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# New Educational Animal - Peregrine Falcon

On Sept 27, we admitted a young Peregrine Falcon with a broken wing. The falcon was found by a PA Game Warden and was delivered to us by Chris McNamara from Wildlife in Need. We determined surgery was necessary and contacted Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center where Dr. Michael Doornink agreed to perform the orthopedic surgery. The Peregrine's medical saga began.

Peregrines have not been listed as threatened or endangered by US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) since 1999, but they are still considered threatened in PA. From the 1940s to the 1960s, the United States peregrine population east of the Mississippi River was eliminated – not a single pair was known to breed here. This decline was believed to be mainly due to the increased use of DDT as a pesticide. DDT caused

thinning of the egg shells of these falcons as well as
manyother species, including the bald
eagle. DDT
was banned in
1972, and the
affected species began
their slow
return.

The Peregrine in our care required several visits to Pittsburgh for follow-up x-rays. The fracture was not healing as quickly as expected, which necessitated keeping the wing in a wrap for weeks. At end stage healing, we had a beautifully healed ulna, but due to the lengthy recovery period, the soft tissues surrounding the fracture had become scarred.

All of this made the falcon non-releasable, as absolute perfection of flight is needed during their "stoops" (dives) of up to 200 mph to catch their prey on the wing. That was when we decided to try to keep this beautiful bird as an education ambassador. Permission has been granted to us by the PA Game Commission and we are waiting on paperwork from USFW.

We named the young falcon Arwen. Fans of J.R.R. Tolkein may recognize Arwen Evenstar as the elven princess of Rivendell. Arwen is of Welsh origin, meaning "noble maiden," and she sure is one. We are working daily with her to get her comfortable for her future job as ambassador. While she is very intelligent and quick to learn, she has a stubborn streak that only a princess could understand. It is our hope to have Arwen ready to be introduced in public once the pandemic is over.

Thank you, Chris McNamara, for running all of Arwen's vet appointments.

### PEREGRINE FALCON FACTS

- They typically nest on the southern ledges of steep cliffs.
- Their nests are shallow depressions about 12" across, scraped in soft substrate on a cliff ledge. Because of their historic nesting habits, breeding has been impacted by habitat destruction, but these remarkable birds have adjusted to living in close proximity to humans.

  It is now common for pergrippes to nest.
- It is now common for peregrines to nest in cities, choosing bridges and highrises for their nests. Prey is plentiful in city pigeons and ducks. A pair of peregrines have nested on the Cathedral of Learning for years. Visit www.aviary.org/ birds-habitats/live-streams
- Eggs are creamy or pink covered with brown blotches and are laid one every 2 -3 days; a complete clutch averages 3 or 4 eggs.
- During incubation the male does most of the food gathering for the female. The female eats away from the nest and the male usually goes to the nest and incubates. Incubation lasts 28-33 days.
- Adults are slate gray on the back and have a faint barring on the lower breast. Immatures are dark brown on the back with dark streaking over the entire breast. There is no way to distinguish sex based on plumage.
- As with most raptors, the female is larger than the male.
- In North America, the peregrine is migratory, breeding in Alaska & Canada flying south in the fall. Some winter along the coasts but most fly to South & Central America. During migration falcons fly singly and often continuously, usually at fairly low altitudes.

# TRIBUTE TO NAPOLEON

Napoleon, an American Kestrel, was our educational ambassador for 15 years. He came to us as an imprinted nestling, destined never to be released. The folks responsible for the imprinting called him "their little man," and that's where his name came from. Beautiful and jolly, he was a presence in our hospital during the winter and outside in a screen tent when weather permitted.

In December, we noticed changes in his behavior that concerned us and we decided to retire him, as a Kestrel's life expectancy is about 15 years. He continued to eat well and interact with staff, but he was not right. Our vet then diagnosed him with congestive heart failure and we began medication to keep him comfortable.

On Christmas night, Napoleon passed in his sleep. While we have an empty place in our hearts, we are grateful to have had the chance to interact with this amazing wildling and to share him with our WWI friends.

We have established a fund in Napoleon's name to build an enclosure and cover food and equipment expenses for Arwen, his successor. Please consider making a donations in honor of Napoleon.



# Branchers getting feathers



# 2 Turkey Vultures Here til Spring

**August** - On August 2, we admitted a young Turkey Vulture that had been in the hands of the public for two weeks.

**September** - Another Turkey Vulture came in September after hitting a crane and falling into the Mon River.

**October** - In October, a third vulture was transferred in from another rehabber so it would not be alone.

Vultures, also called buzzards, are large, blackish birds with broad wingspans, often seen soaring in wide circles in the sky. They are active in the daytime, when they search for carrion to eat. Sometimes they perch in trees or stand on the ground, usually near a dead animal. Although graceful in flight, they are clumsy on the ground.

Although one of the juveniles died from an unknown respiratory condition, rehabbing the other two was going to be a challenge.

We knew that they would have to be held over the winter to release them, and turkey vultures do not do well in temperatures below freezing. In nature, when it gets too cold, vultures just drift southward as far as it takes for them to be warm enough.

Our youngsters were going to be spending their winter months in one of the mews in our raptor barn. We sent a call out to all of our friends on Facebook to help with the expense of setting us up with heaters to get our kids through the winter. And, as always, we were amazed and grateful for the folks who took the time to go to our Amazonsmile wish list and purchased us two electric panel heaters, two dog house heaters and three heated perches. Thus far this winter, the mews has stayed at a toasty 40 degrees regardless of the outside temperatures.

Our other challenge continues to be keeping them busy. They stripped all of the veneer they could reach off the door and were starting on the aluminum insulation before we realized they were bored.

Before it got too cold, we offered them pumpkins to tear apart (again donated by Facebook friends who brought us their autumn decorations after Thanks giving).

Our local game warden has provided us with road-killed deer that we have also put into their mews to give them some enrichment while keeping them fed.

