



Rocky Mountain  
**RAPTOR**  
Program  
a second chance at freedom

Fall 2024 Newsletter

# ON THE Wing

## Owlets Trapped in Silo

### Parents Don't Always Pick a Great Nest

As summer peaks, farmers across Eastern Colorado prepare for the harvest. Part of the usual preparations are clearing out and checking silos for grain storage. Occasionally, they come across some exciting tenants!

One farmer in Julesburg, CO, found an entire nest of five baby Barn Owls in his silo. Unfortunately, one of the youngsters had passed away. Four other immature owls were alive but needed evacuation ASAP. Our Colorado Parks and Wildlife partners helped the caring farmer to rescue the remaining Barn Owls.

Young Barn Owls have a hard time fledging from silos. Down at the bottom, the fledglings are not strong enough to fly straight up to the opening at the top. And Barn Owl parents don't stick around very long. Once the young ones are old enough to fly, the parents move on, leaving the young to fend for themselves. The young in the silo often starve, unable to leave the confines of the silo to hunt.

The best situation is always to rehouse the family in a human-made nest box nearby for the young to fledge under the eye of their parents. However, the area was a bustling activity center, with the interior of the silo was a quiet spot the Barn Owl parents had chosen to make their home. Since we could not reunite the owl family, the owlets were brought to the safety of RMRP.

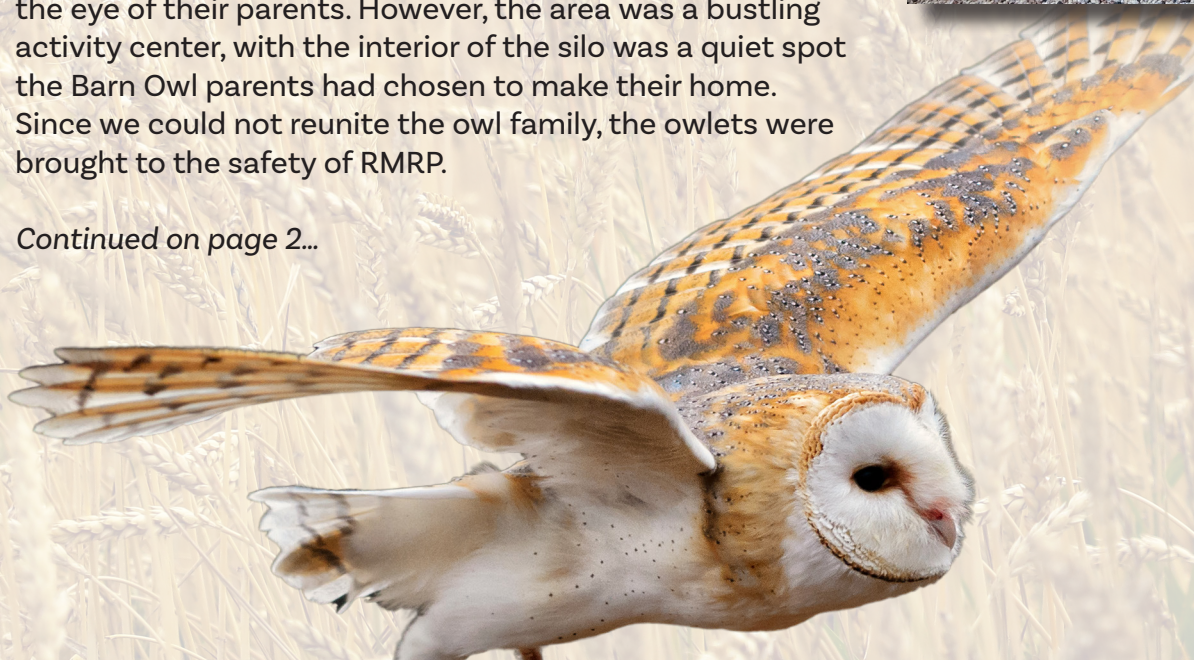
*Continued on page 2...*

### Inside this Issue

- 2 - Baby Barn Owls Rescued
- 3 - Don't Miss This!
- 4 - Short Story of a Short-eared Owl



**Above** These four young Barn Owls were trapped in a grain silo. They were rescued and brought to RMRP to grow strong and return to the wild.



# BARN OWL CONSERVATION

## What are the Threats to Barn Owl Populations? ...Continued from page 1.

These four young owls are essential to the Barn Owl population. Researchers have seen a decline in breeding pairs across their range. Despite their ecological importance, Barn Owls face several threats that have led to declining populations:

- 1. Habitat Loss:** Urban expansion and agricultural increase have reduced their natural hunting and nesting habitats. The destruction of old barns, hollow trees, and traditional nesting sites further exacerbates this issue.
- 2. Rodenticides:** Using poison to control rodent populations also threatens Barn Owls. These rodenticides cause death or can accumulate in rodents' bodies, which, when consumed by owls, can lead to poisoning and death.
- 3. Changes in Weather Patterns:** Changing weather and extreme weather events can impact the availability of prey and suitable nesting sites for Barn Owls. These changes also affect migration patterns and breeding cycles, further challenging their survival.

## You Can Help These Little Ones

These four young Barn Owls need your support to grow strong and return to the wild. Their addition to the Barn Owl population will increase future generations!

