



Fall 2025 | Volume 17

Flight log

Our Mission

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

Keeping wild
birds wild!



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Connect with Us



Cover photo: Tundra the Rough-legged Hawk.
Read more about Tundra on page 9. ©Linda Gordon



Dear Friends,

When we think back on the past year, one word rises above the rest: WOW.

This summer marked the third season of welcoming visitors into the beautifully restored Hardeman Barn, and still, every time those big doors swing open, we hear it: "WOW." The historic barn has become more than a space—it is a place of awe, connection, and discovery.

Over the past year, our team has worked to ensure that everyone who enters also leaves with that same feeling of wonder. From the beauty of our avian ambassadors, to the passion and knowledge of our staff, to the diversity of programs that engage audiences of all ages, the WOW moments ripple outward long after each visit.

We say WOW, too—awed by the generosity of friends and supporters near and far, inspired by the innovative work coming from our research team and Conservation Barn, and uplifted by the heart-filling moments when rehabilitated raptors soar back into the wild. We feel WOW when we see the spark in a child's eye as they meet an owl for the very first time and when we launch new opportunities designed especially for our youngest learners.

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the community that makes all these WOW moments possible. And as we look ahead, we invite you to continue fueling this work—ensuring that the WOW of today becomes the WOW of tomorrow. Together, we can inspire wonder, advance conservation, and keep wild birds wild.

With awe and gratitude,

Amy B. McCarthy
Amy McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer

Roger Smith
Roger Smith
Chief Mission Officer

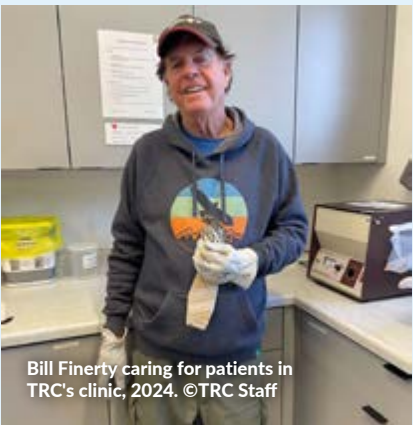
Eddie Opler
Eddie Opler
Board Chair

Gratitude is in the Air: The Impact of TRC's Soaring Society

This year, we remember with deep gratitude two cherished members of Teton Raptor Center's community—Berte Hirschfield and Bill Finerty—who gave generously of their time, talents, and hearts. Berte served with distinction on TRC's Capital Campaign Council, helping to guide a transformative chapter in our history and ensuring that our historic campus could grow as a place for rehabilitation, research, and education.



Bill's passion for service extended far beyond TRC—he generously volunteered in Teton Raptor Center's clinic, as well as with Grand Teton National Park, the National Museum of Wildlife Art and the Boy Scouts of America. A multiple-time Talon Society honoree (contributing 100 hours or more of service in a year), Bill dedicated an incredible 1,330 hours to TRC from 2017-2025.



Both Berte and Bill chose to join the Soaring Society, extending their commitment beyond their lifetimes. Their legacy gifts ensure that their love for raptors and wild places continues to inspire, strengthen, and sustain TRC's mission. They are powerful reminders that the choices we make today can help secure a future where raptors and wild places thrive for generations.

We invite you to follow their example and consider joining the Soaring Society. By including TRC in your estate plans, you give more than a gift—you give a legacy of wonder. A legacy that keeps raptors in the sky, wild places in our hearts, and the spirit of conservation alive for generations yet to come.

"The mission buy-in of the staff and their knowledge really take what would already be awesome—seeing these beautiful birds—to a new level. Great visit, well worth it."

— BENJAMIN WOOD

Invest in Raptor Conservation

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

- MAKE OUR WISHES TAKE FLIGHT:** Throughout this edition of *Flight Log*, you'll find special opportunities to fund specific wishlist items for the birds, our team, and our conservation efforts. These contributions are a direct and powerful way to impact raptor conservation.
- DONATE ONLINE, BY MAIL, OR BY PHONE:** Making a gift is simple and impactful! Donate at tetonraptorcenter.org, use the enclosed envelope, or call us at 307.203.2551.
- SUPPORT TRC THROUGH YOUR IRA (QCDS):** If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to TRC. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) counts toward your required minimum distribution and is a meaningful way to support raptor conservation.
- DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WITH MATCHING GIFTS:** Many companies match charitable contributions. Ask your employer to match your gift and multiply your support for raptors.
- CONTRIBUTE WITH GIFTS OF SECURITIES:** Donate stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to support TRC's mission. Contact us to learn more about this impactful option.
- CREATE A LEGACY WITH PLANNED GIVING:** Include TRC in your will or trust and join our Soaring Society, ensuring your commitment to raptors carries on for generations.



REQUEST



GIFT INTENT



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. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution.



Where Wonder Lives: Gus's Journey

©Cecil Holmes



Roger and Gus. ©Mel Mann

By Roger Smith, Co-Founder and Chief Mission Officer

A question we are often asked is, "How difficult is it to train a raptor to sit on a glove in front of an audience?" While there are many factors involved—and certainly hundreds of hours spent with these birds—one key trait is a bird's disposition, or its inherent temperament. This brings me to the story of how we came upon TRC's star avian ambassador, Gus the Golden Eagle.

Twenty years ago this summer, Gus fledged from a nest in central Wyoming and, days later, was found on the ground, unable to fly. His right wing was clearly injured. A landowner had alerted a local warden, who called me for help. At that time, Teton Raptor Center was based out of our home here in Jackson, Wyoming, so I drove out with high hopes of helping him recover and return to the wild. Little did I know that the long bones in his wing were permanently deformed—either from an accidental injury as a nestling or a congenital condition.

