



Fall 2024 | Volume 16

Flight log

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

**Keeping wild
birds wild!**

Our Mission

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

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Cover photo: Manzana the Barn Owl
(2015 - 2024). ©Cecil Holmes



Dear Friends,

As we close out 2024, we're thrilled to reflect on the remarkable strides Teton Raptor Center (TRC) has made over the past year, thanks to your unwavering support and dedication. This year has been a testament to our core values: community, passion, inspiration, and integrity.

Community has been at the heart of our efforts. Our beautifully restored Moseley/Hardeman Barn, now a year-round home for Avian Experiences and discoveries in the Learning Lab, has welcomed students and guests from around the world.

Our passion for raptor conservation continues to drive our mission forward. This year, our strategic initiatives, including new Golden Eagle conservation projects with advanced transmitters, showcase our dedication to innovation and collaboration. These efforts allow us to gather important data and enhance our understanding of this powerful and majestic species.

We find inspiration in the countless contributions of our community members. From the stunning mural created by one of our interns to the transformative impact of our volunteers, each person plays a vital role in our success. Moreover, TRC inspires action throughout our community and beyond. Our outreach and educational programs ignite a passion for conservation, encouraging others to engage in keeping wild birds wild.

Finally, our commitment to integrity ensures that every project and initiative aligns with our mission and values. Whether it's the meticulous care of our patients and Avian Ambassadors or the thoughtful execution of our studies in the field, we uphold the highest standards in everything we do.

As we look ahead, we invite you to continue this great raptor journey with us. Explore our newly enhanced spaces, participate in our programs, and join us in celebrating the Avian Ambassadors that are key to our unique approach to education. Together, we can continue to soar to new heights in raptor conservation.

Amy B. McCarthy

Amy McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer

Roger Smith

Roger Smith
Chief Mission Officer

Eddie Opler

Eddie Opler
Board Chair

The Power of Legacy Giving:
Join TRC's Soaring Society

Legacy giving is a cornerstone of Teton Raptor Center's long-term success and sustainability. By including TRC in your estate plans, you become part of our Soaring Society—a group of visionary supporters dedicated to ensuring the future of raptor conservation. Our partner, FreeWill, has a secure and free online resource that can be found at freewill.com/tetonraptorcenter to make (or update) your will and legacy gift within 20 minutes.

Legacy giving provides crucial support that allows us to plan for the future and expand our impact. These contributions are essential in advancing our mission and helping us continue our vital work—rehabilitating injured raptors, advancing research, and providing engaging educational programs.

"I have had the privilege of working closely with the Teton Raptor Center staff for several years and have never met a more dedicated, and more uplifting group than these avian heroes. That is why I have included them in my advanced financial planning. I consider myself blessed to be a part of their Soaring Society and so should anyone who loves raptors!"

— TIM GRIFFITH, SOARING SOCIETY MEMBER

We invite you to become a member of the Soaring Society and build a lasting legacy. If you have already included us in your estate plans, please notify us of your contribution by visiting freewill.com/record/tetonraptorcenter. We would love to express our gratitude, welcome you to the Soaring Society, and ensure our gift records are up to date. Your support helps us ensure that TRC's mission continues to thrive and inspire.

For more information on how to make a legacy gift and join the Soaring Society, please contact us today. Together, we can secure the future of raptor conservation and keep our mission soaring.



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:**
A gift of any size helps our education, research, and rehabilitation programs soar higher! Throughout this edition of *Flight Log*, you'll find special opportunities to fund specific wishlist items for the birds, our team, and conservation efforts at Teton Raptor Center. These wishlist contributions are a powerful way to directly impact raptor conservation and give wings to the work we do.
- **DONATE ONLINE, BY MAIL, OR BY TELEPHONE:** Giving is simple and impactful! Write a check payable to Teton Raptor Center, authorize a credit or debit card donation via our website, use the enclosed envelope, or contact us at 307.203.2551.
- **MATCHING GIFTS:** Double your impact! Many employers offer matching gift programs—ask your company to match your gift and multiply your contribution to TRC.
- **GIFTS OF SECURITIES:** Donate stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to support TRC's mission. Contact us to learn more about this unique way to make a difference.
- **PLANNED GIFTS:** Leave a lasting legacy. Include Teton Raptor Center in your will or trust, and join our Soaring Society, ensuring your support carries on for generations to come.



REQUEST



GIFT INTENT

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

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

Our Tax ID # is 83-0328068.

Teton Raptor Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Injured Raptor Hotline
307.203.2551
Ext. 1 | Available Daily



Golden Eagles

Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Golden Eagles are emerging as a species of significant conservation concern in the United States. Their populations are projected to decline, with decreases already observed in some regions. They face existing and ongoing threats like shooting and poisoning (still the leading cause of death for adult eagles), electrocutions, car collisions, and lead poisoning. Now, new threats, like collisions with wind turbines, are expected to skyrocket and cause currently stable populations to decline. At Teton Raptor Center, we are actively addressing these challenges through a range of initiatives. We rehabilitate injured Golden Eagles, conduct studies to identify critical threats, host Sporting Lead-Free to reduce lead poisoning, developed RaptorMapper to pinpoint key habitats for conservation, and work to re-establish lost territories in the Great Plains by building artificial nests. This year, several key stories have emerged that highlight our ongoing efforts to protect this iconic species in the West.



- **Wyoming has some of the best and largest Golden Eagle nesting habitat in the Lower 48.**
- **It takes months for young Golden Eagles to learn how to successfully hunt. Young Golden Eagles can remain with their parents up to a year after fledging.**

Uniting Rehabilitation and Research: Pioneering Efforts to Ensure the Survival of Golden Eagles

At Teton Raptor Center, our unique combination of rehabilitation, research, and education enables us to approach raptor conservation in innovative ways. For example, we use our research expertise in tracking to enhance our rehabilitation efforts by GPS-tagging released raptors, including Golden Eagles, to monitor their success.

One remarkable case study is Valkyrie, an adult Golden Eagle that arrived at TRC in April 2021 from Farson, Wyoming. Initially deemed non-releasable due to suspected brain trauma, Valkyrie was transferred to the EcoTarium in Massachusetts to become an educational ambassador. However, over a year later, she began flying and exhibiting natural behaviors, prompting discussions about her release. After returning to TRC for further evaluation

and flight conditioning, she passed live prey tests and was released in May 2024. Now part of our post-release monitoring program, Valkyrie is the first adult Golden Eagle tracked in our study, with GPS data providing over 36,000 locations that offer valuable insights into the long-term survival of rehabilitated raptors.

We continue to gather unique data from other Golden Eagles as well. GOEA 8.29.23 was admitted to our clinic from Saddlestring, WY with a parasite infection. After treatment, the eagle was released and quickly migrated to southern Texas for the winter before returning seven months later to an area just 75 miles north of its original release site.

This spring, our research team helped foster two orphaned Golden Eagle nestlings from central Wyoming into wild nests. Our ongoing studies in the Bighorn Basin allowed us to quickly identify suitable nests to place them in, increasing their chances of survival.

This combination of clinical data and field research is now being used to develop new mitigation strategies for Golden Eagles, such as rehabilitation to offset losses from wind turbines. The collaboration among TRC's departments enables us to collect vital data and take meaningful action to ensure the persistence of Golden Eagles in North America.

