



For Immediate Release
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Bald Eagle Arrives at Teton Raptor Center

Teton Raptor Center Introduces New Avian Ambassador for Educational Programs

June 29th, 2015 - Teton Raptor Center's (TRC) newest avian ambassador just flew into Jackson a few days ago ... and boy is she tired! Actually, she boarded a plane in Atlanta, changed planes in Chicago, and arrived in Jackson with only one flight delay. People at the airport gathered around her travel container with the words "WILD ANIMAL" on the side and began asking questions and found out that an American Bald Eagle was inside.



"River, Teton Raptor Center's newest avian ambassador, is a wonderful addition to our educational programs. She is also an iconic conservation emblem in the United States and throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," said Becky Collier, TRC's Senior Avian Educator. "We are very fortunate to have the community support to increase our raptor collection." Bald Eagles are found throughout the Jackson area and have a fantastic conservation story.

River is a three-year-old immature Bald Eagle. She was found sternal on the ice of the Missouri River in the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge in January of 2014. After several weeks of evaluation it was determined that she had a rare mycobacterial infection affecting her left carpal joint. For the next 8-10 weeks she was part of a rigorous antibiotic treatment with regular x-rays of the left wing to evaluate progress. It was determined in late April 2014 that she would likely survive the treatment and that her long-term prognosis was promising, but that she would not regain enough flight control to be released, so the University of Missouri Raptor Center placed her information on the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's website seeking placement (after the National Native American Eagle facilities were notified). Final x-rays showed stability in the carpal joint and she exhibited no signs of discomfort or problems. She has control with basic hops and short flights, but her overall flight ability is compromised. River will make an exceptional educational bird and is a brilliant addition to TRC's current avian ambassadors that include a Great Horned Owl, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine falcon, Eurasian Eagle-owl and a hybrid Eagle-owl. TRC's resident raptor team has more than doubled in size in the last year.

According to Meghan Warren, TRC's Rehabilitation Coordinator, Bald Eagles are the second most common raptor treated at Teton Raptor Center, just behind Great Horned

Owls. Teton Raptor Center has admitted 51 raptors in 2015, including 18 unique species. Three raptors have been sent to other raptor centers as educational birds. Ten have been released back into the wild and current patients include: a Short-eared Owl, a Swainson's Hawk, a Barn Owl, a Red-tailed Hawk, two Bald Eagles and four American Kestrels. TRC's patients come from both Wyoming and Idaho.

“We are delighted to expand our avian ambassador team to include our nation's treasured symbol, the Bald Eagle. And, we are immensely grateful to our community of supporters for helping us grow our educational outreach, conservation initiatives and rehabilitative programs to help more birds of prey,” said Amy McCarthy, TRC's Executive Director.

To find out more about Teton Raptor Center, join us for our Raptor Encounters: an hour-long educational program that is offered at noon and 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Wilson. You can also see a live raptor presentation at 5pm on Wednesdays at the Teton Village Commons for their Alive at Five Program, starting July 8th.

Photos available upon request.

A B O U T T E T O N R A P T O R C E N T E R

Teton Raptor Center helps birds of prey through education, conservation and rehabilitation. We are a nonprofit organization of conservation biologists, educators, veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators and volunteers, working together to help birds of prey and promote environmental health through veterinary care and rehabilitation, educational programs and conservation research. TRC is located at the historic Hardeman Ranch, a Jackson Hole Land Trust protected property in Wilson, Wyoming. If you find an injured raptor, please call the Injured Raptor Line: [307.200.6019](tel:307.200.6019).

For more information: [307.203.2551](tel:307.203.2551) or www.tetonraptorcenter.org.