



**Spring  
2026**



**Number of Wildlife Patients  
Treated since 2009: > 36,500**

*"...responsible stewardship of wildlife and habitat."*

## **"Wings of Resilience: Where Hope Takes Flight"**

And so the story deepened — not only as a tale of survival, but as a reminder of what once was and what is still gently unfolding.

Before the storm ever arrived, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah stood as the largest wildlife rehabilitation and education center in the state. Within a 10,000-square-foot shelter, more than 3,500 sick, injured, and orphaned animals received care each year. Two out of every three returned to the skies, rivers, and mountains where they belonged, while others became ambassadors for conservation in zoos, aviaries, and nature centers across the nation — inspiring tens of thousands of people along the way.

For the first 15 years, the center thrived as a place where broken wings found strength and small victories felt like magic. Then, without warning, the path changed. The sudden loss of the facility left quiet rooms and heavy hearts, shifting the mission from healing wildlife to protecting a dream — rebuilding, reimagining, and believing that something beautiful could still grow from uncertainty.

Hope arrived in the form of a humble, aging home. Volunteers painted walls, repaired floors, and transformed worn spaces into places of possibility. Though smaller than before, it became a bridge between what was lost and what is still waiting to be built — a reminder that even the smaller facility can hold enormous hope.

Behind the scenes, a new chapter has begun to take shape. Week after week, WRCNU gathers with the incredible team at Place Collaborative, an environmentally engaged architectural firm, exploring ideas, imagining spaces, and carefully shaping the flow of what a future sanctuary could become. Conversations drift between practicality and possibility — where recovery spaces should rest, where education can come alive, and how every corner might one day serve both wildlife and the people who care for them. These early concepts will soon be lines on blueprints, but for now, they are seeds — quiet beginnings filled with intention.

At the same time, meaningful partnerships continue to grow within the halls of the Harrisville City offices. With patience and shared vision, conversations have become collaboration, ensuring that what rises here will not only serve wildlife but will become something truly special for the city itself — a place where conservation and community meet beneath open skies.

*Continued, next page*

**WRCNU's simple  
measurement of  
success is through  
the numbers of  
human impacted  
wildlife treated  
during it's more  
than 17 years.**

**Over 36,500!**



## Where Hope Takes Flight (cont.)

The future home of WRCNU is still a dream in motion, yet its purpose already feels alive. It promises expanded capacity to help animals once turned away, opportunities for students and volunteers to learn skills they cannot find anywhere else, and spaces designed to feel less like cages and more like the wild places animals remember. Advanced medical areas, naturalistic habitats, and welcoming educational spaces will one day stand as a testament to resilience, compassion, and innovation.

Through it all, one truth remains clear: this journey has never been walked alone. Volunteers continue to show up with hope in their hearts, supporters lend strength when the path feels long, and a community stands beside WRCNU, believing that wildlife always has a place to heal.

Perhaps the most powerful part of this new beginning is ownership — the promise that this sanctuary, built from courage and compassion, will endure. No longer just a temporary refuge, it will become a lasting home where the work and the dreams of WRCNU can grow without fear.

The wings of resilience have carried WRCNU through loss and into renewal. And now, as this next chapter begins to take shape, we invite you to be part of the magic still unfolding. Your support helps turn ideas into spaces, compassion into action, and hope into a place where wild lives can rise again. If this story has touched your heart, please consider donating, sharing our mission, or standing beside us as we build a future where every creature has a chance to soar.

Because somewhere in Northern Utah, beneath wide mountain skies, the next sanctuary for the wild is already beginning to take flight — and together, we will help it rise. Together we can help the hawk waiting for the sky, a songbird waiting for the wind, and a beaver waiting to swim. Together we make miracles happen.

**DaLyn Marthaler, Executive Director**

WRCNU Co-founder and Wildlife Specialist



The Images above and on the cover page are the latest renderings of our joint meetings with Place Collaborative, the WRCNU Board of Directors, and WRCNU Staff. Many long hours have been put into this vision of our future Forever Home; the hope we have to attempt this journey is through the inspiration we get each and every day from you, our supporters. Thank you!

