



2014 Annual Report  
**MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN  
RESCUE SOCIETY** Helping Wildlife Recover

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British Columbia Gaming Branch



# MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

## Helping Wildlife Recover 2014 Annual Report

The Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS) thanks all of our generous contributors for helping us continue wildlife rehabilitation and conservation efforts in 2013/14. These selfless contributions allowed for this year's programs to proceed.

We appreciate the support of the MARS board of directors, staff, contractors and our many volunteers. Without you this could not have been possible.



MARS Animal Care volunteer Sandy Royer

**SPECIAL THANKS:** We wish to acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia. The Province of BC was our single greatest contributor and supported the majority of our 2013/14 education program on wildlife protection and conservation awareness.

BC Hydro (Bald Eagle Festival, video monitoring equipment), Comox and Strathcona Regional Districts (thanks Brenda), Corporation of the City of Courtenay and the City of Campbell River (thanks Walter) also continue to be strong supporters of MARS along with Shell Canada (Heron Study), and the Vancouver Foundation (Strategic planning and web-site). Other contributors included Bayside, My Tech Guys (hosting our web site and providing tech support). Support was also received from: Wendy Kotilla YER, Connie Schaad, MaryAnne Deino, Anna Lewis, Zita Kinney, Viktor Davare, Douglas Millar, Allan Grey, Donna Hunter, Capital Power Corporation, Cumberland OAPA #51, Cumberland Regional Laundry, Campbell River Salmon Foundation, Campbell River Logger Sports, Ecole Phoenix Middle School, Elementary, Miracle Beach Elementary, Royston Elementary, G P Vanier Secondary, Cortes Elementary, Brooklyn Elementary, North Island Distance Education School, North Island College, Northgate Christian Education Society, Ginger 9 Studios and Gallery, Vita Health Products, Coastal Community Credit Union (social media development), Scotia Bank (Comox branch), Mid Island Gifts, CMFRC Adventure Camp, The Raptors, Oyster River Garden Society, Norm Snihur (helicopter support), Chris Hansen, Outback Nursery, Ronald McDonald (bird houses), Russ Nelson Roofing, Upper Island Women of Native Ancestry, North Island Dragon Boat Society, Fanny Bay Salmonid Society, Heron's Landing, Backdoor Gallery, Done Creative, River Sportsman, BC Smokeshop, Affordable Gardening, Island Art Therapy & Counselling, Comox Valley newcomers Club, Affordable Custom Framing and Art, Residents of Creekside Commons, Continual Palingenesis and United Way of Toronto. Photo Tech-foto source, Interfor, Western Forest Products, Coho Books, Marlet Ashley Books, Quality Foods, WestJet, Anchor Inn & Suites, Blue/Water Bait, Cold Star Freight, Thrifty Foods, Tim Horton's (CR) all contributed to MARS events through the year. Lots of free publicity came from 97.3FM The Eagle Radio, Comox Valley Record, Comox Valley Echo, Campbell River Mirror, Campbell River Courier Islander, CTV-Gord Kurbis and Check News – Dean Stoltz.

The Wickaninnish Inn/Point Restaurant, WestJet and Harbour Hideout Vacation Rental contributed to our raffles. Pacific Coastal Airlines donated transport of injured wildlife, and BC Ferries gave free passage for wildlife rescue.

Support for MARS and care provided by our local Veterinarian Clinics was amazing (as usual) and included Van Isle Veterinary Hospital, Shamrock Veterinary Clinic, Sunrise Veterinary Clinic (**thanks Stacey!**), Puntledge Veterinary Clinic and North Island Veterinary Hospital.

Several anonymous donors contributed to MARS. Steve Harding of Timberwolf Tree Service was always on standby to scale a tree to rescue an injured bird for us. Pat Wagar volunteered an amazing amount of time keeping our Facebook page alive.

We apologize if we inadvertently missed any donors.

**Fund Raising / Silent Auction Donors:** Sharon Hubbard – Wood Carver, Tracy May – Jewelry Maker, Shelley Penner – Artist / Painter, Yardbirdz Driftwood Art, Top Shelf Foods, Luke Guthrie – Musician, Jack Sigurdson – Musician, Quadra Island Preserves, Larry Aguilar – Potter, Andrew Kent – Basket Weaver, Bead It Jewelry, Jessey LaFontaine – Painter, Jenny Cooper, Ann Andrews, Aileen Penner – Artist, G. Delgatty, Bosley's, Comox Golf Club, Mid-Island Gifts, Done Creative, Avalanche Pub, Music Bingo (Victoria), Holiday Inn Express Courtenay, Razzamatazz Dog Grooming, Crown Isle Golf Course, Steve Williamson – Photographer, Kathy Branch – Stylist, Vancouver Whitecaps FC, Strathcona Creative

**Material Gift Donors:** Viktor Davare – Photographer, Siefferts Farm, Devonshire Farms, Sharon Jackson, Courtenay Medical, I Hos Gallery, Elaine Myers, ABC Printing, Lynda Hodgkinson



Sandy Royer photo of Snowy Owl



Sandy Royer photo of Pacific-Slope Flycatcher



Sandy Royer (left) Jackie Chamberlain (back) and Reg Wescott with juvenile Bald Eagle



John Deal photo of Harlequin Ducks

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Yvonne Maximchuck photo



Jo-Anne Johnson photo of Great Horned Owl



Sandy Royer photo of Saw-Whet Owl



Sandy Royer photo of a Merlin fledgling



Sandy Royer photo of an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk



Sandy Royer photo of a Harbour Seal Pup



Injured Barred Owl

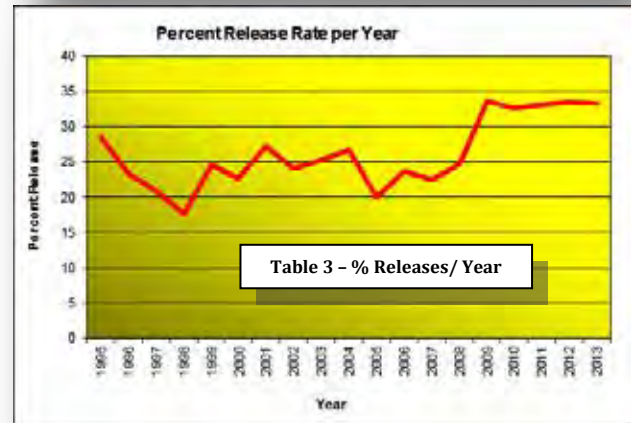
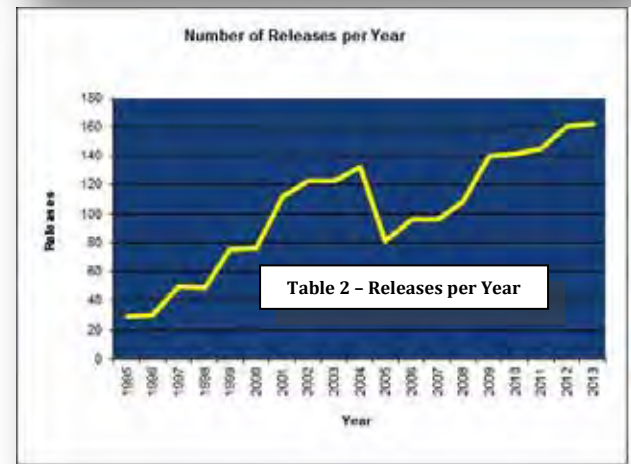
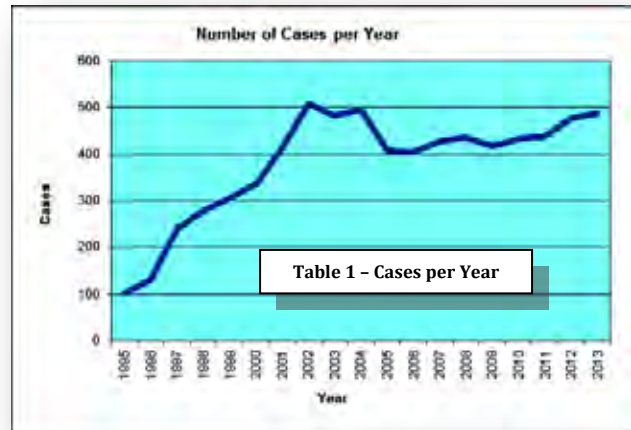
## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS) officially opened its doors in 1995 and recorded a wildlife case load of **102**. Since 1995, we've had a case load of **7,211** animals with an average of **401**. As people became more aware of our wildlife rescue centre our case load increased dramatically until 2002 before leveling off to between 400 and 500 animals annually. Since 2002 we have averaged **410** cases/year (table 1).

