



Rocky Mountain  
**RAPTOR**  
Program  
a second chance at freedom

*On the*

# WING

Photo by Rae Ann Garrett

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## Torn From The Sky Hawk Survives Heartless Shooting

It started out as one of our more typical rescues. A Red-tailed Hawk was found in the road unable to fly. He had probably been hit by a car as so many of our patients are.

However, his case was anything but typical.

During his initial examination, we found lots of small holes peppering his entire body. His predicament was obvious as we started feeling the pellets lodged in his skin and muscle. This beautiful hawk had been shot.

Over thirteen separate wounds were found over his body, mostly on his left side where the shot had ripped into him. His feathers were damaged, and bruises started to cover his skin in black and blue swaths. But, he was lucky. He had survived. Very few raptors live to tell their tales.



*This Red-tailed Hawk is suffering from thirteen pellet wounds. Your donation will save his life.*

Although illegal, it's not uncommon to find raptors dead from gunshots. The RMRP works hard to educate the public on why these creatures are protected, and how important they are to the environment. This Red-tail's plight is telling us that our work isn't done.

We need our donors to help us continue to fight the unnecessary deaths of raptors who are taken from the sky, and to treat those who survive.

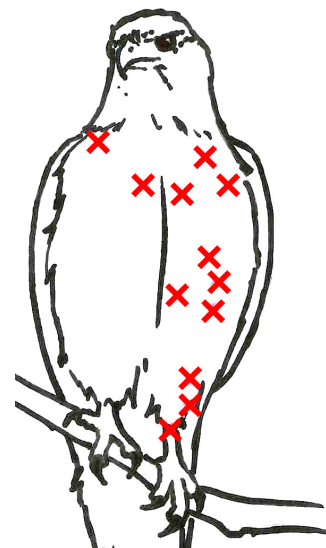
Change comes from education, from the effort each of us take to make the world a better place. You can change the world by supporting the RMRP and our efforts to keep these amazing creatures in the skies.

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*Each "X" marks where a pellet entered this bird's body. He is lucky to have survived such a damaging blow.*



*These young American Kestrels were abducted! Some young birds just need time to learn their adult skills.*

## I Was Abducted By Aliens

These Kestrels Had a Very Strange Day

We can only imagine what the raptors we rescue think and feel. However, it must be the strangest thing to be going about your day and suddenly be stuffed into a box by a large primate. It must feel like being abducted by aliens!

*“Your donation makes it possible to keep RMRP on-call 24/7 to assist raptors!”*

Young American Kestrels (along with nearly every other raptor species) are frequently “abducted” by well-meaning people thinking they are hurt or orphaned. Fledglings use the world around them as a jungle-gym to build up their flight muscles. They receive minimal parental care at this time. They are rather clueless, and will often let people, dogs, or cats get very close to them without trying to fly away.

These two Kestrels were two such youngsters in our care. Their inability to fly well, their odd behavior, and immediate lack of a parent hovering nearby made someone think they were injured and brought them in to us. If we can return them to their parents, we do—as quickly as possible. If not, we care for them at the Raptor Center, sending them to mouse school and flight school, and eventual release.

Your donation makes it possible for the RMRP to be on-call 24/7 to assist anyone who needs help identifying a raptor in need of help.



**Do we need help or are we just learning about the world? You can call the RMRP 24/7 if you have questions about a bird that may (or may not) need help!**

## Research Protecting Raptors

RMRP Presents at Conference



*The RMRP attended this year’s conference to present data that could help save raptors from powerline injuries.*

The RMRP was proud to be represented by our Rehabilitation Coordinator Mike Tincher at the Raptor Research Conference this fall. We continually seek ways to add to the knowledge of raptors and the places where they live.

This year, we were excited to provide data to a project designed to save raptors from being injured on powerlines. Partnering with EDM International, Mike presented “Testing Perch Deterrents and Supplemental Perches Designed to Mitigate Raptor Electrocutions.”

We hope this research will continue to help save the lives of raptors around the world.

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We strive to inspire the appreciation and protection of raptors and the spaces where they live through excellence in rehabilitation, education, and research.

We are supported by donations from caring people like you who want to make a difference in the world.

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### Rocky Mountain Raptor Program Staff:

- Judy Scherpelz, Executive Director
- Lisa Winta, Assistant Director/Volunteer Coordinator
- Gail Kratz, Rehabilitation Director
- Carin Avila, Education Director
- Mike Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator
- Lynsey Reed, Administrative Associate
- Jessica Miller, Education Associate
- Carrie Laxson, Rehabilitation Associate
- Bonnie Cleaver, Education Associate

**Board of Directors:** Judy Scherpelz, Rick Snow, Jerry Craig, Todd Kerr, Dyanne Willow, and John Reed

## 24th Annual Auction

Gala is Just Around the Corner!

February 25th, 2017 marks the 24th Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction of the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. Here's the highlights you need to know to enjoy the best auction yet!

- ◇ We are now **accepting items** to a part of our auction. All items must be received by **February 3rd, 2016**.
- ◇ The 5th **Eggstravaganza** is already underway. If you are interested in decorating an egg for the gala, contact us to pick up an application.
- ◇ **Tickets** will go on sale on **January 1st**. Early bird tickets are \$55 each. Reserved tables of 10 with priority seating are \$600.
- ◇ **Sponsorships** are available to make this event the best yet. Take a look online to find out how your sponsorship could save a life and benefit you at the same time.



