During 2015, the Wildlife Center admitted 2,339 patients – sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals in need.

Among the 2015 patients were:

- 320 Eastern Cottontails;
- 197 Virginia Opossums;
- 191 Eastern Gray Squirrels;
- 35 Bald Eagles. During 2015, the Center released 10 eagles, and most of those birds were outfitted with transmitters – tiny units that allow us to track these eagles’ travels after they are released.

At the beginning of 2016, we were receiving periodic updates from eight eagles. On New Year’s Day [more or less], six of these eagles were in Virginia; one had just flown up into Delaware, and one was ‘wintering’ in South Carolina.

AND … we continue to receive periodic updates from NX! Center Eagle fans will remember NX as one of the three “rock star” eaglets from the Norfolk Botanical Garden, admitted to the Center after their mother was killed. When NX was released later that year, and re-released in May 2012 after her recovery from an injury, she had a transmitter, which was expected to function for two years – until summer/fall 2013.

But … it keeps on tickin’. The NX transmitter continued to function throughout 2014 and 2015. Admittedly, the check-ins are growing less and less frequent, and there are increasing gaps in the data. But the transmitter has far exceeded its expected life, and we've received a multi-year look at the travels of an eagle successfully rehabilitated by the Center.

So … where has she been? Compared to some of the Center eagles, NX has been something of a homebody. NX was re-released in May 2012 at the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge near Warsaw, VA. Since that time she has meandered up and down the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. Other than a few brief forays across the Potomac into Maryland … she's been a Virginia bird.

To check out the latest reports from the Center’s eagle transmitters, please visit http://wildlifecenter.org/critter-corner/success-stories.
# 2015 patient admissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Admissions:</th>
<th>2,339</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Mammals [1,076 patients]
- American Beaver: 2
- American Black Bear: 18
- American Mink: 1
- Big Brown Bat: 33
- Coyote: 10
- Domestic Rabbit: 5
- Eastern Chipmunk: 2
- Eastern Cottontail: 320
- Eastern Fox Squirrel: 5
- Eastern Mole: 1
- Eastern Red Bat: 11
- Eastern Woodrat: 1
- Gray Fox: 5
- Hoary Bat: 1
- House Mouse: 2
- Meadow Vole: 4
- Northern Long-earred Bat: 1
- Norway Rat: 2
- Pine Vole: 1
- Raccoon: 48
- Red Fox: 17
- Silver-haired Bat: 2
- Southern Flying Squirrel: 8
- Striped Skunk: 18
- Unidentified Bat: 2
- Unidentified Rodent: 1
- Virginia Opossum: 197
- White-footed Mouse: 52
- White-tailed Deer: 92
- Woodchuck: 21

## Reptiles and Amphibians [164]
- American Toad: 1
- Eastern Box Turtle: 110
- Eastern Hog-nosed Snake: 1
- Eastern Milk Snake: 1
- Eastern Musk Turtle: 1
- Eastern Painted Turtle: 12
- Eastern Ratsnake: 7
- Five-lined Skink: 1
- Green Frog: 1
- Northern Black Racer: 4
- Northern Rough Greensnake: 1
- Northern Watersnake: 1
- Queensnake: 1
- Red-eared Slider: 3
- Ring-necked Snake: 1
- Snapping Turtle: 14
- Unidentified Amphibian: 1
- Unidentified Reptile: 1
- Yellow-bellied Slider: 2

## Raptors and Vultures [283]
- American Kestrel: 9
- Bald Eagle: 35
- Barn Owl: 2
- Barred Owl: 18
- Black Vulture: 12
- Broad-winged Hawk: 1
- Cooper’s Hawk: 21
- Eastern Screech-Owl: 60
- Great Horned Owl: 31
- Long-eared Owl: 1
- Merlin: 1
- Northern Harrier: 1
- Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1
- Osprey: 3
- Peregrine Falcon: 2
- Red-shouldered Hawk: 13
- Red-tailed Hawk: 47
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6
- Turkey Vulture: 19