Since 1995, we have expanded our mandate to include an active education component, and more recently we have been involved in greater amounts of conservation issues as well as research and monitoring. This important work helps educate the public and improve land development management.

In 2013, we had a case load of the **487** cases (100 different species), **162** cases were released back to the wild (33% release rate) (tables 2 and 3). While this may not seem to be a high release rate, the base case level includes animals received DOA, patients that succumbed to injuries shortly after we received them, and animals that sustained injuries that rendered them unable to survive in the wild. From 1995 to the end of our 2013 fiscal year, MARS has released **1926** animals back to the wild; including **56** Bald Eagles. Every time I see a Bald Eagle, I can't help but wonder if it was one of the eagles, or offspring of one of the eagles we rehabilitated. Chances are pretty good that this could be the case for any eagle you see along the west coast of North America because the majority of the west coast population spends the fall and part of winter in our area, which coincides with when we receive most of our eagle patients.

One of the many important functions that MARS accomplishes is our contribution to recovery of species of interest (yellow listed) species at risk (blue listed) and endangered species (red listed). During our 2013 fiscal year we received **48** (yellow listed) Bald Eagles and one Osprey. The red and blue-listed species we treated included **10** Great Blue Herons, 2 Barn Owls, **4** Northern Saw-Whet Owls, 3 Screech Owls, 1 Tundra Swan, 1 Northern Pygmy Owl, and 1 Marbled Murrelet. To learn more about red and blue listed species and ecosystems on coastal British Columbia, check out the fact sheets on: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>



During our 2013 fiscal year, MARS staff included Maj Birch as Manager, Reg Wescott Supervisor of Wildlife Care, and Allison Morrison as a part time administration assistant. Maj is phasing away from direct animal care and more into conservation and public outreach, while Reg is taking on most of the responsibility for wildlife care and public education.

This year, with mixed emotions, we were bequeathed over \$300,000 from the estate of Michelle Woodrow. Michelle was passionate about wildlife and a long-time friend of MARS. This generous donation was placed into a reserve fund to be used to implement our strategic plan which could (among other priority items) include a much larger flight cage we desperately need for the recovery of our larger raptors. We want to use this funding as a legacy to Michelle.

Given our expanded role into education, conservation and research and monitoring, our case level and other conservation initiatives are still difficult to handle. Postage, electricity and fuel costs have increased dramatically, and donations have been tailing off over the last year. Unless we can turn this trend around, we are looking at a significant budget shortfall.

Our student program continues to be successful and in our 2013 fiscal year we had seven student volunteers. In exchange for a hands-on education opportunity these volunteers work extremely hard helping to rescue and rehabilitate animals. Volunteers are the foundation of MARS. All of the board members and committee members are volunteers, as are most of the wildlife care and educational outreach people. With the help of Allison, we made a strong effort to track volunteer time. BC Gaming Branch puts an in-kind \$ value for skilled labour (\$25.00/hr), and unskilled labour (\$10.00/hr). For our wildlife care volunteers the skilled labour hours (IWRC Certified) came to 1,337 hours, and unskilled labour 3,136 hours. Volunteer time (unskilled) for MARS events totalled 2,100 hours. Total volunteer time (rounded up) came to a whopping 6,574 hours with a total value of approximately \$84,900. This does not include the time volunteered by the board or various committees.

Concentrated efforts were made throughout 2013 by volunteers to continue to modernize and revamp our website ( [www.wingtips.org](http://www.wingtips.org) ) and make a presence on Facebook in order to increase public awareness of our activities both for education and fundraising.

Sandy Fairfield's newspaper columns have continued to be a popular educational tool, as are her programs with the schools. Local veterinarians have continued to donate a lot of their time and expertise. Along with volunteer time, we also have started to more accurately track our in-kind contributions to MARS. Our local veterinary clinics donated an equivalent amount of time and expenses greater than \$68,000! Sunrise Vet Clinic leads the way by providing over \$67,000 worth services! Sunrise Vet Clinic is owned and operated by Dr. Stacey Gastis and his clinic can be found at 800 Shamrock Pl, Comox, BC V9M 4G4 <http://www.sunrisevet.ca/> . Stacey is also a past board member of MARS.



Dr. Stacey Gastis preparing for surgery on a Great Blue Heron tangled in fishing line.

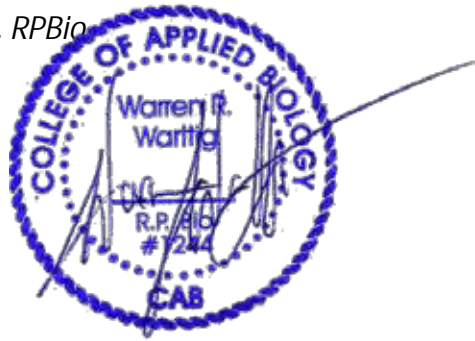
Our Board of Directors, fund raising and special events committees have shown an incredible team effort that is not often seen in volunteer organizations. Our adopted educational birds are popular at many public events that we attend. The dedication and the quality of work of our volunteers and staff, and participation of local veterinarian clinics are inspiring.

From Facebook we received donations from people all over the world; many of the donations were small, but the sheer number cumulated to a substantial total. We now find ourselves in a relatively comfortable position for day-to-day activities (hand-to-mouth). Potentially we may even be able to work towards long-term planning. This is essential if MARS is to remain a permanent fixture.