They are very dirty birds and are very labor-intensive to care for, so we are looking forward to Spring as much as they are!

# **Vulture Facts**

- Seven species of vultures inhabit
  North America, including the endangered California condor. PA has two
  species: the turkey vulture (Cathartes
  aura) and the black vulture (Coragyps
  atratus). The turkey vulture is by far
  the more common; it is found
  statewide, while the black vulture,
  more of a southern species, occasionally strays into southeastern PA. Both
  are protected by game laws.
- Adults are about 30 inches in length, with wingspans up to six feet. Their bodies are covered with blackishbrown feathers, and sexes are colored alike.
- Turkey vultures soar with wings held above the horizontal, forming a gentle V.

- Seen from below, a turkey vulture's wings appear two-toned, the flight feathers lighter-colored than the rest of the feathering.
- Adults have pink heads and necks; in young birds, these skin areas are blackish.
- The turkey vulture's heavy bill has a sharp hook at the end for tearing.
- Its toes are equipped with strong, curved talons.
- At night they often gather in large roosts.
- Vultures are essentially voiceless; lacking a voice box, all they can do is hiss and grunt.
- They have keen vision and a sharp sense of smell, and use both to locate carrion.
- · Vultures eat all kinds of carrion, in-

- cluding fish, snakes, winter- and highway-killed mammals, domestic animals, and slaughterhouse refuse.
- Both captive and wild turkey vultures have been observed killing smaller birds.
- Favored breeding habitat includes remote areas inaccessible to predators, such as caves, steep cliffs, hollow logs or stumps or dense thickets.
- Vultures make little or no nest, depositing their eggs on the ground, in gravel on cliff ledges, or on rotted sawdust or chips in logs and stumps.
- The female typically lays two longoval eggs, dull or creamy white, with irregular spots of pale and bright brown. Both parents share incubating. After 30 to 40 days, the eggs hatch into young that remain in the nest for about four weeks.

# Box Turtles (Boxies)



Introducing Drax. See Tribute to Doc below.

It is not uncommon for WWI to have a few turtles over the winter because their conditions were not resolved in time for them to hibernate. Sick turtles that do go into hibernation can die. In 2019, we did not over-winter any box turtles, but we currently have five turtle patients to care for until Spring. All of our patients are Eastern Box Turtles.

**TURTLE 1 -** A female named "Diane," who came from the Turtle Conservation Trust, was suffering from persistent ear infections. We agreed to treat her for the great folks at the Trust, and she will be returned to the sanctuary hopefully in May.

**TURTLE 2** - Another female who sat unmoving in the same location for days before she was rescued. She had a very severe infection in her plastron (bottom shell) and shell hinge.

**TURTLE 3** - This female was hit by a car. She came to us with multiple shell fractures on her plastron.

**TURTLE 4** - This male boxie was also hit by a car. His shell fractures were so extreme that he lost a very large wedge of his rear carapace (top shell), leaving nothing but raw muscle. This type of injury can take months to heal, as the turtle's body remodels that exposed tissue into a surface that resembles shell in its hardness and density.

**TURTLE 5** - A male from West Virginia who was brought to us by a woman whose dog likes to use box turtles as chew toys. This guy is missing a rear leg, thanks to the dog. Loss of a rear leg is of greater concern if the turtle is female, as she needs her rear legs to dig and cover her nest. This boxie has healed well and will be ready for release in the Spring.

All of our box turtle patients can be released when the ground temperatures warm enough, usually late May. In the meantime, we get to enjoy the presence of members of a species that dates back thousands of years; and we get the satisfaction of knowing we have gone the extra mile to help preserve their numbers in the wild.

### **BOX TURTLE FACTS**

Removing adult Box Turtle from a popula-tion has devasconsetating quences. Research indicates that Box Turtles don't use distant scent/sight signals to find mates. They rely upon habitual and chance encounters with one another. Thus, thinning a population leaves behind many adults who may never meet and

reproduce again.

- Box Turtles live most of their long life span in a small parcel of land known as its home range, not much bigger than a couple football fields near its birthplace. Year after year they roam their small home range returning to special sites where they have learned to find water, mates, sun, shade, slugs and worms and other foods, or soft soil for nesting and hibernating.
- Box Turtles lay 2-5 eggs. Almost none of the hatchlings survive the ravages of climate and predators. Those who survive can live longer than most humans. Some have surpassed 120 years!
- Box Turtles have homing instincts that compels them to look for "home" when displaced. Outside an 800 yard radius, a search for home rarely succeeds, but turtles may persist searching for years before giving up the hunt (Before gaining sufficient familiarity with the new habitat, the turtle may starve or freeze to death.)
- Turtles do not hear well. They do possess a finely-tuned ability to detect vibrations coming to them through the water or ground and an excellent sense of touch.

# TRIBUTE TO DOC

While visiting family out-of-state in Jan 2020, I got a frantic call from staff. Doc, our Eastern Box Turtle ambassador, was bubbling blood from his mouth and nose. It was such a helpless feeling being so far away,. All I could do was recommend they call our friend and vet, Dr. Craig Hill who admitted him immediately.

Doc came to us from the Turtle Trust. He was donated to the research study there, but he was not suitable for the project due to the injuries he received from his prior owner's dog. His owner was a doctor – hence the name "Doc." Doc had been with us for so long that no one can remember when he came. Certainly, it was in the early '90's. A number of years later, we accepted a Three-toed Box Turtle that was wandering down Rt. 22 in Monroeville. Three-toed turtles are a southern species, so this little guy was

either an escapee or an irresponsible "born free" release. He and Doc shared a large terrarium for many years. Doc was a hit everywhere he went with our outreach programst. Sharing him with others allowed us to educate them on the threats to this long-lived gentle species.

At Green Hill Veterinary, Doc was given supportive care, but he did not make it through the night. Concerned about the cause of his death, I asked Dr. Hill to do a necropsy. He found a tumor in Doc's lung – there was nothing we could have done. Such a great loss to us all of such a beautiful and special creature.

