



Proudly celebrating 25 years
**Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program**
a second chance at freedom

On the WING

A POX IS UPON US! *Avian Pox Hitting Birds Hard*



The hot, dry weather plaguing Colorado this summer makes it hard for wildlife to survive. They are stressed, and just like humans when they get stressed, they are more susceptible to getting sick. This year, we are seeing lots of wild birds coming in with a disease called Avian Pox. Avian Pox causes

lesions that sprout up on the featherless areas of a bird's body: legs, feet, and around the eyes and mouth. These lesions can be so bad that the bird can't feed itself. Sometimes we need to bandage the affected areas and give the bird medication for secondary infections, adding to the cost of care.

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HEY YOU! YA, YOU! *Have You Read My Blog?*

Come visit me at <http://owls-perch.blogspot.com/> and learn all about the RMRP. See tons of photos, learn about bird cases, have raptor myths debunked, and learn all about the species of raptors the RMRP cares for. I hope you'll come see me soon! I've also hijacked a Twitter account (although, I don't feel as if I really twitter, that's for Kestrels. I'm more about hissing and clacking my beak). You can follow me at @RaptorProgram.

Sincerely,

O
The Owl
Terrorizer of Mice



GREAT HORNED OWL DEFIES DEATH

Fighting Beak and Talon for Life

The owl looked dead. It barely blinked, it didn't react, it barely breathed. What made the situation even harder was there was not one clue to tell us what was wrong. No wounds or broken bones, no obvious illness...but the bird was definitely in need of our help.

The bird was very, very thin and since the owl couldn't feed itself, we had to help him out. When birds are very thin, they often cannot digest normal food. Therefore, he was fed something called "Hyperalimentation Diet." Basically, it's a liquid slurry of good things: protein, sugars, water, minerals, etc. Think of it like chicken soup for sick raptors!

After gaining some weight, the bird started to be able to stand for small periods of time. Still, he was barely reacting, but it was a step in the right direction! Then we started feeding him solid, but easy to digest, food. As the days went on, he started becoming more and more aware of where he was. He started looking at us and standing most of the time instead of lying down.

Then came the day he ran away from us for the first time. Yay! It's such a great feeling when a bird finally starts being the way it should...feisty! And just the other day he went outside for the first time. Although he's still not very steady on his feet, he perked up when released to his new cage. He stood tall, looked around, and flew up to a perch! Wow!



Every bird we receive deserves the loving, specialized care we can provide. Sometimes they just need some good food and time to heal. Sometimes they need medications and surgery, and sometimes they simply need a safe, quiet place to let go. That's what we're here for: to give each and every bird exactly what they need. However, we couldn't be here if not for the support of our donors. It's your love and kindness that keeps our program in existence. These birds wouldn't get a helping hand if it wasn't for you.

How can you help this bird? \$5 will pay for a day's worth of healing and nutritious food. \$20 will pay for a week's worth of the medicine we used to help him get strong. \$50 will pay for a vet visit. \$150 will pay for his needs for a whole month. \$1000 will pay for everything he needs to find his Second Chance at Freedom.

It's up to you. Can you help us help birds? Can you help this owl spread his wings and learn to fly again? He's fighting so hard to live, and all he needs now is your love and support to finish the process. Every time you give, another bird gets what they need to fight and live another day.

Thank you to everyone who's made a difference in the lives of the wild creatures we all love so much. We hope you'll continue to follow us as we delve head first into the future, along with one stubborn, feisty owl.

THE LITTLEST KESTREL

How To Grow Up – RMRP Style!

This summer we received one of the smallest American Kestrels we've ever seen. At only 29 grams, she was only the size of a ping pong ball. Because she was so small, we had to be very careful not to let her imprint on or condition to humans. If a bird is imprinted, it cannot be released to the wild.

She was so tiny we had to keep her inside so we could take care of her. We made sure she didn't hear human noises, and we used a stereo near her cage that played sounds of a forest and river.



This way, not only were all the sounds of human activity covered up, but she would become accustomed to what the outdoors sounds like. We also put a fake "Foster Dad" (a cardboard standup of a Kestrel) in the cage with her so she would see one of her own kind. Then, when we fed her, we made sure to never speak and covered ourselves head to toe in camo and a big camo net hat so she wouldn't be able to see the human underneath.

This little girl went through a lot of mice while she was growing up – growing babies need lots of good nutrition to develop

strong bones and grow in tons of feathers. And boy, did she grow! At 120 grams, she was now fully grown and ready to start learning to kill...which didn't take her long. She passed "mouse school" in record time.

*20th Annual Gala Dinner
and Benefit Auction*
Coming Soon!

Are you ready? We are! It's time to start gearing up for our 20th Annual Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction on February 23, 2013 at the Fort Collins Hilton! It's time for fun, food, and philanthropy! We will be starting to collect items soon, so if you have something awesome to donate...give us a call! We try to have our auction items turned in by late January. Sponsorship packages are available NOW. Tickets will go on sale in January. Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook (Rocky Mountain Raptor Program – RMRP) for ticket sale dates. We hope to see you there!

