Wildlife Works Inc.
PO Box 113 Youngwood, PA 15697     724-925-6862    wildlifeworks@comcast.net    www.wildlifeworksinc.org

Winter Spring 2020

Red-Eared Sliders - Threat to Native Turtles

This is an appropriate time for us to mention the very real problem of Red-eared Sliders in local waters. This slider turtle is a threat to our native species, competing for habitat, food sources and nesting sites. They can also transmit parasites and diseases to which our native turtles have no immunity.

Trachemys s. elagans, the Red-eared Slider, has a unique broad red or orange stripe behind each eye. Younger individuals have numerous dark eyelike spots on the yellow plastron (bottom shell). Its home territories include the Mississippi valley and Illinois south to Tennessee, Kentucky and the Gulf of Mexico. Throughout its non-indigenous range, T. scripta is introduced primarily through pet releases and escapes, a situation that has continued for decades. Red-eared Sliders were first observed in PA in 1996.

On December 27, we received two Midland Painted turtles from PA Fish & Boat Commission that were confiscated from a member of the public.

Painted turtles (Chrysemys picta) are among the most common and recognizable turtles that inhabit Pennsylvania’s waterways and wetlands. Painted turtles are appropriately named because of the combination of yellow, red, green, black and tan that appears on their shells, head and limbs. Most people who spend time along our waterways have surely seen Painted turtles basking on logs or rocks. Painted turtles prefer wetlands, ponds, lakes, canals and other still or slow waters. Soft or mucky bottoms are preferred to rocks or gravel. Two subspecies, the Eastern Painted turtle (Chrysemys picta picta) and the Midland Painted turtle (Chrysemys picta marginata), are found in Pennsylvania. While young, the painted turtle is basically carnivorous, eating small fish, amphibians, aquatic insects and crayfish; adults are more herbivorous, preferring a variety of aquatic plants.

A fishing license is required to catch or take reptiles from the lands and waters of the Commonwealth. It is unlawful to possess more than one Eastern Musk Turtle, Eastern Painted Turtle, Eastern Spiny Softshell, Map Turtle or Midland Painted Turtle. It is unlawful to possess any Bog Turtle, Eastern Mud Turtle, Red-Bellied Turtle, Blanding’s Turtle, Eastern Box Turtle, Spotted Turtle or Wood Turtle. And it is unlawful to damage or disrupt the nest or eggs of a reptile or to gather, take or possess the eggs of any reptile.

Many turtles kept as pets soon become ill because of the lack of a proper diet, insufficient heat, or from disease or parasites. Unfortunately, when pet turtles become ill, people often return them to the wild. This is an unwise practice because unhealthy individuals may be released into a healthy wild population, which risks spreading disease. In addition, if a turtle is released into some other area than where it was initially collected, it may not be adapted to survive in its new habitat.

Unfortunately, the Painteds we received had been removed from just such a situation of neglect. They were underweight and suffering from shell rot. With veterinary care to treat the disease, clean water, appropriate light and heat and a healthy diet, they are well on the road to recovery and should be able to be released later this Spring.

Water turtles require vigilant care – they are dirty and labor intensive. They need frequent water changes, and become ill when they are not cared for properly. Additionally, they can be asymptomatic carriers of salmonella, so children especially should not be handling or playing with them without strict supervision and proper hygiene.

Every year, we get calls from folks trying to find homes for slider turtles that are no longer wanted, and unfortunately, there are simply no homes out there for the many Red-eared Sliders that need placed. Even more unfortunate is that folks who can’t place their unwanted turtles simply let them go into local waters. Think twice before you buy a turtle for a pet. Turtles can live a long time – often more than 20 years – and those cute little turtles can grow to the size of a dinner plate, requiring larger aquariums and more maintenance.
Common Raven - Uncommon Rehab

Ravens are a species we don’t admit often here at WWI; there have only been a handful of them in our 29-year history, and unfortunately, most have come in too injured to save.

In mid-spring 2019, we received a raven from a power plant worker from the Ligonier area. On admission, we noted that this bird, although full size, was a juvenile. We could tell this by the vestigial pink gape flanges (see photo above) that it still had at the corners of its beak. Our exam revealed a badly fractured leg in the area between the knee and the hock joint called the tibia. We splinted the fracture and then it was waiting time.

When you are holding a raven in your hands, you realize just how magnificent they really are. Because we have such an affinity here at WWI for crows, and by extension, ravens, we wanted very badly for this to be a successful rehab. We knew that its family would remain in the area in which it was found for the rest of the summer, would recognize this bird as kin, and a reunion was our goal.

After two weeks, the splint was removed and the bone had healed well, but the lower leg just hung limp from the hock down. The foot was curled under and the bird could not bear any weight on the leg. On the advice of one of our vets, Dr. Michael Doornink DVM, DACVS-SA at PVSEC, we decided to give the healing process more time in the event a nerve had been impinged during the splinting process.

As the days went by, we began to see incremental improvement until the raven was fully weight-bearing. But, the foot was still curled. Not giving up, the foot was placed into a “sandal” type bandage that held the toes in a normal position. Amazingly, after two more weeks, the raven was using its injured leg normally. What a relief!

