



Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program
a second chance at freedom

ON THE *Wing*



Photo by Rosemary Donovan

VOLUME 38
NUMBER 3
FALL 2019

Welcome!

Merlin Joins Education Team

We are excited to have you meet the newest member of our Educational Ambassador raptor team, a beautiful Merlin!

Merlins are a small falcon that breed in the arctic and overwinter in the US. You can find them in Colorado in the winter months, typically on the plains and in the foothills.

This beautiful falcon was rescued in 2016 by the Great Basin Wildlife Rescue in Utah. She suffered a badly broken and infected left "wrist" area of her wing. The tip of her wing was pinioned (amputated) to save her life.

She has spent the last couple of years at The Urban Interface in Texas as an Educational Ambassador until they sadly had to shut their doors.

We are so happy that we can give her a new home here at the RMRP, and you should start seeing her appear at our educational programs soon!

Thank You...

To Melinda Jordan, Don Dolce, Certified Flight Instructor, and many others who helped fly this Merlin from College Station, TX to Longmont, CO. We're sure she appreciated the much shorter travel time of a flight vs. being a car for several hours!

Right: *This Merlin falcon just joined our Educational Ambassador team!*



Harlan's Hawk



A 22 YEAR SUCCESS

Red-tailed Hawks

A "Tail" of Subspecies

For such a "common" species, the Red-tailed Hawk has a bewildering variety differences between individuals. Some of these variants are being studied to see if they should be officially classified as different species.

One of the most studied Red-tailed Hawk variants is the Harlan's Hawk, a very striking, dark colored morph that occurs throughout the US.



Above Left: Iconic Red-tailed Hawk tail. Above Right: The variable and unique tail of a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk.

22 Years Ago

A Harlan's Was Admitted to RMRP

Twenty-two years ago, a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk was rescued by the RMRP. She was pretty lucky, and only had some soft-tissue trauma that quickly healed. She was banded and returned to the wild after a short stay in our rehabilitation program.

Raptors released from the RMRP receive a metal band on their leg with a unique number from the Bird Banding Lab. If the bird is found later, the number can be reported to the banding lab. This practice has helped us record over 30 years of data such as:

- How long did the raptor survive after rehabilitation? This has helped us refine and improve our techniques to make sure each and every raptor has the best chance at life in the wild.
- Where did the raptor go after it was released? This can help researchers learn about migration patterns, preferred habitat, and much more!

We recently received news that the Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk from twenty-two years ago was found in Canada, alive and thriving! She was caught by a researcher studying Harlan's, and her faded metal band connected her to the RMRP.

This big girl is currently the oldest recorded wild Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk. What an amazing raptor!! We hope her information can help researchers in their quest to better understand the beautiful and diverse species that is the Red-tailed Hawk.



Photo courtesy of Mike Blom

Above: Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk captured by researchers in Canada was banded after rehabilitation at the RMRP....22 years ago!

Coming Up

BRAND NEW FOR YOU:



Holiday Open House Don't Miss This Special Opportunity

With our facility only able to be open a few times a year, we hope you can join us for the Holiday Open House on December 14, 2019 from 11am-3pm.

Meet the Educational Ambassador Raptors, peruse the education exhibits, and swing by the gift shop for some holiday gifts.



RMRP *Exclusive*

From **SilverHawk Studios** for sale by the RMRP: the uniquely beautiful feather of the **Turkey Vulture** carved from bone and hand-painted.

Described as a lustrous black feather with purple iridescence, faded to a gentle grey tip.

Find it **ONLY** at the RMRP—pick one up at the Open House!

27th Annual GALA DINNER AND BENEFIT AUCTION

To be held February 29th, 2020 from 5-10pm

Venue:

Fort Collins Hilton
425 W. Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Tickets On Sale:

January 1, 2020 @ www.rmrp.org

You're invited! We hope you will be part of this very special fundraiser and celebration of raptors and wildlife.

Tickets:

Early bird (1/1/20—1/31/20): \$60.00
Advanced Sale (2/1/20-2/4/20): \$65.00
At the Door (2/29/20): \$80.00
Table of 10 with *Priority Seating*: \$600.00

To Donate an Item:

Item donations will be accepted until February 1, 2020 for the 2020 Gala. Donations after that date will be featured in the 2021 Gala. Donation forms can be found on our website at www.rmrp.org. Please contact Lisa Winta at Lisa@rmrp.org or 970-484-7756 to set up a drop off time for your item, or to arrange to have an item picked up.

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.

Dare to Share:

GIVING BACK FEELS GOOD

Enhance the World Your Passion Can Do More

In a time when it seems like the environment is always in last place, you are more important than ever. We know that it can feel overwhelming, "I'm just one person, how can I make a difference?"

Well, here it is: Step 1—Share this newsletter

It might seem like such a small act, but remember that a fire starts with a single spark. It's only through the brightness of a thousand sparks that the world can become a better place. Sharing something that you are passionate about, like the RMRP, can inspire others.

Step 2: Make a Daily Difference

- ◇ *Learn something new* (about anything!).
- ◇ *Reduce* your footprint. Even small steps make a difference: change to a re-useable items instead of single-use plastics, turn lights off when not at home, walk or bike somewhere once a week instead of driving. It all adds up!
- ◇ *Re-use* something. Even washing and reusing a Ziploc bag counts!
- ◇ *Recycle*. Challenge yourself to recycle in new and creative ways. Did you know that the city of Fort Collins has a "hard to recycle" drop-off? Find it at www.fcgov.com/recycling/dropoff.



Step 3: Join us for Colorado Gives Day

December 10, 2019, Colorado Gives Day is your opportunity to make your gifts go farther. The Community First Foundation offers incentive funds and bonus drawings for non-profits that receive donations through the Colorado Gives Day website on December 10th. Every gift qualifies the RMRP for a higher percentage of the incentive funds!

You can schedule your donation as early as November 1st at www.coloradogives.org.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RMRP:



Rocky Mountain Raptor Program-RMRP



@RaptorProgram



rockymountainraptorprogram



Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

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.

REHABILITATION • EDUCATION • RESEARCH