2017 Annual Report
The Year in Review
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Review of Programs
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Rehabilitation • Education • Research
“Welcome to our mission, our lives, and our raptor family.”
-Lisa Winta, Assistant Director

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The Branches of Our Mission

Rehabilitation

A Second Chance at Freedom is the goal for every raptor that comes into our hospital. The RMRP staff of highly skilled, licensed raptor rehabilitators works closely with our veterinarians to ensure the highest quality care for every patient that needs our help.

Watching a raptor fly free after overcoming their injuries is the most joyous, encouraging reward for every ounce of effort it takes to return them to the skies.

For every set of wings that touch the skies again, we thank our supporters for providing us with a foundation upon which we can save lives each and every day.

Education

As the world changes around us, the need for education is now. We believe our passion for teaching others will inspire the love and appreciation of raptors and the spaces where they live: a vital way to save them.

“In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.”

- Baba Dioum, 1968

This quote is so very true, and we strive for others to understand the importance of raptors. They stir the soul like few other creatures, and their conservation creates safeguards for hundreds of other species in their habitats.

Research

We believe it is important to learn as much as possible about the raptors we care for and the diseases and hazards that affect them in the hopes of finding solutions to the problems they face.

Diligent work with energy companies, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and many other entities provides data for studies that will help us better protect the raptors we love.

The RMRP is involved in many projects—from genetic studies to testing powerline deterrents that protect birds from electrocution risk. We are always looking for ways to further our knowledge of raptors in order to have the best chance of conserving them.
One Last Message

A Warm Farewell

Thirty years ago, I became the Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. An instant and a life-time ago, I was charged with taking a student club studying raptor rehabilitation and turning it into a community resource that ensures excellence in raptor rehabilitation, education and research.

During those thirty years, the program has grown and thrived and developed an excellent reputation for its work in caring for injured birds of prey, its dedication to educating the people of our community about the wonders of wildlife in our world, and its efforts in finding solutions to the threats that birds of prey face in our region.

I am proud to have been part of this adventure, but the time has come for me to start a new journey. I am retiring, entrusting the mantle of Executive Director to our long-time staff member and Education Director, Carin Avila. Carin is uniquely qualified and is very excited to start this new path at the helm of the RMRP. I worked closely with Carin during the transition into her new role, and retired effective December 31, 2017.

I will still be around as Board Member Emeritus, serving with the Board of Directors and lending a hand as needed, and I look forward to still being a part of the RMRP’s future as I focus on other pursuits and spend time with my family.

I am excited about the direction of the RMRP, knowing that it moves forward with the same strength and passion that brought the organization this far. With the help of our wonderful supporters, I know the program has a bright future!

Warmest Regards,

Judy Scherpelz

Board Member Emeritus

Inspiring the appreciation and protection of raptors and the spaces where they live through excellence in rehabilitation, education, and research.
A 30-Year History

It began with a single hawk.

In 1979, an injured raptor was admitted to the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. At that time, there was no organized department to care for these creatures, so a student club was hatched that cared for a few raptors each year.

This club needed direction and funding, and in 1987 Judy Scherpelz took over to create the fledgling Rocky Mountain Raptor Program as we know it today.

1979

A student club was formed to care for raptors at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program was founded by Executive Director Judy Scherpelz.

1987

Left: One of the very first incarnations of the RMRP raptor enclosures.

1989

Left: The first enclosures at the Environmental Learning Center were built to house Educational Ambassador raptors in 1989.
Since 1987, nearly 6000 raptors have needed our help.

We eventually outgrew our space at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and the hospital also needed more space to expand their services. In 2004, the RMRP became its own 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and began our search for a new home.

In 2005, the RMRP purchased 27 acres of land on Vine Drive in Fort Collins. Temporary enclosures, raptor treatment areas, and offices were quickly erected and the RMRP moved to our new home in January 2007. This new space gave us room to stretch our wings and prepare for the next evolution of our future.

2004

The RMRP outgrows its current home, becomes a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and separates from CSU.

2007

The program moves to its new, temporary home on Vine Drive.

Left: Small offices are stacked to the ceiling—time for a new home!
Above: The tiny critical care room could hardly hold all of the patients, plus doubled as a storage room.

Left: Built during a year plagued by terrible snow storms, the enclosures at the new Vine Drive property were finally ready for the big move in January 2007.
Because of the belief of our supporters, we continue to grow.

The RMRP has faced many challenges in 30 years. From economic crashes that severely affected our supporters, and therefore our income; to epidemics like West Nile Virus and the burgeoning concern of Avian Influenza that caused a huge influx of patients or permanent, expensive changes to our biosecurity; to being at our “temporary” home for enough years now that it is in need of serious repairs...

