

2005–2006 Annual Report

Message from the Chair



What a year!

Considering that the first geese actually followed an ultralight on that ground breaking day in 1988 and now to have two Whooping crane chicks actually hatch in the wild, I am truly humbled to be a part of this amazing organization. The work being done with the Whooping cranes has been described as, “the wildlife equivalent of landing a man on the moon” (USF&WS). All of us who are touched by OM know this to be true.

Talk about *the right stuff!*

To Joe and Bill and all of the dedicated staff and volunteers, the Board of Directors applaud you. And, on behalf of these magnificent birds, we thank you!

To all our loyal supporters, what can we say? Your enduring commitment has been the key ingredient to getting OM literally and figuratively ‘off the ground’. It is because of you that this organization is recognized as a world leader in species preservation. Your generous continuing support has made the impossible ~ possible.

The years of trial and error research and sheer hard work that culminated in this year’s hatching in the wild cannot be described in a brief message. But it can be appreciated and acknowledged.

The future? I believe it to be bright and full of new challenges and success stories. This belief does not come from a crystal ball ~ rather it comes from my first-hand knowledge of what marvelous things can happen when you combine focus and caring with a pool of talented, dedicated people and supporters working on a ‘big idea’.

Long may we continue!

VIIVE TAMM, 2005-2006 Board Chair

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Message from the C.E.O.



*“When one tugs at a single
thing in nature, he finds
it attached to the rest
of the world.”*

—JOHN MUIR



On behalf of the OM Team, I would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued commitment to Operation Migration. Looking back over the achievements of our small organization during 2005/2006, I am amazed.

Despite facing a financial crisis that threatened the completion of the 2005 migration, thanks to your outstanding support, we successfully led a record sized cohort of 19 young Whooping cranes safely to Florida. We launched our new magazine, *Information*. We updated our line of branded merchandise and re-vamped the membership structure, bringing about a 505% increase. We amplified our ‘Field Journal’ postings, and broadened the content to include news on all three flocks of wild Whooping cranes and the work and activities of other project partners. These improvements pushed our website hits to record highs.

We partnered with Walt Disney World’s Animal Kingdom Park in the celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, exposing Operation Migration to the single largest live audience in its history. Additionally, the innovative science of Operation Migration was recognized when the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum requested one of our historic ultralight aircraft for permanent exhibit. With this display, the contribution Operation Migration has made and continues to make to wildlife conservation will be on view to the museum’s more than one million yearly visitors.

As I look ahead to 2006/2007, I am excited about the direction in which Operation Migration is heading; a direction that will position the organization as both a positive force and a champion of wildlife conservation. The Board, along with staff, have set an aggressive agenda, and it will take our entire membership and legion of supporters working together to achieve our goals and continue the momentum built over the last few years.

We will continue to communicate with you through our website and magazine. We also want to better communicate with the general public, letting them know about Operation Migration’s conservation efforts, and that we need their support also. To do this, new public service announcements have been developed for circulation to print and television outlets.

Operation Migration’s Board, headed by Chair Viive Tamm, remains extremely dedicated and optimistic, and the OM team continues to work at maximum efficiency. Operation Migration pledges to continue to improve and increase its efforts in all areas, and we welcome your participation through the ‘Grassroots Team’ program now under development.

In 2006/2007, we hope for greater involvement in the education of our children about the importance of wildlife preservation, and the building of a stronger and more diverse funding and donor base. Member involvement is vital to success in all these areas of growth, and we hope, that after reviewing our achievements, you will continue to encourage and support our work.

By working together to achieve our goals, we can continue our path of safeguarding threatened and endangered wildlife...one species at a time.

JOE DUFF, C.E.O.
On behalf of the OM Team

Message from the Co-Founders

We cannot help but regard with wonder the events that have transpired over the 12 years since we founded Operation Migration.

There are three basic guiding principles which have defined what Operation Migration has become today.

FOCUS: Adherence to our mission of conservation and preservation of threatened and endangered species. Our tried and true techniques and protocols are the vital aspects at the core of OM's past, present and future successes. Where change is demanded, OM has proven adaptable to ensure that the work of the project is accomplished. We have learned to focus on what we do best, while partnering with others to provide additional services that are ancillary to our work.

TALENT: A mission and a vision do not define an organization's success – its people do. OM long ago realized that one of its most important assets was the vast knowledge base locked up in its people. Over the years, Operation Migration's team members have learned what works and why. Failing to tap this vast warehouse of experience would have meant a lost opportunity to grow, and we have worked diligently to ensure that independent thought and input from team members are used to obtain the best results.

DRIVE: No organization can afford to rest on its laurels. Every day offers a chance to exploit opportunities and to remedy weaknesses. Operation Migration's work has resulted in the achievement of many significant milestones. This spring's wild hatch of twin chicks is the culmination of a decade of pioneering research, trial and error, and sheer hard work, much of it accomplished long before the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership was formed.