INTRODUCING DRAX - In early Summer, an email went out from a rehab center near Philadelphia, looking to place a male box turtle that was a surrendered pet. Arrangements were made for a transfer and he arrived a few weeks later. We named the boxie "Drax" after the character from The Guardians of the

Galaxy, whose orange tattoos resemble Drax's orange markings. It is our hope that Drax will step into Doc's shoes to continue important outreach about box turtles and their place in the web of life.





When we built our house, we had big floor-to-ceiling windows put in across our deck in order to bring nature inside. We love watching all of the activity Mother Nature has to offer. There is one problem, though. On almost a daily basis, a bird flies into those windows. Sometimes they simply fly away immediately. Other times, they sit looking stunned for a time. Worst of all is finding these beautiful creatures lying dead on our deck. When we put in the windows, we never thought it would do such harm. Can you help us Unhappy in Uniontown help them?

Dear unhappy,

As humans destroy and fragment habitat, our activities have increasingly negative impacts on wildlife, many times unintentionally. According to a 2014 study, building collisions, and particularly collisions with windows, are a major anthropogenic threat to birds, with an estimated 100 million killed annually, just in the united States, with roughly 56% of mortality at low-rises, 44% at residences, and <1% at high-rises. So, you aren't alone.

There are strategies you can take to help mitigate the problem. When birds fly into windows, it is usually because they see a reflection of the surrounding area and therefore do not recognize an obstacle. Breaking up that reflection is the ticket to reducing bird strikes. Hawk silhouettes and holographic stickers can be applied to the windows to discourage birds from flying in that direction. Other items like wind chimes and wind socks can also help break up the reflection. If you have bird feeders, you might consider moving them further away from the house.

Bírds that are stunned are very vulnerable, so it is best to get them to a safe place until they regain their senses. Place the injured bird into a paper bag or small box and leave them alone for an hour or more. If they fly away when you open the container, all is well. Sometimes, though, these window-strike birds are more severely injured and require extra care. If in doubt, contact your local rehabiliDear Prof. Possum,

Lately, I have noticed birds at my feeder that seem sick. Their eyes are closed or they are fluffed up looking. Sometimes birds are even slow to fly away when I approach. Should I be concerned?

Bírd Watcher in Beaver

Dear Watcher,

When birds congregate in small areas, like they do around our backyard bird feeders, the risk of the transmission of disease increases. House finch conjunctivitis is one of the bacterial diseases seen at feeders. While the house finch seems to be the most affected species, it also can sicken goldfinches, purple finches and less commonly, evening grosbeaks. The pathogen, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, causes swelling of the eye lids and the conjunctiva, and the eyes appear swollen and crusty. This disease was first identified in 1994 in the Northeast and quickly spread. As the birds develop immunity, the bacteria mutate and períodic outbreaks occur. Birds that can be captured can often be treated by rehabbers with the specific and necessary medications.

Another common illness where birds congregate is salmonella. Birds affected look fluffed and lethargic and will soon die. Even a rehabilitator may not be able to save these individuals. If you intend to rescue sick birds from your feeder areas, DO NOT HANDLE WITHOUT PROTEC-TION. Salmonella is a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted to humans and cause serious illness.

The best remedy for both diseases is to take down your feeders and thoroughly clean with a bleach solution of 9 parts water to 1 part bleach, then allow the feeders to dry before refilling. Consider using tube-type feeders that can be completely dismantled for cleaning. Rake up the spent seeds and other debris under your feeders and discard. It is best to stop feeding for 1-2 weeks before putting your feeders back out. I know it is painful to stop feeding, but these steps will protect birds in the future. Also consider rotating the location of your feeders so there is not as much build-up in a small area.

Even if you are not experiencing sick birds at your feeders, these cleaning steps are šímply a good practice for anyone who loves feeding our feathered friends.

# To Rescue or NOT To Rescue - That is the Question

**BABY BIRDS** - It's a fact, a large percentage of young animals rescued by well-intentioned people don't need help. Out of the thousands of baby birds we have admitted to WWI, many would've had a greater chance of survival if they were left alone or moved to a safe place.

Knowing the difference between a nestling and a fledgling is a key factor in determining whether or not to intervene. A fledgling is no longer a baby. It is a young bird in the process of learning to fly. These birds try, but don't quite get into the air. Instead, they end up on the ground, hopping and fluttering about. Nestlings, on the other hand, do not yet have flight feathers. They may be un-feathered or partially feathered with some skin visible.



Fledgling - If you see a baby bird on the ground that seems to have all of its feathers, but still looks a little downy, it is a fledgling. Unless you know of an immediate threat such as a dog, a cat, children, or a busy road, you should not approach the bird, but watch it from a distance. Watch and wait. Make sure the parents are checking on it every few hours. If the fledgling is otherwise healthy but there is an immediate threat move the fledgling to the safety of a

fledgling to the safety of a nearby dense shrub or tree. If the fledgling is wet or listless or if it is still where you placed it after several hours, call WWI for further advice.

Nestling - If you find a nestling, examine it carefully. If the bird is not injured, is alert, dry and warm, carefully pick it up and return it to the nest. Touching a baby bird will not keep the parents away, but do not handle the baby a lot. Remember, their bones are fragile. If you cannot re-nest the bird, or if you are sure the parent is dead



are sure the parent is dead or if the bird is cold, wet, and/or listless, place the bird in a small container lined with tissue, keeping the legs and wings snug to its body. Cover a heating pad (set on low) with a folded towel, then place the substitute nest on the towel and pad. Again, do not attempt to feed or water the bird as this could be fatal. Call WWI as soon as possible.



