

The Wild Life

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF COLORADO

SUMMER 2008



FUNDING TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

A Look at the Basics of Grant Applications

BY JOYCE BENESH-WILLIAMS

Securing funding to meet your operational needs is more challenging than most of us realize; that is, until we actually sit down and attempt to do so. There are a few simple, however, very important guidelines to follow when seeking financial support from funding organizations.

To begin your quest for funding, you should have a budget in place, reflecting the actual financial needs of your operation. Guessing is not optional. The closer your figures are to the actual expense the easier it is to stay within your budget and manage your cash flow. Budgets should be updated each year to reflect the rising costs of products and labor.

The second item of importance is to have your mission statement reflect clearly what your goal and purpose is as an individual working for free or as a non-profit organization. Mission statements reflect not only the purpose; they reflect the impact and method of measuring your success in what you do.

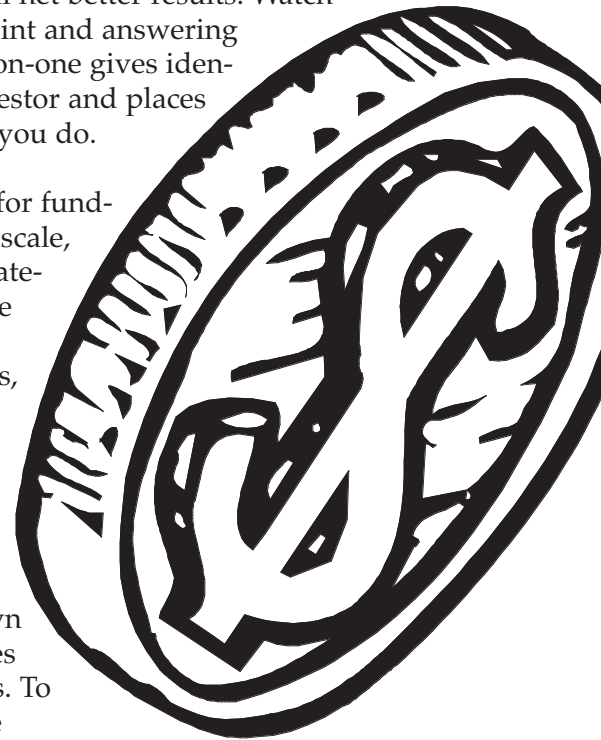
Next you need to identify specifically why you are requesting the funding. If it is for equipment, how will the equipment improve your rehabilitation efforts? If you are seeking assistance in meeting operating costs, you must explain how this financial support will keep your facility operating and specifically what expenses will be paid with the monies received.

On a smaller scale, writing a letter to a local non-profit organization and requesting a donation used to be a simple process. Since 9/11, all that has changed. Organizations are besieged with requests for donations and that has left them in a position to be more

tenuous in their selection process. A letter requesting to visit the organization and sharing a 15-20 minute presentation with its membership or Board of Directors, explaining what you do and its impact on the community will net better results. Watching a power point and answering questions one-on-one gives identity to the requestor and places value on what you do.

When looking for funding on a larger scale, there are five categories to choose from: Foundations and Trusts, National Funders, Corporations, Government, and Religious Organizations. Each has its own set of guidelines and restrictions. To be sure you are approaching a respective funding provider in the appropriate manner, one should contact them by telephone or e-mail and request the application packet or guidelines to be followed when applying for funding. Make no mistake, this must be your **first step** in the process. To do otherwise could result in your request letter finding its way to a wastebasket. Hundreds of requests are received daily

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Funding to Meet Your Needs, Continued

by these organizations and they have set standards to be followed to provide a timely process for reviewing and approving recipients. There are no exceptions. Part of the test of the applicant's proof of accountability and ability to oversee their financial needs is their ability to follow instructions and provide the information in the format requested.

Colorado funders developed the Colorado Common Grant Application (CGA) to simplify the process for both grantee and the grant-maker. This format provides grant-makers with the ability to compare and process similar types of information in a timely manner. For the grantee, this application process can be used as a tool to be used in planning, marketing, budgeting and evaluating — in addition to proposal writing.

