



Rocky Mountain
RAPTOR
Program

a second chance at freedom

Spring 2023 Newsletter

ON THE Wing

Fighting Avian Influenza Protecting Colorado's Feathered Communities

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a highly contagious viral disease that has been wreaking havoc on bird populations in the United States and worldwide. While many of us may be familiar with the way Avian Influenza affects domesticated poultry and other farm birds, there is another group of birds that is being hit especially hard by this disease: raptors.

Raptors, or birds of prey, are highly susceptible to Avian Influenza. This is because they are at the top of the food chain and often feed on other birds, some of which may be infected with the virus. In addition to this, many raptor species are migratory, which means that they are at risk of contracting Avian Influenza in their wintering grounds before carrying the virus back to their breeding sites.

The effects of HPAI on raptors can be devastating. Some species, such as the endangered California Condor, have already seen significant declines in population due to this disease. Others, like eagles, falcons and hawks are also at risk.

At the RMRP, we have experienced 44 cases since September, and only one has survived.

We urge you to take action to help protect our raptor populations from the effects of HPAI. Some ways you can help include supporting organizations that work to conserve raptors, reporting any sick or dead birds you may come across to your local wildlife agency, and practicing good hygiene and biosecurity measures when handling birds or visiting areas frequented by birds.

Let's work together to ensure that our raptor populations remain healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Thank you for your support as we fight to save these lives.

With gratitude and hope, The RMRP Rehabilitation Team



Above: This Red-tailed Hawk struggles with the seizures caused by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

Found a Sick or Deceased Bird?

Do not directly handle the bird.

For raptors:

Call RMRP at (970) 222-0322

For all other birds:

Call Colorado Parks and Wildlife at (970) 472-4300

Life-saving rehabilitation and research • Life-changing conservation education

Rehabilitation

Saving Lives Every Day of the Year

Should You Be Worried About HPAI? Prevention is Key

At the RMRP, we adhere to strict biosecurity protocols to protect all of the raptors in our care and the humans that provide the care. Although your overall risk from the current HPAI outbreaks is low, it is important that you take preventive measures around infected or potentially infected birds/poultry to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza viruses to humans, to other birds/poultry, or to other animals including pets. This applies not just to workplace or wildlife settings but potentially to household settings where people have backyard flocks or pet birds with potential exposures to wild or domestic infected birds.

If you have questions, please give us a call at (970) 484-7756.

Have a backyard flock? Keep them safe with tips from the USDA-APHIS Defend the Flock Program!



Scan the code or go to:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock>



SAVE THE
Date
Gala & Auction
February 24th
2024

Left: How handsome was the Education Ambassador Eastern Screech Owl at the Gala? This handsome!

2023 Gala & Benefit Auction We Are Back In a Big Way

Thank you to everyone who donated items, spread the word, bid on items, gave generously, sponsored, and attended this record-breaking event! Your amazing support generated an outstanding gross total of \$131,000!! Our paddle raise alone raised over \$31,000 and was generously matched by The JEM Project!

One day of life-saving care is \$35 for one raptor in need. Our Gala gives us over 2,500 days of care, and many also purchased sponsorships for Educational programs for low-income/Title 1 schools in the Fort Collins area.



Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor Hillside Construction!

Contact Us:

Physical Address—Call in advance if you'd like to schedule a 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: Carin@rmrp.org

Other wildlife emergency?

Go to: www.animalhelpnow.org

Conservation Education

Inspiring Action for Future

Welcome our Newest Ambassador! A Bald Eagle Joins the Team

In November 2022, a one-year old male Bald Eagle was transferred to RMRP as our newest Educational Ambassador. He was found injured in a field in Monroe County, WV near Blacksburg in the spring of 2021, just 100 feet from a busy road. His rescuers bravely contained and brought him to Three Rivers Avian Center for rehabilitation, where their rehabilitation team found he had suffered a break to his right wing, possibly due to being hit by a vehicle. Surgery and pinning of the fracture site was done, but unfortunately his injury left him unable to fly.

Four different transport plans to bring him from West Virginia were made, including flight. Three of them fell through due to weather and then, finally a break in the storms! The RMRP's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Miller, along with two family members that volunteered to help set out on a multi-day journey, dubbed "Operation Eagle." After 47 hours of driving and 2,917 miles, he was finally at his new home at the RMRP in Fort Collins, CO!

The new arrival Ambassador Eagle has since begun a specialized training plan, developed just for him, to help him learn the skills he needs to be a confident and comfortable Educational Ambassador.



Above: Young Bald Eagle injured on the side of the road in West Virginia. His injuries left permanent disabilities so he found his forever home at RMRP!



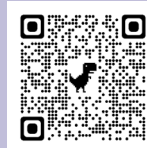
The Education Team looks forward to sharing his story and the importance of Bald Eagle conservation in the future!

A heartfelt thank you to the many supporters who donated to make this eagle's transport possible!

Education Programs Filling Up Fast!

Reserve Your Program Before They're Gone

Scheduling for 2023 educational programming is underway! Spice up a classroom lesson, school assembly, summer camp, birthday party, family reunion, or any event with a visit from one or more Ambassador raptors! Learn more about how these remarkable animals thrive in the wild and how we all can support them and our local ecosystem.



Visit rmp.org and click on "Request Appearance" to schedule or scan the code.

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Board of Directors:

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

Get Involved

Visit • Support • Spread the Word

OPEN House

It's baby season, it's busy season, and it's your time to visit RMRP!

May 13, 2023
12-3PM

Make sure to visit us on Saturday, May 13th, 2023 from 12-3pm at our facility located at 720B East Vine Drive in Fort Collins! At the Open House, you will have a face-to-face experience with our Educational Ambassador raptors, see interactive exhibits, enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at our rehabilitation program, and so much more!

How You Can Help During Busy Season

Since the busy season is here, we need your help to stock up on our most needed items!

Top 10 Most Needed Items

- 1) Clorox Bleach - Unscented
- 2) Nitrile Gloves - Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large
- 3) Paper Towels
- 4) Laundry Detergent - Powder, Unscented
- 5) Trash Bags - Kitchen and 39 Gallon Sized
- 6) Hand Soap Refills - Unscented, NOT Antibacterial
- 7) Copy Paper & Business Envelopes
- 8) Toilet Paper
- 9) Scotch Brand Scrubbing Sponges
- 10) RodentPro Gift Certificates

Scan code and use email Carrie@rmp.org to send us a gift certificate!



2024 Photo Calendar Contest

Stay tuned to your email and our social media for the beginning of the 2024 Photo Calendar Contest Fundraiser! Just one photo can save a life.

Below: Volunteer Piper and Education Ambassador Screech Owl do some conservation education for a group of excited students.



Since 1987, The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program has rescued and rehabilitated thousands of raptors, educated the public about human/wildlife conflicts and conservation, and conducted research to protect raptors in the wild. 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 gifts from individuals and grants. Our Federal Tax Identification Number is 90-0131614.