



RAPTORS OF THE ROCKIES
 P.O. BOX 250, FLORENCE, MONTANA
Education Programs since 1988

Raptor Round-Up

www.raptorsoftherockies.org
 See a **color** version of the newsletter
 www.raptorsoftherockies.com
 Photography and Book web site

NUMBER 60, NOVEMBER 2021

Over Three Decades of "Nature Therapy"

Nature therapy totally fits the goal of Raptors of the Rockies, a term coined by our pal Allen Fish, Director Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. In every program I relate an experience I had as a kid back in the forest behind our house in Ohio. Barred Owls started their nocturnal conversations, hooting, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you ALL?"



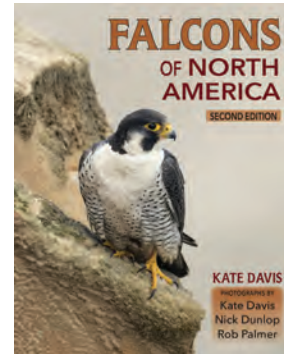
Owen the Saw-whet, and Nico the Lab (below) at the Raptor Ranch in June

Always a mimic, I hooted back and to my delight the curious birds came closer, excited to meet the intruder or food provider, or possible mate. When I finally came inside, my mother heard the blow-by-blow, and I declared that I would dedicate my life to raptors. A little exaggeration (or fib) but it makes a great point and is sincere.

I conclude every program with that story, making the audience promise they will go outside and try to hoot up an owl. After a little demonstration, the classroom, auditorium, gymnasium, or park comes alive with participants, kids and adults, imitating a Great Horned Owl. Every time I get goose bumps, just listening to the chorus of hoots and knowing that many will venture outdoors and notice the magnificence of nature = *therapy*. Like a 2nd grade girl who wrote in a thank-you letter: "I learned a lot about birds and look at them more often now. When I go outside, now I look for birds. I love them!" She concluded her correspondence to us with, "Thank you for teaching me how to speak owl. It is fun to speak owl." Yes, it is.



Kate Davis photos ©



Newsletter Number 60, just one issue this year, and jam-packed. Books and Bald Eagles, Art and Award, Friends, Falcons, and Fotos. Okay, photos, and programs galore. "Round-Up" is borrowed from my high school year book, and issue Number 1 was in Sept. 1998, little black and white photos and drawings all taped together, 4 pages and copies at Kinko's. Back then we boasted 450 programs total, 76 that year and a full schedule. No more two schools/three assemblies a day like back then, but to 1815 programs at this point. Hope you enjoy our 2021 Round-Up!

Meet Amazing Maizee



Our new family member Maizee the Peregrine came to us in July from a breeder in Port Angeles, Washington -NorthGen Falcons. Shipped over by Alaska Air in a little crate (long story of delays...) she joined us at 19 days of age and was imprinted in a playpen in the house. She is a pure Continental (or *anatum*) subspecies like Sibley and already an education expert, first program on Montana Public Radio's Pea Green Boat with Annie when she was a downy baby. Seems like all of our birds have their debut "on the air." She is the sweetest bird I've ever met, no bad habits (mostly) and in flight training. Watch her grow up on the next page, and more about Annie on page 6.

MISSION STATEMENT

Raptors of the Rockies is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) raptor education project located in Western Montana. Four Federal and State Permits are required. Since 1988, our mission has been:

* To educate schools and the public through the use of live birds - the falcons, hawks, eagles and owls used in raptor education and wildlife art programs;

* To provide a lifetime of quality care to permanently disabled birds of prey and falconry birds;

* To instill a sense of respect and admiration for these skilled hunters and to promote wildlife conservation and habitat preservation for our wild bird populations;

* To encourage everyone to go outdoors - "Nature Therapy!"

Raptor Research Foundation Award



President's Award Recipient

- Education Committee Chair
 - Symposium organizer on Education and Raptors
- Local conference host 2008 Missoula, MT
- Conference Committee Chair - local conference host 2014 Corpus Christi, TX
- Photographer extraordinaire for RRF conferences



Kate Davis

I won the President's Award at the (virtual) Raptor Research Foundation Conference in Boise hosted by The Peregrine Fund and THANK-YOU outgoing President Libby Mojica! My introduction to the society was my first conference and first paper presentation, then hooked - Bakersfield, CA 2004. The Raptor Research Foundation held a joint meeting with the California Hawking Club, and at the hotel the desk clerk asked if I would be checking in with a bird. There I met Rob Palmer and Nick Dunlop, photographers and book partners, plus pals Dan Varland and Jeep Pagel. Jeep also won the President's award, great news and what an honor for both of us, and all partners in raptors since 2004.