## Passerines [Songbirds] [576]
- American Crow: 33
- American Goldfinch: 11
- American Robin: 75
- Baltimore Oriole: 1
- Barn Swallow: 9
- Black-capped Chickadee: 1
- Blue Jay: 39
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2
- Brown Thrasher: 5
- Cedar Waxwing: 4
- Chipping Sparrow: 4
- Common Grackle: 21
- Common Raven: 1
- Common Yellowthroat: 2
- Dark-eyed Junco: 1
- Eastern Bluebird: 16
- Eastern Phoebe: 14
- Eastern Towhee: 2
- European Starling: 143
- Fish Crow: 2
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1
- Gray Catbird: 20
- Great Crested Flycatcher: 1
- Hermit Thrush: 3
- House Finch: 26
- House Sparrow: 28
- House Wren: 1
- Northern Cardinal: 25
- Northern Mockingbird: 11
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 6
- Ovenbird: 1
- Purple Martin: 1
- Red-eyed Vireo: 2
- Red-winged Blackbird: 1
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1
- Scarlet Tanager: 4
- Song Sparrow: 5
- Tree Swallow: 3

## Other Birds [240]
- Belted Kingfisher: 1
- Black-billed Cuckoo: 1
- Black-crowned Night Heron: 1
- Canada Goose: 27
- Canvasback: 1
- Chimney Swift: 25
- Common Loon: 6
- Domestic Fowl: 4
- Downy Woodpecker: 2
- Great Blue Heron: 6
- Green Heron: 2
- Hairy Woodpecker: 1
- Horned Grebe: 5
- Killdeer: 1
- Mallard: 23
- Mourning Dove: 56
- Northern Flicker: 5
- Pied-billed Grebe: 2
- Pileated Woodpecker: 8
- Red-bellied Woodpecker: 11
- Red-throated Loon: 1
- Ring-billed Gull: 1
- Ring-necked Duck: 1
- Rock Pigeon: 19
- Ruby-throated: 13
- Hummingbird: 1
- Ruddy Duck: 3
- Virginia Rail: 2
- Wild Turkey: 1
- Wood Duck: 6
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 4
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1
On January 13, 2015, the Wildlife Center admitted a Red-tailed Hawk that had been found down in a field in Page County.

The bird had been felled by a hunter.

No, this hawk had not been shot. And the hunter responsible was probably not even aware that his or her actions had almost taken the bird’s life.

The hawk came to the Center with acute lead poisoning. She had consumed the remains of an animal that had been shot by a hunter using lead-based ammunition. Radiographs revealed a fragment from a rifle bullet in the hawk’s digestive tract.

That tiny fragment produced levels of lead in the hawk’s bloodstream that left her fighting for her life.

Fortunately, in this case, timely intervention made the difference. The Center’s veterinary team immediately began twice-a-day chelation therapy to treat the hawk for lead poisoning – ultimately, the bird went through three rounds of this lead-cleansing treatment. The hawk spent time in the Center’s critical care chamber [supplemental oxygen] and was treated with antibiotics for infections and parasites.

Slowly but surely, the hawk regained strength. In March – after nearly two months of intensive care – the hawk was moved to an outdoor enclosure. The hawk spent five additional months in rehabilitation and recovery.

And on August 13 – seven months after her rescue – Wildlife Center President Ed Clark released that hawk back into the wild.

Get the lead out …

A few days after this hawk’s release, Ed Clark penned an op-ed piece for The News Virginian. In the piece, Ed noted that lead poisoning has caused the deaths of thousands of hawks, owls, vultures – even Bald Eagles!

And these poisoning deaths are entirely preventable.

“If hunters will simply switch from lead-based bullets and shot to the readily available ‘non-toxic’ shot, including the ballistically superior all-copper rifle bullets, the lead poisoning of raptors and avian scavengers can be eliminated,” Ed wrote.

