



Fall 2021 | Volume 13

Flight log

Annual Newsletter and Impact Report from Teton Raptor Center – Jackson Hole, Wyoming



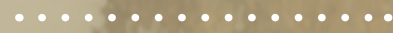
Keeping wild birds wild!

"TRC is an incredible asset not just for communities in and around Jackson, but for every raptor that counts the region as a stop on their journey."

– Page Buono, *Flight Path* creator and Jackson Wild Media Lab Filmmaker

Our Mission

To advance raptor conservation through education, research, and rehabilitation.



Where conservation takes flight!

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Cover photo: Rough-Legged Hawk
by Marc J. Kleinman.



Letter from Teton Raptor Center's Board and Staff

"The future depends on what we do in the present." –Mahatma Gandhi



Across the span of two glorious autumn days at the end of September, the staff and board of Teton Raptor Center gathered together to chart our flight path for the next three years. With some of our team members never having met in person during the course of the pandemic, the opportunity to be together under a tent in the backyard of one of our board member's homes, was all the more meaningful.

We launched into our Strategic Opportunities and Aspirations Retreat (yes, the acronym is SOAR) by each sharing one word to describe our culture and our work: **Passionate, Inspiring, Collaborative, Inclusive, and Impactful**, were just a few of the ways we classified our spirit of working together and working for raptor conservation.

After engaging in some team building and discovery of the diversity of leadership styles represented within our group, the team took a deep dive into TRC's strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results. We identified the people engaged in our work (this includes YOU), the place from which we do our work (the historic Hardeman Ranch in the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem), and the magnificent birds we work with and for as core strengths. The expansive list of opportunities and aspirations we generated is too lengthy to fit into this *Flight Log*, but stay tuned as we work to bring broadened and deepened programming to more diverse audiences. We are committed to staying hyper-focused in making thoughtful decisions and investments to ensure the sustainability of Teton Raptor Center. And, we are intent upon integrating the wings of our work (education, research, and rehabilitation) into new ways to offer conservation programming aimed at informing and inspiring action from individuals, agencies, and communities.

As we migrated out of our retreat, we did so with a clarified vision: **"Keeping wild birds wild."** And, we do so feeling: **Connected, Excited, Inspired, Invigorated, and Motivated.** We hope you, too, will soar with us on this raptor conservation journey.

Onward and upward!

With great gratitude for your support,

Teton Raptor Center's Board & Staff

tetonraptorcenter.org • raptors@tetonraptorcenter.org • 307.203.2551

Injured Raptor Hotline

307.203.2551

Ext. 1 | Available Daily



Help Our Wishes Become Reality

By Funding a Wish List Item Your Donation Can Help with Specific Needs

Throughout this edition of *Flight Log* you will find opportunities to fund specific wish list items for the birds and team at Teton Raptor Center. These wish list items provide a very meaningful way to fund specific items that will be used at Teton Raptor Center to advance raptor conservation.

In 2020, longtime supporter and friend of Teton Raptor Center **Don Lewis** made a big wish come true for the birds and for conservation by supporting the purchase of a new portable digital x-ray machine in our clinic. This impactful gift was made in memory of Don's wife **Dorothy Lewis**. Over the years Don and Dorothy have looked to our wish list to identify key ways to support our work. The new x-ray technology benefits our raptor patients, and as a result of its portability, it is also supporting our newest educational initiative, Sporting Lead-Free (see page 17 to learn more).



Clinic Coordinator Sheena Patel and veterinary extern Charlie Stone use our new digital x-ray to get an image of an American Kestrel. ©TRC Staff

Invest in Raptor Conservation

A gift of any size ensures that our education, research, and rehabilitation programs continue to soar.

- **Donate Online, By Mail, or By Telephone:** Making a gift is as simple as writing a check payable to *Teton Raptor Center* or authorizing a charge from your credit or debit card via our website, using the enclosed envelope, or contacting us at **307.203.2551**.
- **Matching Gifts:** Many companies match gifts made by employees to nonprofit organizations. Increase the impact of your gift by asking your employer to match your contributions to TRC.
- **Planned Gifts:** Leave a legacy by joining our Soaring Society and including Teton Raptor Center in your will or trust.
- **Gift of Securities:** Gifts of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds are a great way to support our work. Contact TRC for information on gifting securities.
- **Facebook:** Comment “#donate \$___” on our Facebook page and you’ll quickly make a difference for birds of prey through GoodWorld.
- **AmazonSmile:** Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to raptor conservation when you shop at smile.amazon.com and select *Teton Raptor Center* as the charitable organization.
- **Frequent Flyer:** Become a sustaining supporter of raptor conservation by giving on a monthly basis. Go to the “Donate” page on our website to set up a recurring contribution.



“Ruby” the Red-tailed Hawk
©Becca Bredehoft



“River” the Bald Eagle
©David Akoubian

Tribute to River and Ruby

“Wherever there are birds, there is hope.” - Mehmet Murat ildan

Earlier this year, we said goodbye to two members of our Avian Ambassador team, Ruby the Red-tailed Hawk and River the Bald Eagle. Our core values for our resident raptor team can be distilled into three words: dignity, respect, and purpose. Because the progression of their original injuries were causing them discomfort and stress, we made the difficult and humane decision to let them go.

Though we were sad to say “goodbye,” their lives give us hope. Every child who exclaims, “WOW” when they first lay eyes on these birds gives us hope for the future and every adult who says, “Oh wow, I never knew that,” when they learn about common threats to these birds, gives us hope that their stories will continue to keep birds of prey healthy and safe. And we are hopeful for the future as we plan to open our doors to two new raptors that, like Ruby and River before them, need a home and a purpose as we work together to keep wild birds wild.

Please contact us to learn more about ways to contribute to raptor conservation, 307.203.2551.

Teton Raptor Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Our Tax ID # is 83-0328068.

Two Golden Eagles Successful Following Release



GOEA 3.1.21, a male Golden Eagle, undergoing flight conditioning following recovery from a fractured coracoid. ©Bo McDowell

Story of the Year

Teton Raptor Center (TRC) is now monitoring two Golden Eagles wearing GPS transmitters returned to the wild following rehabilitation. The first was a female eagle “GOEA 11.8.18” that nearly lost her life to lead poisoning. The second, released just this spring, was a male Golden Eagle “GOEA 3.1.21” that



GOEA 11.8.18, a female Golden Eagle, in the snow during flight conditioning following recovery from lead poisoning. ©TRC Staff

was rescued from the highway in western Wyoming by a team of researchers from Hawk Watch International.