- 1. Make a Donation:** Your gift can help us to heal these owls and many more.
- 2. Install Nest Boxes:** If you live in a rural area, consider installing a Barn Owl nest box on your property. Properly built and placed nest boxes can provide safe breeding sites and support local owl populations.
- 3. Alternatives to Poison:** Promoting the use of alternative pest control methods reduces the reliance on harmful rodenticides. We encourage farmers and landowners to adopt owl-friendly practices to create a safer environment for these birds.

Help us care  
for these owls:



[www.rmrp.org/donate](http://www.rmrp.org/donate)



**Above:** Of the four rescued owls, one had a broken leg, and one had an injury to its foot, resulting in the loss of two talons. The other two youngsters were in good condition, only needing a safe place to grow stronger.

## Make Nest Boxes

Building and placing nest boxes can be complicated. Luckily, others have already done the math! Scan the code to read the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Barn Owl Box Guide.



## Contact Us:

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Wildlife & Nature Campus website: [www.wildlifefocofoco.org](http://www.wildlifefocofoco.org)

**Other wildlife emergency?**  
Go to: [www.animalhelpnow.org](http://www.animalhelpnow.org)

# COMING SOON

## 32nd Annual Gala

### The Path to Celebration Begins!

The planning has started for the 32nd Annual RMRP Gala, which will be held on February 15, 2025, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Lory Student Center at CSU. Underneath all the glamor of the Gala, there's a team that makes it all happen.

### Help Make It Happen!

RMRP is seeking volunteers to help with all aspects of the Gala, from securing sponsorships to helping with setup to assisting at the event. To learn more, scan the QR code or go to [www.rmrp.org/volunteer/gala-volunteer/](http://www.rmrp.org/volunteer/gala-volunteer/)



Above: Volunteers help assemble reception packets for the last Gala.



### Call For Artists!

As part of our annual Gala, we seek artists to decorate eggs for the Eggstravaganza. Whether you paint, paper mache, knit, sculpt, or weld, we are excited to see how you make a simple egg into artwork! We provide the egg (goose, swan, emu, or ostrich), and you work your magic. The eggs will then be auctioned during the Gala to raise funds for the raptors of RMRP. To learn more or to submit your design idea, scan the QR Code.



[www.rmrp.org/eggstravaganza/](http://www.rmrp.org/eggstravaganza/)

Above: Snowy Owl on Ostrich Egg by Julie Woods

### Event Schedule

Get outside and see the RMRP Educational Ambassador raptors!

Kite Festival  
Fairgrounds Park, Loveland  
September 21, 10-3

Elk Festival  
Bond Park, Estes Park  
September 28-29, 9-5

See complete raptor schedule here:



[www.rmrp.org/events](http://www.rmrp.org/events)



## Owl-o-Ween

October 26, 2024, 12-3 @ RMRP

Ready to Trick-or-treat? It is time to dress up and learn about Colorado's owls. And meet some cool owls, too. Join us for a family-friendly owl-some time.

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# Life-Saving Efforts Every Day

## Owl Pulled From Truck Grill

Your Support Saved A Life

In Kersey, CO, a Short-eared Owl faced a life-threatening ordeal when it collided with a truck and became lodged in the grill. Miraculously, this brave owl survived but suffered severe injuries, including broken scapulas and numerous bruises and cuts.

The truck driver immediately stopped and called RMRP for help. Mike Tincher, RMRP Rehabilitation Coordinator, organized the rescue and brought the small owl to our facility.

Our dedicated team has provided the owl with essential medical care for weeks, carefully bandaging its wounds and ensuring it receives the necessary treatments to begin its healing journey.

Today, the Short-eared Owl is showing remarkable progress. The bird is now in a recovery enclosure, working to regain its strength and prepare for a hopeful return to the wild.

The road to recovery is long and costly. We need your support to continue providing the best care for this owl and other raptors in need. Your donation will directly contribute to the medical treatments, nutritious food, and specialized rehabilitation enclosures essential for their recovery.

Donate today and join this remarkable journey of recovery and hope. Every contribution brings us one step closer to giving this owl—and many others—a second chance at freedom. Thank you for your support.



**Above:** This beautiful Short-eared Owl was pulled from the grill of a truck and suffered two broken shoulder blades. Your support is crucial for its recovery and return to the wild.



**Left:** In recovery, this Short-eared Owl is starting to fly again after healing from broken bones and other trauma.

Donate  
Today



[www.rmrp.org/donate](http://www.rmrp.org/donate)

Donate AT  
NO COST  
to you!



When you register your Kroger/King Soopers card (any Kroger company rewards card) for Community Rewards, they donate a portion of your purchase to RMRP! Our organization ID is BF841. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Since 1987, the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program has dedicated our mission to inspiring the protection and conservation of raptors and the environment. We achieve this by rescuing and rehabilitating thousands of raptors, educating the public about natural history and human/wildlife conflicts, and contributing to research to help protect raptors in the wild. As an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, RMRP is not government-funded and receives no operating support from national or international humane organizations.

RMRP is chiefly supported by gifts from individuals and grants. Our Federal Tax Identification Number is 90-0131614.