



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF GREAT PROGRESS

We are pleased to present our annual report to the community for 2011, highlighting the performance and accomplishments of the World Bird Sanctuary during the fiscal year ended July 31, 2011. Since its founding in 1977, WBS has progressed from its origins as a local grassroots organization committed to rehabilitating and propagating endangered birds of prey to become a nationally and internationally recognized multi-faceted organization. The mission now extends to public education and outreach, in addition to our initial concentration on rehabilitation, propagation and field research.

Our dedicated staff of 18 full-time professionals, augmented by an innovative internship program attracting students from around the world, and a large and diverse group of committed volunteers, remains focused on furthering our mission. In 2011, the combined efforts of these hard-working individuals culminated in the accomplishments highlighted in this report.

Although we take pride in our continuing track record of raising the majority of the funds necessary to support our mission through program revenues, our progress would not be possible without the generous financial support of our many individual and institutional contributors. We are grateful for their recognition of the importance of our mission and for the confidence they have placed in us as wise stewards. World Bird Sanctuary received a significant donation from the Beckmann Charitable Trust in 2011 to establish an operating cost endowment fund that will provide World Bird Sanctuary with a sustainable way to cover ongoing annual operating expenses. We hope to add to this fund in future years to insure that our operating expenses for facilities and staff remain on a solid footing as a foundation for the pursuit of our mission.

In 2011, more visitors than ever before came to enjoy our beautiful environmental education center in southwest St. Louis county. What they found there is better than ever, with expanded programs and improved facilities, including new exhibits, a renovated amphitheater and enhanced accessibility.

Although we are proud of our accomplishments during the past year, we never lose sight of the fact that the challenges faced by the birds we strive to protect continue. We must therefore redouble our efforts to educate the public about the importance of being responsible environmental citizens.

Thank you for your support over the last year. We look forward to continuing our journey together – to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened birds in their natural environments. Let your spirit take wing

Sincerely,



John Risberg
President, Board of Directors
World Bird Sanctuary

The mission of the World Bird Sanctuary is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened bird species in their natural environments. We work to fulfill this mission through education, propagation, field studies and rehabilitation.



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

At World Bird Sanctuary we believe that it is the responsibility of every single citizen of this country to be good stewards of the environment. Therefore, we believe that everyone should have access to the information necessary to raise their awareness and strengthen their commitment to achieving this goal. The earth's biodiversity can only be protected when the earth's inhabitants are equipped with the right tools and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding their impact on the environment.

World Bird Sanctuary continues to make improvements to its education programs and visitor facilities. In 2011 the World Bird Sanctuary established the Bird Brain Reading Room in the Olga Reyes Building. This free library, currently open on weekends, provides a resource for adults and children who want to learn more about our natural world. Included in the resources are free posters, books for all ages to check out, reference books and a puppet theater.

Throughout 2010/11 World Bird Sanctuary continued to conduct outreach education programs focused on giving members of our community the information and mindset they need to use and to preserve the earth's resources in a thoughtful and sustainable manner. Over 285,000 people attended 838 environmental education programs presented by World Bird Sanctuary in 2011, an increase in over 9,000 people reached.

Over 16,000 people attended World Bird Sanctuary's free environmental education programs and events throughout 2011, including World Eagle Day in March; Amazing Animal Encounters throughout the summer; Birds in Concert in August, International Vulture Awareness Day in September and our Annual Open House in October.





**PROPAGATION:
CONSERVATION IN ACTION**

World Bird Sanctuary continued to deliver on our mission to preserve the earth's biological diversity through several conservation-oriented programs in 2011.

The Endangered Species Breeding and Release program released 12 American Barn Owls in Missouri in 2011, through an initiative funded by the Robert J. Trulaske Family Foundation. World Bird Sanctuary has released over 800 Barn Owls since this program began in the mid-1980's, resulting in the Barn Owl being downgraded from Endangered to Threatened in Missouri in 2008. We are proud of this accomplishment.

World Bird Sanctuary's Propagation Department also breeds non-native birds of prey for use in education programs at reputable institutions around the country. This program provides a source of captive-bred exotic animals without the need for institutions to capture wild animals in their native habitats. In 2011, World Bird Sanctuary's breeding birds produced 12 Barn Owls, 2 Eurasian Eagle Owls and 1 Augur Buzzard.

The Bald Eagle Flight Team, managed by World Bird Sanctuary, continues to captivate audiences around the country, completing 65 eagle flights in 2011. Seeing a majestic bald eagle in flight, and then in person with a trainer, is often their first close-up experience of the majesty of our country's national symbol. Lewis, Clark, Norbert, Patriot and Liberty are ambassadors for the power of community involvement. The bald eagle's removal from the Endangered Species list in 2008 is testament to the work of World Bird Sanctuary and others to protect our earth's biodiversity and the strength of conservation in action. We have many unique conservation success stories to tell.





photo by S3 Media

REHABILITATION: RETURN TO THE WILD

In 2011 the World Bird Sanctuary's Kathryn G. Favre Wildlife Hospital admitted 322 birds, of which 141 were successfully treated and returned to the wild.

