



Wildlife Center of Virginia

2020

Annual Report

A Record Caseload

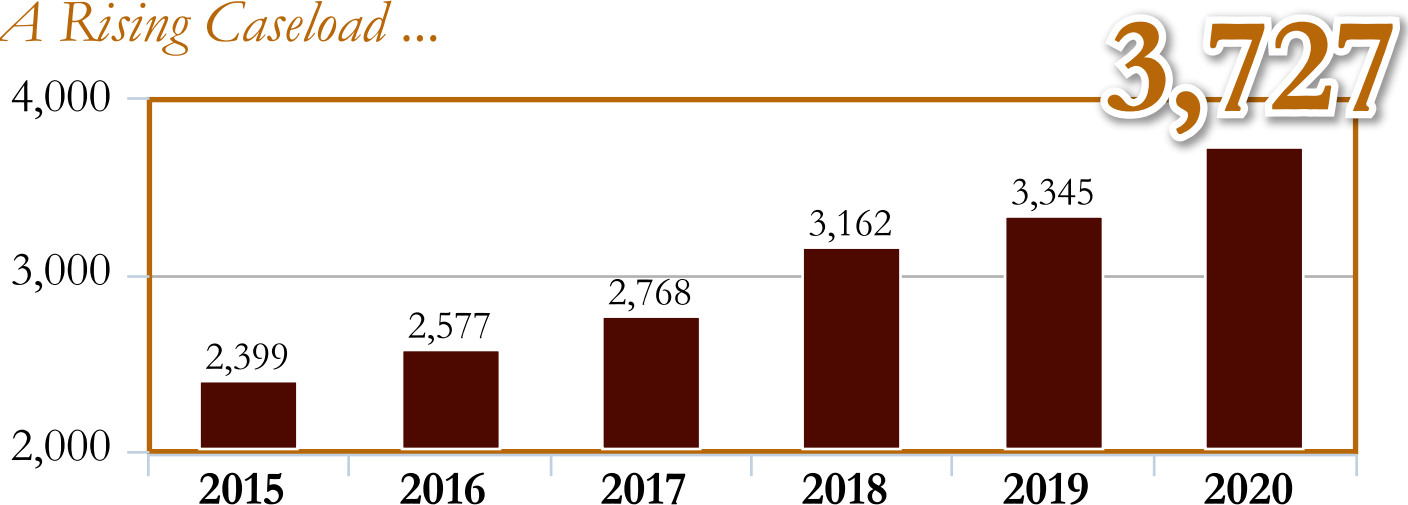
During 2020, the Wildlife Center of Virginia admitted 3,727 patients – the highest caseload in the Center’s 38-year history.

The year started with the admission of an Eastern Screech-Owl on January 1 ... and ended with the admission of a Red-shouldered Hawk on December 31. Among the patients admitted during 2020 were:

- 102 Cliff Swallows, including 98 birds admitted on June 19. These young birds were rescued from nests on a bridge across the Rappahannock River just outside of Fredericksburg – nests imperiled by a multi-month reconstruction project.
- 39 Bald Eagles, including eagles that were hit by cars or, in one case, hit by a plane ... an eagle that had been shot ... young eaglets rescued after storms destroyed their nests ... eagles poisoned by lead ...
- A male Mallard, rescued in early March from a roadside in Fauquier County; the duck [perhaps hit by a car?] had a leg fracture near the ankle. The Center’s veterinary team custom-crafted a special “boot” – a padded splint to stabilize and protect the ankle during healing. The boot did the trick – the leg fracture healed and, on April 5, Dr. Karra released the feisty Mallard at a park in northern Virginia.



A Rising Caseload ...



Patient Admissions

Mammals [1,837 patients]

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| 31 | American Black Bear |
| 15 | Big Brown Bat |
| 1 | Black Rat |
| 1 | Coyote |
| 58 | Deer Mouse |
| 19 | Eastern Chipmunk |
| 611 | Eastern Cottontail |
| 6 | Eastern Fox Squirrel |
| 298 | Eastern Gray Squirrel |
| 9 | Eastern Red Bat |
| 1 | Evening Bat |
| 5 | Gray Fox |
| 1 | Hispid Cotton Rat |
| 20 | House Mouse |
| 2 | Least Shrew |
| 1 | Long-tailed Weasel |
| 1 | Meadow Vole |
| 1 | Mink |
| 1 | Muskrat |
| 1 | North American River Otter |
| 1 | Northern Short-tailed Shrew |
| 1 | Norway Rat |
| 107 | Raccoon |
| 1 | Red Bat |
| 38 | Red Fox |
| 6 | Short-tailed Shrew |
| 2 | Silver-haired Bat |
| 19 | Southern Flying Squirrel |
| 29 | Striped Skunk |
| 4 | Undetermined Mammal |
| 406 | Virginia Opossum |
| 1 | White-footed Mouse |
| 122 | White-tailed Deer |
| 17 | Woodchuck |