Gus the Golden Eagle

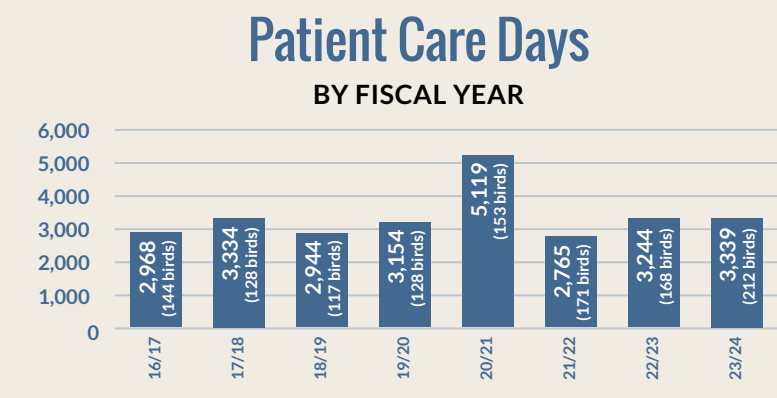
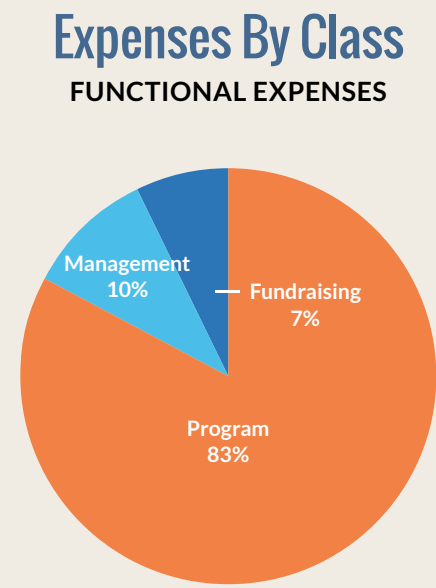
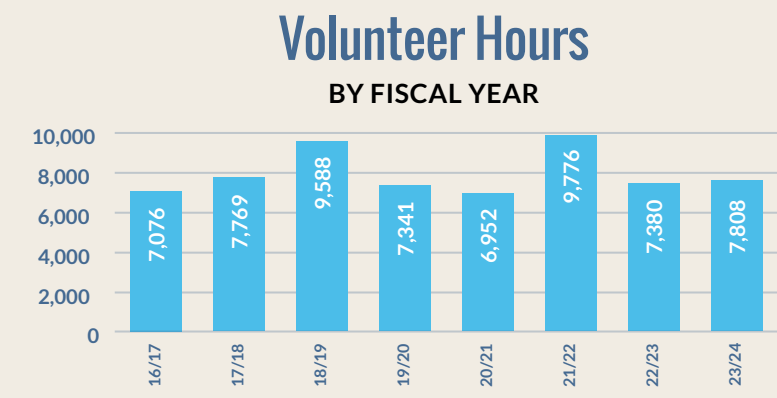
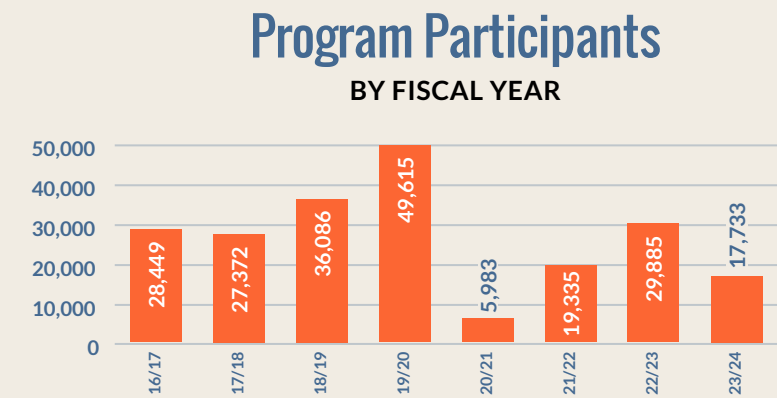
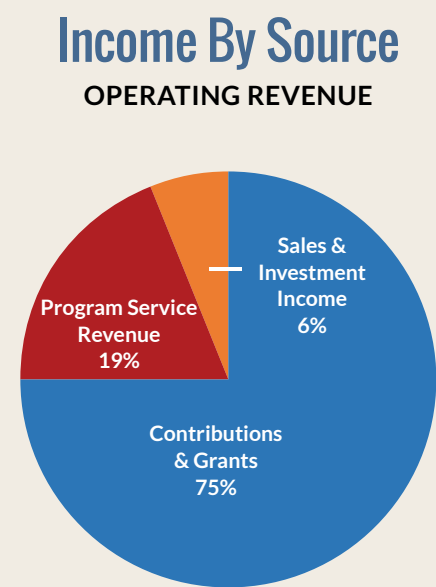
Gus the Golden Eagle holds the distinction of being Teton Raptor Center's oldest Avian Ambassador and one of the original members of our education team. At 19 years old, Gus is the patriarch of our resident raptors and has been a vital part of TRC's mission since the beginning, even spending his early years at the home of our founders. Over nearly two decades, Gus has participated in 1,158 programs, offering unforgettable up-close eagle encounters to 67,398 students of all ages. Witnessing Gus during one of our Behind-the-Scenes programs is truly a special experience.





Impact Report

FINANCE: Teton Raptor Center’s fiscal year is from June 1st through May 31st and the statistics reported in this publication focus on FY23-24, June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024. In FY23-24, TRC generated \$2,016,424 in revenue, with an additional \$235,977 in restricted funds to support TRC’s capital improvements. Total operational expenses were \$1,912,056, with an additional non-cash depreciation expense of \$315,884. TRC’s Form 990 is posted on our website and we invite you to review that report for more financial detail. Our FY 2024-25 operational budget is \$2,061,625.



By the Numbers: FY 2023-2024

13 ONGOING RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

23 RAPTOR SPECIES ADMITTED

403 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS DELIVERED

761 POO-POO SCREENS SPONSORED

7,808

7,808 VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATED

120 BIRDS RESCUED THROUGH THE RAPTOR RESCUE NETWORK

17,733 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

212 AVIAN PATIENTS



MOST REACHED/ENGAGED-WITH POST ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM:
Our announcement of Cosmo the Barn Owl, a new Avian Ambassador, on June 3, 2023 received over 2,800 likes on Instagram and dozens of comments between Facebook and Instagram.

social media

FACEBOOK
+890 Followers
146.6K Accounts Reached
14.7K Content Interactions

INSTAGRAM
+621 Followers
163.2K Accounts Reached
7.8K Content Interactions

At the time of this publication, we have over 25K followers on Instagram and have even started a TikTok channel!



In July, we celebrated a milestone: one year of welcoming guests from near and far to the beautifully restored Moseley/Hardeman Barn. Since opening the doors to this inspiring space, this venue has hosted 400 programs where over 9,000 participants have marveled at the world of raptors up close. Our year-round home for Avian Experiences and our Learning Lab have truly elevated our ability to connect with the community.

We also celebrated the completion of the "Flight Path" and plaza area, a welcoming entrance featuring engraved paver stones that honor birds and the many passionate individuals committed to their conservation. This new addition not only enhances our barn's charm but also serves as a vibrant hub for community and conservation collaborations.

