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THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA  
2008 Annual Report

Since its founding in 1982, the Wildlife Center of Virginia has treated more than 51,000 animals.

But none has been more “famous” than the Bald Eagle that came to the Center in May 2008.

This eagle has hatched in late April at the Norfolk Botanical Garden and was the star of “EagleCam” – an online camera that enabled tens of thousands of individuals across the United States, and around the world, to watch this eagle’s nest.

But EagleCam watchers soon noticed a mysterious fast-growing lump on the side of the bird’s beak. On May 22, the eagle was taken from the nest by the state wildlife veterinarian and brought to the Wildlife Center in Waynesboro.

The lesion turned out to be an aggressive viral infection, known as Avian Pox. The bird was treated with antibiotics, antifungal drugs, pain medication, and interferon; the bird was x-rayed and taken to Augusta Medical Center [a “human” hospital] for an MRI. While the lesion responded to treatment, the aggressive growth caused a serious malformation of the eagle’s developing beak.

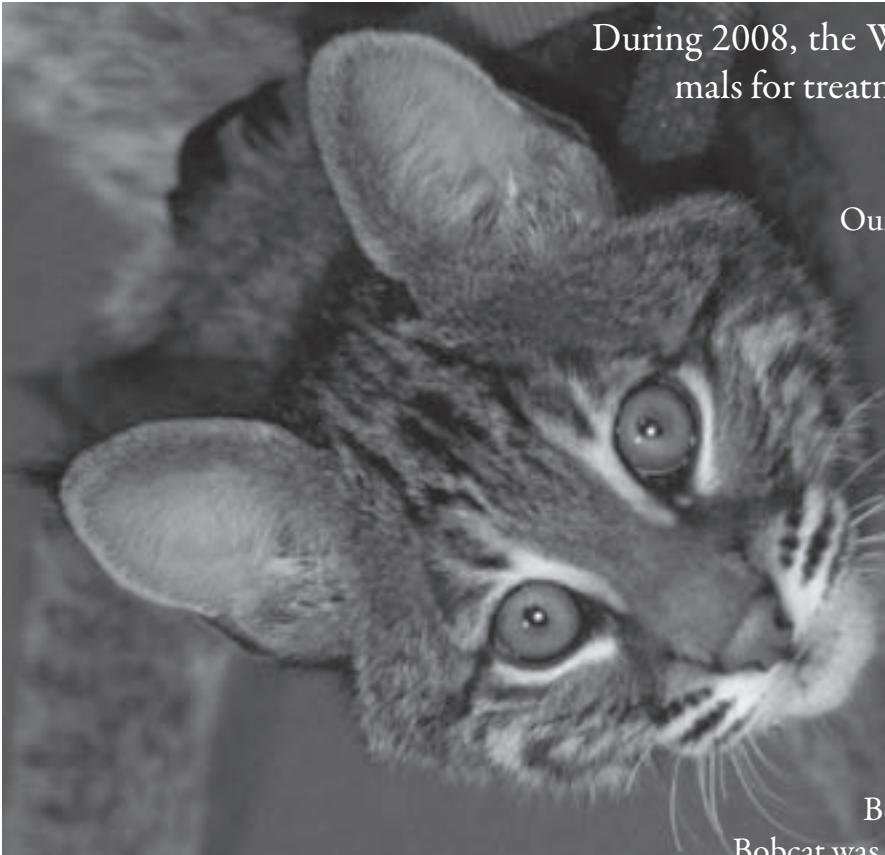
In July, the Wildlife Center veterinary team operated on the eagle – to clean out the remnants of the pox lesion and to repair damage to bone and beak tissue. To assist, the Center brought in Dr. R. Avery Bennett, Professor of Veterinary Clinical Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a veterinary known internationally for his surgical skills in complicated cases.

The Norfolk eagle’s young life was saved, but he is still a patient at the Wildlife Center. Center vets hope that the significant warp in the eagle’s beak will ultimately grow out straight. The eagle is now in one of the Center’s outdoor flight pens. He is brought into the clinic every few weeks for a beak trim and evaluation. His fans around the world continue to follow the case daily.

*Updates on the Norfolk eagle, and other Bald Eagles being treated at the Wildlife Center, are available through a special section of the Center’s website – [www.wildlifecenter.org](http://www.wildlifecenter.org).*



[Above] Center veterinary staff, assisted by Dr. Bennett [on right], prepare the Norfolk eagle for surgery. Photo courtesy of Meghan Lovett, *The Daily Progress*.



