

On the WING

VOLUME 36
NUMBER 1
Spring 2018



Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program
a second chance at freedom

Photo by Paul Walker

Snowy Owl Irruption • A 30 Year First

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program has rescued over 5800 raptors in its 30 year history. But, for the very first time ever, a Snowy Owl has come through our doors, needing your help.

Every few years, an “irruption” of arctic migrants occurs. These raptors, typically found only in the most northern climes, migrate extremely far south out of their usual territories. The winter of 2017/2018 saw a huge influx of Snowy Owls traveling south, some all the way to Colorado.

These owls seemed to be mostly immature (young of the year) birds, and some were found dead after a struggle with starvation.

The Snowy admitted to the RMRP in December was very, very thin and had a broken wing. Once stable, he was taken in for surgery for his broken wing.

A plate and screws were inserted to keep the bone in place while it healed. After the bone was stable, the plate was surgically removed.

He is now starting to fly again, gaining strength, and will hopefully be ready to make his way back to the arctic soon.

“Irruption:
(of a natural
population),
to undergo a
sudden
upsurge in
numbers,
especially
when
natural
ecological
balances and
checks are
disturbed.”



Above: The first Snowy Owl admitted by the RMRP came in with a broken wing and was severely thin. He needed extensive surgery to help heal and recover.

Keep an eye on his story:



Rocky Mountain Raptor
Program—RMRP



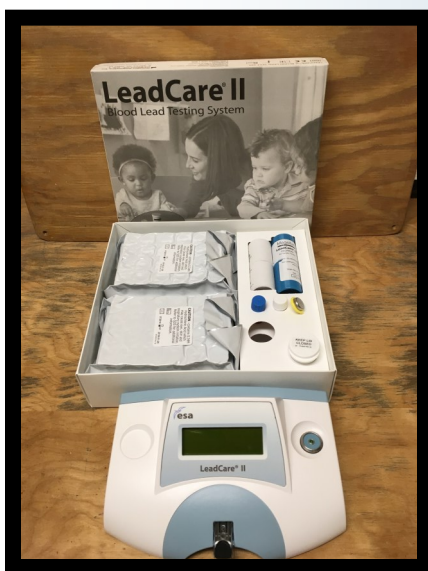
Above: This Rough-legged Hawk was poisoned by lead. After many weeks of treatment, he was free again.

RESEARCH

Knowledge To Save More Lives

The RMRP has an ongoing study of lead levels in common Colorado raptors that are also known to do a lot of scavenging, like Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and Ferruginous Hawks.

Although still a new study, we hope this data will some day tell us how contaminated our environment is with deadly lead.



Each test costs \$7.30.

Left: This lead testing kit enables us to not only continue our lead study of Colorado's raptors, it also allows us to test patients with suspicious symptoms for possible lead toxicosis.

Heavy Poison

Like A Lead Weight Around His Neck

The first case of 2018: a Rough-legged Hawk, weak, thin, and unable to stand. His legs were not working, yet he showed no signs of trauma. A lead test was performed, and we had our answer. At some point, the hawk had eaten a carcass contaminated with lead shot. When the bird ingested the lead, it slowly started to poison him.

It only takes a piece of lead the size of a grain of rice to poison a large hawk.

After many weeks of treatment with CaEDTA (a medication that binds to the lead in the blood to remove it from the body) his lead level was back down and his symptoms resolved.

He was released back to the wild, but he was the lucky one. A Ferruginous Hawk that was admitted shortly before him, also poisoned by lead, did not survive despite our best efforts.

To save wildlife from lead poisoning, leave the lead ammunition at home when hunting. If you do use lead, be sure to not leave contaminated carcasses or gut piles out for predators to scavenge.

Together, we can make lead poisoning a thing of the past. Learn. Change. Save lives.

2017 Statistics

What You Made Happen

272 raptors were rescued from **50** cities in **3** states.

Each day a raptor is under our care is counted as a "Bird Care Day". There were **10,691** bird care days in 2017.

242 days of environmental education and outreach reached over **30,000** people.

9 research projects, a research paper, and a poster presentation at the Raptor Research Conference contributed knowledge to advance raptor conservation.

Volunteers contributed **34,558** hours of service. This equates to over \$350,000 (about 17 full time staff members), allowing the RMRP to offer services well out of its ability to finance.

...and YOU made it all possible.

Spring Open House • May 5, 2018



Bring your family, friends, or just yourself to one of the most amazing meet-and-greets you've ever experienced. The RMRP is not able to be open to public very often since we are a hospital facility, so take advantage of this unique opportunity to see how we rehabilitate injured raptors, and meet some of our Educational Ambassador Raptors face-to-face.

- ◇ 11am—3pm
- ◇ 720 E. Vine Drive, Fort Collins, CO
- ◇ Indoors: no need to worry about the weather!
- ◇ Meet the raptors you love.

2019 Photo Calendar Contest

In Pursuit of Awesomeness

It's time to begin the search for the most riveting raptor photos—your photos!

For the last 10 years, the RMRP has held a photo contest fundraiser to further our mission of excellence in raptor rehabilitation, education and research. These photos become our yearly photo calendar, which is a **huge** part of our fundraising efforts.

