

# World Bird SANCTUARY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

### **Our Mission**

We protect and preserve birds and their habitats through conservation, rehabilitation and education.

### **Our Vision**

Our vision is to create a world where birds and humans live in harmony.



Pictured: "Beauford"  
World Bird Sanctuary Bald Eagle  
Hatch: 2004  
Photo by: Stu Goz Photography



## *A Message from the Executive Director...*

Although the COVID-19 pandemic seems like forever ago, it also feels as though we finally left it behind in 2023. Visitors came back to WBS in greater numbers, our education programs in schools returned to capacity and we renewed our mission to save endangered species of birds.

To further inspire us, our 32 year-old permanent resident Bald Eagle, Murphy, felt it was time to have a nest, and made himself a small scrape in his aviary and began incubating a rock. This nesting attempt by Murphy coincided with the arrival of a week-old, orphaned Bald Eagle chick in our raptor hospital, which Murphy fostered as a single dad until the young eagle's release to the wild on July 7, 2023. This successful fostering became a worldwide, viral story that introduced many new donors to WBS while providing examples of acceptance, perseverance and kindness.

We look ahead to the challenges of increasing our conservation footprint. Our Kathryn G. Favre Raptor Hospital continues to grow and set another single-year record for admissions at 761. Data shared by WBS has also proven critical in a scientific publication showing the effectiveness of rehabilitation as a conservation tool to save species. The birds who receive our care can, and do go on to live long lives post release. Our work matters and we are fulfilling an ever-increasing need for emergency care for birds of prey.

By forging additional partnerships, we tirelessly work on a global scale to reverse the extinction many bird species face. In partnership with San Diego Zoo, we sent endangered Egyptian Vultures to VulPro in South Africa so a safeguard population can be established before future offspring are reintroduced to the wild. At the same time, we have set a goal to reintroduce the Vietnam Pheasant, considered to be extinct in the wild, into its natural habitat in Vietnam in partnership with World Wildlife Fund and Re:Wild.

We want to thank all of our donors for their continuing support of our mission. As we look forward, World Bird Sanctuary is increasingly relied upon to lead the charge against extinction, and we ask you to join us in this challenge. Our success depends upon your interest and support. Together, we have an opportunity to improve our world for generations to come.

Thank you!

*Roger Holloway, Executive Director, World Bird Sanctuary*



*Murphy's story was #86 in People Magazine's  
Top 100 Things About the USA in 2023!*

***Safeguarding Species...***In 2018, the World Bird Sanctuary and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park established the only breeding pair of the endangered Egyptian Vulture in the United States. Since then, that pair has produced six chicks. In 2024, we formed a new, unrelated breeding pair and successfully transferred them to VulPro in South Africa, an area where these vultures are officially listed as extinct in the wild.

“It is incredibly rewarding to reach this milestone alongside our partners at World Bird Sanctuary and VulPro,” said Andrew Stehly, curator of birds, San Diego Zoo Safari Park. “For years we’ve worked toward the shared goal of reintroducing Egyptian vultures into their native habitat, including by welcoming several chicks—the only ones to hatch in the United States—as part of a conservation breeding program. We look forward to the journey ahead for these birds, each new success is a testament to the power of international collaboration in wildlife conservation.”

This initiative, not only showcases our dedication to wildlife conservation but also highlights the crucial role of global partnerships in achieving our conservation objectives. Looking ahead, we aspire to enhance our breeding capacity for this species, with the goal of establishing a fully self-sufficient safeguard population.

***Healing the Hurt...***Our rehabilitation hospital continues to see record numbers of patients as we work to expand our services to reach more remote areas. Our expanded service area now extends along the entire eastern border of Missouri, from Arkansas to Iowa, and eastward into Illinois as far as Mt. Vernon, providing life saving care to injured raptors who would otherwise have no place to go. Our rescue group now numbers over 100 volunteers, which has been instrumental in reaching these remote areas and improving our response time to rescue calls. Of our 761 patients, 308 (41%) were from outside the St. Louis/St. Charles metropolitan area. 238 of these patients were able to be released back into the wild. The past year has also seen updates to our surgery suite with a new surgery table, surgery lights, and monitoring equipment for patients under anesthesia. Over 50 surgical procedures were performed in the last year.

