



November, 2010

Dear friend:

We need your financial help as we approach the end of 2010.

The last couple of years have been hard – on WRC, many of you, and indeed our nation – as we’ve been buffeted by global economic trends that are seemingly beyond our control. During times like these, it’s important to step back, to search for meaning, to embrace our values and define what’s important.

For me, and I suspect for you, that means recognizing the many ways in which the mystery of animals enriches our experience and adds meaning and joy to our lives. While WRC has a simple mission, that mission masks a compelling and powerful story. We’re glad you’re interested not only in sharing that story, but also in supporting our work.

This fall saw the passing of John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach. Like many athletes of my age, his pyramid of success and many sayings were strong influences on me. One in particular stands out; “Never confuse activity with achievement.”



With their incredibly high metabolism, these tiny hummingbirds are a wonderful example of Wooden’s statement about activity vs. achievement. The amount of time put into raising these birds kept our Avian Nursery staff busy for weeks. The achievement? Watching the birds flying away on release day.

I’m reminded of this saying when I look at the past year at WRC: A year full of activity. We experienced our busiest summer ever, we were the topic of numerous media stories, and we convened and collaborated with more people and on more events than ever before.

Your financial support makes that activity possible, but even more important, as the stories and photos on the inside attest, it also enables incredible achievement. All of the injured and orphaned wild animals admitted to WRC would have perished if not for the quality medical care they received while with us. And you make that care possible.

I’m proud to report that WRC released more animals back to the wild this year than ever before. As our admissions continue to increase, our overall success rate has also risen steadily since 2002. We celebrate not the fact that we admitted so many animals needing our help, but that we’ve given so many a second chance.

Less transparent, but no less important, is the impact we have on the thousands of people who rescue wild animals and bring them to us. People from all walks of life are motivated to care for wild animals. Young children request gifts to the Center for their birthday instead of presents or bring in their collected weekly allowances. Young parents, struggling to get by, write checks to care for “Peanuts,” the squirrel that their daughter rescued. These gifts touch our hearts and remind us of what’s important.

There is no mistaking the profound impact on the many children who walk up our sidewalk, carefully clutching the container with their precious rescue. This is an experience they will remember all of their lives. It’s

a moment of compassion that reverberates across the generations.

As shadows lengthen and darkness deepens, many of you will gather with friends and family during the next few weeks to celebrate the season of thanksgiving, light and hope. What better way to honor the season than to support WRC, its proven record of achievement, and its promise of compassion and hope.

Philip M. Jenni

A Bright Future

As with any healthy nonprofit, our donors have grown over the years. But we’re especially pleased (and amazed) to see the growth in one area: children and teenagers.



This year more than two dozen individual children donated financially to WRC. They gave actual dollars to us that they had saved from their allowances, raised through lemonade stands and collected from t-shirt sales.



More than 350 children donated to WRC in other ways: by building nest boxes for orphaned squirrels, by collecting items we use in our busy nurseries, and even by donating rolls of toilet paper used to make temporary nests for baby birds like the hummingbirds at left.

Our youth are setting an example for all of us. We are so pleased and honored to receive the faith of the next generation.

Learn more at: <http://www.wrcmn.org>



The Year in Headlines



WRC Introduces Blog: The Pulse... Flight Rooms Expanding... Lead-poisoned Waterfowl ... **First Baby Raccoon Arrives...** A Misfortunate Muskrat... **KARE11 Films at WRC...** Red-necked Grebe Released... **WRC Receives Florida Loons...** Waves of Warblers Moving Through WRC... A Successful Wild Adoption... **Klobuchar Meets with Panel at WRC...** Swan Cygnets Admitted... **River Otters Released on Protected Federal Land...** Coyote Pup Reunited with Family... Blue-headed Vireo Admitted... ... Walt McCarthy Honored at Annual Gala ... **Gunshot Swan Treated at WRC...** WRC's Work with Project BirdSafe... Blond Mallards Released... **Simply Science Visits WRC**



This Year's Numbers

65,582 animals admitted in eight years at new building

animals admitted in WRC's prior 24 years 79,000

8,600 anticipated animals admitted in 2010

\$130,000 raised in WRC's annual gala

raised by a Board member's charity golf tournament \$23,000

\$0 left on WRC's building loan

A photo is worth a thousand words. And thousands of dollars. Here are just a few of the success stories that captured our hearts this year. Your ongoing contributions had a direct impact on these animals. Give yourself a pat on the back!

Injured SWAN



The amazing photo above captures the plight of a gunshot Trumpeter Swan. Unable to fly and bleeding, the swan would have died if not for the intervention of its rescuers and the medical treatment from our Center. After 10 days of treatment, we released the swan back to the wildlife area and its mate.



Mange is a devastating infestation if not treated. It can cause complete fur loss and even skin infections. Other issues invariably develop in mange patients as a result of their compromised immune systems. Thankfully, when caught in time, mange is treatable. This Red Fox is a great example of how mange can be treated successfully.

Mange FOX



Some of our most heartbreaking cases are those where direct human impact has caused the injury. We see numerous cases every year resulting from fishing and hunting materials. Whether it's lead poisoning from old sinkers or pellets, or actual fishing tackle that gets wrapped around the animal, these discarded items can mean death without medical attention. This heron had injuries resulting from fishing line and tackle wrapped around its wing, but was treated and released.

Grounded HERON



For the Love of Animals

WRC's 2011 Open House

Join WRC staff and volunteers at "For the Love of Animals," our 2011 Open House on Sunday, Feb. 13 from Noon-4pm.

Lots of kid activities (even the chance to admit a stuffed animal!), silent auction, drawings and more!

Species received this year, but not last year

Black and White Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue-winged Teal
Bullfrog
Eastern Wood Pewee

Merlin
Northern Harrier
Northern Shrike
Northern Waterthrush
Red-necked Grebe
Short-tailed Weasel
Whip-poor-will



Hoary Bat
Long-tailed Weasel (above)
Mallard x Black Duck Hybrid
Meadow Jumping Mouse

and, some surprising species we've not received yet this year

Bullsnake
Hermit Thrush
Herring Gull
Indigo Bunting
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Pine Siskin
Purple Finch

the Pulse



WRC's Blog: Your source for patient stories, photos and videos.
www.WRCmn.org/pulse

And then there was one...

We're always amazed when we admit only one of a species throughout the entire year. This year, we admitted only one patient of 29 different species!

American Redstart
Baltimore x Bullock's Oriole Hybrid
Black-and-White Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue-winged Teal
Bullfrog
Chestnut-sided Warbler (below)



Eastern Fox Squirrel
Eastern Milk Snake
Eastern Spiny Softshell
False Map Turtle
Franklin's Gull

Great-crested Flycatcher
Great Egret
Great Horned Owl
Horned Lark
Lincoln's Sparrow
Longtail Weasel
Magnolia Warbler
Mallard x Black Duck Hybrid
Merlin
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (right)
Sandhill Crane
Scarlet Tanager
Silver-haired Bat
Swamp Sparrow
Whip-poor-will
White-crowned Sparrow
Yellow-Rumped Warbler

