



Annual Report 2010



Wildlife Preservation Canada

RECOVERY ■ CONSERVATION ■ KNOWLEDGE

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Charitable Registration Number 89171 0535 RR0001



Letter from the Executive Director

In 2010 Wildlife Preservation Canada marked its 25th anniversary of saving animals from extinction and building Canada's conservation capacity. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of our innovative Canada's New Noahs training program and it also happens to be my 20th anniversary as WPC's Executive Director.

As a supporter of WPC you can be proud of WPC's many accomplishments over the past 25 years, including: helped save three critically endangered species from certain extinction in Mauritius; helped return the swift fox to our Canadian prairies through one of the most successful canid reintroduction programs in the world; trained 20 Canada's New Noahs, all of which continue as conservation leaders; supported the applied field research on endangered species of 15 Canadian successful graduate students benefiting 24 different species; and received international recognition for our innovative breeding and release program for the critically endangered eastern loggerhead shrike. All thanks to our donors and supporters.

In 2010 WPC's conservation programs achieved several milestones thanks to our loyal supporters - individuals, foundations, corporations and federal and provincial governments. The Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Program continues to be WPC's largest commitment. We released 76 captive raised shrikes, 43 with geolocators. Seven captive raised and released birds returned to breed, including one who bred in Quebec, the first recorded nesting in that province since 1995.

In our freshwater turtle program, 99 nests were

saved resulting in at least 700 turtle hatchlings making it safely into Lake Erie, bringing the total number of hatchlings released to over 4000 since initiating the project in 2005.

In 2010 we also saw the highest return ever of burrowing owls to BC, with 23 owls returning to breed, almost five times the number that returned annually prior to our implementing the soft-release technique.

While we can be proud of our many accomplishments, unfortunately the number of species threatened with extinction in Canada continues to grow. As a result of a review of over 299 terrestrial species at risk posted on the Species at Risk Registry, WPC's Conservation Committee identified 41 species which could benefit from the type of hands on recovery work WPC excels at. The Committee has developed an ambitious WPC Conservation Strategy which calls for substantial growth in the number of species WPC works with across Canada by 2015. We hope you will continue to help us save the growing number of species at risk.

I would like to give a special thanks to Alec Monro who has served as WPC's president for almost eight years. Finally, I would like to thank WPC Board of Directors and volunteers, our staff and most importantly our donors for their commitment to WPC's mission.

Elaine Williams

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION CANADA

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Established in 1985, WPC is a non-profit organisation (Reg. #89171 0535 RR0001) dedicated to saving critically endangered animal species from extinction.

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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Wildlife Preservation Canada is a lean, hands-on organization based in Guelph, Ontario. Since 1985, WPC has worked to save critically endangered species both in Canada and around the world - species whose numbers are so low that a great deal more than habitat protection is required to recover them.

Wildlife Preservation Canada believes that extinction is forever. The loss of any one species can damage the web of life, resulting in unexpected environmental changes that impact other species, including our own. Without urgent action, these irreplaceable animals will be gone forever.

Wildlife Preservation Canada is the only independent, national, non-profit organization in Canada that focuses *exclusively* on the active recovery of critically endangered wildlife by utilizing both scientific knowledge and practical recovery experience in the field. WPC is also the first non-profit organization to be the lead in implementing a Species Recovery Action Plan under Section 11 of the federal government's Species at Risk Act - for the eastern loggerhead shrike in Ontario.

Professional training, scientific field research, captive breeding, reintroduction, population management, habitat stewardship, public education and community involvement - WPC uses each of these important tools to pull species from the brink of extinction. Species such as the Mauritius kestrel, pink pigeon and echo parakeet would be extinct today if it were not for WPC and its sister organizations. We are increasingly applying what we learned overseas to endangered species recovery efforts in Canada.



Mauritius Kestrel - SAVED

In addition to WPC's involvement with species recovery, a special priority is training young scientists to create a network of skilled professionals who will drive conservation efforts in Canada and around the world for decades to come. This is done through our Canada's New Noahs training program and the Canadian Collection - a granting program for dedicated Canadian conservation graduate students undertaking applied research with endangered species.

Wildlife Preservation Canada was established in 1985 by the late author and naturalist, Gerald Durrell, and is primarily funded through individual, foundation and corporate donations. Any government funding we receive is directed to restricted program activities.