Today, we do more than ever in the Whooping crane project, and are better positioned to take advantage of the opportunities ahead of us than ever in our history. Amplification of education and outreach activities has increased public awareness of our work with Whooping cranes, and of the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation in general. We have identified new educational paths for Operation Migration; paths lined with opportunity and demanding even more commitment in exchange for success.

We believe that Operation Migration's prospects for growth, development, and success are excellent. We believe this because we both know first hand what can happen when you combine dreams and dedication with innovation and ingenuity – and *persistence, persistence, persistence*.

Respectfully submitted,

BILL LISHMAN and JOE DUFF



Bill and Joe with geese, 1993

We acknowledge and thank those organizations and individuals who so generously supported OM this past fiscal year. It is you who makes our work to safeguard the endangered Whooping crane possible.

GRANTORS

Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Hagen Family Foundation
Charlotte & Walter Kohler Trust
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Summit Fund of Washington
US Fish & Wildlife Service
The Dean Witter Foundation

MAJOR DONORS

(\$10,000+)

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Note: In the future we hope to have the ability to list and recognize all gifts and donations to OM at www.operationmigration.org. We trust you will appreciate the space restrictions limiting our ability to do this here, and know that we are sincerely grateful for each and every contribution. MileMaker sponsors are recognized on our website. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, but should there be any errors or omissions please contact us so that we may make corrections in the next issue.

OPERATION MIGRATION

Abbreviated Combined Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET as at March 31, 2006*

	GENERAL FUND	ASSET FUND	2006 TOTAL
Assets			
Current			
Cash.....	\$183,803	—	\$183,803
Accounts Receivable	23,270	—	23,270
Inventory.....	18,450	—	18,450
Prepaid Expenses.....	297	—	297
	<u>\$225,820</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>225,820</u>
Equipment	—	67,910	67,910
	<u>\$225,820</u>	<u>\$67,910</u>	<u>\$293,730</u>
Liabilities			
Accounts payable.....	\$116,391	—	\$116,391
Deferred income.....	4,761	—	4,761
	<u>121,152</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>121,152</u>
Fund Balances			
Fund balances.....	\$104,668	\$67,910	\$172,578
	<u>\$225,820</u>	<u>\$67,910</u>	<u>\$293,730</u>

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE*

(for the 12 month period ended March 31, 2006)

Revenue

Donations, grants, and membership	\$583,355
Ivory-billed woodpecker project.....	10,929
Merchandise sales and other – net.....	48,886
	<u>\$642,620</u>

Expenses

Administrative supplies and materials	\$29,643
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	(6,356)
Insurance	4,052
Interest and bank charges.....	8,887
Marketing and fundraising.....	38,311
Office and general.....	17,505
Professional fees	5,665
Project contract labor, materials/supplies, travel/automotive.....	275,268
Rent.....	12,064
Telephone and communication	10,292
Wages and benefits.....	185,497
	<u>\$581,368</u>

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures.....	\$61,252
Balance – beginning of year	\$42,776
BALANCE – end of year	<u>\$104,028</u>

*Unaudited

OPERATION MIGRATION MEMBERS

Membership as of March 31, 2006

Joseph Acosta
Misty Alderman
Russell & Barbara Allison
American Bird
Conservancy
Betty Anderson
Eric & Susan Anderson
Robert Anderson
Fred Applegate
Rejeanne Davis Ashley
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Don & Nancy Ball
Roberta & Ken Ballard
Judy Bangert
Abbie Banks
Carla Bannon
William Barclay
Duane Barmore
Mary Barnwell
Fran Beardsley
Judy Beaver
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Karen & Phil Beekman
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Jean Bennett
Rosalie Bennett
Annita Bergen
Jim Bergens
Julia & Budd Bishop
Janice Bittner
Merel Black
Daniel Blanchfield
Dianne Blane
Bonnie Blaser
Sara Blauman
Betty Ann Bohanek
Ruth Boys
Marilyn Bradley
Charles & Diane
Brandstetter
Mary Lou Brock
J. Broehl
Hope Brogunion
Diane Brown
Charles Brown
Linda Brown
Nancy Bruins
Jim Bruins
Carol Buchta
Bucks County Birders
Kim Bunny
Betty Bush
Carolyn & Gary Buyers
David & Marjorie
Cahlander
Gwyneth Calvetti
Lyle Campbell
Elida Canales
George Carpenter
Lisa Cassell
Jeffrey Catlin
Harvey Chase
Betsy Christ
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Marcella Ciucki
Mary Clemesha
Dr. Mary Clench
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DeWayne Creighton
William Croft
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Lillian Day
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Gail DeBoer
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Joe Duff
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Marilyn Elleman
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Dianne Engleke
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