



Photo by Craig Meurer

In the WING

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Rough Recovery Hawk Toughs It Out

He was a striking bird, dark chocolate head and sparkling with bursts of bright white all over his body. But his gorgeous feathers were streaked with dirt and blood. His feet were cold, his eye swollen shut.

Rescued from a busy intersection by a good Samaritan, this Rough-legged hawk was indeed in a “rough” condition. Although many of his wounds were fresh, several were obviously older and he had been suffering for some time.

His freshly bruised and weeping eye and a nasty old wound on his chest needed to be cleaned and medicated daily. As soon as he was stable, the wound on his chest required surgery to be able to heal completely.

Everything he needed to fight for his life came from YOU. You made sure he had medication, you made sure he got his surgery, you made sure he had caring hands to pull him through when he needed it most.

His wounds healed (despite his inability to leave his stitches alone), but his eye was permanently damaged. There was still a chance: could he compensate for the loss of sight in one eye? His hunting ability was tested using live rats. This was the last hurdle, the last step toward freedom. Although it took a couple of days, he proved his mettle by taking rat after rat to pass prey testing with “flying” colors.

Thanks to you, he returned to the skies for a Second Chance at Freedom two months after his admission. We can’t thank our supporters enough for their belief in our life-saving mission.

Your donation, no matter what size, saves lives. His recovery is proof of your compassion. Thank you for standing with the RMRP.



This Rough-legged Hawk was found in the middle of a busy road with severe wounds and head trauma.

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Whole once again, the hawk soars free thanks to the hard work of our staff, volunteers and supporters.

2016 Saw 2nd Highest Number of Admissions

Do You Know How Many Patients You Helped?



Above: This Red-tailed Hawk admitted in 2016 had both West Nile Virus and a fractured shoulder. She went on to be released.

Of the 292 patients admitted to the RMRP in 2016, most were severe trauma cases. A handful of young raptors admitted were simply “bird-napped” as they explored the world around them, but they barely make up a percentage of the cases.

For example, 121 patients had fractures, 21 tested positive for West Nile Virus, 8 had gunshot wounds, and 4 were lead positive. **These are just a handful of the reasons that these raptors needed your help last year.**

Admissions for 2017 are already ahead of last year’s numbers, and we are on track for matching our busiest year of 2009 which admitted 332 raptors.

The biggest difference between 2009 and now is the widespread use of, believe it or not, camera phones. The RMRP uses pictures sent to us by concerned parties to determine if a raptor needs our help, or if it is just a youngster learning the ropes.

This means the majority of our cases are serious trauma cases or illness that require massive resources. We need your help to make sure these raptors return to the wild. Please consider a donation today at www.rmrp.org.

2016 Raptor Admissions by Species

Total Admissions: 292

| Species | Number |
|---------------------|--------|
| Red-tailed Hawk | 57 |
| Great Horned Owl | 55 |
| Swainson’s Hawk | 41 |
| American Kestrel | 26 |
| Cooper’s Hawk | 31 |
| Common Barn Owl | 21 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 10 |
| Bald Eagle | 6 |
| Long-eared Owl | 5 |
| Burrowing Owl | 4 |
| Eastern Screech Owl | 4 |
| Golden Eagle | 4 |
| Merlin | 3 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 3 |
| Saw-whet Owl | 3 |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 2 |
| Northern Harrier | 2 |
| Osprey | 2 |
| Prairie Falcon | 2 |
| Mississippi Kite | 1 |

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
- Ashley Hagenloh, Rehabilitation Associate

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

24th Annual Auction a Major Success!

You Made Magic Happen

The RMRP 24th Annual Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction broke all records by raising over **\$101,000!**

So many lives can be saved because of the belief you have for the RMRP. This event proved that no matter how challenging the future is, you will be there for these amazing creatures!