WPC, with the support of donors like you, has supported significant scientific advances with over 30 endangered species in Canada and around the world, from birds to foxes to lemurs to turtles. You are vital to helping us save animals from extinction. Thank-you.



Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery



JESSICA STEINER

The Eastern Loggerhead Shrike is one of Canada's rarest birds. Although considered a songbird, the robin-sized shrike hunts like a raptor, catching amphibians, small reptiles and mammals, and even other songbirds to supplement its mainly insect diet. Its unique habit of impaling prey on the thorns of woody shrubs, usually hawthorns, and barbed wire has gained it the nickname "Butcher Bird." Once plentiful in Canada, the eastern loggerhead shrike now numbers only a few dozen in the wild in just a handful of locations in Ontario and Manitoba.

2010 marks the 7th year since Wildlife Preservation Canada was invited to be the lead non-governmental organization responsible for coordinating and implementing the recovery activities for the eastern loggerhead shrike in Ontario.

The ultimate goal of any recovery program is to increase the wild population to self-sustaining levels. The Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Program consists of several components to reach that goal - wild population monitoring, captive breeding and release, genetic research, habitat stewardship and community outreach and involvement in the recovery.

Disappointing drop in wild population.

After the encouraging increasing trend seen over the last several years, it was disappointing to see the number of wild pairs drop by about a third since last season. Twenty-three pairs were confirmed in the province: 17 in Carden, 5 in Napanee and 1 in Pembroke. The majority successfully bred, fledging at least 64 young. Interestingly, there was a large proportion of single birds, resulting in unique observations of cooperative breeding. The harsh winter experienced by many south-eastern U.S. states where our shrikes are suspected to winter is potentially to blame – a reminder of the continued vulnerability of the species.

Geolocators – small steps to success

Geolocators were first placed by our team on shrikes in 2009. It is hoped these tiny data loggers will help determine the migration routes and wintering grounds of Ontario shrikes. Given the decline in the wild population, it was remarkable that two 2009-release birds wearing geolocators returned to Carden in the spring of 2010, thrilling all those involved in the program. Both were successfully trapped and the geoloca-



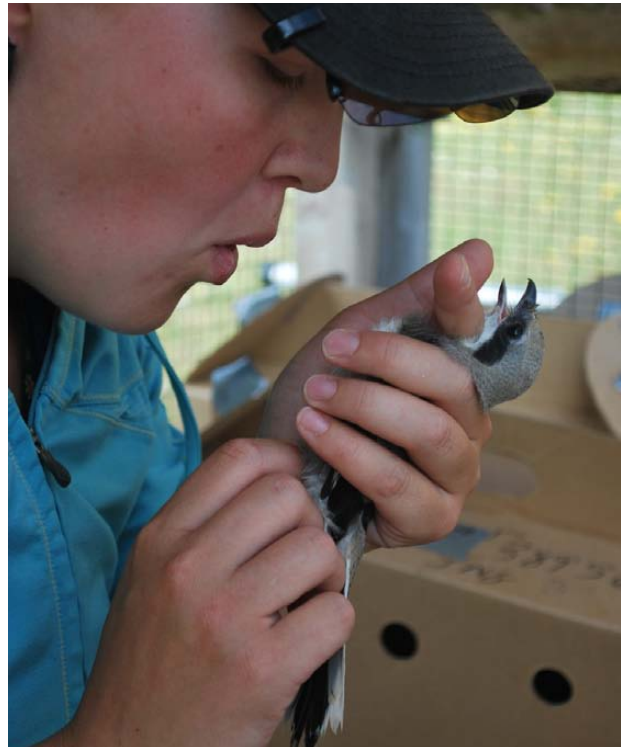
tors retrieved, but unfortunately both devices had malfunctioned; data collection had been cut short and no early migratory movements were captured. There is no apparent reason for the failure. But all was not lost. We confirmed that shrike can successfully migrate and return to breeding grounds while wearing the device and that good, clean data is being collected while the device is working. Optimistically, we released a further 43 geolocator-adorned young in 2010, confident that the 2011 season will yield full results. These birds are sporting a red band on the right leg, and silver band on the left.

New Milestones

Returning captive-reared birds made a strong appearance in the wild this year, with 7 previously released birds spotted on breeding grounds. Two of these had been released in 2006, the first 4-year old birds to return. One of these returned to the same territory it had nested in last year, the first confirmation of a bird returning in multiple years. This year also marked the first time two captive-release birds were observed paired and nesting in the wild. And if that wasn't enough to celebrate, a 2009 Carden release bird was found breeding in Quebec – the first pair this province has had since 1995! Thanks to all those who reported their sightings to us.

