



BIRD'S Eye

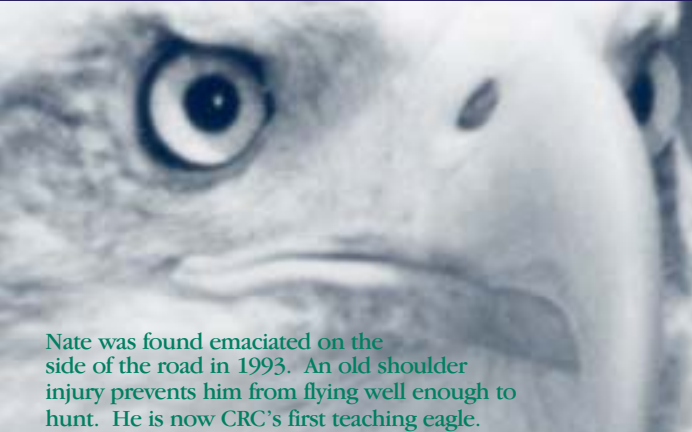


Gale, a Peregrine Falcon, came from Ocracoke, NC in 1990. She was found with a left wing injury, probably from a gunshot. Because she can no longer fly, she is a permanent resident of Carolina Raptor Center.

Hawks, eagles, and falcons have the best eyesight in the animal kingdom—at least four times better than a human's.

Roscoe, a red-tailed hawk

An eagle flying 1000 feet above open country can spot prey over an area of almost 3 square miles.



Nate was found emaciated on the side of the road in 1993. An old shoulder injury prevents him from flying well enough to hunt. He is now CRC's first teaching eagle.

Dudley, a great horned owl

It's a common myth that owls are blinded by sunlight. In fact, they can see perfectly well in the daytime.



Rebecca, an Eastern screech owl

Tumbleweed, also an Eastern screech owl

The eye's rod cells are sensitive to low light conditions. Humans have about 200,000 rods per square millimeter of their eyes, while some owls have almost a million!

VIEW

Carolina Raptor Center Report to Donors 2000-2001

Carolina Raptor Center is dedicated to environmental education and conservation of birds of prey through public education, rehabilitation of injured and orphaned raptors, and research.



Carolina Raptor Center salutes donors, volunteers, staff, friends, and family as we look back on the past year and chart our path for the years ahead.



Printing courtesy of Duke Energy

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Photography: Donna Eaton*

*Unless otherwise noted

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again, you, our donors, have shown how much you care about the environment. Through your contributions of time and financial resources, Carolina Raptor Center was able to treat more injured raptors than any previous year since the first owl arrived in 1979. Last year Carolina Raptor Center rehabilitated 345 owls, hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures, and released back to the wild an impressive 67.9 percent of those surviving the first twenty-four hours after arrival.

Raptors serve as indicators of the health of our environment and can provide signs of future troubles. Consequently, Carolina Raptor Center examines the injured raptors it receives for problems such as West Nile Virus and mercury poisoning, providing an important public health service even as it works to care for and improve understanding of the environment.

Providing this level of support requires an efficient operation. During the past two years, Carolina Raptor Center focused on improving membership communication and accounting systems. Other systems are also being examined for ways to provide information on a timely basis. In January 2001, the Board of Directors held a strategic planning session to review Carolina Raptor Center's mission and services. Participants included donors, staff, volunteers, and board members. During the two-day process, the mission statement was updated and a number of goals were outlined. Some of these goals have already been achieved and Carolina Raptor Center is on the path to fulfill its vision statement:

Carolina Raptor Center declares as its vision that it "will be the premier interactive environmental education, rehabilitation and research center, using birds of prey as its signature method of educating the public about the importance of conservation efforts." Your support is important in accomplishing this goal. Contact us to learn other ways that you can be a part of this exciting future.

Sincerely,

William C. "Bill" Williams
President, Board of Directors

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Because of their place at the top of the food web, raptors are among the leading environmental indicators. Healthy raptors equal a healthy environment!



Osprey release, South Carolina

ADMISSION

Adults: \$5.00 **Seniors:** \$3.00 **Students:** \$3.00

Kids under 6: Free* **Members:** Free

* (when accompanied by an adult)

HOURS

Tuesday thru Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday: 12 noon to 5 pm (Closed some Holidays.)

NOTE: Regular presentations and photo opportunities take place on Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting). Special hours and guided tours can be arranged upon request and availability. Group (20 or more) rates and programs are also available. Group reservations MUST be made at least one week in advance. Please call for information, (704) 875-6521, ext.110.

www.birdsofprey.org

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Advancing Arts, Science & History

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Another exciting year has passed as quickly as a red-tailed hawk grabs its prey. Carolina Raptor Center's resident birds, accompanied by Wild Wings educators and Carolina Raptor Center volunteers, traveled throughout the Carolinas teaching thousands of children and adults how to thoughtfully interact with the environment. The Jim Arthur Rehabilitation Facility bustled with new arrivals. Two records were broken in 2001: most birds received in one month, 97 in January, and most birds received in a year, 738 during the fiscal year. We believe these results are due to three factors: populations of raptors are increasing, Carolina Raptor Center is now so well known that we receive calls from several states, and sprawl is increasing the contact between man and raptors.