The Community Resource Centers (CRC) has a Colorado Grants Guide they publish every two years. The last edition was published in 2007 and the next edition will be out in January of 2009. The cost is \$75.00 plus S&H or \$150.00 for one year with updates throughout the year. This guide is a fantastic resource for funding opportunities. The benefits you derive from this book will more than cover the initial outlay of \$75.00. The guide will walk you through the application process and explains in detail the purpose of the funder, how to apply, restrictions, deadlines, listings of recent grants awarded, names of the trustees, primary areas of interest, grant types, geographic interests and statistics. To contact the CRC call (303) 623-1540, fax (303) 623-1567, or visit their website: www.crcamerica.org. CRC is a Denver based organization.

The process of obtaining monies to support your work or your organization's work is one that involves sharing detailed information in exchange for dollars. Funders want to know where the money is going and if their choice of recipient is a good investment. The extra time and detail you put into it is worth the effort. ❖

Joyce Benesh Williams is the past-president of the Northern Colorado/Southern Wyoming Chapter of AFP (Association of Fundraising Professionals), a position she held for three years. AFP is the professional organization supporting non-profit leadership with their development and fundraising needs. Joyce has worked with non-profits to create and/or develop their boards, establish their fundraising projects and implement volunteer programs, since 1985. On a personal note, Joyce has served as the fundraising chairperson for several organizations including the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Education Conference held in Florida five years consecutively and later served as Development Chairperson for Crossroads Safe-house in Ft. Collins.

Together, Making a Difference... Our First Project Together, Symposium 2009

Now that we are entrenched in our work and summer has truly set in, I would like to take a moment to skip ahead to a cooler time of year. February is the month I have in mind, and to be exact, the first weekend in February (2/7 and 2/8). Symposium 2009 will take place on that weekend. Past experience has taught us, starting earlier in the year with our preliminary work gives us more time and opportunity to select topics and presenters, not to mention spread the work out among more individuals.

While our membership has grown to 60 plus and our Board of Directors has grown to seven, the task before us is to build a team of members to assist in various stages of preparation for the symposium. Everyone is extremely busy at the moment. However, we are not looking for physical participation. We are looking for your ideas and suggestions. To that endeavor, we ask that while you are bottle-feeding a baby or hand-feeding a bird; let your mind travel to your memory bank. During our busiest season is when we discover our needs. What do you feel you or your colleagues in the world of wildlife rehabbing could use as a boost to resources, knowledge and techniques? This year, now, what are some of your challenges? Is it funding, finding volunteers, better equipment, more hands-on training by people who know from years of experience and/or the opportunity to actually feel the moment by doing it and learning something new.

This year's symposium is a full two-day event. In reviewing our surveys and speaking with attendees of the symposiums for the past two years, one fact seemed very clear. Everyone went away with something of value. Another point became very evident. There are many individuals who are new to the world of wildlife rehabilitation. From vet-techs to volunteers, interest and participation is growing. Right here in our own organization we have a large number of volunteers with hopes of becoming

licensed one day and contributing to the world of wildlife rehabilitation. How exciting is that! We have a future to work towards.

Take a moment to review the list of topics the attendees identified at last year's symposium (see p. 8). Reflect and write down the ones you would like to see considered and presented. For those of you who have never participated in the preparation of a symposium, consider this option. While participating you meet other people involved in the world of "rehabbing" and you share. You work with you Board of Directors, who are working for you. And you discover, the more involved you are the more you expand your world of resources and knowledge.



Joyce Benesh-Williams

Over the summer we are looking for your inputs on topics and speakers. In the fall we will ask for volunteers to assist with the preliminary activities (mailings, telephone calls, door prizes, sponsorships, coordinating volunteers to work on the day of the event, copying, etc.) We ask that you participate in the growth and success of CCWR. The Symposium is our annual project and our window of opportunity to share with others what we have to offer to a CCWR member. Every member can participate in insuring the future of good rehabilitation ethics and skills, by being a part of teaching and sharing with others now. Contact us and let us know how you would like to help.

Together, making a difference,

Joyce Benesh-Williams
President, CCWR

Swainson's Hawk

Buteo Swainsoni

Named for the nineteenth-century English naturalist, William Swainson, this western hawk is common throughout Colorado in the summer. Inhabiting prairies, plains, and other open grasslands during the breeding season, its generalist diet includes birds, small mammals, and occasionally reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. During migration and on their wintering grounds, Swainson's Hawks feed almost exclusively on grasshoppers, crickets, and beetles.

