

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Over the past year, we have dedicated significant time to refocus the mission of WBS. On a global scale, our Safeguarding Species program continues to expand. Closer to home, we've increased our capacity to care for hospital patients through our Healing the Hurt program, extended our educational outreach with our Inspiring the Future program, and made ongoing improvements to our Sanctuary Spaces program to better serve both birds and visitors. While we continue to monitor local nests of once-endangered species like the Peregrine Falcon and Barn Owl, our efforts are redirecting to endangered wildlife internationally.

Together with Assistant Executive Director Daniel Cone, I traveled to Vietnam twice to collaborate with local partners dedicated to saving critically endangered species such as the Crested Argus and Vietnam Pheasants, along with other species native to Vietnam. These meetings were very successful, and marked the beginning of efforts to establish breeding facilities and release sites within Bach Ma National Park. WBS is saving species with hands-on work in this project.

Through our partnership with VulPro in South Africa, the endangered Egyptian Vultures we sent have successfully formed a bonded pair. The objective for this species is to reintroduce offspring to South Africa, a part of its historical range where it has been extirpated. VulPro and WBS also teamed up to form a breeding pair of Andean Condors, with the goal of releasing progeny in the mountains of South America. Lastly, plans for our



Pictured: World Wildlife Fund, RE: Wild and World Bird Sancutary

endangered vulture breeding facility are now complete (see photo below). Once funded and constructed, this facility will provide a safe haven for critically endangered White-backed Vultures to breed at the Sanctuary. WBS is saving species by being a key player in vulture breeding.

Here at home, our Kathryn G. Favre Foundation Raptor Hospital has once again reached a new milestone, admitting a record 774 patients this year. Among them were 19 species of raptors, including owls, hawks, vultures, falcons, kites, harriers, and bald eagles. As admissions continue to rise and our diagnostic capabilities improve, we are now treating conditions that would have been far beyond our capabilities just a decade ago.

Of the 700+ birds admitted each year, a striking 10% show measurable levels of lead exposure or rodenticide poisoning. Equally distressing, 25 birds were victims of gunshot wounds, only four of which survived the

trauma inflicted upon them. These statistics are heartbreaking reminders of the dangers wildlife face. As we work to save these birds, the data we collect advances research and conservation efforts, not only improving the care provided to raptors but also to protect these species as a whole. WBS is saving species by contributing critical data and skills to the field of raptor rehabilitation nationwide.

Education remains a key and growing part of our mission. In an exciting milestone, we will be presenting at the Illinois State Fair in 2025—the first time since the 1990s. Meanwhile, we continue to connect with underserved communities and schools, offering engaging environmental education programs that highlight the importance of birds of prey and their critical role in our ecosystems. WBS is saving species by providing positive experiences for children with wildlife and the environment.

I wish to express my appreciation to all of our donors for your continued interest and support of our mission. We can't fulfill it without your involvement. I invite you to visit WBS, tour our facilities, and see firsthand the impactful work your support is making possible. Thank you.

-Roger Holloway, Executive Director





CONSERVATION * EDUCATION * REHABILITATION

1977

750+ Raptors Treated



1997

300+ Acres of land at WBS



2017

80+ Species in our care!

200+ Volunteers



1987

125,000+ Reached each year through education.



2007

150+ Animals call World Bird Sanctuary home.

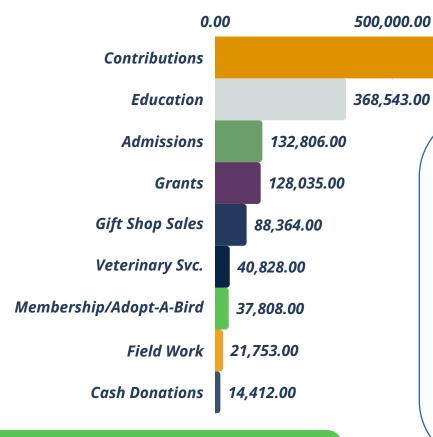
Celebrating 50 years!

Since 1977: 11,000+ birds treated in our hospital. 1,000,000+ people reached through education. 100,000+ avian education programs presented across the US.