Thank you to our sponsors Hillside Construction, Fort Collins Hilton, ArboRX, ColorPro, Bath Garden Center and Nursery, Seaworth Auctions, OtterCares, Fort Fund, and Odell Brewing.

Mark your calendars for our 25th Annual Gala to be held on February 24th, 2018!



Thank you for making this event the best ever!

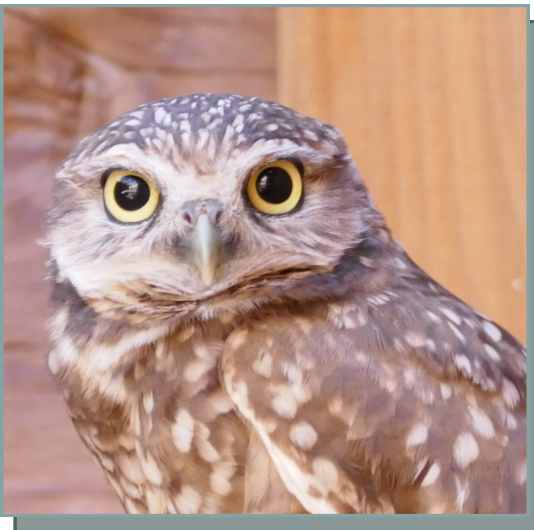
Almost Home!

Burrowing Owl Waiting for Migration

The Burrowing Owl that almost lost his life to a serious barbed wire injury is just a few weeks away from release! He has overcome some pretty astronomical odds, but has proved he is healthy, whole, and ready to return to the wild.

The only thing he needs now is to grow in a new set of feathers to replace the ones damaged in the barbed wire. As soon as he has a shiny new set of feathers, he will be released into a Burrowing Owl colony to begin the rest of his (hopefully barbed-wire-free) life!

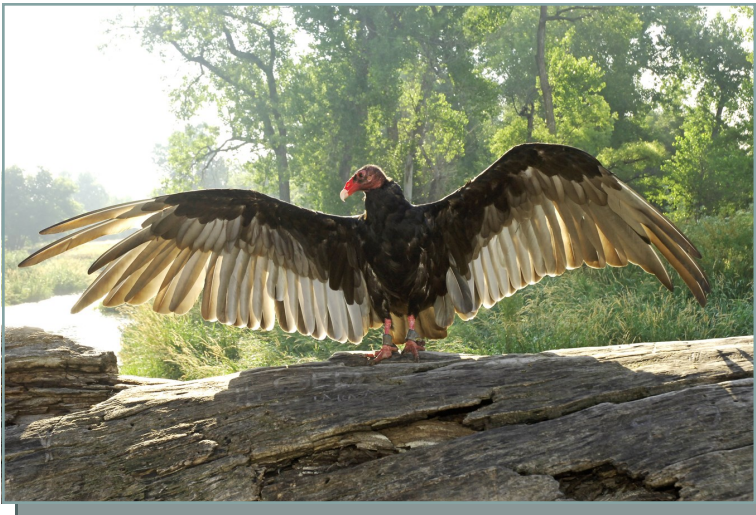
You can learn more about how the RMRP saves lives like his by visiting our facility for a private behind-the-scenes tour. Tours are \$10 per person up to 10 people with a minimum of \$50 and must be scheduled 2 weeks in advance. Call 970-484-7756 for more information.



Above: Waiting for summer: Burrowing Owl nearly killed by barbed wire injury is almost ready for release.

Thanks for 29 Years of Education!

Left: This Turkey Vulture is the RMRP's oldest Educational Ambassador. He has enraptured audiences since he became a part of the RMRP in 1988 when a broken wing took him from the skies. Thanks for your service, you amazing bird! Photograph by James Steele.



“Change comes through education, from the effort each of us take to make the world a better place.”

-Carin Avila, Education Director

Learning Compassion

Taking a Lead on Environmental Education

Last year, the RMRP was out educating about raptors and conservation 206 days of the year. Whew, are our voices tired!