## Meet Your Neighbor the Pelican

By Vanessa Zimmer

Don't be confused if a wildlife rehab staffer tells you there's a pelican staying in the apartment.

Simply remember: Until it raises funds for a permanent home, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah is operating out of an old house and adjoining small commercial building on Washington Boulevard in Ogden. So it's only natural to call a section of the building what it is—or was. A tiny apartment.

Lucky for said pelican that it was winter and a slow time of the year for the WRCNU, not spring when the facility is overflowing with newly hatched baby birds, as well as avian adults returning home from warmer winter climes— most of them, the young *and* the older, injured in encounters with dogs and cats and humans.

The off-season meant the rehab center could commandeer one room of the former apartment for this remarkable big-billed waterbird. Staff furnished the room with a kiddie pool and with materials to soften the walking space. They secured a baby gate in the doorway.

Ralphie MJ, as rehabber Erin Adams calls him/her (we don't know the bird's gender), gets two pounds of fish each day, tossed across the gate. Ralphie MJ expertly snags them mid-air and, with the muscles in the underside of the bill, tosses the fish around to position it for the journey of digestion. (See the video at <https://www.youtube.com/@wrcnu3127/shorts>)

An Ogden fisherman brought the American White Pelican to the WRCNU on Jan. 17, well after it should have made its fall migration to the western coasts of California, Mexico, or South America for the winter. The fisherman had been seeing the pelican at Pineview Reservoir since at least December, said WRCNU executive director DaLyn Marthaler. "He knew (the bird) was in trouble because the area he was staying in was freezing over, so it couldn't fish," she said. A pelican typically scoops up fish with its large bill.

It quickly became obvious that the pelican couldn't fully extend its right wing to fly. The fisherman suggested the wing might have been damaged by getting tangled in fishing line—a common cause of injury in pelicans, along with fishhooks tearing flesh and muscle, says Marthaler.

The WRCNU's mission is to treat wildlife injuries and release the animals back into nature. But because Ralphie MJ can't fly and the injury appears to be an old one, the bird won't be releasable. The pelican also had sores on its feet from walking on the ice.

Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City, long a partner with WRCNU, expects to take in the pelican, after a vigorous protocol that assures the bird won't bring along parasites or viruses. The aviary has accepted several pelicans and other birds from the Ogden nonprofit rehab center over the past years, says Marthaler.

Utah is a primary breeding area for pelicans, says Marthaler. They nest on Gunnison Island in the Great Salt Lake. The recent drought years, however, have made the lake's islands ... less like islands ... and more accessible to predators. And since pelicans are ground nesters, she says, the "awkward, gangly" babies are particularly susceptible to predators like coyotes and foxes. Even the adults aren't that comfortable on dry land.

"They're the most graceful flyer," says Marthaler. "Not so great on land."

The same fisherman who rescued the pelican is bringing in fresh crappie and trout every week to feed Pelly. (The bird is "not a fan of perch," and has been known to hilariously reject the fish unless extremely hungry.)

When the man brought in the pelican, enclosed in a wire dog cage, Marthaler asked if he'd be willing to catch and deliver fish to reduce the small nonprofit's feeding costs. Turns out, he was glad for the incentive.

"Just give me an excuse," the avid fisherman said cheerfully.



Ralphie MJ shortly after arriving at Tracy Aviary on April 28th. There he will be incorporated into their large Pelican pod, so he'll have lots of friends!

**UPDATE:** Ralphie MJ is officially at Tracy Aviary after being approved by USFWS for transfer. Good Luck Ralphie!



## NEW DONATION TAX LAWS FOR 2026



**It's BAAACK!**

### **Universal Deduction for Non-Itemizers:**

Beginning in 2026, individuals who take the standard deduction can deduct up to \$1,000 in cash donations, while married couples filing jointly can deduct up to \$2,000. This applies only to cash gifts to public charities, not to donor-advised funds (DAFs).