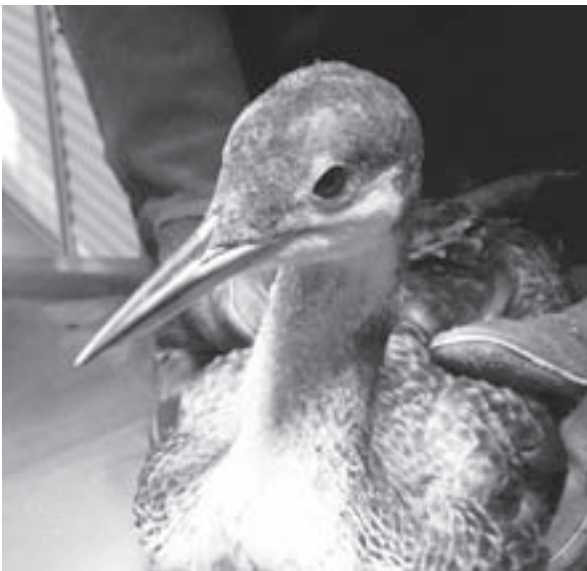
During 2008, the Wildlife Center admitted 2,469 animals for treatment – injured, ailing, and orphaned wildlife from all across Virginia.

Our 2008 patient-load included 125 species – from Patient #1, a Dark-eyed Junco, to Patient #2,469, a European Starling, and everything in between. Among them:

A young Bobcat was found along a highway in Bath County in mid-May and adopted by a local couple who thought he was a domestic kitten. After about three weeks in their home, the good Samaritans realized that this was not a domestic kitten, and the Bobcat came to the Wildlife Center.

Because of his habituation to humans, the Bobcat was deemed non-releasable. In August, he was transferred to his new permanent home – the Maymont Nature Park in Richmond.

Two young Great Horned Owlets were housed with Mama G’Ho – an ornery permanent resident of the Center who serves as a surrogate mother and “role model” for young owls. Under her tutelage, the two owlets learned how to fly and hunt and to make appropriate owl vocalizations. Both young owls were released back to the wild.



A Common Loon was found in May near the Green Valley Book Fair in Mount Crawford – an uncommon species for the Center but our 50,000th patient. The loon had suffered abrasions on both feet, having mistaken a parking-lot puddle for a deep pond, and was released back to the wild after a short stay.



# WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

## 2008 Patient Admissions

### Mammals

Bat	29
Black Bear	9
Bobcat	2
Coyote	2
Domestic Cat	1
Eastern Chipmunk	8
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	324
Eastern Fox Squirrel	6
Eastern Gray Squirrel	209
Gray Fox	4
Groundhog	22
Mink	1
Mouse	25
Muskrat	1
Raccoon	27
Red Fox	17
Shrew	1
Southern Flying Squirrel	14
Striped Skunk	13
Virginia Opossum	234
Vole	1
White-tailed Deer	73
Wood Rat	2

### Reptiles and Amphibians

African Spurred Tortoise	2
American Toad	1
Black Racer	1
Black Rat Snake	11
Common Snapping Turtle	14
Cope's Gray Treefrog	1

Corn Snake	1
Eastern Box Turtle	49
Eastern Painted Turtle	9
Garter Snake	6
Red-eared Slider	1
Wood Turtle	1
Yellow-bellied Slider	1

### Raptors

American Kestrel	8
Bald Eagle	25
Barn Owl	4
Barred Owl	18
Black Vulture	11
Broad-winged Hawk	10
Cooper's Hawk	31
Eastern Screech-Owl	74
Great Horned Owl	27
Merlin	1
Osprey	4
Peregrine Falcon	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	10
Red-tailed Hawk	53
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7
Snowy Owl	1
Turkey Vulture	11

### Passerines (Songbirds)

American Coot	1
American Crow	18
American Goldfinch	12
American Robin	137
Baltimore Oriole	1
Belted Kingfisher	2
Blue Jay	55
Brown Thrasher	4
Carolina Wren	9
Cedar Waxwing	7
Chickadee	7
Common Grackle	45
Common Raven	4
Dark-eyed Junco	3
Eastern Bluebird	20
Eastern Kingbird	1
Eastern Phoebe	14
Eastern Towhee	2
European Starling	89
Finch	35
Gray Catbird	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	1

House Wren	37
Indigo Bunting	3
Meadowlark	1
Northern Cardinal	31
Northern Mockingbird	21
Pine Siskin	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Sparrow	79
Swainson's Thrush	1
Tufted Titmouse	2
Unidentified Passerine	32
Warbler	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Wood Thrush	2

### Other Birds

American Woodcock	2
Barn Swallow	13
Bittern	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Canada Goose	43
Chimney Swift	31
Common Loon	1
Common Night Hawk	1
Domestic Dove	1
Domestic Duck	15
Domestic Goose	1
Domestic Turkey	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1
Downy Woodpecker	2
Great Blue Heron	8
Green Heron	2
Killdeer	1
Mallard	56
Mourning Dove	73
Northern Bobwhite	3
Northern Flicker	11
Pigeon	21
Pileated Woodpecker	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Ring-billed Gull	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8
Ruffed Grouse	5
Whip-poor-will	4
Wild Turkey	1
Wood Duck	23
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1

## The Wildlife Center is more than just a hospital. It's also a center for environmental education and professional training, reaching students across Virginia ... and veterinarians around the world.