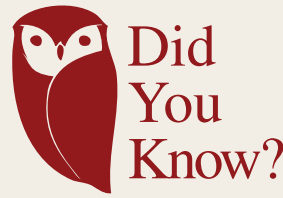
One transmitter was donated by MPG Ranch in Montana to help understand lead poisoning in eagles and the successes of chelation therapy and rehabilitation. The second was donated by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) research project aimed to study the survival rate of rehabilitated Golden Eagles to inform future conservation efforts for this species. While most raptors released from TRC are banded with USGS leg bands for long-term data collection, these two eagles are unique in that they were fitted with lightweight (1.5 ounce), solar-charged satellite GPS transmitters to track them in real-time anywhere in the world. Over the years, our research team has developed a successful break-away harness for raptor transmitters that ensures the transmitter and harness will eventually fall off after a few years to be recovered. Every day until the transmitter falls off, they will provide precise, hourly GPS locations to track survival, habitat use, and nesting activity. Nearly three years later, the female eagle released in early 2019

is now the longest monitored eagle within the study and one of the longest tracked rehabilitated/released Golden Eagles in North America.

The two leading causes of admittance for Golden Eagles at Teton Raptor Center are collisions with vehicles and lead poisoning, and these eagles are examples of both. In the winter months, Golden Eagles from Alaska and Canada migrate hundreds of miles into Wyoming and take advantage of the plentiful big game carcasses. The two major sources of carrion for eagles are from gut piles left over from hunting and roadkill, both of which can be deadly. Eagles feeding on carcasses and gut piles from the hunting season can ingest tiny lead fragments resulting from expanding lead-based rifle bullets. This can lead to death from lead poisoning, but also low-level doses of lead can affect their ability to catch live prey or decrease their reaction time. When the birds feed on other big game food resources such as roadkill, they can become victims of car collisions themselves.

For the past decade, our team has been working to both understand and develop conservation actions for Golden Eagles due to suspected population declines and increasing risks to eagles, such as energy development, lead poisoning, and habitat loss. We have been tracking migration of Golden Eagles in collaboration with Raptor View Research Institute, winter ecology with the BLM, and annual movements of young Golden Eagles with USFWS. We have worked with the FWS Western Golden Eagle team to expand tracking efforts in Montana and create a conservation strategy for Golden Eagles across the Great Plains. We are currently collaborating with several leading ecologists and modelers to prioritize the most important habitats for eagles in Wyoming and Montana using the dozens of eagles we have tracked over the years.

TRC also launched an outreach program called “Sporting Lead-Free” to encourage hunters and anglers to choose lead-free options for their sporting activities. Learn more about Sporting Lead-Free on page 17.



Golden Eagles can dive up to 200 mph!

At TRC, both “GOEA 3.1.21” and “GOEA 11.8.18” underwent extensive treatment and reconditioning until they were fully recovered. Prior to release, they were fitted with their transmitters, leg bands, and transported back to where they came from. To this day, both eagles are alive and well and doing what eagles do best—soaring high above the ground, seeking food, and defending territories.



GOEA 11.8.18, a female Golden Eagle, unable to stand due to lead poisoning, a neurotoxin that can cause paralysis among other issues. ©TRC Staff

The Year in Review

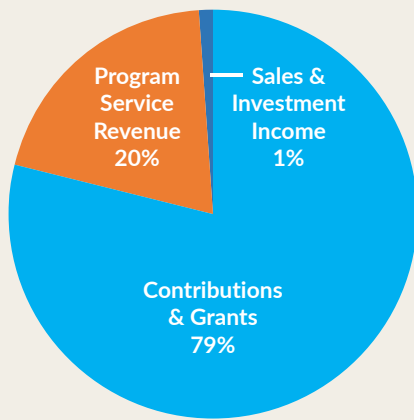
Impact Report

Finance: Teton Raptor Center’s fiscal year runs from June 1st through May 31st. TRC generated \$1,380,690 in revenue, with an additional \$3,871,674 in restricted funds to support TRC’s capital improvements. Total FY 2020-21 operational expenses were \$1,039,976. TRC’s Form 990 is posted on our website and we invite you to review that report for more financial detail. Our FY 2021-22 operational budget is \$1,332,052. The statistics reported throughout this publication focus on the fiscal year, June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021.

Fundraising Efficiency: In FY 2020-21, TRC spent 1.2 cents to raise each donated dollar (or \$1.20 spent to raise \$100). Both Charity Watch and BBB Giving Alliance guidelines state that it should cost no more than \$35 to raise \$100 worth of funds.

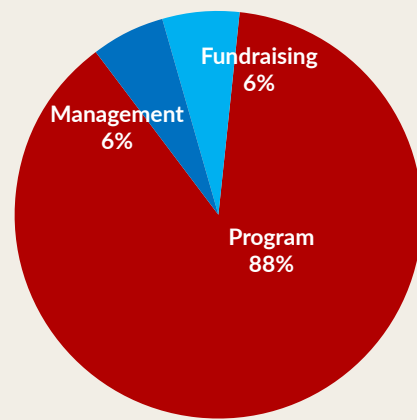
Income by Source

Operating Revenue



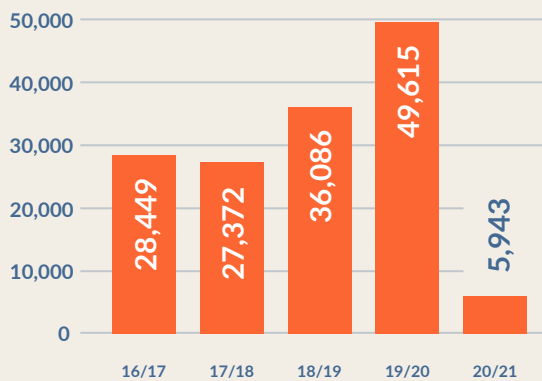
Expenses by Class

Functional Expenses



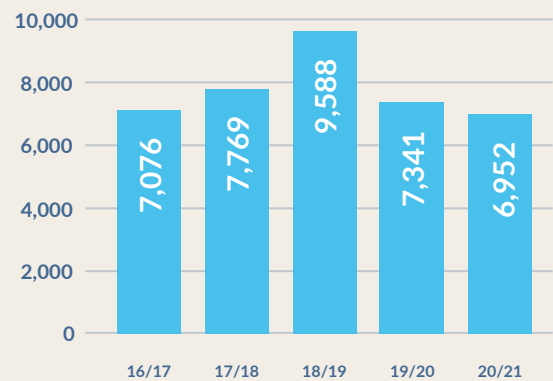
Program Participants

By Fiscal Year



Volunteer Hours

By Fiscal Year



The pandemic significantly limited the number of in-person live programs we were able to offer throughout the fiscal year.