**WRCNU is in search of motivated individuals looking to make a direct impact on our organization & our community by joining our Board of Directors!**

#### **Mission Statement:**

*Empowering the community to engage in conservation and responsible stewardship of wildlife and habitat.*

#### **Our Vision:**

*To become a world-class wildlife rehabilitation and education facility ensuring that the care of native Utah wildlife and the stewardship of our environment is embraced for generations to come.*

#### **What We Do:**

Our board isn't just behind the scenes, we're out in the community, educating, inspiring, and establishing partnerships that can create real change for wildlife and the people who care about them. They raise the funds needed to support the life-saving care we provide in our wildlife hospital and for the permanent facility that is in our future.

As a board member, you'll participate in regular meetings, support fundraising efforts, attend community events, and contribute your skills to help guide and grow the organization.

We're looking for passionate, thoughtful individuals who want to be part of something meaningful. Whether your strengths are in writing, technology, social media, education, fundraising, or simply connecting with people, there's a place for you here. Your experiences, your perspective, and your voice matter.

Together, we will help create something bigger than any one of us.

If you are interested, use the QR code to the right for Board Position Description and the link to our application--the application portal will remain open until June 15th, 2026.



WRCNU Position Description

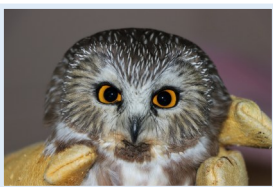
Thank YOU to our **2025**

*WRCNU Monthly Sustainers*

and

*Foundation Donors*

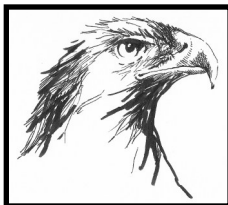
*You continue to keep the Wind  
Beneath Our Wings!*



**Bald Eagles:**

\$10,000 & Higher annually

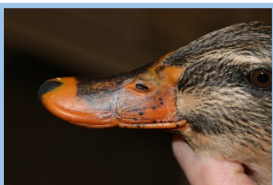
Allred, Susan  
Bennett, Mike & Mary  
Blacksmith Foundation  
Bloedel, Ellen  
Craig & Loretta Broussard Fnd  
Dave Durbano Family Fdn  
John C. Kish Foundation  
Arthur L. & Ruth Y. Moss Fund  
The Farber Baggenstos Fdn  
MarrinerBigelow Browning Fam.  
Willard L. Eccles Char. Fdn



**Golden Eagles:**

\$5,000 - \$9,999 annually

Bailey, Brett & Kathleen  
Burton Lumber  
CFC Donations  
Davis Meats  
Deisley, David & Janet  
Dr. W.C. Swanson Family Fdn  
Ford, Chris & Mary  
Kroger (Smith's Marketplace)  
Lisonbee, Rhea  
Melling Family Foundation  
Shaw, Don & Kathy



Thompson, Mary Lynne  
Watkins, Susan



**Ospreys:**

\$100 - \$416/Month

Brown, Kyrsten  
Cordano, Emy  
Dalglish, Pat & Mac  
DeCaria, Tina  
Edwards, David & Lisa  
Evenden, Jeanne  
Foley's MMA Training Cntr  
Funk, Julie  
Hom, King & Barhorst, Donna  
Knighton, Sally  
Lee, Arlea  
Linton, David & Read, Jane  
Love, Christopher  
Lybarger, Laurie/Price, Shannon  
Marthaler, James & Marjie  
Martin Family  
Meowser Inc.  
Miller, Carolyn  
Miller, Robert & Ora  
Nelke, Donald & Jennifer  
PacifiCorp / RMP  
Page, Audrey & David  
Quigley, Samuel & Colleen  
Schenk, Alison & Joel  
Scott, Sherri  
Smelzer, Margot  
Smith, Arthur & Megan  
Tracy Aviary  
Utah State Employee's Fund  
Walmart Spark Good Grants  
Wine Hiking Society, LLC



**Great Horned Owls:**

\$50 - \$99/Month

Ahrens, Craig  
Ahrens, Glen  
Anonymous  
Appleby, Michael R  
Bargsley, Mary  
Boe, Debbye

