"What a cool story of the start of this center and how they’re continuing to help birds 20 years later. When we left, my 7 year old son said, ‘They inspired me!’"

— Millie M., Tripadvisor, February 2022
Reflections from Teton Raptor Center’s Founder

It was over 20 years ago when my wife Margaret and I embarked on this important journey of people, place, and the amazing lives of birds. So how did we get here?

Over two decades ago, a small group of local wildlife biologists, conservationists, veterinarians, and philanthropists recognized a need for an organization that would commit itself to the care and conservation of injured raptors. After navigating the challenges of starting a B3The Institute for Wildlife Health was born. State and federal permits were secured, and we were off and flying.

Our first patient, a Great Horned Owl that you all know well, Owly, came into our home. Imagine Owly on her perch on the living room floor, frozen rodents and quail thawing in the kitchen sink, and our kids, then four and six, feeling like it was the most normal thing in the world to have a Great Horned Owl living in their midst.

During that time, both Margaret and I provided educational programs, attended wildlife rehabilitation conferences, visited other raptor centers, interacted with state and federal officials, and simply took care of birds.

In late 2008, we were given the opportunity to lease a couple of buildings at the Hardeman Ranch from the Jackson Hole Land Trust. We now had a new home and a new name, “Teton Raptor Center.”

So, from a freezer full of dead rodents, the owls and hawks in the house and their permanent signatures on our wood floors, to the days of holding up a $25 dollar check to our 501c3, the Institute for Wildlife Health was born. State and federal officials, and simply took care of birds.

Reflections from Teton Raptor Center’s Founder

In Memoriam: Remembering Hunter

TRC’s beloved Peregrine Falcon, Hunter, sadly died March 14, 2022 from a spleen infection. During his six years with us, Hunter inspired awe and wonder in the hearts and minds of 64,216 participants through 1,151 programs. While we can track these types of numbers, we ultimately come out with an impact that is immeasurable. We thank Hunter and everyone who helped care for him during his impactful life.

With Gratitude & Appreciation

TRC’s board and staff send a heartfelt thank you to Steve Poole who completed two terms of service on TRC’s Board of Directors in 2022. We celebrate his six years of dedication, wisdom, and leadership. Thank you, Steve! This year we welcomed Eddie Opler as a new board member and David Hoster as an emeritus board member.

Invest in Raptor Conservation

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

- Make Our Wishes Come True: Throughout this edition of Flight Log you will find opportunities to fund specific wish lists items for the birds and team at Teton Raptor Center. These wish list opportunities provide a very meaningful way to advance raptor conservation.

- 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 including Teton Raptor Center in your will or trust and become part of TRC’s Soaring Society.

- Gifts of Securities: Gifts of stock, 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.

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.
Pava, Teton Raptor Center’s First Swainson’s Hawk Ambassador

Even if you’re a novice birder, it’s hard to mistake the distinctive pattern of a Swainson’s Hawk’s underwings with the dark trailing edge. Not uncommon in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem nowadays, there was a time when this large buteo was rarely seen. Swainson’s Hawk populations drastically declined in the 1980s, due in part to monocrotophos and dimethoate pesticide use in South America where these birds spend their winters. Roger Smith, TRC’s co-founder, recalls the days when seeing a Swainson’s Hawk in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem was a rare treat. Now, because of incredible, international conservation work to save them, you may have a chance to see a Swainson’s Hawk in the wild, or up close at Teton Raptor Center. In March 2022, we were thrilled to officially welcome our first ever Ambassador Swainson’s Hawk, “Pava.”

On August 31st, 2021, a juvenile female Swainson’s Hawk was found near a busy road in Ennis, Wyoming, with head and eye trauma. The hawk was also very thin. Her treatment plan included our emaciation protocol, medicated eye drops, and daily physical therapy to improve a serious head tilt known as torticolis. Her health rapidly improved, although she completely lost vision in her left eye. With only one good eye and very little time to learn how to hunt before migrating over 6,000 miles to Argentina, we decided her likelihood of survival was very low. Next, we needed to assess her potential to become an education ambassador. Fortunately, she took to stepping to the glove and training right away. Once it was official, it was time to name her. “Pava” was selected because it means “kettle” in Spanish. A large flock of migrating hawks is referred to as a kettle. Since Swainson’s Hawks congregate into kettles that number thousands of birds as they migrate between North and South America, the Spanish word for her name felt like the perfect way to honor her natural history.