By the Numbers: FY 2020–2021

200
Educational programs delivered

13
Ongoing research and conservation projects



5,943
Program participants

135
Raptor patients



24
Species of raptors and corvids admitted

36
Raptors successfully released

1,828
Poo-Poo Project screens distributed



6,952
Volunteer hours donated



117
Total Raptor Rescue Network volunteers



- 777,800 people reached
- 1,300 reactions
- 5,300 shares
- 250 comments

777,800

Most reached/engaged post on social media

This image, shared on our Facebook page on November 18, 2020, reached 777,800 people. It shows three full years of tracking a male Rough-legged Hawk with our collaborators The Rough-legged Hawk Project. These incredible tracks really show how much these raptors traverse each year! First captured while on migration in Montana on 10/10/17 as a 2-year-old, this hawk has provided 15,866 GPS locations to add to the world's largest dataset on this important species. Thanks to Jeff Kidd for spearheading this wonderful, international collaboration. We're happy to help contribute by capturing a few hawks in Wyoming and Montana for this work and will continue to do so this winter.



Site Improvements



Flight Barn, ©TRC Staff

Birds Spread Their Wings in the Flight Barn and Progress Continues in 2021

Completion of bird care facilities allows focus to shift to staff structures

2021 has been an active year for site improvements at the historic Hardeman Barns property to continue to create a home for world-class raptor conservation in the Tetons. We are pleased to share that all of the new avian care facilities were completed in late 2020 and that the doors of the new Flight Barn were opened in 2021. The creation of these new spaces for the birds that recover and reside in them is remarkable. The new Rehabilitation Clinic is allowing TRC staff the ability to efficiently and effectively care for dozens of injured, ill, and orphaned patients. “The Roost”, the new home of the resident raptors, allows the TRC staff the appropriate spaces to look after, train, and provide enrichment activities for the avian ambassador team.

The Flight Barn, a brand new and signature facility for injured birds that are nearing recovery and release back to the wild was also opened this year. In the short time that the Flight Barn has been in use, it has already housed dozens of patients on their recovery journey. The use of the barn has

allowed several birds the ability to spread their wings and gain their strength in flight, to ultimately prepare for their return to the skies.

Construction progress continues and is now focused on buildings dedicated to supporting staff to do their work on behalf of the birds. Preservation and renovation of the historic horse barn is nearing completion and will allow the barn to become the hub of conservation solutions and Teton Raptor Center’s research team. A brand new employee housing structure has also been erected this year and contains two housing units that will provide stable and affordable housing for up to four members of the organization’s staff. Additionally, a brand new headquarters building is underway and will become the administrative home for the organization.

As the current construction activity is completed in late 2021 and early 2022, the focus will shift to the final phase of site improvements to restore the historic and iconic Hardeman Barn and fully open the campus to public visitation in early 2023!

Project Timeline



*Grounded in History...
Soaring into the Future!*

In 2022, the Historic Hardeman Barn will undergo significant restoration to become a magnificent space to promote learning about raptor conservation.



Hardeman Barn rendering, The Kubala Washatko Architects.



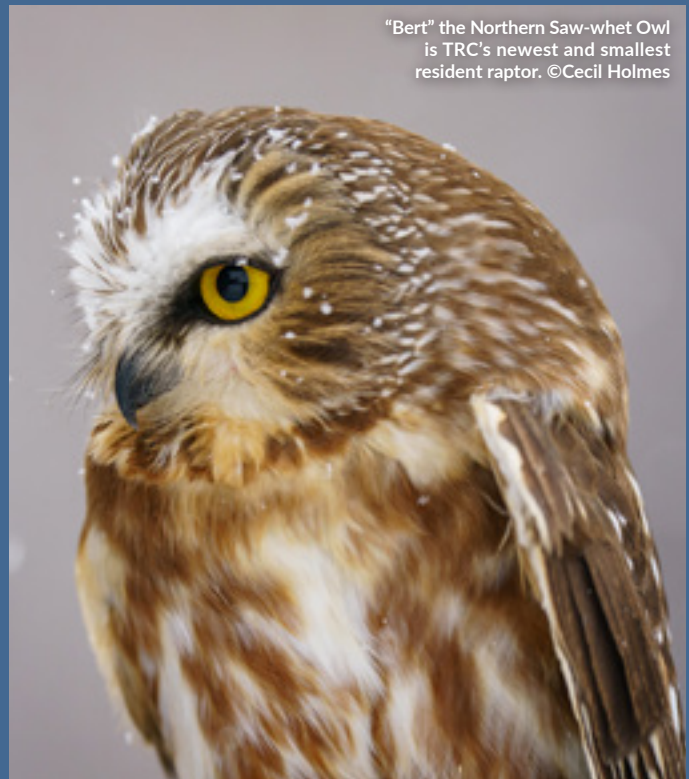
Education

TRC Welcomes Bert, the Northern Saw-whet Owl to the Resident Raptor Team

At the end of 2020, Teton Raptor Center welcomed our newest, youngest, and smallest resident raptor to the team. Bert, a male Northern Saw-whet Owl, arrived weighing only 72 grams as a patient in TRC's clinic on June 9, 2020. The young owl was found on the deck of a house by a resident in Rexburg, Idaho.

Upon admittance to TRC's clinic, the avian care team soon discovered that this young bird was unable to fly due to an injury. It was clear right away that he would not be able to return to the wild, but due to his young age, we felt that he might make an excellent resident raptor for TRC's team, helping us to teach about the smallest owls. In December 2020, TRC received final approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide a permanent home for him to serve as an ambassador for his species.