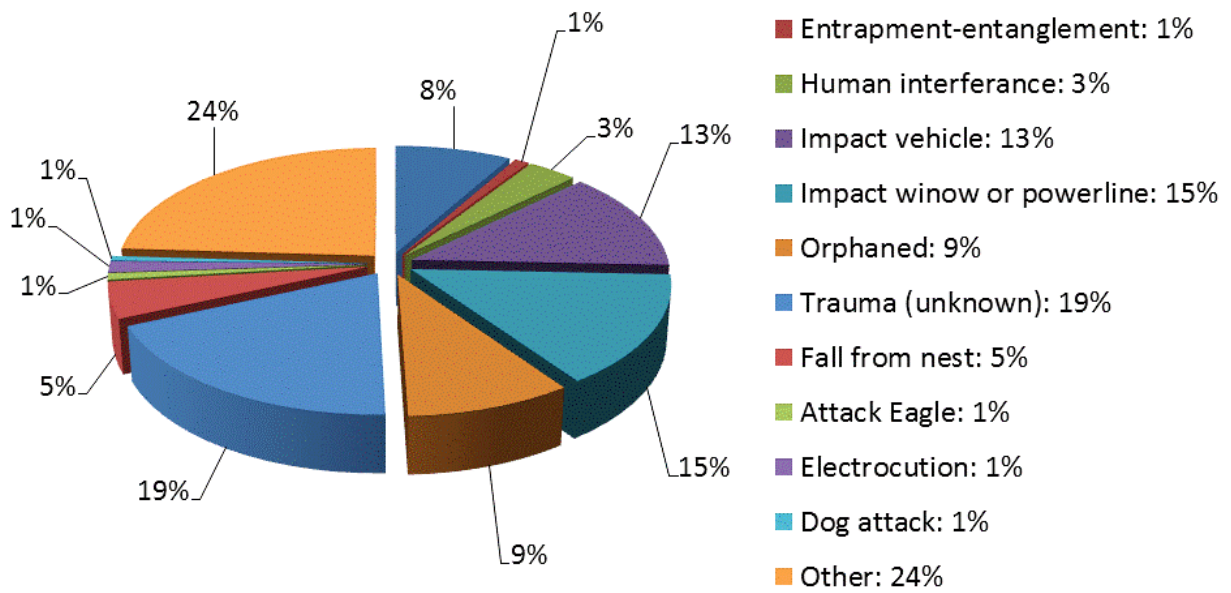
Dr. Stacey Gastis preparing for surgery on a Great Blue Heron tangled in fishing line.

*Warren Warttig, RPBio*  
*President*

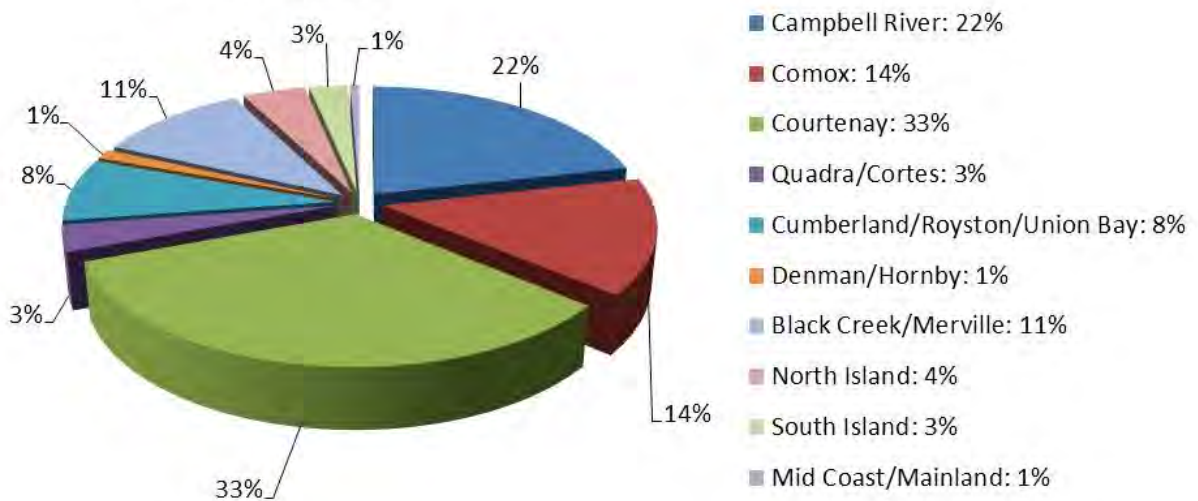


Dr. Stacey Gastis preparing for surgery on a Great Blue Heron tangled in fishing line.

### Injury Type



### Case Source Areas



## CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society is Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS)
2. The purpose of the Society is:
  - a. To rescue, transport, rehabilitate, and release ill, injured, orphaned, or oiled wildlife.
  - b. To educate the general public about wildlife issues through lectures, displays, workshops, reports and publications.
  - c. To contribute to the knowledge and understanding of wildlife by participating in research, and sharing that information with wildlife organizations and the general public through meetings, seminars, conferences, reports and publications.
  - d. To conserve and protect wildlife and promote conservation of wildlife habitat.
3. Upon winding up or dissolution of the Society, the ordinary resolution authorizing such winding up shall specify that any remaining assets belonging to the Society shall be distributed to a registered society having objectives similar to those of the Society, after all debts have been paid, or a provision for payment made. This provision is unalterable.

## MISSION

To conserve and protect native wildlife and its natural habitat through education and rehabilitation.

## GOALS

To reduce suffering of wildlife, often affected by human influences and educate the public about their effect on nature and how to reduce that impact.

## OBJECTIVES

Provide a safe, stress-free environment for wildlife to recover. To contribute to the knowledge and understanding of wildlife by participating in research and sharing information with wildlife and professional organizations and the general public through meetings, lectures, displays, workshops, seminars, conferences, reports and publications.

## PHILOSOPHY

We are a non-profit organization. Our energy is totally directed towards rehabilitation and education, and the funding for those endeavors. We abide by all governing laws and regulations under which we operate. MARS holds permits from federal and provincial governments that allow us to rescue, keep in captivity and care for wildlife.

The intensive care unit (ICU) at the centre and outdoors pens are off-limits to the public due to permit restrictions and because wildlife become stressed around people. We endeavor to maintain high standards of care and ethics and to work cooperatively with many related organizations.

We strongly advise against keeping any wildlife species as pets and make every effort to ensure that all wildlife patients remain wild. We work closely with several local area veterinarians and receive many referrals from the SPCA. Before admitting any case, every effort must be made to resolve the situation (e.g. reunite fledglings with their parents). We are not a relocation service for nuisance animals.

We are primarily concerned with treating those animals which are in distress due to human related activities (e.g. car, cat, oil). Human intervention (picking up fledglings off the ground) is discouraged and return to the parent should be immediate. Where it can be determined, we will not interfere with animals in distress due to a natural process (e.g. natural predator/prey interactions).

