

The Wildlife Center of Virginia

2014 Annual Report



The Wildlife Center of Virginia... a hospital for native wildlife

During 2014, the Wildlife Center admitted 2,427 patients — sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals in need.

Among the 2014 patients were:

- 345 Eastern Cottontails;
- 195 Virginia Opossums;
- 153 Eastern Gray Squirrels;
- 113 Eastern Box Turtles;
- 38 Bald Eagles ... and a Golden Eagle;
- One Bobcat, an Eastern Fence Lizard, and a Green Anole.



"That's what I'm talking about." Ed Clark releasing Bald Eagle #14-1905 in August at Claytor Lake State Park near Dublin.

Cover Photo: Maggie the Peregrine Falcon.
Photo by Scott Turnmeyer — www.scotttyphoto.com



On April 2, the Center received a call about an odd bird in Waynesboro. The caller described a purple and blue bird, about the size of a pigeon, with long legs [like a chicken], a long pointy beak, and a bright spot on its head. Was this for real — or a late April Fool's prank?

It turns out that was a spot-on description of a Purple Gallinule — Patient #14-0204. The gallinule, normally found in the marshlands of Central and South America, was treated for a small puncture wound — likely the result of a cat attack — and was released on April 7 near Virginia Beach.

At the Wildlife Center, we treat to release

During 2014, the Center released a record-setting 11 Bald Eagles, at locations all across Virginia. Three of these eagles were equipped with GPS transmitters that allow us to track their travels!

■ On August 20, Wildlife Center President Ed Clark released two young eagles outfitted with transmitters at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Virginia's Eastern Shore. One of those eagles — "C46" — headed north, into Maryland and Delaware.

■ The other eagle — "C35" — has wandered even farther afield, exploring parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

■ On December 23, an immature male Bald Eagle was released at Natural Chimneys Park in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The bird started traveling south ... and by January 25 [about a month after his release] was checking in from South Carolina — more than 300 miles from his release site.

To find out the whereabouts of these three eagles — and NX — visit the "Eagle Tracking" section of the Center's website, at: <http://wildlifecenter.org/critter-corner/success-stories>

2014 patient admissions

Total Admissions 2,427

Mammals [1,037 patients]

American Beaver	2
American Black Bear	17
Big Brown Bat	36
Bobcat	1
Eastern Chipmunk	8
Eastern Cottontail	345
Eastern Gray Fox	10
Eastern Gray Squirrel	153
Eastern Mole	1
Eastern Red Bat	4
Evening Bat	1
Gray Bat	1
House Mouse	12
Least Shrew	1
Meadow Vole	1
Norway Rat	1
Raccoon	43
Red Bat	1
Red Fox	24
Short-tailed Shrew	2
Silver-haired Bat	2
Southern Flying Squirrel	6
Striped Skunk	40
Unidentified Bat	3
Unidentified Rodent	6
Virginia Opossum	195
White-footed Mouse	12
White-tailed Deer	87
Woodchuck	22

Reptiles and Amphibians [163]

American Bullfrog	1
Eastern American Toad	3
Eastern Box Turtle	113
Eastern Fence Lizard	1
Eastern Gartersnake	2
Eastern Mud Turtle	1
Eastern Musk Turtle	1
Eastern Painted Turtle	11
Eastern Ratsnake	5
Eastern River Cooter	1
Gray Treefrog	1
Green Anole	1
Green Frog	3
Mole Kingsnake	1
Northern Black Racer	1
Red Cornsnake	4
Snapping Turtle	12
Wood Turtle	1

Raptors and Vultures [320]

American Kestrel	2
Bald Eagle	38
Barn Owl	10
Barred Owl	25
Black Vulture	10

Broad-winged Hawk	13
Cooper's Hawk	17
Eastern Screech-Owl	83
Golden Eagle	1
Great Horned Owl	25
Merlin	1
Osprey	3
Peregrine Falcon	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	23
Red-tailed Hawk	40
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Turkey Vulture	24

Passerines [Songbirds] [576]

