



Rocky Mountain RAPTOR Program

a second chance at freedom

Spring 2025 Newsletter

ON THE Wing

I am not cute. I am FEROCIOUS!

“Small and packs a punch” is the definition of the Northern Pygmy Owl, despite their ruggedness, sometimes they need our assistance. This foothills predator came to us in December after it struck the window of a home near Glen Haven, Colorado. Fortunately, the homeowner took quick action, scooped up the owl, and brought it to our facility.

Significant head trauma (leading to a temporary head-tilt), and a fractured left clavicle confined this bird to our Critical Care room for a relatively short stay. With daily medical care and rest, the small owl recovered quickly and was returned back home in just under 30 days. This was one tough bird!

Don't let the diminutive stature of this owl fool you, its strength and hunting skills allows the Northern Pygmy Owl to take on prey much larger than itself.

~Mike Tincher, Rehabilitation & Research Coordinator

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Above Northern Pygmy Owl heals after flying into a window.

Persephone Goes to the Hospital

Persephone, RMRP Ambassador Turkey Vulture, recently went to the CSU Vet Teaching Hospital to get x-rays, bloodwork, and her annual vet exam. These were performed under anesthesia to reduce her stress. She was transferred to us just over a year ago, and has had ‘weird’ / anemic looking blood values every time we’ve done tests, so we’ve been monitoring her closely to make sure we aren’t missing anything.

Everything went great! Outside of her old healed wing fractures, her bones seem to be looking strong, and her organs look great too. Her bloodwork came back normal (for her), and they couldn’t find any other concerns. :) Yay, Persephone!

~ Bonnie Cleaver, Educational Ambassador Coordinator



Above Persephone rocking the Gala with volunteer Lauren.

The Power of Passion

As you know, nonprofit work is all about passion, and passion is where RMRP has been so rich. Many of our staff have been passionate about this organization for years, collectively for 244 years. Then we have our dedicated active volunteers, who have combined to give 346 years of service to RMRP! You and other supporters inspire us with your passion for the program. Many have been with us for 5, 10, 20, and in some cases 30 years or more! Thank you for believing in us!

Meanwhile, we have been very busy working on “The Plan” to create and move into a new facility. Board and staff committees have been discussing our space needs for the work we carry out every day.

You have told us how important it is to have a new facility that serves our needs and those of our community. To that end, we’ve received a gift of \$100,000 to get initial planning and designs created.. That support also shows passion and belief in our mission at RMRP.



VISITOR CENTER

Aidan
Nowell
Design

Above: Artist conceptual rendition of what the future of RMRP could be for our community.

In terms of location, we purchased our property on Vine Drive in 2005, and it has increased nearly five times in value since then! However, with the recent housing development around us, it may not be the best location for our permanent facility. Meanwhile, the city is going through a Civic Assembly, inviting citizens to suggest future uses for the Hughes Stadium land. While we continue to be interested in that property, we are keeping all options open to find the perfect nesting spot.

In the meantime, we continue to work hard to track and deal with HPAI-affected raptors, rehabilitate birds, and provide conservation education to our community.

Thank you for continuing to stand by our side!

With greatest gratitude,

Carin Avila
Executive Director



COME SEE US!

Learn more
about our
future, see the
raptors, and
more!



<https://www.rmrp.org/events/>

Contact Us:

Physical Address—Call in advance if you’d like to schedule a visit.

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Phone: 970-484-7756

Rehabilitation Hotline: 970-222-0322

Website: www.rmrp.org

Email: Carin@rmrp.org

Hughes Wildlife & Nature Facility website: www.wildlifenature-foco.org

Other wildlife emergency?

Go to: www.animalhelpnow.org

RMRP Updates

2025 Gala a Huge Success!

On the bitterly cold and snowy evening of February 15, 2025, about 330 of our best friends joined us in the Grand Ballroom at CSU's Lory Student Center for the 32nd Annual RMRP Gala. Nearly 50 friends participated digitally! The evening set attendance records, and \$155,000 was raised to support our life-saving and life-changing mission. Thanks one and all for making this event so successful!

