

# Ohio Wildlife Center

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**



**Ohio Wildlife Center**

## OUR MISSION

Ohio Wildlife Center is dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation of Ohio's native wildlife through rehabilitation, education and wildlife health studies.

## OUR WORK

### Wildlife Hospital and Wildlife Health Studies

Ohio Wildlife Center operates the state's largest, donation-supported wildlife hospital. We are a statewide leader in native wildlife animal rescue and rehabilitation. With 35 years of service, Ohio Wildlife Center continues to provide a range of wildlife protection activities through our Wildlife Veterinary Hospital in Franklin County.

### Conservation Education

Our 20-acre Education Center and Pre-Release Facility in Delaware County is the base for classes, tours, camps and programming related to conservation education. Outreach programming both off-site and on-site educates 30,000 Ohioans annually.

### SCRAM! Wildlife Control

Ohio Wildlife Center also operates SCRAM! Wildlife Control, the community's leading non-lethal, permanent eviction and exclusion service for wildlife in homes and businesses. This social enterprise unit generates income to support the Center's mission and offers the public an alternative to lethal commercial trapping services.

### Bonner Barn

The Education Center's reclaimed and historic Bonner Barn provides a unique gathering space for camps and programming. The barn is available for rent to the public for special events, receptions, and meetings. The income generated provides sustainability for programs and operations.



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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020

### Officers

Valerie Swiatek, *Chair*  
Laura Byrne, *Vice Chair*  
Chris Ahlum, *Secretary*  
Ryan Senciboy, *Treasurer*

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## OHIO WILDLIFE CENTER

[www.ohiowildlifecenter.org](http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org)  
Education and Administration  
6131 Cook Road  
Powell, Ohio 43065  
614-734-9453  
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wildlife InfoLine: 614-793-9453  
[Facebook.com/ohiowildlifecenter](https://www.facebook.com/ohiowildlifecenter)  
[Facebook.com/ohiowildlifecenterrescueandresponseteam](https://www.facebook.com/ohiowildlifecenterrescueandresponseteam)

Ohio Wildlife Center Hospital (Animal Admissions)  
2661 Billingsley Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43235  
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat-Sun 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Holiday Hours: 9 a.m. to noon

SCRAM! Wildlife Control  
[www.SCRAMwildlife.org](http://www.SCRAMwildlife.org)  
614-763-0696

Cover photo by Chris Brinkman  
Big Brown Bats return to the wild after overwintering in artificial hibernation in modified wine coolers during the winter months of 2020. More details can be found here: [ohiowildlifecenter.org/ohio-wildlife-center-releases-big-brown-bats-after-hibernation-in-wine-coolers/](http://ohiowildlifecenter.org/ohio-wildlife-center-releases-big-brown-bats-after-hibernation-in-wine-coolers/)

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

Despite the unprecedented challenges resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Wildlife Center's mission and service to the community remained steadfast throughout 2020. While the demand for some services declined during the pandemic, the need for wildlife rehabilitation saw a marked increase. As such, we are proud to report that due to our exceptional team and dedicated supporters, the Center responded to the many challenges raised by the pandemic and continued to accept wildlife in distress at our Wildlife Hospital seven days a week.

Beginning in March, we implemented a wide-range of operational adjustments in response to the pandemic to be in compliance with state and federal requirements for public health and safety. Visitor and volunteer access to our facilities was restricted and education programming, events, and other programs were suspended or transitioned to a virtual platform. Designated as an essential service, our enhanced safety measures allowed us to continue our mission to save wildlife in a responsible and safe manner. Our donation-supported hospital treated a record 8,105 patients, a 26 percent increase from the 6,426 treated in 2019.

During 2020, our dedicated team was continually adapting to change and discovering new ways of delivering our mission. The hospital's parking lot became a staging area to safely transfer animals from compassionate rescuers to the hospital's care. Virtual programs were designed to engage students confined to a home environment. More than 70 volunteers contributed approximately 9,000 hours of service in homecare, rescue, transport, InfoLine guidance, produce pickup, and food preparation. SCRAM! Wildlife Control implemented a contact-free process to continue to interact with and serve clients across central Ohio.

Throughout the year, important capital and capacity enhancing projects were also completed. With the assistance of foundation funding, a major renovation to the Wildlife Hospital was completed; outdoor enclosures and flight cages were added for mammals and raptors; a new website was launched and, property security projects progressed at the Cook Road Education Center.

