



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

On the WING

WHY DO WE NEED YOU?

Well, let's take a look at the past year...

We experienced a severe drought, which hurt the prey base for the raptors and resulted in many starving birds with traumatic injuries.

- We endured terrible wildfires, which
- decreased habitat for many nesting birds
 - pushed birds into already occupied habitat, meaning more competition and more starving birds
 - drained the charitable capacity of the region as donors (rightfully so) helped victims of the fire, resulting in a significant downturn in donations for the raptors

We were hit by very heavy, late spring snowstorms, dramatically increasing the birds coming through our doors from starvation and hypothermia.

Uncertainty in our national economic status coupled with the unknown repercussions of "sequestration" has resulted in fewer donations and smaller donations.

YOU are the reason the RMRP has survived these challenges. YOU are the reason we can continue caring for injured birds every day.

We know that you care about what happens to raptors – and all wildlife. Many of you supported us in the past year so you may wonder - what did we do with it? Why do we keep asking for more support?

We spent it!

We spent it on mice, bandaging material, medical procedures and fuel for the vans so that we could rescue birds or transport education birds to schools. We

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Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who made our auction a success: from the wonderful, energetic people who attended, to the artisans and businesses that donated exceptional items, and to our event sponsors The Bohemian Foundation, OtterCares Foundation, The Hilton and Re/Max Eagle Rock.

With the help of all of our friends, we raised over \$73,000. What a record breaker!! If you didn't get to attend, next year's Auction is really only around the corner...we're already working on making it a huge success!

We are looking for people who would like to help us organize next year's auction. Please contact us at 970-484-7756 if you are interested.



*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.

THE WILL TO LIVE

A Red-tailed Hawk Survives Terrible Trauma to Be Free Again

Birds come through our doors with terrible injuries every day. Some are insidious and hide under the skin, and some are painfully obvious.

When this Red-tailed Hawk came in, we wondered how he sustained such a terrible injury and still survived. His eye was lost: surgery was needed to remove the damaged (and useless) eye.

The surgery was a great success, and the bird recovered so fast it was almost like he'd never been injured at all.

...but could he survive in the wild?

Sometimes a bird with one eye can live a perfectly normal life in the wild. It all depends on his innate hunting abilities and his will to adapt. This bird showed us that not only could he adapt, but he could do so without a "blink." He killed live prey on his very first testing day, and continued to do so for many days afterward. He maneuvered well, even when challenged with complex cage arrangements.

It was time.

Only a few short months after this hawk nearly lost his life, he took to the skies again. Our last glimpse showed him perched regally in a tree, back home at last.



One-eyed Red-tailed hawk passes the test!



Want to help?

Life saving surgeries like this one often deplete our budgets. You can donate online at www.rmrp.org to help us rebuild our funding.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

That's One Lucky Eagle

If she hadn't been found, she would have died.

Mike Mason of Anadarko Petroleum saw something odd the morning of February 19th. While on the job at one of Anadarko's well sites, Mr. Mason found a very large bird nearby and it was obviously injured. Concerned, he called us. Rehabilitation Coordinator Mike Tincher drove out to the well near Gilcrest to pick up the young Bald Eagle. Her shoulder was injured, and without proper care she would have easily fallen prey to another predator or, being unable to hunt, she would have starved to death.

She needed pain medicine for her injury. Because of your support, we were able to provide her that medicine. She needed good food to get strong again. Because of you, we were able to provide her with the best nutrition possible. She needed time to heal.

Because of you, we were there for her.

The damage took a couple of weeks to heal completely. She moved step by step through the rehabilitation program, fighting her way to the top. About a month after she came through our doors she was released back to the wild. At the release was the man who found her, Mike Mason, to wish her well as she received her



Second Chance at Freedom.

Stories like this wouldn't happen if it weren't for our supporters. If we weren't here, this beautiful creature would have died. We can only continue to save lives because you believe in our mission.

We hope her story isn't the last we'll tell. Let's look forward to the future together: life saving and life changing!



RMRP's Mike Tincher prepares the bald eagle for release, helped by Anadarko's Mike Mason and Doug Sitzman.

Can you make stories like this one come true?

You can donate online at www.rmrp.org to help us save even more lives.

DEATH WAS LURKING AROUND THE CORNER BUT WE KNEW WHAT TO DO

Hidden Poisons

The bird couldn't stand. It could barely lift its head. It was so skinny you could feel every bone in its body. But we knew what was wrong, and we knew what to do. We knew that without treatment, this bird would soon start to seize; its organs would fail, and death was only around the corner.

Symptoms like these cause us to pull out our lead testing machine. This bird's test came back just as we suspected: lead toxic. Raptors can carry some lead in their systems without showing symptoms. However, this bird had enough lead in its body to send it into a deadly downward spiral. We started immediate chelation treatment where a medicine is injected into the bird to bind to the lead and flush it out of its system. This can take days, weeks, and even months to achieve. If found early enough, a raptor's life can be saved.

