



Let Your Spirit Take Wing



THE MISSION OF THE WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY

The mission of the World Bird Sanctuary is to preserve the Earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened bird species in their natural environments. We are fulfilling this mission through education, propagation, field studies and rehabilitation.



"I wanted to do something to help the swans. I don't like it when people hurt them, but we are lucky that World Bird Sanctuary is there to help them."

– 10 year old student that organized a fundraising drive to contribute to the care of Trumpeter Swans admitted to the Wildlife Hospital in 2009.

"This is an awesome place. A sanctuary for animals AND people."

– comment in WBS Visitors Book, 2010.

"We have to help them save the birds."

– 8 year old supporter who raised funds for the Wildlife Hospital with a lemonade stand in 2009.

"I can tell them all about birds and where they live; show them videos and pictures. But nothing helps them understand how we all share this planet together more than meeting the birds and animals in person, and watching them fly."

– 6th grade biology teacher booking a WBS environmental education program.

At the forefront of developing future generations of responsible young Americans, the World Bird Sanctuary encourages them to make decisions that lead to thoughtful earth stewardship and management of natural resources. As an acknowledged leader in the fields of environmental education and raptor rehabilitation, the World Bird Sanctuary is considered to be one of the best centers of its kind in the United States. We have over 30 years of success in achieving our mission through our four focus areas, and numerous accolades and awards for our achievements in wildlife conservation and education.

THE BIRTH OF A LEADING-EDGE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

In 1977 Walter Crawford Jr. founded the organization we know today as the World Bird Sanctuary. With the guidance of Marlin Perkins, Walter and a handful of volunteers set out to address the future of birds throughout the world. The solution would take place outside of the established institutions dealing with wildlife.



Applying an innovative approach would both work to preserve our world's natural diversity and develop career opportunities for inspired young conservationists. The World Bird Sanctuary soon became the only avian organization which offers environmental education, endangered species breeding and release, wildlife rehabilitation, field studies and habitat management consulting.

MISSION-FOCUSED

MISSION-CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Every activity we engage in is mission-focused – geared towards equipping the world's citizens with the knowledge and tools needed to preserve our earth's ecosystems.



photo by Patrick Lanham

All we generally hear in the media and from many environmental 'experts' about our world's future is a story of doom and gloom.

The World Bird Sanctuary's motto is "Let your spirit take wing." We believe in a story of over 30 years of success mitigating the specter of extinction.

EDUCATION IS EMPOWERMENT: CREATING THE TOOLS TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS



Our Office of Wildlife Learning environmental education center is carved out of the wooded hills of St. Louis County. These facilities quickly became an attraction for the public and our contemporaries within the conservation movement. At World Bird Sanctuary we believe that it is the responsibility of every single one of us to look after the planet that we all have the privilege to call home. Our education programs and daily interactions with our visitors encourage all Americans to make decisions that lead to thoughtful earth stewardship and management of natural resources.

Our victories and accomplishments would not be possible or sustainable without getting the conservation message out to the public. Our education staff and volunteers engage approximately 200,000 people through 1,000 programs per year.



SHARING INFORMATION

IS KEY TO PRESERVING THE EARTH'S BIODIVERSITY

World Bird Sanctuary is at the forefront of a new, results-oriented methodology concerning wildlife. We have been instrumental in founding national and international environmental associations. These include the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, the International Wildlife Rehabilitator's Council and the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators. These extensions of our influence benefit all involved, especially the birds.

World leaders at the United Nations called upon the World Bird Sanctuary to orchestrate and perform the international rescue and relocation of hundreds of smuggled animals that had been abandoned in Grenada and needed immediate care. Out of all the wildlife institutions in the world, the U.N. chose WBS and we got the job done.



photo by S3 Media

WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY: STRENGTHEN OUR CONNECTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The World Bird Sanctuary's Education Center is located on 305 acres in St. Louis County. 135 acres were acquired through a partnering agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The additional 171 acres were recently obtained from the St. Louis County Parks System. These collaborative agreements demonstrate the confidence that state and local officials have in the World Bird Sanctuary and our mission.



Open to the public year round, the World Bird Sanctuary center has:

- Over 50 outdoor exhibits including falcons, hawks, eagles, owls, vultures, pelicans and more.
- A visitor information center with a three season classroom, restrooms, bird displays, bird-feeding station and pond and picnic pavilions (all accessible via a wheelchair and stroller-friendly paved trail).
- A state of the art wildlife hospital.
- A nature center with indoor/outdoor animal exhibits and offices.
- A 300 seat outdoor amphitheater.
- Numerous hiking trails.
- Two large endangered species breeding buildings.
- An avian training center.

PROPAGATION:

RESTORING BALANCE TO A HUMAN-IMPACTED ECOSYSTEM



photo by Gay Schroer

The WBS Endangered Species Breed & Release Program has released, and in many cases continues to reintroduce:

- Over 800 endangered Barn Owls (removed from the endangered species list in 2008)
- Over 200 endangered Coopers Hawks (removed from the endangered species list in 1997)
- Over 100 Peregrine Falcons (removed from the endangered species list in 1999)
- Endangered Thick-billed Parrots, Harris Hawks, Andean Condors and Bald Eagles (removed from the endangered species list in 2007)

World Bird Sanctuary's Propagation Department also breeds non-native birds of prey for use in education programs at reputable institutions around the country. This program provides a source of captive-bred exotic animals without the need for institutions to capture wild animals in their native habitats.