Grassland Bird Survey

The second year of the Grassland Bird Survey saw a significant increase in volunteer participation and resulting search effort. Several reports of shrike were received, as well as sightings of other species at risk including golden-winged warblers, red-headed woodpeckers and common nighthawks. Thanks to all who participated, lending their eyes and ears to the program.



JESSICA STEINER

Captive technician Janet Lapierre bands a shrike for release.

Wildlife Preservation Canada is forever grateful for the ongoing dedication and enthusiasm of field interns, volunteers and local landowners. Without their support and involvement, these recovery activities would not be possible. Other project partners include: The Harold Crabtree Foundation; Boisset Family Estates; Bird Studies Canada; Environment Canada; Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Couchiching Conservancy, Toronto Zoo; African Lion Safari; and over 250 landowners!

A pair of fledgling shrikes for a second clutch bred in the specially designed field aviaries in 2010.



PETER LIN



Freshwater Turtle Conservation

Tortoises and freshwater turtles are among the most endangered species of animals. Of the estimated 300 species of tortoises and freshwater turtles in the world, the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red List Authority suggests that at least 40% - possibly more than 60% - of them are in imminent danger of extinction.

Through the Canadian Collection, Wildlife Preservation Canada has supported Ryan Bolton's research on five freshwater turtle species nesting along a beach of an Ontario provincial park since 2005. Through these studies, he found that all five species experienced 100% nest failure due to mammalian predation. In attempts to halt their disappearance from the park, Ryan implemented mitigation techniques to protect the nests and eggs of three of the threatened species.

Human settlement brings with it increased predator populations. Motion-activated cameras used at night identified raccoons and skunks as the main predators, followed by opossums and coyotes. These animals dig up nests and consume the eggs soon after they are laid. As turtles are exceptionally long-lived, have a very high annual adult survivorship, and lay eggs nearly every year, Ryan's work focuses on conservation strategies in the early stages of egg-laying to ensure greater hatchling survival.

In 2010, Ryan released well over 700 hatchling spiny softshell, blanding's, snapping and northern map turtles, bringing the total number released since 2005 to over 4,000. As in previous years, the focus was to increase hatching success by eliminating mammalian predation of nests. Protecting nests is especially necessary in a time when freshwater turtles are facing an astounding array of threats to their survival.



From top, blanding's turtle, northern map turtle and the spiny softshell turtle displaying its distinctive pig-like snout.

Ryan's research and conservation strategies will help ensure spiny softshell, blanding's and northern map turtles not only survive in Canada, but will one day thrive again. The assistance from Wildlife Preservation Canada and its donors will help ensure this valuable work continues.



Canada's New Noahs

2010 marked the 20th anniversary of the Canada's New Noahs program. Wildlife Preservation Canada launched this unique ten-month practical training and field experience program in the conservation and management of endangered species to fill a missing component of conservation education. Young Canadian biologists graduate from the program and continue to make vital contributions to conservation. Through the Canada's New Noahs program, WPC is ensuring that a growing pool of dedicated Canadian biologists have the specialized knowledge and tools to prevent extinctions in the decades to come.

Canada's New Noahs field training component is conducted on the island of Mauritius, off the coast of Africa. There are only nine surviving native bird species on the island which exist in alarmingly small populations. However, intensive conservation management has contributed to tremendous successes in saving the Mauritius kestrel, echo parakeet and pink pigeon from certain extinction.

Kendra MacDonald of Prince Edward Island was our 2010 Canada's New Noah. She is currently working in the Maritimes with endangered piping plovers, a program partially funded by Wildlife Preservation Canada in cooperation with Parks Canada. Previous Canada's New Noah, Christina Davy, began her work in 2010 with Ontario's freshwater turtles, contributing to the predator mitigation efforts of WPC's freshwater turtle conservation program initiated by Ryan Bolton.

Past Canada's New Noah and current Wildlife Preservation Canada's Species Biologist, Jessica Steiner, during her time in Mauritius as a Canada's New Noah, with a banded pink pigeon.