Maizee the Peregrine



19 days



24 days



27 days

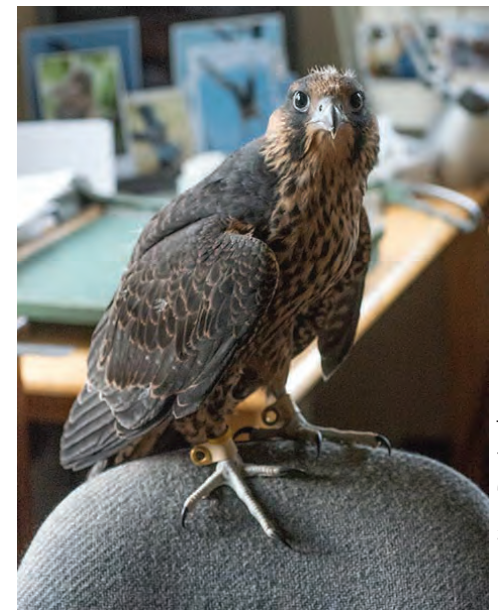


32 days



35 days

cover shot
37 days



41 days

Peregrines are fully flighted at 45 days of age average, and yes, all those down feathers were all over the house. Quite a vacuuming task when she was "hard-penned" or the falconry term for finished with feather growth. Immaculate plumage and they seem to grow into those huge feet.

Programs, Real and Virtual

One thing I have really missed in the last few years are the kids. The first REAL program since February 2020 was for 52 kindergartners at Florence Elementary in April, courtesy of Mrs. White. Question number one from the kids: "Can your falcon do any tricks?" Answer: "Yes, steal hats off people's heads and fly away." The whole Garrison School was here for the day in May, a 90 miles drive here in the little school bus, k-6 student population = 11 students. These kids were pretty darn savvy- one boy knew that Peregrines top speed is 240 mph (!) Everyone observed the difference between the Pygmy and Saw-whet Owls, and told me the size of their eyes indicates day-time and night-time hunting, little versus big. Yep, Junior Zoologists and way fun, especially for Nico the Dog. And Watsons Children's Shelter in May, Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resources kids in August. HURRAY youngsters!



Garrison School



Top: Florence Elementary Lower: Watsons Children's Shelter

"Back Stage Pass: Montana" program organized by Cathy Scholtens, absolutely wonderful fun. In June we hosted a group featuring lead singer of the rock super-band Queensryche, Geoff Tate (second from the left) and his fans and friends. I admitted that I am more of a jazz buff and they forgave me.

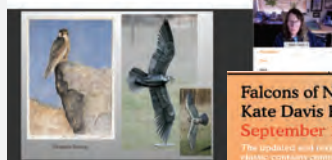


NorthEast Hawk Watch
50th Anniversary Celebration
 NEHW is kicking off its 50th anniversary year with a special FREE webinar open to everyone! Four 20-minute presentations with a break and a special 45-minute keynote by Kate Davis.
Sunday, August 29, 2021, 6-9 p.m.
 Via Zoom: Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://tinyurl.com/s65s9j2>



East Coast HawkWatch

SEELEY celebrates
 Join us for three free author events to celebrate our community and our ability to gather together again. Free. Everyone welcome.
Kate Davis
 Founder of Raptors of the Rockies
August 22, 1 pm, Double Arrow Homestead Pavilion & Commons
 Sibley the Peregrine and other Teaching Team birds will join Kate Davis of Raptors of the Rockies in Sawley Lake. Kate will have copies of her new book, *Falcons of North America Second Edition*. Reviewers all have one comment: "WOW!" Refreshments will be served.



HawkWatch International "Photography Workshop" with Nick Dunlop

Falcons of North America, 2nd Ed. Kate Davis Presents Birds of Prey
September 17, 2021 • 1PM MDT
 The updated and revised second edition of this Earth Music classic contains completely new illustrations of 10 new North American falcon species based on DNA studies.
 REGISTER ONLINE AT www.montanaBookFestival.com
 This event is proudly sponsored by



Montana Book Festival

FREE PROGRAM
Raptors of the Rockies
Birds of Prey
Sunday, August 8th
at 2:00 p.m.
NINE MILE COMMUNITY CENTER
Lawn Sprinklers & FREE Ice Cream

Some highlights of the year - 3 ZOOM'S, 2 REAL



A peeking eagle on the beach when we took a walk with Garrison School kids. This is one of the new folding note cards, over 100 images in all, available at Rockin Rudy's...and from us!