REHABILITATION: RETURN TO THE WILD



The Wildlife Hospital at the World Bird Sanctuary is a cornerstone of the organization – one of the first centers of its kind in Missouri and one of the largest raptor rehabilitation hospitals in the midwest. It is the only full-time wildlife hospital in Missouri that treats sick or injured raptors.



The World Bird Sanctuary's Wildlife Hospital has been serving the wider Missouri community for over 30 years, providing medical care and rehabilitation services to approximately 250-350 sick and injured birds of prey each year. Most of the cases that are admitted to the Wildlife Hospital have received an injury or are poisoned as a consequence of direct or indirect human encounter. The hospital staff has released more than 4,000 birds back to the wild!



The World Bird Sanctuary is a founding member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and is committed to developing and maintaining high standards of treatment and care in the wildlife rehabilitation field.

The Sanctuary's wildlife hospital also actively assists state conservation departments and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, functioning as a nationally recognized refuge for many injured and confiscated birds.

FIELD STUDIES: KEEPING THE WILD HEALTHY

The World Bird Sanctuary Field Studies Team continues to monitor wild bird populations through seasonal bird banding efforts and habitat management contracts.

Regular bird-banding sessions produce data regarding the species, size, age and sex of birds captured and released. It is then submitted to the Central Banding Lab at the United States Geological Survey for recordkeeping. This work helps wildlife organizations and authorities track the health of bird populations through their movements, migration, breeding and numbers.



POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

DEVELOP AND INSPIRE LEADERSHIP



There is no greater example of leadership than that demonstrated by the young men and women of the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America. At the Sanctuary's education center we offer numerous programs which assist thousands of young scouts to meet their requirements for advancement. Utilizing this energetic resource, hundreds of scouts have performed Eagle Scout and Gold Award service projects. This is a unique way to have exhibits built and enhance our facility.

The U.S. Air Force top guns enlist the WBS Strike Force to prevent flocking birds from colliding with planes. We were the first organization to offer the natural solution of flying hawks and falcons over airfields to clear the areas of gulls, blackbirds and other birds. Bird/plane collisions have caused catastrophic loss of human life and equipment. We are proud to protect those who protect us.

Partnering with high-land-use organizations like Ameren Missouri (formerly Ameren UE), American Water and the Department of Transportation, our field studies department has traveled throughout the U.S. to assess properties of major corporations and implement environmentally sound management strategies. These businesses understand the importance of the wise use of their resources.

TOGETHER

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The World Bird Sanctuary needs your financial assistance. From the humble beginnings of utilizing abandoned barns on a decommissioned WWII military base, to the current 346-acre education center, the Sanctuary has undergone a tempered expansion. This and future development relies on earned growth through contracted revenues and a woven tapestry of creative partnerships with business, labor, government and private citizens.

We are a registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit that receives no city, state or federal funding. Birds have always been considered a barometer of our planet's health.

We must not neglect fighting the disease of extinction, which can affect the future of all humanity. There have been many surges within the environmental movement. Since the early 1990's recycling has become an everyday activity. In recent years we have all purchased greener products and joined in the attempt to lessen our impact on the earth.

But such improvements in our individual environmental practices have come about only as a result of the concerted and continuing efforts of institutions to increase awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship. **TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Our mission is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and secure the future of threatened bird species. **WE ARE THE WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY.**

We are a consistently successful and credible conservation organization, which makes investing in us one of the safest philanthropic decisions you can make.



Contact the Fundraiser
to discuss how you can be part of World Bird Sanctuary's success

Phone: (636) 225-4390 ext. 102

Email: credfern@worldbirdsantuary.org

Visit: www.worldbirdsantuary.org

WALTER C. CRAWFORD JR.

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Walter C. Crawford Jr., Founder and Executive Director of World Bird Sanctuary, has won many accolades and awards for his pioneering work in conservation.



YEAR	ORGANIZATION	AWARD
1982	Conservation Federation of Missouri	Conservationist of the Year
1984	Conservation Federation of Missouri	Conservation Organization of the Year
1991	US Army Corps of Engineers	Award of Appreciation for commitment to our Nation's Public Lands and Natural Resources
1993	National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association	"Lifetime Achievement" Award
1994	Zoological Society of Milwaukee County	"Gorilla, Gorilla, Gorilla" Award for work in education and preservation of biodiversity - especially significant since it was only the fourth time it had been presented.
1997	International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC)	International Achievement Award. This was the first time the IWRC has given such an award.
1999	National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution	Conservation Award for dedication to the preservation of the national resources of our country, its soils, minerals, forests, waters and wildlife.
1999	National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution	Excellence in Community Service Award for efforts to educate the children of St. Louis, our state and nation.
1999	National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution	Certificate of Award for Conservation from the Missouri State Society and the Conservation Award of Exceptional Merit from the O'Fallon Chapter of the Society.
2003	International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE)	Significant Achievement Award for dedication to wildlife conservation and in recognition of outstanding service as IAATE President.
1991	Government of Guyana, Guyana Zoo	appointed Curator of Ornithology - helping the South American country restore its threatened native bird populations.
1991	Government of Grenada and United Nations	Rescue of a number of animals abandoned by a poacher involved in the illegal international trade of birds and animals in that country.
	Founding member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association (NWRA)	Served as Vice-President for eight years.

SITE MAP



**125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road
Valley Park , MO 63088**

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