



# On the Wing

## Newsletter Fall 2021

### With You

### We can weather the storm

The spring of 2021 began with large amounts of snowfall and rain. This created one of the greenest springs and summers Northern Colorado has seen in years. With the abundance of vegetation came a boom in the population of small mammals, insects, and song birds...aka prey.

During this time, humans were still in lockdown or in quarantine waiting (im)patiently for our COVID vaccinations or simply staying home to avoid the virus.

**These conditions created the perfect setting for a boom in raptor populations, and we have seen a chain reaction at RMRP.**

*Raptors thrived this spring* with an abundance of prey and a lack of human interaction which gave space for the mating pairs to produce above-average clutch sizes in the nest, which then fledged an enormous number of inexperienced young to begin their lives in the wild.

Then the young, naïve raptors and the torrent of wet weather, gave the window of opportunity for the abundance of mosquitos to bring West Nile Virus cases to the forefront over the summer months at a higher rate this year than last.

*With the confluence of these factors, RMRP has had the busiest summer that we have seen in years.* This has also set us on track for one of the top three record admission years in our 34-year history. With the astounding amount of immature raptors that have been taken from the skies, along with adults, we have **received over 25 new raptor patients in a given week that need your help.**

As humans cautiously begin to return to our “pseudo-normal” lives, RMRP is still maintaining vigilance of COVID precautions due to break-through cases and guidelines set forth by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Our volunteer numbers are limited and with our small but mighty staff, **we are all working an unprecedented number of hours to give quality care** for our patients, Educational Ambassador raptors, and not to mention our outreach for education and fundraising in this inordinately busy summer.

**Your aid gives RMRP the ability to save these lives. Find your favorite way to give a Second Chance at Freedom at [www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org).**

#### Rocky Mountain Raptor Program Mission Statement:

We strive to inspire the appreciation and protection of raptors and the spaces where they live through excellence in rehabilitation, education, and research.

The RMRP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

[WWW.RMRP.ORG](http://WWW.RMRP.ORG)



# I Survived

## Red-tailed Hawk hit-by-car, stuck in grill, survives and returns to the wild.

It seemed almost impossible when a call came in to our 24/7 Raptor Emergency Line in May of 2021. A Red-tailed Hawk had been hit by a car so mercilessly that he almost disappeared into the vehicle's grill. When the Good Samaritans sent us the photo, we couldn't believe he was still alive! We would like to thank Colorado Parks & Wildlife Officer, Mike Grooms for transporting this raptor to us.

*The hawk was underweight*, probably because he had an old injury to his left shoulder which made it hard for him to hunt. As a result, he most certainly was scavenging roadkill as an easy meal when he was hit, resulting in **additional trauma** to his left shoulder and many wounds on his chest.

The Red-tail had many strikes against him but it was our duty to ensure he had every chance to return to the wild. He went through many months of healing and physical therapy. During his time of recuperation at RMRP, this hawk served outstanding double duty as a patient and a role model. While healing, he helped rear baby Red-tailed Hawks, demonstrating raptors could be fierce and formidable in every way despite any challenges they may face.

**Following over 100 days in rehabilitation, this hawk regained full use of his damaged wing. He received his Second Chance at Freedom with a glorious return to the wild.**

Check out our YouTube Channel and other social media for the video of his release. Scan the code to the right for our Linktree or visit [www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org).



Rocky Mountain Raptor Program—Contact Us

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**Website:** [www.rmrp.org](http://www.rmrp.org)  
**Email:** [info@rmrp.org](mailto:info@rmrp.org)

*Right Now...*

## West Nile Virus is devastating young raptors.

- 20 tests have been positive for West Nile Virus.
- 11 tests are still pending, but will likely be positive.
- The most common species affected have been Cooper's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and Swainson's Hawks.

## *Adopt-A-Raptor*

### EXCLUSIVE: Support the Care of Raptors with West Nile Virus

Until the end of November, we are running an Adopt-A-Raptor special! Help with the critical care of these very sick young raptors by purchasing one of these special packages on the RMRP online shop. All proceeds from these packages will go toward these young raptors that need your help recovering from West Nile Virus.

### *Base Package: \$25*

**Choose:** Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk or Swainson's Hawk.

The base package includes an *adoption certificate and species fact sheet.*

### *Add-ons: Choose as many as you like!\**

**\$3:** Set of five wildlife bookmarks.

**\$9:** Sibley's laminated Field Guide (choose Raptors of Western North America or Owls of North America).

**\$10:** RMRP 2022 calendar.

**\$20:** RMRP logo keychain.

**\$25:** RMRP logo necklace.

**Shop Now:**

<https://rocky-mountain-raptor-program.square.site>

Scan QR code to go directly to the Adoption Special:



*\* Add-ons are subject to additional shipping charges.*

#### **RMRP Staff:**

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#### **RMRP Board of Directors:**

Carin Avila, Board Chairwoman  
Judy Scherpelz, Acting President  
Dyanne Willow, Board Member  
Susan Baker, Board Member  
Jessica Manning, Board Member

# The 2022 Calendar is Here!

## Enjoy a limited time\* discount.

Thank you to all of the amazing photographers that donated their talent to make this project a success: Gabriel Abille, Teresa Arrospide, Susan Baptista, Joann Carrillo, April Eisele, Wendi Fisher, Mark Fuller, Richard Harness, Bodhi Harris, Heather Higgins, Eric Hoyt, Theresa Jordan, Jackie Klieger, Vaughn Larsen, Sandy McFarlane, Craig Meurer, Dan O'Donnell, Eden Ravecca, Dave Taylor, Jenny Shelton, Paul Walker, Jed Wilhelm, and Alan Ziff.



\*Offer ends  
12/1/2021



Discount only available till 12/1/2021

### BUY 2 GET 1 FREE

Shop Now:

<https://rocky-mountain-raptor-program.square.site>



Scan this QR code to go directly to the Calendar page.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Foothills Level: \$1500+



Forest Edge Level: \$100

In honor of Alice on her birthday, from David  
In honor of Jeff on his birthday, from David  
In honor of Cindy on her birthday, from Bailey and Lisa  
In honor of Bailey on her birthday, from Mommie and Poppie

Alpine Vista Level: \$50



Since 1987, The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program has rescued and rehabilitated thousands of raptors, educated the public about human/wildlife conflicts, and conducted research to advance wildlife conservation. As an independent, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, RMRP is non-government, and is not state or federally funded. We do not receive regular operating support from any national or international humane organizations, but are supported mostly by recurring or one-time individual gifts, and some foundation and corporate support. Federal Tax Identification Number 90-0131614