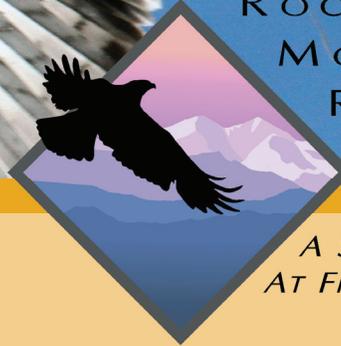




ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
RAPTOR
PROGRAM



A SECOND CHANCE
AT FREEDOM

On the WING

FOUR BALD EAGLES TAKE OVER RMRP

The High Price of Love

"I'd rather have baby Great Horned Owls right now," states RMRP Rehabilitation Coordinator Mike Tincher. "Babies are easy... these Bald Eagles are eating up our resources literally and figuratively."

These eagles came from all over Colorado and Wyoming, traveling a combined 1100 miles to settle at RMRP. Each one was injured due to human interaction: a gunshot wound, a high voltage injury from power lines, and two hit by cars. This isn't a new story...most of the birds the RMRP sees were hurt because of human interaction.

Although we never want it to happen, birds get hurt because of humans. When someone hits a bird with their car, they call us



looking for anyone who may be able to help the bird. We're there for them, for the bird, any time day or night. This takes resources, time and effort to accomplish. Although RMRP is happy to take

on its role as a public service for anyone who has ever found an injured bird of prey, it comes at a price. That price cannot be paid without the love and support of our donors.

To be available 24 hours a day requires someone to have the emergency line on them at all times. We always have to be ready for action, especially in the summer when our case load skyrockets. This also requires an emergency cell phone and the bill that comes with it.

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IF IT'S A BABY, YOU FEED IT

Foster Parents Get Their Game Face On

The hard-wired instinct for a raptor to care for young definitely works in RMRP's favor. The saying goes, "If it's an egg, you incubate it. If it's a baby, you feed it." We have many birds that act as foster parents for orphaned or injured babies, and our pair of Educational Ambassador Barn Owls are an example of wonderful parents.

In the spring, the female Barn Owl starts laying eggs. These eggs are removed and replaced with fake, wooden eggs that she incubates while her mate feeds her tasty treats. We have to remove the eggs because RMRP does not have permits to breed raptors. Also, Barn Owls have a thriving population in Colorado, and there is no need to breed them in captivity. However, this is a great way to



get the foster parents all ready for when babies arrive.

Once an orphan comes through the door, we can replace the fake eggs with babies.

The parents immediately start caring for the babies. It's the best way for a baby to grow up: in the presence of its own species. We are very proud of our foster parents, and we thank them for all their hard work raising healthy, happy babies.

Want to help our foster parents care for the babies? You can donate online at www.rmrp.org.

RMRP Case files

Mug Shots: Whoooo's in the Big House?

Species: TURKEY VULTURE

Case Number: 11-173

Admission Date: 8/24/2011

Injury: Lead poisoning, unable to use legs. When a bird eats an animal that was shot with lead shot, they become poisoned by the lead. Symptoms of lead poisoning: nervous system failure, digestive failure, seizures, hypersensitivity to sound and light, coma and death.

Case Notes: Stood by himself for the first time on September 19, 2011 after several weeks of medication to remove the lead from his system and intense physical therapy.

How I'm Doing Now: Walking, flying, and sassy!

Prognosis: Almost ready for release! Just waiting to gain a little more strength before he goes!

How You Can Help: A donation of \$20 will pay for the medication that was needed to remove the lead from this bird's body.



Species: AMERICAN KESTREL

Case Number: 11-149

Admission Date: 8/5/2011

Injury: This bird was kept illegally as a pet. The bird was not cared for well; its beak became very overgrown, its feathers were broken, and it was starving and dehydrated. Raptors require lots of knowledge to care for correctly. This is why you must have lots of training, as well as permits from state and federal governments to care for them.

Case Notes: It took many days to file down the beak into a normal shape so the bird could eat on its own. Slowly, the bird gained weight and the light of life came back to its eyes.

How I'm Doing Now: The bird is waiting for the damaged feathers to start growing back. The bird can fly, but the damaged feathers make him awkward and he lacks lift.

Prognosis: Once his feathers grow back in, this bird should be released

How You Can Help: A gift of \$150 will help buy a new Dremel Tool like the one we used to save this bird's beak, and its life.