American Crow	28
American Goldfinch	11
American Robin	105
Barn Swallow	1
Blue Jay	37
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Brown Thrasher	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	7
Carolina Chickadee	3
Caroline Wren	14
Cedar Waxwing	9
Chipping Sparrow	11
Common Grackle	37
Common Yellowthroat	1
Dark-eyed Junco	2
Eastern Bluebird	14
Eastern Kingbird	1
Eastern Phoebe	7
Eastern Towhee	1
European Starling	112
Fish Crow	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Gray Catbird	15
Great Crested Flycatcher	4
Hermit Thrush	1
Horned Lark	2
House Finch	33
House Sparrow	36
House Wren	1
Indigo Bunting	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Northern Cardinal	32
Northern Mockingbird	13
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2
Orchard Oriole	1
Purple Martin	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Scarlet Tanager	1
Song Sparrow	1
Tree Swallow	8
Tufted Titmouse	6
Unidentified Passerine	2
White-throated Sparrow	2
Willow Flycatcher	1



Wood Thrush	1
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Other Birds [331]

American Bittern	1
American Coot	2
American Woodcock	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	1
Canada Goose	33
Chimney Swift	17
Common Loon	1
Common Nighthawk	1
Domestic Dove	1
Domestic Waterfowl	5
Double-crested Cormorant	1
Downy Woodpecker	7
Great Blue Heron	12
Herring Gull	1
Horned Grebe	6
Killdeer	1
Laughing Gull	1
Little Gull	1
Long-tailed Duck	1
Mallard	61
Mourning Dove	58
Northern Bobwhite	1
Northern Flicker	10
Pileated Woodpecker	5
Purple Gallinule	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	8
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Red-throated Loon	1
Ring-billed Gull	3
Ring-necked Dove	1
Rock Dove	23
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12
Ruddy Duck	2
Ruffed Grouse	1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1
White-winged Scoter	1
Wild Turkey	6
Wood Duck	35
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2



Amanda
and Maggie.

Introducing... Maggie

In April, a Peregrine Falcon hatched atop a bank building in downtown Richmond — in a nest that was featured on the live-streaming Richmond Falcon Cam. A peregrine nest is pretty rare in Virginia — there are only about two dozen known active nests in the Commonwealth, and the Richmond cam-chick was one of only 46 peregrines hatched in Virginia during 2014 to survive to banding age.

This falcon took her first flights on June 17; two days later, she crashed into a building. The peregrine was brought to the Wildlife Center — Patient #14-1319. The peregrine had sustained serious damage to her left eye; after a month of treatment, Center vets had to surgically remove the damaged eye.

And, with only one eye, the bird cannot be returned to the wild.

Center outreach staff began working with the bird, grooming her for a possible career as an education animal. While Peregrine Falcons are often high-strung and noisy, this bird seemed to settle in well and was deemed ready to join the Center's corps of resident environmental ambassadors.

With this progression, it was time to give this bird a name. The right to name the Peregrine Falcon was one of the items auctioned off at the Center's annual gala in November. A cabal of secret schemers pooled their funds and won — and assigned naming responsibilities to Outreach Director Amanda Nicholson, one of the peregrine's trainers.