Our joy was short-lived, however. Once outside in an aviary, it became evident that the raven had a wing droop on the same side as the leg injury. Radiographs showed a healed hairline fracture that was missed on our initial exam. The wrist and elbow were so stiff, the young bird was unable to fully extend the wing. So, back to the drawing board.

This poor “kid” was brought back into the hospital so we could do twice daily physical therapy to stretch joints, muscles and connective tissue that were affected by the injury.

It would be nice to say the young raven was a real trooper about all the handling, but it most definitely was not. It croaked and cawed and bit us repeatedly with its enormous beak and we had many bruised arms and fingers to show for our effort. Nevertheless, I was determined to get this raven walking and flying again. Finally, after several setbacks, we put the raven in our raptor barn in the continuous flyway and lo and behold, we had flight!

There was one final obstacle we faced when the time came for release. The power plant where the raven was found would not give us access to any part of their property for the release. Animal care staffer Judi Wilson was wonderful and did several recon trips to find another site nearby where we knew the raven family was still hanging around.

On July 13, 2019, Judi took the now completely healthy juvenile raven back to its home turf and released it. The youngster never looked back as it flew into the wooded area she picked out for it, and we feel sure it was reunited with its family. The moral of the story is that sometimes, it pays to never give up.

Raven Facts
Ravens are large and formidable birds. At 21-27” they are the largest of the crow family and are the largest passerine.

Ravens are all black with a luster of purples and greens; they have a heavy black beak and large nostrils hidden by bristly tufts of feathers.

Ravens are magnificent flyers, able to hold position motionless in heavy gales; they can also hover like the American Kestrel.

Ravens are intelligent and crafty, quick to learn and profit from experience.

Ravens are very sensitive to human persecution and learn to stay out of the range of guns.

Ravens are primarily scavengers, feeding on carrion and a variety of small creatures like frogs, insects, minnows, eggs and young of songbirds, as well as berries in the fall and scraps left at picnic sites.

Unlike crows, ravens are wilderness birds, preferring high altitudes above 3000 feet.

In PA, they are often found in the Appalachians.

Their nests are usually built 45-80 feet up in the crotches of coniferous trees or on sheltered cliffs and in crevices. Both males and females participate in the nest building and the male brings food to the female on the nest. Ravens mate for life. The young leave the nest 35-42 days after hatching.
American Toad

The Eastern American Toad (Bufo americanus americanus) is widely distributed in PA. It is primarily nocturnal and spends its days sheltered beneath piles of leaves or burrowed under loose rocks. Its nighttime habits prevent it from being seen very often. This is the common “hoptoad,” so-called because of its hopping from one area to another rather than leaping as frogs do. This species of toad can tolerate colder temperatures than its closest relative, the Fowler’s Toad. Characteristic of other toads, it can secrete toxins from skin glands that can irritate mucous membranes. People do not get warts from handling toads.

On August 19, good friends and wildlife lovers, Cathie and Tom Donohoe, found an injured male Goldfinch under their feeders and quickly gathered him up and brought him to WWI. His right wing was damaged and the Donohoe’s wondered if it was a neighbor’s cat that caused the injury.

Whatever the cause, we splinted the wing and started the bird on antibiotics. As days went by, we found that this little guy was a master escape artist, pushing through small openings in carriers and slipping out of our grasp when handled. We finally moved him into housing that had no possible ways to get out. Over the two weeks in a splint, the wing showed signs of loss of blood to the injured tip, and to our dismay, that area sloughed off and left us with a non-releasable bird.

The American Goldfinch is one of the more beautiful and interesting birds that visit backyard feeders. It’s always a joy to see the males in their black and bright yellow nuptial plumage, looking like flying dandelions as they move to and fro. Year-round residents in most of North America, they commonly feed in flocks during fall and winter and are attracted to thistle and sunflower. Goldfinches come to feeders all year.

Breeding and nesting last from mid-July to mid-September, timed to take advantage of the abundance of plants that go to seed in late summer and early fall. Goldfinches have 1-2 broods per season, usually producing five eggs. Nests can be found in upright forks of leafy bushes or trees in open areas, either marshy or near water. The female builds the nest using bark strips from weeds and vines, lining it with thistle flowers and webbing from caterpillar nests. The male flies along on these collecting trips or remains perched near the nest.

One study found female Goldfinches spend ninety-five percent of their time on the nest during incubation. This constant attention is matched by few of our common birds. The main reason she can do this is the male’s regular visits to the nest to feed her. When the female is hungry, she gives a light “teeeteeteeteetee” call. Hearing this, the male perches near the nest. There, she joins him and consumes large quantities of partially digested seeds, then returns to the nest. After they hatch, the young are primarily fed by the male because the female has already started a new nest for her second brood.

American Goldfinch

So, the bad news was that the little Goldfinch in our care was never going to be able to survive if released because his flight abilities were limited by his injury. The good news was that we have a relationship with the Columbus Zoo and knew they might be interested in having him as part of their natural outdoor native bird exhibit. We contacted them and were so happy to learn that they were willing to take this little bird, where he would join four others already at the zoo.