...but because of you, we know that we can overcome any challenge. In our times of need you were always there for us so we can be there for raptors.

Hope for the Future

In partnership with the top museum and wildlife habitat designers in the United States, Rocky Mountain Raptor Program plans to build a wildlife center in the Fort Collins area that will become a destination for children and families from all over Colorado and from around the world, a place where visitors can celebrate life and all living things.

We hope our future will continue to include those who have supported our mission in the past. The dream to create a place where people can connect with nature and learn about raptors cannot be realized without those who believe in taking steps to better the world. With the help of our supporters, RMRP will continue to strive for excellence in rehabilitation, education and research.

Above: This conceptual plan demonstrates how the RMRP wants to improve our future—a facility that will help us inspire thousands and provide hope to wildlife.

2017 and Beyond
Service to Our Community

Making Strides in Raptor Protection and Conservation

Here are just some of the ways you have enabled RMRP to continue our mission to save wildlife. In 2017, the RMRP was able to take part in the following services to our community and environment:

**24/7 Emergency On-Call:** The RMRP is reachable every hour, every day of the year for people who have concerns about injured raptors. We also help direct people with other types of birds and animals to their closest licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

**Welfare Checks:** Many situations call for a professional eye to assess a raptor with a potential problem. Many of RMRP’s staff often drive out to do situation assessments when a concerned member of the public calls about a possibly injured or distressed raptor and we cannot resolve the incident over the phone. From young owls stuck in window wells, to downed trees possibly containing a nest of distressed nestling hawks, our team can help find a solution.

Golden Eagle
Photograph by Dan O’Donnell
Golden Eagle Rescue Network (GERN) - Partners for Raptor Transport: RMRP coordinates with GERN to respond immediately to help injured raptors in the Southeastern Wyoming area.

Raising Awareness: We strive to alert our surrounding community to problems that wildlife of our area face. We use outreach, educational conservation programs, and publications to help others understand how they can make a difference in wildlife conservation.

Professional Science Masters Program (CSU): Students that are part of the PSM in Zoo, Aquarium, and Animal Shelter Management have the opportunity to learn at the RMRP with our knowledgeable staff as mentors. Director Judy Scherpelz also teaches several classes for the students to expand their knowledge of wildlife non-profits.

Service to Our Community

Professional Workshops for Wildlife Professionals: RMRP hosts professional workshops providing education to energy companies, wildlife agencies, and environmental consulting firms, plus we consult with field operatives to help resolve and prevent conflicts with raptors.

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

-The Lorax, Dr. Seuss

Photograph by April Eisele
Service to Our Community

**Powerline Safety:** Raptor powerline deterrents and supplemental perches are tested at the RMRP using live raptors. This helps many companies understand how their designs will work to save wild raptors from electrocution and high voltage trauma risk.

**Colorado Wildlife Commission:** Rehabilitation Coordinator Michael Tincher works closely with wildlife commissioners and regularly attends commission meetings to help ensure that rehabilitation issues and raptor populations are considered in state regulations to best protect and serve wildlife.

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife Raptor Training:** Officers and volunteers at CPW are given training on identification and safe capture and transport of raptors so we can work together to ensure the best care for raptors in our area.

Thank you to those who help us give these amazing creatures the help they deserve.

Thanks to:
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Wyoming Game and Fish
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Colorado State University
- Avian and Exotics Department
- Westridge Animal Hospital
- Cheyenne Pet Clinic
- Teton Raptor Center
- EDM International, Inc.
- Powerline Sentry, Inc.
- Xcel Energy
- Noble Energy
- Poudre Valley REA
- Roe Ecological Services
- The Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority

Prairie Falcon
Photograph by Mark Fuller
Every day, a life depends on us.

Us, meaning the RMRP and YOU. Excellence in raptor rehabilitation comes from years of study, practice, and the sincere passion of our supporters.

The number of severe trauma cases has increased. More raptors are being hit by cars, burned by methane flares, poisoned by lead, and being forced by habitat loss into deficient hunting territories.

The average stay of a raptor that was returned to the wild was 87 days in 2017. 87 days to heal, recover, grow strong, and return home.

Of treatable raptors, nearly 80% were released back to the wild. Without you, without compassion, that number would be ZERO. Their lives were saved because someone cared, because someone didn’t give up. That someone is YOU.

“We will be armed with science, knowledge, and fortitude to battle any threat to these magnificent creatures that we have chosen to defend.”