If you haven't yet visited the Hardeman Barn, we invite you to experience its soaring beauty and the exciting programs we offer. For more details on our events and programs, please visit our website.

Sustainability Initiatives

At Teton Raptor Center, sustainability is at the heart of our operations. During the reconstruction of our campus, we made many conscious decisions to reduce our environmental impact long-term. One major achievement is the installation of solar panels, which now provide a substantial portion of our energy needs. Since their installation we've generated enough renewable energy to power an average of 25% of our onsite operations, helping to offset our carbon footprint and support our mission of environmental stewardship.

In addition to renewable energy, our grounds have also seen the growth of a native plant garden. This project not only beautifies our space but also provides vital habitats for local pollinators and helps to maintain the ecological integrity of the surrounding area. By incorporating species native to our region, we are fostering a biodiverse environment that benefits birds, insects, and other wildlife.

For those interested in supporting sustainable practices, we encourage you to check out the Nature Shop section on page 25 of this newsletter. Here, you'll find details on how we practice sustainability in every aspect of our operations, from eco-friendly packaging to ethically and locally sourced products.





A unique owl ambassador greets visitors at TRC's entrance along the new pathway into Wilson. ©Jonathan Selkowitz

Community Celebration

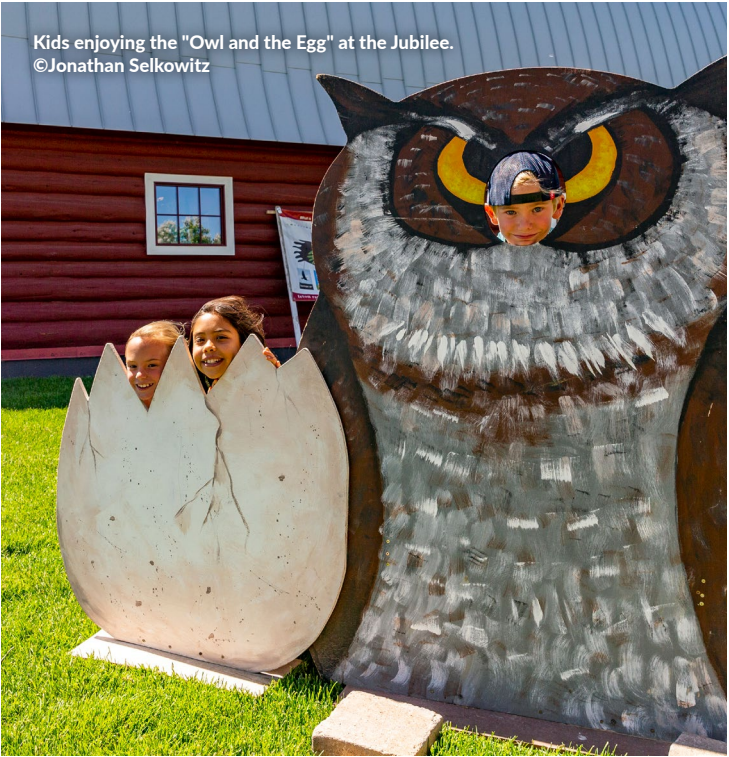
I LOVE Wilson Jubilee

Teton Raptor Center has a cherished tradition of celebrating birds of prey on Father’s Day, affectionately known as “Feathers’ Day.” This year we were thrilled to partner in the inaugural “I LOVE Wilson Jubilee” on June 16th, which turned out to be a fantastic success.

Our open house at the historic Moseley/Hardeman Ranch drew enthusiastic community members who enjoyed live bird displays, educational activities, and family-friendly fun. The newly renovated campus provided a perfect setting for exploring the fascinating world of raptors.

The Jubilee also buzzed with excitement at Owen Bircher Park where attendees relished delicious food, engaging games, and a lively free concert by Young and Musser. Visitors took the opportunity to explore Wilson’s vibrant community and benefit from Father’s Day specials at local favorites like Nora’s Fish Creek Inn, Teton Gravity Research, and Hungry Jack’s.

The event’s strolling and rolling format allowed guests to easily traverse between Teton Raptor Center, Old Wilson Schoolhouse Community Center, and Owen Bircher Park, using foot, bike, or shuttle van. A highlight of the day was the celebration of “Tim’s Trail,” the new extension of Jackson Hole’s community pathway



system, which now reaches Wilson and runs right in front of Teton Raptor Center.

The I LOVE Wilson Jubilee was a wonderful celebration of community and conservation, and we’re deeply grateful to everyone who joined us to make the day so memorable!

Manzana, A Beloved Barn Owl (2015-2024)



Manzana the Barn Owl. ©Wes Timmerman

In January 2024, we marked the poignant departure of one of our beloved Avian Ambassadors, Manzana the Barn Owl. As she gracefully embarked on her final flight, our hearts were filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the indelible impact she left on all of us. Even if you never had the opportunity to meet her in person, chances are you encountered her captivating presence through the numerous portraits adorning our materials – she was undeniably one of our most photographed ambassadors.

In the spirit of Helen Keller's wisdom, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." Manzana epitomized this

sentiment, transcending the boundaries of sight and sound to touch our hearts in ways words can scarcely capture. Throughout her eight years representing her species at TRC, Manzana embodied the truest essence of an ambassador. It's awe-inspiring to think that, despite facing challenges in seeing and hearing, she emerged as one of the most engaging members of our avian family, appearing in 1,290 programs during her lifetime and captivating 70,865 program participants. Her story resonates with the spirit of resilience and beauty that echoes through Ms. Keller's profound words. Her presence will continue to linger in the depths of our hearts. The wonder she evoked, the joy she shared, and the lessons she imparted are timeless gifts that will forever be etched in our collective memory.

Teton Raptor Center Welcomes Four New Avian Ambassadors

New feathered faces have joined our team at Teton Raptor Center, with four incredible ambassadors added in the last year. Each brings a unique story and an important role in educating and inspiring our community.

Cache
American Kestrel



CACHE, THE AMERICAN KESTREL, hatched through a falconry propagation program on the East Coast, arrived at just a few months old. Small but mighty, Cache's presence has made a big impact in both onsite and offsite programs, beautifully representing his species.

Horus & Violet
Peregrine Falcons



HORUS & VIOLET, RETIRED FALCONRY PEREGRINE FALCONS from Montana, have been incredible additions to the team. After previously living together in a chamber, they now have individual enclosures at TRC. Their striking size difference between female and male, called sexual dimorphism, and their unique life histories have become key in teaching about sexual dimorphism in raptors, while also celebrating the remarkable recovery of Peregrine Falcons in the wild.

Cricket
Burrowing Owl



And last but not least, we welcomed our first-ever Burrowing Owl ambassador! Hatched in a conservation program, this young owl arrived at just a couple of weeks old. Thanks to the dedication of our avian care staff and several helpful volunteers, this little owl has grown into a resilient and confident representative of their species. We are thrilled to have this special owl on our team, making quick strides in training.

