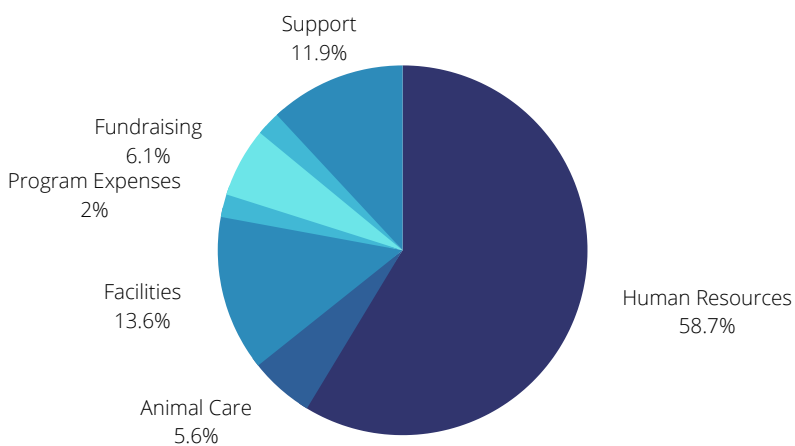
Earned Income



Total = 593,307.41

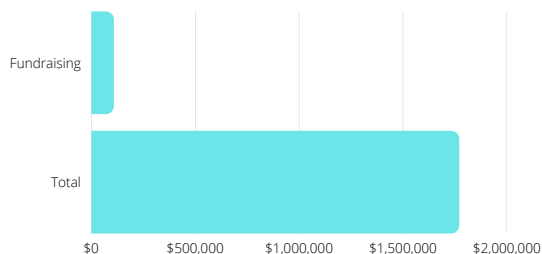
Combined Total = \$1,807,357.46

All Expenses

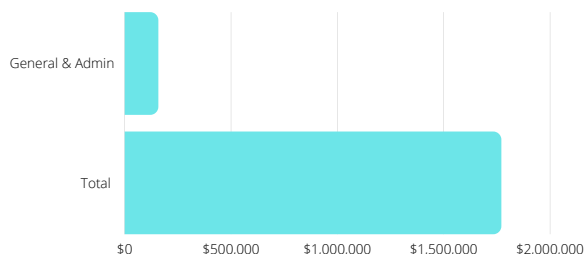


\$1,770,063.93

Fundraising Expense to Total Expense



General and Administrative Expense to Total Expense



** \$201,425.87 in Misc. Income is a donation from an estate not yet settled.

Special Thanks to our Most Generous 2019-2020 Donors

**THE KEVIN BECKMANN CHARITABLE TRUST
DAUGHERTY BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
JAMES & ANN TYNDALL
KATHRYN G. FAVRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
JEANNE AND REX SINQUEFIELD
LOUIS AND CAROL MATUSTIK
THE CLIFFORD GAYLORD FOUNDATION
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CARL & BONNETIA ASHBY
JOHN & ANITA O'CONNELL
LINDA AND DAVID LOGSDON**





Staff

Walter C. Crawford Jr.
2/3/45 – 7/17/15
Founder

Dawn M. Griffard
CEO

Roger Holloway
Executive Director

Daniel Cone
Assistant Director

Jeff Meshach
Deputy Director

Dr. Allison Daugherty
Veterinarian

Aileen Abbott
Director of Education

Holly Bagby
Kendahl Chergosky
Cheryl Circo
Darcy Evelhoch
Lizz Etzkorn
Patrick Griffard
Thomas Guillebeau
Casey Brone-Hammer
Allison Jones
Kira Klebe
Erin Laute
Taryn Leach
Kelsey McCord
Kerstin Orgill
Tess Rogers
Kylee Schooley
Paige Schneider
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