

LCMR Work Program  
The Raptor Center - Audubon Center of the Northwoods

Date of Report: 30 June 1993

I. Establish Northern Raptor Rehabilitation and Education Facility, Wildlife, Number 17

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M.L. 1991 Chapter 254.ART.1 Section 14 Subdiv: 9p

Appropriation: \$75,000  
Balance: \$ 0

Establish Northern Raptor Rehabilitation and Education Facility: This appropriation is to the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, to establish a raptor rehabilitation and release facility at the Audubon Center of the Northwoods.

II. Narrative: The project managers seek to expand the geographical scope of rehabilitation of injured birds of prey (raptors) and to educate more people about wildlife resources. The facility and program would be an extension of the University Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

III. Objectives

A. Establish a Raptor Rehabilitation/Education Facility at Sandstone

A1. Narrative: Build facilities for providing convalescent care to injured raptors. The Audubon Center is located just south of Duluth where raptors concentrate at Hawk Ridge. There are four major biological communities and the St. Croix flyway in Pine County.

A2. Procedures: Northern raptors treated at The Raptor Center will be transported for convalescent care before release. To facilitate this procedure, the Audubon Center of the Northwoods will contract as the general contractor with the Raptor Clinic to construct the necessary cages. All phases of construction will be handled by the Audubon Center of the Northwoods with timely reports submitted to The Raptor Center for inclusion with regular LCMR work progress reports.

A3. Budget

1. Amount budgeted: \$16,000  
2. Expended: \$20,000  
2. Balance: (4,000) from other sources

A4. Timeline for Tasks: July 91 Sept 91 Dec 91

1. Initiate construction XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
2. Recruit, train volunteers XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A5. Status: The raptor facilities have been completed. There are educational and veterinary care areas, rehabilitation and release facilities, and a landscaped area that will provide additional privacy for the operation.

A6. Benefits: A local facility for receiving, treating and releasing injured birds of prey would be established. Northern raptors would be released in appropriate habitat. Releases would be less concentrated than they are now.

B. Network the Sandstone facility with The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota.

B1. Narrative: Through training internships, transportation and telephone links, the expertise and facilities of The Raptor Center will insure operational success of the proposed program. A staff person will be hired for the Sandstone facility with 1/2 time responsibility for this project. This person will serve a 6-week internship at TRC in St. Paul. Staff and volunteers at Sandstone will conduct educational programs in the school systems as well as provide for on-site visits by the public.

B2. Procedures: A staff person will be selected through a search process using the combined staffs of The Raptor Center and the Audubon Center of the

Northwoods as the selection committee. Raptor Center staff will train the selected candidate and monitor the person's performance in conjunction with Northwoods. The position will be a part of Northwoods' payroll. Revenues to fund this portion of the program will be fronted to Northwoods prior to the start of the position with regular reports in a timely fashion by Northwoods to The Raptor Center for inclusion with regular work program status reports.

B3. Budget

- 1. Amount budgeted: \$40,000
- 2. Expended: 48,000
- 3. Balance: (8,000) from other sources

B4. Timeline:      May 91   June 91   July 91   Sept 91   to 1993

- 1. Open position,  
    advertise      XXXX
- 2. Conduct interviews,  
    hire              XXXX
- 3. Internship at TRC              XXXX
- 4. Assume responsibilities  
    at Sandstone              XXXX
- 5. Develop volunteer corps      XXXXXXXXXXXX  
    Receive, treat injured raptors  
    Forward, receive raptors from TRC  
    Conduct educational programs

B5. Status: Staff has been trained, first draft of curriculum has been written, volunteers have been recruited, volunteer training has been established, and volunteer manual completed. Birds are being admitted to Sandstone facility. Staff is developing joint program relationships and continued development of training.

B6. Benefits: The Raptor Center is currently operating at near capacity, treating about 600 injured birds per year. This networking arrangement would increase the capacity of TRC which currently does not meet the demand, while increasing opportunities for public education and involvement outside the metropolitan area of the Twin Cities.