The resilience and responsiveness of our staff and volunteers, combined with the tremendous support from our friends and community, resulted in a uniquely successful year serving our mission. We are deeply grateful for all of the contributions, encouragement and kindness that made this year a success.

With appreciation,

**Valerie Swiatek**  
Chair, Board of Trustees



**Ryan Senciboy**  
Treasurer, Board of Trustees





**8,105** Wildlife patients from 67 Ohio counties treated

**166** Different species of Ohio wildlife were assessed at the Wildlife Hospital

**5,410** Animals were rescued in Franklin County

**700** Animals were rescued by volunteers

The challenges of a global pandemic that brought statewide restrictions and put broad public health measures into place across Ohio in March, 2020 had an immediate impact on the operations of the Wildlife Hospital. As an essential business, the Wildlife Hospital remained open seven days a week. Keeping the hospital doors open was a rallying point to ensure all services to rescue, rehabilitate and release patients would continue. The mandatory furlough of volunteers and required safety protocols and social distancing measures demanded immediate pivots to an outdoor intake process in the hospital parking lot. Busy days during the peak summer season would see hundreds of animals exchanged through car doors and windows as concerned citizens continued to rescue wildlife in crisis.

The patient numbers during the pandemic – 8,105 – surpassed the 2019 total of 6,426 and all levels of the previous three record years.

Responding to the high need for animal care, 34 hospital volunteers stepped up to provide homecare services for hundreds of Eastern cottontail rabbits, squirrels, and Virginia opossums. They opened their hearts and homes to feed, weigh, and nurture their small patients. Mixing formulas on kitchen counters and staging cages in family rooms became routine as the months unfolded and restrictions wore on. Care kits, food, medicine and support were provided by the hospital so volunteers could carry out their remote duties fully equipped for patient needs.

The hospital's volunteer rescue team members were called upon to keep up a record pace as they assisted in rescuing 700 animals across central Ohio in 2020. In full PPE gear they traveled to ponds, wetlands, backyards, parking lots and highway medians to carefully contain and transfer injured and ill animals to the hospital for care.

Celebrating successful recoveries and releases were highlights of a year that brought so many disruptions and adjustments. After three months of care for a broken wing, a Bald Eagle was released August 12 in Newark near its nesting site. The eagle was rescued by volunteers Dave Wood and Sara Bachelor along a utility easement in June after a local resident had noticed the injured raptor near a backyard wood pile in her yard.

Wildlife Hospital staff also contributed to research in how the COVID-19 virus might arise and mutate in animal populations. Working with the eSCOUT animal and environmental surveillance initiative at Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, hospital staff tested wildlife patients, including bats, for COVID-19 to identify which animals can carry and potentially spread the disease.



## 2020 WILDLIFE HOSPITAL PATIENT ADMISSIONS

Ohio Wildlife Center operates the state's largest, donation-supported native Wildlife Hospital. It is permitted by the State of Ohio's Division of Wildlife. The hospital's focus is to provide veterinary assessments, treatments and rehabilitation of wildlife toward the main goal of recovery and release back to the wild.