These medium-to-large hawks have broad wings, stout bodies, and relatively short tails and belong to the group known as *buteos*, a Latin term referring to "a kind of hawk or falcon". Equipped with long, broad wings that are specially designed for soaring on rising columns of warm air, these open country hawks are the masters of effortless flight. Most species of this genus exhibit a wide variation in their plumage coloration, ranging from very dark to nearly all-white albi-no. The classic Swainson's Hawk sports a dark bib and hood, light belly, buffy underside of the wing, and silver primaries and secondaries. Though known for the distinctive dark head plumage and light undersides, they may exhibit dark gray, rufous, or almost black plumage. Like most immature *buteos*, sub-adult Swainson's Hawks have lighter eyes than their adult counterparts. Along with a mottled head, juveniles are clad with streaked breast feathers.



Above: An adult Swainson's Hawk with the classic dark head and bib. Below, a juvenile still in his mottled sub-adult plumage. Photos courtesy of Birds of Prey Foundation.



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What Do I Have?

Given their wide variation in plumage coloration, *buteos* (open country hawks) can be difficult to identify. If you haven't seen many hawks, you may not know a Red-tailed Hawk from a Swainson's Hawk. Here are a few tips to help sort out the clues in telling them apart.

Body Plumage: The classic Swainson's Hawk sports a dark bib and hood with a light belly. Along with a mottled head, juveniles are clad with streaked breast feathers. Red-tailed Hawks may don a variable amount of dark, short streaked feathers that form the belly band, though this plumage characteristic is difficult to see with darker morphs or may be absent regardless of the coloration.

Wings: Swainson's Hawks exhibit a buffy underside of the wing, and silvery trailing edge of the flight feathers with less contrast in juveniles. Both adult and immature Red-tailed Hawks have dark patches (patagial marks) on the leading edge under the wing. The best field mark for juvenile Red-tailed Hawks is the two-toned upper wings with pale primaries and coverts that contrast with darker secondaries and coverts.

Tail Feathers: Tail feathers of adult and immature Swainson's Hawks are similar with gray-brown coloration, dark bands, and white tip. Adult Red-tailed Hawks typically sport the rufous tail color, but immature tail feathers are generally brown with many fine bands.

Fine Points: Swainson's Hawks have only three notched primaries unlike most *buteos* which have four. Though the tails of juvenile *buteos* are noticeably longer than those of adults, their wings are generally narrower in most species.

Lastly, for a rehabilitator, the time of year you get a hawk can help identify it as much as its physical features. Hatchling Red-tailed Hawks are found mid-spring, while Swainson's Hawk babies don't arrive until early to mid-July. And, with Swainson's migrating to Argentina in the winter, it's unlikely a rehabilitator will see one of any age between October and April. ❖

As an international migrant, Swainson's hawks may travel as far as 5,000 miles from Colorado to their wintering grounds in Argentina. Because of the high concentration of grasshoppers, they are particularly attracted to the pampas agricultural area, west of Buenos Aires. Argentine locals call the Swainson's, *aquilucho langostero* (the hawk that eats locusts).

Approximately 5 percent of the world's population of Swainson's Hawks perished in a single season (winter 1995-1996) due to a highly toxic organophosphate known as monocrotophos. Responsible for the destruction of their crops, local farmers used the insecticide to combat the grasshoppers. Fortunately, several U.S. agencies, along with Argentine officials introduced the local farmers to an environmentally friendly alternative that has shown no harmful side effects to these hawks. Though monocrotophos was banned in

2000, there are several other pesticides sold in Argentina that may also pose serious threats to this beautiful buteo. But for now... we can look forward to the return of those spiraling Swainson's each spring! ❖



Photo courtesy of Birds of Prey Foundation

A kettle of Swainson's Hawks prepares to migrate to Argentina.

Rules & Regs



Q & A with the CDOW

Q. Who can use volunteers?

A. Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators (not provisionals) may use unlicensed volunteers under their supervision, at their facilities, provided that they maintain current records including name, address, phone number, and dates worked for all volunteers. ([1401 A. 5.](#))

Q. I'm thinking about getting volunteers and taking on provisionals. Where do I start?

A. Take a look at the [Provisional and Sponsor Guidelines](#) on the DOW website. These guidelines give an in-depth look at the process to utilize provisionals and volunteers by fully-licensed wildlife rehabilitators. ❖

Kathy Konishi is with the Special Licensing Unit of CDOW. For questions concerning wildlife rehabilitation licenses, you can contact her at Kathy.Konishi@state.co.us.