Swainson’s Hawk populations have rebounded due to conservation efforts, but habitat loss, continued persecution in the form of illegal shootings, vehicle strikes, rat poison, and pesticides are other sources of mortality for these important grassland birds. As part of the education team of raptors at Teton Raptor Center, Pava will help us teach visitors of all ages and backgrounds about these conservation concerns. Although she’s no longer out in the wild herself, Pava will help us keep wild birds wild as an Avian Ambassador.

What can you do to help Swainson’s Hawks?
- Protect habitat. Small farms and natural grassland areas are important habitats for these migrating raptors.
- Don’t litter! Litter, especially on the roadsides, attracts rodents and insects, which in turn attract Swainson’s Hawks that then get hit by cars.
- Don’t use rat poison. Rat poison can accumulate in the tissues of rodents that ingest it. It then can kill the hawks that eat the rodents.

Swainson’s Hawks admitted in FY 21/22: 50


Swainson’s Hawks released to FY date (5/31/22): 50

Did You Know?
- Swainson’s Hawks are one of the world’s longest-distance migratory raptors, traveling roughly 12,500 miles roundtrip.
- It can take a Swainson’s Hawk two months to migrate from the western United States to its winter grounds in Argentina and Brazil.
- The oldest known wild, banded Swainson’s Hawk was recaptured at over 26 years old.
The Year in Review

Impact Report

Finance: Teton Raptor Center’s fiscal year is from June 1st through May 31st. TRC generated $1,274,215 in revenue, with an additional $2,261,716 in restricted funds to support TRC’s capital improvements. Total FY 2021-22 operational expenses were $1,322,167. TRC’s Form 990 is posted on our website and we invite you to review that report for more financial detail. Our FY 2022-23 operational budget is $1,440,280. The statistics reported throughout this publication focus on the fiscal year, June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022.

Income by Source

Operating Revenue

- Program Service Revenue: 27%
- Contributions & Grants: 72%
- Sales & Investment Income: 1%

Expenses by Class

Functional Expenses

- Program: 88%
- Management: 7%
- Fundraising: 5%

Program Participants by Fiscal Year

- 16/17: 28,449
- 17/18: 27,372
- 18/19: 26,036
- 19/20: 5,865
- 20/21: 19,335

Volunteer Hours by Fiscal Year

- 16/17: 7,076
- 17/18: 7,341
- 18/19: 7,341
- 19/20: 6,952
- 20/21: 9,776

By the Numbers: FY 2021–2022

- 502 educational programs delivered
- 17 ongoing research and conservation projects
- 19,335 program participants
- 171 avian patients
- 47 birds rescued through the Raptor Rescue Network
- 9,776 volunteer hours donated
- 690 Poo-Poo Project screens sold

Most reached/engaged Facebook post:
Golden Eagle "GOEA 8.22.21" flight assessment

Most reached/engaged Instagram post:
Gus the Golden Eagle Bathing

- 121,101 accounts reached
- 182 reactions
- 19 comments

- 21,108 accounts reached
- 1,272 reactions
- 19 comments
Teton Raptor Center Enters Final Phase of Site Improvements

Grounded in History... Soaring into the Future!

After completing our new and upgraded bird care facilities in 2020, we turned our attention to new and rehabilitated structures to support staff and long-term organizational sustainability. Over the past year, we re-opened the doors to the historic 1940s Horse Barn, once a home to horses and more recently serving as our main office, public bathrooms, and housing for one intern. Today, it gives our research team the opportunity to join the rest of the staff at our Wilson campus. For six years, TRC rented a small space in a light industrial area of Jackson, in order to provide a temporary home for our research staff and all of their field gear. After updating the Horse Barn with modern heating and cooling, improved insulation, and other long-overdue improvements, it is now TRC’s Conservation Barn, a permanent home for 17 research projects and the hub for TRC’s Sporting Lead-Free initiative.