<b>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</b>	<b>144</b>	Sparrow, Junco, Towhee: Chipping,* Song,* White-throated,* Field,* Dark Eyed Junco,* Eastern Towhee	38	<b>Other Bird Species</b>	<b>188</b>
Turtles: Midland Painted, Snapping, Woodland Box, Northern Map	87	Crows, Jays, Magpies: American Crow, Blue Jay	90	Woodpeckers: Downy, Red-bellied, Hairy, Pileated, Northern Flicker,* Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	66
Snakes: Common Garter, Dekay's Brown Snake, Gray Ratsnake, Lake Erie Water	16	Wrens: Carolina,* House*	68	Cuckoo: Yellow-billed,* Black-billed*	7
Frogs: Bullfrog, Treefrog, Northern Leopard	17	Swallows, Swifts: Barn,* Tree,* Purple Martin,* Rough Legged	43	Swifts: Chimney Swift*	26
Toads: Eastern American Toad	2	Tanager: Scarlet Tanager*	1	Hummingbird: Ruby-throated*	32
Salamander: Spotted	1	Warblers: Bay-Breasted,* Magnolia,* Nashville,* Ovenbird,* Tennessee,* Townsend,* Chestnut-sided,* Mourning*	15	Nightjars, Whip-Poor-Wills: Common Nighthawk,* Whip-Poor-Will*	9
Domestic Turtles: Red-Eared Slider, Eastern Chicken, Northern Red- Bellied, Yellow Bellied	21	Mockingbirds and Thrashers: Northern Mockingbird,* Gray Catbird,* Brown	21	Gamebirds: Northern Bobwhite	1
<b>Ducks, Geese, Waterfowl and Shorebirds</b>	<b>672</b>	Vireoes: Red-Eyed,* Blue Headed*	4	Domestics and Other: Mute Swan, Hybrid Duck, Pekin, Dove, Zebra Finch, Undetermined	47
Mallard	382	Chickadees and Titmice: Black- Capped, Carolina, Tufted Titmouse	27	<b>Mammals</b>	<b>4,861</b>
Canada Goose	202	Kinglets: Golden-crowned Kinglet*	3	Virginia Opossum	677
Cackling Goose	1	Cedar Waxwing*	21	Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	1,793
Ducks, Swan: Wood,* Lesser Scaup,* Trumpeter	54	Nuthatch: White-breasted, Red- breasted	4	Squirrels: Eastern Gray, Eastern Fox, Red, Southern Flying, Thirteen-lined Ground	756
Double Crested Cormorant*	4	Flycatchers, Pewees, Phoebe:	3	Rodents: Deer Mouse, House Mouse, Norway Rat, White Footed Mouse	192
Hérons, Egrets, Grebes: Great Blue,* Green,* Pied-Billed Grebe,* Great, Least Bittern*	15	Eastern Phoebe,* Willow,* Grey Crested	3	Shrews: Northern Short-tailed Shrew, Least Shrew, Common Shrew	5
Gulls, Sandpipers, Killdeer: Ring- billed Gull,* Killdeer,* Herring,* American Woodcock, Sora*	11	Blackbirds, Orioles, Grackles: Red- winged Blackbird,* Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole,* Northern Oriole,* Common Grackle	122	Moles & Voles: Meadow Vole, Eastern Mole	8
Rails, Coots and Cranes: American Coot, Virginia	3	House Sparrow	374	Eastern Chipmunk	113
<b>Passeriformes</b>	<b>2,050</b>	European Starling	286	Bats: Big Brown, Little Brown, Eastern Red, Hoary, Silver Haired, Northern Long Eared Bat	151
American Robin*	412	<b>Birds of Prey</b>	<b>190</b>	Raccoon	896
Other Thrushes, Veeries: Eastern Bluebird,* Gray-cheeked,* Swainson's,* Hermit,* Wood Thrush*	57	Hawks: Red-tailed,* Red-shouldered,* Cooper's,* Sharp-shinned,* Osprey,* Broad Winged*	114	Striped Skunk	154
Mourning Dove*	167	Owls: Barn, Barred, Eastern Screech, Great Horned, Short-eared*	47	Woodchuck	54
Finches: American,* House	161	Falcons: American Kestrel, Peregrine	7	Weasels: Mink, Least	3
Northern Cardinal	87	Eagles: Bald Eagle	2	Foxes: Red, Gray	10
Rock Pigeon	46	Vultures: Black, Turkey	20	Coyote	4
				Muskrat	1
				White-Tailed Deer**	43
				Beaver	1
				<b>Total Patients:</b>	<b>8,105</b>

\*Denotes Neo-tropical migrants

\*\*White-Tailed Deer – Ohio Division of Wildlife requires fawns be assessed and fostered back to a wild herd within 72 hours of hospital admission.



**8,968** Hours of volunteer service donated

**5** New Animal Ambassadors joined the team

**40** Lights Out Columbus volunteers logged **612** hours and covered

**778** miles to rescue injured migrating Neotropical songbirds

With speed and creativity, the Center's conservation education team adapted to a largely virtual world in 2020. While off-site and on-site programs and tours were canceled or put on-hold in March, the wildlife educators pivoted to zoom presentations to continue bringing animal stories to life. With topics from coexisting with native wildlife to Ohio's raptors, the Center's Animal Ambassadors assisted staff in sharing programs about how people of all ages can help native wildlife in their neighborhoods and backyards.

In 2020, several new Animal Ambassadors joined Ohio Wildlife Center: A Virginia opossum, Eastern Screech Owl, Eastern fox snake, and a striped skunk. The education Animal Ambassadors cannot be released back to the wild due to permanent injuries or disabilities and they help teach and illustrate wildlife behaviors as part of the education team.