New Avian Ambassador photos. ©TRC staff



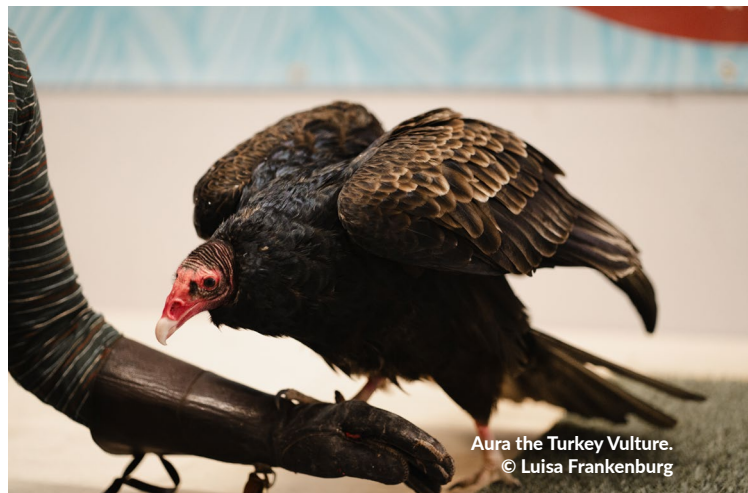
Education



Our new mural with the artist, Jessica Lewis. ©TRC staff



A classroom program in the Loft of the Moseley/Hardeman Barn. ©TRC Staff



Aura the Turkey Vulture. © Luisa Frankenburg



Education Wishlist

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

- ★ **"Home on the Flight Range" - \$25,000**
Outdoor Weathering Yard
Build our resident raptors a sunlit space for free-flight practice!
- ★ **"Bird Nerd Summits" - \$10,000**
Professional Development
Invest in our team's growth with training opportunities that keep us at the forefront of raptor care.
- ★ **"Pebbles for the Perch" - \$1,500**
Pea Gravel for Enclosures
Upgrade our raptors' enclosures with spa-like pebble flooring.
- ★ **"Feathered Fortresses" - \$1,500**
Predator-Proof Screening for Windows
Secure raptor homes with predator-proof screening.
- ★ **"Fresh Feathers, Fresh Paint" - \$500**
New Paint for Enclosures
Give our raptors' homes a colorful makeover.
- ★ **"Talon-tastic Toys" - \$200**
New Enrichment Items
Stock up on engaging toys for our raptors!



TRC staff with Gus the Golden Eagle present during a collaborative program with Silicon Couloir. ©TRC Staff

Make Your Next Event Soar at Teton Raptor Center

Looking for a unique and inspiring venue for your nonprofit or corporate meeting, celebration, or special event? Let us host you! Teton Raptor Center offers stunning spaces, including the historic Hardeman Barn, outdoor pavilion, and conference room, available for group rentals.

We'll take your gathering to the next level with an engaging program featuring one of our Avian Ambassadors. Every event at TRC is enhanced by this unforgettable learning opportunity, creating the ultimate Avian Experience.

Education Mural

Our education intern, Jessica Lewis, left a lasting legacy in the Roost by painting a beautiful mural for our display enclosure. Each intern at TRC takes on a project during their internship and Jess was thrilled to create something that not only enhances the beauty of our campus but also enriches the environment for one of our resident ambassador birds. The display enclosure allows guests to observe the bird up close, displaying natural behaviors in a carefully designed space that is curated for each individual bird and considers species-specific needs. The mural, depicting the Teton mountain range—a stunning hallmark of Jackson Hole—adds a touch of local beauty and inspiration for all who visit.

Education by the Numbers: FY 23-24

(JUNE 1, 2023 - MAY 31, 2024)

Onsite Programs: **265**

Offsite Programs: **138**

Total Programs: **403**

Total Participants: **17,733**



New Behind-the-Scenes Training Program Takes Flight!

This past year we launched an exciting addition to our public educational offerings—a *Behind-the-Scenes Training* program in the Roost. This 75-minute immersive experience invites participants to witness the daily training and enrichment that helps our Avian Ambassadors become confident and resilient representatives of their species.

From observing free flights in our hallway to participating in enrichment activities, this dynamic program offers a rare glimpse into the specialized care and training that takes place on our campus. It's quickly become a favorite, providing guests with a novel, up-close view of the dedication and expertise that go into preparing our birds for their ambassador roles.



Sage the Ferruginous Hawk. ©Luisa Frankenburg



Research

Long-Term Science & Conservation

Great Gray Owl. ©Steve Poole

A Decade of Science

Datasets, discoveries, and accomplishments by the TRC Research & Conservation team over the past decade

28

PROJECTS IN 3 STATES,
2 COUNTRIES

193

TRANSMITTERS
DEPLOYED

1,323,381

LOCATIONS FROM
TAGGED BIRDS

1,290

RAPTORS BANDED &
BLOOD SAMPLES TAKEN

34

PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

21,630

MILES OF AERIAL
SURVEYS FLOWN

2,405

NEST OBSERVATIONS

>270,000

HOURS OF
ACOUSTIC DATA

As our team crosses the threshold of a decade of raptor science, the base of information we have built serves as an amazing platform for the future of raptor conservation. Teton Raptor Center has emerged as one of the world's finest raptor research organizations and is leading the way to species conservation in the West. We have built some of the largest datasets on movement of Golden Eagles and other raptors with more than 1.3 million locations, amassed over 270,000 hours of acoustic data to monitor forest raptors, invented new tools for biologists, and even detected two previously unknown raptor species nesting in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

As these projects and data continue to grow, so do our partnerships and the applications of our science into conservation. Raptors and the systems where they live continue to face new threats and the resources of the agencies responsible for their management continue to shrink. Because we live and work in some of the most important regions for raptors in North America and we have built these amazing long-term datasets, our team is uniquely situated to help save some species that are on the brink. Our goal is not just witnessing change in our ecosystems but to affect and drive the change needed to safeguard raptors and their ecosystems for the future. The next decade of our work will continue to foster new scientists and conservationists, use our base of information to drive effective management and fill critical knowledge gaps in these fragile ecosystems, help do the on-the-ground work needed to mitigate losses, and be the voice for the raptors.

Cutting-Edge Technology Advances Golden Eagle Conservation

At Teton Raptor Center, we aim to maximize the efficiency of our fieldwork and partnerships to drive raptor conservation forward. This year, we advanced Golden Eagle conservation by leveraging ongoing efforts and new technology. Building on years of eagle nest monitoring led by Dr. Chuck Preston, we launched a new project to study and mitigate the impacts of increasing recreation on nesting eagles.

We also formed a new partnership with Dr. Ellen Aikens from the University of Wyoming. Together, we initiated a project exploring lifetime learning in eagles within the same ecosystem as our other studies. This collaborative approach allows us to ask groundbreaking questions, such as how young eagles learn from their parents.

Cutting-edge transmitters are enhancing our research, providing sub-second GPS data and sophisticated sensor readings. This technology enables us to map behaviors like flight dynamics and hunting success with unprecedented detail, offering insights that will deepen our understanding of these remarkable birds.