In March 2022, TRC opened the doors to two units of workforce housing, with a total of four bedrooms. These low-maintenance, high-efficiency structures are transformative in our ability to offer additional internships (see page 20), and provide secure housing for staff members who need it, especially in Jackson Hole’s challenging housing market. And, in May, we watched an unplumbed construction trailer, which had been home to our administrative staff for over two years, roll off of the campus and we walked into our new Headquarters. This beautiful new structure was constructed as the hub for our administrative activities and as a staff gathering space, and, like many features of the campus, was built with versatility and adaptability in mind. As a testament to this thoughtful design, we have been utilizing the main kitchen and welcome area of the Headquarters for our onsite Raptor Encounters throughout the summer.

As this year’s Flight Log goes to print, we are “topping out” on the historic Hardeman Barn — reaching the pinnacle of exterior renovation of this iconic structure and turning our attention to the interior spaces where we plan to welcome you in the spring of 2023 for expanded programming in an inspiring space.

If you are interested in learning more about TRC’s site improvements or investing in our capital campaign to help us soar into the future, please contact Executive Director, Amy McCarthy.
Expanding Education

Over the last year, our team has contended with not one but two pandemics (COVID-19 and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza), as well as the ongoing site improvement project. Still, the Avian Care Team of staff and volunteers, along with fourteen Avian Ambassadors, continued to deliver high quality, engaging educational programs onsite, out in the community, and virtually. We’ve also enjoyed getting to know our new facilities! The Roost is home to our fourteen Avian Ambassadors ranging in size from Gus the Golden Eagle to Bert the Northern Saw-whet Owl, and ranging in age from one-year-old Carson the Peregrine Falcon to Owly the Great Horned Owl, who celebrated her 20th “Hatch Day” in March 2022. Our team has also grown as we welcomed Anna Tobin as our Education Coordinator and Carson as our newest Avian Ambassador. Now, we’re looking forward to all the possibilities that the dedicated education space in the restored historic Moseley/Harden Barn will offer for expanded programs and collaborations.

Owly’s 20th Hatch Day

On March 22, 2022, we celebrated Owly’s 20th hatch day with in-person and virtual celebrations. Friends of Owly from the last 20 years wrote in with fond memories. Sammy Douville, a former staff member for Teton Raptor Center, remembered Owly visiting her classroom as a kindergartener!

When Owly was just a few months old, she sustained a broken left wing after being struck by a vehicle on Fall Creek Road in Wilson, Wyoming. This led her to the care of Roger Smith and Margaret Creel, the founders of Teton Raptor Center, who started our raptor conservation program out of the historic Moseley/Harden Barn. From there, Owly went to the care of Roger and Margaret’s son, Paul, who later married Carson, the Peregrine Falcon, who is our newest Avian Ambassador. Now, we’re looking forward to all the possibilities that the dedicated education space in the restored historic Moseley/Harden Barn will offer for expanded programs and collaborations.

Education by the Numbers: FY 21/22

- Programs: 502
- Program participants: 19,335
- Miles traveled: 8,772
- Days of the year the avian ambassadors are weighed, fed, and their chambers are cleaned: 365
- TRC staff dedicated to regular education programs: 7
- Volunteer hours donated to programs: 1,425
- Education team Talon Society volunteers (donating 100 or more hours per calendar year): 9

Meet our Newest Team Members

Teton Raptor Center is delighted to welcome two new members of the Education Team! Anna Tobin joins the team as Education Coordinator, and Carson the Peregrine Falcon is our newest Avian Ambassador. Anna recently completed her M.S. in Outdoor and Environmental Education from Alaska Pacific University. She has worked as an educator and wildlife trainer at a number of wildlife organizations, including: San Francisco Zoo, Oregon Zoo, Alaska Zoo, and Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Carson received his name in homage to the author Rachel Carson, who helped raise awareness about the impact of DDT on raptor populations in her book Silent Spring. Carson was rehabilitated at the UC Davis Raptor Center after being found in the road suffering a femoral fracture. He was deemed unsuitable for release due to habitation to humans during the rehabilitation process and lack of stamina. The Avian Care Team is working with him daily as he learns to become an Avian Ambassador.

Education Wish List

Your contribution helps provide live raptor learning experiences year-round!