BABY BUNNIES - Wild cottontail rabbits "nest" in shallow holes dug in the ground by the mother rabbit. Nests are often found in lawns, gardens or under shrubs. The mother, called a doe, lines the shallow hole with fur pulled from her body and covers it and her babies with a mixture

of dry grass and twigs to hide it from predators. The doe feeds her babies 2-3 times a day, once before early morning (dawn) and a couple of times right after it gets dark (dusk). She squats over the nest so the babies can reach up and nurse her milk. The mother does **NOT** continually sit on the nest or stay with the baby bunnies. Doing so would signal carnivorous (meat-eating) birds and animals (like owls and foxes) as to where her babies are living. By staying away from the nest, the doe protects her young.

If you know where a nest is, mow around - not over - the site. If you've made your discovery after the fact, re-cover the nest with the disturbed debris from the nest top or other suitable material such as dry grass and leaves. Baby bunnies that have been removed from the nest can be returned if they are healthy, uninjured, warm, dry, and no flies are present. Replacement should be done without the presence of children or pets. Cover the nest. Use twigs or short pieces of yarn and criss-cross the pieces over the cover. Use these as markers to identify the nest site for future mowings.

Remember, the doe visits the nest at dusk, dawn, and sometimes in the middle of the night, so watching for her during the day is futile. If the markers you left have been disturbed the next day, it is an indication that she has returned to feed, and all is well.

**FAWNS** - A fawn's mother leaves her baby for long hours while she forages for food returning only to nurse. The hidden fawn has no scent and remains motionless so it is safe from predators. Should you stumble upon a seemingly abandoned fawn:

- Do not touch or move it unless it is in imminent danger or is obviously injured.
- Watch with binoculars from a distance for several hours to see if the mother returns.
- If you have concerns about the fawn's safety or wellbeing, call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.



Please remember that White-tailed Deer are very easily stressed by captivity and contact with humans. So, please, if you find a fawn, be courteous and respectful and do not try to touch or move it.

**RACCOONS** - If you find a baby raccoon with its eyes open, that can walk around without constantly falling over, it has most likely been separated form mom. Give the mom 2 to 4 hours to find their baby. Do not attempt to rescue unless:

- it has been sitting in the same spot for hours,
- It has been excessively crying for longer than 30 minutes. Note, they will cry to help mom locate them.
- It is in visible danger, is injured, or it is walking towards you looking for food, not just out of curiousity.



If the baby runs from you, it most likely does not need assistance.

### PLEASE KEEP CATS INDOORS

Every year, WWI receives numerous calls from cat owners about animals injured by their pets. Many are admitted and most do not survive. Sadly, it is pet cats' instinct to hunt – not real hunger – that usually drives them to kill wildlife. It's a fallacy that cats need to roam outside to be happy, and the common strategy of putting bells on their collars has been found to be ineffective for alerting wildlife to their danger.

Allowing pet cats to roam outside is not just bad for backyard birds and wildlife, it's bad for the cats too. Outdoor cats are exposed to disease as well as the dangers of traffic, traps, poisons, abuse, and attacks from other animals. In fact, outside cats frequently don't live longer than five years, while indoor cats often live to be 17 or more.

# Animal Care Volunteers Needed - Interns Welcomed



### **Examining an adult Cooper's Hawk**

In 2020, we admitted 1,099 wildlings - 321 more than in 2019. That's a 41% increase! Some of the increase was due to the admission of 40 fawns and 92 raccoons, species that we had not previously been able to treat. That changed this past Spring when Morgan Barron, a WWI volunteer, received her rehab license. She was able to build enclosures on a property near her home and quickly began treating orphaned fawns, raccoons, and a few other mammal wildlings brought to her door.

This significant increase in our admissions was the result of more and more people learning about WWI and the fact that Covid was impacting admissions at other rehab centers in our area. We were fortunate to have the resources and the volunteer power to handle the increase, but it was a struggle as we had to reduce our volunteer staff to a small number, again due to Covid.

This Spring, we hope to bring on new staff as the strain of the pandemic decreases. Our never-ending challenge is always to find and keep volunteers. Treating wildlings can be hard work and,ideally we need 40-50 to get us through baby season which is March-Sept. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and will be trained. Being an animal care volunteer is hard work but very rewarding.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact our office to be put on a waiting list to come on board in the next few months.

# ANIMAL CARE VOLUNTEER DUTIES

- Priority is feeding, medicating, and treating all wildlings.
- Read log and charts prior to any care.
- Make diets and prepare food, documenting any food shortage in log. Morning shifts defrost food for raptors
- Feed, medicate and treat all inside and outside wildlings per directions, refreshing and cleaning cages. Log your activities, being sure to document any behavior change.
- Do dishes and laundry, documenting any shortage of supplies.
- During "baby season" (April through Sept) nearly 70% of the work is indoor work.
- Almost 50% of your time will be spent cleaning and changing cages.
- There is written protocol for every facility usage - Intensive Care Unit, sinks, laundry, aviaries, cages, etc.
- At the end of the shift, if time allows, replenish food dishes for next shift.
- Novice volunteers will not be handling mammals or high risk wildlings. With demonstrated desire and aptitude, volunteers can increase hands-on skills over time.

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**Great News - New Medical Equipment -** After nearly thirty years of rehabilitating wildlife, one of our biggest challenges remains the inability to acquire accessible, affordable and timely veterinary care.

Thanks to the generosity of the **Avangrid Foundation**, we can now handle many new diagnostics in house! In Dec 2020 we received a grant from the foundation to buy new medical equipment. We purchased: a microscope to replace our existing unit; a centrifuge to spin blood, fecal and urine samples; a blood lead analyzer; and an oxygen concentrator. Timely tests can mean immediate treatments that will translate to more wildlings saved.

