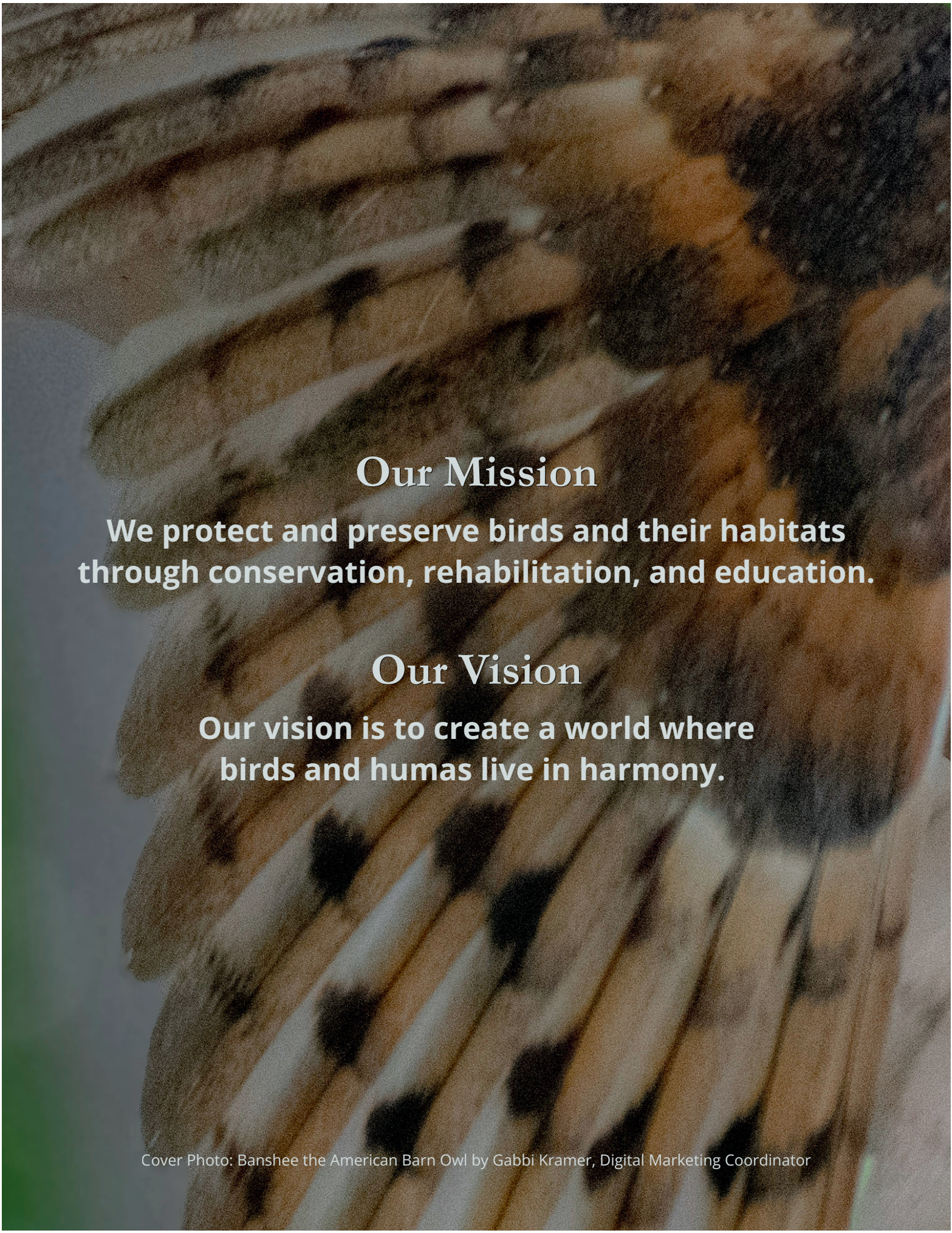




Our Mission

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.

Cover Photo: Banshee the American Barn Owl by Gabbi Kramer, Digital Marketing Coordinator



World  Bird
SANCTUARY

Annual Report 2025-2026



A Letter from Leadership

We are thrilled to close our 2025-26 fiscal year with very exciting news! WBS is now most of the way through the process of having a new master site plan developed, which will determine upgrades and improvement throughout the property for the future. Working with PGAV Destinations of St. Louis, we have carefully analyzed all aspects of avian care, programming and visitor experience with the goal of making everything better, using more of the beautiful Castlewood State Park land we are privileged to share. Stay tuned...