Brown-Hanewinkel DAF  
Bryner, Kenny & Michelle  
Burke, Lisa  
Byington, Karen  
Calder, Matthew  
Campbell, Stevie  
Carter, Shelby  
Copeland, Milada  
Davis Family Fund  
Dowell, Bill & Kathy  
Galli, Robin  
Gates, Stacey & Travis  
Godsey, Cynthia  
Golightly, Bruce  
Haug, Peter & Jan  
Hestand, Shelly  
Hilyer, Laurie  
Hulet, Christie  
Jenson, Janet  
Johnson, Jane  
Justice, Michael & Christy  
Kauffman, Ulla & Jim  
LaBeau Family Giving Fund  
Laing, David  
MacKenzie Family DAF  
Marple, Glen  
Naethe, Bonnie  
Perry, Marea & Kathleen  
Plocharsky, Marcia  
Read, Ronald & Melanie  
Revolution Gear/Truck Parts  
Schultz, August  
Seikel, Paula & Tony  
Sexton, Laura  
Smith, Jolynn  
Steinvoort, Sandra  
Stout-Letz, Laurie  
Warren, Lee & Georgia  
Williams, Alyson



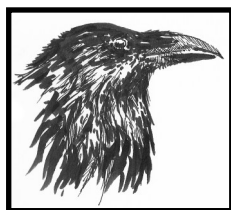
**Beavers:**

\$35 - \$49/Month

Allaire, John & Patricia  
Coe, Janis  
Collins, Tom & Margie  
Deseelhorst Family Fdn  
Dumont Transportation Inc  
Eardley, Don & Connie  
Eschenfelder, Willie  
Griffith, Terrie & David

*(Beavers Continued, next pg)*

Grunow, Jeff & Daly, Jill  
 Henricks, Claudia & Ralph  
 Hill, Bruce & Sherry  
 Hogge, Johnathan R.  
 Kolling, Genevieve  
 Lester, Julia & Roger  
 Liberty Mutual  
 Lindel, Deborah  
 Lopez, Mike & Chris  
 Marthaler, Buz & DaLyn  
 Marthaler, Pamela  
 Munk, Janet  
 Palmer, Pamela & Glenn  
 Perez, Jaime & Vicky  
 Sarno, Carol  
 Schwartz, Louise & Denny  
 Seegert, Alfred & Natasha  
 Slade, Christina  
 Smith, Krissann  
 Sowerby, Sandra  
 Trussell, Susan & David  
 Turek, Marla & Greg  
 Wakeman, Laura  
 Wheeler, Garth  
 Whitaker, Kristin

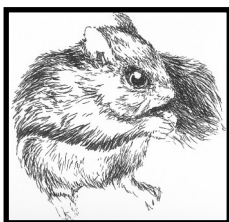


**Ravens:**

\$20 - \$34/Month

Adobe Inc.  
 Aller, Keri  
 Ashford, Dick  
 Bargsley, Mary  
 Batista-Rodriguez, Alicia  
 Becerra, Lisa  
 Bowen, Alex  
 Branson, Sunny  
 Brau, Danielle  
 Buckles, Isis  
 Christensen, Alex/Novak, Jessica  
 Clark, Carole  
 Cowart, Phil & Kate  
 Curtis, Julia  
 Devey, John & Marie  
 Dixon, Randal  
 Dorrity, Kristi  
 Escalante, Becca  
 Evans, James & Diane  
 Gabriel, Steven  
 Galland, Joel & Julie  
 Galland, Tessa  
 Gardner, Stockton  
 Goff, Tressa

Gregersen, Linda  
 Gregoire, Dan & Elizabeth  
 Hamill, Mary Lou  
 Hatch, Dawn  
 Healey, Corrina  
 Heiner, Eddie  
 Hoff, Nathan  
 Holiday, Melissa  
 Holland, Cheryl  
 Johnson, Raquel  
 Jones, Kathryn  
 Jones, Kristine  
 Kitchens, Elizabeth  
 Knipe, Helen  
 Knowlton, Kristine  
 Liscomb, Cammy  
 Lombardo, Lynn & James  
 Martell, Julie  
 Matheny, Pam  
 Montgomery, Dennis/Mary Jo  
 Nixon, Leslie  
 Pepiot, Angela  
 Rice, Dolores  
 Rowan, Danielle  
 Roylance, Karen  
 Runsvold, Mitchell  
 Schlange, Chaz & Shay  
 Schulter, Matthew  
 Shaw, Nancy  
 Southwick, Cari  
 Speciale, Phyllis  
 Spencer, Jeana  
 Summers, Kent & Kay  
 Swanson, Vicki  
 Taylor, Christopher  
 The Iron Works LLC  
 Thompson, Taylor  
 Tsakacos, Jim  
 Walker, Stephen  
 Welch, Molly  
 Wheadon, Kate  
 Windley, Gregory  
 Winters, Betty  
 Wirick, Melanie  
 Wittmeyer, Jacqueline  
 Zealley, Jeff



