

Annual Report 2024



Eastern gray squirrels born in early March. Carolina wrens and Eastern screech owls now found in our region. Spotted salamanders waking from hibernation in February. What do these have in common? They are all indicators of wildlife struggling to adapt to a rapidly changing environment. Over the years we have heard things like “there are plenty of songbirds in my backyard?” or “that’s nice that you treat bunnies, but I care about human causes”. But as our work permeates through the community, and our society begins to better understand human health and wellbeing is directly tied to environmental health, we are so proud to have been doing this work towards not only working to heal each animal brought to us by empathetic members of the community, but also documenting their injuries, diseases, nesting and migrating patterns, and any toxicity they are dealing with. That information is shared with state and federal agencies to inform policy and real-time emergent disease or mortality issues that may translate to human health or food security concerns. It is also shared through education and experience with every child, family and adult through field trips, nature center visits, on the hotline, social media, or as a volunteer or intern. We are proud to do each animal justice by not only hopefully returning them to the wild, but learning from their stories how to walk more gently on the earth that we all depend on for our basic needs.

Read on for a summary of how we are seeing a changing climate along with our choices in residential and commercial development and consumption show up in wildlife and the environment.

BIRDS



- 64 dovekies (a small pelagic auk) were admitted to our Wildlife Medical Clinic in early winter due to severe winter storms.
- From Fall 2024 - January 2025, 90 barred owls were admitted to our Wildlife Medical Clinic.
 - While more research is needed to determine all factors contributing to this dramatic increase, inconsistency of winter weather can have negative impacts on owls.
 - Small mammals rely on consistent snowpack to survive in the “subnivean zone”. Freeze/thaw cycles eliminate this habitat resulting in reduction of prey sources for owls.
 - With less available prey, owls (particularly juveniles) resort to hunting along roadsides resulting in casualties.

MAMMALS



- Baby mammals are now being admitted to our Wildlife Medical Clinic in March, in comparison to historic patterns of earliest baby admissions in April.
- Second litters of baby mammals for certain species such as tree squirrels have become a staple in our region where this historically only occurred in years of high resource abundance.
- A two week-old porcupette was admitted to our Wildlife Medical Clinic in August 2024.
 - Juveniles born this late are unable to rely on the resources needed for development they would otherwise have in Spring/Summer compared to Fall/Winter.
- Admission data is being shared with state agencies to determine if tree diseases such as wooly adelgid and beech leaf curl (which have expanded to our region due to rising temperatures) are impacting mammal reproduction and health.

REPTILES



- Habitat loss due to development has overtaken poaching as the largest threat to reptile species including turtles in our region.
- A changing climate is a major driving factor for increased relocation of humans to our region, leading to increased development and habitat loss.
- Habitat fragmentation has led to an increase in turtles being admitted to our Wildlife Medical Clinic with shell fractures due to car collision.
- Our team typically treats 75-100 turtles annually and has 38 years of experience healing shell fractures in a variety of turtle species.
 - In state-of-the-art, specialized care facilities, our team is able to over-winter long-term care patients including large common snapping turtles and return them to their natural habitats in the Spring!

AMPHIBIANS



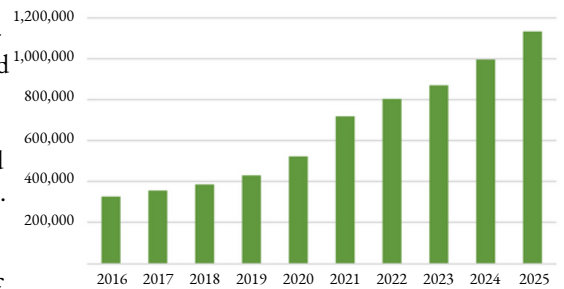
- In our region, amphibians have evolved over millions of years to enter a dormant state of brumation in the winter season.
- Fluctuating winter temperatures leading to freeze/thaw cycles disrupt amphibian brumation patterns.
 - Our Wildlife Medical Clinic has seen a rapid increase in amphibian species being admitted in the midst of winter.
- Climate change, in combination with habitat loss and the introduction of threats such as chytrid fungus has led to a decline in amphibian populations throughout our region

RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

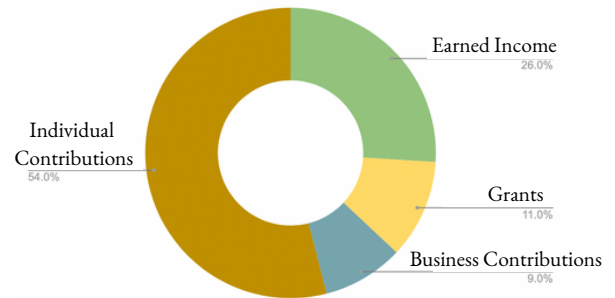
2024 was a major election year for the United States, and inflation continues to persist and has impacted the disposable income available for charitable donations, especially in middle-income households. As a field that receives just 1% of philanthropic giving and no dedicated government funding, that doesn't give a lot of wiggle room for decline in donations, especially combined with an ever-increasing demand for our services. Thankfully, our organization has been dedicated to financial sustainability as a strategic goal since 2013, and we have an incredible community that values our work and prioritizes donations of all sizes. This shows up in our entire team working to secure in-kind donations of food, equipment, medical supplies and services, and individuals and businesses that are willing to donate. It shows up in individuals giving \$2 per month for over 15 years, or \$100,000 through gifts of stock or in estate planning. We are proud to sustainably manage not only our operating budget, but our capital projects, emergency reserves and the beginnings of an endowment. Here are some highlights on financial health from 2024:

- Added a banker and seasoned non-profit advisor to our Finance Committee
- Invested our endowment with an Edward Jones broker that has experience with long-term strategy for non-profits
- Increased our earned income revenue to 26%. We have a goal of 30% to ensure our building and campus earns funding for our mission. This means we do not completely rely on donations and can buffer us from impacts of tax law change or the US's economic performance
- Raised \$530K towards our \$650K Restoring our Nature capital project to build 17 wildlife recovery buildings that will allow care for up to 3,500 patients annually

General Operations Budget by Fiscal Year



CFW Giving By Source



Volunteering in 2024

Every day, we are inspired by the many volunteers who take time out of their lives (many of whom are juggling work, child care, and more) to help injured and orphaned animals in need of care here at Center for Wildlife. Our incredible volunteers make our work possible.

"Conservation is for everyone, and it's clear to see in our amazing volunteers! Maine is #9 in the country for formal volunteering, with the data skewing towards some generations being more civically active than others, but not at CFW. Here, our skilled, kind, passionate, and diverse team of volunteers shows community members from all walks of life working towards a more sustainable future together!" - Emily Bartolini, CFW Volunteer Coordinator



116 volunteers



10,109 volunteer hours



\$338,550 of staff time

Board of Directors



Anne Marisc



Daniel Thompson



Eric Cimon



Kim Davis Smith



Kimberly Masucci



Joe Tucker



Mari O'Neil



Sarah Swanson



Tamara Monroe

From Winter to Fall 2024, our board and leadership team worked with a strategic planning facilitator and community input to assess our impact, needs and demands from the community, along with ensuring the relevancy of our mission, vision, and core values. We also took a look at the growing impacts of climate change and emergent disease on our local wildlife, environment, and thus our own health and wellbeing. Additionally, we looked at the historic role and standard practices of board leadership and governance, compared to how we see shared leadership and board volunteerism actually playing out in 2025.

We are proud to have produced a thoughtful strategic plan, workplan, and associated proforma budget and staffing plan for 2025-2028. This is built around 4 objectives: Revamping Governance, Institutionalizing Organizational Philosophies and Practices, Exploring Growth, and Building One Health Literacy. This will allow us to continue and grow our services and impact for wildlife and the community, while ensuring we steward our core values which include positive work culture, financial sustainability, and ecology and conservation-driven programming. Keep an eye out for a summary of our goals and priorities for the next several years on our website and in our e-newsletter!