On October 28, 2020, a new Bald Eagle Animal Ambassador joined the Center from South Carolina. The juvenile eagle, named Audrey, was found stranded on the ground and rescued at the Sewee Preserve near Charleston by board member and InfoLine volunteer Audrey Glick. The Avian Conservation Center and Center for Birds of Prey in Charleston County, S.C. provided the first months of care to the weeks-old raptor to address a humeral fracture, malnutrition and dehydration.

The eagle was assessed as non-releaseable after a second fracture occurred that could not be surgically corrected. Once state and federal permits were finalized to transfer the bird from South Carolina to Ohio and to designate the eagle as an education ambassador due to permanent disability, she made her way to her forever home at Ohio Wildlife Center.

Audrey and Harvey Glick, with the assistance of supporters Friedl and Jean-Clare Bohm, arranged for the eagle to be flown to Columbus, where she was introduced to her Ohio habitat in a newly constructed outdoor raptor enclosure at the Education Center.

While COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the spring 2020 monitoring for Neotropical songbirds through the Lights Out Columbus conservation project, volunteers were able to resume downtown monitoring for the fall migration. COVID-19 safety protocols were put in place so that 40 volunteers could devote 612 hours to rescuing songbirds from August to November. By doing visual sweeps of streets and alleys, Lights Out volunteers covered 778 total miles over four months and collected 112 birds from 37 species and two bats. Collisions with buildings from disorienting lights and reflective glass are a leading cause of bird fatalities. The injured birds that are rescued by Lights Out volunteers are treated at the Wildlife Hospital until they recover their strength to continue on their migration journey.



**915** Residential and commercial services calls made to assist homeowners and businesses with wildlife conflicts

**Top** species consumers seek assistance for from SCRAM! services: Eastern gray squirrel, raccoons, striped skunks, bats and woodchucks

**332** Animals involved in exclusion services

Sustaining its services through the initial phase of Ohio's COVID-19 public health mandates required SCRAM! Wildlife Control's team to quickly adopt a contact free process for clients with safety modifications that permitted continued operations during the pandemic's initial phase.

Throughout the 2020 pandemic year, the issues that prompt home and business owners to seek out the humane exclusion methods deployed by SCRAM! were ongoing: mammals exploring attics, animals nesting under decks or within walls, or birds trapped in buildings or chimney spaces. SCRAM! technicians, outfitted in full PPE, consulted with clients in driveways and backyards, completed assessments and devised non-lethal, exclusion solutions.

As the leading humane, wildlife service in central Ohio, SCRAM! is an alternative to traditional animal control companies that trap and euthanize healthy animals. No animal is ever harmed as SCRAM! technicians manage the process to have the optimum outcome for the client and the wildlife. Team members also create plans to complete any necessary structural repairs to eliminate future wildlife issues.

Through its social enterprise focus, SCRAM! business fees help support the operating costs of Ohio Wildlife Center. The team blends public education with service, applying innovative techniques such as drone technology to address wildlife problems in areas such as geese mitigation. Partnerships in 2020 included service contracts with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, local municipalities and public parks for both geese mitigation and wildlife rescue services.





## FOUNDATION SUPPORT AND 2020 GRANTS

Ohio Wildlife Center received financial support from the following funders in 2020 to support the Wildlife Hospital, education programs, capital improvements and general operations:

- Barbara and Bill Bonner Family Foundation – Capital improvements and operations
- Columbus Foundation – Capacity building, emergency COVID program support, sustainability
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Committee – Lights Out Columbus project support
- Columbus Audubon – Lights Out Columbus project support
- Cardinal Health Foundation – Operational support
- Cooper Family Foundation – Operational support
- Crane Corporation – Operational support
- Foren Family Foundation – Animal care and operations
- Greif, Inc. – Education and camp programs
- Honda of America – General operating
- Montei Foundation – Wildlife Hospital support
- Ian and Mimi Rolland Family Foundation – General operating
- SWACO – Waste diversion project



## OHIO WILDLIFE CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

Ohio Wildlife Center had collaborations and service-agreements in 2020 with the following organizations and community groups:

- Animal Care Unlimited
- Catering by Scott
- City of Columbus Recreation and Parks
- City of Dublin
- City of Upper Arlington
- Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
- Columbus State Community College
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and the Wilds
- Delaware Area Career Center
- EarthShare Ohio
- Grange Insurance Audubon Center
- Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative
- Ohio Division of Wildlife
- Ohio History Connection
- Ohio State University
- Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
- Otterbein University
- Pet Cremation Services
- Preservation Parks of Delaware County