TRC received compelling feedback from supporters that this little owl should be named after Bert Raynes, Jackson Hole's "Big Bird", who had taken flight into the heavens on the morning of New Year's Day, 2021. We are honored to celebrate the life of Bert Raynes by welcoming Bert the Northern Saw-whet Owl to TRC's avian ambassador team. Mr. Raynes served on TRC's advisory council for over a decade. Currently, Bert the bird is undergoing training to get him comfortable on the glove and around humans. Bert made his program debut at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in early November.



"Bert" the Northern Saw-whet Owl is TRC's newest and smallest resident raptor. ©Cecil Holmes

Education through a new lens: the balance of in-person and virtual resources

The last eighteen months provided us with numerous opportunities to adapt to ever-changing situations. The education team at TRC has worked tirelessly to adapt to the changing educational landscape, exhibiting a great show of ingenuity and creativity in the ways that we can engage you. As social distancing and personal safety remain a priority, we continue to adapt our educational offerings to best fit the needs of our audiences, and our staff, by offering an array of safe and fun ways that you can interact with TRC's educational ambassadors, and learn a thing or two along the way!

Our education team has created a detailed list of virtual education resources that are user-friendly, and accessible for

both families and teachers. As we navigate a new normal filled with an equal amount of in-person and virtual interaction, having the tools and knowledge of how to access valuable online educational resources is more important than ever.

From returning to in-person programming, creating new, fun, and safe ways to continue to engage our audiences in public settings, and developing interactive and fun educational content and curriculum for a valuable virtual experience, our education team has found new balance.

Be sure to check out our virtual program offerings, online educational resources, and in-person programming opportunities.

Education Taking Flight

Throughout the past year, TRC's avian care team took part in seven different continuing education opportunities, including:

- Small owl training by Minnesota Raptor Center,
- 2021 International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) Conference,
- Ambassador bird welfare workshop by Zoo Atlanta,
- National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association Symposium,
- IAATE Mentorship program,
- Avian Behavior International membership and mentorship,
- and Ambassador bird training course by University of Minnesota.

Our staff continues to utilize the valuable knowledge gained from these professional development opportunities to offer the highest quality of care possible to benefit our avian ambassadors and patients.



Sarah Pruden, Outreach Coordinator, with Gus the Golden Eagle, was the 2021 recipient of the Walter Crawford Memorial grant to attend the IAATE 2021 conference. ©Greg Giedd Photography

An Incredible Team

TRC's Education Team by the Numbers



200 programs for FY20/21

5,943 program participants

2,696 miles traveled

365 days of the year the avian ambassadors are weighed, fed, and their chambers are cleaned

6 days of the week TRC was open for education programs

3 TRC staff dedicated to regular education programs

How can your donation help the birds?

Wish list for education

\$35,000 *BIG WISH* AWD Vehicle for year-round access to off-site education programs

\$25,000 Sponsorship for AmeriCorps and Internships

\$20,000 Food/husbandry for Education Ambassador Team

\$15,000 Education Program Underwriting (for schools and community venues)

\$5,000 Education Materials (supplies, posters, print materials, etc.)

\$2,500 Outreach vehicle fuel, insurance, maintenance

\$1,500 Equipment (perching, leashes, kennels, etc...)

\$1,000 Staff/Ambassador Uniforms

\$250 Resident Raptor Enrichment Supplies

Be sure to visit the donation tab on our website for ongoing wish list items and more ways to support our work!



Research

What Species Do You Work For?

By Bryan Bedrosian

A 7-year-old recently phrased a normal question into one that was truly profound with just one small word twist. He asked, "What species do you work *for*?" instead of the typical question, "What species do you work *on*?" It drove home one of the most important things a biologist should live by: Are we simply recording data and bearing witness to the changes across the globe, or are we using our data to do something about it?

Over the past two decades as a raptor biologist, the journey and path to raptor conservation has moved the needle for our team at TRC towards working FOR species. We do things like outfit raptors with transmitters and track them to document how they move on the landscape. We take blood samples to document how much lead they eat and where. But just gathering that data is not enough.

"Scientists borrow the information from the animals we study, and it is our responsibility to speak on the behalf of those individuals."

We are shifting the paradigm of researchers only gathering data and hoping someone else uses it for action. Who else is better suited to use it for the greater good than the teams collecting the data? Scientists borrow the information from the animals we study, and it is our responsibility to speak on the behalf of those individuals.

Over the past year, we took more of those steps to work for species in two, new large-scale projects turning data into action. We have assembled a world-class team to prioritize habitats for conservation actions utilizing the years of golden eagle tracking data we, and others, have collected. By mapping the best habitats for all eagles, not just breeding birds, we can have the biggest impact on the whole population in the smallest amount of space. We have also launched the large-scale Sporting Lead-Free initiative to educate hunters and anglers across Wyoming, and beyond, about the benefits of voluntarily switching to lead-free options to reduce lead ingestion in eagles.

The journey to conservation takes many shapes and sizes. What species are you working for?



Bryan Bedrosian, Conservation Director, and Roger Smith, Founder, outfit two Northern Goshawks with GPS transmitters for habitat study. ©TRC Staff

How can your donation help the birds?

Research Wish List

Your donation can help us get into the field to study raptors!

- \$12,000** *BIG WISH* Ultracold Freezer - to store those priceless DNA samples forever!
- \$5,000** Hawk and eagle nesting platforms (Yep, we're actually making nests!)
- \$3,000** Spotting Scope w/Tripod (We need to see the raptors!)
- \$1,000** Binoculars for volunteers and interns (to share the love)
- \$400** Garmin Handheld GPS unit (so we don't get lost!)
- \$250** Truck Seat Covers (Keep our rigs in good shape!)
- \$100** Truck Chains (to get us unstuck!)
- \$50** First-Aid Kits for Field Packs (2 needed to keep us safe)

A Career in Science and Conservation



By Katherine Gura

In 2013, I began a research project on Great Gray Owls. The study would have some conservation implications: next to little was known about the species, so we would start to fill in knowledge gaps about their ecology in Wyoming. However, given limited resources, I anticipated the study would last 2-3 years—just enough time to scratch the surface of understanding this enigmatic forest raptor.