Caring for all these injured birds requires lots of hands. Many volunteers like Boy Scout Eagle candidates and individuals, and also corporate partners like Duke Energy, Goodrich Corporation, and Solid Computer Decisions, came forth to help. You and hundreds of other volunteers have enabled us to meet the ever-growing needs during the past year.

In January, thirty-two individuals shared their dreams for Carolina Raptor Center's future. Six strategic focus areas were defined in the updated strategic plan. While all areas intertwine with others, marketing, publicity and education programs were focal points for the year. The action plan calls for market research to determine donor perceptions and recognition of Carolina Raptor Center's mission. Board member Sheryl Kursar spearheads Carolina Raptor Center's efforts to increase publicity, focusing on keeping Carolina Raptor Center in the press. Subsequently, many articles have been printed in magazines and newspapers on a local, regional, and national basis. Carolina Raptor Center recorded over 13 million impressions in print media during the year. This new awareness has helped increase memberships over 65% from the previous year. Hiring a Director of Education was a key goal of the education program area. Michelle Mills is now leading Carolina Raptor Center in developing new programs that serve the environmental needs of the community. More changes are outlined in the strategic plan. Let us know if you would like a copy.



Alan Barnhardt
Executive Director

YOU HELPED US SHARE ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

Last year, public visitation grew to an all-time high of 23, 875. Carolina Raptor Center also reached more than 46,000 additional children through education programs and over 137,000 people through traveling exhibits.

Volunteers and resident raptors presented roughly 250 programs on-site at Carolina Raptor Center, educating weekend visitors about birds of prey and their place in the environment.

The Goodrich Environmental Education Scholarship, established this year, subsidizes programs for financially disadvantaged school children. All children should have the chance to learn about raptors and their ecological roles!

We are providing vulture feather samples for use in a comparative study of condor DNA at the University of Wisconsin.

Audio trail guides are now available in English, Spanish, French, German, and Japanese.



Rehabilitating an injured red-tailed hawk

YOU MADE HEALING POSSIBLE

This year Carolina Raptor Center received a record of 738 injured or orphaned owls, hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures. This brings the total number of birds received since 1979 well past 8,000.

January 2001 was a record month, with 97 new admissions. We also set a record high for a single day's intake, receiving 16 birds on one day. With your help, we rehabilitated and released more birds into the wild this year than ever before—345 raptors, or 67.9 percent of all birds surviving at least 24 hours after arrival.

Birds' rehabilitation time ranged from 7 days to 1,591 days. The average time spent in rehabilitation was 342 days.

The most common arrivals were barred owls (186) followed by red tailed hawks (123), eastern screech owls (102), and red shouldered hawks (67). Five bald eagles also arrived—the highest number ever at Carolina Raptor Center.

82% of birds came from North Carolina, and 17% came from South Carolina. 48% were delivered by the public, 31% came from other rehabilitators, 6% came from veterinarians, and 15% came from other sources. You've helped increase awareness of Carolina Raptor Center's mission in the past year. As visibility increases, more people hear about the good works you make available and more raptors survive and thrive.



Barred owl practices inside a flight cage

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND SUPPORT

Volunteers gave 19,841 hours of their time, effort, and skills, worth approximately \$300,000 in cash.

You served 64,000 meals to our permanent and temporary resident raptors: 150,000 mice and rats and 1,000 fish in all.

You kept raptors' cages clean, healthy, and pleasant, providing 3,100 cage cleanings for resident birds.

Boy Scouts working on the Eagle award built 7 rehabilitation cages, 2 privacy fences, and 9 kiosks.

The S.U.R.E. B.E.T. team from Piedmont Open Middle School demolished and removed five old sheds.

Volunteer veterinarians contributed untold hours for surgery to injured raptors. We thank Dr. Beldegreen of Stoney Creek Animal Hospital, Dr. Green of Mallard Creek Animal Hospital, and Dr. Nick of Nicks Veterinary Hospital for their dedication and compassion.

The total value of your contributions and gifts surpassed \$280,000. In the same year, membership climbed 65%.

The Adopt-A-Bird program raised \$29,277 to care for and feed our resident raptors.

Volunteers from IBM and First Union donated computers and supplies to keep CRC up to date. Solid Computer Decisions volunteers trained and assisted staff in upgrading software.

Thanks to all our supporters who have contributed to environmental education and raptor rehabilitation programs. Many of you have stated that your contributions are made for these purposes and not for individual recognition.