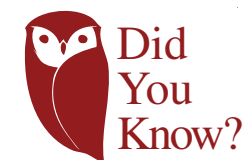


Golden Eagle outfitted with transmitter. ©TRC staff



Research Wishlist

- ★ **BIG WISH - \$35,000**
Sponsor the world's next leading raptor expert by supporting a research intern.
- ★ **Migration Hero! - \$20,000**
Help cover the costs of our fall raptor migration monitoring.
- ★ **DIY Supplies - \$7,500**
We like making our supplies instead of buying them! Raptor color bands, bird houses, displays, signs, raptor art for the TRC shop, hats, nametags, and much more! Help us purchase a laser cutter, air filter and the plastic, wood, leather, and glass to make all these supplies!
- ★ **Audio Equipment - \$5,000**
Complete our transition to the latest (lighter, safer) audio recorders. We need 10 more at \$500 each.
- ★ **Picture Perfect - \$2,500**
Camera/lens and gear to get all those amazing raptor photos for next year's *Flight Log* (and data, of course)!
- ★ **Read All About It - \$1,000**
Help us spread the word! Did you know we pay to publish research articles?
- ★ **High Tech - \$500**
We need machine learning and AI too. Sounds like buzzwords, but we really use complicated mapping and audio analysis software.
- ★ **A to B - \$75**
A tank of gas is easier than walking those miles—yes, boring but essential.



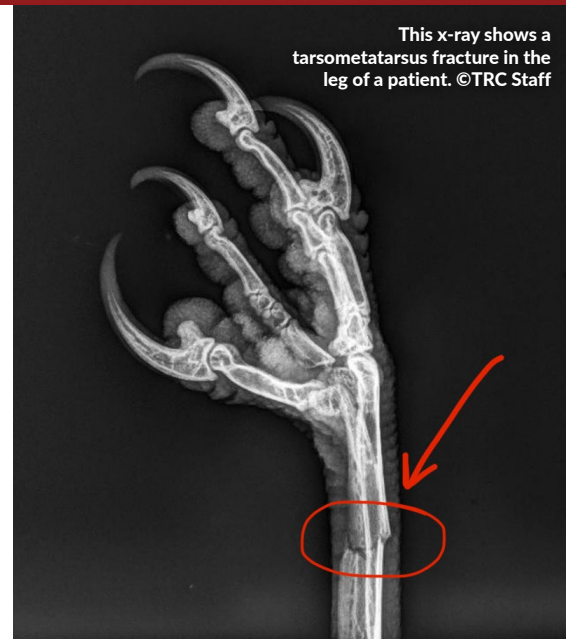
We are able to distinguish between individual Great Gray Owls by the differences in their calls.



Rehabilitation



Medical treatment in TRC's clinic. ©TRC Staff



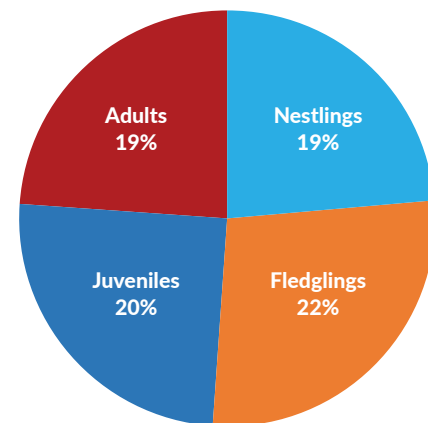
This x-ray shows a tarsometatarsus fracture in the leg of a patient. ©TRC Staff

Record Year for TRC: Young Raptors Face Growing Challenges

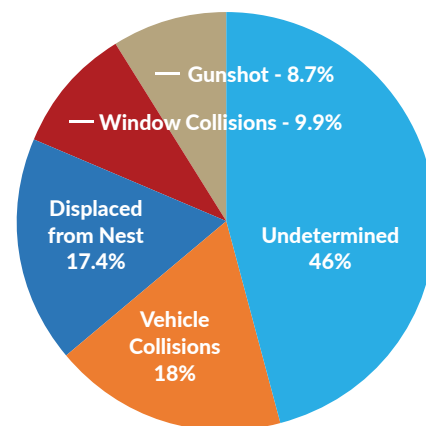
Last year was the busiest in TRC's history for our clinic, with over 200 patients admitted from Wyoming and Idaho. We track patient data using the Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database (WRMD), which helps us monitor species breakdowns, common injuries, release rates, and more. The pie chart highlights the most common reasons for admission, though many remain undetermined, as we don't always know the cause.

From June to September, young birds make up the majority of our patients. These nestlings, fledglings, and juveniles are prone to accidents while learning to fly and hunt, making them more vulnerable to injuries, like car collisions. During the summer of 2023, 61 of the 80 patients admitted were young birds, many with heavy ectoparasite loads. Ectoparasites in birds appear as small insects that live externally on the feathers and feed on blood or skin. The most common ectoparasites we see on our patients are black flies. These flies, whose populations increase after snowmelt, irritate birds—especially nestlings that can't escape. Early studies from our Chief Mission Officer suggest that some raptor nestlings even jump from their nests prematurely to flee the bugs, often leading to injury or death. Climate change, which influences snowmelt, may worsen this issue for young raptors in the future.

Age of New Patient Admits from June 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023



Most Frequent Causes for Admission



Why is Raptor Rehabilitation Important?

Raptors face numerous challenges due to human activity, with most of our clinic's patients being admitted because of human-caused factors. At Teton Raptor Center, our vision is to keep wild birds wild, meaning we rehabilitate with the goal of release, not just to save a life. If a bird cannot fly or hunt, we cannot return it to the wild, and in such cases, humane euthanasia is a compassionate option. A single Bald Eagle could produce up to 50 offspring in its lifetime, making every bird we return to the wild important for species survival.

Rehabilitation by the Numbers: FY 23-24

(JUNE 1, 2023 - MAY 31, 2024)

Total Admissions: **212**

Total Birds Released: **66**

Survival Rate (24 hrs+): **58.5%**

Total Unique Avian Species: **33**

Most Common Species: **Great Horned Owl (40)**

Wyoming Birds: **110**

Idaho Birds: **102**

Busiest Month: **August (43 Birds)**

Most Common Location: **Jackson, WY (37 Birds)**

HPAI Cases: **2**



Rehabilitation Wishlist

- ★ **"Let's Do Lunch!" - \$20,000**
Feeding Our Raptors
Help keep our raptors well-fed with mice, quail, and more—fueling their recovery and strength!
- ★ **"Hotline Hero" - \$5,000**
Tech Support
Support upgrades to our phone and text systems, and fund a summer intern to handle vital calls about injured raptors.
- ★ **"Send Us to Bird Nerd Heaven" - \$3,500**
Rehab Conference
Equip our clinic staff with cutting-edge avian medicine at a wildlife rehabilitation conference. Let's boost their knowledge so our raptors can soar!
- ★ **"Vet in Training" - \$3,000**
Summer Extern Stipend
Sponsor a summer extern to gain hands-on experience with our raptors—training the next gen of wildlife vets!
- ★ **"A Lifeline in Every Drop" - \$1,500**
IV Fluid Pump
Provide an IV fluid pump to deliver essential fluids—keeping our raptors hydrated and stable.
- ★ **"The Doppler Effect" - \$1,030**
Life-Saving Tool
Help us get a Doppler unit for real-time health monitoring—like a birdy stethoscope for our feathered patients!
- ★ **"Fuel our Ambulance" - \$500**
Gasoline
Sponsor gas money for our Raptor Rescue Network program so that we can continue to admit patients from all over Wyoming and Idaho.



Barred Owls were detected breeding for the first time in Wyoming in 2023.