-Michael Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator
## 2017 Rehabilitation Statistics

### Admission Species and Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Horned Owl</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swainson’s Hawk</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Kestrel</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper’s Hawk</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Barn Owl</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Eagle</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Screech Owl</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough-legged Hawk</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Eagle</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp-shinned Hawk</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saw-whet Owl</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Falcon</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Harrier</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-eared Owl</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferruginous Hawk</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowy Owl</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Goshawk</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burrowing Owl</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Number of Admissions: 272**

### Types of Injuries and Numbers

(Categories are not mutually exclusive)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head/Spinal Trauma</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emaciated</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit by Vehicle</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nile Virus</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window Strike</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Voltage Trauma</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Positive</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caught by Cat</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbed Wire</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunshot</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oiled</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methane Burns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leg Hold Trap</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The total number of Bird Care Days in 2017 was **10,691**.

For every day a bird is cared for by the RMRP, we count it as a “Bird Care Day.” The total number of Bird Care Days is calculated from the day the bird arrives to the day it is released back to the wild, or is humanely euthanized due to its injuries.
Above: For the first time in 30 years, a Snowy Owl was admitted to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program in December of 2017 from the Eastern plains of Colorado. He suffered from a broken wing, needing surgery, as well as being severely thin and traumatized. He would need lots of resources to recover.

Snowy Survival

Changing Climes, Changing Times

The winter of 2017/2018 saw an influx of Snowy Owls to the Colorado area. These “irruptions” are not fully understood, but every few years a large number of these birds come further south during their migration than normal.

The owls that were pushed this far south were not doing well. Some reports found them dead, some disappeared, and one special creature was rescued by the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program after probably being hit by a car.

Seriously thin and traumatized, it took several days for the bird to stabilize. A broken wing didn’t help matters, making the bird painful and scared. The break was in a bad area, right next to a joint. It wouldn’t stabilize so it could begin healing, so a surgery was needed to keep the bone in place.

This immature male Snowy Owl has used many resources: the skilled hands of RMRP staff, the funding for expensive surgeries, nutritious food to help him grow strong, medication to keep him comfortable, heat discs to keep him warm, the list goes on.

These are common injuries on an uncommon bird. We are grateful to those who helped support his care in 2017, and we hope more will come to the aid of all the raptors we care for. He received his Second Chance at Freedom because of your support and belief.
Fueling Change

The RMRP’s Education and Outreach programs are essential to the future health of our community and the environment. In 30 years, the RMRP has reached over 17 million people with our conservation message. Stimulating minds, inspiring change, and protecting raptors begins with the efforts each of us take to make the world better.

“Every day, I am honored to be the voice of these amazing creatures. When I see their magnificence reflected in the eyes of others, I am moved to renew my fight for them.”

-Jessica Miller, Education Coordinator
2017 Education & Outreach Statistics

Types of Programs and Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal Programs</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Tours</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Educational Outreach</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Number of Education and Outreach Days: 242

“Inspiring change is the greatest reward I could ever imagine.”
-Bonnie Cleaver, Educational Ambassador Coordinator

Photograph by David Terbush
Better than presents under the tree.

Three non-descript wooden boxes. Nothing fancy, and yet they draw attention in the way that first wrapped present under the tree can. Hushed voices, barely containing the curiosity, run through the 3rd graders sitting on the gym floor in not so neat rows.

I’m at O’Dea Elementary School for an educational program. As I share with the children what makes a bird a raptor, the focus is unwavering. But quickly the students’ intense curiosity becomes impatience as the boxes remain still and silent, the mystery hidden inside eagerly awaited.

A volunteer steps up to the first wooden box, pulls a thick glove over her hand, and unlatches the door. The hush from the students is heavy with excitement.

With a flourish the door to the box swings wide and into view comes an imposing great horned owl. Cries of “Wow!” “Oh!” “Look!” and “It’s beautiful!” echo around the gym.

Most of the kids have never seen an owl, and certainly not this close. They listen keenly to the story of how she was injured and how great horned owls survive in the wild.

There is disappointment when I say it’s time for us to go. But no emotion runs stronger than enthusiasm; it lies like a blanket over the whole room.

There’s enthusiasm for learning more, enthusiasm for sharing what they’ve learned, and enthusiasm to complete the challenge I leave them with, to find one way each day to help ourselves and the raptors through reducing, reusing and recycling.

The brown boxes are loaded onto a cart and we begin to roll it away while dozens of eyes follow us. Those eyes are lit up with the joy of their unforgettable experience and the knowledge that they hold the power to make our world a better place.

It’s just a simple brown wooden box, but it’s what inside that matters the most.