## 2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Ohio Wildlife Center statement of activities and changes in net assets for the year ended December 31, 2020

Revenue	Total
Contributions	\$1,323,578
Educational Programs	\$34,301
Grants	\$132,203
In-Kind Gifts	\$52,244
Other Income	\$14,086
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$1,556,412</b>

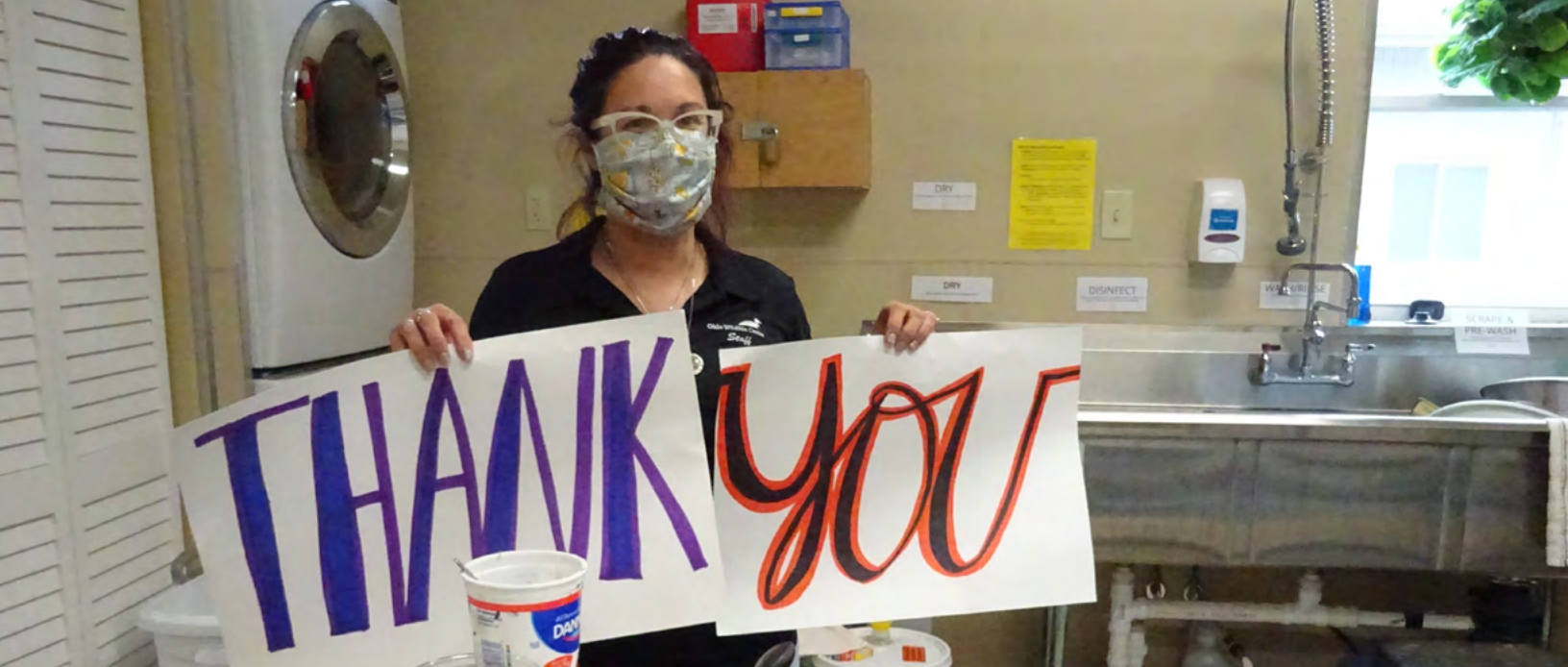
Operating Expenses	Total
Programs Services	\$940,123
Management and General	\$101,277
Fundraising (Including In-Kind Support)	\$318,865
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$1,360,265</b>

Assets	Total
Change in Net Assets	\$196,147
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$2,995,480
<b>Net Assets – End of Year</b>	<b>\$3,191,627</b>

Ohio Wildlife Center is a 501c3 organization that operates through funding from charitable contributions. Ohio Wildlife Center receives no annual tax or state or federal government funding and relies on donations to support its Wildlife Hospital, Education Center, programs and services. The Center is committed to efficient and effective use of all resources and donor gifts while continuing to develop and diversify revenue sources for operations.







**Thank you for helping keep our doors open.  
And for your support, your donations,  
your encouragement and your kindness.**