“As a lifelong shooter and hunter, I personally made the switch to all-copper rifle ammunition more than 10 years ago,” Ed stated. “I don’t want to be responsible for killing a hawk or an eagle as a result of the ammo I choose to use.

“It is time for all who consider themselves to be conservation-minded sportsmen to do the same.”
At the Wildlife Center of Virginia, we treat to release!

**Snapping Turtle**
*Admitted:* April 22
*Released:* May 15, Culpeper County

**Black Vultures**
*Admitted:* May 13
*Released:* May 13, Fluvanna County

Two rescued baby vultures were placed in an active nest — with one “pre-existing” baby. The foster-mother vulture accepted these unexpected additions to her nest … and made good use of the supplemental food — dead rats and mice — provided by Dr. Dave McRuer, the Center’s Director of Veterinary Services.

**Bald Eagle**
*Admitted:* September 27
*Released:* December 22, Berkeley Plantation, Charles City County

**Great-Horned Owl**
*Admitted:* April 11
*Released:* October 16, Waynesboro

**White-tailed Deer [25]**
*Admitted:* May – June. Causes for admission include dog attack; orphaned; kidnapped [unnecessarily captured when found alone]
*Released:* October 7 – 8, Augusta County

**Snapping Turtle**
*Admitted:* April 22
*Released:* October 16, Waynesboro
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 2015:

### 2015 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$637,173</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>327,932</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations/Foundations</td>
<td>157,675</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events [net]</td>
<td>85,359</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>65,697</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Center Foundation</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales/miscellaneous</td>
<td>10,288</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,318,124</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education and Conservation</td>
<td>$413,456</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Treatment</td>
<td>324,385</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Training</td>
<td>253,464</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>122,135</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>69,920</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage</td>
<td>40,415</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future Projects</td>
<td>94,349</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,318,124</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2015, the Wildlife Center:

- Presented environmental education programs in classrooms and public libraries across Virginia and gave special presentations and tours at the Center, reaching more than 4,000 adults and more than 14,000 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 [www.wildlifecenter.org]. 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.

- Launched Hospital Cam, a monthly live-streaming “over-the-shoulder” look at the veterinary and rehabilitation team evaluating and treating patients.

- Provided hands-on professional training opportunities in wildlife veterinary medicine and rehabilitation in the Center’s Waynesboro clinic for 53 professionals and students from across the United States … and from Canada, Colombia, Ireland, Poland, and Taiwan.

- Provided training in wildlife medicine and non-profit management around the world – in Nepal, Russia, South Africa, and St. Kitts.

- Constructed a new outdoor enclosure for housing our Possum Posse – our resident Virginia Opossum wildlife ambassadors.

- Hosted 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 29. And the 21st Annual Call of the Wild conference is set for November 11 – 13.
In September 2015, the Center welcomed a new wildlife ambassador – an Eastern Hog-nosed Snake. While this species is native to Virginia, this snake had been kept as a pet. Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes prefer habitats with sandy or loose soil; they use their distinctive upturned noses to dig and burrow. Their diet consists mainly of toads.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this species is their array of defensive mechanisms. When threatened, hog-noses will rear up, flatten their heads, and inhale air to make their bodies appear larger. They will hiss and may strike with their mouths closed.

And if that doesn’t work …

Their next defensive maneuver is to play dead! The snake will flip over – belly up – and remain still until the danger passes. The snakes may even musk – release a smelly odor – to make themselves even less appealing to potential predators.

The Center held an online contest to come up with a fitting name for this fascinating snake. Students from three elementary schools – Churchville, Gordon-Barbour [Gordonsville], and Sewells Point [Norfolk] – suggested a name that recognized the hog-nose’s extensive range of acting skills – Oscar.

Oscar joins a corps of some two dozen environmental ambassadors, including [left to right] Pignoli, Jaz, Emma, Phebe, and Quinn.