Although most of the wildlife we receive that are deemed non-releasable must be humanely put to sleep, there are opportunities for placement in certain cases. For this particular Goldfinch, at least, there was a happy ending for him and for us.
Dear Readers,

Lead in our natural environs is a real problem. Waterfowl and other birds ingest lead shotgun pellets, bullet fragments and lead fishing sinkers. The ingestion of lead has been responsible for major die-offs primarily affecting ducks, geese and swans. Other upland game birds like doves, turkeys, pheasants and quails are also affected. Bald and Golden Eagles, as well as other birds of prey, are coming into rehab centers in critical condition from feeding on prey containing lead.

Lead is toxic to animal and humans when high enough concentrations are absorbed by the body. In birds, the pieces of lead that are in their digestive tracks erode and are absorbed by the bloodstream.

In the rehab setting, diagnostic testing for lead levels in suspicious cases can be expensive and the treatment – chelation – is intensive and often ineffective because the birds are so debilitated by the time they are found. Wildlife rehabbers are seeing more and more cases of lead toxicity in eagles, redtails, ospreys and other raptors. It is especially disturbing at this time as Bald Eagles are really making a resurgence in western PA.

The use of lead shot for waterfowl has been banned in the U.S. since 1991. Consideration is being given to also ban lead projectiles in upland and big game hunting. In the meantime, everyone who cares deeply about the well-being of any and all wildlife will take measures to decrease the presence of lead in our local waterways and forests. Start using lead-free sinkers when you fish and use non-lead projectiles when you hunt.

Dear Professor Possum,  

My wife and I love to walk, and some of our favorite spots are our local waterways – ponds, lakes, streams. There is so much wildlife to see in these places.

Unfortunately, where there is water, there is discarded fishing line. We gather up all the line on the banks and remove snags from logs and trees. Usually, our pockets are full when we get home. We know what a problem this is, but can you discuss the dangers that discarded lines pose for wildlife?

Gathering in Greensburg

Dear Gatherers, 

First off, good for you! Fishing line and other plastic garbage like six-pack holders, bottle caps and even plastic bags are all so harmful to the animals that frequent waterways. Waterfowl, like ducks and geese, are some of the hardest hit. When these birds encounter submerged plastic line, their feet, legs, wings can become hopelessly entangled. Often, as they struggle to free themselves, the lines wrap tighter and tighter, crippling the ability to swim or walk. As time goes on, that line can become deeply embedded in tissue, cutting off blood supply, damaging connective tissue. It can cut to the bone and even cause traumatic amputation of limbs.

Fishing hooks that have also been left behind can be swallowed by waterfowl and wading birds like herons. The hooks can pierce mouths, wrap around tongues or be swallowed, and internal injuries result. Native water turtles are also susceptible to swallowing hooks.

Any way you look at it, leaving fishing line and tackle behind is irresponsible. Fishermen ought to be acting as stewards of the waterways in which they fish, not contributing to just one more man-made problem for wildlife.

Editor’s Note – Professor Possum reminds folks not to buy ducklings or release domestic ducks and geese into the wild. More info can be found in our 2019 Winter/Spring newsletter. Contact the office for a reprint.
Know When and How to Help

BABY BIRD - 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 unfeathered 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 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 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.

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.

Good Snake Bad Snake

Most people’s immediate response when they see a snake is to kill it or run. But not all snakes are bad. In fact, most of them are really quite beneficial because they eat insects and rodents. Some even eat other venomous snakes!

If you love wildlife, it is your responsibility to know the venomous and non-venomous snakes in your area and the type of terrain they prefer.

TYPE OF SNAKES - There are several distinguishing features between venomous and non-venomous snakes.

- A venomous snake’s head is somewhat triangular whereas a nonvenomous snake’s head is more oval.
- A venomous snake’s pupil is elliptical-shaped like a cat while the pupil of a nonvenomous snake is round.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A SNAKE - Stay calm. If possible, take a picture from a safe distance. Remain calm. Snakes are more afraid of people than we are of them. They only bite when they feel threatened. Here are some helpful facts to appease your worries:

- Snakes can only strike half of their length.
- Most venomous snakes will give you a warning before striking. Don’t run! You’ll scare the snake more. Don’t make any sudden moves and slowly back away.
- If you see the snake before it sees you stomp the ground.
- If you see a snake in your yard it is probably harmless. Leave it alone or you may spray it with water from a safe distance.

If you are bitten by a snake, even a harmless snake, seek medical aid immediately.

NONVENOMOUS

Eastern Garter Snakes are the most commonly found venomous snake seen in PA. They feed on frogs, lizards, and can be found in most vegetation.

Black Rat Snakes eat on lizards, mice, rats, and copperhead snakes and more, they like a variety of habitats.

Northern Water Snakes look like the Cottonmouth and Copperhead snakes that are highly venomous. They eat a variety of animals with a preference for eating pest species such as mice. They’re mainly at home in and around water.

Ringneck Snakes eat small rodents. They often find their way into houses under small gaps in doors.

Black Racer Snakes eat animals which are smaller than them and tend to live in areas that are wooded.

VENOMOUS

Timber Rattlers are the most commonly found venomous snake seen in PA. They are found near rockcroppings and are not commonly found in urban or suburban areas. Rattlers eat small animals.