Reptiles and Amphibians [318]

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| 7 | Eastern American Toad |
| 1 | Eastern Copperhead |
| 3 | Eastern Gartersnake |
| 1 | Eastern Hog-nosed Snake |
| 3 | Eastern Musk Turtle |
| 30 | Eastern Painted Turtle |
| 26 | Eastern Ratsnake |
| 5 | Eastern River Cooter |
| 4 | Fowler's Toad |
| 2 | Green Frog |
| 1 | Green Treefrog |
| 3 | Northern Black Racer |
| 1 | Northern Cottonmouth |
| 3 | Northern Red-bellied Cooter |
| 1 | Northern Ring-necked Snake |
| 1 | Northern Water Snake |
| 1 | Red Cornsnake |
| 1 | Red-eared Slider |
| 27 | Snapping Turtle |
| 1 | Spotted Salamander |
| 1 | Striped Mud Turtle |
| 193 | Woodland Box Turtle |
| 2 | Yellow-bellied Slider |

Total Admissions

3,727

Passerines [Songbirds] [953]

| | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 19 | American Crow |
| 5 | American Goldfinch |
| 128 | American Robin |
| 1 | Baltimore Oriole |
| 8 | Barn Swallow |
| 1 | Blackpoll Warbler |
| 51 | Blue Jay |
| 2 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| 14 | Brown Thrasher |
| 5 | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 1 | Cape May Warbler |
| 1 | Carolina Chickadee |
| 83 | Carolina Wren |
| 8 | Cedar Waxwing |
| 4 | Chipping Sparrow |
| 102 | Cliff Swallow |
| 35 | Common Grackle |
| 2 | Common Raven |
| 2 | Dark-eyed Junco |
| 20 | Eastern Bluebird |
| 18 | Eastern Phoebe |
| 2 | Eastern Towhee |
| 47 | European Starling |
| 1 | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 16 | Gray Catbird |
| 3 | Great Crested Flycatcher |
| 1 | Hermit Thrush |
| 55 | House Finch |
| 51 | House Sparrow |
| 2 | House Wren |
| 3 | Indigo Bunting |
| 2 | Magnolia Warbler |
| 85 | Mourning Dove |
| 67 | Northern Cardinal |
| 21 | Northern Mockingbird |
| 2 | Ovenbird |
| 2 | Pine Siskin |
| 2 | Pine Warbler |
| 6 | Purple Finch |
| 1 | Purple Martin |
| 4 | Red-eyed Vireo |
| 3 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 2 | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 3 | Scarlet Tanager |
| 8 | Song Sparrow |
| 6 | Swainson's Thrush |
| 8 | Tree Swallow |
| 13 | Tufted Titmouse |
| 3 | Undetermined Bird |
| 8 | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 6 | White-throated Sparrow |
| 6 | Wood Thrush |
| 1 | Worm-eating Warbler |
| 3 | Yellow-rumped Warbler |

Other Birds [290]

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | American Coot |
| 1 | American Woodcock |
| 1 | Atlantic Puffin |
| 3 | Belted Kingfisher |
| 1 | Bufflehead |
| 31 | Canada Goose |
| 25 | Chimney Swift |
| 1 | Chuck-will's-widow |
| 1 | Clapper Rail |
| 5 | Common Loon |
| 1 | Common Nighthawk |
| 1 | Domestic Dove |
| 2 | Domestic Duck |
| 1 | Double-crested Cormorant |
| 14 | Downy Woodpecker |
| 2 | Eastern Whip-poor-will |
| 12 | Great Blue Heron |
| 1 | Great Egret |
| 1 | Green Heron |
| 2 | Hairy Woodpecker |
| 1 | Herring Gull |
| 2 | Killdeer |
| 60 | Mallard |
| 8 | Northern Flicker |
| 3 | Pied-billed Grebe |
| 10 | Pileated Woodpecker |
| 22 | Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| 4 | Red-headed Woodpecker |
| 2 | Ring-billed Gull |
| 9 | Rock Pigeon |
| 1 | Royal Tern |
| 22 | Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| 1 | Ruffed Grouse |
| 1 | Solitary Sandpiper |
| 1 | Sora |
| 5 | Wild Turkey |
| 18 | Wood Duck |
| 1 | Wood Stork |
| 5 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| 7 | Yellow-billed Cuckoo |

