



The Union University Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (UWRC) seeks to care for injured, ill, misplaced and orphaned wild animals with the goal of releasing each into its natural habitat. As such we have provided our community with a service that no other local university or institution can claim. Due to the difficulties surrounding the procurement of both federal and state licensures for rehabilitating federally protected species, our niche has evolved to be that of primarily a raptor facility. Capitalizing on the *pro bono* work of Dr. Cindy Schmidt at North Madison Veterinary hospital and the occasional use of veterinarians at Union, each animal is examined, diagnosed and treated through an individually tailored program of hospital and veterinary care, diet, physical therapy, exercise and pre-release conditioning.

The Center, in addition to returning animals to the wild, seeks to: facilitate the reduction of negative human impact on wildlife and the environment through educational awareness programs, participate in captive propagation and reintroduction projects (Dr. Huggins was involved in a successful multi-year effort to reestablish breeding pairs of Mississippi Kite to the area), to facilitate research as relates to habitat and population management (student projects through the Biology Department have utilized Rehab Facilities, equipment and resources), to educate the public as to raptor wildlife regulation and enforcement, and to actively participate in public education programs that would expose both children and adults to environmental concerns and ecological concepts surrounding birds of prey. A recent WBBJ special on the UWRC is an excellent example of the outreach this facility provides.

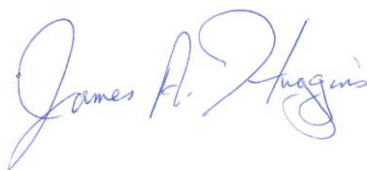
The Center has served as an exceptional training ground for students interested in careers in conservation, environmental, and wildlife biology as well as those entering into the field of parks and recreation. Multiple classes within the Conservation Biology, General Biology and Zoology majors, as well as several non-majors classes, take advantage of the facility. Bio-Moments (surprise appearances in classes), Campus Walkabout's and multiple appearances, both on and off campus, of the educational birds that are permanently housed at the UWRC put Union at the forefront of local public education of wildlife and conservation issues.

In order to keep this fantastic facility operating, **we need your help**. In addition to the existing Center facility, a mouse room was constructed in order to raise enough mice to provide the complete diet that come from a mouse meal for the birds housed at the Center. However, for a variety of reasons, this mouse room has fallen into disrepair (largely due to water damage), and the Center building itself is in need of renovations. An original estimate to replace the mouse room and renovate the Center came in at \$40,000. However, we have reworked these plans so that the mouse facility can be integrated into the Center building itself. An estimate for this modification came in at just under \$10,000. That modification will also require us to purchase a few additional items to make it work, so we are in the process of trying to raise \$10,000 by October 1st to update this facility.

These repairs are very important, for a variety of reasons. First, this facility is a wonderful recruiting tool. We are no longer able to bring prospective students and their families to the Center because, frankly, it is embarrassing. Second, this facility is a great teaching resource for our students, and we want them to be able to work in a help Third, we have had to greatly curtail mouse production, increasing our costs for feeding the raptors. Fourth, we need to stem the tide of ongoing damage to the facility so that things don't get even worse!

If each person receiving this message contributed just \$50, we could reach our goal; a larger contribution would get us there even faster!

Thank you for your support!



James A. Huggins, Ph.D.

University Professor of Biology