Continued progress has been made with the Safeguarding Species program. In April of 2026, I signed an agreement with the Saigon Zoo allowing WBS to ship one pair of Vietnam pheasants to their facility annually for the next 5 years. This will be in addition to this species also being sent to Bach Ma National Park, the site where breeding and release will take place. International permits have now been applied for so we await approval to begin the process. Although the process is slow, we've certainly made excellent progress since our first visit in 2025.

Additional progress has been made with our vulture conservation efforts as we are now more than 50% funded for the Endangered Vulture Conservation Breeding Center, which will be a showcase facility within our new Master Site Plan. Conservation emphasis will be to initially establish multiple pairs of White-backed vultures. Future offspring will be sent back to Africa for reintroduction to the wild.

In February 2026, our beloved Andean condor, Dorothy, received a new mate by the name of Huntus, who came to us from Vulpro in South Africa. We are thrilled to continue our partnership with this wonderful facility and look forward to receiving more birds from them in the near future, as soon as the vulture facility is complete. We've also facilitated the shipment of a pair of Egyptian vultures from Eastern Europe to Vulpro in South Africa for their continued efforts to reestablish the species in the wild.

Our rehabilitation department is continuing its upward pace with an increasing patient load, while also supporting research projects with new partners. To name a few, we continue working with TGEN North to collect data for HPAI prevalence in rehab cases. With Rhodes College of Memphis, Tennessee, we are collecting data for a Leucocytozoon blood parasite study in raptors. On our own, using new cameras in our Foster Forest aviaries, we are creating new ethograms by documenting developmental behaviors of juvenile raptors, which will help build knowledge that will determine how quickly they are ready for release.



Our education programs are now surpassing pre-covid levels in number with extended outreach to most midwestern states. The education mission remains robust with many additional Bald Eagle programs to celebrate our country's 250th birthday throughout 2026.

On Avian Avenue, two new aviaries have been completed for our Augur buzzard and our Barred owls, thanks to a generous donor. It is progress like this that has helped us increase our attendance by 30% from last year at this time. Thanks to all of our visitors who have come to enjoy the birds on Avian Avenue

All of our progress with the Safeguarding Species, Healing the Hurt, Sanctuary Spaces and Inspiring the Future mission programs is only possible with the support of donors such as yourself. On behalf of all of the staff and volunteers of our organization, I thank you for your interest and support and I invite you to come and have a visit so you may see what your support does firsthand!

Roger Holloway

Roger Holloway,
Executive Director



Safeguarding Species



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

3 pairs of Vietnam Pheasants are preparing for export to Vietnam for conservation breeding.

To ensure the strongest possible pairings, we collected DNA samples and partnered with the University of Minnesota Genomics Lab for ddRAD sequencing, giving insight into the birds' genetic makeup and helping us maximize genetic diversity.



2 Northern Bald Ibises Hatched

We successfully hatched two endangered Northern Bald Ibises for the first time in Sanctuary history. This achievement is part of a cooperative breeding program with zoos across the United States.

Egyptian Vulture Chick Hatched

Our ongoing collaboration with the San Diego Zoo for Egyptian Vulture conservation continues to yield results, with another chick successfully produced this year. Since the program's inception in 2018, nine chicks have been born.



Photograph Courtesy of
the Louisville Zoo

Steller's Sea Eagle Chick Hatched

In 2023, we initiated a breeding partnership with Louisville Zoo which has now produced its first chick. We are working to expand the safeguard population by building partnerships in Japan to receive non-releasable birds for conservation breeding, creating a potential source for future rewilding efforts.



Egyptian Vulture Chick | Photograph
Courtesy of San Diego Safari Park



Sanctuary Spaces



Preserving and expanding 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.