The responsibility of care of domestic animals falls under the jurisdiction of the Veterinarian Act. Therefore, we cannot accept or attempt to diagnose problems concerning domestic animals, accept them for treatment, housing, or try to find homes for them. This includes chickens, peacocks, domestic ducks and pigeons.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013/14

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Warren Warttig – President</b><br/> <a href="mailto:Warren.Warttig@Interfor.com">Warren.Warttig@Interfor.com</a><br/> Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio)<br/> International Forest Products (Interfor)<br/> 3811 Mitlenatch Drive<br/> Campbell River, BC V9H 1J7<br/> Home 250-926-0001 Work 250-286-5168</p> | <p><b>Maureen Woodruff – Treasurer</b> <a href="mailto:moeart@shaw.ca">moeart@shaw.ca</a><br/> Bookkeeper, Pateman &amp; Company<br/> 1137 Sand Pines Crescent,<br/> Comox, B.C. V9M 3V3<br/> Home 250-339-4752</p>  |
| <p><b>Pearl McKenzie – Vice President</b><br/> <a href="mailto:pearl_mckenzie@telus.net">pearl_mckenzie@telus.net</a><br/> Consultant<br/> 8685 Beach Crescent<br/> Black Creek, BC V9J 1K1<br/> Home 250-337-1934</p>  | <p><b>Julie Hunt - Secretary</b> <a href="mailto:wholio12@shaw.ca">wholio12@shaw.ca</a><br/> Resource Consultant<br/> 158 Manor Drive<br/> Comox, BC V9M 1C7<br/> Home 250 339-0980 (fax the same)<br/> Cell 250-218-4960</p>                                |
| <p><b>Laurie Ulm</b><br/> <a href="mailto:ulmpark@telus.net">ulmpark@telus.net</a><br/> Retired<br/> P.O. Box 252, 8030 Memory Lane<br/> Merville, BC, V0R 2M0<br/> Home 250-337-5281</p>   | <p><b>Kaleena Singleton</b><br/> <a href="mailto:kaleenasingleton@hotmail.com">kaleenasingleton@hotmail.com</a><br/> Practical Nurse/Wildlife Rehabilitator<br/> PO Box 1154<br/> Cumberland, BC V0R 1S0<br/> Home: 250-400-7780<br/> Cell: 250-208-9281</p> |
| <p><b>John Turner</b> <a href="mailto:johnjt@shaw.ca">johnjt@shaw.ca</a><br/> Retired<br/> 926 Stewart Ave<br/> Courtenay, BC V9N 3H2<br/> Home 250-334-3319</p>  | <p><b>TaraLee Houston</b> <a href="mailto:taralee.houston@gmail.com">taralee.houston@gmail.com</a><br/> 1560 Schelderup Place<br/> Comox, BC V9N 3J2<br/> Cell 250-208-9281</p>  |
| <p><b>Robert McLennan</b><br/> <a href="mailto:Robert.mclennan9@gmail.com">Robert.mclennan9@gmail.com</a><br/> Trainer/Adult Educator<br/> 203-1695 Comox Avenue<br/> Comox, BC V9N 3J2<br/> Cell 250-465-2578</p>  | <p><b>Jason Houston</b> <a href="mailto:jason.houston2@gmail.com">jason.houston2@gmail.com</a><br/> 1560 Schelderup Place<br/> Comox, BC V9N 3J2<br/> Cell 306-596-2265<br/> House 250-339-5255</p>  |

**Full time Staff:** Maj Birch and Reg Wescott

**Part Time Contract:** Allison Morrison

# REHABILITATION SUMMARY

## Animal Care Statistics

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Passerines         | 267 |
| Raptors            | 90  |
| Waterfowl          | 59  |
| Terrestrial Mammal | 48  |
| Marine Mammal      | 4   |
| Shorebirds         | 13  |
| Game Birds         | 2   |
| Amphibian/Reptile  | 0   |
| Other              | 4   |

**Total: 487**

**Total Species 100**

## Disposition

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Released                    | 115 |
| Transferred/Released        | 47  |
| Deceased/<br>Euthanized/DOA | 325 |

**TOTAL: 487**

**Educational  
Ambassadors: 3**



Pigmy Owl Photo by Sandy Royer

# CONSERVATION REPORT

MARS participated in various conservation programs and activities, and conservation organizations throughout the year:

Comox Valley Conservation Strategy (CVCS)

- Comox Lake Watershed Sustainable Use Recreation Area" support
- Support for" Nature without Borders 2"

Comox Valley Environmental Council (CVEC) Board Member

- Constitutional Committee

Comox Valley Naturalist's Society (CVNS)

- Trumpeter Swan monitoring - Annual Population Count
- Garry Oak plantation at Headquarters Townsite Park
- Support for Hamilton Mack Laing Baybrook proposal to Comox Council

CV Regional District

- Regional Invasive Species report
- CV Regional Growth Strategy
- Toxic wildlife issues

City of Courtenay Conservation Forum

- Regional Invasive Species report

Youth and Ecological Restoration (YER)

- 13 Participants involved in MARS activities

Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program

- Monitoring Bald Eagle population productivity
- Nest tree protection and support for tree bylaws
- Bald Eaglet Banding with Rocky Point Bird Observatory

Great Blue Heron Study

- Shell Fueling Change Funded supported by YER

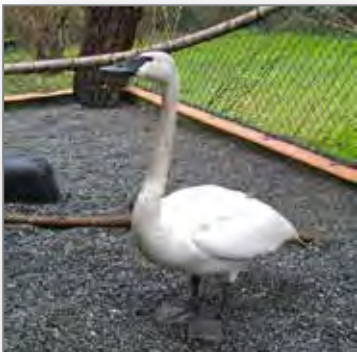
*Maj Birch* - Manager

## MANAGERS' REPORT

2013 was a busy year for MARS as we attempted to deal with the many aspects of a growing society.

With funding from the Vancouver Foundation for sustainable development and website re-design, we began the year with our Strategic Plan with Allison Morrison contracted to facilitate it. Recognizing that the wildlife centre is aging, items were identified to enhance wildlife care and to prepare for a succession plan. A larger flight pen, a more efficient use of present space, future acquisition of

property, and hiring more trained staff to deal with increasing wildlife care demands and education program workload were identified as priorities. Attention to conservation issues also has become more important as more pressures are placed upon habitat for wildlife within the region.



Sandy Royer Photo of  
Trumpeter Swan

The Vancouver Foundation funding was enhanced by Coastal Community Credit Union funds for contracting Pieter Vorster, a social media consultant to help us keep pace with this rapidly changing field.

MARS' has been working on its financial awareness, reporting and budgeting processes. The reward for this hard work was that we passed a random Gaming Audit in January 2014 and even impressed Sandy Fraser Cowan (the auditor). We learned a lot for the audit and overall the experience was positive with Sandy freely providing helpful advice on how to make our bookkeeping even stronger.

We said farewell to Pat Wagar as our Admin assistant last May and welcomed Allison Morrison in her place. We wish Pat well as she advances in her career and thank her for the countless hours she devoted to make us a "Face" on Facebook and within social media circles. She completed her contract to see our website and social media development through and we are hopefully now on the right track with a committee devoted to see us advance in the years to come. Visit [www.wingtips.org](http://www.wingtips.org) and tell us what you think. Follow our links to other channels such as YouTube and Pinterest, where we held our first silent auction before a Music Bingo fundraiser and an online PHOTO Contest.

CVRD Parks contract were renewed this year with work on two local regional parks to maintain trails in Tsolum Spirit Park and with the new Headquarters Townsite Park where Garry Oaks were planted. Revenue generated from this volunteer work is put into our wildlife care budget.

Several Volunteers completed their IWRC Basic Skills at the Victoria Symposium hosted by WildARC in October and became certified wildlife rehabilitators. Our sincere congratulations go to Jackie Chamberlain, Sandy Royer, Caroline Guay, Allison Morrison, and Pat Scott, who add their certificates of training completion to Laurie Ulm, Sandy Fairfield, Maj Birch and Reg Westcott. We now have some very capable and skilled people to care for our many patients. Caroline Guay worked as a Vet Tech for us to assist in upgrading MARS level of care standards.