Calculating Release Rates

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) offers rehabilitators a plethora of advice, resources, and tips on proper record keeping. When it comes to calculating release rates, it's natural to want that number to be a high percentage and some people are tempted to "fudge" their numbers. However, according to the NWRA, there is only one formula to use:

$$\% \text{ Released} = \frac{\# \text{ Released}}{(\text{Total} \# \text{ Received} - \text{DOA})}$$

This is calculated over a set period of time, usually a calendar year. Please note that "Released" does not include transfers, placed or pending cases.

For more helpful guidance, visit www.nwrawildlife.org and download a free copy of NWRA's *Minimum Standards, 3rd Edition*. At 76 pages, it's no small feat to print it out, but every rehabilitator should have a copy close-at-hand. ❖

First Live Test for Chronic Wasting Disease In Elk Developed



Researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Colorado State University (CSU) recently completed their third year of evaluating and validating the first live rectal-tissue biopsy method for detecting chronic wasting disease (CWD) in captive and wild elk. To date, researchers have collected over 1,500 biopsies from captive elk in Colorado and used the technique to find 15 elk that were positive for CWD. As compared to proven post-mortem diagnostic tests, this live test appears to be nearly as accurate.

"The key advantage to the rectal biopsy test is that it can be performed on live animals. Until now, there was no practical live test for CWD in elk," said research wildlife biologist Dr. Kurt VerCauteren with APHIS' Wildlife Services (WS) National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC). "With this technique we can detect CWD in animals not showing any signs of the disease and, thus, remove them so they are not left to infect other individuals and further contaminate the environment."

The research is a collaborative effort between APHIS' WS and Veterinary Services programs, the Agricultural Research Service, and the Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory within the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The majority of the research was conducted on the Velvet Ridge Elk Ranch, owned by Dennis and Stephanie White, near Ft Collins. In 2002, an elk on the ranch was confirmed to have CWD and since that time the Whites have worked closely with NWRC and other collaborators to learn more about CWD and to develop methods to manage it in captive and wild settings.

"The use of this new live test in the initial screening, surveillance and monitoring of CWD will greatly aid in the management and control of the disease in the wild, as well as in captive settings," said VerCauteren.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy whereby abnormal proteins accumulate in the central nervous and lymphatic systems of infected animals causing a degenerative lack of control and a "wasting-away" death. Currently, there is no cure.

CWD has been reported in captive and free-ranging mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and moose. CWD has been a devastating disease to the captive elk industry. An estimated 12,000-14,000 captive elk have been killed in the western United States and Canada in the past 7-8 years to control CWD. Several thousand free-ranging mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk also have been killed in attempts to reduce the disease in the wild.

The NWRC is the research arm of USDA's WS program. It is the federal institution devoted to resolving problems caused by the interaction of wild animals and society. The center applies scientific expertise to the development of practical methods to resolve these problems and to maintain the quality of the environments shared with wildlife. To learn more about NWRC, visit its Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/.

Source: USDA

CCWR Members Step Forward!

The CCWR Board of Directors extends a hearty welcome to its newest members. In the spirit of moving forward and taking CCWR to the next level of serving its members, we are happy to announce that Kathy Estes-Morgan, Wendy Gallant and Janet Rutigliano have joined the CCWR board. They bring with them a diversity of skills, backgrounds and a wealth of enthusiasm and new ideas.

Kathy Estes-Morgan — Her interest in native animal rehabilitation began in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she answered an ad for Liberty Wildlife in 1997. As a volunteer for two years, she worked with everything from Mourning Doves to Harris Hawks. In 1999 Kathy and her husband moved to Walnut Creek, California where she became a volunteer for Lindsey Wildlife, doing on-site care and home care for small mammals. She also kept non-releasable bats for education purposes. That same year she joined The Marine Mammal Center, volunteering in public education at Pier 39's sea lion exhibit and at their Fort Mason facility working with a variety of seals, sea lions, and cetaceans. Settling in Conifer in 2007, and currently building her new home, Kathy plans to obtain her permit working with mammals (specializing in bats) in the very near future. Kathy is a member of IWRC, NWRA, WBWG (Western Bat Working Group) and the TWS-Western Section. This past spring she "rescued" two hives worth of honeybee swarms, and has been working with that project.