**Flying Squirrels:**

\$15 - \$19/Month

Baucher, Linda  
 Benson, Donelle  
 Christensen, Heidi

Costa, Cynthia  
 Crockett, Mark  
 Esquibel, Oresta  
 Finch, Timothy  
 Foster, Jane  
 Fritz, Clara  
 HCA Foundation  
 Hendricks, Brenda  
 Hinojos, Al  
 Hiortdahl, Kirsten  
 Jackson, Mimi & Dennis  
 Kapple, Lorl & Dixon  
 Krob, Kathleen & Alan  
 Landes, Janelle  
 Macner, Judy  
 Marin, Debra  
 McChristal, James  
 McMahan, Laura & John  
 Mikesic, David  
 Olschewski, Jared & Pam  
 Phillips, Nick  
 Rees, Irene  
 Rifleman, Agustina & Kurt  
 Sass, Juergen  
 Schuyler, Howard & Mary  
 Scott, Marilyn & Gentry  
 SLCC Mortuary Science Prgm  
 Smith, Joni  
 Wheelwright, Alan  
 Wimer, Gerhild "Connie"  
 Zimmerman, Laurrie



**Chickadees:**

\$8 - \$14/Month

Anderson, Robert & Lexi  
 Arnold, Alyssa & Andrew  
 Auger, Joan  
 Badger, Deb  
 Barr, Dean & Cyndi  
 Bayer, Virginia & Kenneth  
 Bettinger, Linda  
 Bohusch, Therese  
 Brimhall, Keith & Carolyn  
 Brinkerhoff, Mark  
 Brown, Katherine  
 Burnham Jason & Kristin  
 Capps, Debbie & Scott  
 Carroll, Nedra  
 Cassity, Lee & Diane  
 Coleman, Lianna  
 Conant, Kathryn  
 Cooper, Jessica  
 Cotterill, Sharon

Cragun, Tracey  
 Crotty, Michael  
 Deem, Kaycie & Nathan  
 Demkov, Cassidy  
 Dixon, Amy  
 Espell, Peggy & Ron  
 Hall, Christopher & Sherrie  
 Hawkins, Teresa  
 Heath, Frank  
 Hennessy, Ruth  
 Hersh, Robin  
 Hickman, Natalie  
 Hoecherl, Matthew  
 Holley, Mindi  
 Hurst, Joe  
 Jamison, Stephen  
 Jones, Corrinne  
 Lazy H Ranch Giving Fund  
 Lung, Kathleen  
 Martinez, Julie  
 Mattsson, Kelly  
 McFarland, Arvey  
 Mejia, Daniel  
 Merges, Valerie  
 Miller, Jeanie  
 Nelson, Andrea  
 Nelson, Emily & John  
 Neumann, Kathryn  
 Noffsinger, Jan  
 Paige, John & Shelley  
 Parry, Alicia  
 Perkins, Kennedy  
 Perrin, Kim  
 Peterson, Rebecca  
 Roake, Ryan  
 Roberts, Cynthia & Robert  
 Robison, Joel  
 Romero, Mike & Angela  
 Sanborn, Wendy  
 Sanchez, Bella & Jennifer  
 Saunders, Andrea  
 Saxton Family  
 Scadden, Cailin & Dakota  
 Skeen, Linda & David  
 Smyka, Richard  
 Sorensen, Ezekiel  
 Stevens, Diane Sandberg  
 Stevens, Kathleen & William  
 Strachan, Duna  
 Tarrh, Barbara & John  
 Thornburg, Lorena  
 Wakayama, Norma & Monica  
 Wallace, Anne  
 Weiskopf, Linda & David  
 Wendt, Sharon  
 Wiggins, Patrick  
 Wilde, Jennifer








