



# The Center for Wildlife NEWS

P. O. Box 620  
Cape Neddick, ME 03902  
207.361.1400  
www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org

Spring 2009

## Building a Sustainable Future for Wildlife

Going into our 23rd year, the Center for Wildlife remains dedicated to building a sustainable future for wildlife through rehabilitation, education, and conservation activities. Our mission focuses on three key goals: strengthening regional capacity to rescue, rehabilitate and return injured animals to the wild; providing learning opportunities and expanding community outreach to teach and inspire people of all ages to help protect local wildlife; and achieving financial and environmental sustainability to ensure our future. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that receives no regular funding from tax dollars, we depend on the generosity of people like you to help us meet these goals. Please contact us to discuss the many ways you can support CFW's mission.



CFW Staff (left to right): Back: Lorisa Ricketts (*intensive care*), Amy Titcomb (*operations*), Kristen Lamb (*education & outreach*). Front: Laura Dehler (*development*), Karen McElmurry, (*Executive Director*), with volunteer Miranda Krebs and "Leo".

## Highlights 2008-2009

### Wildlife Rehabilitation

- Admission of more animals than ever before (1,605 animals, over 150 species). These patients were rehabilitated and released back to the wild, placed in educational programs if non-releasable, transferred to another facility, given peaceful sanctuary until passing, or humanely euthanized.
- Increased number of calls (well over 4,000) from members of the public inquiring about a variety of issues and concerns requiring the Center's unique expertise and services. More communities (60+) served by CFW across a 100-mile radius from our Cape Neddick site.
- Participated in a study of injured, rehabilitated and re-released barred owls with BioDiversity Research Institute; we hope the findings will help with future prognoses for patients of this species.
- Retained 2 full-time and 5 part-time skilled rehab staff; promoted 3 interns and 2 volunteers to part-time paid positions; recruited and trained 12 interns and 45 volunteers for animal care and facility maintenance projects.
- Constructed 2 new raptor flight cages with funding from Martha Morse Foundation and The Bald-

win Foundation; made numerous additional repairs and improvements to our facility.

### Education & Outreach

- Publicized programs to over 120 schools in southern ME and coastal NH, which resulted in 30% growth in the number of programs presented in schools and libraries to 111, and 70% growth in the number of individuals reached to 4,200.
- Established partnerships with: York County Audubon Society, York Land Trust, Hilton-Winn Youth Enrichment Center, White Pine Programs, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Mount Agamenticus Conservation. These partnerships allowed us to share our programs with children and groups previously unable to take part due to lack of funding.
- Three staff and one volunteer educator completed NH and ME Project WILD workshops; ongoing consultation with teachers keeps programs on track with state curriculum standards; two trained volunteer educators joined the outreach team, enabling CFW to provide several free programs to new audiences.
- More than \$22,000 was raised from founda-

tions and individuals for program expansion; we also increased our fees slightly to move closer to self-funding, while remaining affordable.

### Sustainability

- Two-year grant awarded by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for work expanding and strengthening all facets of our development program.
- In-kind donations of essential goods and services increased 50%, including 7,000 volunteer hours. Significant donations included veterinary services; conceptual design for new building; a vehicle; photovoltaic solar panels; photography services; rabies vaccines and lab testing; a computer and projector; phone system; anesthesia machine; freezers; air conditioners; food/cleaning supplies; and direct mail services for fundraising.
- Staff and board members began laying the groundwork for a capital campaign to replace our clinic/administration building with a "greener" facility. Other efforts to make our current operation more environmentally sustainable include reducing paper communications like this newsletter, which is being distributed to the majority of our members online.



A kind-hearted motorcyclist brought this young turkey vulture to us after it collided with his head (fortunately he was wearing a helmet)! He was thrilled to help release the bird several weeks later.



Baby flying squirrels are fragile but a staff favorite.



This baby alligator was kept illegally as a pet before it was confiscated by the State and brought to CFW. It took us a while to find a suitable placement for it, but it is now living back in Florida.

## All About the Animals: *A small sampling of rehabilitation cases*



This big brown bat rests on a leaf during flight practice in an outdoor enclosure.



This juvenile Common Loon was admitted with fishing line wrapped around its head and mouth. After staff removed the line, stabilized the bird and had him examined by our vet, we contacted our friend Kappy Sprenger, a specialist in loon rehabilitation, who agreed to take the bird. He was successfully released two weeks later, looking strong and fit again.



We treated 425 baby songbirds from 35 different species in our baby bird room this summer, including this Eastern kingbird.



Our baby mammal caregivers were busy as usual this year with nearly 400 orphans – including a wide variety of squirrels, bats, opossums, woodchucks, chipmunks, and much, much more!



Biologist Norm Smith from Mass Audubon bands this juvenile snowy owl just before she is released back into the wild. She spent three months at CFW recuperating after being struck by a car.

