



# The Wildlife *Watch* Binocular

PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

**SUMMER 2023**

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PHOTO © catchature.com/blogs/news/cmon-bro-dont-leave-me-hanging



## THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

**DEBRA MUCCI** is forever on the lookout for wild animals who may need help, especially in her neighborhood. Unfortunately, it doesn't take long for her to find them. Debra doesn't mince words when she enlists the support of those who can help achieve permanent change. Her letter was emailed to: County Executive, Aileen Gunther, NY Assembly Member; Congressman Patrick Ryan, [parks@orangecountygov.com](mailto:parks@orangecountygov.com) Sean Patrick Maloney; the DEC; and Bridget Fahey of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The subject line read:

***Fishing Line in Thomas Bull Memorial Park Killing Wildlife***

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## ROANNA'S NURSERY: CONSERVING CORALS

*By Bindu Gopal Rao*

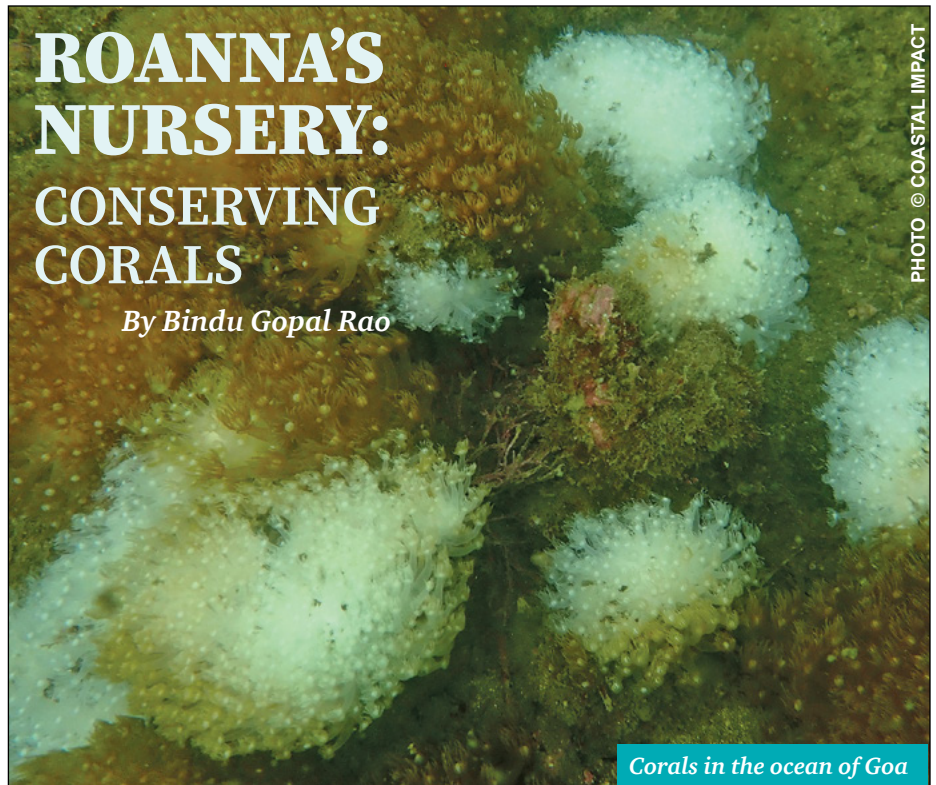


PHOTO © COASTAL IMPACT

*Corals in the ocean of Goa*

### Conserving Corals

Coastal Impact is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that works on marine conservation, education, and research; it studies and monitors Goa's marine ecosystems, spreads awareness, and initiates research and conservation actions. It also helps build interest and engagement among local communities and visitors about Goa's extraordinary marine ecosystems. It has just completed a coral micro-fragmentation transplantation project that seeks to rejuvenate coral reefs.

### The Case for Corals

Among the most diverse ecosystems in the world, coral reefs have seen a rapid decline in the last few decades. The coral cover that had already taken a very bad beating because of global warming, then they took another hit in April and May 2020. About 80 to 90% of the corals in Goa were bleached!

Bleaching causes the corals to become white as algae is flushed outside but the coral is still alive - barely. "That is when we realized

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that we should do something urgently about this,” explains Venkatesh Charloo, Founder Trustee of Coastal Impact. “So, we applied for a grant with The Habitats Trust and with the blessings of the Forest Department of Goa, we transplanted a species of hard coral called *Turbinaria* (commonly known as table coral). It is a very resilient coral and yet it was suffering from bleaching, so we decided to start with that.”

