



Photo by Dan O'Donnell

# On the WING

VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 2 • Summer 2017

## Can't Fly With Lead Wings

### Nature's Clean Up Crew Suffers From Lead

So far this year, four vultures have been admitted to the RMRP that have been diagnosed with lead "toxicosis" or poisoning. These gentle birds, and many other raptors, pick up lead in the food they scavenge. When they clean up carcasses that have been shot with lead ammunition, they ingest the lead which builds up in their bodies.

*At a certain point, the lead begins to take its toll.*

Weakness, gastrointestinal distress, stumbling and inability to fly, seizures, and many other symptoms plague any raptor that has ingested lead. A treatment called "**Chelation Therapy**" will take the lead out of the animal's blood and flush it out through the kidneys.

Unfortunately, two of the affected vultures that were admitted didn't make it. Their lead levels were too high for the chelation therapy to help them.

These cases are hard to treat and need lots of intensive care. In 2016, *two Bald Eagles and two Red-tailed Hawks* were treated for lead. We are expecting a large number of lead cases in 2017 since so many have already been admitted, and we still have the whole year to go.

**You can make a difference in many ways:** Consider using non-toxic ammunition for all of your game and non-game needs. Please dispose of smaller animal remains so they are not scavenged by any of our flighted friends.

Your support gives them hours of intensive care, medication for their chelation therapy, nutritious and easy to digest food, as well as all the time they need to recover.

**Help them recover. You can give them hope.**

*Inside*



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*Above: Many vultures with lead poisoning have needed treatment at the RMRP this year.*

# Climates, They Are a Changin'

Birds: A Climate Barometer

Typically found only in the Texas area and South, the Crested Caracara has been spotted as far north as Greeley, Colorado in 2017. Audubon's *Birds and Climate Report* estimates that the range of many typically Southern species will migrate North as temperatures continue to incrementally climb.

**Many birds, including raptors like the Burrowing Owl and Golden Eagle, may lose up to 50% of their ideal breeding habitat by 2080.**

Just like the canary in the coal mine, the fluctuating ranges of birds can tell us a lot about our changing climate.

Sightings of Crested Caracaras in Colorado may be exciting, but their appearance signals a transformation of habitat that could leave many amazing birds homeless.



Photo by Craig Meurer

*Sightings of Crested Caracaras in Colorado signal a dangerous change in climate.*

*To Learn More:  
Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change Report* documents 314 species of bird that will be detrimentally effected by climate change.  
Visit:*

[climate.audubon.org](http://climate.audubon.org)



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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Photo by James Steele

## Summer Celebration

Learn and Love!

You're invited to our **Summer Open House to be held on August 26th, 2017 from 11am-3pm.** We are rarely open to the public, so this is your chance to see how we care for injured raptors and to meet many of our Educational Ambassadors.

**Mark your calendars and don't miss it!**

# Golden Opportunity

## Grounded Eagle Rescued

Thanks to the efforts of Wyoming Game and Fish Officers, this Golden Eagle was rescued after giving them a run for their money. Unable to fly (but still able to run!), he had a broken scapula and was incredibly skinny. His traumatic incident also broke nearly all the feathers on one of his wings.

He will be at the RMRP for many months as he heals, gains strength, and grows in a whole new set of feathers.

**Helping him is easy. Share this newsletter with a friend and spread the news about the RMRP!**



*This Golden Eagle suffered a broken scapula.*

Whooo might you see at the next RMRP Education Program? We have 20 different Education Ambassadors for you to meet!

## Angry Cotton Balls

Are Actually Great Horned Owls

Did you know that Great Horned Owls care for their young until the fall? Using the “hacking” method, the RMRP can provide for the six youngsters in our care in a similar way.

They will be released in September after teaching them that food is provided in our “Hack Box,” located on the side of our flight training complex. If they are unsuccessful hunting, they can return to



*These four Great Horned Owl chicks lost their nests. Here, you can see the puppet “Mom” being used to help prevent imprinting.*

get a snack, just like they would with wild parents.

In December, their “supplemental” food source will be weaned away, just as their parents would stop hunting for them as they prepare for the next breeding season. The young owls will now be on their own, and will disperse to look for their own territories.

These angry cotton balls will have grown into one of the most dangerous predators of the skies...the Great Horned Owl.

## Education Nation

Book Now, 2017 is Filling Up!

Our Educational Ambassador raptors have been busy! We have already presented over 80 programs this year, with thousands of people young and old learning new and wonderful things about raptors and the environment.

**Book now and don't be left out!**

Contact Education Director Carin Avila at 970-484-7756 or Carin@rmp.org to set up an education program to fit any need.



*The Wyoming State Territorial Prison historic site hosted the RMRP for some awesome education!*

Common Barn Owl



American Kestrel



Ferruginous Hawk



Just to name a few!

Above photos by James Steele

# Birds of Prey Class



**Begins September 16th**

**6 Classes • 6 Topics**

**Register Now for Best Price**

**\$60 per class • \$300 for all six**

**Class 1: Anatomy and Physiology**  
Sept. 16th, 9am-2pm

**Class 2: Behavior**  
Sept. 23rd, 9am-2pm

**Class 3: ID of Hawks, Eagles, and Vultures**  
Oct. 7th, 9am-2pm

**Class 4: ID of Falcons, Kites, Osprey, Harrier, and Accipiters**  
Oct. 21st, 9am-2pm

**Class 5: ID of Owls**  
Nov. 4th, 9am-2pm

**Class 6: Raptor Watching Field Trip**  
Nov. 18th, 9am-4pm

**Register online at [www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org) or call 970-484-7756.**

## Patients That Need Your Support

**DONATE NOW**

## Give Hope



**Great Horned Owl**  
17-063

Hit by Car,  
Broken Jaw



**Red-tailed Hawk**  
17-016

Methane  
Flare Burns



**Swainson's Hawk**  
17-068

Hit by Car,  
Broken  
Wing

## UPCOMING EVENTS

See the raptors in action!



### July

<b>8-9th</b>	Steamboat Springs Art-in-the-Park @ West Lincoln Park, 9am-5pm
<b>15th</b>	The French Nest Fort Collins @ Civic Center Park, 9am-3pm
<b>29th</b>	Larimer County Farmer's Market @ Howes and Oak, Fort Collins, 8am-12pm

### August

<b>5th</b>	Larimer County Farmer's Market @ Howes and Oak, Fort Collins, 8am-12pm
<b>12-13th</b>	Loveland Art-in-the-Park @ West Lake Park, 10am-5pm
<b>20th</b>	Loveland Farmer's Market @ Fairgrounds Park, 9am-1:30pm
<b>26th</b>	OPEN HOUSE @ RMRP, 11am-3pm

## Easy Ways to Save a Life

Simple Support to Deliver Hope

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◇ Shop Amazon using Amazon Smile and a portion of your sale will benefit the RMRP at no cost to you.



◇ Purchase a gift card at Layne Labs. Just go to [www.laynelabs.com](http://www.laynelabs.com) and click on "Get Wild"!

**iGive.com**<sup>™</sup>

◇ Can't find what you need on Amazon? Try iGive! Choose the RMRP to benefit from your purchases at no cost to you.

**FIND MORE EVENTS ONLINE AT [WWW.RMRP.ORG](http://WWW.RMRP.ORG)**