With the oxygen concentrator, we have built an  $O_2$  chamber that will provide care not just to respiratory patients, but in cases such as head trauma and West Nile Virus, as well. In the case of the blood analyzer, it is now be-



head trauma and West Nile Virus, as well. In the case of the blood analyzer, it is now believed that environmental lead is a major cause of death and illness in a variety of species, including birds of prey, especially eagles and waterfowl. Immediate diagnosis of lead poisoning, or lack thereof, opens up opportunities to devise treatment plans based on facts, not guesswork. We are so excited to have this new equipment to better help our patients and so thankful for our partnership with the Avangrid Foundation and their continued support to WWI and dedication to helping wildlife.



# 2020 Annual Report (Pages 7-10)

# Letter from WWI Executive Director & Senior Rehabber



2020 - WOW! None of us could ever have suspected how much our lives would be impacted when the Covid-19 virus was made public.

In large and small ways, everyone has a Covid story to tell. For WWI, we had great concerns about our financial well-being when so many people became unemployed.

It also caused us to revise our admission policies and safety protocols for our staff. It became impera-

tive that Covid did not infect our ranks, so we suspended bringing on new volunteers and kept our existing staff to a bare minimum. Who knew this would be necessary for the entirety of 2020.

Nevertheless, we have been able to count our blessings. Not only did Covid not affect any of our staff, but none of their family members became seriously ill. Additionally, our wonderful and dedicated supporters came through for us in so many ways that we did not have to struggle financially or close our doors to admissions.

Many other rehab centers did, however, have to close their doors because of Covid. Naturally, this resulted in WWI

taking in patients from an ever-growing number of communities and doing so on a skeleton crew. I am so grateful to my core volunteers for going the extra mile and kudos go out to our newest animal care tech, Elizabeth Ringstad, who worked literally hundreds of hours all summer long.

Once again, we couldn't do it without being surrounded by such an amazing group of folks, both inside and outside of WWI. And, notes of thanks and encouragement have meant so much to us. We cannot say THANK YOU enough.

We are looking forward to 2021 and beyond; we want to build an education facility on the property that we purchased adjacent to our existing property. Plans would include a nature center, enclosures for resident ambassa-dors and an open-air amphitheater that will allow members of the public to come to us (versus us going to them) for programs. Right now, these plans are in their infancy and we will have a lot of work ahead of us to raise funds to bring this all to fruition. It's a tall order, but I believe this is a natural extension of our mission to rehabilitate and educate.

In the meantime, stay safe and remember to be mindful of all of the good things that life has to offer.

With love.



# 2020 Financial Report

### (Unaudited) INCOME

| Animal Admissions General Donations Memorials & Honoriums United Way Education Programs Fund Raising                              |   | 18,987<br>50,853<br>5,265<br>2,173<br>100              |
|---|---|--|
| Appeal Letters On-Line Giving Calendar Sales Raffles Other Fundraising Total Fundraising Grants Misc Membership Dues TOTAL INCOME | 29,612<br>1,282<br>34,354<br>2,393<br>6,407 | 74,048<br>41,000<br>1,580<br>7,985<br><b>\$201,991</b> |

### Cypeuse

| EXPEN  | SE              |                                |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Fund Raising Expense<br>Insurance & Fees<br>Land Purchase<br>Misc Expenses |                 | 19,669<br>3,129<br>6,603<br>66 |
| Office Supplies & Postage Payroll Professional Services                    | <b>)</b>        | 4,945<br>70,722<br>850         |
| Program Animal Care Public Education                                       | 34,562<br>3.934 | 650                            |
| Total Program<br>Travel<br>Utilities, Rent                                 | 3,934           | 38,496<br>930<br>16,420        |
| TOTAL EXPENSE  |                 | \$161,830                      |

# Memorials & Honoriums

## In Memory of:

~ELIZABETH AUKERMAN~ Tobi & Mike Chovanec Harold & Marie Dicer

Maggie & Jim Falcon Daryl Hamill David & Nancy Matheny Joan & Jim Rombach Michael & Madeleine

Waldner Linda Weir Judy & Bob Wilson

~DAVID CARPENTER~ Ethel Barbus

~NED CAUGHEY~ Keith & Sue Ann Singer

~FLO (MOTHER)~ Anonymous

~CHARLES HOKE~ Kelly Eshelman Donna & Keith Impink David & Kay Lessig Gail Young

~KIM HUEY~ Beverly Floom

~Lois Jones~ Carol & John Durco

~JOAN KISTI FR~ Lorraine Dicecco

### ~JEFFREY KRIMSKY~ Patrick & Lynn Gurrentz

~PAUL KUSTER~ Mauritta Moyer

~RALPH E. LEEPER Sharon Potochnik

~CHUCK & SONNY Lowery~ Janet Lowery

~RICHARD MANNING~ Richard & Kathleen Manning

~Anthony Milito~ Diane Kam

~Мосна SUSAN & JEFFREY HILL'S CAT~

Joe & Linda Watkowski, ~JACK PERSIN Diane & Dennis Persin

~THE PERT~ Janet Lowery

~LORRAINE PETROSKY~ Dr & Mrs Lloyd Plummer

~Babs Prudente~

~Rufus~ Judy & Rick Kemper

Beth Miller

### ~Schlegel Family~ Dot & Rhett Schegel & Children

~JEROME SPALLINO~ (HUSBAND)
Judith Spallino

~LAUREN SUGENT~ Mike & Helen Geroux,

~Susan J. Work~ Sandra Johnson

### In Honor of:

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### Mammals

Virginia Opossum, 102 Least Shrew, 1 Eastern Cottontail, 217 Eastern Chipmunk, 24 Groundhog, 6 Grey Squirrel, 65 Fox Squirrel, 14 Red Squirrel, 14 S. Flying Squirrel, 12 Deer Mouse, 18 White-footed mouse, 1 Meadow Vole, 2 House Mouse, 12 Raccoon, 92 Long-tailed Weasel, 1 Mink, 2 White-tailed Deer, 40