Wendy Gallant — Born and raised in the wilds of northern New Hampshire, Wendy developed her wildlife and animal interest as a child. When she wasn't raising orphaned birds, she was cleaning out the local library on the topic of raising wildlife orphans. With her Associate of Science degree in Veterinary Technology from the University of Maine in Orono, she has applied what she has learned in several veterinarian hospitals from Maine to St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands. She also has experience from Ocean World (working with dolphins and seals), Palm Beach Zoo (handling educational outreach animals native to Florida in an effort to connect with the people who impacted their survival options; and The Marine Wildlife Park (Wendy's personal favorite place to work). There she bottle fed fawns, moose

calves and raccoons by the dozens, not forgetting the feeding of the resident black bears strawberries with a long handled spoon when spring finally sprung. Wendy moved to Colorado in 2006 and became a volunteer at Greenwood. According to Wendy, this is only the beginning. Her goal is to become licensed and to contribute to the world of wildlife rehabilitation in every way she can. Her favorite quote is, "Life shrinks and expands in proportion to one's courage" by Anias Nin.

Janet Rutigliano — After working as a technical writer and contract analyst for several high-technology companies over the past 23 years, Janet realized she had a calling to work with wildlife. A volunteer application was submitted to Greenwood in the summer of 2006 and that began the journey Janet hopes will lead to a full wildlife rehabilitation license at some point in the future. Currently, Janet is employed by IBM. Her driving ambition is to devote as much time as possible to her wildlife volunteer work and education. Janet's focus is working with songbirds, waterfowl, and squirrels. However, she is eager to branch out and devote time to raptor rehabilitation. Janet is an avid nature enthusiast and enjoys hiking and walking all over Boulder County. She is also a lesson assistant at the Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center and loves working with horses and children. "I am honored and very excited to be serving on the Board of Directors for CCWR."

Please feel free to call, write or e-mail these new board members and share with them your appreciation for their efforts. They will be working for all of you and it appears they are very committed to doing just that. ❖

The Wild Life is a quarterly newsletter for members of CCWR. We encourage you to share this newsletter with volunteers, staff, and colleagues. We hope you enjoy the publication.

We strive to publish well-researched information that is up-to-date, interesting and helpful. However, information in *The Wild Life* is provided only as a service to our members and is not intended to be directive, nor applicable in all circumstances. Members are always advised to seek counsel from their veterinarian and DOW officials on matters applicable to their locale.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. To submit an article or other contribution for consideration, please send it to: CCWR_4_Members@msn.com



Special Discount For CCWR Members

Blackwell Publishing, publisher of *Hand-Rearing Birds* by Laurie Gage and Rebecca Duerr (ISBN 9780813806662) which was reviewed in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Wild Life*, is offering CCWR members a 20% discount on the purchase price (\$79.99) of the book.

Orders may be placed by the following methods using this **Promotion Code: BP824**.

1. Phone Toll-Free (877)762-2974
2. Fax Toll-Free (800)605-2665
3. Mail Blackwell Publishing, Customer Care
10475 Crosspoint Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46256
4. Web www.BlackwellVet.com

Insert the ISBN number 9780813806662 in the search box and follow the ordering instructions. You will be asked for your special promotion code towards the end of the ordering process. ❖

Give Us Your Feedback

Below is an abbreviated list of topics that symposium attendees cited as being areas where more education is needed. Using this list as a starting point, get your creative juices flowing, and let us know what specific topics you would like to see covered at the 2009 Symposium in February.

Standards and ethics, such as:

- Caging requirements and construction
- Release criteria
- Euthanasia
- Establishing accountability

Overcoming Limitations:

- Size of facility, staffing, finances
- Personal capabilities, knowledge, quality of care, burnout
- Networking
- Capacity issues
- Recruiting volunteer help

Educational guides:

- Handouts for the public
- Diets
- Licensing, sponsoring etc
- Development, fundraising
- Resources
- Case studies

E-mail your comments to: ccwr_4_members@msn.com

Thanks!

CCWR 2008-09 Membership Application/Renewal

(For membership through 3/31/09).

Check one: New or Renewal Individual Membership \$15
or: New Organization Membership \$20

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone (best place to reach you): _____

E-mail: _____

In an effort to save resources, e-mail is CCWR's primary method of communicating. We promise not to share your e-mail address outside the organization. Thank you.

Are you a licensed rehabilitator? Y N If Yes, how long? _____

Areas of expertise: _____

Areas of interest: _____

I would like to be nominated to the Board.

I wish to help with the following sub-committee(s):

Newsletter Education/Seminars/Symposium

Grants/Awards Outreach

Nominating Video/Library Maintenance

Other ways I can help: _____

Please send with check (payable to CCWR) to:
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