

On the WING



Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program
a second chance at freedom

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Photo by Joe Pekara

**“You can’t go back and change the beginning,
but you can start now and change the ending.”**

- C.S. Lewis

Starting Now...

Hope abounds—although it doesn’t always seem that way. In 2018, 338 injured raptors were rescued by the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. It can be very sad to see these amazing hunters of the skies injured, sick, and grounded.

But no matter how raptors have been overcome, the moment they arrive at the RMRP is the beginning of a different ending.

We invite you to see how your investment in the RMRP makes a difference in the world around us at a local and global level.

The RMRP 2018 Annual Report is now available online at www.rmrp.org/about. You are the reason raptors and the wild world have a future. Today is the first day of the next great chapter for the RMRP.

2018 *Annual Report* *Highlights*



- ◇ Number of raptors rescued: **338**
- ◇ Most common raptor rescued: **Red-tailed Hawk** at 72
- ◇ Average length of patient rehabilitation: **66 days**
- ◇ Percent of treatable cases released: **77%**
- ◇ Most common injury: **Fracture/impact injury**
- ◇ Number of Education and Outreach days: **246**
- ◇ Number of people reached through Education: **45,000+**
- ◇ Number of research projects: **9**
- ◇ Number of papers published: **1**
- ◇ Number of hours donated by volunteers: **33,854**

People who made it possible: YOU

The Longest Shot Like a Hole-in-One During a Tornado

When this Sharp-shinned Hawk was admitted, her prognosis was pretty grim. A terrible fracture of her carpometacarpus (or wrist area) didn't look good. Sharp-shinned Hawks are also notoriously tricky in rehabilitation because they are very high-strung.

The Rehabilitation Team has spent years fine tuning our treatment of these complex cases. Strict management of the bird's recovery was required to make sure the bones healed well—these uppity birds don't understand the meaning of rest!

It was a few weeks later that it all came to fruition: she was healed, she passed live-prey testing, and she was zipping around like a bolt of lightning. She was returned to the wild for her Second Chance at Freedom.

Although it was a long-shot, we weren't deterred. A shot is still a shot, and we took it and won!



Above: After several weeks of healing, A Second Chance at Freedom!



Right: Sharp-shinned Hawk in a wing bandage.



Above: Bald Eagle receiving a CT scan to check for brain damage after receiving head trauma.

Bizarre Bald Eagle

Did you try turning your eagle off then back on again?

Sometimes a patient is such a mystery, we'd love to have our own Sherlock on staff! A Bald Eagle rescued from alongside a street in Laramie, WY suffering from trauma from possibly being hit by a car.

He had some trauma to his body and a slightly elevated lead level in his blood. He was probably hit by car when he was scavenging road kill.

As trauma resolved and lead level went down, the eagle took his next steps to recovery. He gained strength and was flying and landing strongly. All his lab and blood work came back normal. However...he wouldn't eat, which is extremely odd. Bald Eagles will typically eat anything! He needed lots of support from the rehabilitation staff to make sure he got the nutrition and hydration he needed to stay healthy.

After weeks of not self-feeding, it was decided to schedule a CT scan at CSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital to see if the trauma caused brain damage. The CT scan came back normal to the surprise of both vets and RMRP rehabilitation staff. RMRP staff returned the eagle to his flight enclosure and began work on the next step.

That is, of course, when he decided to eat on his own! Apparently he needed a reboot! His rehabilitation proceeded full speed ahead to the delight of all involved. He was returned to the wild, healthy and whole once again. It is still unknown why he was unable to eat on his own for so long, or what caused his sudden change. His case will be studied heavily to see what we can learn to help other raptors like him in the future.

Join Us!

Open House Ahead:

It's not often we are able to be open to the public, so don't miss your chance!

Tour the facility to see just how you help injured raptors return to the wild when you donate to the RMRP. Meet the amazing Educational Ambassador Raptors face-to-face, and learn something new! Don't forget to visit the gift shop and pick up something great for mom for Mother's Day!



Photo by
Susan Baptista

Spring Open House

May 4, 2019
11am-3pm
@ 720 E. Vine Drive
Fort Collins, CO

2020 Photo Calendar Contest



Photo by Paul Walker

Above: Will your photo be front page news? Submit your raptor photos to support wildlife and wild places!

Submissions Now Open!

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program annual photo calendar is a HUGE part of our fundraising and outreach each year. Your love of wildlife can help support our mission—we hope you will share us your amazing talent to get this fundraising project soaring high!

Contest Rules and Conditions

- ◇ **All photos must show ethical behavior around wildlife.** Please refer to the American Birding Association's Code of Ethics: www.aba/about/ethics/html
- ◇ Photos may be taken in the wild or in captivity of any raptor from around the world.
- ◇ Photos must be sized for printing at **12 inches wide by 10 inches high (3600X3000 pixels at dpi)**. Please use a high quality JPEG or RGB color space file.
- ◇ **For information on how to submit your photos, submission fees, and more details**, please visit our website at www.rmrp.org/news.

Sponsorships

Sponsors are essential to getting this project off the ground. Each sponsor will be acknowledged in the calendar to highlight your commitment to wildlife.

Sponsorships start at just \$50 for a day—remember a loved one on their birthday or celebrate an anniversary. Or just sponsor the whole thing! We won't stop you.

Last day to submit photos: 7/1/2019

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

Board of Directors: Carin Avila, Susan Baker, Robert Gregory, Judy Scherpelz, and Dyanne Willow.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” -Anne Frank

Moments from Death Rescued in the Worst Conditions

During the worst snowstorm yet seen in 2019, the Red-tailed Hawk was completely crusted in ice. Without immediate help, he would freeze to death.

The RMRP rescue team braved the conditions to retrieve the hawk. His treatment at first was simple: to gently warm him up and get him dry. The next day, a full assessment was done and found that he had some general trauma and was very thin. Without help, the storm would have been the last straw.

He is currently recovering with hopes of a return to the wild. Check out how you can help him at www.rmrp.org.



Above: Red-tailed Hawk encrusted in ice during the “bomb cyclone” snowstorm in March.



Right: After being dried out and warmed up, this extremely thin hawk is regaining his strength and attitude!

The 1987 Club

The 1987 Club, 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.

Our goal is to enlist enough donors to cover \$10,000 (or half) of our monthly expenses. At this time, we still need \$7,000 in pledges to meet our goal.

Join the 1987 Club:

- ◇ **A monthly pledge of any amount qualifies you as a member:** receive a member sticker and invitations to member-only events!
- ◇ Visit us at www.rmrp.org/donate and set up a recurring donation through PayPal.
- ◇ **Fill out the enclosed envelope** and return it to the RMRP—make sure you indicate you wish to join the 1987 Club!

Be a part of our strongest foundation!

“The fight to protect the wildlife we love and environment we share isn't over. There have been great success stories, but we're not done yet. We must remain engaged in this fight to ensure the vitality of the wild into the future.”

*-Mike Tincher
Rehabilitation Coordinator*



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



Find us on Facebook:

Rocky Mountain Raptor Program-RMRP

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.