Internships & Externships

Launching the Next Generation of Conservationists

Our internship and externship programs continue to be an integral part of our work at TRC. Beginning in May 2024, we were fortunate to have two incredibly talented Social Media Interns **Brooke Wheeler** and **Keith Erickson** join us for the summer. Thanks to their dedication, we gained an additional 10,000 followers on Instagram, refined our social media style, and created a new set of guidelines for future digital communications. Their contributions have left a lasting mark on our public engagement strategies. One of their most exciting contributions was the launch of our TikTok channel!

We are now three years into our year-long internship model and are thrilled with how these extended placements allow our interns to fully immerse themselves in our work. We currently offer four distinct internships, one for each of our pillars—Education, Research, Rehabilitation—and Conservation, a special overarching internship covering all areas.

Our internship and externship programs are vital to our mission, and we are incredibly grateful for the passion, dedication, and talents that our interns bring to TRC.



Pre-Veterinary Extern: Grace Sutherland

“This summer at Teton Raptor Center as a Pre-Veterinary Extern solidified my passion for veterinary medicine and my goal of attending vet school. Hands-on experiences like administering medications, performing necropsies, and analyzing blood and fecal samples deepened my understanding of animal care and honed my clinical skills. As the sole extern, I had unparalleled opportunities to engage directly in wildlife medicine, including collaborating on treatment plans for head trauma and fractures.

Working with Dr. Salene Freeman, DVM, was pivotal—her guidance encouraged independent problem-solving, preparing me for vet school. My most challenging case involved a quarantined Bald Eagle with a severe maggot infestation, where the Avian Care Team’s insights into handling difficult aspects of animal care, like parasites, helped me overcome my discomfort. Their support gave me the confidence to face new challenges in wildlife medicine.

I am so grateful to everyone at TRC for helping me take this next step. I can't wait to return and share updates from vet school! Here's a picture of the Bald Eagle weeks later, maggot-free and recovering in the patient care unit.”

Interns



JESSICA LEWIS, our **Education Intern**, has been instrumental in training our birds, educating the public, and even creating a stunning mural of the Tetons in one of our bird enclosures.



OLIVIA CANO, our **Conservation Intern**, has discovered a passion for education, presenting Avian Experiences and sharing her cheerful personality with everyone she meets. When her internship closes in November, she will be using her experience at the Maryland Zoo as an animal keeper.



SKYLER BOL, our **Research Intern**, has been an enthusiastic team member, tackling every challenge from rappelling into Golden Eagle nests to snowshoeing 10 miles in the backcountry to find an owl. After finishing with TRC, he is heading to Puerto Rico to lead a three-year project on Broad-winged Hawks.



CAROLINE COHEN, our **Rehabilitation Intern**, thrives in our busy rehab environment, where she excels at managing the hotline and caring for our patients.



Interested in an internship at TRC?
Visit tetonraptorcenter.org/join-our-team
Learn more about our talented team:
tetonraptorcenter.org/our-team

Where Are They Now?

We’re proud of the many incredible interns who have come through our doors. This year we are highlighting three former interns who are all excelling in different ways to promote raptor conservation.



SARAH RAMIREZ: **Rehabilitation Intern, October 2015 - May 2016**
In May 2024, Sarah officially completed her graduate journey, earning a Master of Science degree from Colorado State University. Sarah expanded our research

at TRC by investigating and supporting Ferruginous Hawk conservation in western Wyoming. Over the years, Sarah has made invaluable contributions across all of our pillars. She currently is working with USGS in the Midwest helping map critical habitats for endangered Piping Plovers (shorebirds and raptors are both Sarah’s favorite birds!).



ADRIAN ROUSE: **TRC Internship, May - September 2017**
Since his internship with us, Adrian has continued to return to TRC as a field technician for Sarah’s project (above) and as a TRC seasonal research technician for the past four years. This summer, we were excited to invite Adrian to join the team full time! Adrian now is our lead observer when surveying for raptors from small aircraft across the state and is critical to every field project at TRC.



GEORGIA COLEMAN: **Conservation Intern, December 2022 - November 2023**
As part of her internship at TRC, Georgia recently co-authored a fascinating new study on filial oophagy (eating your own eggs) in raptors. The research, published in the *Journal of Raptor Research*, details a rare observation of a female Ferruginous Hawk consuming her own egg in western Wyoming. Georgia is continuing her raptor career and has recently accepted a Master’s position at Mizzou researching a very understudied raptor, Northern Harriers, in California.

All photos by ©TRC Staff

Poo-Poo Project

Old rusted Poo-Poo Screens from Grand Teton National Park that were replaced with new stainless steel versions. ©TRC staff

Poo-Poo Screens Help Save Raptor Lives Around The Nation

By the Numbers: FY 23-24

(JUNE 1, 2023 - MAY 31, 2024)

1,040 Screens Distributed

761 Screens Sponsored

Poo-Poo Project Wishlist

- ★ **Sponsor outreach to agencies - \$20,000**
- ★ **Print materials - \$1,500**
- ★ **Help defray shipping costs - \$400**
Five bundles of shipping boxes
- ★ **Box of tape rolls (36 rolls) - \$50**

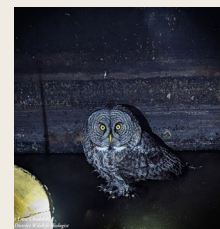
Staff and Board “Re-screen” Grand Teton National Park

In 2010, we kicked off the Poo-Poo Project by screening all vault toilets in Grand Teton National Park. The earliest screens were costly, heavy, and made of powder-coated steel that has since rusted over the years. To address this, we have launched our “Re-Screen Project” that uses new, stainless steel screens that will last decades. Just like in 2010, we kick-started this new phase of the Poo-Poo project in Grand Teton National Park where we installed 25 new stainless steel screens on May 22, 2024. A dedicated team of 14 staff and board members successfully completed the installation across the Park in just half a day.

We are now reaching out to locations that received screens before 2019 (when stainless steel screens were introduced) to offer free replacements. If you spot worn-out or missing screens, please let us know the location by calling us or completing the simple form on our website. You can also support our efforts by sponsoring a screen for \$45, helping us ensure the safety of cavity-nesting wildlife.

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 and we have since distributed over **20,000** screens across the U.S., Canada, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

However, the work is never done. We still receive reports of raptors trapped in vault toilets, like the one of a Barn Owl rescued from a toilet at the Ladd S. Gordon-Bernardo



Waterfowl Management Area near Bosque, New Mexico. Another bird rescued

last year was a Great Gray Owl in the Pintler Ranger District of Montana. Both birds were taken to rehabilitation centers (Barn Owl to



Hawks Aloft, and Great Gray Owl to Wild Skies Raptor Center) and were successfully

rehabbed and released! Both locations quickly installed Poo-Poo screens so that no other raptors encountered the same fate.



Sporting Lead-Free

SLF Ambassadors “Reel” in the Action with Local Events & Features



TOMMY SHAFFER

Save Our Symbol

Last year, Tommy Shaffer (SLF Ambassador) was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Tommy, a U.S. Navy veteran, is using his time to raise awareness of the dangers lead ammunition and fishing tackle can pose for birds of prey, such as America's symbol, the Bald Eagle. To raise awareness, Tommy is paddling through many East Coast waterways and talking to outdoor groups along the way.

