



Rocky Mountain RAPTOR Program

a second chance at freedom

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Photo by TJ Holoun

ON THE

Wing

Saving Lives is Simple No Capes Required!

Take a look at how you can save lives by doing a few simple things in your day-to-day life:

- **Pick up and recycle baling twine.** Each year, Osprey are injured and killed by becoming entangled in baling twine.
- **Use lead-alternative ammunition.** Lead contaminates the environment and kills predatory/scavenging animals when they ingest lead-containing carcasses.
- **Keep your cat inside.** Outdoor cats are devastating to wildlife, including raptors.
- **Cover it up!** Liquid waste in any form (especially oil) looks like a solid surface to birds, who land on it and drown or become poisoned by the contents.
- **Report problem power lines.** Power companies can save mitigate high voltage injuries and deaths by installing deterrents or alternate platforms for nesting birds.
- **Install decals on windows.** If you frequently have birds striking your windows, check out places like Collidescape.org for decals that are clear from the inside and opaque outside.
- **Remember, raptors are a protected species.** Shooting or injuring a raptor is illegal. Why do we still need to list this? Gunshot is still one of the top five preventable injuries.



Left: Osprey entangled in baling twine admitted to RMRP in July 2019.

Preventable Raptor Admission Injuries 2014-2019

Injury	Victims
Window Strike	63
High Voltage Trauma	49
Lead Positive	41
Gunshot	27
Caught by Cat	25
Methane Burn	9
Oiled	7
Illegal Kill-Traps	5

All about: OWLS

Owls Take Over RMRP

What it takes to get them home

Learn how the RMRP makes sure each young owl gets the best start possible.

Natural History

What's best for baby

Barn Owls live hard, fast, and often short lives. They breed by having 6-10 babies in one clutch, and sometimes have multiple clutches in a year. Barn Owl parents provide 5-7 small mammals PER BABY every night. The kids grow VERY fast, and as soon as they are able to fly, parental oversight ends.

Great Horned Owls have an opposite strategy. They have a small clutch of 2-3 babies that they care for intensely from March to nearly November.

Baby Owls in Rehabilitation

Making sure they grow up right

When we receive calls about baby owls in distress, the number one goal is to reunite the kids with their parents. For Great Horned Owls, that might mean putting up a basket to act as a new nest. For Barn Owls, we have nest boxes (to replicate the cavities Barn Owls prefer) to rehome the whole family.

Over 50% of the kids in our care had their homes destroyed by humans. These youngsters were unable to be reunited with their parents, so instead they grew up in the care of the RMRP.

The baby Barn Owls at the RMRP need LOTS of food to grow quickly, just as they would in the wild. We also give them a leg-up by giving them practice time with live prey in "Mouse School" before they are released.

Baby Great Horned Owls have been with us since March/April. Their release will be in late summer/early fall. The release is called a "soft (or hack) release", and the babies are trained to go to a "Hack Box" in their enclosure for food. We continue to provide food in the Hack Box, and this supports the young owls as they learn to hunt. In the wild, their parents would feed the immature birds in a similar way.

Thank you to everyone who joined the #Iamahero Food Drive. These youngsters will go through over 742 lbs of food before they leave us. We are thankful for your support for these amazing raptor kids!



Photo courtesy of Cheyenne Pet Clinic

Above: Two days-old Great Horned Owlets had their nest cut down. They grew up at the RMRP.



Above: Bucket full of baby Barn Owls whose nest cavity in a pile of hay bales was accidentally destroyed. A nest box was put up nearby and the family was able to stay together.

Birds of Prey

5 CLASS SERIES

Take one to learn something new or take all five for the most in-depth experience!

Register before Sept. 13
and get all 5 classes for \$275.
(A \$25 discount!)

Or, individual classes
are \$60 each.

2019

Class Schedule

All classes run from 9am-2pm

Golden Eagle by Craig Meurer

Class 1

Construction of a Predator September 14, 2019

This class explores the anatomy and physiology of raptors, and how these amazing creatures work.

Class 2

Identification of Buteos, Eagles, and Vultures September 28, 2019

Soar higher with a full day of learning how to identify the common species of hawks (buteos), eagles and vulture that occur in Colorado. LIVE Educational Ambassador raptors will aid on your ID!

Class 3

Identification of Falcons, Harriers, Osprey, Accipiters, and Kites October 19, 2019

Sail through a heavy overview of the falcon, accipiter, and kite species of Colorado, plus the Harriers and Osprey that live in our state. LIVE Educational Ambassador raptors will be in the classroom to help you get your identification perfect.

Class 4

Identification of Owls November 2, 2019

Listen and learn about Colorado's owls, where to find them, and how to tell them apart. LIVE Educational Ambassador owls will be a part of the classroom experience - one of a kind! This is our most popular class.

Class 5

Field Observation November 16, 2019

The last class in the series tests your observation and identification skills. You will be taken on a guided tour of Northern Colorado with raptor professionals to help you ID these amazing birds in the field and on the wing!

Registration required and spaces are limited.
Go online at www.rmrp.org or call 970-484-4456.

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

Board of Directors: Carin Avila, Susan Baker, Robert Gregory, Judy Scherpelz, and Dyanne Willow.



Making a Difference

IN FOUR EASY STEPS

1 Helps Spread the Word

Your shares = More raptor love

Every time you share a Facebook post, Tweet, or Insta photo, you are spreading the love .
#rmrp #weloveyoutoo



Rocky Mountain Raptor Program-RMRP



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Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

3 Lend a Hand

Many hands make light work

A helping hand can take many forms. Check out all the different ways you can take wing at the RMRP!

- **Enroll your King Soopers card** for Community Rewards. A portion of your purchase will benefit the RMRP.
- **Shop using Amazon Smile.** Same Amazon, but a part of your purchase comes to the RMRP.
- **Save your change.** Last year nearly \$700 was donated in coins from change jars!
- **Make a donation.** Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website at www.rmrp.org.
- **Become a volunteer.** We are always in need of volunteers.

You can find all the details by visiting www.rmrp.org/donate/other-ways-to-help.

2 Come See Us!

We want to meet you and your friends!

Do you know the feeling of seeing one of the RMRP Educational Ambassadors face-to-face? *Breathtaking.* Their very presence inspires love for wild creatures. Bring your family and friends to our next event, or schedule a behind-the-scenes tour!



Above: Find times to visit us on our online calendar at www.rmrp.org/news/events.

4 SHARE

This newsletter and your passion

Pass on this newsletter, or ask a friend to join our mailing list. Inspire others with your love for wildlife and wild places.

CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU!!



Scan the code to the left to join our e-news mailing list, or text "RAPTOR" to 22828. Text and data rates may apply.

We told you it was easy!

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.