The scientific method inherently leads to more knowledge: we answer one question, but in doing so, the door opens to ask additional ones. At least that's been my experience with Great Grays: nine years later, I'm leading one of the longest-running and most in-depth studies ever conducted on the species. In that time, I've learned the value of committing oneself to a species, of truly working for Great Grays. Ultimately, a critical step towards safeguarding species is to understand them—their behavior, their ecological requirements, the threats they face. It's taken time, and immense patience and perseverance, but I'm proud of all that I've learned and how it's strengthening conservation. Perhaps more so, I'm humbled by what I still can learn from these birds. Luckily, as a scientist, I'm dedicating my career to working for Great Grays along with many other raptor species.

Persistence in Conservation

By Sarah Ramirez

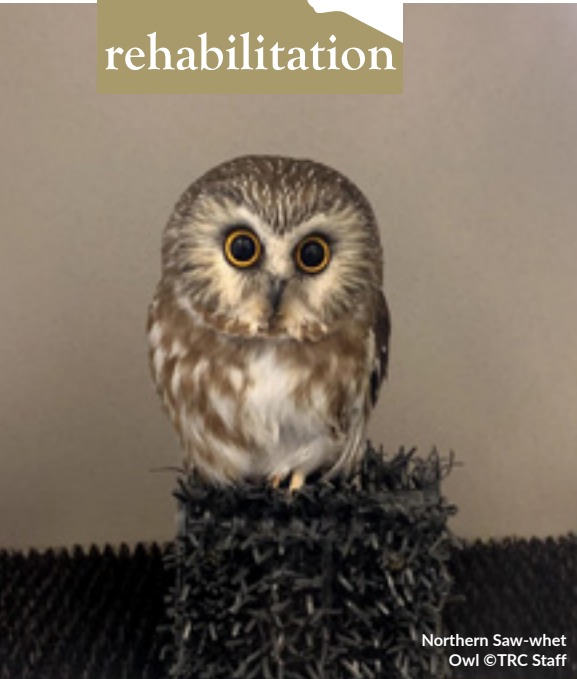
After five years pursuing a vital new research project on Ferruginous Hawks, the stage was set for me to begin fieldwork and graduate school in 2017. But when our funding fell through at the last minute, we had to decide whether to give up or continue forward. Researching and conserving understudied and at-risk raptors, like Ferruginous Hawks, requires determination, patience, and more persistence than you might ever think. These birds deserve commitment from all of us. Considering the myriad challenges these raptors face in a growing modern world, our loss of funding pales in comparison. Persevering to get this project completed has taught me discipline and highlighted the commitment that I could



make as a biologist working for a raptor species. Now, as we finish the fourth year of this research, we're dedicated more than ever to conservation efforts that will benefit Ferruginous Hawks, both in Wyoming and across their range.



Rehabilitation



Northern Saw-whet Owl ©TRC Staff



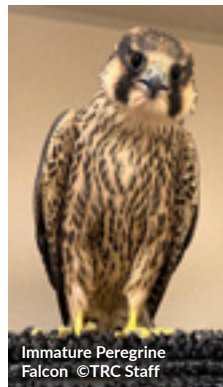
Sheena, Clinic Coordinator and Amanda, Avian Care Technician collect a blood sample from juvenile Swainson's Hawk. ©TRC Staff

New Clinic Provides Next Level Care

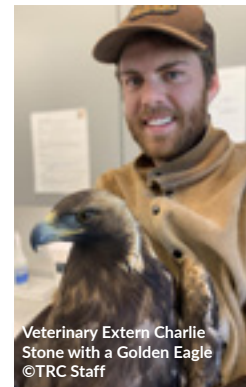
Teton Raptor Center's rehabilitation clinic has undergone major changes in the last year. We moved into our brand new state-of-the-art facility last winter, upgraded our ICU (intensive care unit) and supplemental oxygen enclosures, added corvids on our rehabilitation permits, added a Flight Barn for raptors in need of flight conditioning, and have been gifted with a new digital x-ray system that adds much needed efficiency when taking bird x-rays.

Our new clinic space provides patients admitted to Teton Raptor Center with top notch care, where staff provide skilled hospital treatments to birds. Medical procedures that are done in-house include the administration of general anesthesia, the suturing of wounds, physical therapy, wound care, bloodwork and other laboratory diagnostics, x-ray imaging, laser therapy, feather implant treatments and more. Orthopedic surgeries are done with our veterinary partners at Jackson Animal Hospital. Patients that require surgery receive all pre and post-op care on-site at Teton Raptor Center by staff.

We proudly thank Don Lewis whose generous contribution in memory of his wife Dorothy Lewis has made it possible to upgrade our ICU and supplemental oxygen enclosures, and purchase a new digital and transportable x-ray unit. Each



Immature Peregrine Falcon ©TRC Staff



Veterinary Extern Charlie Stone with a Golden Eagle ©TRC Staff



Swainson's Hawk ©TRC Staff

enclosure is outfitted with a small window panel that makes it easier and safer to feed patients. It also provides a great way to retrieve smaller birds that could pose risks for escaping through the main door system to each enclosure. Each unit is capable of providing supplemental heat which is often necessary when patients are unstable or after a surgical operation. Our new digital x-ray system shoots high quality radiographs quickly and efficiently, making the x-ray process less stressful for injured birds and more efficient. Another feature we are excited to share is that this system can be used in the field and can be easily transported to x-ray animals outside of our clinic environment.

Our highly advanced Flight Barn provides novel infrastructure to act as a conditioning space for patients to gain strength, stamina, and muscle in order to fly in the wild. This spacious arena provides great opportunities for birds to flap their wings and fly until their heart's content. Bird muscles tend to atrophy fairly quickly so it's crucial to ensure they are capable of sustaining strong flight.

Rehab Statistics FY 20-21

142 admissions

36 released

24 different species of raptors and corvids

August 2020: busiest month

State split: 45% Wyoming, 55% Idaho

Idaho Falls, ID: most common location (14%)

Most Common Species: Great Horned Owl (42 or 30% of total admissions)

52% survival rate*

*Survival Rate is calculated based on birds that survive beyond 24 hours after admission.

Corvids Now Admitted in Rehabilitation Clinic

In 2021, TRC officially added corvids, the family of birds that includes ravens, crows, magpies, and jays, to the list of species to which we can provide long-term rehabilitation. Though corvids are not raptors, they are raptor-like in their ecology and needs within rehabilitation. Previously for injured corvids found in our community to receive care, they needed to be transported more than 160 miles away to Ironside Bird Rescue in Cody, WY.