We completed a Heron Study project funded by Shell Fuelling Change during May to September. We were able to acquire two new pair of binoculars and spotting scopes from Photo Tech foto source and a camera to record our work. We hired Ian Moul, RPBio to consult with us on the Great Blue Heron Study, design the parameters and write the final report. Wendy Kotilla and her Youth and Ecological Restoration (YER) program were instrumental in the study along with MARS summer students and a few dedicated volunteers.



Face Painting at Eagle Fest

The weekly Trumpeter Swan count in winter now includes our collecting tallies from 20 different contributors with Nature Comox Valley. With help from the Comox Valley Regional District and other conservation groups we held our first Trumpeter Swan Festival in November. We wish to bring back this wildlife and habitat educational event to the Comox Valley at a time when the swans return and are planning for another Swan Festival in 2014.

The Campbell River Bald Eagle Festival celebrated nine years this winter, but sadly the attendance was low due to poor weather conditions. We say "G'day mate" to Steve Howard as he heads for home down-under. He attended all nine Eagle Fest with his amazing taxidermy displays and visited the MARS facility often to volunteer with projects like helping build and design our MEWs for the ambassador birds. BC Hydro has been a consistent supporter for MARS work over the years and especially for our CR Bald Eagle Fest. We continue to monitor Bald Eagle Nest trees and their productivity.

This year we won the BC Hydro Community Champions Award competition which helped us purchase new video surveillance cameras for many of our cages, increasing security onsite as well. This year we purchased our own Mascot costume to attend our many events. We named it Phoenix after the young eaglet that died in the nest on Hornby Island in 2010.



Steve Howard at the Campbell River Bald Eagle Festival

I have stepped back from my role as Wildlife Rehabilitator in order to pursue conservation research and networking within our communities; this is in preparation for my future retirement. My commitment to MARS has been a constant for many years and as we head into our 20th Anniversary it is time for younger energy and commitment to step up to the tasks ahead. I am learning more about social media and the website in order for us to use this media to carry the message of wildlife conservation and to assist us with marketing our society in order to fund our future work within the communities we serve on Vancouver Island and beyond.

This was a year that marks the beginning of many big changes to come for our society and I look forward with interest as we work on our 5 and 10 year Strategic Plan, our succession planning and our improved standards of care for wildlife. Our Volunteers have been phenomenal in the roles that they play in directing, fundraising, and care giving and now sharing with social media. We wish to recognize our many contributors and donors, including a significant bequest from Michelle Woodrow, which has created a legacy for the future of MARS. We are honoured that so many folks have faith in our abilities and hope that more will consider giving a lasting gift that will help us to continue our mission.

*Maj Birch*, Manager

## REHABILITATION REPORT

Last year's data shows that it was a fairly standard year for patient numbers and species distribution. We had a great group of summer students. We were very busy with training the new students and volunteers, as well as accomplishing the required animal care tasks. There were no particular trends to note in the previous year, but I would like to mention some unusual cases.

### Japanese Pigeon

This patient was an Internet star. The bird was found at CFB Comox. Normally when banded pigeons arrive we contact the local pigeon race group to pick up their bird. This was the first stumbling block we encountered; the bird's bands were in Japanese characters. We eventually were able to have the bands translated. By using Facebook, Lynda Hodgkinson was able to contact a friend in Japan, who in turn contacted the owner of the bird. The owner did not want his bird back and so the pigeon was given to the president of the local pigeon-racing group. This patient was a media star and brought our society much needed attention.

### Toxic Eagle

Management staff at a landfill site called in this bald eagle, which we would later name Miracle. When we arrived, the bird was using a piece of plastic for shelter and near death. The eagle was in a deep state of hypothermia, shaking violently and wet to the skin. We physically removed a chunk of unidentifiable meat from the bird's crop before removing the animal from the landfill. The patient then slipped into unconsciousness and this state persisted for approximately 42 hours.



Reg Wescott at the Bald Eagle Festival

During this time we supported her with heat and I.V. fluids. Almost two days later upon waking up she was hungry and after a quick recovery was released. Thanks to the landfill workers and our exceptional veterinarians and volunteers.

### **Habituated Eagles**

We had a few strange eagle behaviours this year. One four-year-old bald eagle was tearing garbage bags open on rural roads and when approached would stand his ground until it was approached to within approximately four feet; and then he would fly unencumbered. This bird seemed obviously to be habituated and we responded several times to the same bird.

We also had an eagle that chose to make the boat ramp at the Husky on 19A highway in Campbell River its territory. Locals were feeding the eagle, thinking that it was in peril due to the fact that it would not fly away upon approach. The bird could fly well; she only stayed because she was being fed. With permission from the ministry of environment, we tried to trap her due to a fishhook embedded in her beak. Trapping was unsuccessful, but the bald eagle did manage to dislodge the hook from her beak independently. I think this is a prime example of why the public should not feed eagles.

I would like to conclude with many thanks to our volunteers and staff and many sponsors.

*Reg Westcott*, Supervisor of wildlife Care

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT**

In our 2013/14 fiscal year, staff hours (with the educational ambassador birds) at 31 major public events were estimated at 245 hours. There was also significant time spent at smaller events public events like in the classrooms with Sandy or in front of local businesses' with ambassadors fundraising. All told, it is estimated that over 1,000 hours of volunteer time was spent on public education.

We had many small groups tour our wildlife rehabilitation facility including: girl guides, boy scouts, home school groups, the red hat society and many more. We also had children visit our rescue centre after doing independent fundraising to have a special visit with one of our ambassadors and drop off donation money that they raised.

Thanks to our generous sponsors and hardworking volunteers our raffles were a great success. Our summer raffle, as normal, sold out at the last minute contributing \$12,500 for MARS.

Otus (our Screech Owl Ambassador) was requested for a captive breeding program in facility in the North. Screech Owls are blue-listed (at risk) by the BC Conservation Data Centre, and the captive breeding program is one method of building the Screech Owl population. Otus and his breeding partner successfully bonded,



producing one viable chick which was raised to an adult. Unfortunately during the winter a mink or martin (or other small predator) undermined the enclosure and preyed upon four of the breeder owls, including Otus. We find no fault with the other centre's practice and we understand that these things happen. Due to an issue that disqualifies him for release into the wild, we hope to receive Otus's offspring for our ambassador program.

*Reg Wescott*, Supervisor of Wildlife Care

## EDUCATION (SCHOOLS) REPORT

This last year was another positive year with an increase in the number of presentations in the Comox Valley and Campbell River areas. We were very happy to be invited to Quadra, Cortez, Denman and Hornby Island community schools. The days were long but the enthusiasm of the students incredible. In total I visited 27 schools and educational centers. In Courtenay my thanks go to Courtenay Elementary Arden Elementary, Huband, Brooklyn and Queneesh Elementary and Lake Trail Middle School. This year the focus seemed to be on habitat and conservation and the students seem very aware of the problems they will face in the future.

Campbell River continues to support MARS educational programs. My thanks go to Willow Point Elementary, Sandowne Elementary and special thanks to the Robron First Nations outreach School who are very interested in working with us to create a First Nations program. A huge thank you to Hannah and her staff at Altrusa Adult Care in Willow Point for collecting Canada Tire dollars which helps us purchase our cleaning and laundry products. This year was extra special as they all stayed awake through the power point presentation!



