

**Mary M. "Peggy" Coontz**  
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540-771-0053

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Wildlife care provider with over 15 years experience caring for a wide variety of species, with special emphasis on the rehabilitation of avian species and skilled in public relations involving wildlife encounters and education.

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## **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Able to supervise and motivate staff and volunteers and quickly learn their strengths and weaknesses  
Familiar with working collaboratively with regulatory agencies like US Fish and Wildlife Service and other government agencies  
Competent computer skills; word processing and creating and managing computer data bases  
Excellent organizational skills  
Very skilled at handling public inquiries and wildlife encounter solutions  
Very comfortable conducting educational programs for people of all ages  
In depth knowledge of regional and worldwide flora and fauna  
Excellent wildlife rescue and handling skills  
Well versed in wildlife nutrition, behavior and diseases  
Completed basic Wildlife and Oil Spill Response Training (4 hours of OSHA training)  
Well aware of the unusual work schedule and long hours required for successful wildlife recovery

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Animal Care Director**

Key West Wildlife Center

June 2011 - present

Key West, FL

Oversee all aspects of animal care in both rehabilitative and educational settings for the Key West Wildlife Center. Responsible for initial examinations, diagnoses, and treatment for all wildlife and chicken patients admitted to avian clinic. Duties include ordering and administering all medications to animals under care, assessing treatment progress from admittance through rehabilitation to release back to the wild.

### **Biological Science Technician (Wildlife)**

DOI/USGS/Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

May 2009 – June 2011

Laurel, MD

Duties include working collaboratively with other staff members to provide quality care for the endangered species breeding program for the Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes. Participate in the reintroduction and monitoring efforts for the Whooping Cranes. Conduct daily observation in order to monitor and evaluate the animal's behavior and health patterns. Assist with the daily record keeping and data entry important in any endangered species program.

### **Wild Bird Rehabilitator**

Florida Keys Wild Bird Center

December 2008 –February 2009

Tavernier, FL

Provided care for native birds with the goal of returning them to the wild. Managed the Wildlife Hospital and assisted with all aspects of facilities maintenance and animal housing.

### **Wildlife Biologist / Director**

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center

April 2004 to October 2008

Millwood, Virginia

Responsible for all aspects of the rehabilitation of native wildlife admitted to the Center. Managed the educational program including curriculum, animal care and record keeping for the Center. Responsible for all other duties necessary to operate the Center, including management of staff and volunteers, bookkeeping, fundraising and facility construction and maintenance.

### **Raptor Biologist and Educational Program Specialist**

Greenway and Nature Center of Pueblo

September 1991 to 2004

Pueblo, Colorado

Directly responsible for the rehabilitation and release of over 200 raptors, annually. Conducted and developed environmental educational programs for all ages. Assisted with facilities construction and maintenance and all other duties necessary to maintain the Raptor Center at the Nature Center.

### **Instructor**

University of Southern Colorado

Odd semesters, 1996-1998

Pueblo, Colorado

Taught mammalogy and ornithology at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

### **Teaching Assistant**

North Carolina State University

Fall 1988, Spring 1989, Spring 1990 - Spring 1991

Raleigh, North Carolina

Taught the laboratory for General Biology and Parasitology.

### **Research Assistant**

Barren Grounds Bird Observatory

August – December 1989

Jamberoo, NSW, Australia

Volunteered as a field research assistant at the observatory where we began a preliminary project on the endangered Eastern bristlebird and continued census projects developed by the RAOU. Also assisted in the RAOU bird banding scheme and nest records.

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### Field Biologist

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Conducted breeding bird census and monitored nest sites on a 48 acre plot. Performed preliminary analysis on the field data and assisted in the bird banding project.

March – June 1988  
Stinson Beach, California

### Raptor Rehabilitation Intern

Greenway and Nature Center of Pueblo

Responsible for the care and relocation of injured wild birds of prey, including bald and golden eagles. Conducted educational programs and assisted in various other duties necessary to run a facility such as record keeping and building maintenance.

March – August 1987  
Pueblo, Colorado

### Substitute Teacher

John Handley High School

Substitute teacher of biological and natural science classes for grades 9-12.

9/85-6/86, 11/86-3/87, 9/87-3/88  
Winchester, Virginia

### Animal Rehabilitation Intern

Animal Rehab Center, The Conservancy Nature Center, Inc.

Responsible for the rehabilitation and relocation of wildlife such as native raptors, shore birds and mammals. Conducted educational programs and performed other duties for the maintenance of the center.

June - October 1986  
Naples, Florida

### Volunteer Zookeeper

National Zoological Park - Smithsonian Institute, Conservation and Research Center

Conducted behavioral observations and assisted in the feeding and health care of endangered species such as Golden Lion Tamarins, Tree Kangaroos and Tiger Quolls.

September 1985 - March 1986  
Front Royal, Virginia

## EDUCATION

### University of Southern Colorado

Graduate course work in Applied Natural Science

January 1996 to 1999  
Pueblo, Colorado

### North Carolina State University

Graduate course work in zoology

August 1988 to April 1991  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### B. A. Biology

Berea College

Concentration of coursework in biology with special emphasis on taxonomy and ecology of animals and plants.

May 1985  
Berea, Kentucky

## References

Jonathan Male, Aviculturist  
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## Professional Affiliations

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association  
International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council  
Raptor Research Foundation  
Association of Field Ornithologists

## Special Licenses and Permits

Rabies Pre-exposure Vaccine  
Valid Florida Driver's License  
USFWS Migratory Bird Rehabilitation  
USFWS Migratory Bird Education  
FWC Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit  
FWC Captive Animal Permit