Welcome New Education Director, Heather Schneider

RMRP welcomes Heather Schneider as the new Director of Education and Outreach! Heather graduated from Colorado State University in 2018 with a B.S. in Zoology. Heather comes to RMRP from the San Diego Humane Society, where she was an admissions counselor with companion animals.



She then moved to their wildlife rehabilitation center – Project Wildlife, as a rehabilitation specialist at their apex predator campus. She then moved into the wildlife outreach specialist role and oversaw the outreach department, ambassador program, and managed the volunteer program. After 6 years in California, Heather and her fiancé missed the mountains (and the Colorado Avalanche) too much to remain in California. They made the move back to Colorado in September of 2024 and she is very excited to be back and is overjoyed to be a member of the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program team!

Thank you to our sponsors!

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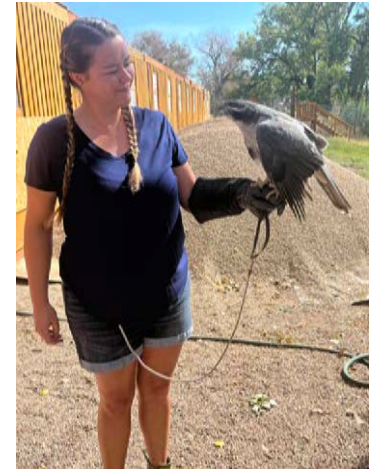
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Welcome Jacelynn Day to the Rehab Team

Jacelynn is a native of Colorado who grew up in Littleton, Colorado. Her love for animals started at a young age, as she grew up with many pets and helped her mother rescue injured neighborhood animals.



Jacelynn's passion for animals grew in college, where she moved to Fort Collins to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from 2016-2019. During her classes, she learned about the impact humans have on wildlife and the environment, and developed her passion to make a difference. Jacelynn then joined RMRP as an intern in May 2021, and joined staff as a Rehabilitation and Research Associate in January this year. Her duties include daily rehabilitative raptor care, training, and managing incoming interns and volunteers, collecting data for research projects, necropsies, and the upkeep of enclosures and the facility.

Staff:

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Board of Directors:
Carin Avila, Member
Susan Baker, Secretary

Jack Dudek, Chair & Treasurer
Dr. Matt Johnston, Member
Judy Scherpelz, President

Life-Saving Efforts Every Day

It's Calendar Photo Contest Time! Wanted: Great Photos of Birds of Prey

Do you have a great raptor photo? Would you like to share it with the whole world? You can do that by entering your favorite raptor photos into our annual Photo Calendar Contest. Photographers of all levels are encouraged to apply. The top 13 photographs will be featured in our 2026 Photo Calendar, and many other photos will be included. The first-place winner's photo will be featured on the cover. All photographs will include photo credits. Deadline to enter is June 1, 2025. Scan this QR code to read all about it!



www.rmrp.org/calendarphotocontest

Spring Open House May 10, 2025 from Noon to 4pm



Above: Join us for the Open House and have fun learning!

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program celebrates World Migratory Bird Day, mothers, spring and the “baby season” with an Open House from Noon to 4p.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2025 (the Saturday before Mother’s Day). Visitors will learn how more than 300 feathered birds of prey receive specialized hospital care each year so they can return to the skies, and how foster parents raise orphans. Educational Ambassador raptors will be on display to offer an up-close and exciting experience. Join us for the fun!

Your Giving Keeps Us Going

Your financial support plays a crucial role in sustaining our life-saving raptor rehabilitation efforts, providing medical care, nutrition, and a safe environment for injured or orphaned birds.

Additionally, your generosity fuels our life-changing conservation education programs, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



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Since 1987, your unwavering support has made it possible for the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program to carry out life-saving raptor rehabilitation, offering critical medical care, nourishment, and a safe haven for injured or orphaned birds. Your generosity also powers our transformative conservation education programs, igniting a passion for wildlife and inspiring the next generation of environmental champions. As an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit (Tax ID 90-0131614), we rely almost entirely on the compassion of people like you who believe in our mission and help us make a lasting impact. Together, we are creating a brighter future for wildlife and the planet.