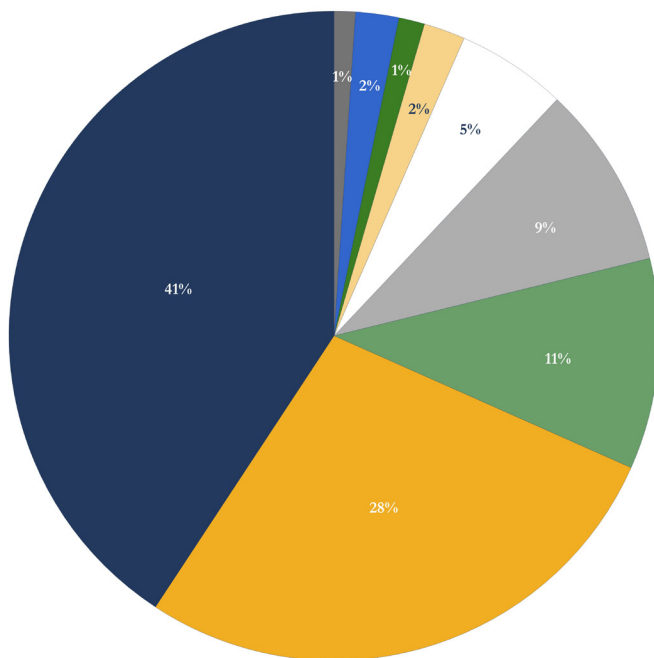
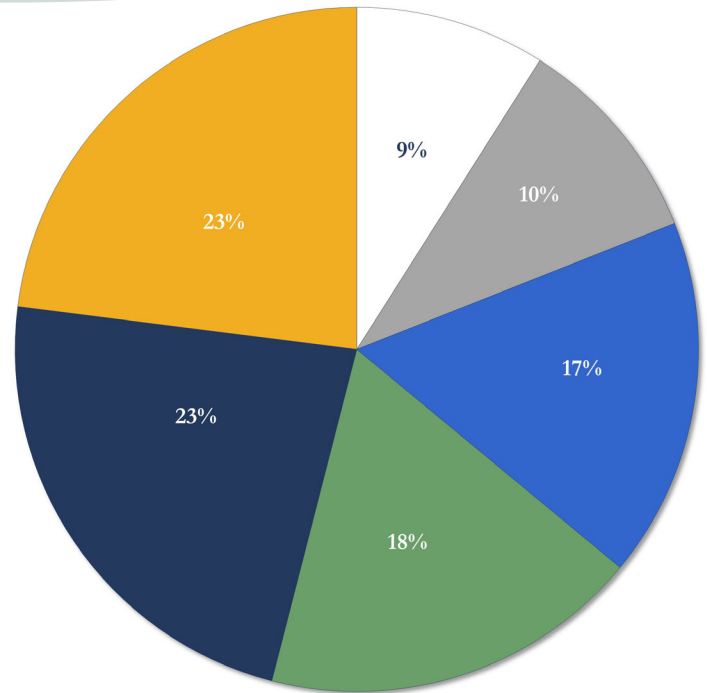
***Inspiring the Future...***Our education department has continued to inspire the next generation during our presentations by adding more interactive elements with our audiences and including a strong call to action during the revamp of several of our programs. Our team regularly presents at schools, libraries, assisted living facilities, and events all around Saint Louis and across the country with our incredible animal ambassadors. This past year our team of nine program speakers led nearly 900 programs and reached over 72,000 guests. We’ve proudly continued our partnerships with the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri American Water to reach underserved schools to keep access to conservation programming attainable for everyone. We are actively seeking additional funding to provide more of these programs as we continue to reach more guests each year.