Photo Credit: ©Tommy Shaffer



PAUL MCCARNEY

Sheep Night

SLF Ambassador, Paul McCarney, helped spread our message internationally by hosting an information booth for SLF during Sheep Night in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. People were really interested in the x-ray photos of meat and everyone was amazed by the epoxy of the comparisons in lead and non-lead bullets. Paul was able to convince a number of folks to make the switch, right then and there!

Photo Credit: ©Paul McCarney



LAUREN TONTI

Central NY Trivia Night

Lauren Tonti represented SLF by co-hosting a Pint Night with the online hunt map company onX for the Central New York Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Though the lead-free trivia was tough, the group had a blast and won some SLF swag!

Photo Credit: ©Lauren Tonti

PBS's Wild Hope Episode 26: Unleaded Features Sporting Lead-Free

The PBS series WILD HOPE highlights conservation heroes and actions that inspire optimism for the future. The show emphasizes that nature can recover if we act now.

Episode 26: Unleaded, spotlights Hannah and Bryan's work with Sporting Lead-Free, featuring Golden Eagle captures and shooting

demonstrations to raise awareness. The episode has gained over 30,500 views on YouTube and significant social media attention.



Check out the full film by scanning the QR code or visit:
wildhope.tv/episode/unleaded/



Sporting Lead Free Wishlist

- ★ **\$2,500** - Sponsor a SLF booth at national expos and trade shows. We can reach hundreds of hunters and anglers in a single weekend with your help.
- ★ **\$400** - SLF Branded event tent canopy to draw more people to learn at events.
- ★ **\$100** - Provides one lead and one lead-free epoxy cast to a Hunter Education instructor. Help the teachers teach more people!



Volunteers



Volunteers Make an Impact

Exploring the Diversity of Volunteer Roles

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of everything we do at Teton Raptor Center. From direct bird care to administrative tasks behind the scenes, their contributions make an extraordinary impact. This passionate community helps us operate day-to-day and allows us to expand in ways we couldn't achieve on our own.

Volunteers assist with a wide range of tasks—whether it's helping in the office with mailings, greeting visitors during public programs, or supporting sales in our Nature Shop. They also contribute significantly to our research efforts by monitoring osprey, eagle, and hawk nests, collecting snow data for our Great Gray Owl study, and placing sound recorders in remote areas. In our clinic, volunteers play a critical role in caring for the birds, ensuring they receive top-notch care on their path to recovery. Our Roost and Education volunteers prepare meals, provide enrichment for resident raptors, assist with training, clean enclosures, and help share our mission with the public.

Beyond these hands-on tasks, we have skilled volunteers who build and repair essential infrastructure. Most recently,

volunteers helped make eagle and hawk nesting platforms used by our research team across Wyoming and crafted new nest boxes for our Nature Shop, demonstrating their deep commitment to conservation and the success of our programs.

Our Raptor Rescue Network volunteers transport injured birds across the region, often stepping in at a moment's notice. Whether they volunteer once a year or several times a week, they make an unforgettable impression. We're also fortunate to have weekly or even daily volunteers who have become like family, forming strong relationships with staff, fellow volunteers, and the birds.

We are truly in awe of the skills, time, and passion our volunteers bring. Their unwavering dedication to our mission fuels our efforts to conserve birds of prey and their habitats. Thank you for lifting us higher!



Volunteers donated 7,808 hours of service to TRC during FY23-24.

Ambassador Appreciation Night - Special Recognition

In January we hosted our annual Ambassador Appreciation Night in the Moseley/Hardeman Barn, honoring the remarkable dedication of our volunteers. It was a memorable evening, complete with a red carpet rollout, as we celebrated all of our ambassadors and recognized a few for their outstanding service in 2023.

Ambassador of the Year	Becky Hawkins
Junior Ambassador of the Year	Eliza Drew
Golden Owl Award	K.O. Strohhenn
Education Hero	Emily Paasche
Research Hero	Leslie King
Rehabilitation Hero	Jackie Potter
Raptor Rescue Hero	Valerie Page
Nature Shop Hero	Janice Wilbur
Poo-Poo Project Hero	Christian Riley
Volunteers' Choice	Patti Mull



I've always had a deep appreciation for nature and feel a strong responsibility to be a good steward of it. Since 2005, I've actively volunteered with various organizations, and I plan to continue for as long as I'm able. Giving back and helping where I can is important to me. I'm grateful to be part of the Raptor Rescue Network, where I can help ensure injured birds get the care they need."

— EROLL, RAPTOR RESCUE NETWORK VOLUNTEER

Raptor Rescue Network (RRN) Superstars!

(JUNE 1, 2023 - MAY 31, 2024)

Total Rescues: **120**

Roundtrip Miles: **22,576**

Roundtrip Hours: **383**



Dr. Salene Freeman, D.V.M.

Dr. Freeman, a native Floridian, developed her passion for wildlife while growing up near Everglades National Park. She earned her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Oregon State University in 2023. Dr. Freeman joined Teton Raptor Center as our staff veterinarian in July 2023, where she dedicates one day a week to providing patient care and mentoring staff. She lives in Victor, Idaho with her husband Ryan, their dog Mia, and their new parrot, Alfred.

Q: What inspired you to become a veterinarian?

A: My curiosity and desire to learn more fueled my interest in veterinary medicine. Avian medicine specifically is very underfunded and under-researched which was an exciting opportunity.

Q: What brought about your love of birds?

A: Growing up in southern Florida with such a broad diversity of avian wildlife sparked my interest in ornithology which quickly turned into a passion for avian medicine and surgery.

Q: What species of raptors are most difficult to treat and why?

A: Osprey are notoriously difficult to treat in rehabilitation medicine due to their high propensity to stress and capture myopathy. Capture myopathy occurs when a patient is extremely stressed, leading to fatal muscle degradation that releases toxins and causes the blood to become acidic.

Q: What is one myth about raptor or wildlife medicine you’d like to debunk?

A: You can absolutely put the baby bird back into the nest (with our help of course). The parents will come back to the nest as long as humans are not looming around it.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A: Definitely working with our amazing team at TRC and seeing difficult cases released back into the wild.

Q: What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

A: Patient suffering. As veterinarians, we take an oath to prevent suffering and we are grateful that we can prevent and end unnecessary suffering.

Q: Mental health has proven to be a rising concern for veterinarians and animal care staff. What is one thing that people should know or something that they can do to support veterinarians and animal care staff?

A: Please be kind.

SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS: When you shop from our online store, we make every effort to use recycled and reused shipping materials to send it to you. Our purchasing guidelines also prioritize supporting local and USA-made vendors, and businesses that follow ethical labor practices.

Visit our shop at 5450 W Hwy 22 in Wilson, WY or online at tetonraptorcenter.square.site

Subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated on new arrivals and exclusive offers.



NATURE SHOP

Our Nature Shop’s curated selection of products is captivating all raptor fanatics, both young and old. With a focus on local artists, USA-made products, and unique custom items, we are operating with sustainable practices in mind. Every purchase, in store or online, supports our mission of advancing raptor conservation. Thank you to all our customers for your support during our first year in the Hardeman Barn and our expanded online store.



CRAFTY CREATIONS



WINGS OVER TETONS SHADOW BOX KIT

Another custom-designed product that is fun and easy to make! Simply paint each layer and glue them together. Suited for all ages.