In order to help restore the native landscape of the area, we have

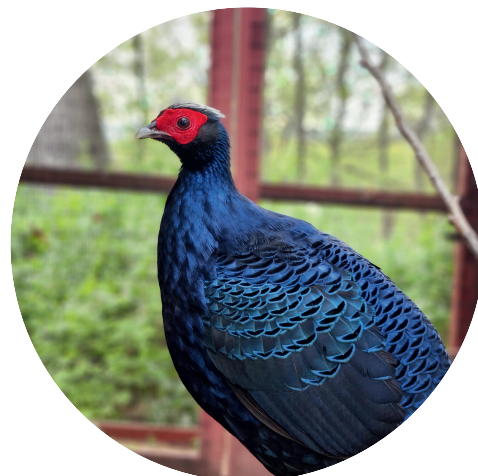
Planted
2.5 Acres
of native seeds

Documented
75 Species
of native flora

These species of native flowers, bushes, grasses, sedges, shrubs, and trees are planted in and around avian habitats on Avian Avenue.

2 new aviaries for the Vietnam Pheasants.

To further enhance the authenticity of the habitats, we carefully selected and planted 10 different species of native trees, bushes, and plants to create an environment that closely mirrors the pheasants' natural surroundings.



The Executive Team



Roger Holloway
Executive Director

Kira Klebe
Director of Rehabilitation

Daniel Cone
Assistant Executive Director

Paula Napier
Director of Development

Jeff Meshach
Deputy Director

Kendahl Chergosky
Director of Education



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Inspiring the Future



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



965

Education programs
were presented.

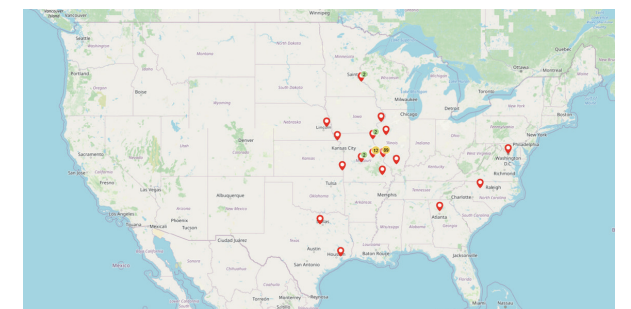


Every school that submitted a
review for grant-covered program
was 5 stars.

The goal of every program: To help students understand why birds matter, what threats birds face, and what they can do to help.

107,041

Members of the public were reached.
World Bird Sanctuary presented across
the country, traveling to nine states and
Washington D.C. for programs.



Healing the Hurt



Providing 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.

Foster Forest Aviaries Project

These specialized aviaries are designed for young Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, and Red-shouldered Hawks of all ages, from tiny nestlings to active fledglings.

The construction of the Foster Forest as well as additional improvements made to rehab patient housing this year allowed us to better move birds through care as they were ready. This resulted in a 22% reduction of time in care while having our highest release rate in the past 3 years!