### The Specifics

Beginning in January 2020, Charloo and his team have transplanted 192 pieces of coral over a year. They made metal frames that could hold 12 ceramic tiles each of a square foot. Each tile was secured to the frame with cable ties. These frames were then lowered at a site off Grande Island, a popular diving and snorkeling site opposite Goa's airport. Then four fragments of coral were secured with an eco-friendly epoxy-based adhesive to the corners of each tile. The broken but alive pieces of coral were found on the seabed and gently placed in a bag and brought to where the frames were, so there was no additional stress on the corals. The team has since regularly monitored coral growth and rate of growth is encouraging, mirroring the pattern elsewhere in the world where coral regeneration projects have been attempted. The Habitats Trust project was completed in December 2020, and the team is now looking for fresh funding to help with new projects as well as to continue monitoring the transplanted corals, which is a long-term process. The coral growth is being monitored monthly and the tiles are brushed and cleaned to remove sediment build up.

### Micro Fragmentation

The process used is called Micro Fragmentation Technique for Coral Regeneration and uses small coral fragments that are about two or three centimeters in dimension. These tiny fragments of corals can grow 25 to 40 times faster when compared to any other regeneration technique. So far more than a million pieces of corals have been transplanted worldwide using this technique. “The idea now is to build on this and transplant reef building corals of other endemic species where growth will be more rapid,” says Charloo. “Once the corals grow, they merge into each other and immediately increase the collective rate of growth—they become bigger very quickly. The success rate is very high in this non-invasive technique.”



PHOTO © COASTAL IMPACT

### YOU CAN ADOPT A FRAGMENT OF CORAL - Pooling Resources

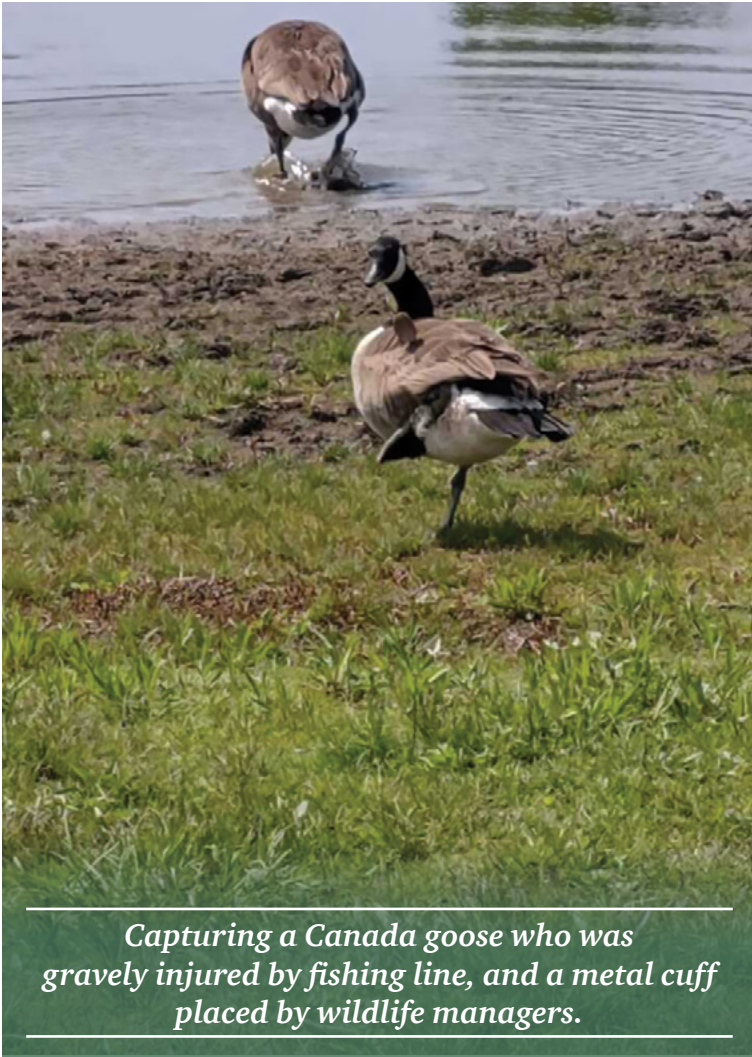
The 192 transplanted coral fragments monitored by Coastal impact have been put up for adoption. Anyone can adopt a fragment of the coral for Rs. 5500 (67 USD) or adopt a tile that has four pieces for Rs. 20000 (245 USD). These funds are then used exclusively for transplanting new corals as well as monitoring existing corals. “The corals are renamed with the name chosen by the person adopting each coral fragment, who then receives a Certificate of Adoption, an 80G certificate Tax Exemption Certificate for 100% of the amount paid, as well as a photograph of the coral—and follow up photographs, says Charloo. “This project is called the Coral Crusaders Program.” Thus far nearly 100 fragments of coral have been adopted. The first coral was adopted by 10-year-old Samira Ram from Mumbai whom Charloo describes as the “first official Coral Crusader.” A couple of startup garment companies also adopted a few fragments to gift to their regular customers.