OWL EMBROIDERY KITS

These kits are perfect for crafters of all skill levels and make great gifts. Each design is a modern, Scandi-inspired folk art, with instructions on beginner stitches like satin, back stitch, and French knots. Comes in Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, and Northern Saw-Whet Owl patterns.



GIFT SETS



STAFF PICK!

THE BIRDING ENTHUSIAST SET

Perfect for the bird lover in your life, this thoughtfully curated gift set includes everything a birding enthusiast needs, from an adorable owl kitchen scrubber to a field note journal, plus a copy of BirdNote to inspire their birdwatching adventures! We’ve also added a pack of Raptors playing cards and charming paper napkins for a nature-themed touch at home. Get it all for \$49.99, with shipping included.



THE HOOT & HOLLER KIDS SET

Make the holidays fun and educational for the little ones with this owl-themed gift set! It features an owl ornament, an owl cookie cutter for festive treats, a coloring book for hours of creativity, a Great-Horned Owl finger puppet, and a Barn Owl sticker. At \$39.99, with shipping included, this pack is a hoot for kids who love wildlife!



CARDS & MORE



TETON RAPTOR CENTER GREETING CARDS

We have assembled a beautiful assortment of raptor art on greeting cards, stationery and stickers, from local artist Wendy Morgan and regional artists Amy Shawley Paquette and Amy Rose Moore. We love supporting artists and sharing their work with you!



CUSTOM DESIGNED WATER BOTTLE AND STICKER

On a visit to TRC, our Avian Ambassadors inspired West Coast artist Samantha-Lynn Martinez to create artwork with some of our ambassadors in the Teton. The design was an immediate hit with our staff, so we decided to print it on a 27-oz. Klean Kanteen water bottle and a 4” x 4” sticker.



Thanks for Giving a Hoot!

Teton Raptor Center extends our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the individuals, families, businesses, and foundations who have generously contributed their time, talent, and financial support throughout fiscal year 2023-24 (June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024). Your contributions are vital to our mission, supporting our education, research, and rehabilitation programs and keeping us soaring high. We are profoundly grateful for the goodwill and generosity shown by all our supporters. Special recognition goes to those marked with a “*”, who are members of our Talon Society—dedicated donors who have given \$1,000 or more annually or volunteered 100 hours or more. Your unwavering support is truly valued by our birds, staff, and Board of Directors.

- A

Maureen O'Leary and Armond Acri
Mindy Ager Self
John Aisenbrey
Fraida and Robert Aland
Marcia Kunstel and Joe Albright*
Alex Alexe
Alana Alfrey
Barbara Allamian
Doug Allen
John Allert*
Nancy and William Alley
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Patricia and George Amlin
Mike and Amy Amman
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B

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Sybilla and Alex Balkanski*
Steve Ball
Jean Barash
Kristen Barbaree
Megan Barber
Dail Barbour
Kathryn Barela
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Jocelyn and Mike Barker
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Thunder and Gregory Barnes
Geneva Chong and David Barnett
Victoria and Phil Barret*
Elizabeth Bartholomew
Nancy Bast
Patty Bates
Reid Bauer
Valerie and Richard Beck*
Sylvia Beck
Tammy and John Becker
Bill Beckett
Tanya Beder*
Emily and Bryan Bedrosian
Geoff Bedrosian
Cheryl and Jim Begley
Marilyn and Christopher Bell
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Thomas Benison
Delores Benner
Gainor Bennett
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Liliya Bogdan
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Mary Bowker
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Lyons Brown
Julie Sivertson and Paul Brown
Stephen Michael Brown
Timothy Brown*
Charles Brumsted
Ellen Brunker
Amy and Bomber Bryan
DeAnna Bublitz
Bari and David Bucholz

Gail Buhl
Joyce and Eric Burbano
Camille Burden
Patricia and Dan Burgette*
Harry Burgh
Glenn Burnett
Ann Burns*
Barbara Burris and Deidre Burnstine
Paul Burton
Mary and David Bushnell
Greg Butchello
Marian and Dennis Butcher

C

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Len Calandrella
Franz Camenzind
Robin and Phil Cameron
Christopher Campbell
Faye Campbell
James Campbell
Ann Harvey and Mike Campbell
Elvis Campobasso
Michelle Cano
Becky Watson and Betsy Carlin
Lisa Carlin
Anne Carman*
Burton Carnegie
Elaine Walsh Carney and John Carney*
Kurt Carpenter
Holly and Walter Carr
Ann and Vance Carruth
Nancy and Andy Carson

- Thomas Cartwright
Maricella Casanova
Alisson Casas
Melissa Cassutt
Susan Simpson and Michael Cavender
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Lynne Charbonneau
Kelly and Bud Chatham
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Selena Creed
Elizabeth Creel
Julia Cuccaro
Rosie Askin Cully and Tim Cully
Elaine and Leith Culver
Donna and Jackson Curlin
Heidi and Brian Currie
Carol Curtin
- D
- Bobbie and Winthrop Dailey

- Joe Daily
Scott Daily
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Peggy and Kirk Davenport*
Lynne and C. Vanleer Davis
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Aly Courtemanch and Forest Dramis
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Sue Ernisse

- Kristi Evans
Kate Taylor and David Evers
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- Myrna and Howard Fabrick
Jennifer Fargo
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Mary Weatherhead and Steve Feldman
Caryn and Chris Felipe*
Lucy and Joseph Fenolio*
Jean and Dick Ferguson
Sandra and John Ferland
Sallyanne and Ronald Ferrero
Sarah and Stephen Fetters
Bill Finerty*

"As I endeavor to discover efforts to counter the daunting failures we have witnessed in the physical world, Teton Raptor Center is immensely encouraging....collectively I see TRC as one plus one equals three."

—JIM CLIFTON, TRC SUPPORTER, SACRAMENTO, CA

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Marcia Allen and Gary Finkel
Jennifer McCarty-Finkel and Ken Finkel
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Patti and Alan Griswold
Eve Adler and Scott Groper
Christian Grunnah
Virginia and Larry Guenzel
Arnav Guleria

Teton Raptor Center regrets any inadvertant omissions or misspellings. Please contact us if you are not properly recognized so we can correct our information.



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Renata Harbison
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Teton Raptor Center's board and staff extend a heartfelt thank you to **Leslye Hardie** and **Lisa Friesecke** for their invaluable service on our Board of Directors. Completing two terms and playing key roles on the Executive Committee during our capital campaign, their six years of dedication, wisdom, and leadership (2018– 2024) have left a lasting impact.

We are excited to welcome **Valerie Page** to our Board of Directors and thrilled to announce the addition of **Roger Smith**, co-founder of TRC, as our new Chief Mission Officer, guiding program impact and expansion.

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**In Memoriam*

We would be honored to add your name to this list. Please see page 3 to learn more about becoming a Soaring Society member.

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The photos in our Thank You section highlight the diverse birds, dedicated volunteers, events, campus, and the meaningful work accomplished throughout the year. Photo credits go to: ©TRC Staff



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This is a unique chance to double your contribution and ensure that our current and future Avian Ambassadors continue to thrive. Your support will directly impact their care, training, and ongoing success. Take advantage of this matching opportunity and make your gift today!



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