- During 2008, the Center's education staff gave presentations to more than 46,000 children and 8,000 adults. Our programs are transformed when a Center educator presents a diminutive Screech Owl ... or an opossum ... or a snake ... and explains how that animal's life was imperiled by food casually tossed from a passing car or other careless activities of humans.
- The Center's website – [www.wildlifecenter.org](http://www.wildlifecenter.org) – includes an array of information, from species-specific rescue advice to news on Center patients and programs. During 2008, the Center's website logged in more than 80,000 visitors, from all over the world.
- The Center has developed special training materials in Spanish for game wardens, law enforcement officials, and other professionals who work with wildlife and try to stop illegal poaching and game-trade in Latin America. For easy delivery and distribution, these manuals are available on CD-ROM and online.
- The Center shared the lessons learned during more than two decades of wildlife medicine with veterinary, conservation and rehabilitation professionals from all over the world. Among those working at our Waynesboro clinic in 2008 were students from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Israel, Mexico, Scotland, Spain, and Turkey.
- The Center provided training classes in wildlife rehabilitation for nearly 150 participants in cities across Virginia and sponsored the 13th annual "Call of the Wild" conference, designed specifically for volunteer wildlife rehabilitators and other first responders.
- The Center hosted several small-group wildlife photo-safaris in South Africa. For additional information about upcoming trips, visit [www.wildlifecentersafaris.org](http://www.wildlifecentersafaris.org).

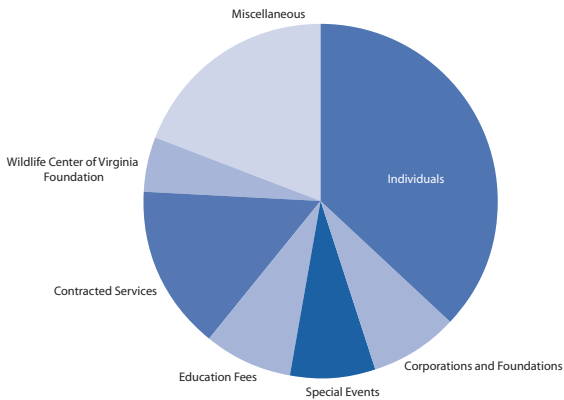


Photo Credits: Jack Looney [right] Jeff Poole, *Orange County Review* [above]

# FINANCIALS

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a 501(c)(3) organization that depends primarily upon private donations – not federal or state 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.

*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; 1.804.786.1343.*

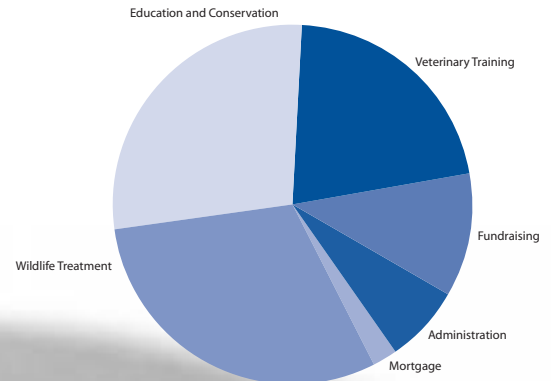


## REVENUE

<i>Individuals</i>	<i>\$367,872</i>	<i>37%</i>
<i>Corporations &amp; Foundations</i>	<i>\$80,872</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Special Events</i>	<i>\$80,168</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Education Fees</i>	<i>\$76,641</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Contracted Services</i>	<i>\$143,779</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Wildlife Center of Virginia Foundation</i>	<i>\$53,500</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Miscellaneous [including reserves]</i>	<i>\$187,054</i>	<i>19%</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$989,886</b>	

## EXPENDITURES

<i>Wildlife Treatment</i>	<i>\$300,817</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Education and Conservation</i>	<i>\$282,096</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>Veterinary Training</i>	<i>\$208,118</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>\$110,518</i>	<i>11%</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>\$64,889</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>Mortgage</i>	<i>\$23,448</i>	<i>2%</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$989,886</b>	





**SAVE THE DATE ...**

**What:** 25th Annual Gala Benefit and Auction

**When:** Saturday, October 10, 2009

**Where:** Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton.

*Please mark your calendars –  
and join us for this special celebration.*

On October 25, 2008, friends of the Wildlife Center gathered at the historic Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton for the Center's 24th Annual Gala Benefit and Auction. We are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors and for the individuals and businesses who donated items for our special live auction.

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## THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

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