In addition, 2010 marks the fifth year that our 16th Canada's New Noah, Jessica Steiner has been heading up our shrike recovery program as our Species at Risk Recovery Biologist. Through this program Jessica has mentored over 24 young scientists working as avicultural interns or field biologists on the program.

Graduates of the program express their boundless gratitude to WPC and you, our supporters, by supporting the aims and goals we share in their commitment to conservation throughout their careers.





Burrowing Owl Recovery



LAUREN MEADS

WPC has been involved in burrowing owl recovery since 1995, when this little owl was listed as nationally endangered by the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada. Between 1995 and 2002 we established a small captive breeding colony in Saskatchewan and experimented with different release methods. We found that the “soft-release” technique of pairing captive-raised 11 month-old owls in a small field enclosure and leaving the enclosure on until clutch initiation, was most successful.

Since 1992 British Columbia has been releasing captive-raised burrowing owls in an effort to re-establish a population in this province from which they disappeared in the early 1970's. WPC had been trying to convince the BC Team to implement the softer-release techniques we developed for burrowing owls in Saskatchewan. Through the Canadian Collection program, between 2005 and 2006 WPC funded MSc. candidate, Aimee Mitchell's research comparing the “hard release” traditionally being used in BC and the enclosure-based “soft release” method.

Aimee's research conclusively proved that the “soft” release technique was significantly superior - 20% more owls remained at release sites to breed, 14% more survived the breeding season, and the reproductive performance was higher with 20% more young fledged than their “hard release” counterparts. When Aimee's results were presented to the B.C. Burrowing Recovery Team, the Team decided to adopt the “soft-release” technique for releases in 2007 and beyond.

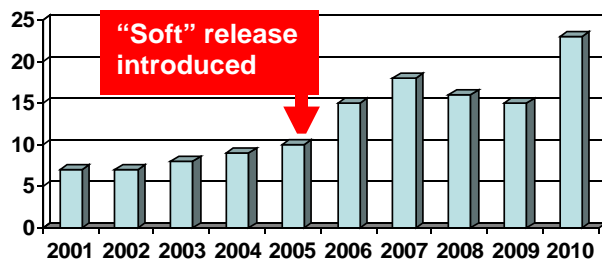
The soft release cages continue to improve the survivability of the released owls and increase the percentage which hatch offspring. In the spring of 2010, 20% of the our banded owls returned to the Nicola Valley, which is the highest number to ever return, and considerably higher than the handful of returns prior to implementing the soft-release techniques. In the spring of 2010, 99 captive juvenile owls retained from the previous year and raised over the winter were paired and released, 71% using the soft release method. These owls successfully fledged



168 young. A further 4 pairs of owls were released at a new site in the Okanagan Valley to expand the population to other historical areas in B.C.

Several owls fell prey to their number one predator, the red-tailed hawk. Despite these difficulties, we had a very productive year and with 23 owls returning, had the highest number of returns ever.

Migratory Returns



About 11 of the returning males were caught and fitted with geolocators as part of the Prairie Initiative by the B.C. team. The locators weigh approximately three grams which is less than five percent of a burrowing owl's weight and are affixed to the owl's back using teflon straps, similar to a backpack. We are hoping that some of these owls will return next year, which will allow us to assess their migration routes. Geolocators are also being used in the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Program, providing essential information on the habits of these migratory birds and potentially helping conservation efforts by preserving habitat on their migration path.

We did receive some migration information recently. In October, 2009 a B.C. owl was located at the Warm Springs Reserve in Oregon. The owl was born in

the Nicola Valley in 2009 and was probably on its migration route. Most excitingly, the same owl returned in 2010 to its natal site! It had a successful clutch with a released female and then was caught and fitted with a geocator. Hopefully we will be able to get the data from the geocator in 2011 and see where he went after Oregon.

The BC Burrowing Owl team would like to thank the many volunteers, as well as WPC and its supporters for their commitment to re-establishing burrowing owls in B.C.



Burrowing owl clutch at 21 days old, above, and below; volunteers help erect a soft-release cage for the spring releases.



DAWN BRODIE



Thank You!

Wildlife Preservation Canada is pleased and honoured to recognise the following donors whose outstanding generosity has made our critical conservation activities possible. WPC is grateful to the thousands of other donors and volunteers who contributed throughout the year. We apologise if we have mistakenly omitted your name.