- $25,000 BIG WISH! Sponsor our Education Internship for one year
- $15,000 Avian Care Team Professional Development & Training
- $5,000 Enclosure upgrades and maintenance (perches, planters, and pools, oh my!)
- $2,500 Training and Enrichment supplies
- $1,500 Program supplies (art supplies, materials for kids’ activity kits)
- $1,000 Uniforms
- $500 Avian Ambassador Gear - Anklets, jesses, leashes
- $250 Gift Card to WestBank Garden Center (help us provide environmental enrichment to the birds through live plants)
- $100 Live crickets for Pava the Swainson’s Hawk’s enrichment
Research by the Numbers: FY 21/22

Total number of GPS relocations gathered from wild raptors: **356,312**

Publications by TRC research staff and associates: **61**

Artificial nest structures constructed: **13**

Number of graduate students: **4**

Number of active research projects: **17**

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**Mapping the Value of Wyoming to Golden Eagles**

*Finding the best of the best*

Some of the biggest hurdles to overcome in conservation of raptors is simply knowing where the birds are and how many are there. Determining the answers to these seemingly simple questions can be a huge challenge to understanding raptors that have continental-scale movements, complicated age dynamics, variable breeding statuses, and vast seasonal migrations. Regardless of the challenge, our team and collaborators are working to uncover these answers. One species at the top of that list is the Golden Eagle. Unlike their very successful cousin, the Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle populations are considered at-risk and sensitive across much of their range. Wyoming is home to some of the best habitat for the species in the Lower-48 but with close collaborators from the Knobloch Family Foundation, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Cal-Poly Humboldt, Natural Resource Geospatial, Gage Cartographics, and a host of amazing data contributors, we have been working to spatially prioritize the landscapes of Wyoming for Golden Eagles. That is, we have been modeling and mapping the most critical and densely-used habitats for eagles across the region. These areas include both breeding and winter habitats, critical migration corridors, roosting areas, and stop-over sites for sub-adults, adult and non-breeder. After two years, the team has finally completed the models that encompass all these categories! We are now creating an easy-to-use web-based decision support tool that anyone can use to map, understand, and compare the value of any region of Wyoming for Golden Eagles. The tool can be used both to identify important eagle areas to protect from future development and to prioritize areas for conservation actions, like removing lead from hunting, that will have a disproportionately higher return on investment. This new tool will help get the most conservation bang for the buck by showing the "best of the best" areas where conservation efforts will have 10x, 50x, or even 200x better returns!

**Affordable Housing for Raptors**

*Safeguarding Ferruginous Hawks*

Even raptors can benefit from affordable housing. After two years of fieldwork to model the important breeding habitat of Ferruginous Hawks in western Wyoming, our team used this information to locate the best spots to build elevated nesting structures for the largest hawk species in North America. Ferruginous Hawks typically nest on the ground or on easy-to-access erosional piles that make them vulnerable to predation and disturbance. In an effort to increase nest success for these birds, our team, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management - Pineline Field Office, built 13 nesting structures within existing territories for at-risk hawks this fall. Each has a remote camera to help determine use and prey selection if the nest is successful. Keep an eye on TRC social media channels next spring to find out how many are being used!

**Notes from the Field**

**Yosemite Great Gray Owls**

This past spring, our team was invited to Yosemite National Park to assist with research on Great Gray Owls. Although we’ve studied this species in Wyoming for the last ten years, California is home to a unique and state-endangered subspecies of Great Gray Owl. The population likely has been genetically isolated since the last ice age, and with such separation can come unique adaptations. From the get-go, in the field we were surprised by how different Yosemite's Great Gray Owls were compared with Wyoming's. They were more nocturnal, rarely vocalizing except before dawn and after dark. During banding, we noted that the owls in Yosemite were relatively smaller. Although the Great Gray Owl in North America's largest owl, they looked absolutely and unexpectedly tiny perched high up in Yosemite's impossibly giant conifers. Now that we have deployed GPS transmitters on Great Gray Owls in both regions, we can compare their movements and habitat use. Ultimately, conserving raptors requires understanding their ecology, including how populations may differ. This fact makes our collaboration with Yosemite so impactful: by comparing similarities and differences between Great Gray Owls across regions, we can better understand local conservation challenges and inform population-specific management actions.