C. Develop video and written materials to be used by teachers in classroom studies in conjunction with existing curricula.

C1. Narrative: Expanded written curriculum will stress factual information on natural history of raptors in

the wild, their place in the food chain, and their role as environmental indicators. It will explore conflicts among users of the environment and will study the effects of those actions on wildlife.

C2. Procedures: The Raptor Center staff will write and develop a five-day lesson plan that can be distributed and used for students in grades 4-6 throughout Minnesota. Format will consist of five one-hour-long units complemented by a 10-minute video segment for each hour of instruction. Grant will be used to develop the curriculum, produce the video, and to write a marketing plan for the finished product.

C3. Budget

- 1. Amount budgeted: \$19,000.00
- 2. Expended: \$29,000.00
- 2. Balance: (10,000.00) from other sources

C4. Timeline:      Sept 91   June 92   Sept 92   Sept 93

- 1. Curriculum writing      XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 2. Video script writing      XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 3. Video production      XXXXXXXX
- 4. Marketing to schools      XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 5. Distribution to schools      XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- 6. Evaluation/revision      XXXX

C5. Status: A literature search on current existing material was completed in October. Staff has met and developed an outline of curriculum. A teacher advisory committee is currently being assembled to advise and test materials. Plan is to develop curriculum in the fall of 1992 and test it during the winter of 1992. KTCA and a curriculum specialist have been meeting to outline the curriculum. Video search is now underway to find complimentary footage that can be used with units. This will help develop a list of footage to be taken to complete the project. Curriculum and video are complete as of June 30, 1993. Plans are underway to field test the curriculum this fall, make revisions late fall and begin distribution in January 1994.

C6. Benefits: Students who understand the ecological role of raptors will begin to understand that each plant and animal species has a crucial role to play in a healthy environment. They will be asked to explore their own attitudes and beliefs about conservation, and to correlate their actions with these beliefs.

#### IV. Evaluation

For the fiscal year 92-93 biennium, the program will be evaluated in three parts by objective. These are as follows:

- Objective A: A combined review of the finished product by both The Raptor Center and the Audubon Center of the Northwoods staffs. Photos depicting the finished product will be submitted as part of A5 status report due January 1, 1992.
- Objective B: A personal review period will be conducted jointly by both staffs using procedures already established within each organizational structure. Updated reports of these reviews will be submitted as part of the regular B5 reports. Numbers of participants in the volunteer program and treatment numbers will be reported as part of B5 and will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.
- Objective C: A pre-test will be given to students prior to the start of the unit and a post-test given at the conclusion. Results of these tests will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and its impact on environmental consciousness. Program distribution will also be an indication of market success in reaching numbers of people. The results of this objective will help determine a format that is usable in delivery of environmental education programs.

#### V. Context

- A. The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota has been conducting research and providing rehabilitation and education programs about raptors since 1974. Over 4,000 raptors, including bald eagles and peregrine falcons, have been treated. Several hundred volunteers, as well as wildlife and veterinary students, have gained lifetime experiences in the handling of raptors and dealt first hand with policy issues arising from human impact on wildlife resources.
- B. TRC seeks to achieve broader community involvement in raptor education and rehabilitation through networking with natural resource, educational and research institu-

tions, such as the one proposed here, as a means of improving conservation education in Greater Minnesota. The project would be maintained as a part of the education budget of both the Kettle River Environmental Education Center and the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

- C. The raptor rehabilitation and education work that has been done in Minnesota prior to this date has not been funded by LCMR. TRC has been able to increase the number of critical care patients served and focus on improving surgical techniques without increasing the physical resources of the Center by enlisting and training a regional network of rehabilitation organizations to care for convalescent raptors. This has freed TRC staff and resources for research and publication efforts without having to reduce the number of raptors served. While continuing to focus veterinary services on endangered raptor species, the organization does serve other raptors and other endangered birds on a time and space availability only.