When I first met Gus, he was inside a large dog kennel. Our goal was to transfer him to another of my own kennels—not an easy task with a young Golden Eagle. My colleague first tried using a large net,



Gus the Golden Eagle has been the source of inspiration for many artists, including this sketch by Shannon Troxler. ©Shannon Troxler

Gus
Golden Eagle

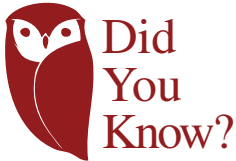
HATCH DATE: Spring 2005

SEX: Male

REASON NON-RELEASABLE:
Right wing impairment

WEIGHT:
6.5 lbs (Species Weight Range: 6.6-13.5 lbs)

JOINED TRC TEAM:
2007 (One of TRC's three original raptors)



GUS STATS

~1,300

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS
(SINCE 2016)

~70,000

NUMBER OF PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS
(SINCE 2016)

~1,630

NUMBER OF
PROGRAM HOURS
(SINCE 2016)

~4,425

KILOGRAMS OF FOOD
GUS HAS CONSUMED
IN HIS LIFETIME

but Gus would have nothing of it. I carried an assortment of heavy leather falconry gloves, and with my hands and arms protected, I carefully opened the kennel door and offered him a stable "perch" on my glove. To my surprise, Gus stepped on gently—without clamping down—and allowed me to lift him into the new kennel. He stood quietly for a minute, curious rather than alarmed.

Disposition mattered. Over the next several years, Gus lived in our yard and his own enclosure. He calmly stepped onto my glove countless times. Over twenty years, tens of thousands of people have met Gus, learning about Golden Eagles at arm's length. Trainers have shared quiet, unforgettable moments with him, watching his signature run-and-hop gait up and down the hallway of the Roost.

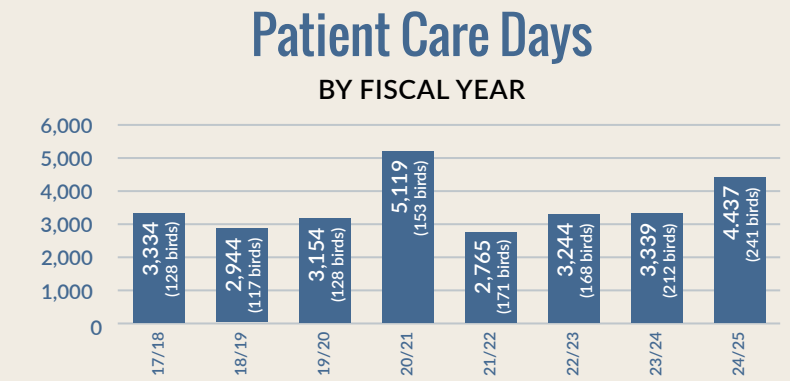
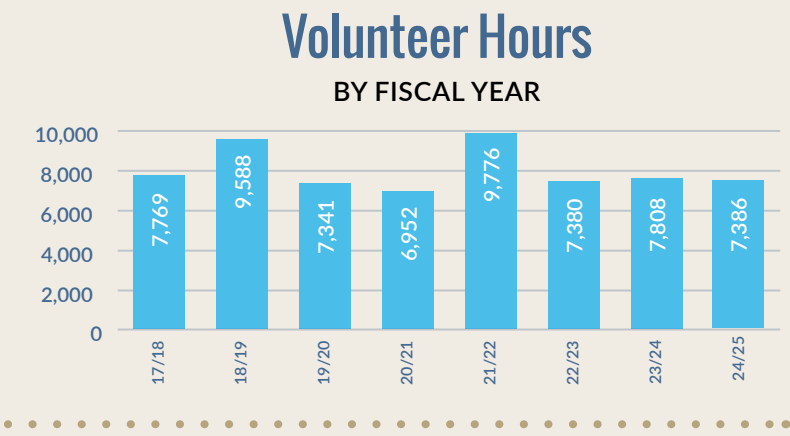
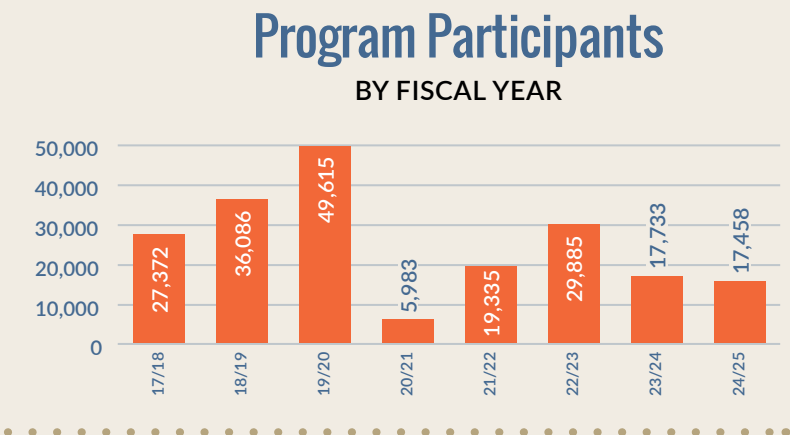
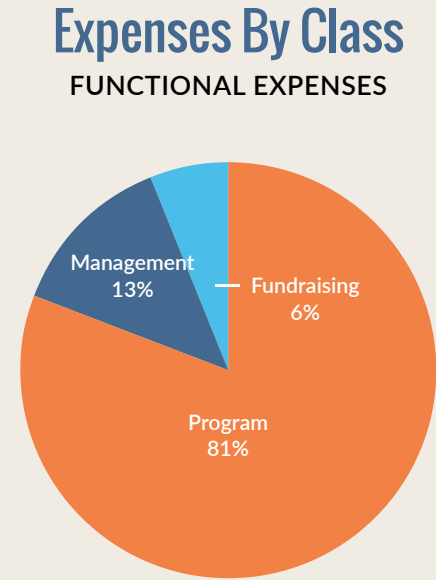
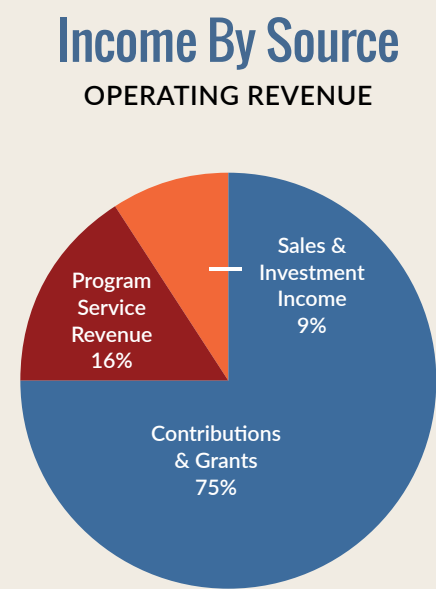
Gus—a unique, gentle, 6.5-pound Wyoming native—has never flown a day of his life, nor taken the life of any prey. Yet he has taken our hearts by teaching us patience, connection, and awe. I don't believe I trained Gus as much as he trained all of us—to pause, look into his eyes, and glimpse the wonder of a truly wild place.