Carolina Raptor Center now offers a bimonthly *Behind the Scenes Tour*, giving members and the public a closer look at the rehabilitation process. The tour includes a visit to the Jim Arthur Raptor Rehabilitation Facility, normally closed to the public, and the chance to meet educational birds. The next tour will be in May 2002.

Nevertheless, your donations of time and money truly make the difference. You not only support our day-to-day activities, you provide the base from which we plan and grow, expanding Carolina Raptor Center's visibility and finding new ways to educate the public and save birds' lives. Thank you once again.

FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT: WHAT WE'RE LEARNING FROM EAGLES

Last year, Carolina Raptor Center received five injured bald eagles—a record number. While bald eagles remain rare in North Carolina, their numbers in the state have grown: from 5 nesting pairs in 1979 to 34 nesting pairs in 2000. And because bald eagles are migratory within North America, many more "stop over" on their way to summers in the North or winters in the South.

As bald eagles' numbers grow, they are increasingly colliding—quite literally—with human growth and traffic. At least three of the eagles received between July 2000 and June 2001 had been injured from vehicle collisions. Because they tend to focus intently on their target, either food or a perch, and don't necessarily recognize cars as threats, eagles are vulnerable to crashes. But the causes may run deeper. Says Rehabilitation Coordinator Matthias Engelmann, "When we see a bird that's gotten hit by a car, we tend to say, 'Oh, it's just another bird that didn't pay attention.' But what we may actually be seeing is a sublethal pesticide dose."

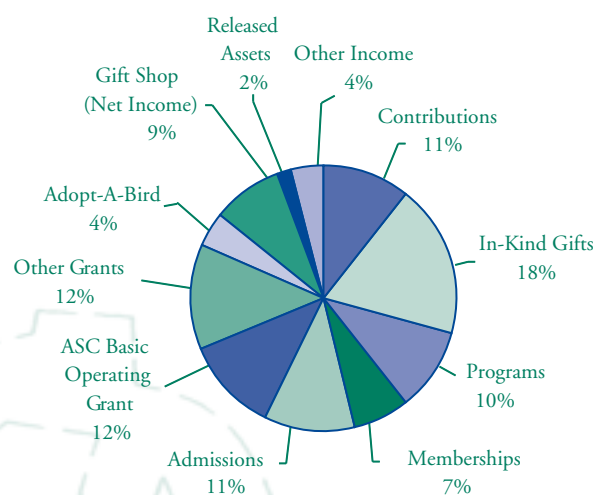


Dr. Rick Beldegreen releases a bald eagle at Uwharrie National Forest, April 8, 2001

Because of their position in the food web, raptors are quickly affected by the accumulation of toxins in an ecosystem and can be indicators of how healthy and clean the environment is. Another serious environmental threat is mercury poisoning. The previous year an eagle was brought to the Center from the Beaufort County coast, lethargic, wracked by tremors, and too weak to hold his head up. After testing, it was diagnosed with mercury poisoning. Sadly, the eagle failed to recover after treatment and had to be euthanized in August 2000.

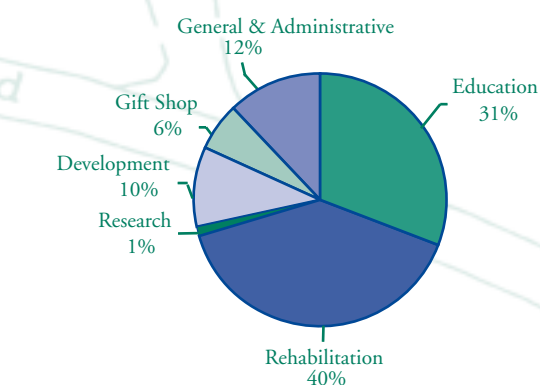
Eleven North Carolina rivers and lakes are contaminated with mercury, posing a threat to fish-eating species. All eagles and ospreys are now screened for mercury poisoning. In addition, Carolina Raptor Center is working with the Mecklenburg County Health Department to test all incoming birds for West Nile Virus, a mosquito-borne disease that can be lethal to both birds and humans. Thanks to you, Carolina Raptor Center can monitor environmental factors that directly influence both human and raptor health.

FINANCIALS



INCOME

Contributions	\$73,795
In-Kind Gifts	\$129,373
Programs	\$70,256
Memberships	\$47,617
Admissions	\$76,655
ASC Basic Operating Grant	\$80,000
Other Grants	\$88,945
Adopt-A-Bird	\$29,277
Gift Shop (Net Income)	\$59,242
Released Assets	\$11,940
Other Income	<u>\$27,627</u>
Total	\$694,727



EXPENSES

Education	\$222,856
Rehabilitation	\$286,125
Research	\$8,722
Development	\$73,803
Gift Shop	\$44,454
General & Administrative	<u>\$87,309</u>
Total	\$723,269