The leadership of TRC has recognized the need to network with other related organizations outside the University. These leaders have formed coalitions of groups around the issues deemed priorities by TRC. These coalitions have enabled TRC to be viewed as one of the foremost environmental conservation organizations in the world. By making the link between what is good for raptors is also good for the earth, TRC has captured the imagination and the reasoning of the public.

The Audubon Center of the Northwoods has pioneered many educational opportunities in its 21-year history. It provides programs and expanded career training opportunities for people on a national basis. By joining these two success records, it is projected that a strong rehabilitation and education program can be developed for use on a national scale. To our knowledge, no such endeavor has been undertaken nationally, paving the way for Minnesota to be a leader. The intent of this project is to establish a leading environmental education raptor program over the next 10 to 15 years on a national scale. It is anticipated that funding beyond the FY 92-93 biennium will be sought from LCMR.

- D. Not applicable
- E. Biennial Budget System Program Title and Budget: Not available at this time.

#### VII. Qualifications

Ron Osterbauer  
The Raptor Center  
University of Minnesota

B.S. Park and Recreation Administration, Mankato State University, 1974. Ron has helped develop curriculum that is presently in use in five school systems. These curricula encompass all grade levels. He also developed the River Bend Nature Center from a young fledgling organization to a thriving private non-profit agency. Ron is a community faculty member for Metropolitan State University and an adjunct professor for Mankato State University.

Daisy Ritter, Program Manager  
The Raptor Center  
University of Minnesota

B.A. Child Psychology from the University of Minnesota, 1967. Daisy worked at the Minnesota Zoo 1980-83 as co-developer and presenter of the bird show. In 1983 she began to present school assembly programs about raptors on her own. Since 1986, she has served as Education Director at The Raptor Center, presenting programs, conducting teacher training workshops and writing materials for classroom distribution.

Mike Link, Director  
Audubon Center of the Northwoods

M.S. Environmental Education from St. Cloud State University. Founding director for the Audubon Center of the Northwoods - 19 years. Author of 13 books, including two textbooks and numerous magazine articles and educational materials. He also guides the development of the Kettle River Environmental Education Center and the International Wolf Center.

## VII. Reporting Requirements

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1992, July 1, 1992, January 1, 1993 and a final status report by June 30, 1993.

### 1991 Project Abstract

For the period ending June 30, 1993

This project was supported by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

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Legal Citation: M.L. 91, Ch. 245, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd. 9p

Appropriation Amount: \$75,000

### STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The goal of this project was to expand the geographical scope of rehabilitation of injured birds of prey (raptors) and to educate more people about wildlife resources. A primary objective was to construct a northern rehabilitation facility. A secondary objective was to establish curriculum for grades 4 - 6 on raptors and their importance to the environment.

### RESULTS

An old barn was reconstructed at the Audubon Center of the Northwoods for use as a northern rehabilitation facility. Rooms were installed to do initial rehabilitation prior to transportation to The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. Educational mews were also added so permanently disabled birds could be housed for public education programs. Northwoods staff spent time at The Raptor Center learning rehabilitation techniques. Volunteers were also trained on treatment procedures and a volunteer transport crew of pilots was formed. Birds are currently being received at the Center, difficult cases are being forwarded to the University after initial stabilizing treatment. Long-term convalescent cases are currently being housed and cared for by Northwoods staff.

Curriculum is completed. The unit consists of a video with accompanying written material. Curriculum is multi-disciplinary in format. It is currently being field-tested and will be used in conjunction with a live satellite uplink on raptors that will be televised nationally next November. Various components of it will also be used in conjunction with the National Traveling Raptor Exhibit which will open next October, a joint project of The Raptor Center and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

#### PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

Results of this project will be used to help design a training course for professionals on rehabilitation. Seminars are currently in the planning stage to begin next spring using both projects as a model. These courses are being offered on a national scale. Curriculum will be marketed beginning in January to schools outside of the metro area. Programs will be provided jointly by both facilities, expanding the outreach of both organizations.