This American Crow chick had fallen out of a nest and was cared for in the Clinic and successfully reunited with its parents. ©TRC Staff



X-ray of SWHA 4.22.21. The lead from the bullet is the glowing object circle in red above. The pelvic fracture is circled in red below.

Rehabilitation Patient Spotlight Swainson's Hawk 4.22.21

This adult Swainson's Hawk was admitted to Teton Raptor Center on April 22, 2021 from Idaho Falls, ID. This hawk was struck by a vehicle, resulting in a broken pelvis. Upon taking x-rays of the patient, staff noticed something even more peculiar — an old gunshot wound with the bullet still inside the bird! The gunshot wound had occurred in the neck and the bullet was lodged in the cervical spine. The tissue surrounding the neck had fully healed and the bird was lucky to have survived. A lead test revealed that the metal had poisoned the bird. Surgery to remove the bullet was not possible since the bullet had been completely walled off in small bones in the spine. The hawk was treated with chelation therapy to reduce his blood lead level and after the pelvic fracture healed, the bird was successfully released back into the wild on May 26, 2021.

Rehab Wish List

Your Donation Can Help the Birds!

\$10,000 **BIG WISH** Send our rehabilitators to important professional development opportunities like National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and IAATE

\$1,500 Medical supplies for 6 months

\$500 Fund a bird's surgery

\$350 Purchase Abaxis Rotors to help analyze patient bloodwork

\$50 Medical books and subscriptions



teton raptor center

POO-POO PROJECT

Poo-Poo Project

Poo-Poo Project Continues to Expand



Poo-Poo Project History

Every year, thousands of cavity-nesting birds and mammals become entrapped in vertical pipes, such as ventilation pipes. Vault toilets found in many of America's wild areas, feature a 12-inch diameter ventilation pipe that mimics the natural cavities preferred by various bird species. Once a bird enters the ventilation pipe, it can easily become entrapped and often succumbs to starvation, dehydration, or disease. TRC began working with federal, regional, and state agencies in 2010 to screen vault toilet ventilation pipes. Our affordable screens are durable, easy to install, and provide superior ventilation.

Poo-Poo Project Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight: Jess Schonegg

Jess Schonegg was first an intern at TRC and then grew into roles as the Clinic Coordinator, Poo-Poo Project Coordinator, and eventually Interim Rehabilitation Director. When she returned to her home state of Indiana in early 2021, she decided to remain connected to the Poo-Poo Project via volunteering! Jess has been crucial in communicating with Poo-Poo partners and answering questions from inquiries. We are so grateful for Jess's continued support and dedication.



States with the most Poo-Poo Partners:

Montana	65
California	60
Colorado	52
Wyoming	47



Jess Schonegg
©TRC Staff

Introducing Sporting Lead-Free



Teton Raptor Center is excited to announce the official launch of our newest programmatic initiative: **Sporting Lead-Free**. Based on years of research in the field, and experience with lead toxicosis patients in the clinic, TRC decided it was time to do something about it.

The link is clear between lead ammunition and lead-poisoning in wildlife. Increased blood lead levels in eagles and other scavenger species is directly correlated with the hunting season in Wyoming. Hunters provide an extremely valuable service to eagles and other scavenging wildlife by providing a food source during the fall and winter months, in the form of gut piles left behind after harvesting an animal. Each year, thousands of eagles migrate from Canada and Alaska into the US for the winter. As the population of scavengers more than doubles and food becomes more scarce, gut piles become vital to sustaining wintering eagle populations. When hunters use lead-based ammunition it fragments upon impact, leaving tiny lead pieces and dust behind that end up in the gut pile, and even in the meat we bring home to our friends and families.

The goal of Sporting Lead-Free is to help inform sporting communities about the benefits of using lead-free in the field to support the best choices for themselves, their families, and the environment. We want to promote the voluntary use of lead-free alternatives for hunting and fishing through on-the-ground pro-outdoor recreation messaging. Our three pronged approach includes increasing **awareness** through educational presentations and demonstrations, expanding **access** to lead-free options at retailers with product signage and sales associate training, and building a **community** of like minded hunters and

SPORTING LEAD-FREE



It only takes 20 micrograms of lead to kill an eagle. On average, there are 160 lead fragments left behind in each big game gut pile. Lead fragments can also be found in 15% of processed game meat. ©Tom Koerner

anglers who use and promote the use of lead-free in the field.

Visit sportingleadfree.org to learn more about the initiative and see how you can get involved! A special thanks goes to the Knobloch Family Foundation for their support of this important initiative.



Did
You
Know?

TRC tests every eagle and vulture that comes into the clinic to determine their blood lead levels.

Between 2010 and 2020, Teton Raptor Center Clinic recorded significant lead exposure in:

- 25% of Bald Eagles;
- 16% of Golden Eagles;
- 22% of Turkey Vultures.



Volunteers

SPOTLIGHT: INTERNS & EXTERNS AT TRC



Tyler, Liam, Manelle, and Haley gather for a photo during our team barbecue.

Charlie Stone - Veterinary externship
Tyler Williams - Raptor rehab internship
Haley Hockin - Communications internship

Manelle Dillard - Conservation internship
Liam Flockhart Ford - Conservation internship
Arianna Rizzi - Veterinary externship

TRC is a fantastic launching point for many college-aged professionals who are interested in careers in conservation, veterinary medicine, and education. We hosted four interns and two veterinary externs between May and September. Our interns and externs were engaged in a variety of experiences in our clinic and in the field throughout the summer, learning valuable and necessary skills to advance on their career paths. Charlie and Arianna joined us as veterinary externs to gain knowledge and hands-on experience working with raptors, which many vet students are not exposed to in their general studies. Tyler assisted in the rehab clinic, which opened the door to wildlife and conservation studies through his university. Manelle and Liam expanded their expertise and skills through conservation internships, in which they participated in nest monitoring and bird banding. Haley used her communications background to assist our administrative team with our outreach and social media platforms. She was crucial in compiling information for various reports and capturing our team in action through photos. We always welcome the opportunity to host interns and externs based on our needs. Keep an eye on our website for future internship and externship opportunities!



Stew soaking the feet of a Great Horned Owl in a warm water-epsom salt bath to help draw out any infections from cuts in the owl's feet.