And so, Gus teaches us still—twenty years on—that wonder lives in the meeting of eyes, in the quiet before a moment of connection, and in the courage to step gently into another being's world. His story is an invitation to all of us: to pause, to notice, and to carry the gift of awe wherever we go. That is the heart of the WOW we seek to share.



Impact Report

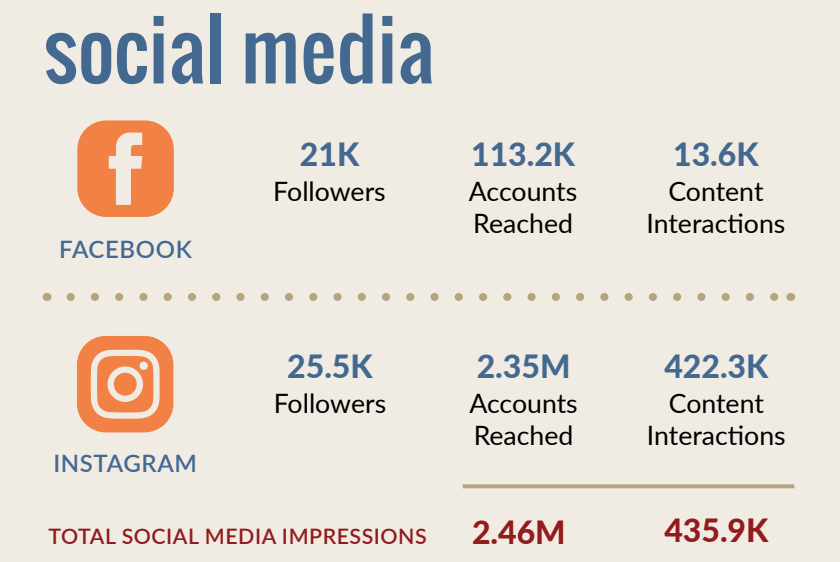
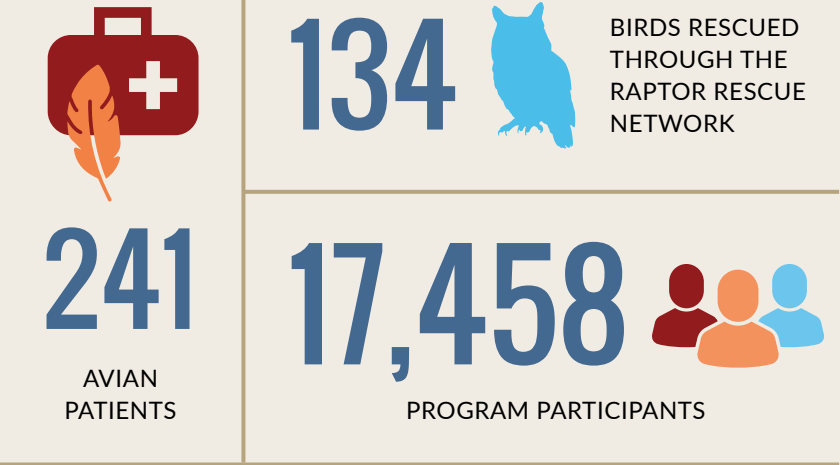
FINANCE: Teton Raptor Center’s fiscal year is from June 1st through May 31st and the statistics reported in this publication focus on FY24-25, June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025. In FY24-25, TRC generated \$2,401,267 in revenue, (includes \$185,500 in restricted funds to support TRC’s capital improvements). Total operational expenses were \$2,386,591 (includes non-cash depreciation expense of \$328,179). TRC’s Form 990 is posted on our website and we invite you to review that report for more financial detail. Our FY 25-26 operational budget is \$2,142,054.



By the Numbers: FY 2024-2025



MOST REACHED/ENGAGED-WITH POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
A “From the Archives” reel on June 6, 2024 featured Conservation Director Bryan Bedrosian giving our viewers a closer look at the ear of a Great Gray Owl. This post continues to engage audiences. To date, the reel has received 154,551 likes and 855 comments on Facebook and Instagram, and has reached over 1.8 million viewers!
You can also find us on YouTube and TikTok!



Internships & Externships

Launching Careers in Conservation

Each year, interns bring fresh energy, curiosity, and dedication to Teton Raptor Center. They arrive eager to learn and leave with hands-on experience that prepares them for careers in conservation, education, and wildlife care. This year's cohort has been no exception. Each one embodies the passion and teamwork at the heart of our mission.

Our year-round interns — Addie Wichman (Research), Jordan Hagel (Rehabilitation), Anna Wolke (Conservation), and Greta Cahill (Education) — have immersed themselves in every aspect of TRC's work. From assisting with research projects, to caring for injured raptors in the clinic, and connecting visitors with conservation through education programs, they have given their all. Their hard work has directly advanced our mission while allowing them to grow into the next generation of raptor biologists, educators, and advocates.

This summer, we welcomed Mairi, a high school intern, and Myles, a college intern, to our education team. They helped bring our Avian Ambassadors' stories to life — and shared these reflections as their internships came to a close:

.....

Q: What was your favorite part of interning at TRC?

MAIRI: "My favorite part has been all of the amazing people I've been able to meet. Everyone here has so much knowledge, experience, and passion for what they do."

MYLES: "For me, it was getting a behind-the-scenes look at everything it takes to run a place like this. Seeing the daily processes that make TRC work was mind-blowing."

Q: What surprised you most?

MAIRI: "How individually unique each one of the birds is. Not just species differences—every single bird has its own temperament and needs."

MYLES: "The level of awareness you need when training an ambassador. You're constantly tuned into the bird's cues, which was a new and fascinating challenge for me."

Q: What's your biggest takeaway?

MAIRI: "Raptors are incredible teachers. They connect people to the natural world in ways that inspire action and care."