Kate Davis photo ©

Sibley is chillin' in the office. During one ZOOM program I turned the big Mac computer screen to face the rest of the room so the audience could see the perched Peregrine. I accidentally hit the power button in the back in the process and program abruptly over, for a bit anyway. How embarrassing.

Raptor Blogs

Entries several times a week posted on our web site.

Add this as a bookmark on your tool bar:
raptorsoftherockies.blogspot.com
plus facebook, Kate Davis

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Steve To the Rescue!

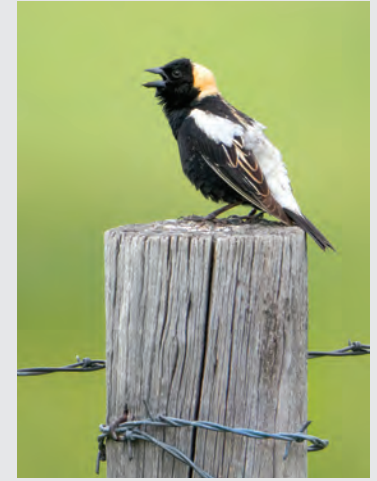
Our pal (and Raptors Webmaster) Steve Palmer saw the post from yesterday and kindly offered to plow us out, our savior. He said it was like a wall of concrete getting through that, yikes. I know that my feeble attempts with the snow blower and powering through the drifts in the Subaru didn't help much, flooring it and twisting side to side. It was heavy snow that set up, and more on top. Great Steve, and can hardly wait to thank you and Mindy properly at Lolo Peak Brewery, when it's safe again.



THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

Favorite Songbird

Finally saw a Bobolink yesterday, a male singing away and hope a female is out there somewhere. They have been absent from the area the last two summers, disturbing. It is said that they look like they are wearing a tuxedo, on backwards, and have been called the "skunk blackbird." Bobolinks have one of the longest migrations of a New World songbird, traveling over 12,000 miles round trip, all the way to Bolivia and Paraguay, most overwintering in north-east Argentina! Hard to imagine.



ps: That was the only Bobolink I saw all year. No House Wrens at the ranch either, even with 4 or 5 wren nesting boxes. Very sad.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

Big Day

Mom got her second COVID vaccine shot today, hurray! We met some friends that were there three weeks ago, and one was Raptor Backer Fran Coover. Here is our **FIRST** Falcons book sale, right there in the Lucky's parking lot. A perfect beginning. Act now and get a free bookmark.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021

Jazz Sessions!

What fun yesterday, spinning jazz discs for two hours on Montana Public Radio with Jon Jackson, a walking encyclopedia of musical knowledge (and cuisine- "The



Food Guys" with Greg Patent.) We even jammed to the 15 minute-plus Gil Evans classic, "la Nevada," a record Jon said he'd listened to a couple thousand times, or something like that. Right at the end I found a Radiohead CD that had been lost for months, hiding in the Pat Martino case. I told Jon that I loved jazz and Radiohead, and he announced, "I love Radio." HA!

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021

FunDay

Play Day for our best pals and our best dogs at the river near the house this morning. Mike Deneve is with Cassie the Awesome, and Ellen Condon is talking to Nico, and to her new puppy Stuart. Ellen is teaching them to count, starting with 1, then new languages and algebra. They are so smart! The dogs, too.



MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

Maizee and Betsy

What a day at Seeley Lake yesterday, another visit to the Double Arrow Homestead Pavilion with Alpine Artistry, Sibley's third trip there. She did a flight display for the audience over 10 years ago, this time she was with Maizee, Owen and Simon, all on their best behaviors. It was outdoors, a big line for book signings and a couple hundred people all told, including my assistant, sister Bets. The last one of these for a while, COVID cautious, the Bird Of Prey Festival in Kalispell cancelled.





**M A M
C a m p**
 Drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture week again at the Missoula Art Museum, with Bev Beck Glueckert. We have loved this class for 20 years and these kids seemed to be the best artists so far. Paper mache raptors ranged from an Osprey and Snowy Owl to several Sibleys and Owens. Great work and fun. Thanks Bev, and kids.