2016 Types of Education Programs and Numbers

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Formal Programs | 122 |
| Education Tours | 40 |
| Informal Educational Exhibits | 44 |

Total Number of Education/Outreach Days: 206

Do you need some raptor rapture in your life? You can contact our Education Director Carin Avila to find out about fees, availability, and the variety of different education programs we offer for all ages.

To schedule an educational program, minimum three weeks in advance, please contact Carin at 970-484-7756 or Carin@rmrp.org.

Take to the Sky

Golden Eagle Goes Home

Those who follow us on Facebook have heard about the beautiful Golden Eagle who was battered in a severe wind storm in Yuma, CO.

We are happy to report that she has returned home! Thank you to all of those that believe in the RMRP and our mission to save these amazing lives. You are the reason she had someone there in her time of need.

To get updates and learn more about RMRP patients, you can like us on Facebook (Rocky Mountain Raptor Program—RMRP) or visit our website and sign up for our e-news!





Photo by Steve Strauss

*Left: This Prairie Falcon by Steve Strauss graced the cover of the RMRP 2017 Photo Calendar. Will **your** photo be the next cover?*

Calendar Contest Begins!

Will Your Photo Be the Next Cover?

The RMRP is happy to announce the beginning of our 2018 Calendar Photography Contest! This calendar is a very important part of our fundraising efforts throughout the year, and we couldn't get this project off the ground without YOU!

- You can visit our website at www.rmrp.org or email Judy at Judy@rmrp.org for details on submitting your perfect picture.
- Please do NOT email submissions.
- Deadline for submissions is July 1st, 2017.
- Winners will be announced by August 1st, 2017.

UPCOMING EVENTS



See us in action!

April

- 12th • Education Program @ Council Tree Library
6:30-7:30pm
- 22nd • Earth Day Celebration @ RMRP
11am-1pm

May

- 10th • Education Program @ Harmony Library
6:30-7:30pm
- 13th • Open House @ RMRP
11am-1pm
- 27-29th • Boulder Creek Festival @ Boulder Library Park
10am-7pm

June

- 3rd • Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast @ RMRP
8-11am
- 8th • Education Program @ Council Tree Library
7-8pm
- 10-11th • Taste of Fort Collins @ Downtown Fort Collins
11am-9pm
- 24-25th • Midsummer Festival @ Bond Park, Estes Park
9:30am-5pm (4pm Sunday)

FIND MORE EVENTS ONLINE AT WWW.RMRP.ORG

Baby Season Blues

Turn Frowns Upside Down

Our most challenging season of the year is here. We receive hundreds of calls about young birds that may or may not need help. These youngsters need a ton of resources to receive the best care possible. Can you provide any of these items?



Gift Certificates to **Layne Labs** allow us to purchase just the right food for growing babies. We can use multiple certificates per order, so even \$5 can add up! **Just go to www.laynelabs.com and click on GET WILD to purchase a Gift Certificate for the RMRP.**



Sealable sandwich bags in quart and gallon sized. You might use them to pack up your lunch, but we use them to pack the raptor's lunch! **You can see our full wish list at www.rmrp.org/donate/wishlist.**



We need a sponsor! Our phone bill is \$400 a month. You can help us field hundreds of calls about injured wildlife by being our communications sponsor. 24/7, you can make sure someone is available to help injured raptors. **Contact Judy Scherpelz at 970-484-7756 or Judy@rmrp.org if you are ready to help!**

Bird Nerd Necessities

Shop Online, Save a Life!

Did you know that all proceeds from our online store go directly to helping the patients in our hospital? Did you also know that if you shop through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchase goes to the RMRP at no cost to you? Get your summer birding bling with the RMRP in mind and receive the bonus of helping the birds you love!



www.rmrp.org/store

amazonsmile

www.smile.amazon.com
Then search for Rocky Mountain Raptor Program.