The Wildlife Hospital was called upon to help another center that became overwhelmed with a large number of birds in a short period of time. To help them out, we accepted 16 birds from the facility in Wisconsin. On September 1, 2011, an American White Pelican, two Sandhill Cranes, one Rough-legged Hawk and 11 Bald Eagles arrived at WBS for further rehabilitation and to find new homes for those that could not be released due to their injuries. Six of the 11 birds were juvenile Bald Eagles and we are happy to report that five of them finished their rehabilitation and were released to the wild during the fall of 2011. The sixth eagle is still recuperating from an injury to the wrist, is gaining flight strength and should be ready for release in the Spring of 2012.



The World Bird Sanctuary's Kathryn G. Favre Wildlife Hospital has been serving the wider Missouri community for over 30 years, providing medical care and rehabilitation services to approximately 250-400 sick and injured birds of prey each year. Most of the cases that are admitted to the Wildlife Hospital have received an injury or are poisoned as a consequence of direct or indirect human encounter.

The wildlife hospital focuses on delivering high-quality and successful raptor rehabilitation services that will help us to better determine and understand the problems facing wildlife in our modern world. Raptor rehabilitation allows us to learn more about and understand the importance of ecosystems and our obligations to the next generation. It also affords us the opportunity to use the information gained when assessing reasons for admissions in the continual improvement and development of our successful environmental education programs. These programs encourage students to improve the quality of the wildlife habitat that surrounds them and to take accountability for managing the earth's resources in a sustainable manner.





FIELD STUDIES: KEEPING THE WILD HEALTHY



The World Bird Sanctuary Field Studies Team continues to monitor wild bird populations through seasonal bird banding efforts and habitat management contracts.

In 2011, the World Bird Sanctuary Bird Banding Team conducted 46 banding sessions, in which 801 birds of 56 species were captured, banded and released – a significant increase from last year. Data is captured regarding the species, size, age and sex of each bird before it is released. It is then submitted to the Central Banding Lab at the United States Geological Survey for recordkeeping. This work helps wildlife organizations and authorities track the health of bird populations through their movements, migration and breeding, patterns and numbers. In addition, 7 public demonstrations and 5 public education programs were conducted to teach members of the community about the importance of protecting migratory bird flyways.

The Field Studies and Habitat Management Team also conducted 73 site visits to various high land-use corporations and provided assessments and recommendations to ensure that the land-use was compliant with state and federal environmental management laws and regulations.

photo by Patrick Lanham



World Bird Sanctuary values responsible stewardship of financial resources
Net Assets: Audited statement of changes in Assets, Liabilities
and Net Assets (condensed) as of July 31, 2011

ASSETS

	July 31, 2011	July 31, 2010
Cast & cash equivalents	\$433,959	\$188,232
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,000 in 2010 & 2009	\$39,425	\$133,928
Promises to give	\$14,156	-----
Inventories	\$12,610	\$16,360
Investments	\$7,464	\$7,727
Deposits	\$1,000	\$3,500
Property & equipment, net	\$1,732,395	\$1,694,454
Total Assets	\$2,241,009	\$2,043,601

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	July 31, 2011	July 31, 2010
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$161,646	\$57,160
Net Assets		
Unrestricted:		
Operations (undesignated)	\$194,048	\$61,239
Board-designated building fund	\$172,935	\$172,935
Board-designated scholarship fund	\$57,813	\$57,813
Investment in property and equipment	\$1,635,585	\$1,694,454
<i>Total Unrestricted</i>	<i>\$2,060,381</i>	<i>\$1,986,441</i>
Temporarily Restricted	\$18,892	-----
Total Net Assets	\$2,079,363	\$1,986,441
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,241,009	\$2,043,061

Statement of Revenue and Expenses:

Audited statement of revenue and expenses (condensed) as of July 31, 2011

REVENUE

	July 31, 2011	July 31, 2010
Public support (contributions, sponsorships, in-kind donations)	\$593,953	\$312,788
Program revenue	\$644,559	\$926,842
Contract revenue	\$178,660	\$102,095
Merchandise revenue	\$25,364	\$28,951
Revenue from interest, dividends and gains on investment	\$919	\$(11,015)
Total Public Support & Revenue	\$1,443,455	\$1,359,661

EXPENSES

	July 31, 2011	July 31, 2010
Program services	\$1,095,223	\$1,154,529
Management and general	\$97,612	\$113,248
Fundraising	\$157,698	\$154,035
Total Expenses	\$1,350,533	\$1,421,812

GROWTH IN REVENUE

Total Public Support & Revenue increased marginally in 2011 due to an increase in public support, contract, merchandise and investment income, partially offset by a slight decline in program revenue. Tight control of associated expenses allowed WBS to balance its total revenue and expense, providing a solid financial basis for the continuing pursuit of the organization's mission. The World Bird Sanctuary conducts annual external audits of its financial procedures. This document is available to any donor on request through the Office of the Executive Director of World Bird Sanctuary.

GROWTH IN EXPENSES

Total expenses also increased marginally in 2011 due to a large investment in restructuring the fundraising program at World Bird Sanctuary. This included redefining fundraising roles and investment in comprehensive analytic fundraising management software, which is expected to yield a full return on investment within 3 years, and increase net revenue from public support as a direct result, thereafter.

WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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