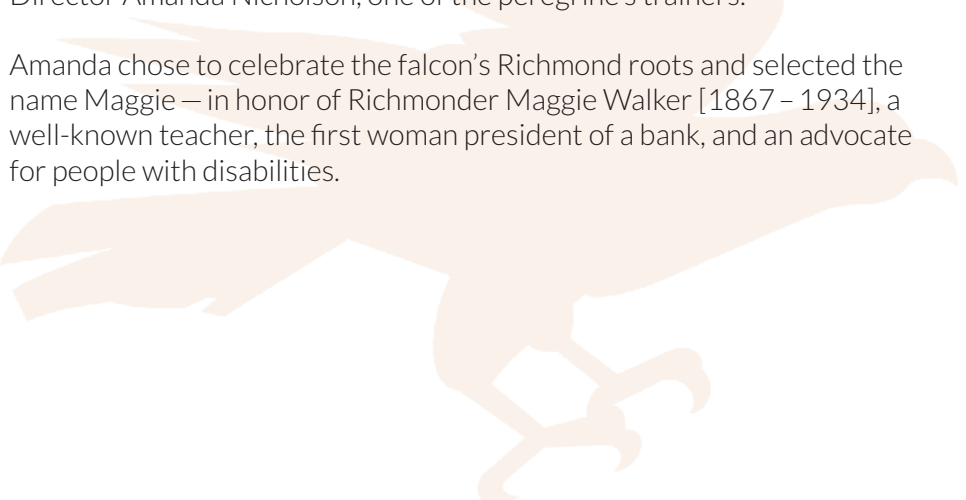
Amanda chose to celebrate the falcon's Richmond roots and selected the name Maggie — in honor of Richmonder Maggie Walker [1867 – 1934], a well-known teacher, the first woman president of a bank, and an advocate for people with disabilities.



Photo by Scott Turnmeyer — www.scotttyphoto.com



Photo courtesy of Dan Addison

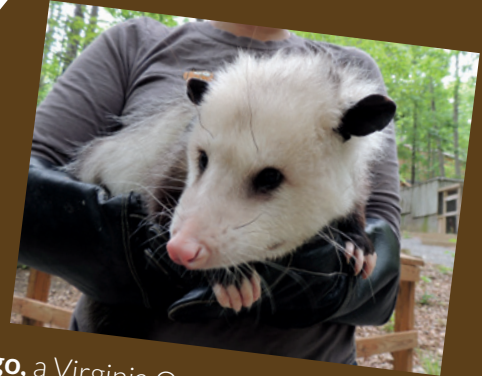


Meet the new ambassadors!

During 2014, in addition to Maggie, the Center welcomed three new wildlife ambassadors!



Mama BADO, a Barred Owl, was likely hit by a car in Lexington and sustained significant damage to both eyes. Although non-releasable, Mama BADO now serves as a surrogate “role model” for young Barred Owl patients, helping them to develop natural owl behaviors.



Pogo, a Virginia Opossum, was found in the spring of 2013 after his mother was killed by a car. Pogo's rescuers illegally kept him as a pet for a year; when he arrived at the Wildlife Center in May 2014, he was too friendly to be released back into the wild. Pogo was named for the opossum in a comic strip that played an important role in launching the very first Earth Day in 1970.



Max, a Cornsnake, was purchased at a pet store in North Carolina and kept as a family pet for several years before he was given to the Center in January 2014. Because Max has lived his whole life in captivity, he couldn't protect himself, find food, or locate shelter in the wild. As a permanent education resident, Max reminds us that wild animals shouldn't be taken as pets.

Financials

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a 501(c)(3) organization that depends primarily on private donations — not federal, state, or local government funding — for its programs and services. The Center works hard to be an effective and efficient non-profit — we strive to keep our administrative and fundraising costs to a minimum so that we can do the best job possible as a wildlife hospital and education center.

Here's a snapshot of the Center's revenue and expenditures for 2014:

2014 Revenue

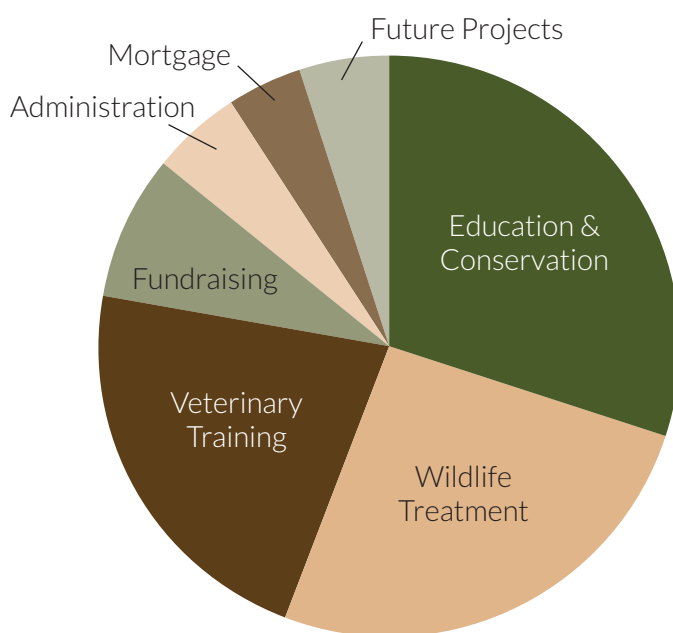
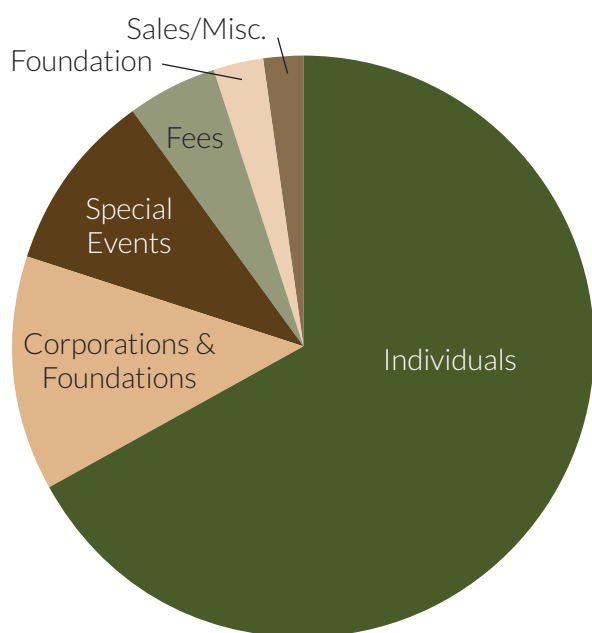
Individuals	\$864,154	67%
Corporations/Foundation	163,810	13%
Special Events [net]	133,287	10%
Program Fees	66,088	5%
Wildlife Center Foundation	34,000	3%
Sales/Miscellaneous	21,680	2%

TOTAL REVENUE **\$1,283,019** **100%**

2014 Expense

Education and Conservation	\$385,552	30%
Wildlife Treatment	333,268	26%
Veterinary Training	282,157	22%
Fundraising	100,233	8%
Administration	63,934	5%
Mortgage	53,759	4%
Future Projects	64,116	5%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$1,283,019** **100%**



A financial statement for the most recent fiscal year is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond VA 23209; 804.786.1343. Financial statements are also posted on the Center's website.



“A hospital for native wildlife, teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment.”

During 2014, the Wildlife Center:

- Presented environmental education programs in classrooms and public libraries across Virginia and gave special presentations and tours at the Center, reaching nearly 6,000 adults and more than 13,000 children. These programs featured some of the Center’s education ambassadors and reinforced the steps that each of us — **any** of us — can take to protect wildlife and the environment.
- Continued *Critter Cam*, a live online broadcast and moderated discussion on the Center’s website. *Critter Cam* allows wildlife enthusiasts around the world to watch a variety of hawks, owls, and other patients — and to check in on Buddy, the Center’s beloved resident Bald Eagle.
- Provided hands-on professional training opportunities in wildlife veterinary medicine and rehabilitation for 63 professionals and students from across the United States ... and from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- Hosted record crowds at the Center’s Annual Gala Benefit and Auction and the *Call of the Wild* rehabilitation conference.



Mark your calendars and save the dates — the Center’s Gala and Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday, October 17. And the 20th Annual *Call of the Wild* conference is set for November 13 – 15.



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Board and staff as of January 2015.



Buttercup's Summer Vacation

Buttercup, the Center's charismatic resident Black Vulture, has inspired several Wildlife Center products — a carrion tote bag, and a *Keep Calm and Carrion* t-shirt. This summer, Buttercup fans from across the country — and around the world — sent us pictures.



Photos posted to the Center's Facebook page.





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