MYLES: "It takes a lot of different people and ideas working together to make conservation successful."



Anna Wolke (L) and Addie Wichman (R) at a field study site. ©TRC Staff



Jordan Hagel in the rehabilitation clinic. ©TRC Staff



Greta Cahill with Cache the American Kestrel. ©TRC Staff



Mairi Schilling. ©TRC Staff



Myles Oliver. ©TRC Staff

From feeding nestlings to supporting educational programs, interns are woven into the fabric of daily life at TRC. They leave not only with new skills and knowledge, but also with lasting connections to the raptors and people who make this work possible. We are deeply grateful for all they contribute and inspired by the bright futures ahead of them.

Avian Ambassadors



TUNDRA

Rough-legged Hawk

HATCH DATE: March 2023

SEX: Male

REASON NON-RELEASABLE: Blind in left eye

WEIGHT: 2 lbs

JOINED TRC TEAM: March 2024

Tundra's journey to TRC began at the North Sky Raptor Sanctuary in Grand Traverse County, Michigan, after a collision with a vehicle left him with a serious injury and complete blindness in his left eye. With impaired vision making survival in the wild unlikely, he received expert care and rehabilitation at North Sky before joining Teton Raptor Center to begin a new chapter as an educator.

Tundra also has peculiar eyes for a raptor—his pupils are tear-drop shaped, much like those of a cat or reptile. This rare condition, known as bilateral colobomas, occurs when the irises don't fully form before hatching, giving him both a unique genetic anomaly and an iconic look.

His name, Tundra, honors the cold, northern landscapes where his species—the Rough-legged Hawk—thrives. Adapted to endure the harsh, snowy Arctic and sub-Arctic, these hawks embody resilience and strength—qualities Tundra demonstrates every day. Since his arrival, he has made remarkable progress in training, and each encounter with him reminds us of the quiet power and wonder these birds bring to our world.

Photo Credit: ©Sam Sun



BUFFY

Red-tailed Hawk

HATCH DATE: Unknown

SEX: Female

REASON NON-RELEASABLE: Missing left eye

WEIGHT: 2.8 lbs

JOINED TRC TEAM: March 2024

Buffy is a female Red-tailed Hawk that was deemed unreleasable due to loss of vision in her left eye after being hit by a car in Florida in 2023. She was transferred to Teton Raptor Center in the spring of 2024, where her left eye was surgically removed. She is highly habituated to humans, showing comfort around people, and comes forward for food or when the glove is offered. She has not shown the typical fear responses you would see in a wild hawk.

Her name "Buffy" comes from the buffy coloration you can see on her chest and belly feathers. She started programming with our team in April of this year, and we are excited to have her as an addition to our team of ambassadors. She has already made great strides in participating in both onsite and offsite programming. We hope that she will continue to make an impact as an amazing avian educator and ambassador for raptor conservation.

Photo Credit: ©Elvin Rivera



Education



TRC education staff and Cosmo the Barn Owl deliver a captivating Little Wings Story Time for little learners in TRC's Learning Lab. © Anne Hare

Expanding Impact Through New Education Programs

This summer's programs marked a significant milestone in the growth of Teton Raptor Center's educational reach. With strong participation from both local residents and first-time visitors, six distinct offerings engaged audiences across all age groups and inspired meaningful connections to raptors and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Our flagship program, *Raptor Discovery: Masters of the Sky*, captivated guests with fascinating insights into the world of raptors, featuring our awe-inspiring ambassador birds, while complementary programs on migration, habitat, and adaptations provided deeper exploration of raptor ecology and conservation.

New pilot programs for our youngest audiences took flight this year as well. Our *Raptor Explorers* family program invited families, homeschool groups, and curious kids ages five and older to dive into the world of hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons through fun facts, hands-on activities, and a special ambassador meet-and-greet. For the littlest learners, *Little Wings Story Time* blended storytelling and songs with unforgettable up-close visits from a live raptor, creating magical first encounters for children four and younger.

The enthusiastic feedback and repeat visits demonstrate the value of these experiences. By fostering curiosity, wonder, and understanding across generations, these programs are laying

the foundation for a community more deeply connected to—and invested in—the conservation of birds of prey and the landscapes they depend on.

Education by the Numbers: FY 24-25

(JUNE 1, 2024 - MAY 31, 2025)

Onsite Programs: **292**

Offsite Programs: **118**

Total Programs: **410**

Total Participants: **17,458**

Avian Ambassadors: **11**



Education Wishlist

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

- ★ **Wings on Wheels - \$70,000**
Help us purchase an AWD outreach van to safely transport our ambassadors and team, bringing the wonder of raptors to schools and communities year-round.
- ★ **Let's Do Lunch! - \$15,000**
Feed our ambassador raptors healthy meals—mice, quail, rats, and more—to fuel their care, wellbeing, and lifelong education work for the year.
- ★ **Hands-On Learning for All Ages - \$5,000**
Enhance our new Learning Lab with tactile displays, sculptures, and materials to inspire deeper connections to raptors for visitors of all ages.
- ★ **Enrich the Lives of Avian Ambassadors - \$2,000**
Equip our ambassadors with replacement gear, stimulating toys, and refreshed enclosures to keep them engaged and thriving.
- ★ **Wings Across the Region - \$500**
Cover travel costs to bring the wonder of raptors into schools and communities.
- ★ **Cutco Kitchen Shears - \$150**
Purchase durable tools for preparing nutritious meals for our avian ambassadors.



TRC Board Member Valerie Page with Pava the Swainson's Hawk at "Alive @ Five" in Teton Village, one of TRC's many outreach programs across the community. ©TRC Staff



Young learners enjoy a craft station in TRC's Learning Lab. ©TRC Staff

Inspiring Wonder in the Learning Lab

The Learning Lab in the Hardeman Barn is evolving into a living classroom—a place where curiosity takes flight. Recent additions of hands-on displays and immersive educational spaces celebrate the three pillars of TRC's mission, inviting exploration through touch, sound, and sight. Guided by the vision of Education Specialist Dana Magnani, the Lab will continue to grow into a mosaic of dedicated learning zones. Each space will inspire wonder, nurture diverse learning styles, and create lasting connections between visitors and the remarkable world of raptors.