Canada Goose Gosling

Final thanks to Gateway Academy and Aspen Park in Comox plus Cumberland and Miracle Beach Park. A special mention to Royston Elementary who showed great initiative in putting on a class project on bats. They invited the parents and we were led by a student around different display tables; they had done an amazing amount of research and were very proud of their achievement and so they should be.

This year has also been a busy one for MARS Moments with the departure of Mark Allen and Joanna Ross I am assured by the new editor Terry Farrell that he will continue to support this column. As always Reg, Brinley, Shakespeare and Horus continue to delight the students and the ambassador birds are in great demand and literally make the program "come alive".

*Sandy Fairfield*, In-School Education Committee Chair

## FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

There is no doubt that the 2013/14 fiscal year was very busy for MARS in the fundraising and special events department and each event involves a tremendous amount of planning and dedication from volunteers. Following are some of the events requiring many volunteer hours from inception to completion:

Open House – on April 6 broke records for attendance with over 500 people visiting MARS' rehabilitation centre. Volunteers were on hand to sell books and plants, bringing in much needed funds for wildlife care.

Walk for Wildlife – this was our second year for this event; we did very well, raising about \$2,300. The hope is that this will become a MARS' signature fundraiser, growing bigger and better in the years to come.

Display and sale of merchandise and raffle tickets – spring and summer is a particularly busy time for volunteers who represent MARS at public occasions and sell raffle tickets and merchandise. This year you may have seen us at Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens spring and fall events, Courtenay Fish and Game Protective Association Outdoor Show, Canada Day, Nautical Days, Comox Valley Exhibition, Shellfish Festival and, during the Christmas holiday, at two craft sales. Volunteers also had display tables and sold raffle tickets during the year at the Driftwood and Comox Mall as well as at Thrifty Foods.

Logger Sports in Campbell River – In addition to a display table and raffle sales, volunteers picked up stopwatches and were official timers for competitions that took place over three hot days in August, earning money for MARS' programs from the Campbell River Salmon Festival.

Raffle sales – as a result of this volunteer effort, all tickets for the summer raffle were sold, earning MARS a substantial \$12,500.

Beer and Burger Music Bingo and Silent Auction were held October 1st in Courtenay. This was our first attempt at this fundraiser and it turned out exceptionally well bringing in \$3,327 which matched by an anonymous donor for a total of \$6,654.

Trumpeter Swan Festival – this event was resurrected after a several year lapse. There is much encouragement for success in years ahead and a lot of interest and support from the public, community groups and the Comox Valley Regional District.

Campbell River Bald Eagle Festival – This event took place on February 22, 2014, as our fiscal year was ending, at the Maritime Museum in Campbell River. Unfortunately attendance was down due to a heavy snowfall that day but the hardy people who did come were generous and enthusiastic. Thank you to BC Hydro for sponsoring EagleFest for the past 9 years!

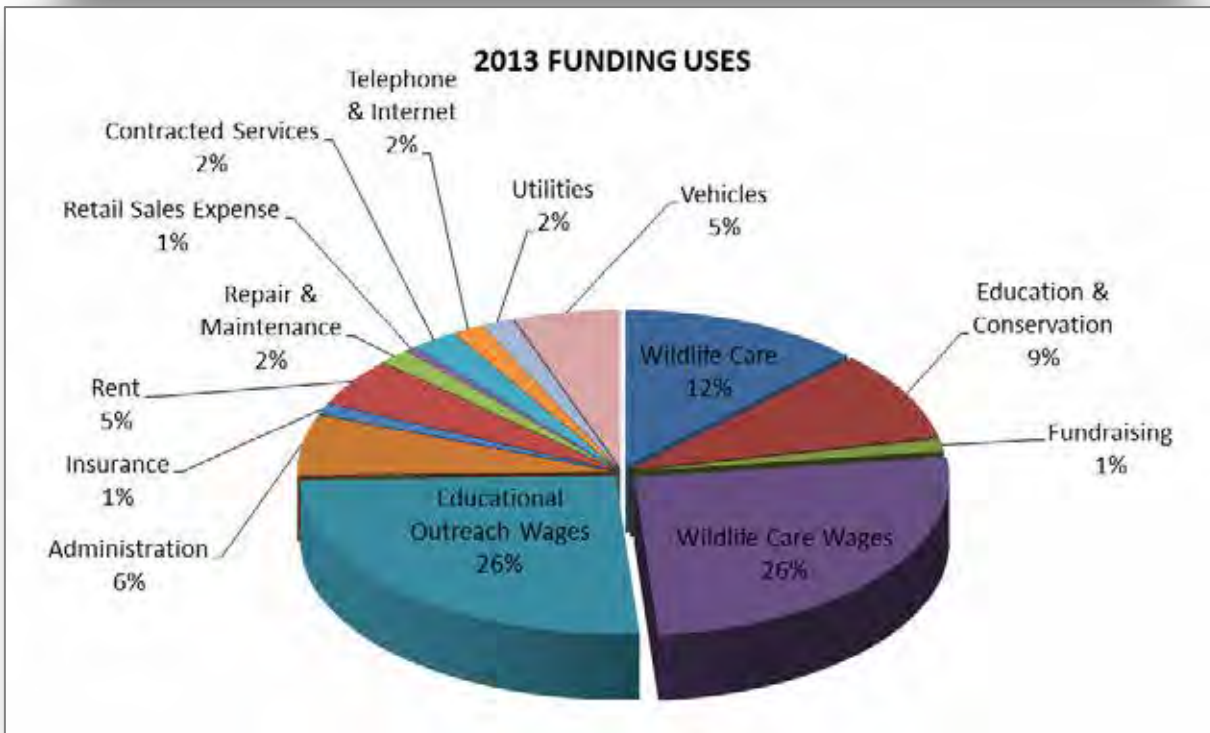
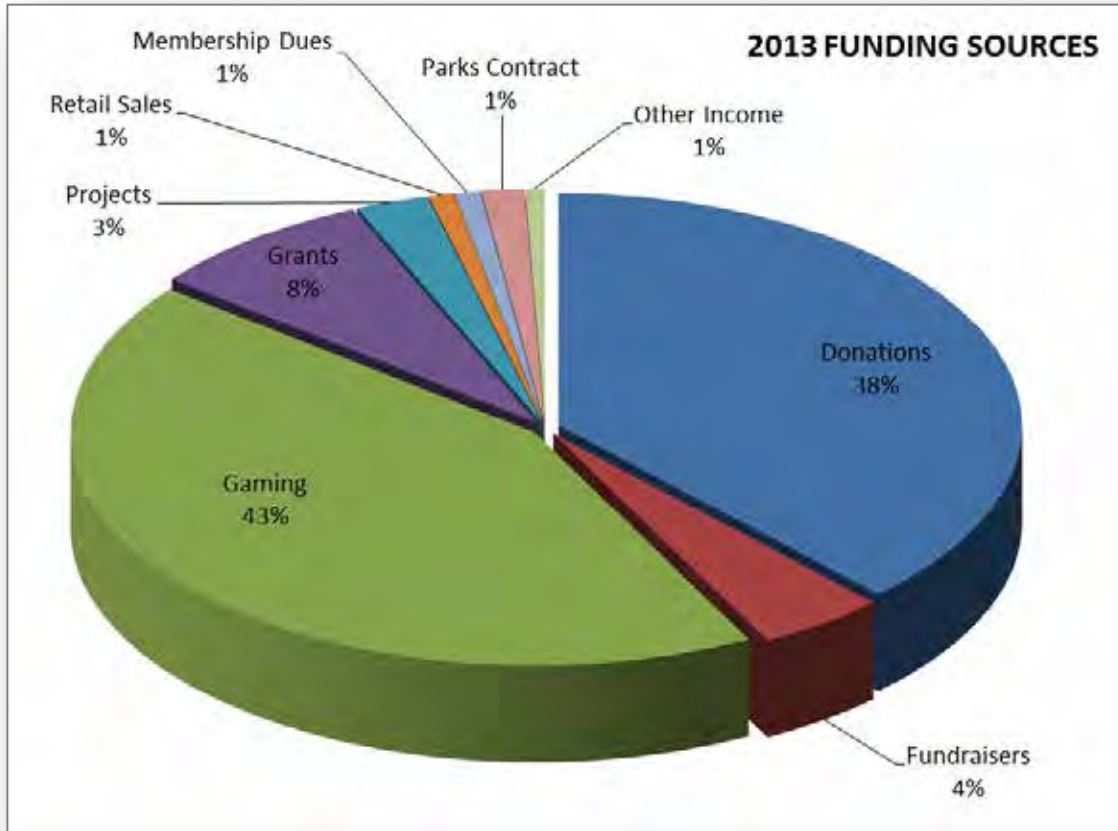
All of these events were attended by Reg or other staff and summer students with an Ambassador bird, attracting large crowds and much interest in MARS.