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**Research Wish List**

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

- $25,000 **BIG WISH!** Tracking Transmitters (because we can’t just ask the birds where they go) 10 @ $2,500 each
- $6,000 Mini Audio Recorder to Find Owls (carrying the old, heavy ones really hurt our backs) 24 @ $250 each
- $3,200 Remote Cameras to Monitor Raptor Nests (is it really spying?) 8 @ $400 each
- $2,500 Gear Fund (we rip a LOT of jackets/ pants in the field and wear out boots fast) 8 @ $300 each
- $1,000 Binoculars to help the interns see more raptors!
- $600 GIS Mapping Software Licenses (it’s too hard to map migration routes by hand)
- $500 Garmin InReach (so we don’t get lost in the woods)
- $150 Batteries (to power our gear in the field)
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

In the spring of 2022, Teton Raptor Center, along with many other wildlife rehabilitation clinics across the country, faced a second pandemic that struck avian wildlife and poultry across the nation. This contagious virus is known as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and can spike during migration seasons when birds are traveling and on the move. The virus is transmitted between birds, can be transmitted to humans, and lives on surfaces. In birds, HPAI is fatal and there is no cure for the virus. Its ability to spread rapidly among other avian species is rather remarkable; therefore our team has worked tirelessly to keep staff and volunteers safe from contracting the virus, full PPE is donned from head to toe. Clinical signs for HPAI include, but are not limited to: abnormal pulmonary behavior; lethargy; rapid pupillary movement; swelling in toes, face or feet; spinning movements of the head and/or body; and unawareness of surroundings.

Although the vast majority of patients admitted to TRC’s wildlife rehabilitation clinic are victims of car strikes, we have noticed a rise in entanglement incidents among raptors. This often occurs due to garbage that is not disposed of properly, as well as man-made materials such as fencing or netting. Species such as Osprey typically collect sticks for their nest and adorn their stick nests with pieces of trash. Items such as fishing line, plastic bags, and baling twine are often found in Osprey nests. As Osprey chicks hatch and grow up in the nest, they can become entangled in waste, which can effectively compromise normal growth and development if it restricts blood flow to a wing or leg as a bird struggles to free itself. In other scenarios, soccer nets and barbed wire or backyard wooden fences have been known to have negative effects on birds. When a bird becomes entangled, it may panic and struggle, not knowing how to carefully remove its wings, legs, and body from its entrapment. This often leads to various regions of trauma on the body of a bird and birds have been known to break bones in an effort to free themselves. A tangible effort to prevent these types of incidents from occurring that anyone can do is to dispose of trash properly and to pick up trash from natural habitats even if it’s not yours. Additionally, consider opting out of having a fenced in yard, take down soccer nets when not in use, and stay away from using barbed wire. Barbed wire fencing injuries not only are a cause for entanglement in raptors, but can also cause severe soft tissue wounds since the barb can tear through skin easily. This type of fencing is most dangerous to raptors and other wildlife and should be avoided. Replacing the top wire in a barbed wire fence with a smooth wire can mitigate the severity of injuries if nothing can be done to fully remove or replace a barbed wire fence.

Rehabilitation by the Numbers: FY 21/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Patients Admitted:</th>
<th>171 birds</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Releases:</td>
<td>55 birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival Rate after 24 hrs:</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Unique Species:</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Common Location:</td>
<td>34 birds from Jackson, WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Common Species Admitted:</td>
<td>27 Red-tailed Hawks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entanglement

Merlin 3.9.22

Patient Spotlight

A second-year Merlin, the second smallest falcon in North America, was admitted with a luxation in his right elbow. Luxations (commonly referred to as dislocations) are extremely difficult to repair in raptors since their bones don’t simply pop back into place and remain in place the way that human bones might. Luxations are extremely delicate injuries to treat since even a small movement can cause the joint to become out of place. Luckily for this Merlin, a quick surgery took place at Jackson Animal Hospital to repositional his elbow joint in the correct placement and he was swiftly put in a wing wrap to immobilize him from any shifting that could take place. After two straight weeks in a wing wrap, it finally came time to remove the wrap and determine if the procedure was a success. To the surprise of our staff, the elbow had healed perfectly in place and the bird was eventually able to fly and hunt successfully, deeming him a candidate for release.

Rehab Wish List

Your donation can help save the birds!

