



Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program
a second chance at freedom

Photo by Craig Meurer

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On the WING

“Protected” Does Not Mean “Safe”

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

Establishment of a Federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to “pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill. . .possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped. . . or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird.” (16 U.S.C. 703)



Above: New interpretation of the MBTA will mean RMRP patients, like this oiled Swainson’s Hawk, will not have legal recourse. More birds can be injured by the same oil waste pits without the companies having to change a thing.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) has protected wild birds for 100 years. It has prevented the unnecessary killing and capture, and even extinction, of hundreds of bird species, including raptors.

A new interpretation of the MBTA has taken away the power to prosecute the “take” (or killing) of birds if the activity that caused the death was not “intended” to kill the birds. It decreases the incentive to do “what is right” for wildlife.

This means that companies responsible for horrific events like oil spills can no longer be prosecuted for the killing of thousands of birds. Birds that are killed by wind turbines, oil production, powerlines, fishing nets, and hundreds of other “unintentional” causes will never see justice.

The many steps forward that have been made by the MBTA will be halted. Without the power to prosecute, there will not be an effort to prevent needless deaths. There will no longer be a reason to search for and find solutions to the human-caused injuries and deaths these creatures face.

What you can do:

Write to your congressperson about your concerns that the new interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will cause the unnecessary death and suffering of birds. Encourage them to reinstate the original intent of the MBTA: to keep all birds safe from the negligence of humans.

Together, we can fight for their lives.

Sharing is Caring

Cooperative Rehabilitation Saves Lives

Did you know that the RMRP works closely with other rehabilitation centers? We not only exchange knowledge, sometimes we exchange raptors! Not every center is built the same, and sometimes a patient comes in that has very specific needs.

Our good friends at Teton Raptor Center in Jackson Hole, WY sometimes need to test the flight capabilities of their patients in ways that their current facility cannot support. These patients are transferred to the RMRP, and they can be conditioned and flight tested in our large flight enclosures. We are happy to help more raptors return to the wild, regardless of where they came from.

The RMRP often sends Mississippi Kites to our friends at the Pueblo Raptor Center. Kites are very social, and don't do well if they are alone. RMRP does not see many kite patients, especially at the same time. Kites are very common in Pueblo, and they are happy to take our single kite patients to add to their kite collective. This makes for much happier kites!

Through the help of our friends we can all save more lives.



Above: This Golden Eagle was transferred to the RMRP from the Teton Raptor Center for flight conditioning and flight testing.

Baby Season

Is the Busiest (and Cutest) Season



Above: All of these young raptors were rescued by the RMRP this spring and summer. All will grow up in our care before they are released to the wild.

The phone is ringing off the hook! It's the time of year when young raptors are the most active, and make up the highest percentage of admissions. About 50% of our annual caseload is hatch-year raptors that need our help.

Just out of the nest, young raptors use the entire world as their jungle gym while they are building up flight muscles and learning how to be a raptor. Many of the calls we receive are about young birds just doing what young birds do. It does seem rather weird to find an owl sitting on your picnic table, but fledglings do all kinds of silly things as they learn the world around them.

Some of these youngsters get into trouble as they are testing their flight skills for the first time. We have removed young owls from window wells, rescued a kestrel from a motorcycle engine, and shoo-ed countless hawks out of the middle of the road.

When these youngsters run into trouble they can't handle, the RMRP is there for them. If they are injured, separated from their parents, or their nest is destroyed before they are old enough to fly, they can grow up with us. Once they are ready to take on the wild, we release them to begin their Second Chance at Freedom. When life in the wild has gotten too hard for these young raptors, the RMRP is there. You are, too.

Looking For: Tree Lovers!

Each year, the RMRP Giving Tree fundraiser brings in almost a quarter of the day-to-day items we need to run our program from our wish list.

We are looking for businesses and other locations that would like to host one of these trees.

Each tree is decorated with ornaments. The ornaments list an item that the RMRP needs to continue our mission like laundry soap, kitchen scissors, and bleach. The tree comes with a donation box for these items, or donors can drop them off at the RMRP.

Would you host a tree this year? Trees are set up, decorated, and taken down by our volunteers. We have everything from 6-foot trees to table top displays. Call us at 970-484-7756 if you can give some of your space to an RMRP Giving Tree!