# The Financials

## Expenses \$2,107,920

Administration	\$189,712
Fundraising	\$210,792
Healing the Hurt	\$358,346
Sanctuary Spaces	\$379,425
Inspiring the Future	\$484,824
Safeguarding Species	\$484,821



## Revenue \$1,626,286

Cash Donations	\$ 17,123
Field Work	\$ 20,123
Membership/Adopt-A-Bird	\$ 34,887
Veterinary Services	\$ 33,523
Gift Shop Sales	\$ 89,107
Grants	\$148,538
Admission	\$170,748
Education	\$448,538
Contributions	\$662,592

The World Bird Sanctuary has recently faced a significant budget deficit reflective of our transformative shift in business model. Historically reliant on transactional services as a key revenue stream, such as contracted zoo bird shows, we have pivoted towards a more mission-oriented approach. We now seek to replace funding from transactional services with individuals, foundations, and corporate donors whose funding priorities align with our core objectives.

This transition signifies a deeper fidelity to our mission and a closer alignment with the values and goals of partners who share a commitment to social and conservation impact. While this strategic repositioning temporarily strains our financial resources, it is ultimately intended to deepen relationships with funders and enhance the sustainability of WBS' mission-driven initiatives, fostering a more impactful operational framework for the future.



# Thank You!

*to our  
2024 Fete du Feather Sponsors*

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Soaring Eagle - \$15,000

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Berman Brothers

Cap and Jen Grossman

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Virgil and Sandra Van Trease

Winter Brothers Materials

**SAVE THE DATE - 2025 FETE du FEATHER  
APRIL 11, 2025**

# Who are we thankful for?



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Tim and Anne Walkenhorst  
Jacob Witt  
Jody Woodley

## **You, that's who!**

*\*Donors listed above represent donations of \$1,500 and above.*



# Your Impact



200+  
Volunteers



650+  
Raptors treated in our hospital annually.

188+

Animals call World Bird Sanctuary home.



125,000+

Reached each year through education.



80+  
Trained raptors.

300+

Acres of land at WBS.



80+

Species in our care.

**HISTORY** 11,000+ birds treated in our hospital.

**OF**

1,000,000+ people reached through education.

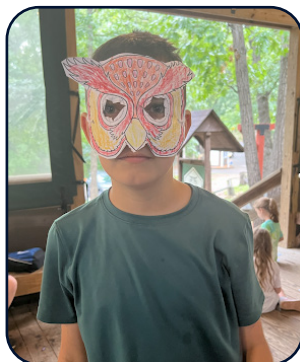
**IMPACT**

(Since 1977)

100,000+ avian education programs presented across the US.



Noah has been coming to WBS Camp for three years. After coming to camp Noah said, "I learned owls can't really spin their heads all the way around." He loves the behind the scenes "rehab hospital stuff." His family has started volunteering doing rescue for the rehabilitation hospital.



Annabelle has been attending WBS Camp for three years. She loves learning new facts and "renewing" knowledge on the birds. Annabelle said, "she really got into vultures at camp, especially Andean condors; a lot of vultures and owl stuff." For an art project Annabelle drew WBS' very own Dorothy.

This is Charlotte, Natalie and Genevieve Himes' second year at WBS Camp. All three love getting up close and in person with the birds and learning their stories. Charlotte said when she gets older she wants to learn more about falconry.



Our camps are designed to immerse your child in our world of birds and nature at World Bird Sanctuary. We use our 305 acres of land, and hundreds of birds in our care to create unique experiences every day to educate and encourage a love for the world around them. WBS Summer Camps offered: Junior Keepers, Feathered Friends, Totally Radical Raptors, Wilderness Explorers and Conservation Crusaders. Designed to immerse your child in our world of birds and nature.



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- \*We are saving species from extinction.**
  - \*We are a sanctuary for the injured.**
  - \*We provide world-class care to nearly 200 animals.**
  - \*We travel all across the Midwest to share conservation education.**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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#### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

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Roger Holloway, Executive Director  
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Kelsey McCord Reichmuth, Registrar  
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**[worldbirds sanctuary.org](http://worldbirds sanctuary.org)**

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