Copperheads can be found near rocks, ledges and rock slide in deciduous forest, fields and clearings. They can be aggressive when disturbed. Their main prey are rodents.

Both the Copperhead and Timber Rattler are on the Pennsylvania’s Fish and Boat Commissions list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Please educate yourself further on how to identify and distinguish venomous and nonvenomous snakes, especially if you enjoy the outdoors and spend time in wooded areas.
In 2019, we admitted 778 wildlings - the most we’ve admitted in one year by far - 10% more than 2018 and a 56% increase from 2017. This huge increase is putting an even greater demand on WWI staff and volunteers than what we usually experience with an average year.

With 12 hour days and a minimum of two volunteers per 4-hour shift, WWI needs 40-50 animal care volunteers to care for the 500+ wildlings we admit each year. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and will be trained.

Being an animal care volunteer is hard work but very rewarding. Volunteers have up-close experiences, learn to identify many native and migratory wildlings, and learn about their behavior. All in all, it is an experience that is hard to come by in this area. A number of past volunteers now have successful careers working with animals.

**Interns** - For years, WWI’s internship program has been helping students with an interest in veterinary medicine, biology, wildlife management, environmental education, zoology, and animal husbandry, among others. Our internship program is just another legacy that WWI can be proud of and we encourage other high school and college students with an interest in wildlife in any capacity to contact us for more information.

**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.
2019 Annual Report (Pages 7-10)
Letter from WWI Executive Director & Senior Rehabber

Once again, we come to you as spring approaches and new life will be blossoming all around us. Folks will be spending more time outdoors and wildlife will be birthng and hatching their young (many already have). It’s an uplifting time of the year for Wildlife Works, and we have many reasons to celebrate and be grateful.

For the last two years, Morgan Barron has been interning here in order to become a licensed PA rehabber. This is a difficult process that requires passing an arduous test and an oral interview with the PA Game Commission and the PA Rehabilitation Council. We are excited and proud to announce that in September Morgan achieved her permit for mammals and non-raptor avian species. Congratulations, Morgan! Her plans are to build facilities in Mt. Pleasant, under the umbrella of WWI, focusing on rehabbing Rabies Vector Species (RVS) and white-tailed fawns. This will be a huge step for WWI and our communities, as we have not been able to provide for these kinds of wildlife in our location in Youngwood. In fact, there is no one rehabbing fawns in western PA, so this is huge.

On another front, last summer, thanks to your tremendous response to our summer appeal, we were able to hire staffer, Elizabeth Ringstad, to work part-time to fill the shifts that it was becoming impossible to cover by myself. Elizabeth worked many hours over and above those she was getting paid for in order to be able to be here with a frequency that would allow her to truly be mentored in ways that the average once-a-week volunteer cannot. Her passion and commitment became so obvious to us that we began to intensively train her and place her in increasing positions of responsibility and trust. It was time for us to take a leap of faith and make an investment in the future of WWI, and that decision has been nothing but encouraging and exciting. Additionally, in the last year, we have recruited a number of young people whose goals include going into fields focusing on the environment and wildlife, including working towards becoming rehabbers. Again, it is an investment in the future of WWI to mentor and facilitate as many eager young folks as possible who are committed. As I grow older, it is abundantly clear that my direct involvement simply cannot remain at the levels I have managed in the past.

On top of that good news, we recently took another giant leap into our future. WWI has purchased 1+ acres directly adjacent to our existing property. Although it is going to take much effort and funding, the tentative plans are to build cages specifically to house educational animals that can be viewed on site, and develop an open-air amphitheater in order to bring the public to us for outreach.

Finally, several opportunities for fund-raising are in the works, including being chosen by the Anthrocon group as their 2020 charity at their convention in Pittsburgh in July. We are also planning a revamped version of our Fall fund-raising gala in early December – details to be announced. We are the grateful recipients of several bequests from supporters. Wow!

So, if the word “exciting” has been used a lot in this missive, it’s because it is. I have rarely felt this good going into the newest version of baby season. Our eyes and hearts are future-forward for 2020. With all of the love and support from our staff and our communities, nothing but great things are coming.

Come along with us and continue to help Wildlife Works endure well into the future!

Beth

2019 Financial Report
(UNAUDITED)

Income
Animal Admissions 10,466
General Donations 34,939
Memorial & Honoriums 3,955
United Way 2,510
Education Programs 1,130
Fund Raising
Appeal Letters 17,435
On-Line Giving 1,373
Adopt-A-Wilding 710
Calendar Sales 24,907
Raffles 9,626
Other Fundraising 3,855
Total Fundraising 57,906
Grants/Estate 17,300
Misc 95
Membership Dues 6,201
TOTAL INCOME $134,156

Expense
Continuing Education 845
Fund Raising Expense 23,253
Insurance, Permits 3,054
Misc Expenses 839
Office Supplies 908
Payroll 54,820
Postage 429
Program
Animal Care 39,481
Public Education 4,127
Total Program 43,608
Travel 1,096
Utilities, Rent 14,955
TOTAL EXPENSE $143,807