Raptors and Vultures [328]

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 2 | American Kestrel |
| 39 | Bald Eagle |
| 6 | Barn Owl |
| 35 | Barred Owl |
| 22 | Black Vulture |
| 7 | Broad-winged Hawk |
| 33 | Cooper's Hawk |
| 60 | Eastern Screech-Owl |
| 1 | Golden Eagle |
| 23 | Great Horned Owl |
| 1 | Long-eared Owl |
| 1 | Merlin |
| 2 | Osprey |
| 5 | Peregrine Falcon |
| 24 | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| 41 | Red-tailed Hawk |
| 4 | Sharp-shinned Hawk |
| 17 | Turkey Vulture |


And a Cecropia Moth!



The Year of the Bear

At the end of 2020, the Wildlife Center was caring for 21 Black Bear cubs – the highest number of bear patients in the Center's history!


These bears were born in January - February 2020 – we marked their “birthdays” on January 18, 2021, when the cubs became yearlings!



Cubs at the Wildlife Center start off with a specialized bear formula. They are slowly transitioned to more solid foods. By fall, the Center's bears are on an “adult” diet – with a daily ration for each bear of:

- Four pounds of fruit – apples, pears, grapes, melons, berries
- Two pounds of vegetables – carrots, squash, cucumbers, mushrooms, greens, green beans, cauliflower, broccoli
- Two pounds of protein – fish, eggs, nuts

Eight pounds per bear per day x 21 bears = 168 pounds of food daily!



The cubs admitted in February 2020 were quite small – only about two pounds each. By the time that they are released back into the wild, the bears will likely weigh in at about 100 pounds each.

The bears will be in the Center's care until they are ready to fend for themselves in the wild. Anticipated release date: April 2021.

Bear fans can check in on the bears from home – via *Critter Cam*! Check out the cubs through the Center's website – www.wildlifecenter.org.

The Year of the Pandemic

“Box Turtles have never heard of COVID-19; Black Bear cubs know nothing about social distancing; wildlife continues to be injured, or orphaned, or displaced. Our dedicated team will continue to care for these animals.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic intensified in March, the Center “locked down” – taking immediate steps to protect staff, students, volunteers, and the public while continuing to provide state-of-the-art emergency health-care to wild animals in need.

Like many human hospitals and health-care facilities, the Center changed admission procedures at the front desk, setting up an outdoor patient drop-off to minimize personal interactions between staff and the caring individuals bringing animals to the Center.

Because of COVID and travel restrictions, the Center’s veterinary health-care team worked for months without the help of students, volunteers, and externs – those vital “extra hands” that assist with animal feeding, rehabilitation, enrichment, and exercise.

And at the Center – the staff wore masks, maintained social distancing, and disinfected.

Throughout this difficult time, thanks to the steadfast support of our donors, the Center never closed its doors. We continued with regular hours; our front desk was always staffed; at least one of our staff veterinarians was in-clinic or on-call 24/7.



Teaching the world ... Online

During 2020, the Wildlife Center continued its engaging and innovative outreach and education efforts – online!



During the year, the Wildlife Center:

- Continued a dynamic website [www.wildlifecenter.org], featuring frequent updates on Center patients and Center events;
- Shared *Critter Cam*, a live web-based online broadcast featuring Center patients – rambunctious Black Bear cubs, recovering Bald Eagles, a Great Blue Heron, Great Horned Owl chicks – and resident education animals Buddy the Bald Eagle and Maggie the Peregrine Falcon;
- Presented online celebrations of Earth Day and Snake Day ... a live tour of the Center's raptor enclosures, and a live-stream Bald Eagle release ... question-and-answer sessions with Center staff ... a bimonthly interactive Book Club;
- In partnership with Virginia Public Media, presented a second season of *Untamed: Life is Wild*, an unprecedented behind-the-scenes look at the Center's lifesaving work. Episodes of *Untamed* are now being aired by public TV stations across the country. And mark your calendars – *Untamed* Season Three is scheduled to premiere on April 1;
- Hosted nearly 400 participants – the largest group ever – at the annual *Call of the Wild* wildlife rehabilitation conference, and reached some 250 rehabilitators and educators through the Wildlife Care Academy;
- Celebrated the Center's 36th annual Gala! Highlights of the week-long celebration included a discussion with Center President Ed Clark on releasing Bald Eagles ... a session with the Center's "bear care" team ... a "where are they now" conversation with former Center health-care practitioners ... and a fabulous online auction!