Species: GREAT HORNED OWL

Case Number: 10-192

Admission Date: 8/23/2010

Injury: Head trauma, injury to right carpus (wrist). Probably hit by a car.

Case Notes: Although the initial injuries healed, the bird is unable to fly. The bird's wrist does not extend the way it needs to for flight.

Prognosis: Non-releasable. This bird has joined the noble ranks of permanent resident foster parents. This bird will act as a caring parent to all the orphaned and injured baby owls the RMRP receives every year. This means the babies do not risk being imprinted so they can be released as healthy, normal owls back into the wild. Thank you, 10-192, for being the best parent ever.

How You Can Help: A donation of \$5 will feed one of this bird's foster babies for one day. A gift of \$1000 would cover the entire cost of a baby Great Horned Owl to be released back to the wild.



Species: SWAINSON'S HAWK

Case Number: 11-181

Admission Date: 8/30/2011

Injury: This bird was caught in the fire flare of a methane burner. His feet and face were badly burned, and his feathers were melted.

Case Notes: After several weeks, the burns to the bird's face and feet finally healed over. Slowly, the melted and destroyed feathers are falling out to be replaced by shiny new feathers.

How I'm Doing Now: This bird is eating lots of food to provide nutrition for its growing feathers. As they grow in, its flight gets better.

Prognosis: It will take awhile to grow all its feathers in, but this bird should be released!

How You Can Help: This bird needs lots of nutritious food to grow healthy feathers. You can help feed him for \$3 a day, \$21 a week, or \$84 a month.



HELP US PROTECT THE PLANET

And RMRP resources! The RMRP is transitioning to more electronic communications to replace much of our print-and-postage communication. We can save thousands of dollars currently spent on printing and postage – and use those funds to help us care for our feathered patients. Please send us your current email address so you don't miss our monthly e-newsletters or twice-yearly On the Wing newsletter. Don't worry – if you love our printed hold-in-your-hand version, make sure you let us know, and we will keep you on the mailing list. AND – your info is safe with us - we NEVER trade, sell, or give away any of the personal information that you give the RMRP.

Rocky Mountain Raptor Program thanks Travis Harless and Auxilium Information Technology for their pro bono help with our computers and network.



AUXILIUM
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

www.auxinfotech.com
(970) 481-7117

A RED-TAILED HAWK FIGHTS UNBELIEVABLE ODDS

A Story of Hope and Recovery

It's pretty common to receive birds that have been hit by cars. In fact, it's one of the most common injuries seen by the RMRP. However, it's not often that a bird gets hit by a truck...and has his head stuck in the grill.

This Red-tailed Hawk can only be termed a "fighter." After being extracted from the grill of the truck, the bird was transported to RMRP. He had a severe skull fracture and lots of other trauma to his head.

After a few days, the bird started standing on its own but was still, "Out of it." After a few more days, the bird became more aware of what was going on around it. After a few weeks, the skull fracture healed, but there seemed to be damage to one of its eyes. Could he still hunt even when partially blind? The answer was yes, indeed! This amazing bird proved its hunting prowess by killing all the rats it could in "Rat School."

Only a few short months after its near death experience, this bird was released back into the wild. We hope he goes on to make lots of babies just as hearty as he is!



Day 1: A Red-tailed Hawk recovers after being hit by a truck.

FOUR BALD EAGLES TAKE OVER RMRP

Continued from cover



But, the price is worth it for the family that calls us at 2 a.m. after an owl hits their window, breaking its wing. It was worth it for one of the Bald Eagles we received recently from Merino, Colorado after it had been shocked by sitting on a power line.

Four Bald Eagles, four times the resources, four times the cost. The injuries these eagles sustained require long-term care, meaning they need many months worth of food, they need x-rays and ultrasounds, they need medication and doctor's appointments, and they need the detailed, loving care of the medical staff at RMRP.

We're here for them. Can you be here for us? Our donors are the only reason we can sustain our efforts, the only reason these beautiful eagles can have a chance of returning to the wild.

Every donation at every level makes a difference. Don't think so? Well, here's the breakdown:

- \$1 ... An hour of oxygen for a bird struggling to breathe.
- \$5 ... A day of antibiotics for one very sick bird.
- \$25 ... Feeds a hawk for two weeks.
- \$50 ... An x-ray to help a broken wing.
- \$100 ... Feeds a Bald Eagle for two weeks.
- \$500 A surgery for a broken wing.
- \$1000 Provides nearly everything a bird needs for their Second Chance at Freedom.