Our friend Renee Taaffe came by the Raptor Ranch to choose an art piece to include for the traveling Art Mobile of Montana, and she chose "Peregrine Cliff Redux." My etching will join 21 other works by contemporary Montana artists for the Art Mobile, 2- and 3- dimensional pieces. Renee is the teaching artist and hit the road in October, visiting more than 50 schools across the state. Glad our Peregrine will be on board! *Flowers courtesy Nancy - Brown's Nursery.*



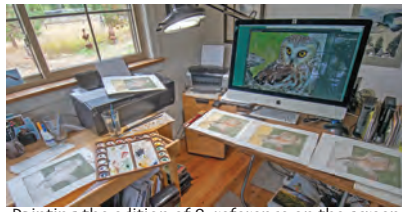
Kate Davis photos ©

Yard Birds

"Our" noisy resident Red-tails, the male banded at the MPG Ranch, and the nest failed this year for some reason. Sandhill Cranes were in the front yard in March, and I saw 30 cranes circling over Missoula this week. The Vaux's Swift nested in the (unused) old chimney, years in a row. The Sharp-shinned Hawk standing by the clothes line might be one of the three we released here last summer, so tame. Omnipresent Ospreys were out back, battles galore with Bald Eagles. We are fortunate, indeed.



All possible thanks to the purchase of Nick Dunlop's Sony A9 camera body. Yep, the one he used for the amazing images in our latest "Falcons" book. It has been good karma!



Painting the edition of 8, reference on the screen.

Maizee joins me in the studio.



Printmaking These birds are inspirational, even therapeutic and I love trying my hand at dry-point etching. Using my photos for reference, I come up with a composition then draw it on a special plastic "plate" with different blades and points. The plate is wiped with black ink, then background inks rolled on with brayers, each one different so there is a *monoprint*. Then they are painted with gouache paint and Arteza Brush Pens at my desk, and *voila!* And yes, that Saw-whet looks a lot like Owen the Owl. I have usually been limited to three etchings a year, as the studio is over the garage, not heated, and inking impossible. I just got the brainstorm to bring the press indoors, inking in the office on the big glass table. Just need a little heavy-duty table for the press, yes!



Bald Eagles Back At It, Finally

This nest across the river from our place on the banks of the Bitterroot was built in 2011. Kristi DuBois alerted me after she spotted it while flying surveys over the river with MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Then the fun began, heading down there most evenings with the camera and dog, six years. The eagles fledged three chicks 3 seasons, then two for 2 and in 2014, just one. We can see the nest through a spotting scope in the house, so can get pretty close to hatching dates when we see the female incubating. Then in 2018, an activity I hadn't expected when a Canada Goose stretched and stretched that long neck above the sticks. No eagle for the following three years, maybe taking a break as nests in the state now number over 800 up from a dozen in the early 1980's.

Then, back at it. This time it took forever to spot both chicks in the nest, reminiscent of the East Missoula pair that had four young (!) Every time three would show their faces, one would duck down when the fourth stood up...for weeks and weeks!

Both fledglings made regular appearances in our yard, begging on top of the eagle building. Sorry, guys, find your own carrion.



Kate Davis photos ©



Happy Retirement, Host Annie



Our pal Annie Garde has retired from her role as Skipper (Host) of the daily children's programming hit on Montana Public Radio, Pea Green Boat. At the helm for 19 years we were invited every couple of months, always on Thursday so I could listen to Jazz Sessions on the way. We have had some memorable and hilarious moments on the air. I had Sib and Jillian the owl on the last show, and both had their debut programs with Annie 18 years prior. Owen joined us and as a parting gift I gave her the Saw-whet etching, looks a lot like Owen. Will miss you tons, Annie, and happy retirement. Won't slow you down a bit!

Bye-Bye, Lucky Hawk

In late July our friend and neighbor Allan Foss delivered this young Red-tail that was stuck in his fence, wrapped in a tarp. What was crazy was what was hanging from her mouth. She was choking on a desiccated Columbian Ground squirrel skin, lodged way in her throat and hanging down 12 inches! She had maggots forming at her gape and was starving, so it had been a while. I ended up cutting it off far back in her mouth and hoped that peristalsis would work its magic. She had the most awkward posture I've ever seen for days, but eating that evening, digestion eventually fine, fattened up and released at Allan's. Bye-bye and don't do that again; an example of the reason for 65% mortality in first year raptors. I have seen Allan since and apparently the hawk is still hanging around, hopefully eating more appropriate prey.



A Floater, and 18 out of 20 years we have had to reinstall Tom's bridge across the slough headed to the river because of the spring high water. Our friend Andy Snowden jacked it up a few feet higher on blocks, to no avail. Back in place thanks to Heidi Sedivy and biology grad students, our first ROTR board member Deb Fassnaught and her grandkids. I warned them when they come over for a visit, be prepared to get wet.