**TOTAL MAMMALS 623** 

### Native Birds

Canada Goose, 36 Wood Duck, 13 Mallard Duck, 29 Mailard Duck, 29
Redhead, 1
Northern Bobwhite, 1
Ring-necked Pheasant, 1
Turkey, 1
Great Blue Heron, 2
Turkey Vulture, 5 Osprey, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3 Cooper's Hawk, 8 Broad-winged Hawk, 3 Red-shouldered Hawk, 6 Red-tailed Hawk, 23 American Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 3 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Rock Dove, 23 Mourning Dove, 43 Great Horned Owl, 4

# 2020 REHAB STATISTICS

Barred Owl, 5 Eastern Screech Owl, 8 Chimney swift , 2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7
Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7
Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Northern Flicker, 5 Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 2 Blue Jay, 4 American Crow, 3 Barn Swallow, 2 Cliff Swallow, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 House Wren, 4 Winter Wren, 1 Vinter Wren, 1
Carolina Wren, 16
Golden-Crowned Kinglet, 1
Eastern Bluebird, 3
American Robin, 46
Gray Catbird, 1
Cedar Waxwing, 4
Tennessee Warbler, 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1
Ovenbird, 1 Ovenbird, 1 EasternTowhee, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 10 Song Sparrow, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Northern Cardinal, 15 Red-winged Blackbird, 1 Common Grackle, 1 Brown-headed Cowbird, 4 Baltimore Oriole, 3 Purple Finch, 1 House Finch, 4 American Goldfinch, 5 Pine Siskin, 1 Total Native Birds 395

### Introduced Birds

Chukar, 1 European Starling, 10 House Sparrow, 43 Total Introduced Birds 53

### Domestic Birds

African Goose, 5 Amcan Goose, 5
Pekin, 2
Grey Toulouse, 1
Rouen, 1
Mallard Hybrid, 5
Khaki Campbell, 2
Swedish Blue, 1
Total Domestic Birds 17

Reptiles

Eastern Box Turtle , 7 Midland Painted Turtle , 1 Snapping Turtle , 2 Garter Snake, 1
Total Herps 11
TOTAL WILDLINGS

# totals

WILDLINGS ADMITTED - 1,099 WILDLINGS RELEASED - 440 NONTREATABLES - 404

RELEASE RATE 2020 – 63.3%\* AVG COST PER WILDLING -\$30.71

\*Does not include "nontreatable" wildlings that died within 24 hours.

# 

# Animal Care Volunteers, Year Started

Brooke Baldonieri, 2009 Morgan Barron, 2015 Tim Berich, 2020 Suzanne Borza, 2011 Carisa Byich, 2019 Maria Calabro, 2020 Allison Checkeye, 2009 Evan ClarkDeaver, 2018 Julie Cursi, 2018 Carol DaRold, 2005 Wendy Davis, 2016 Carol Durco, 1995 Jessica Evanchak, 2015 Pat Fennema, 2014 Nicana Garman, 2019 Sonya Gower, 2017



Nicole Hinerman, 2015 Cindy Hrovoski, 2020 Gabby Jablonski, 2019 Trish Jones, 2017 Stephanie King, 2005 Nick Kozinko, 2015 Liz Kuniega, 2019 Jill Leasure, 2005 Hannah Leszczynski, 2014 Monica Leuthold, 2012 Delaney Martin, 2019 Brian Martz, 1996
Joelle Miele, 2016
Olivia Moore, 2018
Tina Moore, 1996 Abigail Noel, 2019 Marcia Osborne, 2004 Mary Pescatore, 2018 Elizabeth Ringstad, 2016 Jaime Rininger, 2009 Julie Simon, 2008 Sandy Sten, 2005 Joanne Thornburg, 2019 Julian Upholster, 2017 Abby Uhrinek, 2019 Pam Valla, 1992 Kathy Welsh, 2016 Dana Williams, 2020 Ron Yannacci, 2009 Bonnie Zaucha, 2019



# 2020 Education Programs

WWI's "Wild Neighbors" education program is available to any group. The program may include a slide show, rescue "do's and don'ts" and the natural history of our wild neighbors. Educational animals are sometimes included. Our programs were shut down March-December due to Covid-19. However we did conduct three prior to the shutdown:

1/12 -GROW Program at New Stanton Methodist Church (73) 1/31 - WPNR Owl Prowl (50) 2/21 - WPNR Owl Prowl (50)

Covid-19 did not, however, stop us from educating the public through our other means - mailings, press releases, and phone calls.

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Rausch, Bob Schrum, Andrew Shupe, Marie Stover, Karen F. Tiberio, Marlene Tobias, Florence Trice, Ruth Ann & Charlie Yagodich, Scott

Family (\$25) Barr, Rosann & David Battistella, Suzanne Bires, Ronald & Mary Bires, Ronald & Mary Bradish, Wendy & Gerald Brown, Jack & Shoko Cipriani, Rogene & Nancy Conway, Nannette & Lester Coper, Herbert & Julia Dove, Lindsey, Marquis & Nancy

Dove, Lindsey, Marquis Nancy Evans, James & Sue Faix, Donna & Michael Faulk, Gwen & Bob Gladys, Robert & Kathy Jones, Tom & Linda Kepple, Denise Libbos, Joel Lock, Margaret Lowery, Janet

Maggio, Marlene Matuza, Dale, Xina & Ryan More, Elaine & Fernando Morre, Elaine & Fernand Morreo, Mary Joyce Myers, Jeanne & Ray Romansky, Len & Linda Ronczka, Pam Shoup, Jeffrey & Heidi Sloboda, Chris & Bob Smearcheck, Lorrie & Thomas

Smith, Brad & Glenda Smith, Jerry & Sandi Stefan, Virginia & James Stewart, Karen & Robert Vitek, Danita & Jim Yannacci, Carrie, Ron & Le Ella Zemba, Liz

Sponsor (\$50) Sponsor (\$50)
Beckner, Beth A. Ujevich
Brunetta, Rebecca
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Einsporn, Ann
Evans, James & Sue
Faix, Donna & Michael
Fromm, Edwin & Jane
Goodman, Deb
Haber, David & Sheryl
Halden, Daniel
Jackman, Robert
Klingensmith, Al & Klingensmith, Al & Genevieve