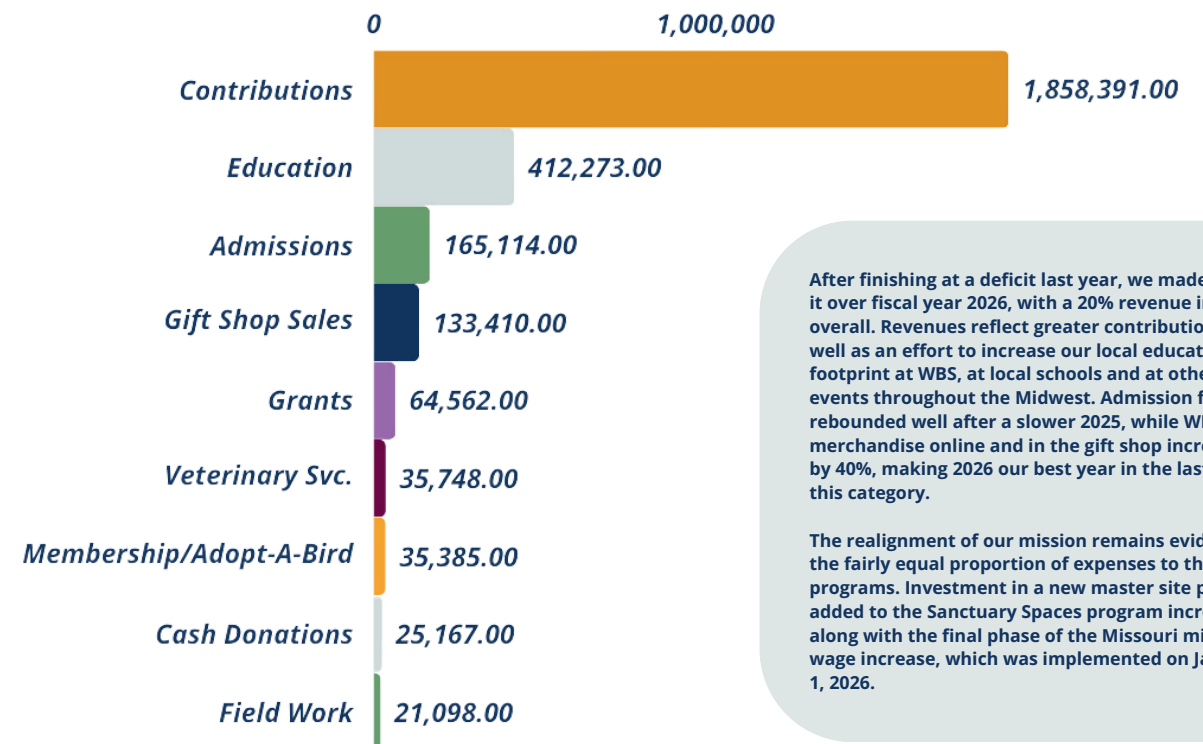
22%
Reduction of
Time in Care



WBS is committed to **improving the field of avian medicine** alongside our peers in rehabilitation and veterinary medicine. We contributed samples and data to **five different studies** this year as well as worked to develop new treatments of our own. Our main focus was spent in dedicating several months to **designing, testing, and refining a sling** and multiple mobility aids that help support raptors who are unable to put their full weight on both legs.