Our Teaching Team

And the years they joined us



Sonora the Aplomado Falcon 2013



iPod the Northern Pygmy-Owl 2010



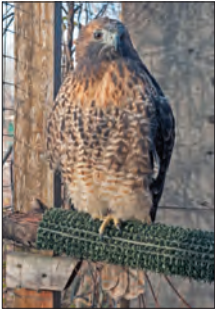
Owen the Northern Saw-whet Owl 2012



Sonny the Bald Eagle 2011



Jillian the Great Horned Owl 2013



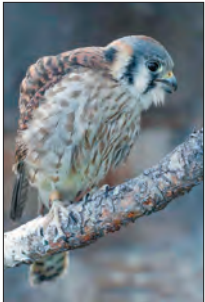
Simone the Red-tailed Hawk 2017



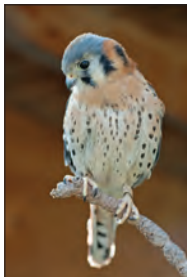
Sibley the Peregrine Falcon 2003



Nigel the Golden Eagle 1999



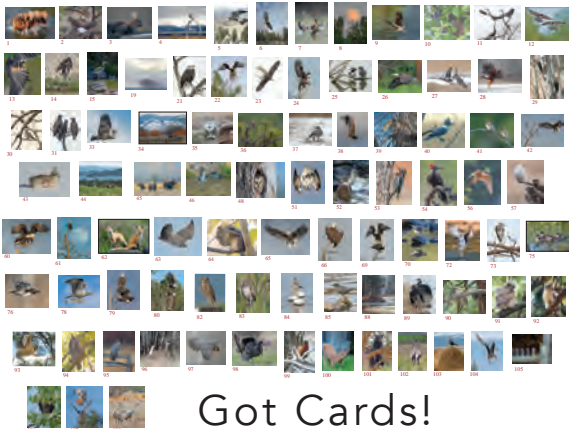
Ella and Wes the American Kestrels 2013 sister & brother



Simon the Great Horned Owl 2017



Maizee the Peregrine Falcon 2021



Got Cards!



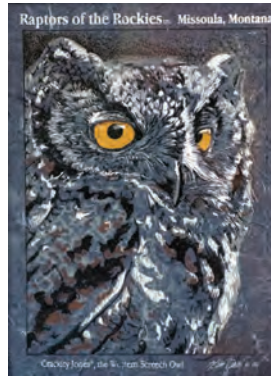
Sib on Christmas Day, what a gift this was.

Ancient History

A photo taken by my brother, Jonathan Phillips in 1989, releasing an owl that was starved, found eating earthworms in a neighbor's garden, hit by a car and sprayed by a skunk. He weighed a pound and was fattened up on mice... back in the olden days of rehab in Clinton.



Max the Golden Eagle at the Wildlife Film Festival Wild Walk Parade in the mid 1990's.



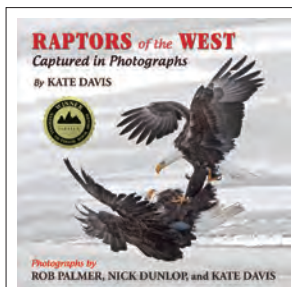
Crackity Jones our beloved Western Screech Owl, T-shirts in 1999.



Deja the Harris's Hawk with Tipper hunting Eastern Fox Squirrels, year 2000.

Falcons book review:

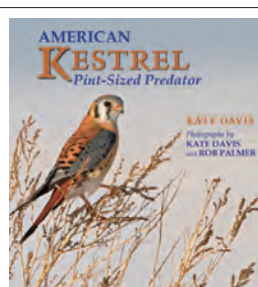
David Allen Sibley, Sibley Guides to Birds Doing justice to the falcons in a book is a tall order, but this one surpasses expectations. Filled with fascinating information and absolutely breathtaking images, I find myself going back again and again to browse or just to stare at a photo. Wow!



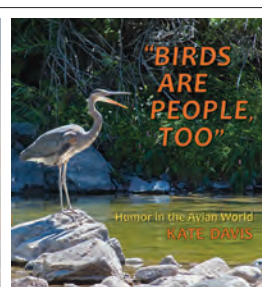
\$30



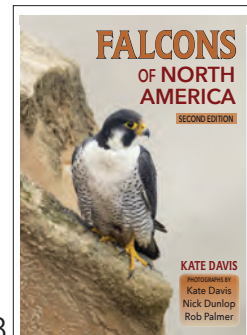
\$19



\$18



\$18



\$28

Books available Signed and just add \$5 postage. Checks work nicely, to Kate Davis, please. A portion of proceeds to benefit our education program.