Research

High Above Wyoming: A Journey in Raptor Conservation

The 2025 statewide Golden Eagle survey team in front of the Cessna 205 they used, from left to right, Julie Polasik (TRC Biologist), Chris Bonter (Survey Pilot), Zach Wallace (WGFD Biologist), and Hilary Turner (TRC Biologist). ©TRC Staff

Historically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service led these surveys, but reduced funding in recent years has made it essential for others to step in. From 2022–2024, the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database supported these efforts with Teton Raptor Center’s active involvement. This year, thanks to additional funding, we are able to continue this critical work—ensuring consistent monitoring of Golden Eagles and protecting the wild places they depend on.

These flights are more than science—they are acts of connection, linking us to raptors, to wild landscapes, and to a future where Golden Eagles not only survive, but thrive.

Research Biologist to Private Pilot!

In June of 2025 our Lead Research Biologist, Julie Polasik, took her involvement in flying to a whole new level and earned her Private Pilot License! After two years of conducting aerial surveys for raptors with Teton Raptor Center research projects, she was inspired by how amazing flying is and realized that she wanted to take a turn in the pilot’s seat. She completed her private pilot training in Rigby, Idaho and is now working towards earning her instrument rating when she’s not busy studying raptors, analyzing data, or writing manuscripts. Julie hopes to be a commercial pilot one day, taking her fellow biologists up in the planes she loves to fly to conduct raptor surveys, among other flying dreams!



Lead Research Biologist, Julie Polasik, flying solo over the Tetons this summer after getting her Private Pilot License. ©TRC Staff



Research Wishlist

- ★ **Flight Package - \$20,000**
Support 50 hours of aerial surveys to uncover vital insights on raptor populations.
- ★ **Spotting Scopes (2) - \$2,500**
Observe raptors on active nests with clarity and precision.
- ★ **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)!
- ★ **Data Analysis Package - \$2,000**
Provide advanced tools to turn research data into conservation solutions.
- ★ **GPS Units (3) - \$1,350**
Give the team reliable navigation tools for field research in remote landscapes.
- ★ **Bands - \$250**
Purchase essential supplies for identifying and tracking raptors in the wild.
- ★ **Gas Card - \$75**
Fund much-needed fuel for field research and nest surveys.



A Golden Eagle nest on a ledge as observed from the plane during aerial nest surveys. ©TRC staff

Research By The Numbers

284

HOURS OF FLIGHT
SURVEYS COMPLETED

25

DAYS OF FLYING,
10 DAYS WITH 2 PLANES

20,365

MILES FLOWN
DURING SURVEYS

1,148

RAPTOR NESTS
FOUND

126

ACTIVE GOLDEN EAGLE
NESTS FOUND

2,400

GOLDEN EAGLES LOST IN
WY IN PAST 19 YEARS

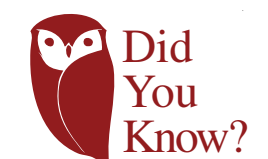
↓ 28%

DECLINE IN GOLDEN EAGLE
POPULATIONS IN WYOMING
OVER THE LAST 19 YEARS

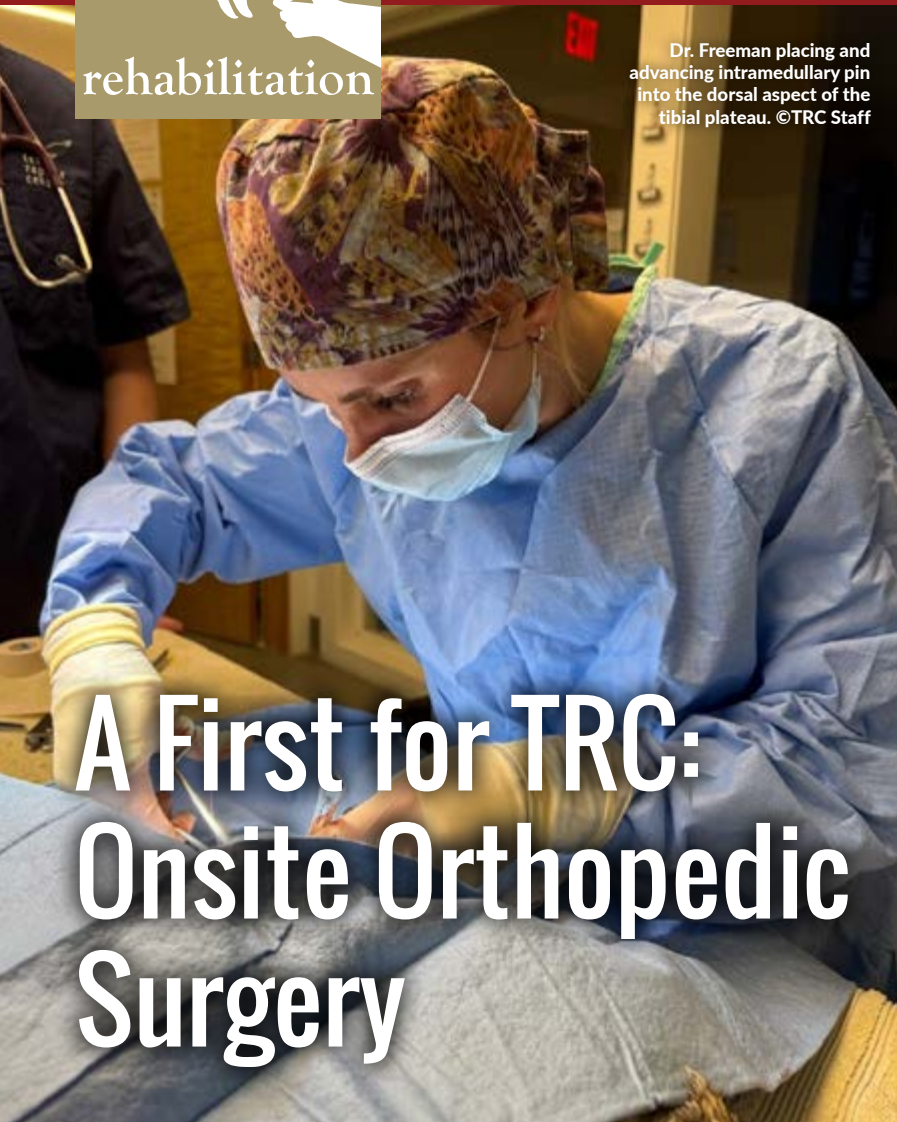
Imagine taking off at sunrise in a small, two-seated, canvas-covered plane from a quiet Wyoming airstrip, spending the next eight hours dipping, turning, and climbing like a never-ending roller coaster—only 100 feet above the ground. For our research team, this is more than an adventure. It’s how we find hundreds of raptor nests scattered across Wyoming’s wide-open landscapes, uncovering the stories they hold about raptor nesting, survival, and population health. This year alone, our crew spent over 250 hours in these tiny airplanes surveying nests and observing individual raptors!