Jessica Miller
Education Coordinator

Above: A row of non-descript boxes contains the inspiration for change.

Below: Educational Ambassador Female Great Horned Owl—a teacher that will never be forgotten.
2017 Research

Providing More Data to Save Lives

Research is a way for the RMRP to help increase the world’s knowledge of raptors and the environment. We are involved in several ongoing projects, and we hope our contributions will continue to advance the conservation of raptors and the places they live.

Papers

Using Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to Quantify Synthetic Baling Twine-Entanglement Risk in Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Nests—*In Review*—by James F. Dwyer and Michael C. Tincher

Raptor Research Conference

The RMRP was proud to have Rehabilitation Coordinator Michael Tincher present a poster at the Raptor Research Foundation Conference in 2017. This poster detailed the problems facing nesting Osprey and baling twine. They often use the twine to build nests, then get tangled in it. Many die. In partnership with James Dwyer of EDM International, Tincher has begun using drones in a study of baling twine in Osprey nests. We are very hopeful this data will help save Osprey from entanglement injuries and deaths.

“We are proud to contribute to the understanding of raptors. We hope this knowledge can make a difference to raptor populations on the brink.”

-Gail Kratz, Rehabilitation Director

Red-tailed Hawk
Photograph by Craig Meurer
Projects

Primary investigators listed in parentheses.

- Measurement data supporting the ongoing study of the taxonomic status of the Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk. (Allen and Clarke)
- Data collection for raptor electrocutions, electric shock victims, and methane flare burner injuries. (Harness, EDM)
- Survey of lead levels in raptors of Colorado. (RMRP)
- Raptor carcasses are sent to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to become a part of their tissue bank for genetic population studies.
- Specimens are also sent to the University of Northern Colorado to be used for teaching and education.
- Effectiveness of raptor exclusion devices and supplemental perches to prevent raptor electrocutions. (EDM)
- West Nile Virus surveillance. (CDPHE)
- Wing measurements for dimension of raptors on electric utility poles. (RMRP)
- Monitoring of Avian Influenza in raptors. (USDA APHIS)
- Nationwide monitoring of lead levels in eagles. (Vince Slabe, West Virginia University)
- RMRP is proud to host the 2019 Raptor Research Foundation Conference.
## 2017 Income Report

Analysis of Income and Expenditures

### RMRP Income & Expense Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Gifts</td>
<td>$290,704</td>
<td>$299,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$71,777</td>
<td>$85,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Support</td>
<td>$19,456</td>
<td>$18,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auction</td>
<td>$84,260</td>
<td>$86,947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchandise Sales</td>
<td>$26,624</td>
<td>$31,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Fees</td>
<td>$22,980</td>
<td>$32,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$982</td>
<td>$1,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$516,783</strong></td>
<td><strong>$555,004</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation &amp; Research</td>
<td>$207,004</td>
<td>$230,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$124,803</td>
<td>$135,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$68,851</td>
<td>$77,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>$69,034</td>
<td>$79,851</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$469,692</strong></td>
<td><strong>$552,875</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beginning Balance       | $12,216  | $49,577  |

**ENDING BALANCE**       | **$49,577** | **$32,095** |
## Balance Sheet

**December 31, 2017**

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$119,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed (net of depreciation)</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>$1,176,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,295,556</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities & Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$9,651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Term Liabilities</td>
<td>$959,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>$345,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,314,858</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“You can be assured that your donations are making a difference. You are a hero to a life in need.”

-Carin Avila, Executive Director
These graphs show one of the biggest challenges the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program faces:

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

An unstable and unpredictable income makes it extremely hard to balance resources. This is a problem we have faced every year, and while we have learned to adapt, we hope our supporters will help us take the next step forward.

You can fix this funding instability easily. By signing up for a monthly donation, you create a strong platform that we can depend on when injured raptor admissions soar.

We hope to gain at least 10 more monthly donors in the next year. If you can add to our foundation, please visit us at www.rmrp.org/donate or call us at 970-484-7756 to set up a monthly pledge.
Over 100 volunteers donated their time to the RMRP in 2017. These volunteers are an invaluable resource that allows the RMRP to function well beyond its means.

### 2017 Hours Volunteered: 34,558

A fulltime job is approximately 2087 hours a year, so volunteers contribute the equivalent hours of 17 fulltime employees.

Hiring 17 employees, even at minimum wage, is beyond our capability. In this way, volunteer labor saved $352,491.60 in 2017, not including any extra taxes, insurance, and benefits that would apply if we needed to hire employees to fulfill all our needs.