Memorials & Honories

In Memory of:
~MANDY BENNON~
Patricia & Mark Penna
Marcia Osborne
~RUSTY BLAHOVEC (PET)~
Marcia Osborne
Carol Solomon
~NED CAUGHEY~
Beth A. Ujevich Beckner
~MARTHA CRAIG~
Gerald & Anna Quinn
~RILEY GARDNER-SCHER (PET)~
Marcia Osborne
~JOHN GINNEVAN~
Rick & Wendy Boehm
Carrie & Tom Donovan
Carol & John Durco
Patricia & Mark Penna
Mike & Michael Kustra
Marcia Osborne
Mary Pescolatore
Sue & Dale Wiseman
~JACK (PET)~
N. G. Bridges & D.L. Muir
~WAYNE JONES~
Marion & Michael Arndt
James & Sydney Budton
Anthony & Cathy Casagrande
Danielle & Excaliating Coco DeRaad
Rita DeBlock
Elmer & Sylvia Foley
Sandra Gabor
Deborah & Jeff Handlan
Matthew & Stephanie King
Jeanette Lendl-Lander
Erin & Troy Markovich
Larry & Deb Messich
Richard Myers
Patricia Pacelli
John & Deborah Paouncic
Deborah Shivlau
Paula Petruik
Harae & Beverly Resnik
Kathleen Rosati
Barry & Mary Kay Rutter
Louise Shawley
George & Beemie Smith
Sara Jane Studen
The Pittsburgh Foundation
Rich & Barbara Ufner
Rita West
Brenda & Dave Worth

~BARBARA JOZEFOW~
Kathy Jozefow & Tom Walton
~RALPH E. LEEPER (BOYFRIEND)~
Sharon Porinick
~CHUCK & SONNY LOWERY~
Janet Lowery
~ANTHONY MILITO~
Diane Kam
Linda Rocchi
~DUANE MOLNAR~
Wendy DiFonso
~THE PERT~
Janet Lowery
~MONICA PINKE~
Janice Moore
~REFUS~
Judy & Rick Kemper
~HONEY SENKO (PET)~
Donna Gunther & Ken Kaleida
~SHARON~
Charles Hendrickson
~SUSAN M. STINER~
Michael & Sharon Match
~CHRISTOPHER VALEY~
Ethal Barbues
~LAVERN VARRATO~
Darlene Smetek
~WILLOM (PET)~
N. G. Bridges & D.L. Muir
~JOHN S. WOLK (UNCLE)~
Ethal Barbues

In Honor of:
Betsy Kennon, DVM
Nancy Schwarzkopf
Michael (GRANDSON)
Lorie & Tom Smeach
Jeanne Minkus
Nancy Schwarzkopf
Travis & Ethan Muder (GRANDSON)
Dan & Sharon Miles
Jack Persin & Dennis Persin
Doug Replogle B-Day
Sylvia & Harry Replogle
Bob Stewart
Susan Tatum
Liz Williams

Winter/Spring 2020 Words from the Wild Page 7
Animal Care Volunteers


2019 Rehab Statistics

Herring Gull, 1  Killdeer, 1  Rock Dove, 9  Mourning Dove, 38  Great Horned Owl, 5  Barred Owl, 2  Eastern Screech-Owl, 11  Common Nighthawk, 2  Chimney Swift, 2  Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7  Red-headed Woodpecker, 1  Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2  Hairy Woodpecker, 2  Downy Woodpecker, 2  Northern Flicker, 5  Pileated Woodpecker, 3  Eastern Phoebe, 1  Blue Jay, 8  American Crow, 4  Common Raven, 2  Barn Swallow, 4  Cliff Swallow, 1  Tufted Titmouse, 2  White-breasted Nuthatch, 3  House Wren, 3  Carolina Wren, 4  Golden-Crowned Kinglet, 1  Eastern Bluebird, 1  Wood Thrush, 1  American Robin, 35  Gray Catbird, 2  Cedar Waxwing, 5  Yellow Warbler, 1  Chipping Sparrow, 3  Song Sparrow, 1  Dark-eyed Junco, 1  Northern Cardinal, 17  Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, 1  Indigo Bunting, 2  Red-winged Blackbird, 1  Common Grackle, 5  Brown-headed Cowbird, 1  Baltimore Oriole, 2  Purple Finch, 1

House Finch, 8  American Goldfinch, 3  Unknown Hatching, 9

Total Native Birds 317

Introduced Birds

European Starling, 33  House Sparrow, 23

Total Introduced Birds 56

Domestic Birds

Indian Runner Duck, 2  Buff Duck, 2  Muscovy Duck, 4  Rouen, 1  Chicken, 1  Khaki Campbell, 2

Total Domestic Birds 12

Reptiles

Eastern Box Turtle, 9  Midland Painted Turtle, 2  Snapping Turtle, 5  American Toad, 4  Red Eared Slider, 1

Total Herps 21

2019 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. In 2019, twenty-four programs, addressing 2,195 individuals, mostly children, were presented:

- Centerville Greensburg Partial Program - 14
- Covered Bridge 4-H Club - 50
- Cub Scout Troop #370 - 34
- Derry Twp Agricultural Fair - 20
- Excela Health Day Camp - 50
- Golden Heights Personal Care - 32
- Headstart @ Maxwell Elementary - 22
- Headstart @ McCullough Elementary - 14
- Headstart @ St. Paul’s Church - 24
- Maxwell Elementary Earth Day - 440
- Merakey Autism Center - 24
- Metzgar Elementary Kindergarten - 60
- Mt. View 4-H Club - 24
- Mt. View Grade 4 Girl Scouts - 9
- Norwin Girl Scouts - 52
- Parentwise 24th Ice Cream Blast - 300
- Read Across America, Southmoreland Elementary - 90
- Ready Steps Preschool - 18
- Southmoreland Elementary 3rd Grade - 158
- WCCC Campus Children’s Center - 40
- Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve Nature Camp - 75
- Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve Santa's Event - 100
- Youngh Middle School Science Fair - 500
- Young at Heart Group - 28

In addition to Wild Neighbors, WWI also educates the public through our publications, press releases, and hundreds of phone calls to our facility with wildlife-related questions.

Mammals

Virginia Opossum, 100  Least Shrew, 1  Eastern Mole, 2  Eastern Cottontail, 149  Eastern Chipmunk, 8  Grey Squirrel, 64  Fox Squirrel, 4  Red Squirrel, 21  S. Flying Squirrel, 11  Deer Mouse, 6  White-footed Mouse, 3  House Mouse, 2  Porcupine, 1

Total Mammals 372

* WWI can triage native CNS mammals before transfer to rabies-vector licensed rehab facilities.

Native Birds

Canada Goose, 13  Wood Duck, 26  Mallard Duck, 26  Ring-necked Pheasant, 1  Turkey, 5  Red-necked Grebe, 1  Green Heron, 1  Golden Eagle, 2  Bald Eagle, 1  Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2  Cooper’s Hawk, 3  Broad-winged Hawk, 2  Red-shouldered Hawk, 1  Red-tailed Hawk, 23  American Kestrel, 3

Total Introduced Birds 56

Total Native Birds 317

Wildlings Admitted - 778

Wildlings Released - 297

Nontreatables - 275

Release Rate 2019 - 59%*

Avg Cost Per Wildling - $50

“Does not include “nontreatable” wildlings that died within 24 hours.

Totals

Animal Care Volunteers


2019 Rehab Statistics

Herring Gull, 1  Killdeer, 1  Rock Dove, 9  Mourning Dove, 38  Great Horned Owl, 5  Barred Owl, 2  Eastern Screech-Owl, 11  Common Nighthawk, 2  Chimney Swift, 2  Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7  Red-headed Woodpecker, 1  Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2  Hairy Woodpecker, 2  Downy Woodpecker, 2  Northern Flicker, 5  Pileated Woodpecker, 3  Eastern Phoebe, 1  Blue Jay, 8  American Crow, 4  Common Raven, 2  Barn Swallow, 4  Cliff Swallow, 1  Tufted Titmouse, 2  White-breasted Nuthatch, 3  House Wren, 3  Carolina Wren, 4  Golden-Crowned Kinglet, 1  Eastern Bluebird, 1  Wood Thrush, 1  American Robin, 35  Gray Catbird, 2  Cedar Waxwing, 5  Yellow Warbler, 1  Chipping Sparrow, 3  Song Sparrow, 1  Dark-eyed Junco, 1  Northern Cardinal, 17  Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, 1  Indigo Bunting, 2  Red-winged Blackbird, 1  Common Grackle, 5  Brown-headed Cowbird, 1  Baltimore Oriole, 2  Purple Finch, 1

House Finch, 8  American Goldfinch, 3  Unknown Hatching, 9

Total Native Birds 317

Introduced Birds

European Starling, 33  House Sparrow, 23

Total Introduced Birds 56

Domestic Birds

Indian Runner Duck, 2  Buff Duck, 2  Muscovy Duck, 4  Rouen, 1  Chicken, 1  Khaki Campbell, 2

Total Domestic Birds 12

Reptiles

Eastern Box Turtle, 9  Midland Painted Turtle, 2  Snapping Turtle, 5  American Toad, 4  Red Eared Slider, 1

Total Herps 21

Totals

Wildlings Admitted - 778

Wildlings Released - 297

Nontreatables - 275

Release Rate 2019 - 59%*

Avg Cost Per Wildling - $50

“Does not include “nontreatable” wildlings that died within 24 hours.