2020 Financials

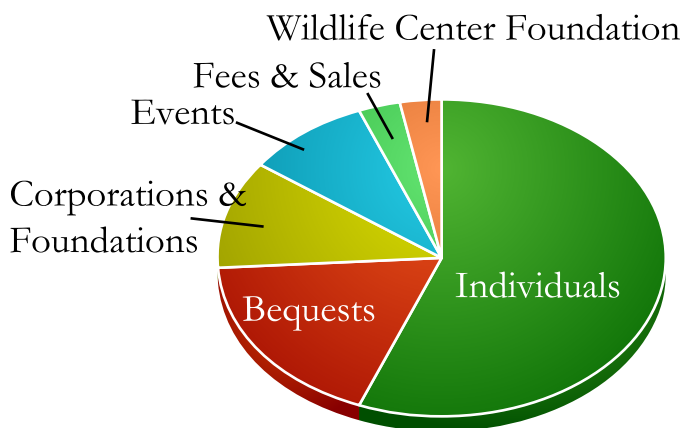
The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a 501(c)(3) organization that depends on private donations – not federal, state, or local government funding – for its programs and services. The Center works hard to be an effective and efficient non-profit – we strive to keep our administrative and fundraising costs 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 revenues and expenditures for 2020:

2020 Revenues

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Individuals | \$957,937 | 56% |
| Bequests | 303,164 | 18% |
| Corporations/Foundation | 183,164 | 11% |
| Events [net] | 161,821 | 9% |
| Program Fees/Sales | 58,755 | 3% |
| Wildlife Center Foundation | 49,000 | 3% |

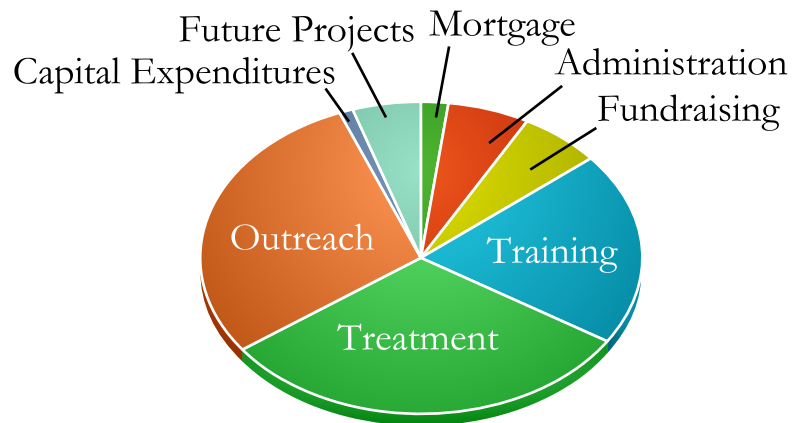
\$1,713,841 100%



2020 Expenditures

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----|
| Treatment | \$534,006 | 31% |
| Training | 343,067 | 20% |
| Outreach/Conservation | 499,686 | 29% |
| Fundraising | 96,969 | 6% |
| Administration | 101,538 | 6% |
| Mortgage | 41,671 | 2% |
| Capital Expenditures | 11,048 | 1% |
| Future Projects | 85,856 | 5% |

\$1,713,841 100%



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.



Buttercup and Edie

During 2020, the Center said goodbye to several long-time education ambassadors, including:

Buttercup the Black Vulture



Hatched in captivity at the Maymont Nature Center in Richmond in 2004, Buttercup imprinted on a human caregiver and could not be released to the wild. Buttercup came to live at the Center in September 2011.

Buttercup was a mainstay of every open-house tour, field trip, and visit to the Center. During his tenure, he appeared in more than 730 programs and met more than 21,000 children and adults.

While some people might at first think that vultures are gross and unappealing, Buttercup's charisma and playfulness made him one of the more popular birds at the Center. He even inspired his own line of Buttercup products – a Keep Calm and Carrion t-shirt ... and a Buttercup Carrion Bag.

Edie the American Kestrel



Edie hatched in Roanoke in the spring of 2005. Her nest tree was damaged in a storm, and her rescuers kept her for several days before taking her to a local wildlife rehabilitator. Unfortunately, during this process, Edie imprinted on people, making her non-releasable; she joined the Center's education team later that same summer.

During Edie's 15+ years at the Center, she met more than 70,000 people and appeared at more than 1,500 programs. Small in size but huge in personality, she traveled to elementary schools, libraries, fairs, and receptions. At home, Edie was often "front-and-center" in her enclosure, keeping a watchful eye on the comings-and-goings of Center staff.



The Wildlife Center of Virginia

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