- **$25,000**: BE WISE! Support our Conservation Internship for one year
- **$23,000**: Oxygen Machine (to replace our much loved, heavily used, 10-year-old O2 chamber)
- **$15,000**: Feed the Birds (Purchase frozen, nutritious mice, rats, chicks, chicken legs, and quail for our patients)
- **$7,500**: Supports the Raptor Rescue Network - Rescue supplies, trainings, educational materials, and volunteer mileage reimbursement
- **$2,500**: Fund surgeries (10 surgeries @ $250 each)
- **$1,000**: Updated, lead-free X-ray radiation protection gloves
- **$700**: A 50-ft. roll of astroturf for our perches
- **$500**: Medical supplies
- **$100**: Enrichment supplies (toys, plants, etc.)
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.

Sporting Lead-Free

Sporting Lead-Free was invited to partner with the Wildlife Fund, First Hunt Foundation, and Wyoming 4-H for a summer camp on the Little Jennie Ranch in Bondurant, WY. During this camp, 20 at-risk youth boys from Wyoming, Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia, and California took part in several outdoor activities and learned about Sporting Lead-Free. After the camp, Hannah received a letter in the mail from one of the boys, which says it all!
Volunteers

Celebrating Long-Term Service

Since 2008, Teton Raptor Center has welcomed volunteers from all backgrounds to help advance raptor conservation through many different opportunities to contribute time and talent, and be important ambassadors for our mission. Over the years, volunteers have donated over 45,000 hours of service to education, research, rehabilitation, the Poo-Poo Project, and Sporting Lead-Free. Most recently, we had 11 volunteers (not including our board members) surpass the 1,000-hour mark during their volunteer journey with us. Of those 11 volunteers, seven of them have volunteered for over five years, collectively contributing 17,819 hours of service to keeping wild birds wild.

Meet our ambassadors who have donated nearly 18,000 hours of service! Sue Ernisse has volunteered with us for over 8 years, which is the longest by any volunteer thus far. She is an asset to our patients in the clinic, a leader within our education pillar, and a key observer of osprey nests for our research team. Several volunteers have been with us for over six years; they include Bev Boynton, Lisa Friesecke, Tim Griffith, Julianne O'Donoghue, and Kathy Warner. Bev and Tim have been an integral part of our research team by logging many miles hiking, crossing rivers, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing, while also spending time indoors analyzing data. Lisa and Julianne have been trailblazers with administrative tasks, while also dabbling into care of our patients and resident birds. Kathy utilizes her nursing background as a leader in the clinic to inspire, teach, and assist not only our team but also other volunteers. Over the last five years, Patti Mull has been assisting in our clinic, and more recently she assists with resident bird care and programming. All of our long-term ambassadors also engage in special events such as RaptorFest or Owl-o-ween. Volunteers are the heart of Teton Raptor Center and we are incredibly grateful to all our ambassadors who are a key part of advancing raptor conservation.

Raptor Rescue Network

The Raptor Rescue Network (RRN) is a group of dedicated volunteer drivers, pilots, veterinarians, rehabbers, and agency personnel who work together to help get injured raptors to rehabilitation centers in Wyoming or over the border to Colorado. The average rescue is 231 miles round trip and four hours. You can be part of the life-saving Raptor Rescue Network, too. Email us for more information at volunteers@tetonraptorcenter.org.

RRN by the Numbers: FY 21/22

- Miles driven by RRN volunteers: 10,359
- Hours spent transporting injured raptors: 177
- Current # of RRN volunteers in WY and ID: 131 (102 in WY and 29 in ID)
- Raptors Rescued through the RRN: 47

The Next Generation of Conservationists

Through our intern and extern programs, we help shape the next generation of conservationists. Over the course of a decade, TRC has grown from having just three seasonal interns to hosting five seasonal interns, two-year-round interns, and two veterinary externs in 2022.

Meet the 2022 High School Summer Conservation Interns

Katherine Grimm
Sophomore at West Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas, NV
Favorite memory: “It is hard to pick a favorite memory because I made so many amazing ones during my time at TRC, but getting to hold Manzana was unreal. It was so special to be able to hold a raptor so close on glove; I have truly never experienced anything like it before and I will definitely never forget it.”