### Saving the Corals

As corals were being damaged when boats unintentionally dropped their anchors on them, Venkatesh and his team decided to put mooring buoys at different places around three islands. “We put cement blocks on sandy ocean beds and attached these to a large drum with ropes and chains,” says Charloo.

“The diving site also has an old shipwreck that was being damaged every year, so we also placed two mooring buoys there. One buoy was put at Roanna's Nursery, named after the first volunteer who worked with us” The Coastal Impact team realized last year

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*Capturing a Canada goose who was gravely injured by fishing line, and a metal cuff placed by wildlife managers.*

# A WORTHWHILE GOOSE CHASE

*By Stephanie Thompson*

While scrolling the Nextdoor app one day, I saw a post about a goose at Overlook Park in Dutchess County, NY. His leg had gotten tangled in fishing line and he was unable to put his foot down. The post was filled with comments of people trying to leave information that could help, others expressing their sadness, and many stating their anger towards whomever left the fishing line. When I realized this post had been made 5 days before, I commented, “Has anyone helped the goose yet?” The next morning, I quickly got a notification from a woman who said that the goose was still at the park. At this point, I was so upset knowing that the goose had now been in pain, stuck, and hopping on one foot for at least a week with no relief. I knew I had to go to the park and help the goose.

I went online and came across the Wildlife Watch hotline. I got a call back and found out about a woman who lived two minutes away from the park. I called her and she said she had actually been to the park earlier that day trying to catch

*Continued on page 6*

## THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

*Continued from page 1*

**Debra wrote:**

**Good Afternoon**

*I am writing because I just took a robin off of a bush that was caught up in fishing line. Its leg was broken so badly that the foot was twisted in the opposite direction and the line cut clear to the bone. The robin must have been there for some time as he was gasping for air and appeared exhausted. The bird was finally cut loose and took off. Unfortunately it will die.*

*While I was there I also noticed fishing lines hanging from a tree near the lake! It is obvious to me that people have no idea what they are doing but are allowed to fish anyway.*

*You may not have noticed, but*

*there are fewer birds than normal this year, and now one robin and perhaps her clutch of eggs—are dead due to ignorance and a total disrespect for wildlife.*

*I feel that nothing is being done to check the lakeshores for fishing line. Last year, my dog and I were walking along the lake and she got caught up in fishing line! Thank God that turned out okay or you would have a lawsuit on your hands!*

*I spoke to several park employees, as well as the person in charge at Thomas Bull Memorial Park, but came away with the knowledge that no one cares!*

*As a tax payer and someone that cares about our wildlife, I would like to have park employees scan*

*the lake area for animals caught up in fishing line on a daily basis as they have to empty the trash cans in that area anyway. This is not the first time I have come across this situation.*

*I am asking for you to intervene and do something about this situation. There is no reason for animals to die unnecessarily.*

*By the way, is anyone checking for fishing licenses?*

*Sincerely,  
Debra Mucci*

**TO SEE HOW TO REMOVE FISHING LINE OR MONOFILAMENT, VISIT:**

[catchalure.com/blogs/news/cmon-bro-dont-leave-me-hanging](http://catchalure.com/blogs/news/cmon-bro-dont-leave-me-hanging)



## *In Loving Memory of Sheila Milkowski, a longtime Wildlife Watch member.*

Sheila's full obituary can be seen here: [legacy.com/us/obituaries/gazettenet/name/sheila-milkowski-obituary?id=52021595](https://legacy.com/us/obituaries/gazettenet/name/sheila-milkowski-obituary?id=52021595)

Sheila sadly passed away on April 20, 2023. Her obituary, published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette on May 25, 2023 said that she lived in NYC for many years where she taught school and had an after-school art program for underprivileged children.