In spring 2025, we completed aerial nest searches across Converse County in northeast Wyoming and the Bighorn Basin in north-central Wyoming, locating every raptor nest we could find. Follow-up flights in June let us check in on active nests—determining whether they succeeded and how many chicks fledged. These data, combined with work from other biologists, help us track long-term trends in raptor populations and understand the impacts of energy development in regions rich with Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and other raptors.

In late August and early September, our team once again took to the skies to survey for individual Golden Eagles across Wyoming. Following protocols developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we counted and identified the age of every eagle seen along 100-kilometer transects. The results from the past 19 years of aerial surveys tell a sobering story: Golden Eagles in Wyoming have declined by 28%, a loss of over 2,400 individuals.



There has been a 28% decline in Golden Eagle populations in Wyoming over the last 19 years (that’s 2,400 Golden Eagles lost in Wyoming over the last 19 years).

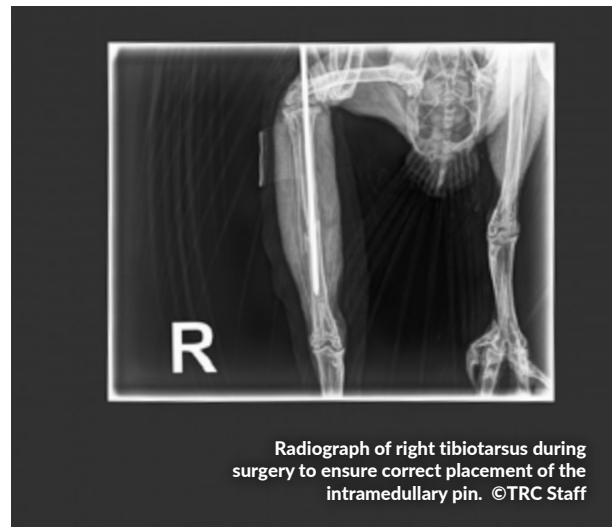


Dr. Freeman placing and advancing intramedullary pin into the dorsal aspect of the tibial plateau. ©TRC Staff

A First for TRC: Onsite Orthopedic Surgery



Radiograph of right tibiotarsus fracture on admission. ©TRC Staff



Radiograph of right tibiotarsus during surgery to ensure correct placement of the intramedullary pin. ©TRC Staff

Great Horned Owl (GHOW 25-23) patient was admitted on April 1, 2025 after a presumptive car strike with a midline tibiotarsal fracture. This bone is the long leg bone below a bird's "knee". Previously, Dr. Joe Weinman at Jackson Animal Hospital (JAH) has graciously performed all orthopedic surgeries for our patients. Recently, we have split our orthopedic equipment between both TRC and JAH to perform orthopedic surgeries in our onsite clinic. Dr. Salene Freeman performed our first onsite orthopedic surgery on this patient, aligning the very displaced tibiotarsal fracture successfully. Dr. Freeman is utilizing the most up-to-date and cutting-edge techniques in avian orthopedic surgery. These innovative methods not only accelerate recovery times but also reduce complications and advance release timelines.

Although the surgery was a success, this bird succumbed to other head trauma injuries. With the leadership of Dr. Freeman and a talented team of volunteers, pre-vet externs, interns, and staff, TRC has gone on to provide in-house orthopedic surgeries for about a dozen other patients in our clinic.



Great Horned Owls continue to be the most common species admitted to our clinic each year. ©TRC Staff

Rehabilitation by the Numbers: FY 24-25

(JUNE 1, 2024 - MAY 31, 2025)

Survival Rate (24 hrs+): **60%**

Total Admissions: **241**

Patient Care Days: **4,437**

Total Unique Avian Species: **34**

Wyoming Birds: **112**

Idaho Birds: **128**

Most Common Species: **Great Horned Owl (38)**

Most Common Location: **Idaho Falls, ID (38 Birds)**

Busiest Month: **August (48 Birds)**

HPAI Cases: **1**

Total Birds Released: **82 (+2 Transfers)**

Rehabilitation Wishlist

- ★ **Vet-in-Training - \$35,000**
Fund a full-year avian care internship that provides hands-on experience treating injured, ill, and orphaned raptors—helping them recover and return to the wild.
- ★ **Advanced Diagnostics - \$6,000**
Equip our team with precision tools to improve raptor eye care, including a handheld Slit Lamp for detailed exams and a Tonopen for accurate intraocular pressure measurement.
- ★ **Anesthesia & Surgical Support - \$2,500**
Enhance surgical safety and recovery with advanced monitoring and patient care tools, including a VetCorderPro ECG Monitor, a 3M Bair Hugger warming unit, and a Pop-Off Valve for anesthesia delivery.
- ★ **Rescue for Raptor Health - \$800**
Supply 20 gallons of Rescue®, ensuring our rehabilitation clinic stays sanitized and safe—giving every patient the healthiest chance at recovery.
- ★ **Fuel Returns to the Wild - \$250**
Support gas to get birds back to the wild.

Return to the Wild: A Turkey Vulture's Journey

On July 1, 2025, an adult Turkey Vulture was admitted to the rehabilitation clinic following a suspected vehicle collision. Diagnostic imaging revealed five fractures across both wings, and the initial prognosis was guarded.

For four weeks, the patient received intensive care including fracture stabilization, pain management, nutritional support, and structured physical therapy to maintain joint mobility and prevent muscle loss. As the bird improved, it moved to the patient care unit, where staff monitored progress remotely, tracking balance, weight-bearing, and wing use without disturbance.