Chandler Gilbane
Berkshire School, Sheffield, MA

Phoebe Opler
Senior at St. Paul’s School, Concord, NH
Favorite memory: “My favorite memory is when I was able to release my first bird back into its habitat on my last day. It was a perfect day outside, however when I opened the kennel, our red tail continued to hide within its safe home. It wasn’t until five minutes later that we had to shake him out, and soon he was waddling away into the tall grass.”

City Kids HS JET Interns: Cindy, Kyla, and Donnab
Conservation Internship Program Takes Flight

A large part of our mission involves building capacity for wildlife professionals, whether they are new to the conservation field or looking to gain specialized experience with raptors. While we have hosted interns since 2011, this fiscal year marks our first-ever year-long Conservation Internships. The first interns to hold this new position, Avalon and Karina, split their time between the research, education, and rehabilitation departments. Providing this holistic understanding of our mission and daily operations helps to build interconnectivity between our three conservation pillars and is largely made possible by our brand new onsite housing. We asked Avalon and Karina about their experience so far.

Q: What did you enjoy most about living on TRC’s campus?

A: Well, I definitely saved a lot of sleep and gas emissions’ money from not commuting, which is always a plus. Living on campus allowed a great amount of flexibility with being able to come home and reset in between bird care shifts or during hotline hours. I feel it also gave me a sense of responsibility for and connection to the campus and the birds, like a supervised bird slumber party!

K: Definitely the view! We have the unit that faces south and looks out onto Fish Creek and the mountains where we did most of our fieldwork this spring. It’s been so grounding to watch wild birds flourishing in our backyard, raising their young, and changing with the seasons.

Q: What was the most memorable experience you had during your internship?

A: I will never forget my first day in the field. Going up a high angle mountain slope with a 30 pound pack in knee deep snow is a difficult task in itself, and I chose to take cross country skis as my mode of transportation - only having been on them a few times in my life. Let’s just say my field partner was waiting on me for a while. A day or two later I was in the field doing bird calls for the first time in my life and a Great Gray Owl immediately approached me. It was very unexpected and one of the most magical moments of my life.

K: I will never forget my first day in the field. Going up a high angle mountain slope with a 30 pound pack in knee deep snow is a difficult task in itself, and I chose to take cross country skis as my mode of transportation - only having been on them a few times in my life. Let’s just say my field partner was waiting on me for a while. A day or two later I was in the field doing bird calls for the first time in my life and a Great Gray Owl immediately approached me. It was very unexpected and one of the most magical moments of my life.

Q: What was your favorite and least favorite part of bird care?

A: Mats will be the death of me. I can use every imaginable cleaning tool on a mat and still come back to it and find a quail feather popping out. Beyond the daily astonishment I felt working so closely with wild birds, whether it was building relationships with resident birds or holding a new species in the clinic, I really enjoyed the medical aspect of bird care and enjoyed the mystery and challenge of intaking, examining, and diagnosing each case.

K: 100% the mats. A little light in me dies when another dirty mat suddenly appears after I thought they had all been cleaned. But that’s a small thing compared to the rewards of working with raptors every day. Dropping food for a hungry hawk, witnessing a rehab patient fly in the barn for the first time, watching Gus run crazily down the hallway... these are all little miracles that make me feel immensely privileged to take part in these birds’ lives.

Q: What advice do you have for those who are interested in pursuing wildlife conservation?

A: Don’t give up. Personally, I had a rough time after graduating because I could not get a job in this field. This is a career path in which experience and connections are highly valued. I did not know anyone in this field of work and could not sacrifice a full-time unpaid position for experience which led me to feel disheartened, lost, and wanting to change paths. I decided I would continue to try and build my experience in wildlife conservation by volunteering part-time with TRC and was able to build experience and connections, which ultimately led me to this internship. With the experience and knowledge I have gained over the past year, I am confident it will lead me into my career in wildlife conservation. Wherever you may stand in this career path, genuine passion and perseverance will drive you towards your goal.

K: Get animal handling experience in any way you can. My first job handling animals was as a veterinarian’s assistant, no prior experience necessary. Volunteer a couple hours a week at your local zoo or wildlife rehab center, or cold call university professors to see if they need help with some menial chore in their lab. Find internships that provide housing. Try not to fear rejection and trust that your passion will carry you forward.