She was an animal activist and became involved in the rescue of many cats, as well as a beloved raccoon. We wish people as kind as Sheila would live forever.

Wildlife Watch first heard about Sheila's passing from her close friend, Jackie Compton. Please see Jackie's letter against trapping in the C.A.S.H. COURIER, Summer 2023, on page 6.

## ROANNA'S NURSERY: CONSERVING CORALS *Continued from Page 2*



*Placing mooring buoys at different places around three islands*

that, if more than one boat anchored to these mooring buoys, then the cement blocks were dragged along the seabed. "After a bit of research, we got helical anchors manufactured locally," adds Charloo. "These screw into the sand and can each absorb a pull of 1000 pounds."

### **Making the Connect**

The team is also starting a Citizen Science Program named Marine Monitors where divers will be taken to conduct surveys on the transplantation sites and taught the techniques in maintenance, monitoring and fresh transplantation of corals. In addition, they would also conduct biodiversity surveys and monitor fish stocks which will assist in regular and long-term collection of data, and the uploading of the data onto web-based databases. Charloo says, "it is great as divers can come back repeatedly for dives and see how the corals have grown as well as monitor changes to the dive sites in terms of diversity." A few weeks ago, a fish sculpture made of cement by another company was installed near the transplantation site on which several different species of reef building corals were transplanted. Sea Urchins were also introduced to keep the algae from taking over to use nature to help nature and this seems to be working well so far. Charloo was honored by National Geographic on Earth Day as one of the Changemakers in India, and a short film featuring him was aired by NatGeo. Currently, Coastal Impact is in advanced discussions for funding three projects with corporates under their Corporate Social Responsibility programs. Meanwhile, the corals are growing slowly yet steadily, and the team is also seeing aggregations building with more fish species inhabiting the area. Marine life is seeing a lot of threat and the regeneration of coral with Micro Fragmentation is a great way to help this immensely valuable building block of our planet.

# R.O.C.K. - Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness

The Wildlife Watch Hotline - 877-WILDHELP receives hundreds of calls every year from across the country, and a few from Canada. Police departments, conservation agencies, SPCAs, veterinary offices, and federal, state, and municipal offices have referred callers to Wildlife Watch for help.

Your contribution to Wildlife Watch will help us to expand our volunteer service by allowing us to cover phones 24/7 and update our lists as new wildlife rehabilitators come on the scene.

## The Beloved European Starling is Treated Shabbily in the U.S.



PHOTO © unsplash.com/philbaum

If you've ever tried to find a rehabber for a starling, you know how difficult it is. Starlings, sparrows, and pigeons are considered “invasive

species” by the NYS Bureau of Wildlife. Why would the bird, whose praises were sung by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, be so maligned? Do you know that Mozart had a pet starling for three

years? The bird even learned to sing certain bars of Mozart’s music! Mozart loved him so much that he held an elaborate funeral—including a procession—for him when he died. Please see more at:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozart%27s\\_starling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozart%27s_starling)

In Wildlife Watch's search for a rehabber who would take these smart and adorable birds, we discovered Karla. Karla has brought much relief to our many callers who are fortunate to live in the Hudson Valley of NY. Some of our callers have even risked their own lives to rescue starlings from busy roads, though we don't recommend it.

In the next issue, Karla will talk more about why she specialized in the rehabilitation of starlings, sparrows, and pigeons. We are looking forward!



## A PERSONAL NOTE: *By Anne Muller*

bring immense joy or grief at a personal level. They also bring the satisfaction that Wildlife Watch is helping animals in distress.

Some calls will always be remembered. On June 22, a woman in North Carolina called about a fawn who didn't sound well. She had left him alone assuming that the Mom would return to nurse. Something about the description raised a red flag, and I asked her to go back to check.

She did, and texted the following: “When I went out to pick up the drenched, cold, bug-covered fawn, who seemed barely alive, the mom gave a huff in alert. I had seen her approach the fawn several hours before and hoped all was well.”

She carried the fawn back to her house planning to give him an

electrolyte solution that we had suggested, and we were both looking forward to good news. Instead, she later texted, “The little deer has died.” The words struck hard.