Two months after she arrived, she was released for her Second Chance at Freedom. She bolted away as fast as she could, perfectly ready to start life on her own. We are so happy we could give her such a good start to life. We hope her life in the wild is full of freedom, happiness, and lots of tasty mice!

PEREGRINE FALCON TANGLES WITH POWER LINES

Weeks of Healing and Helping

Peregrine Falcons: the deadly missiles of the raptor world. They hunt using speed and agility. If the falcon isn't physically perfect, it can't hunt. This makes it especially hard to rehabilitate them when they are injured. We can return them only if they are 100% perfect.

Recently, we received a young Peregrine that had been blasted by a power line. The damage to her wing was extensive, but luckily she was found quickly after being injured. We were very worried, as the wound was close to a very important tendon used for flight. If the tendon was compromised even a little bit, she would never be able to fly well enough to live in the wild. It took many weeks of slow healing and intensive wound care, but eventually the high voltage trauma healed.

Slowly, the Peregrine regained her strength. She flapped her newly healed wings, worked her muscles, and started flying again. A few weeks later, she passed "Prey School" and was ready to be released.

As we returned her to the air, she shunned all the good roosting trees in the distance to fly and fly and fly...

How can you help? Help us restore our depleted resources and buy more bandages and medicine for the next bird with an injury. Go to www.rmp.org to help us out.



This Peregrine lifted its wings to a full recovery

Hi! I'm New Around Here...



We would like to welcome a new Educational Ambassador to our ranks. This Swainson's Hawk was transferred to us from the Teton Raptor Center in Wyoming. The bird is unable to fly well enough to live in the wild due to a fracture of the ulna in its right wing. He is in training to become one of our lovely teaching assistants, traveling to classrooms, libraries, and festivals all over Colorado. If you see him around, make sure to welcome him to our ranks!

A POX IS UPON US! *Continued from cover*

Avian Pox is spread by mosquitoes as well as bird to bird. Birds can also pick up the virus if it is on an object such as a perch – so we need to keep everything in the cage very clean. It is very contagious, which makes it very hard to deal with in the facility. It is very easy to spread the disease from one bird to another, just by cleaning the cage! We have to use special contamination precautions, which require lab coats, special disposable plastic booties, and lots of disposable surgical gloves. This means many more costs for our already overwhelmed program. And the hardest part is it can take months for the infection to clear up, so the costs add up.

The good news is that if caught early, a pox infection is likely to clear up without many complications. The birds we have in house should heal up just fine given the time and care they have with us. In a few months, they should be soaring away for their Second Chance at Freedom.

Want to help? You can donate online at www.rmp.org to help purchase all the things we need to keep this pox contained!

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.

join the conversation...





Proudly celebrating 25 years
**Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program**
a second chance at freedom

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 winter activities and don't miss out seeing our
Live Educational Ambassadors on Display!*

December 9
RMRP Holiday Open House
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
720 E. Vine Drive

Feb. 13
Council Treel Library
Education Program
6:30-7:30 p.m.

March 13
Old Town Library
Education Program
6:30-7:30

January 4, 2013
Tickets go on sale for 20th
Annual Gala Dinner/Auction
Event is on Feb. 23

February 23
RMRP 20th Annual “A Second
Chance at Freedom” Gala
Dinner and Auction
5 – 10 p.m.

April 10
Harmony Library
Education Program
6:30-7:30

January 5
New Volunteer Orientation
10 a.m.
720 E. Vine Drive

March 2
New Volunteer Orientation
10 a.m.
720 E. Vine Drive

May 15
Council Tree Library
Education Program
6:30-7:30

January 26
Bird Days, Bath Nursery



*On the Wings of the Past,
We Celebrate the Future.*

In late fall of 1987, the RMRP started as a small, grass roots community based organization dedicated to helping injured birds of prey. On a spectacular October afternoon, we celebrated 25 years of saving and changing lives - and YOU – our supporters! We could not do this important work without you – thank you for your belief in our efforts.

YOU are truly the wind beneath our wings.

3 very simple ways YOU CAN HELP



**Get your 2013
Raptor Photo
Calendar!**

www.rmrp.org or
call 970-484-7756

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!

2013 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 – for lumber/building supplies for cage repairs
- Poudre Pet and Feed – supplies for raising live prey
- Target, Walmart, King Soopers – paper products, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Jiffy Lube, Grease Monkey, Friesen’s (north College in Ft. Collins) – for van maintenance

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, masking tape (1”), white-out

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
- Utility Scrub Brush with handle
- Heavy Duty plastic buckets: 2 ½ - 3 gallon
- Mop heads – Tube type or cotton
- Cutting boards - 8”x14” or larger – minimum ¼” thickness
- Heavy duty welding gloves
- 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 Batteries: AA, D
- Garden Hoses: 100ft., Lead Free Heavy Duty