Raptors get lead poisoning from ingesting animals that have lead in them; for example when a rabbit has been shot with lead shot or a fish has eaten a lead weight. The RMRP is currently ramping up lead studies on the birds that are admitted to our program. This will help us understand the level of lead in our surrounding environment. As top-of-the-food-chain predators,



Red-tailed hawk fights lead poisoning.

raptors will be able to show us if there is a chronic problem with lead in our area.

Only by working together can we find a solution to the lead problem that has plagued wild creatures for years. By finding alternatives to lead, by working together to move towards a lead free environment, we can all be assured that the environment we love here in Colorado will be available for generations to come. There is still much research to be done, especially when considering alternatives to lead ammunition. There is no easy answer besides

continuing research and education.

And the bird above? A few days after treatment started, he stood up (albeit a little shaky) on his own two feet. Wish him the best of luck as he takes his first steps toward freedom.

Want to help us continue our research on lead poisoning and help future birds in need? You can donate at www.rmrp.org to help us purchase lead testing kits and medicine.

Leaving a Legacy

HOW DO YOU MAKE \$20,000 TURN INTO \$668,000?

Most people don't consider themselves wealthy enough to donate several thousand dollars to a nonprofit. But have you considered placing a charitable gift in your will? It's easy to do, and a gift in your will might well be the most important gift you ever make to a cause you believe in.

A bequest to RMRP can help us with essential operating costs that can make the difference in our ability to keep the doors open when times are tough. Or it can help us purchase that piece of critical equipment or caging that makes a huge difference in our ability to do our work quickly and efficiently. A bequest designated for an RMRP endowment fund can create ongoing support. Calculations by The Rhode Island Foundation, based on average investment returns, found that in 50 years a \$20,000 bequest would balloon to more than \$368,000 in principal while over the same period yielding more than \$300,000 in income.

You can leave a legacy with lasting meaning.

If you'd like to learn more, call us at 970-484-7756.

WHO'S NEW IN THE MEWS?

Please welcome our newest Educational Ambassadors. This perky male American kestrel had severe West Nile Virus, which has left him unable to live in the wild. The great horned owl has some vision problems that prevent him from hunting on his own. Both birds are ready for their public debut this summer.



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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

Come See Us! Summer 2013 Schedule

join the conversation...   

- May 25-27:**
Boulder Creek Festival,
Boulder, CO
- June 15, 16:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO
- June 22, 23:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO
- June 29, 30:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO

- July 6, 7:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO
- July 13, 14:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO
- July 13, 14:**
Art in the Park,
Steamboat Springs, CO
- July 20, 21:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO
- July 27, 28:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO

- August 3, 4:**
Renaissance Festival,
Larkpsur, CO
- August 16-18:**
New West Fest,
Fort Collins, CO
- August 24:**
Open House, 11am-3pm,
720 E. Vine Drive,
Fort Collins, CO
- September 6-8:**
**Scottish-Irish Highlands
Festival,**
Estes Park, CO

- September 28, 29:**
Elk Festival,
Estes Park, CO
- October 5:**
Members/Supporters Picnic,
720 E. Vine Drive,
Fort Collins, CO
- November 2, 9, 16:**
Birds of Prey Course,
720 E. Vine Drive,
Fort Collins, CO

WHY DO WE NEED YOU? *Continued from page 1*

spent it on advanced rehabilitation techniques to help sick birds heal, to help poisoned birds recover. We spent it working with state and federal agencies and energy companies looking for solutions to the many environmental hazards out there. And now we have noticed that the number of birds coming in with signs of lead poisoning has increased dramatically, so we are testing more birds and treating more birds – an expensive proposition, but one that is resulting in more birds being released and more birds being released free of toxic lead in their systems!

We are proud of what we do, and we are willing to work hard and long hours to continue this important work. But we cannot do it without your help. If you value our efforts, please support us. Every donation - \$5 or \$5,000 – is critical to our ability to continue this work. Go to www.rmrp.org, or contact us at 970-484-7756 or via snail mail: 2519 S. Shields St. #115, Ft. Collins, CO 80526. Together we can change the world, one raptor at a time!

Did You Know...

TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE!

The RMRP is a designated Colorado Enterprise Zone agency. Your gifts of \$100 or more can qualify for up to a 25% credit on your state income taxes in addition to your gift deduction. A social security number or Colorado taxpayer ID number **is required** in order to receive your credit. Please consult your tax advisor if you have any questions. You can also contact the Enterprise Zone Administrator Jacob Castillo at 970-498-6605 or jcastillo@larimer.org.