Words from the Wild

Winter/Spring 2020
2019 Members
Paid between 10/1/18 - 9/30/19

Individuals ($15)
Janet Best
Donald Bish
Marie Hustek & Mary Alice
Brightwell
Debbie Donnelly
Edwin & Jane Fromm
Susan Frost Benzo
Mark Griffin
Ruth Ann Hoffman
Robert Jackman
Kristin Ashley Janzef
Melissa Kaylor
Paula Korber
Marilyn Krushinski
Robert Leberman
Janet Lowery
Marlene Maggio
Richard & Kathleen
Manning
Cynthia & Mark Marshall
Katherine Moore
Shirley & John Newhouse
Joan Newill
Lois Noonan
Diane & Dennis Persin

Family ($25)
Rosann & David Barr
Ronald & Mary Bires
Donald Bish
Wendy & Gerald Bradish
Jack & Shoke Brown
Rogene & Nancy Cipriani
Nancette & Lester Conway
Herbert & Julia Cooper
Steve & Georgia Dimitroff
James & Sue Evans
Donna & Michael Faix
Karen Fisher
Suzanne Fisher
Robert & Kathy Gladys
Annamarie Denis Hurley
Mary Etta & Dennis
Freddie Quast
Bob Rausch
Bev Rosenberg
Nancy Schwarzkopf
Pauline Sherman
Robert Sperber
Virginia & James Stefan
Rebecca Syrek

In-Kind Service Donors
Steve & Sharon Friedel
Deb Milto Family & Friends
Michelle Gricks
Sue Hauser
Joy Hrvnak
Dennis & Mary Law
Jill Leasure
Sandy Leuthold
Susan Lovette
Tina Moore
Lori Mozina - Ogurchak
Natalie Peskie
Susan Schefiff
Shelly See
Beth Shoaf
Betty Simons
Elaine Smartnick
George & Beemie Smith
Antionette & Sammy Smith
Sandy Sten
Dawn Strosko
David Kost & Sandy Stychor
Marty Van Stan
Lisa Vezzani
Lisa Vezzani
Lori Mozina - Ogurchak
Natalie Peskie
Susan Schefiff
Shelly See
Beth Shoaf
Betty Simons
Elaine Smartnick
George & Beemie Smith
Antionette & Sammy Smith
Sandy Sten
Dawn Strosko
David Kost & Sandy Stychor
Marty Van Stan
Lisa Vezzani
Jon & Cathy Voss
Bennie Zaucha
Ron & MaryAnn Zdrojkowski

2019 Members
Paid between 10/1/18 - 9/30/19

Individuals ($15)
Janet Best
Donald Bish
Marie Hustek & Mary Alice
Brightwell
Debbie Donnelly
Edwin & Jane Fromm
Susan Frost Benzo
Mark Griffin
Ruth Ann Hoffman
Robert Jackman
Kristin Ashley Janzef
Melissa Kaylor
Paula Korber
Marilyn Krushinski
Robert Leberman
Janet Lowery
Marlene Maggio
Richard & Kathleen
Manning
Cynthia & Mark Marshall
Katherine Moore
Shirley & John Newhouse
Joan Newill
Lois Noonan
Diane & Dennis Persin

Family ($25)
Rosann & David Barr
Ronald & Mary Bires
Donald Bish
Wendy & Gerald Bradish
Jack & Shoke Brown
Rogene & Nancy Cipriani
Nancette & Lester Conway
Herbert & Julia Cooper
Steve & Georgia Dimitroff
James & Sue Evans
Donna & Michael Faix
Karen Fisher
Suzanne Fisher
Robert & Kathy Gladys
Annamarie Denis Hurley
Mary Etta & Dennis
Freddie Quast
Bob Rausch
Bev Rosenberg
Nancy Schwarzkopf
Pauline Sherman
Robert Sperber
Virginia & James Stefan
Rebecca Syrek

In-Kind Service Donors
Steve & Sharon Friedel
Deb Milto Family & Friends
Michelle Gricks
Sue Hauser
Joy Hrvnak
Dennis & Mary Law
Jill Leasure
Sandy Leuthold
Susan Lovette
Tina Moore
Lori Mozina - Ogurchak
Natalie Peskie
Susan Schefiff
Shelly See
Beth Shoaf
Betty Simons
Elaine Smartnick
George & Beemie Smith
Antionette & Sammy Smith
Sandy Sten
Dawn Strosko
David Kost & Sandy Stychor
Marty Van Stan
Lisa Vezzani
Jon & Cathy Voss
Bennie Zaucha
Ron & MaryAnn Zdrojkowski

Special Thank You’s
To John & Carol Durco and
Dr. Craig Hill, DVM for going
above the call of duty, each
in their own way.

In-Kind Goods Donors
GROUPS & BUSINESSES:
Centerville Partial Program
Covered Bridge 4-H Club
Cub Scout Troop #370
D&M Contracting
Daniels Excavating
Don Young Electric
Fancy Fox Customs
Gbg Central Catholic 7th Gr
Greensburg Agway
Headstart at Maxwell Elementary
Headstart at St. Paul's
Irwin Giant Eagle
Jimmy's Live Bait
Merakey Autism Center
Moon Veterinary Hospital
Mt. View 4-H Club
Mt. View Elementary School
New Neighbors of Greensburg
Norwin Girl Scout Troop
Southmoreland Elementary
3rd Graders
Ted's Tree Service
WCCC Daycare
Young at Heart Senior Group
Young Marines

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:
Linda Bright
Mai Bma
Rebecca Brunetta
Carol DaRold
Rita DeBlock
John & Carol Durco
Jess Evanchak
Emma Ferrari
Bill & Darcy Firmstone