Rehab Volunteer Spotlight: Stew Harvey

Stew has been volunteering with Teton Raptor Center since November of 2019 and has brought a strong talent to TRC. Stew's skillset ranges from providing injectable medication for raptor patients to constructing inventive perching within the Flight Barn. The new perches enable staff to easily capture a bird if needed by allowing our team to lower the perches quickly and efficiently. By lowering the perches, this limits the space a bird is able to access within the large area of the Flight Barn. In addition to all this service to the birds, Stew joined TRC's Board of Directors in 2021.



Spotlight: AmeriCorps at TRC



Teton Raptor Center is a proud supporter of AmeriCorps service members in our community, through our continued partnership with Teton Science Schools. AmeriCorps members serve with

the goal of enriching members' service knowledge and experience while also encouraging involvement in the local community and conservation sector.

Our virtual member, Mary Sellars, spent time meeting via video platforms and working on projects from her own home. Mary made invaluable contributions to our curriculum and online outreach content.

Our fall 2021 in-person service member, Ellie Whitmore, is making major contributions to TRC's science based curriculum, highlighting the parallels between TRC's research and educational pillars, as well as playing an active role in avian care, public outreach, and program delivery. TRC is excited and proud to have Ellie represent our education team in the Jackson area, and beyond.



AmeriCorps member Mary Sellars with avian ambassador Beatrix, TRC's female American Kestrel, ©TRC Staff



AmeriCorps member Ellie Whitmore with TRC's resident Barn Owl, Manzana, ©TRC Staff



Raptor Rescue Network volunteer Maddie McMillian, with assistance from her partner Don, delivers an injured Great Horned Owl to Teton Raptor Center for care. ©TRC Staff

Raptor Rescue Network - Golden Eagle Flight Line

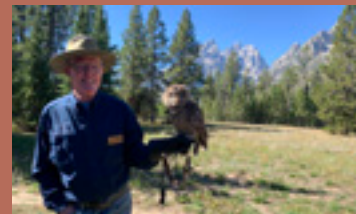
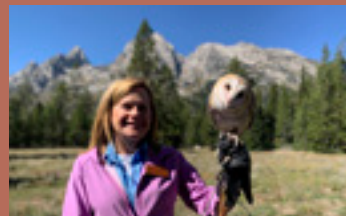
In FY 20/21, though programs slowed due to the pandemic and onsite volunteerism was limited for safety, raptors around the state still needed help. Throughout the pandemic, our Raptor Rescue Network (RRN) ambassadors, a network of 117 volunteers across Wyoming and Idaho, continued to drive, and in one case, fly raptors to rehab centers for care.

A young female Golden Eagle, "GOEA 8.5.21," was found grounded in eastern Wyoming, 450 miles from Teton Raptor Center, with an injury to one eye. Fortunately, one of our RRN volunteers, Chris Bonter, a pilot with Flightline, LLC., offered to fly the eagle to the Jackson Hole Airport.

We are immensely grateful to our RRN volunteers and hope to continue to expand the network throughout Wyoming and Idaho. If you or someone know is interested in becoming a member of the network, sign up online at www.tetonraptorcenter.org.

1,000+ Volunteer Lifetime Hours

Teton Raptor Center is very fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers to our work and to the birds. Since 2015, we have had seven volunteers donate at least 1,000 hours of time and expertise to raptor conservation. These ambassadors have been busy in the rehab clinic, assisted with education programming, and logged miles and hours in the field. On average, it takes our ambassadors five years and seven months to reach 1,000 lifetime hours! Between all seven ambassadors, they have donated a cumulative total of 18,905 hours, which is equivalent to \$539,542. A very special thank you to our 1,000-Hour Talon Society volunteers: Sue Ernisse, Lisa Friesecke, Tim Griffith, Anne Hare, Steve Poole, Sarah Pruden, and Kathy Warner!



Clockwise from top left: TRC Ambassador Anne Hare with Manzana the Barn Owl at an outdoor program in Grand Teton National Park; Volunteer Kathy flight training GHOW 8.20.20 B; TRC volunteer and board member, Stew Harvey, at an educational program with resident Barred Owl Hemlock; Volunteer Sue Ernisse handling resident Peregrine Falcon, Hunter, at an educational program, ©TRC Staff.

TRC's Advisory Council - Q & A Spotlight on Avian Ophthalmologist

Name: Dr. Dan Lorimer

Q: Where did you attend veterinary school?

A: I attended veterinary school at Michigan State University and graduated in 1985. I did a general internship in medicine and surgery in Arizona and then a combined comparative ophthalmology residency with University of Arizona and Stanford College of medicine.

Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in avian ophthalmology?

A: I have had a background in avian medicine since I was young. My dad raised several kinds of birds including racing pigeons and became involved early in veterinary medicine with avian veterinarians, rehab centers, similar to Teton Raptor Center, and local zoos. Some highlights include multiple cataract surgeries to return vision in penguins and other birds and animals at local zoos.

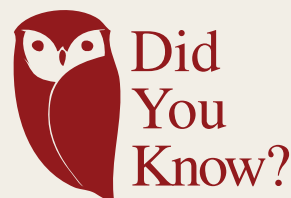
Q: Can you provide us with some background on the veterinary companies you've founded/started/been a part of?

A: I founded Eye Care for Animals, Michigan Veterinary Specialists, Georgia Veterinary Specialists and co-founded BluePearl Veterinary Partners—which now has over 100 multi-specialty, emergency hospitals around the country and over 5,000 employees.

I am now working with some other veterinary groups hoping to improve the quality of medicine and people and pets' lives in the veterinary industry. Currently, I am a director on boards of two veterinary companies including Southern Veterinary Partners and Mission Veterinary Partners which combined have about 400 practices in the US.



Dr. Lorimer conducts an ophthalmic evaluation on an Eastern Screech Owl.



Owls can dilate their pupils independently of each other.

Shop

Gifts that make a difference! All proceeds from our shop directly support our mission to advance raptor conservation. Some of our most popular items are featured below. You will find a complete selection of items at tetonraptorcenter.org.