Rufus Hummingbird

Thank you to Maj, Allison, the Committee and sub-committee members and all the MARS members who cover the shifts at the various venues. Your help and hard work is making MARS a "real presence" at so many community events. Last, but by no means least, a big MARS thank you to Reg and our much-loved Ambassador Birds and to the people in our community who so generously support us.

**Lynda Hodgkinson**, Chair of the Fundraising and Special Events Committee, and  
**Pearl McKenzie**, Vice President



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

## MARS BOARD NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013/14 Fiscal Year

1. I nominate the following individuals who have indicated that they are willing to continue to serve as directors on the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society Board for a two year term to end in February 2016:
  - Julie Hunt
  - Pearl McKenzie
  - Laurie Ulm
  - Warren Warttig
  - Maureen Woodruff
2. I also nominate Megan Burns as a new board member for a two year term to end in February 2016
3. If elected, these nominees will join the following Board members who were elected for a two year term at the 2013 Annual General Meeting.
  - Jason Houston
  - TaraLee Houston
  - Robert McLennan
  - Kaleena Singleton
  - John Turner

*Pearl McKenzie*, Chair of the Nominating Committee



MARS volunteer feeding a Black-tailed Deer fawn – Sandy Royer Photo



Kevin Johnson Photo



Bill McDonald Photo



Robert Palmer Photo

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – NOTICE TO READER

**MOUNTAIN AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year ended February 28, 2013**  
(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

Notice to Reader  
Statement of Financial Position  
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets  
Notes to Financial Statements

**PATEMAN & COMPANY** Chartered Accountant

**MOUNTAIN AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year ended February 28, 2014**  
**(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)**

Notice to Reader  
Statement of Financial Position  
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets  
Notes to Financial Statements

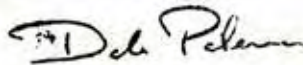
**PATEMAN & COMPANY** Chartered Accountant

**NOTICE TO READER**

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On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the statement of financial position of Mountain Avian Rescue Society as at February 28, 2014 and the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended. I have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, I express no assurance thereon. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

The Treasurer of the Society is an employee of this accounting firm.



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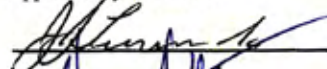
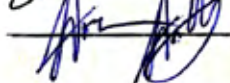
Chartered Accountant

Courtenay, B.C.  
May 15, 2014

**MOUNTAIN AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**FEBRUARY 28, 2014**  
(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

|  | <u>2014</u>       | <u>2013</u>       |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b><u>ASSETS</u></b>                     |                   |                   |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                    |                   |                   |
| Gift Cards                               | \$ 251            | \$ -              |
| Foundation account                       | 308,746           | 4,820             |
| Petty Cash                               | 100               | 100               |
| General Accounts                         | 53,765            | 58,397            |
| Gaming Accounts                          | 26,352            | 35,108            |
| Restricted Project Funds                 | 3,738             | 22,999            |
| GST Receivable                           | 1,068             | 2,084             |
| Source Deductions Receivable             | <u>336</u>        | <u>-</u>          |
|  | 394,356           | 123,508           |
| <b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>                    | <u>67,013</u>     | <u>67,367</u>     |
|  | <b>\$ 461,369</b> | <b>\$ 190,875</b> |
| <b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>                |                   |                   |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>               |                   |                   |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 1,000          | \$ 3,372          |
| Deferred revenue                         | <u>-</u>          | <u>35,000</u>     |
|  | 1,000             | 38,372            |
| <b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>                 |                   |                   |
| <b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>                    | 67,013            | 67,367            |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED ASSETS</b>               | 87,617            | 85,136            |
| <b>INTERNALLY RESTRICTED ASSETS</b>      | <u>306,739</u>    | <u>-</u>          |
|  | <u>460,369</u>    | <u>152,503</u>    |
|  | <b>\$ 461,369</b> | <b>\$ 190,875</b> |

Approved by the Board

 Director  
 Director

PATEMAN & COMPANY Chartered Accountant

MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY  
 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
 YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2014  
 (Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

| EXPENDITURES                               | 2014              |                        |                   | 2013              |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | Wildlife<br>Care  | Educational<br>Program | Total             | Total             |
| <b>PROGRAM</b>                             |                   |                        |                   |                   |
| Education                                  | \$ -              | \$ 14,220              | \$ 14,220         | \$ 10,857         |
| Fundraising                                | 2,004             | 299                    | 2,303             | 9,585             |
| Conservation                               | 1,982             | 849                    | 2,831             | -                 |
| Repairs and maintenance                    | 2,039             | 874                    | 2,913             | 3,434             |
| Vehicle operating                          | 7,041             | 3,018                  | 10,059            | 9,264             |
| Volunteer expenses                         | 2,283             | 979                    | 3,262             | 1,666             |
| Wages and benefits                         | 47,349            | 47,349                 | 94,698            | 69,718            |
| Wildlife Care                              | 22,793            | -                      | 22,793            | 18,228            |
|  | <u>85,491</u>     | <u>67,588</u>          | <u>153,079</u>    | <u>122,852</u>    |
| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>                      |                   |                        |                   |                   |
| Accounting and legal                       | 2,800             | 1,197                  | 3,997             | 1,580             |
| Amortization                               | 6,814             | 2,271                  | 9,085             | 12,365            |
| Courses and fees                           | 579               | 249                    | 828               | 1,015             |
| Insurance                                  | 1,432             | 614                    | 2,046             | 2,170             |
| Property taxes                             | 621               | 267                    | 888               | 797               |
| Office                                     | 2,429             | 1,041                  | 3,469             | 5,675             |
| Rent                                       | 6,300             | 2,700                  | 9,000             | 6,750             |
| Subcontracts                               | 3,021             | 1,295                  | 4,316             | 23,618            |
| Telephone                                  | 2,048             | 878                    | 2,926             | 4,905             |
| Utilities                                  | 2,050             | 879                    | 2,929             | 3,254             |
|  | <u>28,094</u>     | <u>11,391</u>          | <u>39,485</u>     | <u>62,129</u>     |
| <b>IN KIND</b>                             |                   |                        |                   |                   |
| In-Kind Labour                             | 59,427            | 25,469                 | 84,896            | -                 |
| In-Kind Services                           | 68,572            | -                      | 68,572            | -                 |
| In-Kind Materials                          | 4,185             | -                      | 4,185             | -                 |
|  | <u>132,184</u>    | <u>25,469</u>          | <u>157,653</u>    | <u>-</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                  | <u>245,769</u>    | <u>104,448</u>         | <u>350,217</u>    | <u>184,981</u>    |
| <b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES</b> | 315,222           | (7,357)                | 307,865           | 34,154            |
| <b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>     | <u>113,163</u>    | <u>5,186</u>           | <u>152,504</u>    | <u>118,350</u>    |
| <b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>           | <u>\$ 428,385</u> | <u>\$ (2,171)</u>      | <u>\$ 460,369</u> | <u>\$ 152,504</u> |

**MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2014**  
(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

|                               | 2014              |                        |                   | 2013              |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                               | Wildlife<br>Care  | Educational<br>Program | Total             |                   |
| <b>REVENUE</b>                |                   |                        |                   |                   |
| Licensed Gaming Revenue       | \$ 10,700         | \$ 4,585               | \$ 15,285         | \$ 15,017         |
| Provincial Gaming Grants      | 20,000            | 50,000                 | 70,000            | 50,000            |
| Specified Corporate Donations | 2,800             | 1,200                  | 4,000             | 7,500             |
| Fundraising                   | 6,189             | 2,653                  | 8,842             | 13,231            |
| Other Grants                  | 13,285            | 3,390                  | 16,675            | 38,850            |
| Sales Retail                  | 1,739             | -                      | 1,739             | 13,336            |
| Contract Revenue              | 2,940             | -                      | 2,940             | 2,600             |
| Membership Dues               | 1,600             | 180                    | 1,780             | 1,680             |
| Interest Income               | 1,342             | -                      | 1,342             | 91                |
| Donations                     | 65,211            | 9,614                  | 74,825            | 76,830            |
| Special Donations - Bequest   | 303,001           | -                      | 303,001           | -                 |
|                               | <u>428,807</u>    | <u>71,622</u>          | <u>500,429</u>    | <u>219,135</u>    |
| <b>IN KIND</b>                |                   |                        |                   |                   |
| In-Kind Labour                | 59,427            | 25,469                 | 84,896            | -                 |
| In-Kind Services              | 68,572            | -                      | 68,572            | -                 |
| In-Kind Materials             | 4,185             | -                      | 4,185             | -                 |
|                               | <u>132,184</u>    | <u>25,469</u>          | <u>157,653</u>    | <u>-</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>          | <u>\$ 560,991</u> | <u>\$ 97,091</u>       | <u>\$ 658,082</u> | <u>\$ 219,135</u> |

**MOUNTAIN AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICY**

Property and Equipment and Amortization

Property and equipment are recorded at cost and are amortized using the diminishing-balance method at the annual rates indicated in Note 2. Property and equipment acquired during the year are amortized at one-half the normal annual rates.

**2. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

|                         | <u>2014</u> |                   |                                     | <u>2013</u>      |                  |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                         | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Cost</u>       | <u>Accumulated<br/>Amortization</u> | <u>Net</u>       | <u>Net</u>       |
| Buildings               | 4%          | \$ 53,805         | \$ 11,220                           | \$ 42,585        | \$ 45,102        |
| Furniture and Equipment | 20%         | 28,535            | 12,109                              | 16,426           | 10,709           |
| Vehicle                 | 30%         | 7,983             | 6,066                               | 1,917            | 2,738            |
| Trailer                 | 30%         | 13,791            | 9,466                               | 4,325            | 6,178            |
| Mounted Birds           | 30%         | 4,400             | 2,640                               | 1,760            | 2,640            |
|                         |             | <u>\$ 108,514</u> | <u>\$ 41,501</u>                    | <u>\$ 67,013</u> | <u>\$ 67,367</u> |

**3. BEQUESTS**

The Society received a generous bequest during the year which has been restricted by the board of directors for future anticipation approval by the Charity Directorate.

PRITMAN & COMPANY Chartered Accountant



Kevin Johnson Photo

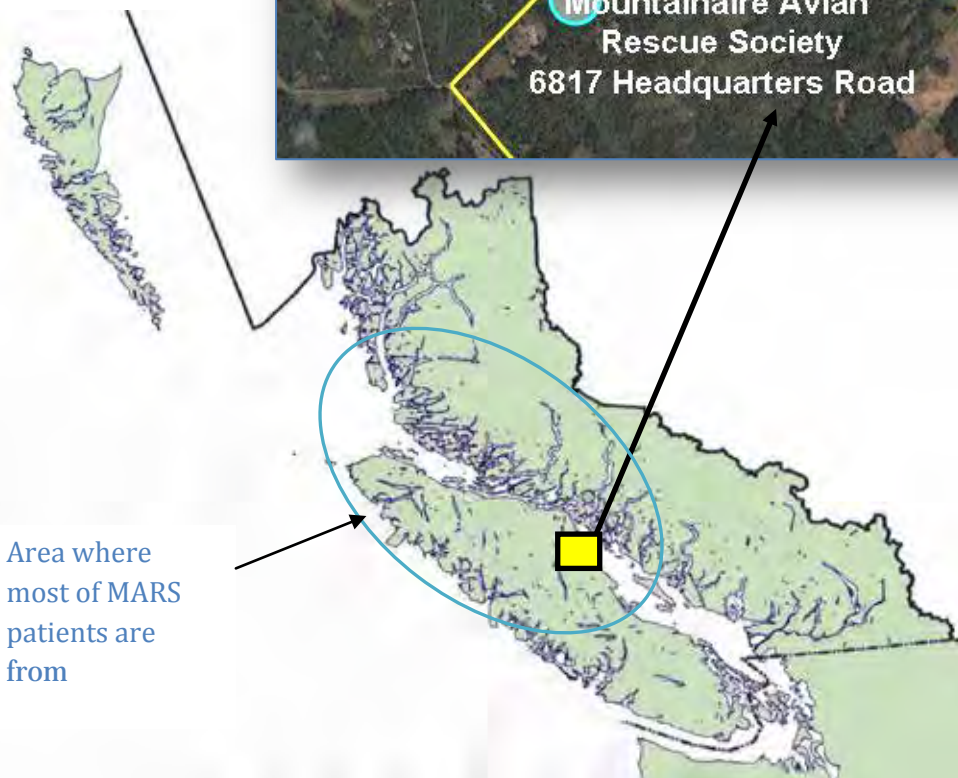


John Deal Photo



Steven Brunt Photo

# DIRECTIONS TO MARS



Area where most of MARS patients are from