Corporate & Foundation Partners

(\$150,000 or more)

Environment Canada
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

(\$20,000 to 100,000)

The Harold Crabtree Foundation

(10,000 to 19,999)

Canadian Wildlife Federation
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Wildlife Guardians

The following joined our monthly giving program in 2008.

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Helen Coulter
Virginia Demchuk
Sharon Flynn
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Ryan Bolton
Barbara Burke
Belinda Fernandez
Debbie Harris
Erica Lagios
Zoe Lebrun-Southcott
Kat Robbins
Jessica Steiner
Kristin Theissen
Susan Vickberg



WPC Financial Highlights *

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES TO FUND BALANCES Year ended December 31, 2010

	General Fund 2010 \$	Restricted Fund 2010 \$	Endowment Fund 2010 \$	2010 \$	Total 2009 \$
REVENUE					
Individual Donations	125,168	110	--	126,278	97,692
Foundation Donations	10,320	71,000	--	81,320	70,037
Special Event	33,843	--	--	33,842	33,878
Federal government grants	29,741	267,672	--	267,672	359,398
Provincial government grants	15,515	139,643	--	155,158	92,616
Other grants	--	--	--	--	24,836
Other Income	7,215	--	--	7,215	12,630
Investment income	--	--	--	--	61
	222,801	478,425	--	701,226	691,148
EXPENSES					
Project Implementation	53,433	57,112	--	110,545	104,840
Conservation grants	55,065	321,467	--	376,532	408,860
Grant Expenses	26,464	41,541	--	68,005	58,965
Administrative and fund raising	66,357	22,807	--	89,164	79,400
Special Event	8,153	--	--	8,253	--
	209,472	442,927	--	652,399	61,706
Excess (Deficiency) of revenue					
	13,329	35,498	--	48,827	29,442
Fund balances,					
beginning of year	175,551	--	56,166	231,717	202,275
Transfers between funds	(6,568)	--	6,568	--	--
Fund balances, year end	182,312	--	62,734	280,544	231,717

Notes:

1. The General Fund reports unrestricted revenue available for any purpose. The General Fund records all general revenues. This Fund records expenses that the Board has allocated from the General Fund to mission related activities such as species recovery programs, professional training and education, as well as administrative operating and fund raising expenditures associated with the general management and maintenance of the Organisation.
2. The Restricted Fund consists of funds available for spending that are restricted by the donor.
3. The Endowment Fund consists of contributions received by the organisation where the endowment principal is required by the donor or the Board to be maintained permanently in the Endowment Fund, or where funds or income can be utilized to assist with the cash flow requirements of the organisation, as deemed appropriate by the Board. The Gerald Durrell Fund for Wildlife is an internally endowed fund. It was created to continue the conservation work of Gerald Durrell, and can be allocated to projects which fulfill that mandate. The Futures Fund is an internally endowed fund. Based on a decision by the Board, fifty percent of any revenue surplus in excess of budget is deposited into the Futures Fund annually. The first funds were deposited in 1998. The Bequest Fund is an internally endowed fund. Bequests in excess of \$10,000 will be considered restricted, and will be brought into the annual budget to fund conservation programs over a five year period. Fifty percent of bequests over \$100,000 will be permanently endowed.

*For a complete set of the audited financial statements prepared by Robinson Lott & Brohman, please call (519) 836-9314 or e-mail us at admin@wildlifepreservation.ca



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Wildlife Preservation Canada on facebook provides you with the opportunity to meet our community. Or, read the new Blogs at www.wildlifepreservation.ca for exciting news from the field and our biologists.

4th Annual Run Wild with Wildlife Preservation Canada!

On Sunday, October 16, do your part to save our planet's endangered wildlife by supporting the Run Wild team. Register as a runner or walker and encourage your friends to join you in walking or running the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront 5K, Half-Marathon or full Marathon. Or, sponsor one of our Run Wild team members online at www.torontowaterfront-marathon.com and receive an instant tax receipt.



Wildlife Preservation Canada
invites you to

Cocktails & Auction

Join us for an evening of refreshment, delicious food, exciting guest speakers and – of course – your chance to bid on and win fabulous auction prizes. All proceeds go to support Wildlife Preservation Canada programs to save critically endangered animal species.

Wednesday, October 19, 2011
Evening begins at 6 pm
Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club
141 Wilson Avenue, Toronto

TO purchase tickets or for more information please call
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admin@wildlifepreservation.ca



Wildlife Preservation Canada

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