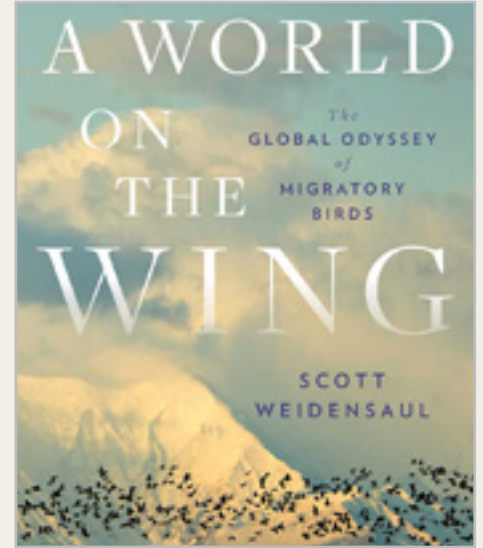
New! TRC Baseball Tee - \$19.99

Universal size, tri-blend baseball style shirt.



TRC Buffs - \$16.99

Great, multi-functional buff/neck tube. Can be used in sun or snow.



A World on the Wing - \$32.00

Join Scott Weidensaul as he explores the science and wonder of bird migrations worldwide!

Sponsor-A-Screen for the Holidays!



The Sponsor-a-Screen program has been a huge success in protecting cavity-nesting wildlife. Just \$45 allows individuals and families to participate in wildlife conservation and help raise awareness about wildlife entrapment issues. The program began in the summer of 2016 and over 2,500 sponsored screens have been purchased by TRC supporters and shipped to Poo-Poo partners around the United States and beyond.

With the holidays approaching, are you wondering what to get that person who has everything, or is just hard to buy for? Sponsor-a-Screen as a gift to celebrate a family member or a friend, and TRC will send you a special Poo-Poo greeting card that you can personalize and mail directly to the recipient. Plus, you will find out when and where your sponsored Poo-Poo Screen is installed.





Thanks for Giving a Hoot!

Teton Raptor Center shares our fullest gratitude and appreciation with the many individuals, families, businesses, and foundations that have generously contributed time, talent, and financial resources to support our work. This extensive list includes our RaptorFest sponsors and Sponsor-A-Screen donors too. These contributions keep us soaring and support important education, research, and rehabilitation initiatives. TRC's birds, staff, and Board of Directors are grateful beyond measure for the goodwill and generosity extended to the Center this year.**

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Top photos, left to right: TRC staff and friends celebrate at the Raptor Rally for Old Bill's Fun Run, ©TRC Staff; Great Gray Owl fledgling, ©Steve Poole; TRC Alive @ 5 program at Teton Village, ©TRC Staff; TRC volunteer at the Raptor Rally along HWY 22, ©TRC Staff; Bald Eagle 8.2.21 found in Wilson, WY, ©TRC Staff; TRC volunteer flight conditioning a patient, ©TRC Staff; TRC volunteer in owl costume at the Raptor Rally, ©TRC Staff.



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©Steve Poole

**Thanks for Celebrating
 RaptorFest With Us!**

Thank you to all who joined in-person and online for five days of RaptorFest celebrations to honor birds of prey from June 16-20, 2021. The drive thru/bike thru raptor safari at the Stilson Transit Center in Wilson on June 20th was a huge success with over 400 people in attendance!

Special thank you goes to our lead sponsors Delcon, First Interstate Bank, and Teton Conservation District.



©Steve Poole

Talon Society Members

Donors and volunteers who gave an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, or 100 hours of volunteer service.

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Join the Talon Society!



Show your commitment to birds of prey by joining the Talon Society. Your annual gift of \$1,000 or more, or 100 hours of volunteer service within a calendar year, grants you entry into this treasured community of TRC supporters. We'll celebrate your investment in raptor conservation with invitations to special events and a custom-made pin by Wilson, Wyoming artist Annie Band.

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Photo: TRC Ambassadors with resident raptors ©TRC Staff.



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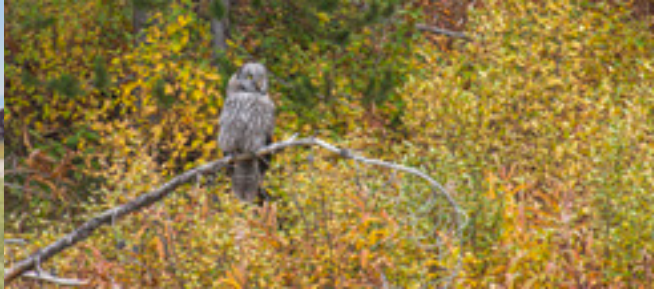
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Show us what you've got!

We invite you to share your raptor-inspired art, stories, and photos. Teton Raptor Center is always interested in learning about your observations of raptors in the wild. If you would like to submit a photo-of-the-week for our website, please send your submission to raptors@tetonraptorcenter.org.



PHOTOS, left to right: TRC staff, interns, and externs at summer BBQ, ©TRC Staff, TRC Avian Care Director Meghan Warren at Raptor Rally, ©TRC Staff; Education team and volunteers at the Fall Harvest Party at Old Wilson Schoolhouse, ©Kay Modi; David Hardie representing Hardeman the Red-tailed Hawk, ©TRC Staff.



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"The degrees of graceful determination you all put into each facet of stewardship toward healing, from the land and structures to the raptors, is spectacular and moving beyond words, thank you for it all!"
 —Stacey Kayem, Founder, The Children's Grand Adventure

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PHOTOS, left to right: TRC eagle mascot soars. ©TRC Staff; Staff and externs help with Great Gray Owl study. ©TRC Staff; Leslye Hardie represents Owly the Great-horned Owl. ©TRC Staff; Great Gray Owl in fall. ©Steve Poole; Volunteer representing Hunter the Peregrine Falcon. ©TRC Staff; RaptorFest volunteer ©Steve Poole; Poo-Poo Screen volunteer. ©TRC Staff; TRC staff having fun at RaptorFest. ©Steve Poole.



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Watch Our New Film *Flight Path*

In September a group of talented young filmmakers from around the country were in Jackson Hole to participate in the 2021 Jackson Wild Summit Media Lab Fellowship program.

A cohort of filmmakers from the 2021 Media Lab created a video called *Flight Path* to highlight the special work happening at Teton Raptor Center to keep wild birds wild!

Teton Raptor Center would like to thank Page Buono, Ariel Contreras, Fraser Jones, Sofia Martinez-Villalpando and the 2021 Jackson Wild Media Lab for producing, directing, and editing this wonderful short film. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to watch!



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