2019 Members
Paid between 10/1/18 - 9/30/19

Individuals ($15)
Janet Best
Donald Bish
Marie Hustek & Mary Alice
Brightwell
Debbie Donnelly
Edwin & Jane Fromm
Susan Frost Benzo
Mark Griffin
Ruth Ann Hoffman
Robert Jackman
Kristin Ashley Janzef
Melissa Kaylor
Paula Korber
Marilyn Krushinski
Robert Leberman
Janet Lowery
Marlene Maggio
Richard & Kathleen
Manning
Cynthia & Mark Marshall
Katherine Moore
Shirley & John Newhouse
Joan Newill
Lois Noonan
Diane & Dennis Persin

Family ($25)
Rosann & David Barr
Ronald & Mary Bires
Donald Bish
Wendy & Gerald Bradish
Jack & Shoke Brown
Rogene & Nancy Cipriani
Nancette & Lester Conway
Herbert & Julia Cooper
Steve & Georgia Dimitroff
James & Sue Evans
Donna & Michael Faix
Karen Fisher
Suzanne Fisher
Robert & Kathy Gladys
Annamarie Denis Hurley
Mary Etta & Dennis
Freddie Quast
Bob Rausch
Bev Rosenberg
Nancy Schwarzkopf
Pauline Sherman
Robert Sperber
Virginia & James Stefan
Rebecca Syrek

In-Kind Service Donors
Steve & Sharon Friedel
Deb Milto Family & Friends
Michelle Gricks
Sue Hauser
Joy Hrvnak
Dennis & Mary Law
Jill Leasure
Sandy Leuthold
Susan Lovette
Tina Moore
Lori Mozina - Ogurchak
Natalie Peskie
Susan Schefiff
Shelly See
Beth Shoaf
Betty Simons
Elaine Smartnick
George & Beemie Smith
Antionette & Sammy Smith
Sandy Sten
Dawn Strosko
David Kost & Sandy Stychor
Marty Van Stan
Lisa Vezzani
Jon & Cathy Voss
Bennie Zaucha
Ron & MaryAnn Zdrojkowski

Special Thank You’s
To John & Carol Durco and
Dr. Craig Hill, DVM for going
above the call of duty, each
in their own way.
**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
  - $25 - Canada Goose, Hummingbird, Opossum
  - $10 - Box Turtle, Songbird, Cottontail Rabbit

- **MEMBERSHIP**
  - Youth - $5
  - Family or Classroom - $25
  - Associate - $100
  - Sustaining - $500

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

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.

Appoint a designated person to receive donations, and have them acknowledged in the fall newsletter (see page 7).

**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 $3,191 by recycling these items.

**FUNDSRAISING** - We are always looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets, calendars, and other fundraising 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.

**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 and select Wildlife Works as your charity. Total raised since 2015 is $791.

**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 $3,938 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 they donate 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 $3,191 by recycling these items.

**FUNDSRAISING** - We are always looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets, calendars, and other fundraising 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.

**FACEBOOK**

If you’d rather your Facebook friends donate to your favorite charity rather than give you gifts for special occasions, you can add a donate button to your Facebook page.

The charity must be listed in Guidestar’s database. Facebook has waved all fees and the entire donation is sent to the charity through NetworkForGood! Facebook protects the privacy of all donors, so the charity does not know the donors’ names nor the Facebook owner’s name. If you would like your charity to acknowledge you and your friends, you must share this information.

WWI is registered on Guidestar. In 2019, WWI received $1,191 from 53 anonymous donors! Three of our wildlife friends let us know that they added a donate button for WWI to their Facebook page: Tina Moore, Stephanie King, and Kris Azzarello.

**BIG FUNDRAISER**

ANTHROCON 2020 - better known as the Furry Convention, returns to Pittsburgh for its 24th annual event July 3-5 at the David Lawrence Convention Center downtown. The event celebrates “anthropomorphics,” which are human-like animal characters. They are a collection of artists, animators, writers, costumers, puppeteers and just everyday fans who enjoy cartoon animals and their kin.

ANTHROCON has chosen Wildlife Works as their charity for 2020, and all of the funds raised at the event, through auctions, raffles, merchandise sales, comedy show and more, will be donated directly to us.

Come and join Wildlife Works and the Furries for a weekend of fun and surprises in beautiful downtown Pittsburgh!

**WISH LIST 2020**

WWI needs ordinary household items. If you, your school or your organization would like to donate supplies or have a "Collection for Wildlife," it would help tremendously. Here is a list of our current needs. You can also purchase items from our wish list on Amazon.com (link on the Get Involved page on our website - wildlifeworksinc.org) and have them shipped directly to us:

- Unscented 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
- New heating pads (without auto shut-off)
- Gift Cards (grocery, office supply and pet stores)
- Postage stamps
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 veterinarians 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, is 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.
P.O. Box 113
Youngwood, PA 15697

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.

Wildlife Works Inc.
Statistics 12/93 - 12/19
Wildlings Admitted - 13,073*
*Includes nontreatables (~35% of admissions!)
Wildlings Released - 6,788
Avg Annual Admissions (last 5 yrs) - 593
Avg Cost/Wildling (last 5 yrs) - $41.25
Education Programs 2004-2019 - 292
Estimated Individuals Reached - 20,200

Unless otherwise noted, all photos are WWI photos.