Revenue \$2,147,203

1,022,657.00

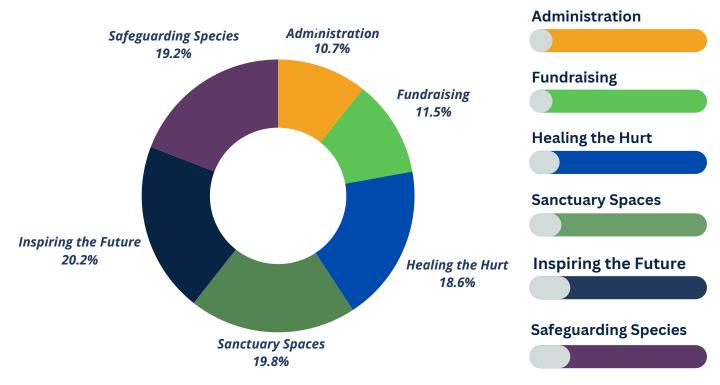
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As highlighted in last year's annual report, 2024 marked a transformative shift in our business model. We concluded our decadeslong contracted bird shows at zoos and refocused on our core mission. While this transition resulted in a significant but anticipated budget deficit, the impact of our efforts is now becoming clear.

Since realigning and effectively communicating our mission and goals to our generous donors, revenue has increased by 32% compared to the previous year. Additionally, funding for our four programs is now more evenly distributed, ensuring greater balance and sustainability moving forward. Still, we remain dedicated to continually enhancing our operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Expenses \$2,225,403



WBS Membership

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Winter Brothers

Safeguarding Species...



Vietnam Pheasant & Crested Argus:

In February, WBS leadership traveled to Vietnam to strengthen our partnerships and evaluate the site of our new breeding center. In May, the first two pheasant breeding aviaries in Vietnam's Bach Ma National Park were completed.

Egyptian Vulture Success:

Through our continued partnership with San Diego Zoo Safari Park, three more endangered Egyptian Vultures were hatched.

Andean Condor Milestone:

Our female Andean Condor, Dorothy, received a new mate through our partnership with VulPro in South Africa. Our goal for the species is to reintroduce offspring into the wild of South America.

To protect endangered bird species from extinction and restore their populations by establishing and maintaining managed breeding programs.

Inspiring the Future...

Expanded Reach:

Our Inspiring the Future program reached nearly 30,000 more people through enhanced outreach and onsite programs.

Engaging Programming:

We added interactive elements, including a toy Bald Eagle matching a real eagle weight for kids to hold, Q&A segments, and a migration activity for kids.

Mission-Driven Shift:

We ended entertainment-focused zoo shows, focusing on educational programs at schools and community events with strong conservation messaging.

Partnerships and Grants:

Collaborated with Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri American Water, and Conservation Federation of Missouri, reaching 5,937 underserved students, and we received the Cathleen Creley Memorial Conservation Grant to upgrade our sound systems.

Livestream Success:

We partnered with Maya Higa, founder of Alveus Sanctuary, for a September 2024 environmental education livestream, reaching over 140,000 viewers, with ongoing reach via YouTube and TikTok.







Mission:

To inspire the next generation of conservation leaders through engaging and interactive programs to save species and take action.

Healing the Hurt...



NWRA Symposium Participation:

We shared our expertise at the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium, with Dr. Allison Daugherty presenting on avian anesthesia and ophthalmology, and Director of Rehabilitation, Kira Klebe, showcasing an innovative raptor aviary design poster.

Record Intake Milestone:

We received 100 patients before the end of February, a historic first for the program.

Surgical Area Upgrades:

We have enhanced our Kathryn G. Favre Foundation Raptor Hospital with medical-grade curtains, a state-of-the-art air purifier, and UV sanitizer, improving sterility and surgical outcomes.

Foster Forest Project:

We initiated construction of naturalistic aviaries and permanent homes for foster parents to support healthy development and rehabilitation of orphaned baby birds.

Mission:



To provide the community with a free, non-governmental public service for rescuing injured and orphaned raptors, detecting potential zoonotic disease outbreaks, advancing the field of avian medicine through scientific research, and conserving local raptor populations by releasing rehabilitated birds back into the wild.

Sanctuary Spaces...

Habitat Restoration:

We removed invasive plant species, and replaced them with over 80 species of native wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses.

Funding Support:

We received another generous grant from the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Fund to support biodiversity and local habitat restoration.



Mission:



To preserve and expand the Sanctuary as a natural oasis for both birds and people, providing a safe haven for non-releasable birds, connecting our community more deeply to nature, and inspiring greater conservation engagement.