# Thanks to All Our Supporters - Donors & Volunteers!

The Center is so fortunate to have hundreds of wonderful supporters – our volunteers, members of the board of directors, advisors, individual member donors, foundations and businesses -- who provide 100% of the Center's \$385,000 annual operating budget through financial donations and other in-kind gifts of goods and services. We simply could not do our work without this generosity! All of our supporters are listed on our website at [www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org/sponsors.php](http://www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org/sponsors.php)

**Interns and volunteers** are crucial to helping the Center meet the challenge of managing the ever-increasing animal care workload, transporting patients, building and maintaining the specialized enclosures, perches and other facilities needed to safely house and enrich the animals, and helping with educational outreach and fundraising projects. We look forward to receiving applications from interested volunteers who are eager to learn and help out during our busy spring/summer season. Please visit our website [www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org/volunteer-intern.php](http://www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org/volunteer-intern.php) for more information and instructions on how to apply.

*Educational ambassadors in training long-eared owl "Leo" (right) and northern saw whet owl "Juno" (below).*



## Tribute to Departing and New Board Members

Long-time member Lee Sullivan recently resigned from the board of directors. Lee was first introduced to CFW in 1993 when she came to the Center with a neighbor who had found an injured falcon. As Lee looked around the tiny trailer we were working in back then, she made the mistake of asking where we got our funding and if we needed any help with that. Not long after, Lee was writing appeal letters and offering her expertise in non-profit work and fundraising. During Lee's 15 years on the board, she helped the Center transform from a humble organization to a full-fledged rehabilitation and education/outreach center that is proudly entering its 23<sup>rd</sup> year. We could have never done it without you Lee-Thank you!

Another very hard-working board member, Patti Cherry, resigned after two years of board service. Patti has worked diligently to cultivate members and business supporters in the Kittery area, and we are especially thankful to her for organizing a series of garden tour fundraisers in Kittery last summer. Patti's many valuable contributions will be missed.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Dawn Dickinson to the board. Her energy and business expertise will be invaluable to moving the Center forward. We currently have openings on our board advisory committee. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Karen at the Center at 207-361-1400.



*Intern Elizabeth Putnam learning exam techniques from a staff member Kristen Lamb.*

## Onsite Learning Opportunities

CFW's educational outreach team strives to provide opportunities for people of all ages to connect with and develop respect for local birds, mammals and reptiles; learn how human activity impacts native wildlife; and be inspired to take action that will help to protect the species they learn about. Our dream of providing quality onsite learning opportunities to children, students, adults and the general public has always been a challenge given the current limitations of our site layout and our need to preserve a peaceful environment for the wild patients in our care. However, we recognize the Center's unique ability to offer exposure to a variety of animal species; we hope to make these wonderful learning opportunities available to all who are interested. The animals themselves truly are the ambassadors of the natural world. Giving folks the chance to connect with and learn from them is a special gift the Center has to offer.

Due to overwhelming demand, we are thrilled to offer onsite programs and tours at our 3-season outdoor amphitheater and resident raptor enclosure! Onsite programs include the popular Raptors & Reptiles, Nocturnal Mammals, Bats: Friends in the Night Sky, and others. Check out our website [www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org](http://www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org) for information on scheduling one of these exciting programs.



*CFW intern Abby Everleth (with resident ambassador corn snake "Zipper") scans for parasites.*



P. O. Box 620  
Cape Neddick, ME 03902

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PORTSMOUTH, NH  
MAIL FORCE



*Peregrine falcon, seriously injured in car accident, was successfully rehabilitated and released on Peirce Island, Portsmouth in January (photo by Bob Malbon).*

## You're Invited to a Spring Fling for the Birds

Come celebrate spring at a classic rock gig featuring local band "Captain Rick" to benefit CFW. May 2, 7:30-11:30pm at the Portsmouth VFW on Deer Street. \$7 cover charge at the door.

## Wildlife Stimulus Challenge Fund Still Underway

The Center is extremely grateful to two anonymous donors who pledged \$5,000 each through challenge matching grants to help the Center meet its operating needs over the winter and into the busy spring. With help from the local press, members and other donors, we have met the first \$5,000 challenge. \$4,500 is needed to meet the second challenge and raise the full \$20,000 goal. Please send your contribution today.

## Don't Miss CFW's Annual "Call of the Wild" Breakfast

The Center is delighted to announce its 5th annual breakfast fundraiser on May 6 at the Portsmouth Sheraton. This year's event still has openings for guests and it's free! To reserve seats, please call **207-361-1400** or email [outreach08@yorkcenterforwildlife.org](mailto:outreach08@yorkcenterforwildlife.org).

## Please Take Our Survey

As our mission continues to expand we hope to build on this year's momentum and are exploring creative fundraising and programming ideas. Please give us your valuable feedback on how CFW can better serve our community by completing a quick survey on our website at [www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org/contact-us\\_survey.php](http://www.yorkcenterforwildlife.org/contact-us_survey.php). Thank you.



*Fledgling blue jay (photo by Miranda Krebs).*

Remember: please don't rescue a wild animal unless rescuing is needed! It is always our goal at CFW to intervene only when absolutely necessary. If you think you've found a wild animal in need of help, first protect it from immediate danger, then call us at **207-361-1400** before taking further action. This is especially important with babies and juvenile animals.