Owl-O-WEEN!! October 27, 2018 1-3pm

One of our most popular events of the year is fast approaching!

- ◇ 720 E. Vine Drive, Fort Collins, CO
- ◇ Indoors: no need to worry about the weather!
- ◇ Trick-or-Treating
- ◇ Owls, owls, and more OWLS!!
- ◇ Carrion Corner featuring our favorite Turkey Vulture
- ◇ Snakes, spiders, lizards, and SO much more!



2018 Birds of Prey Class Series



Birds of Prey Class 2018

Five Topics
Five Classes

One amazing experience



Registration is Open!

This series of classes, taught by Executive Director Carin Avila, is an in-depth, robust seminar all about birds of prey. Take one class, or take all five for the most comprehensive experience. All classes run from 9am-2pm.

- ◇ **Class 1:** September 15, 2018. Anatomy and Physiology—Construction of a Predator.
- ◇ **Class 2:** September 29, 2018. Identification: Buteos, Eagles, and Vultures.
- ◇ **Class 3:** October 20, 2018. Identification: Accipiters, Falcons, Harriers, Osprey, and Kites.
- ◇ **Class 4:** November 3, 2018. Identification: Owls. Our most popular class!
- ◇ **Class 5:** November 17, 2018. Field Observation, Birding Tour.

Classes are \$60 each or take all five for a discounted price of \$275. Register online now at www.rmrp.org.

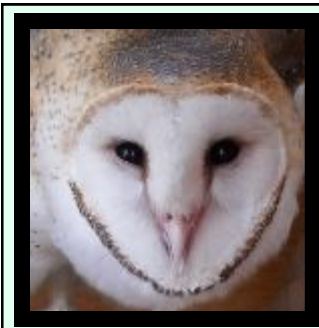
Staff: Carin Avila, Executive Director. Lisa Winta, Assistant Director/Volunteer Coordinator. Gail Kratz, Rehabilitation Director. Mike Tincher, Rehabilitation Coordinator. Lynsey Reed, Donor Relations Director. Jessica Miller, Education and Outreach Coordinator. Bonnie Cleaver, Education Avian Coordinator.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

Board of Directors: Judy Scherpelz (Board Member Emeritus), Rick Snow, Susan Baker, Robert Gregory, and Dyanne Willow.

Gratitude Report

Your Passion in Action

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program cannot thank our supporters enough—you make miracles happen for raptors in need. We wanted to give you a small update on ways you have saved lives recently.



I was severely thin and covered in parasites. \$5/day gave me the nutritious food I needed to recover. \$20 purchased the medicine to help me get rid of the nasty parasites in my feathers. I returned home!



I was hit by a car. \$10 bought the bandages that helped heal my broken wing. \$100 ensured that I received skilled critical care during my most desperate time.



I had spinal trauma. \$25 gave me oxygen treatment when I struggled to breathe. \$50 gave me pain medication to help me get through my injury. Today I am standing and learning to fly again!

These are just three of the over 100 raptors that have already been rescued this year. These are just three of the lives that you have touched with your kindness.

We are not supported by any government agency, college, or humane organization. We are supported by you, our greatest friends, in our mission to save raptor lives and enrich human lives.

You can find more ways you can help using the enclosed envelope, or follow us online:



Rocky Mountain Raptor Program-RMRP

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



The 1987 Campaign

The **1987 Campaign**, 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.

We need \$20,000 a month just to keep our basic expenses paid. Currently, we have \$2650 in monthly donations from 70 amazing people who have committed to a monthly gift.

Our goal is to enlist enough donors to cover \$10,000 (or half) of our monthly expenses by the end of 2018. At this time, we still need \$7,350 in pledges to meet our goal.

Can't commit to a monthly donation? Pass this newsletter on—you never know who you might inspire!



Join the 1987 Campaign:

Visit us at www.rmrp.org/donate and set up a recurring donation through PayPal. You can also give us a call at 970-484-7756 to set up your ideal donation!

Or return this form using the enclosed envelope to be a part of our strongest foundations!

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I want to donate:

\$9.87 monthly \$19.87 monthly \$98.70 monthly

Other Amount monthly: _____

Charge my card: Visa Mastercard Discover

Name on card: _____

Number on card: _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-Digit Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Contact me about setting up an Electronic Funds Transfer

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.