*Exquisite works of art like this hand-painted egg by Bonnie Cleaver will be at the 24th Annual Gala to be held at the Hilton on February 25th, 2017. You can view items at [www.RMRP.org](http://www.RMRP.org)*

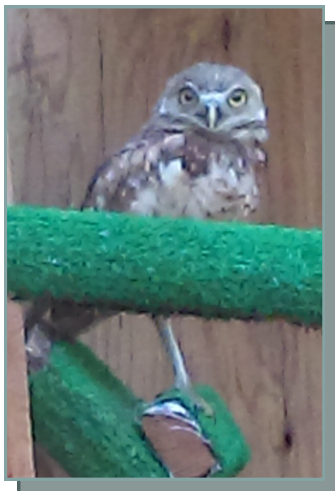
## Burrowing Owl vs. Barbed Wire

### Little Owl Beating the Odds

Many of our supporters have heard the story of the little Burrowing Owl that was tangled in barbed wire. The terrible barbs had torn the skin away from his abdomen from chest to knee on his right side.

We are so happy to report that he is doing really well! His wound is completely healed. He has missed winter migration, so he will be with us until next spring.

*“Thank you to everyone who donated to help the Burrowing Owl in his time of need. His life is saved because of you!”*



*Left: The Burrowing Owl that was caught in barbed wire is doing so well! YOUR donation saved his life!*



*This terrible wound nearly took the Burrowing Owl's life.*

## Three Generations of Giving

In 1988, Jack and Liz McGrew adopted an American Kestrel. Since then, they have donated every month for nearly 30 years to give these amazing creatures a Second Chance at Freedom.



Their whole family has continued the tradition. They just adopted a Great Horned Owl for the youngest member of the family, Griffin.

***Injured raptors thank you for making RMRP a giving tradition!***



*This Prairie Falcon by Steven Strauss graces our 2017 Calendar cover! You can buy one online at [www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org).*

## 2017 Calendars

### Are Ready for You!!

The RMRP 2017 Photo Calendar is now on sale! Fourteen absolutely stunning photographs are ready to be displayed in your home or office.

You can purchase these calendars on our website at [www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org) or at our Open House on December 17th!

Thank you to our sponsors EDM, Roe Ecological Services, Northern Colorado Feeder's Supply, Poudre Valley REA, Outpost Trading Company, and Thunder in the Rockies.

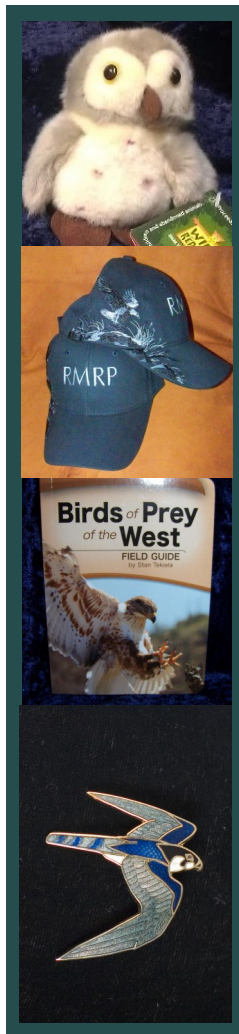
# Gift Giving Groove

## Make Your Holiday Gifts Mean More

The RMRP gift shop is online and waiting for your purchase! Did you know that all of the proceeds from our merchandise sales go directly to the care of the injured raptors in our care?

Your holiday gifts can do more than bring joy to your friends and family, it can give a Second Chance at Freedom to the nearly 300 injured raptors we see yearly.

*You can purchase awesome raptor themed gifts at our online gift shop at [www.rmrp.org/store](http://www.rmrp.org/store).*



# Into the Fire

## Hawk Burned by Methane Flare

Methane flares are very dangerous for birds. Since the flames are not always on, birds like to sit on the tall towers to survey the area. Then, when the towers flare, the birds are burned.



*Your gift provides the high quality food he needs to grow new feathers.*

This Red-tailed Hawk was severely burned in a methane flare at a landfill. His wing feathers were completely destroyed, so he will need to stay with the RMRP for over year as he molts in new feathers.

His recovery will be long and costly. If you can help us purchase the nutritious food he needs to grow in new feathers, please go to [LayneLabs.com](http://LayneLabs.com) and click on "Get Wild" to purchase a gift certificate for RMRP!

*"Colorado Gives Day is one of the easiest ways to make your gift go farther. Donate on December 6th to qualify RMRP for even more funds!"*

# UPCOMING EVENTS



See us in action!

## November

- 9th • Raptors at the Library @ Harmony Library 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 19th • Birds of Prey Class 6 • Raptor Watching Field Trip 9am-4pm, **\$50/each, MUST RSVP**
- 12th • Owl Be Home for Christmas @ Wild Birds Unlmt'd 11am-3pm

## December

- 6th • Colorado Gives Day @ [www.ColoradoGives.org](http://www.ColoradoGives.org) All Day!
- 17th • Holiday Open House @ RMRP 11am-3pm

## January

- 1st • Gala Auction Tickets Go On Sale @ [www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org)

## February

- 25th • 24th Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction @ The Fort Collins Hilton, 5pm-9:30pm.

# Colorado Gives Day

## Your Gift Can Grow!

Colorado Gives Day through the Community First Foundation is a great way to make your gift go even farther!

On December 6, 2016, if you donate through the Colorado Gives Day website to benefit the RMRP, your donation qualifies us for even more funding! Drawings, prizes and incentive funds can increase the value of your donation to the RMRP without any cost to you.

All you have to do is go to [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org) and click **DONATE!**