This community effort means the RMRP can provide services well above what it can currently finance. We are extraordinarily proud of the time, effort, and love these amazing people devote to raptors.

**Want to get involved?** Visit www.rmrp.org/volunteer to learn how you can become hands-on at the RMRP.
The Barn Owl Bureau recognizes RMRP volunteers who have gone beyond the call of duty to raise over $1000 in funds for the RMRP, have given over 10 years of volunteer service to the RMRP, or gave the most number of volunteer hours in the previous year.

John Adams  Pat Gifford
Piper Aune  Loene McIntyre
Neal Bauer  Natalie Gros-Potter
Jenny Berven  Britta Pohlman
Catherine Burns  Stephen Scheid
Amanda Burton  Jeff Stark
Kimmi Chevalier  Becca Stock
Jeane Darst  Amanda Sutton
Carol Dollard  Sarah Webb
Barb Duffner
Leah Geurts
A Culture of Stewardship

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program wishes to thank the following donors who have dedicated themselves to the rehabilitation of injured raptors, the education of the public, and research to help change the world.

To become a part of one of the following societies, visit us at www.rmrp.org/donate to see how you can make an impact for the future.

“I feel like our donors are family. They are always there for us when we need it most.”

-Lynsey Reed, Director of Donor Relations
The Aerie Society is a cornerstone giving community that includes donors who have given $1000 or more to the RMRP in 2017.
Freedom’s Refuge

Freedom’s Refuge is a lifetime giving society that recognizes donors who have supported the RMRP throughout its 30 year history.

We sincerely thank everyone that has made the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program a refuge for raptors in need. The following pages acknowledge those who have given $5,000 or more to the RMRP in their lifetime.
Eagle’s Stronghold
Lifetime Giving of $100,000 +

Rosana Guimaraes
Monfort Family Foundation
Mortimer Charitable Lead Trust
Mary K. Stallings Trust
The Powell Foundation
Peregrine’s Preserve
Lifetime Giving of $50,000 +

Elizabeth Bassett
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“They can’t fight for themselves, so we must fight for them.”

-Carrie Laxson, Rehabilitation Assistant
The dedication of these individuals, backed by the support of generous donors, has enabled the RMRP to become the leading raptor rescue and rehabilitation facility in the region.

Staff Members:

Judy Scherpelz, Executive Director
Carin Avila, Executive Director/Education Director
Lisa Winta, Assistant Director
Gail Kratz, Rehabilitation Director
Michael Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator
Jessica Miller, Education Coordinator
Bonnie Cleaver, Educational Ambassador Coordinator
Lynsey Reed, Donor Relations Director
Carrie Laxson, Rehabilitation Assistant
Ashley Hagenloh, Rehabilitation Associate

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How You Can Help

By becoming a supporter of the RMRP, you can ensure the future of our mission. Supporters at every level build the base upon which we build our mission.

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Go to www.rmrp.org/donate to generate immediate resources for the RMRP.

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You can be a foundation for RMRP to stretch our message even further. Sponsorship opportunities are available for our photo calendar project, annual gala dinner and benefit auction, community outreach events, and much more.

Shop Smart:

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Join the Legacy of Freedom Society:

By adding the RMRP to your will or estate, you can ensure a future for the creatures we care for in generations to come.

Become a Volunteer:

You can see what our volunteers do to aid the RMRP on a daily basis by checking out our volunteer program online.

...AND SHARE. Your love of raptors can inspire others to join our life-saving mission.

Verreaux’s Eagle Owl
Photograph by Paul Walker
New Director’s Message

Soaring Ever Higher

2017 is a year of celebration, of reaching new heights and looking back at how far we have flown. We bid the fondest of farewells to our founding Executive Director, Judy Scherpelz, who is retiring after 30 years of being our leader. As the new Executive Director, I aspire to lead the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program as warmly and passionately as Judy has.

In 30 years, we have grown beyond our humble beginnings. In 1987, we saw 47 injured raptors, while 2017 brought 272 lives into our care. 30 years ago, we presented 15 educational programs to spread our mission. This year we devoted 242 days of educational outreach to our environmental education efforts. In 1987, we were a part of one research project, but 2017 saw us submitting data to ten huge research efforts.

Each year we push a little more, each year we work a little harder. Each year, you help us take one more wing beat to reach the top of the mountain.

The effort each of us give toward this mission makes a huge difference. Year to year we keep growing, we keep saving lives, we keep changing lives. Join me in making Judy proud in 2018, as we continue to make her legacy soar.

Warmest Regards,

Carin Avila

Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

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American Kestrel Photograph by Dan O’Donnell

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