



Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program
a second chance at freedom

ON THE Wing

Fall 2022 Newsletter

220

Raptors admitted so far in 2022-ahead of previous years.

30%

Of admitted raptors tested positive for West Nile Virus. More on page 2.

Twenty Twenty-Two A time of change

2022 has brought about change in the Rehabilitation Department. This year our staff wished our best to Amanda Burton who flew the nest after an amazing 8 years with RMRP. She is greatly missed!

To help fill the gap in skill and knowledge, we welcome two new members to our team: Shayna Maddalena and Frank Hoffman. We are excited to take them under our wings and have them help further our mission at RMRP.

We have also returned to a “normal” pre-COVID caseload. While humans remained indoors and quarantined due to COVID, we saw a decrease in the number of raptors that needed our help. As we have returned to our former routines, our caseload has once again catapulted.

2019 Admissions:
275
2020 Admissions:
228
2021 Admissions:
276
2022 admissions
promise to be sky-high!

The year is not over. Birds are still coming in and we continue to work hard to save lives and set them free once again. These warriors of the sky depend on RMRP when they can fly no more. RMRP can only do our work when you are behind us, and we’re so glad you’re here.

Thank you for all you do to help us further our mission.

With greatest gratitude,

Carin Avila
Executive Director

Great Horned Owl by Paul Walker

Our Mission: To inspire the appreciation and protection of raptors through excellence in rehabilitation, education, and research.

Lifesaving rehabilitation and research • Life-changing conservation education.

Rehabilitation

Saving Lives

Education

Caring for Conservation

In With a Bang That didn't let up!

Busy spring began with the admission of 13 hatch-year Great Horned Owls that could not be re-nested. That was a big start for busy season! Young owls receive tons of parental care from spring until fall, so without their wild families we have to raise them right! Lots of food, very feisty, and several rounds through "Rat College" had these 13 owls ready to go! These owls were all returned to the wild for their Second Chance at Freedom in September.

As the pace of admissions continued through the summer, a single day could see five or six raptors come through our doors. Most admissions were immature raptors who encountered their first busy roadway, debilitating disease, or became separated from their parents.

On September 5th, we also released 11 immature Swainson's Hawks that will soon make their first migration south to Argentina for the winter. These young hawks are released into giant groups of Swainson's, known as "kettles." The adults in the kettles will guide the inexperienced hawks thousands of miles to their wintering grounds.



Spring migration brought the threat of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza to our state and facility. We combat the spread of that disease with stringent biosecurity protocols. A handful of raptors that died on admission or were dead on arrival tested positive for the virus. **Because of our strict adherence to safety, the virus has not affected the birds already in our care.**

Left: Red-tailed Hawk with WNV too sick to stand.



Above: 13 baby Great Horned Owls were raised at RMRP this year!

Thank You!



ARTHROPOD-BORNE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES LABORATORY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Diagnostics Sponsor

RMRP monitors West Nile Virus in raptors with the partnership of Ebel Laboratory at Colorado State University. Through their cooperation in testing, we have confirmed WNV in 56 patients. Ebel Labs donates these tests during the summer months, and in 2022 alone they have studied over 170 samples. That equals \$7,650 in diagnostic testing donated to RMRP! Thank you for helping the raptors in our care and in the future!

What can you do?

Scan the code to make a donation, or go to www.rmrp.org/donate



Teaching Conservation 140 Days With You

What a busy year compared to the last two! So far we've visited with more than 25,000 raptor fans through 83 classroom visits and 54 community presentations. We travel throughout the region to see the awe of being in the presence of a raptor, and to teach important conservation lessons. See our Fall Events to the right, or scan the code for all the dates you can experience RMRP!

Welcome Ambassadors!

We are so excited to welcome three new Educational Ambassadors to RMRP! Two Swainson's Hawks and an Eastern Screech Owl have joined our program and we can't wait for you to meet them! Stay tuned to our social media for introductions.

Below: Board Member and Volunteer Susan Baker works at the Steamboat Art-in-the-Park Festival with Educational Ambassador Golden Eagle.



Fall Events

Elk Festival
Bond Park, Estes Park
October 1 & 2, 9-5pm

Beer and Birds
Soul Squared Brewery, Wellington
October 3, 4-7pm

Poudre Pet Celebration
Poudre Pet & Feed, Loveland
October 15, 1-5pm

Farm Fall Days
Tigges Farm, Greeley
October 22 & 23, 1-4pm

Discover more events:
Scan the code or go to www.rmrp.org/news/events/





Buy Now!



2023 Calendars on Sale • \$10
Buy now!
Go to www.rmrp.org/news/2023-calendar/

Contact Us:

Physical Address—Call in advance to schedule your visit.

720 E. Vine Drive, Unit B
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Mailing Address

2519 S. Shields Street, 1K-115
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Phone: 970-484-7756

Rehabilitation Hotline: 970-222-0322

Website: www.rmrp.org

Email: info@rmrp.org

Other wildlife emergency?

Go to: www.animalhelpnow.org

Staff:

Carin Avila, Executive Director • Carin@rmrp.org
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 Mike Tincer, Rehabilitation & Research Coordinator • Mike@rmrp.org
 Carrie Laxson, Rehabilitation & Research Assistant • Carrie@rmrp.org

Welcome New Staff Members:

Jazmine Fenner, Education & Outreach Assistant
 Frank Hoffman, Rehabilitation & Research Associate
 Shayna Maddalena, Rehabilitation & Research Associate
 Jennifer Elliot, Data & Donor Coordinator

Board of Directors:

Carin Avila, Chair
 Susan Baker, Secretary
 Judy Scherpelz, President
 Jessica Manning, Member

Feel the Freedom

Be the Hero

COMMUNITY FIRST
FOUNDATION

COLORADO
GIVES
DAY



Corporate Partner

December 6, 2022

Save The Date

Gala Dinner and Benefit Auction

Get ready for a little bit of love
to go a really long way!

February 25th, 2023

The Hilton, Fort Collins
5-9pm

Donate Items: Now until Feb 1st

www.rmrp.org/donateitems/

Volunteers Needed

Help RMRP with our premier event!!!

See options at www.rmrp.org/volunteer or
email Lisa@rmrp.org.

For 24 hours, Colorado comes together to raise funds for local nonprofits, and we're excited to be part of the day!

On Colorado Gives Day, we'll be celebrating our accomplishments and making good happen for raptors. We invite you to join us by helping us share the news about Colorado Gives Day and invite your family, friends and your personal network to participate.

Every gift is tax-deductible and helps us reach our goal of \$80,000. Our fight to save raptor lives and provide conservation education is more vital now than ever before. This day of giving is one of the many ways you can make a real difference. Please visit www.rmrp.org for more information about what we do.



Northern Pygmy Owl by Dan O'Donnell

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 gifts from individuals. Federal Tax Identification Number 90-0131614