Thank you Raptor Backers!

sponsors since last newsletter, many several times!

Tom Davis
Sally Phillips
Steve & Mindy Palmer
H & H Meats
Larry Weeks - *special thanks from our eagles*
McLaughlin Research Institute
Dr. Michael Kavanaugh
U of M Laboratory Animal Resources
Bridgett Riddle, *Chicken Riddle*
Christin Rzasa - every month on PayPal
Carol Goodsole - every month on PayPal
Cathy Scholtens- monthly!
Karma Beal
The Pleiades Foundation
Kim & Ruth Reineking
Bette Harig
Vicki & Lou Chouinard !
Susan Wassell
Bill & Jeanne Lenoch
Ken Siebel Family Charitable Foundation
Tyler Hampton
Susan & Roy O'Connor
Juliette Crump
Jon & Jarrie Anne Hyrne
Bob Ehrhart & Marilyn MacGregor
Terry & Germaine Conrad
Kim & Rogene Lemke
Kristen Wood & Vern Argo
John & Marna Abbott
Gabe & Sandy Vargo
Barb Smith
Ed Deal & Gerry Chambers
Pam Fenno & Russel Clark
Stan & Becky Duffner
Bill McIlroy
Bill & Linda Price
Chuck & Susan Henny
Tracene Berg
Joanne Mark-Goodhead

Bruce Haak & Evelyn Thomas
David & Nancy Tyrell
Donald & Donna Eisenmenger
Sue & Rick Neff
Kathy Price
Keith Fialcowitz
Anne Dobney
Suzy Hunt
Steve & Laura Roberts
Shirley Griffith-Brownlee
Phyllis Ohrmann
Cary Griffin
Annie Garde
Carolyn Goren
Wolf Creek/Bob & Carol Berry
Stacey Morrison
Robin Tawney & Nick Nichols
Andrea Stierle
Andy & Melanie Puckett
Margie & Steve Grinnell
The Merlin Foundation, Susan O'Connor
Barbara Banthien
Leslie and Jim McShane
Gloria Scalise
Jean Woessner
Howard-Yana & Nancy Shapiro
Leslie & David Hiller
Lisa Kern & Nancy Caspersen
Pat & Bernadette Bannister
Marina Richie
Montana Community Foundation
Phil Hamilton & Janet Whaley
Linda Stoudt
Charles Schwab, Schwab Charitable
ALSAM Foundation, Salt Lake
Marcia Prather
Gary Matson

The Wallace Foundation !
Riley McClelland
Kathy & John Heffernan
Cindi Hayne
Bill Murphy
Network for Good (Facebook)
Val Brackett & Nikos Monoyios
Bill & Penny Ritchie
John & Marilyn Mitchell
Julia White
Ron Coccharella, Innovia
Foundation
Minette & David Glaser
Five Valleys Audubon
Heidi Sedivy
John & Shirley Faust
The ALSAM Foundation, Ronny Cutshall
Maureen & Dan Oakes
Fred Luety
Jan Hiller
Kim Foiles & Bob Andrews
Steve & Mary King
Pearl Cash & Robert Brough
Judy Bungarz
Libby Mojica
Sharon & Richard Renfro
Claudia & James Diefenderfer
Debra & Keith Kehoe
Bill Thompson & Pat Murphy
Suzanne Hendrich
William & Mary John Palmer
Weber Greiser
Erika Clark
Denis Cipoloto
Ben Loggins
Bonny & Keith Roney
Sandy Mack

Montana Community Foundation
Margie and Steve Grinnel
Mary "Kit" Stevens
Ed Wolff
Barbara Ross
Nola Levinson
Marsha Katz
Debbie Gilmer

Special thanks to Jodi and Brad
at Pyramid Printing
Happy Retirement!

And we are delighted to now
partner with Minuteman Press
in Missoula. Their generosity
allows us to present Raptor
Round-Up #60 in living color!

Board of Directors
Kate Davis
Kathy Heffernan
Dale Manning
Jennifer Manning
Bev Beck Glueckert



Raptors of the Rockies

P.O. Box 250, Florence, MT 59833

www.raptorsoftherockies.org

www.raptorsoftherockies.com