The next phase took place in the flight barn, where endurance, maneuverability, and strength were assessed. Despite the severity of its injuries, the vulture demonstrated symmetrical, sustained flight. Passing all pre-release evaluations, the bird was returned to the wild on September 22, 2025, in Ashton, Idaho—taking flight immediately and joining a nearby roost site with ease.

This inspiring recovery highlights not only the remarkable adaptability of Turkey Vultures, but also the essential role of advanced veterinary care, careful rehabilitation, and dedicated staff in returning even the most severely injured raptors to their place in the wild.



Poo-Poo Project



New Poo-Poo Project screens in Bridger-Teton National Forest.
©Jennifer Ricupero

The Poo-Poo Project Keeps Saving Lives!

This year, our partners in the U.S. Forest Service have continued to make a big difference for cavity-nesting birds by installing Poo-Poo Project screens on vault toilets across the country. Right here in our backyard, the Bridger-Teton National Forest, with support from Friends of the Bridger-Teton, placed 50 new screens, all provided free of charge thanks to generous donor sponsorships over the years. Meanwhile, in California, the Inyo National Forest added 30 screens after a dedicated land user noticed unprotected toilets in the area and sponsored every single one herself!

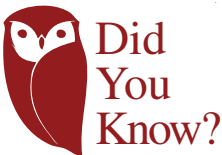
These efforts remind us how community action, whether through donations, partnerships, or individual initiative, can protect countless birds from becoming trapped in open vent pipes. Every screen saves lives, and every sponsorship makes it possible.

By the Numbers: FY 24-25

(JUNE 1, 2024 - MAY 31, 2025)

572 Screens Distributed

357 Screens Sponsored



Since 2010, we have distributed 20,707 Poo-Poo screens throughout the U.S. and Canada to save wild lives.



Sporting Lead-Free

Our Growing Lead-Free Community

One of our main goals at Sporting Lead-Free is to empower others to share our positive, conservation-minded, and pro-hunting/fishing messaging. At SLF, we have several levels of engagement, starting with a free membership. Whether or not you hunt or fish, becoming a free member helps to incentivize and inspire others to share in our efforts to solve this issue through effective public education.

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

Apply to be a part of our Ambassador Program. Our ambassadors create engaging outreach content, start conversations within their communities, and help with local educational events. Organizations that want to help us spread the word become Conservation Partners for cross-promotional opportunities. We have been hard at work developing educational and outreach materials to support our community members and beyond. Everything you need to know about the benefits of using lead-free ammo and tackle—and how to sign up for your free membership—can be found at sportingleadfree.org.



A young angler receiving a free SLF tackle kit.
©Wyoming Game and Fish Department



Sporting Lead Free Wishlist

- ★ \$5,000 - Sponsor Kids Lead-Free Tackle Packs
- ★ \$500 - Ambassador Outreach Toolkits
- ★ \$50 - One Epoxy Display showing bullet fragmentation and how much lead can kill an eagle to share with ambassadors, partners, and agencies.



Sporting Lead-Free By the Numbers: FY 24-25

(JUNE 1, 2024 - MAY 31, 2025)

46

AMBASSADORS
IN 23 STATES AND
PROVINCES

32

CONSERVATION
PARTNERS

2,300

POUNDS OF GAME
MEAT SCANNED FOR
LEAD FRAGMENTS

2,025

PACKAGES OF
LEAD-FREE TACKLE
DISTRIBUTED TO KIDS

Casting a Lead-Free Future

This year, we expanded our lead-free kids tackle giveaway! We provided sample packs of lead-free jigheads and weights for every kid participating in youth fishing days across Wyoming and Montana and a growing number of kids in Idaho. In total, we provided more than 2,000 kids with lead-free tackle and information. Let's start their fishing journeys lead-free!



Volunteers



A strong team of volunteers helped replace sand with gravel in the Avian Ambassador enclosures. ©TRC Staff

Volunteers Make an Impact

Celebration & Appreciation

On January 22nd, we celebrated thousands of hours of annual volunteer service with a beach-themed bash full of fun, gratitude, and tropical vibes! Guests played games, posed in a coastal photo booth, and enjoyed a delicious meal from Nora's Fish Creek Inn. The night was filled with laughter, a spirited bird-and-beach trivia showdown, and heartfelt recognitions honoring the incredible individuals who make TRC's mission possible.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering commitment and passion our volunteers bring to every aspect of our mission. Their dedication to the care and well-being of our raptor ambassadors and patients is nothing short of extraordinary, ensuring each bird receives the attention, respect, and compassion it deserves. From daily husbandry and enrichment to supporting educational outreach and welcoming guests to our campus, our volunteers play an essential role in creating meaningful connections between people and wildlife. Their generosity of time, energy, and heart uplifts our entire organization, and we are profoundly thankful for their continued service and support.

Ambassador Appreciation Night - Special Recognition

Ambassador of the Year.....	Robert Oehman
Flock Hero (Volunteer Nominated).....	Emily Paasche
Golden Owl	Myra Palevsky
Silent Flyer.....	Nick Smith
Education Hero	Vivien Zepf
Research Hero	Anne Hare
Rehabilitation Hero	Kathy Warner
Raptor Rescue Heroes	Errol Mobley (ID) Denny Emory (WY)
Nature Shop Hero.....	Janice Wilbur
Docent Hero	Patti Mull
Project Hero	Becky Hawkins

9 Ambassadors with Over 1,000 Lifetime Hours of Service

1,000+ Hours:	Bev Boynton & Bill Finerty
2,000+ Hours:	Patti Mull, Steve Poole, Kathy Warner
3,000+ Hours:	Sue Ernisse, Anne Hare, Stew Harvey
5,000+ Hours:	Lisa Friesecke

The Power of Many Hands

When groups come together at TRC, the results are nothing short of inspiring. This year, volunteer teams from Grand Teton Lodge Company, Womentum, EXP Journeys, and Whole Foods pitched in to tackle projects that keep our campus running smoothly and our mission soaring.