One link to the many ways to support us!  
Use the QR code (right).  
[Linktr.ee/wrcnu](https://linktr.ee/wrcnu)



### BIG or small, your donation makes a HUGE IMPACT!

- 1) **Monthly Sustainers:** Consider joining our growing “WRCNU Monthly Sustainer Team”. Our current monthly sustainers pay for almost 98% of our Animal food and veterinary costs which is a large part of our annual operating budget.
- 2) **Donate your old vehicles:** at zero cost to you, let our CARS nonprofit partner handle everything from removal, donation receipt, and more. All you need is a clean title and CARS will do the heavy lifting, then deliver a check to WRCNU!
- 3) **Mailed Donations:** Checks & money orders--same as cash--no fees. Mail to our mail only address:  
**3127 N Pelican Dr, Farr West, UT 84404**
- 4) **Smith’s Inspiring Donations Program:** Smith’s Rewards Card? They will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to WRCNU. You get all your rewards & fuel points and we receive a nice check every quarter. Currently 433 households support WRCNU this way. Go to [WRCNU.ORG/Donate](https://wrcnu.org/donate) and click on the Smith’s logo for more info.
- 5) **Employer Matching:** Ask your employer if they have a Matching gift Program and DOUBLE your gift!
- 6) **PayPal:**
- 7) **Venmo:**



With sadness in our hearts, we must say “Goodbye” to our *Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)* supporters. This campaign was a nonprofit’s direct link to our military and civilian federal workers. Over the years, WRCNU has received between \$9,000 & \$16,000 each year from our federal workers.

This opportunity, once run by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management has been shutdown. The program was 100% financed by the nonprofits that used it--zero tax dollars supported this program, yet it has now been shuttered.

**We Salute our federal CFC donors, you are much appreciated!**



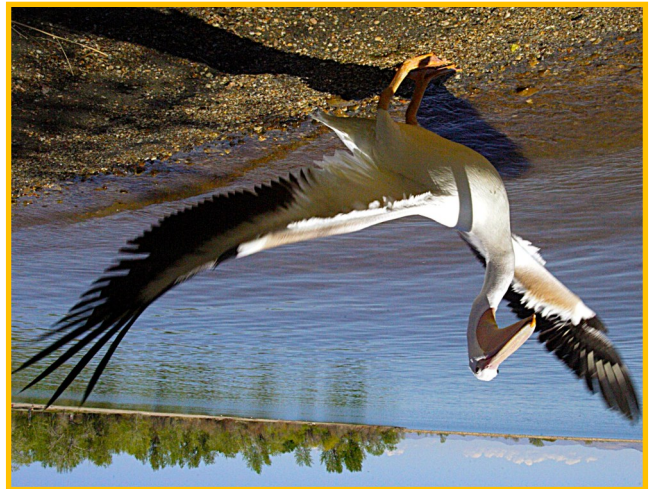
## Meet Foster Mom, Aretha, and the Owlet Baby She Helped Save

**Typically**, when we receive lone babies, we put out a call to other rehabbers for possible “step-siblings.” This ensures they remain connected to their species. Lone babies are extremely difficult to raise without imprinting, so bringing two or more together is very important to their long-term care and chances for a wild release.

This little one (lower left) fell from an Eden, UT nest far too early and could not be returned, so with no young Great Horned Owls to join, we used our Foster Mom, Aretha. Aretha and the chick took to one another instantly, and now, one month later, the chick is as big as “Mom” and will soon be ready to try out its new wings in an outdoor enclosure.

**HOO’s Who?** The fluffy head is the clue; that is “baby” on the left and Aretha on the right; another month and you won’t be able to tell which is the adult and which is only 3+ months old.

American White Pelican stretching its wings at Willard Bay, UT



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
WWW.WRCNU.ORG

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center  
of Northern Utah  
3127 N Pelican Drive  
Farr West, UT 84404



Non-Profit  
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Ogden, UT