Why is it a great idea to give to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program?
Because your contributions save lives.

Did you know that you can also sign up for recurring gifts through PayPal on our website? If only ten people gave \$10 a month, one bird could be provided with all the care they need to return to the wild.

Can you help? Do you know someone that can help? These Bald Eagles, as well as the hundreds of birds that come through our doors, get the best of everything, and that includes the love of our donors. Your love provides them with food. Your love provides them with medical care. Your love ensures we'll be there for them from day one to the day of their release.

Please send your most generous gift today so no bird ever has to be turned away.

Thank you for believing in us, and thank you for providing us what we need to save injured raptors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



proudly supported by:



“THE GREATNESS OF A NATION AND ITS MORAL PROGRESS CAN BE JUDGED BY THE WAY ITS ANIMALS ARE TREATED.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

Calendar OF EVENTS

Plan your summer activities and don't miss out seeing our Live Educational Ambassadors on Display!

May 13
RMRP Open House
kid-friendly – families, no fee.
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
720 E. Vine Drive FC

May 26, 27, 28
Boulder Creek Festival
Boulder

June 9,10, 16, 17, 23,24, 30
Colorado Renaissance Festival
Larkspur, CO

July 7,8
Art in the Park
Steamboat Springs,CO

July 1, 7,8,14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29
Colorado Renaissance Festival
Larkspur, CO

August 11-12
New West Fest
Old Town, Fort Collins

August 25,
RMRP Open House
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
720 E. Vine Drive

September 2
Rist Canyon Mountain Festival

September 7, 8, 9
Long's Peak Scottish/Irish
Highland Festival
Estes Park

September 8
New Volunteer Orientation
RMRP 10 a.m.

September 28-30
Rocky Mountain Irish Festival
Civic Park, Fort Collins

September 29
Northern Colorado Birding Fair
Fossil Creek Open Space,
Fort Collins

October 6-7
ElkFest
Bond Park, Estes Park ,CO

October 27
New Volunteer Orientation
RMRP 10 a.m.

November 3, 10, 17
Birds of Prey Course
9-5, RMRP, 720 E. Vine Drive

join the conversation...



3 very simple ways YOU CAN HELP

Behind the Scenes Tours:

Ever wonder a rehabilitation center is like? Do you have dreams of becoming a gourmet chef for an injured red-tailed hawk? Sign up for a Behind the Scenes Tour. Tours designed for adults and older teens cost \$5 each, and each tour is limited to the first 15 people who RSVP (970.484.7756 or judy@rmrp.org). Saturdays at 1 p.m. or Fridays at 4 p.m.

Gifts for Others Save Lives

Simply visit Rmrp.org/shopping, to see some of the wonderful items available in our online gift shop. All sales go directly to the care of the birds. Now that is really guilt-free shopping!

2012 Wish List

Rodents: Go to www.laynelabs.com, click on "Get Wild" and select Rocky Mountain Raptor Program for a gift certificate.

Stamps: First-class postage stamps, flats or rolls

USB Flash Drives: 8 GB or larger

Gift Cards:

- Home Depot, Lowes
- Poudre Pet and Feed
- Target, Walmart, King Soopers
- Jiffy Lube, Grease Monkey, Friesen's (north College in Ft. Collins)

Paper Products: Copier and printer paper – both letter and legal sizes; business-size envelopes (#10); trash bags: 13 gal and 39 gal., paper towels, bathroom tissue

Soap: unscented liquid laundry detergent; chlorox unscented liquid bleach (no bleach substitutes); liquid hand soap 64 oz or larger (not "antibacterial", non-fragrance)

Warmers: SnuggleSafe warming discs (sold at pet stores /online)

Veterinary Supplies: 2" Vet Wrap

General Supplies:

- Utility Scrub Brush with handle
- masking tape (1")
- White-out
- Heavy Duty plastic buckets (2 ½ - 3 gallon)
- Mop heads (Tube type or cotton 0
- Cutting boards (8"x14" or larger – minimum ¼" thick)
- Heavy duty welding gloves
- Tractor – 17 hp or larger
- Heavy duty kitchen scissors
- Metal hose nozzle (non trigger type)
- Sisal rope ¼", 3/8", ½" 50 ft. coil or longer
- Cordless drill 18v DeWalt / drill batteries 18v DeWalt