Kustra, Mike & Michael Lincoln, Grace Lincoln, Grace
Loughran, Sally
Marcavitch, Marge
Markle Jr. VMD, Howard
Martz, Lori & William
Migyanka, Janice
Mock, Carol & John
Morgan, Patti
Muir, N. G. Bridges & D.L.
O'Black, Marge
Painter, R.C.
Rohrbacher, Harry
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Associate (\$100)

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Dinsmore, Grant
Dominicis, Carol & David
Forbes, Tom & Margie
Gilligan, Judy
Hensler, Richard, Lori & JoAnne Hudson, Joyce Kaylor, Amy Keegan, Nancy Keeffer, John & Linda Kupec, Adam & Melissa Trak

Lendl, Jeanette
Levandosky, Sandy
Marks, Rev Robert & Sharon
Moyer, Mauritta
Murray, Kathy
Plummer, Dr & Mrs. Lloyd
Roberts, Donna
Rohrbacher, Harry
Sano, Madison
Sarson, Marcella
Silvania, Judith & Wayne
Studley, Joy & Nick
Whittemore, Allen

Patron (\$250) Knapp & Rick Neil, Judith Osborne, Marcia

Sustaining (\$500) Patricia Jacobina Family

Lifetime (\$1,000) Louise Anderson Ethel Benzer Bail Milton Clawson
Linda & Bernie Cramer
Bob & Cindy Harlan
Powerex Employees
George Smeltzer
Charlotte Stephenson
Kathi Zoldan Kathi Zaidan

### Board of Directors

Beth Shoaf, Executive Director Marcia Osborne, President Jim Vaughan, Sec/Treas. Shannon Kozakiewicz Judi Wilson

# Advisory Board

Pat Davis Paula Petrulak Dr. Robert Wagner, VMD

# Staff

Beth Shoaf, Sr Rehabilitator Morgan Barron, Rehabilitator Monica Leuthold, Office Manager Carol DaRold & Elizabeth Ringstad Animal Care Technicians Michael Smith, Groundskeeper

# Volunteer Office Staff

Allison Checkeye, Webmaster Julie Cursi, Webmaster Melissa Morris, Office Assistant Pat Fennema, Telephone Liason Sue Wiseman, Newsletter Editor



# Other 2020 Friends

Amy & Dana Kaylor

### In-Kind Goods Donors

**GROUPS & BUSINESSES:** Cabin Hill Maytag CARA: Crafters & Artisans for Rescued Animals **Daniels Excavating** Giant Eagle Eastgate Giant Eagle Hempfield
Giant Eagle N. Huntingdon Jimmy's Ľive Bait Moon Veterinary Hospital Mt. View Elem Girl Scouts St. Vincent Biology Dept.

### **INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:**

Janet Baird Kate & Kevin Bannon **Ethel Barbus** Susan Frost Benzo Susan & Ray Bernick Cindy Bombach Juliann Botten Mai Brna Rebecca Brunetta Vince Clemens Jennifer Coligan Bill DeBone Abby Diamond Crystal Ennis Pat Fennema Heather Flanegan Nancy Gaffron Heather Gembarosky Cindy Grimm
David & Angie Haggerty Eric Hamilton Linda Haun Denise Hausel Helen Hawley John & Alice Hearley Sharon Hoover Tom Jones

Vicky Kaylor Susan Knetzer Debi Kollar Sandy Strychor & David Kost Al & Barb Kustra Anita Lampus Dennis & Mary Law Annette Luty Jesse Lynn Sarah Maruschock Melissa McGhoe Scott McMullen Deb Milito Family & Friends Tina Moore Kimberly Moss Lori Mozina-Ogurchak Jim Murray Marcia Osborne Karen Pushic Fred Quast Todd & Michelle Quiggle Melissa Rosh Rebecca Russell Mike Sampson Lori Schall Gordon & Susan Scherff Dana Shondelmyer **Betty Simons** Elaine Smartnick Antionette & Sammy Smith Melissa Sommer Jane & Matt Southern Sandy Sten Dawn Szalay Guss Taylor Family Jadyn Ulrich Candy Valentino Kathy Walsh Andi Ward Leslie Woncheck Sarah Yandura

In-Kind Service Donors Bob & Marsha Callaro Cramer Janicki Dr. Daniel Teet Dr. Robert Wagner, VMD Dr. Stephen & Amber Treese Green Hill Veterinary **Kvet Animal Care** PVSEC & Dr. Michael Doornink, Dr. John Payne & Dr. John Anderson Rich Lawson Richard Patterson, CPA Ron & Karen Rothrauff Todd Vezzani Maintenance

Fundraising Volunteers Betty Simons\* Barb Urban Elizabeth Ringstad\*\* Greensburg Newsstand Jess Evančhak\* Julie's Full Service Salon Ken Williams Linda Conyette Lori Bell Marlene Maggio Michelle Gricks Mike DiFranco Nancy Gaffron Rita ĎeBlock Stacy Ryan Suzanne Weightman \*Mary Kay Fundraiser \*\* Facebook Fundraiser

Special Projects Franklin Regional HS PAWS for a Cause Club Sandy Sten

# Ways to Support WWI

| □ GENERAL OPERATIONS □ ADOPT-A-WILDLING □ \$1,000 - Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Osprey □ \$250 - Barred Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron □ \$100 - American Kestrel, Cooper's Hawk, Screech-Owl □ \$50 - Gray Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Woodpecker |  | To make a donation, complete this form and send it with your check or money order, payable to Wildlife Works, Inc., to PO Box 113, Youngwood, PA 15697. |           |  |
|--|--|---|-----------|--|
|  |  | Name  |           |  |
|  |  | Address   |           |  |
| □ \$25 - Canada Goose, Hummingbird, Opossum<br>□ \$10 - Box Turtle, Songbird, Cottontail Rabbit  | City, State, Zip   |   |           |  |
| -  |  | Phone(s)  |           |  |
| □ MEMBERSHIP   |  | Email   |           |  |
| <ul><li>☐ Youth - \$5</li><li>☐ Family or Classroom - \$25</li><li>☐ Associate - \$100</li><li>☐ Sustaining - \$500</li></ul>  | <ul><li>□ Individual - \$15</li><li>□ Sponsor - \$50</li><li>□ Patron - \$250</li><li>□ Lifetime - \$1,000</li></ul> | All contributions are tax deductible.  Thank you for your support!!!!   | AND CHAIR |  |