She then asked if she should take the fawn back out for the mom to have closure, or would it not matter. I had never been asked that question, and thought, yes it matters, yes put him out so his mom understands that her milk will not be drunk, and so that she can mourn. We don't know for sure what a deer mom feels who loses her offspring, but we can easily extrapolate from how we would feel. One thing that is certain, our callers are the most compassionate people on the planet.

**T**he Wildlife Watch Hotline, 877-WILDHELP fields hundreds of calls starting late March and lasting through August when it slows down as baby season comes to a close.

While a “hotline for wildlife” may sound a bit impersonal, the calls that come our way can

## THANKS TO NYC MAYOR ADAMS... VEGANISM IS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A new campaign called “Eat A Whole Lot More Plants” has launched in New York City to encourage citizens to adopt a healthy, balanced diet.

Ads for the campaign will run on television, radio, subways, NYCLink, outdoor media, and digital channels. The ads will explain the benefits of whole plant foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, and nuts, highlighting their nutrient density and lack of sodium, added sugar, or unhealthy fats.

Please see this link for more information about Mayor Eric Adams: [nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/bio.page](https://nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/bio.page)

As longtime vegans, we, at Wildlife Watch, are very excited to hear this news.

Meanwhile, at a state level...

**The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM)** partners with the **League of Humane Voters®/NY (LOHV®/NY)** to push for S996/A3708, the NYS bill that would mandate nutritionally complete plant-based food options in public schools. While the bill didn't pass this year, we will continue efforts into 2024! Its success is inevitable!

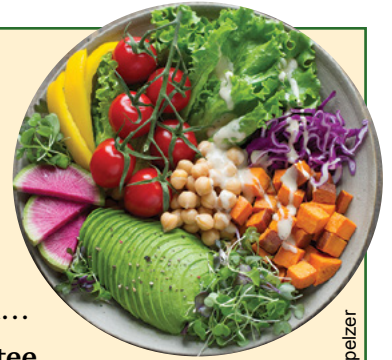


PHOTO © unsplash.com/@annapelzer

## A WORTHWHILE GOOSE CHASE *Continued from Page 3*

the goose, but couldn't get him because he kept flying into the water. I felt discouraged, but when I told her that the goose was now in the football field far away from the water, she told me, “Stay there and keep sight of the goose, I'll be right over.”

She showed up almost immediately, and we both got out of our cars in spite of the torrential downpour. My boyfriend Jeremy also showed up to help. We all walked towards the field, trying our best not to scare the goose as we got closer. At first, the goose tried to just hop away slowly, but as the rehabber got close enough to catch him with her net, the goose took off and flew to the other side of the field. We tried running towards the goose in different directions, and even took turns with the net, but the goose used all his energy to keep flying far away from us. Running back and forth in the rain, we began to think that catching him would be impossible. Then, as he made one more attempt to fly into the woods, where we wouldn't have been able to get

him, miraculously he landed at the edge of the field, allowing Jeremy to catch him with the net. When the rehabber picked up the goose up to inspect him, my heart sank to see that not only was the fishing line still wrapped around his leg, but the leg was barely hanging on as the goose had been pulling endlessly at the fishing line to try to get it off. We rushed down the

street to a rescue and sanctuary where they finally took the fishing line off the goose and bandaged his leg temporarily.

I was told that the leg would have to be amputated, but that the goose could still live just fine without it and would be sent to a rehabilitator. I was relieved to know that the goose was safe now and was on his way to healing and living a much happier life. Jeremy and I went home with the biggest mix of emotions, switching between being proud that we actually saved the goose, to feeling devastated that he went through so much suffering over something so careless and preventable.

It takes a village, and I'm so grateful to Wildlife Watch, the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue, the woman who helped, Jeremy, Lorie (who posted about the goose), Kim for trying to help all week, and everyone else who cared enough to try and help. I'm glad this story had a somewhat happy ending, but I hope that it can help inspire change so that animals can live freely in their habitats without having to suffer from the carelessness of humans.



PHOTO © STEPHANIE THOMPSON

## The Wildlife Watch Binocular

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Anne Muller, Editor

We welcome letters/articles/  
photos for consideration.

Contributions are  
tax-deductible.

## WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital wildlife hotline service to the public. We receive calls from across the country, and occasionally from Canada, from people needing help with injured and orphaned wildlife. Our easy to remember number **877WILDHELP** is recommended by veterinary offices, SPCAs, and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, we publish the **Wildlife Watch Binocular** to inform the public about environmental impacts on wild animals, to highlight people who help them, to promote wildlife watching, and to engender understanding that all animals are individuals deserving of kinder treatment.

Will you help our  
work? **YES**

[wildwatch.org/join/contrib](http://wildwatch.org/join/contrib)

## LET'S GO WILDLIFE WATCHING AT THE SILK FARM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



*An Eastern Bluebird sits on top of Staghorn Sumac. This little bluebird was seen on the seacoast of New Hampshire, foraging on these plants.*

**N**ew Hampshire is a great place to spot a variety of wildlife species. With a surprising tourist boom in autumn for 'leaf-peepers' (tourists traveling to New England to look at the array of fall leaves), you quickly realize after living in NH that there's many natural beauties to be appreciated. With a biodiverse environment hosting animals ranging from hermit crabs along the shore to moose and Purple Finches, New Hampshire has a lot to offer when it comes to wildlife watching.

One of my favorite spots to visit year-round is the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, in Concord, NH. [nhaudubon.org/lands/sanctuaries/silk-farm-wildlife-sanctuary/](http://nhaudubon.org/lands/sanctuaries/silk-farm-wildlife-sanctuary/)

A portion of the property hosts the center for the McLane Audubon chapter, who maintains the trail system. During visitor hours, you can also stop by and see the pollinator garden & rescued birds of prey that were unable to be rehabilitated, that now live in mews viewable by the public for educational purposes.

The Silk Farm sanctuary offers three miles of trails; the trails are of

varying difficulty, so whether you're a casual birdwatcher or experienced hiker, there's something to offer. Audubon maintains nest boxes for American Kestrels, Eastern Bluebirds, and Tree Swallows along the property, which are often busy in spring. On the lake, you can spot a variety of waterfowl including one of New Hampshire's most beloved birds, the Common Loon. **To offer the wildlife a safe place to exist in peace, hunting and fishing are not allowed; dogs are also not allowed in the sanctuary, with the exception of one dog-friendly bike trail.**

If you plan on visiting the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, be prepared for some bumpy trails and potentially a few ticks. The ruggedness of portions of this sanctuary is what makes it special; despite being fairly popular, the trails let you feel truly immersed in the wilderness despite being so close to the city.

*Patrick Kuklinski is a published nature writer and bird fanatic currently residing in New Hampshire while he works towards a Bachelor's in Zoology.*

PHOTO © BRIAN YURASITS ON UNSPLASH

Wildlife Watch  
PO Box 562,  
New Paltz, NY 12561



**NEED HELP FOR  
INJURED OR ORPHANED  
WILDLIFE?  
CALL THE WILDLIFE  
WATCH HOTLINE!  
1-877-WILDHEL(P)  
(1-877-945-3435)**

Wildlife Watch maintains current lists of wildlife rehabilitators around the country. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually. Please help us by becoming a Wildlife Watch member for \$25 annually and please make an additional contribution for the R.O.C.K. Project that will be put into a fund and used to help a rehabber help wild animals. R.O.C.K. Project funds will be distributed at our discretion up to the amount available.

You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here:  
**[wildwatch.org/contribute](http://wildwatch.org/contribute)**

✓ Contribute by phone with a credit card. 845-256-1400

✓ Contribute by mail:  
Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box 562,  
New Paltz, NY 12561

## THE WHOOPING CRANE

*(Reprinted with permission of the author. The full article has been shortened. Contact the author for the full text.)*

**Painting and text by  
Barry Kent MacKay**

Years ago, I had the wondrous privilege of standing face to face with these magnificent birds inside one of the large enclosures away from public view at the International Crane Foundation, at Baraboo, Wisconsin. The Foundation is part of a massive, binational network of various government and non-government agencies and organizations that have, by dint of enormous effort over more than 80 years, and at great cost, prevented this species from going extinct. It is still endangered, and still in perilous need of help from humans.

**The International Crane Foundation estimates that nearly 20 percent of Whooping Crane deaths among the birds re-introduced in the eastern migratory population are from shooting.** High tension wires and storms, droughts, and other extreme weather events that are resulting from climate change or other hazards take their toll.



My personal view is that there is great need to focus on protecting all wildlife, including the most common, to prevent them from becoming endangered in the first place.

This is an oil painting on compressed hardboard and is approximately 30 by 24 inches.

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