Meet the 2022 Summer Externs

Pre-veterinary Extern: Grace Sutherland
Second year Animal Science major at California Polytechnic University

Favorite memory: “One of my favorite memories was attending and handling the leg pin surgery for the Black-billed Magpie because that procedure is so cool with the use of hollow bird bones and it was a really unique opportunity to be there. My other favorite was holding Golden Eagle 8.6.22!”

Veterinary Extern: Jacob Franc
Jacob is a second year vet student from Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Favorite memory: “My favorite memory at the clinic was doing a necropsy on a great horned owl (I think it was GHOW 7.16.22) because it passed away suddenly and finding fungal plaques that were most likely from aspergillosis. It was a very interesting case because the owl, being admitted due to wing lacerations after entanglement in soccer netting, was eating well and recovering without any issues. What made this stand out to me so much is that it illustrated how unpredictable some cases can be, especially in wildlife medicine.”

The Next Generation of Conservationists (continued)
Thanks for Giving a Hoot

Avian Care Team Deepens Professional Development

One item on our wish list last year was to fund professional development for our staff. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, our wishes came true and the Avian Care Team immersed in a number of professional development opportunities:

International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators
Connor Hartnett, Avian Care Technician attended the annual IAATE conference and presented on TRC's Poo-Poo Project's work to help conserve cavity nesting wildlife. He also attended several seminars and workshops on the welfare and training of raptors. Sheena Patel, Meghan Warren, and Linnea Gardner attended virtually.

National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association Symposium
Sheena Patel and Amanda Penn attended this weeklong symposium dedicated to wildlife rehabilitation.

Certified Wildlife Rehabilitation Rehabilitation through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
Sheena Patel

Bird of Prey Training Workshop at Avian Behavior International
Anna Tobin, Education Coordinator, went to San Diego in September to participate in a workshop focused on best practices for working with captive education birds, from how to reduce stress during programs to free-flight training.

Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine Euthanasia License
This year both Amanda Penn and Connor Hartnett became certified to assess and present on TRC's Poo-Poo Project's work to help conserve cavity nesting wildlife. He also attended several seminars and workshops on the welfare and training of raptors. Sheena Patel, Meghan Warren, and Linnea Gardner attended virtually.

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Wishes Do Come True

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Talon Society Members

Donors and volunteers who gave an annual gift of $1,000 or more of 100 hours of volunteer service in the past year. Your gifts grant you entry into this treasured community of TRC supporters. We celebrate your investment in raptor conservation with invitations to special events and a custom-made pin by W. Ilison, Wyoming artist and bat bander.

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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 in the past year, entitles you. Your gifts grant you entry into this treasured community of TRC supporters. We celebrate your investment in raptor conservation with invitations to special events and a custom-made pin by William Ilison, Wyoming artist and bat bander.
Brian Swisher

**Donors** and volunteers who contributed time, talent, financial resources and/or in-kind services and gifts between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022 are recognized on this list. Teton Raptor Center regrets any inadvertent omissions or misspellings. Please contact us if you are not properly recognized so we can correct our information on file.

It was one of the highlights of our trip. As a lover of the birds of prey, I found this to be a very enjoyable hour.

Nancy B., Bozeman, MT, Tripadvisor

**PHOTOS:** Left to right: Avian bands Ferruginous Hawk nestlings in Big Pinyon, WY. © TRC Staff; Avian release at a Northern Goshawk during banding in the field, © TRC Staff; Sheena and Bryan outfit a Golden Eagle in the clinic with a GPS transmitter. © TRC Staff; Handmade the Red-Tailed Hawk, © TRC Staff; Graduate research associate Jess Layfield (right) presents a poster at the annual Wyoming WInF conference. © TRC Staff; Julie releases a Ferruginous Hawk after banding in the field, © TRC Staff; Avian disguised to prevent imprinting while feeding young American Kestrels in rehab, © TRC Staff; Volunteer Michael Lane represents at Birds on the Block, © TRC Staff; Julie and a Horned Lizard in the field, © TRC Staff; Great Gray Owl in the field, © Ashleigh Scully.
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Amanda Penn releasing a Swainson’s Hawk. ©Chase Krumholz.