# MORE WAYS TO HELP

USE AMAZON SMILE- Amazon Smile donates a portion of your qualified online purchases to WWI. You must open your online account through smile.amazon.com - not amazon.com. Then select Wildlife Works as your charity. Total raised since 2015 is \$1,142.

**CONSIDER A LEGACY -** Please consider remembering WWI in your will. Future bequests can be invaluable for WWI to help us continue to grow to meet the ever-increasing numbers of wildlings in need and to assure the future of WWI.

**SHARE WWI WITH A FRIEND -** A main source of support is individual donations. Please share this newsletter with others.

**FIND A HOME FOR A WWI DONATION Can -** WWI donation cans allow the public to donate their change. Since 2002, WWI received **\$4,037** from donation cans. If you know a business or an event that would support WWI, please call us.

**BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS** - If friends and family insist on buying gifts you really don't need, suggest a donation to WWI in your name. We'll gladly send them an acknowledgement.

**MEMORIALS AND HONORIUMS -** Remember and honor those you love through a gift to help wildlife. Families and individuals will be sent an acknowledgement card and individuals and donors will be recognized in our Winter/Spring newsletter (see page 7).

**RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES** - Drop off your empty ink cartridges today. Since 2005, WWI has earned \$1,319 by recycling these items.

**UNITED WAY** – Participate in the United Way payroll deduction campaign at your workplace by writing in #223-199 Wildlife Works Inc.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS** - WWI is happy to accommodate Eagle Scout candidates.

**STOCK DONATIONS** - WWI has an account set up to receive donations of stocks that we can turn over to help increase our income.

### Two Very Special Thank You's

**ANTHROCON** - We were very excited last year to be chosen as the 2020 annual charity for the Anthrocon Convention in Pittsburgh. Unfortunately the convention was cancelled due to Covid. The wonderful folks from Anthrocon, feeling badly that we were not going to benefit from their event, contacted us to say "a little something was being sent to help tide us over until next year." To our surprise, a check for \$30,000 came in the mail the next day! The Anthrocon Chairman shared that the bulk of that money came from attendees who chose to donate their admission monies to WWI rather than take a refund. We couldn't have been more grateful for that financial cushion in a very difficult year. Hopefully, Anthrocon will return to Pittsburgh this year, where we will still be their charity of choice. Thank you, Furries!

**CAROL AND JOHN DURCO** - A special shout out to Carol and John Durco for their constant and never-ending love and support for WWI. You guys are so appreciated!!



# **WISH LIST 2021**

If you, your school or organization would like to donate supplies or have a "Collection for Wildlife," it would help tremendously. You can purchase the items below or purchase these items from our wish list on Amazon.com. The link is on our website wildlifeworksinc.org. You can have them shipped directly to us.

Unsalted peanuts in the shell
Bird seed
Black oil sunflower/Scratch feed
Cob Corn
Canned corn
Paper towels
Unscented facial tissues
Chlorine Bleach
Laundry detergent
Dishwashing Detergent
Gift Cards (grocery, office
supply and pet stores)
Postage stamps



Wildlife Works, Inc. P.O. Box 113 Youngwood, PA 15697 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Greensburg, PA Permit # 1091

### **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### IMPORTANT

We are currently updating our mailing list. If we have not heard from you in the last 6 years your contact info will be removed unless you contact us.



**WWI'S MISSION** is to rehabilitate injured, ill and orphaned wildlife and educate the public on how to better co-exist with wildlife. WWI primarily serves Westmoreland County but also accepts raptors from surrounding counties.

**VOLUNTEERS** - There are 50-60 WWI volunteers, the majority of whom are animal care volunteers. Animal care volunteers are active every day of the year. In peak baby season, volunteers contribute approximately 50 hours daily!!!!

Additionally, the volunteer base includes several veteranarians and other professionals greatly adding to the high level of professionalism of WWI. In addition to caring for animals and educating the public, volunteers also raise a significant portion of the budget through events, sales, solicitations and program income. Without the dedication of these individuals WWI would not exist.

**STAFF** - There are currently five part-time paid positions at WWI: an office manager, two animal care technicians, one groundskeeper, and one senior rehabilitator. These positions provide essential support for year-round uninterrupted operations. Beth Shoaf, the senior rehabilitator, and rehabilitator Morgan Barron are licensed by the PA Game Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**FACILITY -** WWI operates from the Youngwood home-based facility of Beth Shoaf and several satellites in Westmoreland County.

**ADMISSION HOURS** - Are by appointment only and are dependent upon the availability of staff. The office is open 10AM-3PM Monday through Friday. Please leave a message during off hours. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

**Notice of Non-profit Status:** WWI is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit. The official registration and financial info of WWI may be obtained from the PA Dept of State at 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



# WILDLIFE WORKS INC.

STATISTICS 12/93 - 12/20 Total Wildlings Admitted - 14,172 Total Wildlings Released - 7,229

Wildlings Admitted 2020 - 1,099\*
\*Includes nontreatables (~37% of admissions!)
Wildlings Released 2020 - 404

Avg Annual Admissions (last 5 yrs) - 720 Avg Cost/Wildling (last 5 yrs) - \$48.57

EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2004-2020 - 295 Estimated Individuals Reached - 20,400