Planned Giving

Planned giving has a tremendous impact at any non-profit and Center for Wildlife has been lucky enough to be the beneficiary of generous stock and estate gifts over the past year. Planned stock, IRA and estate giving helps an organization in various ways including providing a stable source of income that enhances the organization's operating budget, grow their endowment and deepen their relationships with their donors. On the flip side, donors receive tax incentives that are beneficial to their heirs and often are able to contribute at a higher level allowing them to leave a legacy at their favorite charities. Bequests and estate gifts have been transformational for us during times of crisis, including when the Covid pandemic hit and we could not hold any in person fundraising events. Planned giving in 2024 allowed us to grow our endowment, ensure 6 months of construction loan payments are set aside at all times, and allowed everyday operations to flow smoothly despite admitting more animals than ever, along with implementing additional diagnostics and equipment needed to treat increasing numbers of patients with novel and emergent disease like Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. These gifts ensure CFW will be around not only for the person calling the Hotline with an emergency, but for generations to come.

"Giving, to me, symbolizes honor. I chose to give, not only my money, but my volunteer time to the Center for Wildlife. It has always been a place my late husband and I could take our songbirds and owls to be rehabbed and returned to the wild. How blessed am I to have found such a special place to honor his memory and to give back to the natural world." - Dee Roberts

Ways to Give



General Giving

One time, monthly or annual giving.



Tribute Gifts

Honor a loved one or celebrate an occasion.



The Nest Egg

Ensure a sustainable future for wildlife for generations.



Adopt an Ambassador

Support the care of a CFW non-releasable animal.

For more information on ways to give, head to thecenterforwildlife.org/donate

Corporate Support

In 2024, businesses contributed more than \$80,000 to Center for Wildlife or 9% of our overall operating budget. In addition to monetary support, we were happy to welcome numerous businesses onsite through Volunteer Work Days as well as happily accept Amazon Wish List items and in-kind items from various corporate drives not just during the holidays but all year long! We are incredibly grateful to the following organizations who helped us through a day of volunteering in 2024!

Heinemann

Liberty Mutual

Lonza Biologics

Phillips Academy Andover Alumni

Tom's of Maine

Sponsorship

Did you know? Corporate giving only makes up 6% of non-profit support each year on average. Show the community and potential customers that you are one of few businesses that support work for wildlife and the environment! We love partnering with local businesses and connecting through events, joint promotion, and our robust social media reach. Corporate Sponsorship begins at \$500 and includes promotion across our social media network, passes to our Nature Center and more!



Great-horned Owl
\$2,500



Red-tailed Hawk
\$1,000



Peregrine Falcon
\$500

Visit our website to learn more about sponsorship benefits!



Center for Wildlife Educational Outreach

Programs Conducted in Partnership with:



Schools



Libraries



Municipalities



Land Trusts



and more!

491 total programs conducted in 2024

297 separate organizations reached

16,526 people reached in 2024



Systemic Change:

In a world facing the impacts of climate change, misinformation and more, science education is as important as ever! Center for Wildlife's mission *to strengthen connections between humans, wildlife and the environment to create a healthier, more sustainable community for all* is carried out on a daily basis by Center for Wildlife's team of educators and ambassador animals. By connecting the public with the wildlife and habitats that we are blessed to be surrounded by, Center for Wildlife is able to foster empathy and create a sense of responsibility for the wild friends and wild places that directly influence human health and wellbeing.

Through field-based programming here on our community campus or a trip to local school systems with our ambassador animals, Center for Wildlife's educational and outreach programs strive to reach audiences of all shapes and sizes. In 2024, CFW had the pleasure of extending our educational reach throughout the Northeast and even reached international audiences through in-person and virtual programs on topics ranging from wildlife ecology, outdoor skill building, professional development teacher workshops and more!

Summer Camp



Center for Wildlife's Summer Camp is the perfect opportunity for young naturalists aged 5-12 to develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world in a fun and active setting! CFW's team of experienced educators and camp staff provide learning opportunities including nature-based play, educational crafts, educational programs and more. CFW Summer Camp runs July-August annually.

Wee Naturalists



Center for Wildlife's Wee Naturalist program features nature-based crafts, story time and encounters with CFW ambassador animals for aspiring naturalists aged 2-5. These programs help children build social skills in an engaging environment. Wee Naturalist programs are hosted at Center for Wildlife on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Be sure to pre-register for these popular programs!

Professional Development



In addition to Center for Wildlife's many public educational programs, CFW staff and partners host professional development workshops here on our community campus including Project WILD workshops for educators, outdoor educator skill building sessions, team-building corporate workshops and more. To learn more, head to our website or reach out to our team today!