From deep-cleaning buildings and detailing heavily used vehicles, to washing windows, pulling invasive weeds, and installing bird-safe window decals, these volunteers rolled up their sleeves and got to work. They stained the historic Bull Barn, replaced sand with gravel in enclosures, built furniture, and even installed a new garden bed by hauling away tons of river rock. Every task, big or small, made a difference for the people and the birds of TRC.

We're truly grateful to these organizations and their teams—their efforts show that many hands really do make light work.



Did You Know?

Volunteers donated 7,386 hours of service to TRC during FY24-25.



A volunteer team from Grand Teton Lodge Company spent the day at Teton Raptor Center, helping tackle some big projects and making a lasting impact! ©TRC Staff



Womentum volunteers pitch in! ©TRC Staff



Award-winning ambassadors at TRC's annual Ambassador Appreciation Night. ©TRC staff

Raptor Rescue Network (RRN) By the Numbers: FY 24-25

(JUNE 1, 2024 - MAY 31, 2025)

Total Rescues: **134**

Roundtrip Miles: **19,234**

Roundtrip Hours: **410**

NATURE SHOP



THE NATURE SHOP offers something special for everyone who passes through our doors. Whether it's a cuddly stuffed animal that becomes a child's new best friend, a piece of art or jewelry that keeps the memory of a program alive, or a gift to share with loved ones back home, each item carries a story of raptors and the people who care for them.

“The gift shop is full of treasures.”
— LAUREN L.

Best of all, every purchase supports TRC’s mission. Profits from the Nature Shop directly fund our programs in education, conservation, and rehabilitation, meaning that when someone takes home a raptor-themed treasure, they are also helping to protect and care for the very birds that captured their hearts.

The Nature Shop is more than a store; it's a bridge that connects visitors to TRC’s mission in a lasting, tangible way. We can't wait to see what treasures you'll discover online or on your next visit.



VISIT OUR SHOP

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.





KATIE COONEY
This year we partnered with Katie Cooney, photographer and illustrator from Driggs, Idaho to create a beautiful illustration of the iconic Hardeman Barn and some of our raptor ambassadors. You'll find this design on t-shirts and zip hoodies in our store and online; we plan to also print it on tote bags and gift cards soon!



EMILY KELLEY
We have also commissioned work from the talented Emily Kelley, the artist and designer behind Land & She based in Jenkintown, PA. Her artwork takes influence from her Pennsylvania roots, folk art storytelling, nature, and finding inner peace. Her gorgeous renderings of Pava, our resident Swainson's Hawk, and Aura, the Turkey Vulture, are special keepsakes that we can't wait to see printed on a variety of products.



CARDS & STATIONERY



Send a note, share a laugh, or keep a few favorites for yourself. Our cards feature birds of prey through the lenses and brushes of artists like Thomas Mangelsen, Charley Harper, and David Sibley. We also sell TRC greeting cards, designed and printed by our Wilson neighbors at Crane Creek Graphics.



JEWELRY



We love finding jewelry that's as unique as the people who wear it. Our collection includes earrings by Jabebo, made in the USA from recycled cereal boxes, and leather feather earrings handcrafted by Uniquely Yours Montana. Each piece supports small businesses and artists who share our appreciation for creativity and conservation.



BOOKS



Our book selection is all about discovery and inspiration. From memoirs and field guides to beautifully illustrated children's books, we're always adding new releases and favorite classics to help readers of all ages keep growing in their understanding of raptors and the natural world. Think of it as a mini curated raptor bookstore!



STICKERS



The beautifully detailed and realistic raptor illustrations by Allison Stosier make these stickers stand out. They're durable, weatherproof, and a fun way to personalize your water bottle, laptop, or notebook.



APPAREL



We're always looking for the softest, most comfortable pieces that last, made with recycled or sustainable materials whenever possible. Our apparel for adults and kids features new artwork inspired by our avian ambassadors and our beautiful campus. Wear our logo with pride and help start conversations about the work happening at Teton Raptor Center.



GIFTS & HOME GOODS



Simple touches for your home that remind you of TRC and the difference your purchase makes. From hand-made mugs and organic cotton tea towels to felted ornaments and educational puzzles, these items make everyday moments a little more meaningful.

100% OF NATURE SHOP PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE BIRDS.



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 24-25 (June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025). 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

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Don Ableson*
Manjiree Jog and Viral Acharya
Claire Ackroyd
Maureen O’Leary and Armond Acri
Caroline Adams
Maude Adams
Sara Adamson
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Dail Barbour
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Jennifer Hayes and William Hayes, III
Enid Hayflick

This place is amazing. Seeing these beautiful creatures up close is a treat!

—MAGGIE UTGOFF

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



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Guiding TRC's Journey: Board Leadership



Emeritus Director Rich Bloom.
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SINCE 2012, RICH BLOOM has dedicated 13 years of service to Teton Raptor Center—12 as a Board Member (most of them on the Executive Committee as Treasurer) and one as a member of our Advisory Council. In May 2025, Rich was unanimously elected as an Emeritus Director, honoring his extraordinary commitment and leadership. Rich's steady financial guidance, thoughtful perspective, and deep knowledge of our community were instrumental

throughout TRC's capital campaign and construction project, helping us transform vision into reality. Beyond the numbers, he brings a true passion for conservation and collaboration that strengthens our mission at every turn. We are immensely grateful for Rich's years of dedication and are thrilled to celebrate his continued connection to TRC in this new role.

We are also delighted to welcome back **Leslye Hardie** and **Lisa Friesecke** to TRC's Board of Directors. Both bring a wealth of experience, perspective, and passion for raptor conservation, and we look forward to their leadership and partnership in guiding TRC's next chapter.

10 Ways You Can Help Birds

1. Drive mindfully for wildlife

2. Keep cats safe indoors

3. Pick up litter, save a life

4. Skip the poison, protect predators

5. Make windows bird-safe
6. Use lead-free tackle and ammo

7. Sponsor a Poo-Poo Project screen

8. Plant natives, grow habitat

9. Add nest boxes for birds

10. Clean feeders, keep birds healthy



The photos in the Thank You section showcase the incredible diversity of birds, the dedication of our volunteers and staff, and the vibrant campus and events that make raptor conservation possible. PC: Jess Curren Photography, Bob Viola, Steve Poole, and TRC Staff.



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