Financials 2025-2026

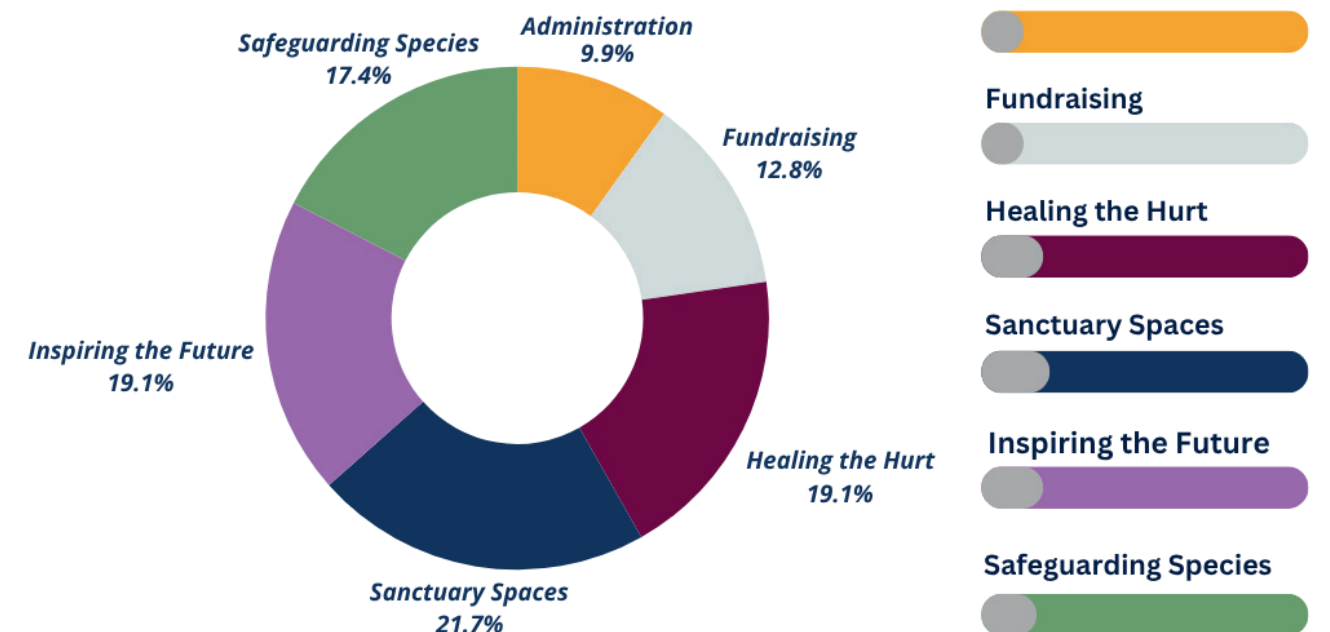
Revenue \$2,746,149



After finishing at a deficit last year, we made up for it over fiscal year 2026, with a 20% revenue increase overall. Revenues reflect greater contributions as well as an effort to increase our local education footprint at WBS, at local schools and at other events throughout the Midwest. Admission fees rebounded well after a slower 2025, while WBS merchandise online and in the gift shop increased by 40%, making 2026 our best year in the last 10 for this category.

The realignment of our mission remains evident in the fairly equal proportion of expenses to the 4 programs. Investment in a new master site plan added to the Sanctuary Spaces program increase, along with the final phase of the Missouri minimum wage increase, which was implemented on January 1, 2026.

Expenses \$2,351,226



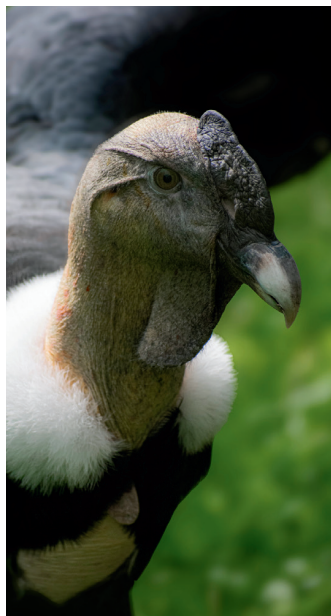


Thank You to Our WBS Membership

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Ann Blanchfield	Elizabeth Abraham	Katie Mueller	Rusty Sykes
Ann Miller	Elizabeth Ashley	Elizabeth Barkey	Ryan Ramey
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Blake Simmons	Frederick Wellman	Kim Cerrone	Sondra Schol
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Braden Hagberg	Gilda Amador	Kody Thurman	Stephanie Stemmler
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		Mike Brendel	

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Jordan Bales	Mallory Eddy	Marissa Martinez	St. Louis Salt Room
John Barhydt	Thomas Fraehmke	Joan Merlo	Denise Stealey
Skylar Beecher	Nancy Gelb	Morrissey	Christine Supple
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Jessica Belobraydic	Ed Godfrey	Sydney Mitchell	Alayna Tharp
Laura Bissonnette	Susan Gordon	Jason Moore	Heather Tobin
Teena Bonfield	Kaylee Gottschalk	Royce Moore	Peggy Truesdale
Samantha Boston	Carol Gravens	Kerry Moran	Haney
Jennifer Brevard	Cathy Greaving	Paula Napier	Caroline
Lisa Brewington	Megan Hammann	Judy O'Brien	Upchurch Ford
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Kathy Cail	Marcus Higgins	Gregory Pitlyk	Lauren Vann
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Debbie Combs	Kathy Kam	Charlene Schneider	Jody Williams
Elspeth Connick	William Karides	Adam Schrader	Elizabeth J. Witt
Deepthi Coppisetty	Liliana Kasta	David Schumaker	Jacqueline Witte
Warren Crabb	Mitch Kerns	Jennifer See	Ryan Zimmerman
Nicholas Curatolo	Nicholas Segbers	Nicholas Segbers	
Patricia Dannemiller	Maria Kiagias	Jane H Seibert	
Maddie Rose Davey	Madison Koeller	Sarah Siebert	
	Saranya Konala	Jena Sikora	
	Gabrielle Kramer	Nick Simberg	



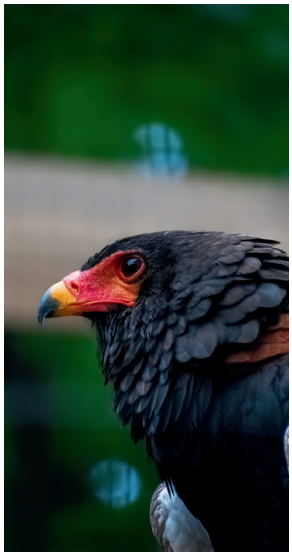
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