Each year it gets harder and harder to choose the photos that will go into the calendar. Last year 24 talented photographers submitted 110 absolutely *stunning* photos for judging—it was certainly a rough job to pick only 13!

We hope **YOU** will join us this year to make the 2019 Rocky Mountain Raptor Program Photo Calendar a success!



*Left:
This
Osprey
family by
Susan
Baptista
made June
2018 extra*

Contest Rules and Conditions

◇ Photos

- ◇ Photos must be sized for printing at 12 inches wide by 10 inches high (3,600 X 3,000 pixels at dpi). Please submit in high quality JPEG file or RGB color space.
- ◇ Label all photos with your name and species of bird. A submission fee of \$20 for the first photo, and \$10 for each additional photo will be collected.
- ◇ Photos may be taken in the wild or in captivity of any raptor around the world.
- ◇ All photos must show ethical behavior around wildlife. Please refer to the American Birding Associations Code of Ethics: www.aba/about/ethics/html

◇ How to Submit

- ◇ Go online to www.rmrp.org to download a submission form. Please fill it out and return with your photos.
- ◇ Mail submissions to: RMRP, 2519 S. Shields Street, #115, Fort Collins, CO 80526 using CDR or flash drive.
- ◇ Online submission links can be found at www.rmrp.org—we will have a dropbox set up.
- ◇ DO NOT email submissions.

All photos must be submitted by **July 1, 2018**.

Winners will be notified by August 1, 2018. Please direct questions to Executive Director, Carin Avila at 970-484-7756 or Carin@rmrp.org.

Staff: Carin Avila, Executive Director. Lisa Winta, Assistant Director/Volunteer Coordinator. Gail Kratz, Rehabilitation Director. Mike Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator. Lynsey Reed, Donor Relations Director. Jessica Miller, Education and Outreach Coordinator. Bonnie Cleaver, Education Avian Coordinator. Carrie Laxson, Rehabilitation Assistant. Ashley Hagenloh, Rehabilitation Associate. Jeff Stark, Facilities Manager.

Board of Directors: Judy Scherpelz (Chairman Emeritus), Rick Snow, Susan Baker, Robert Gregory, and Dyanne Willow.

Making RMRP Soar

Can You Help Us Take the Next Step?

Every year, the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program faces a great challenge:

When the highest number of raptors need our help, we have the fewest resources to help them.

An unstable and unpredictable income makes it very hard to balance resources. While we have adapted to this unbalance, we hope you will help us take the next step in propelling the RMRP into the future.

The 1987 Campaign

The **1987 Campaign**, in honor of the year the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program was founded, seeks to stabilize our current income so when raptors need the most help, there are resources to support them.

We need \$20,000 a month just to keep our basic expenses paid. Currently, we have \$2300 in monthly donations from 58 amazing people who have committed to a monthly gift.

Our goal is to enlist enough donors to cover \$10,000 (or half) of our monthly expenses by the end of 2018. Given our great head start, we need \$7,700 in pledges to meet our goal.

1987 Campaign Goals:

We need new donors at the following 1987 themed levels:

230 Donors at \$9.87 a Month
175 Donors at \$19.87 a Month
20 Donors at \$98.70 a Month

This would generate just over \$10,000, or HALF of our monthly expenses!

Keep track of our progress online:

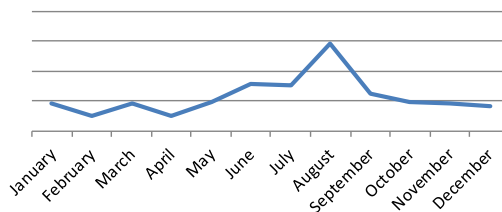


Rocky Mountain Raptor Program-RMRP

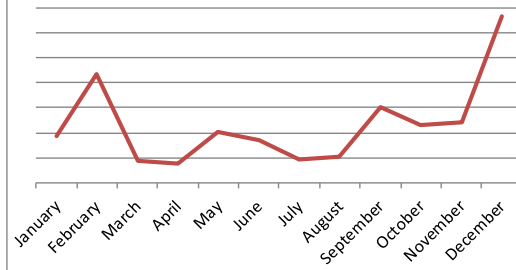
Scan the code to the right to the right to join our e-news mailing list. Text and data rates may apply.



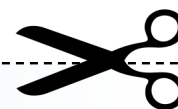
2017 Raptor Admissions by Month



2017 Income



Left: These two graphs show one of RMRP's greatest challenges—When raptors need the most help, resources are at their lowest.



Join the **1987 Campaign:**

Visit us at www.rmrp.org/donate and set up a recurring donation through PayPal. You can also give us a call at 970-484-7756 to set up your ideal donation!

Or return this form using the enclosed envelope to be a part of our strongest foundations!

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I want to donate:

☐ \$9.87 monthly ☐ \$19.87 monthly ☐ \$98.70 monthly

Other Amount monthly: _____

Charge my card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Name on card: _____

Number on card: _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-Digit Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

☐ Contact me about setting up an Electronic Funds Transfer

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.