



Vocabulary

Accipiter – a type of hawk with short, rounded wings and a long tail, that dwells in woodland and preys on smaller birds caught on the wing. North America has three species of accipiters: the Northern Goshawk, Cooper’s Hawk, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Adaptation – a change in a living thing that better fits it for survival in its environment.

Aerial hunting – a hunting method in which a raptor is already airborne when it begins pursuit of its intended prey.

Aerie – the nest of a large bird located high in a tree or on a cliff or mountaintop.

Allopreening – mutual preening between mates or between adults and sibling, but rarely between unrelated individuals.

Beak – the bill of a bird, especially the hooked bill of a bird of prey that is adapted for tearing. Interchangeable with bill.

Bill – the beak of a bird, used for food gathering, preening, nest building and defense of a territory. Interchangeable with beak. Adapted to the type of bird.

Behavior – the way an animal acts often in response to something in its environment; an inherited pattern of automatic responses (such as courtship or nesting).

Binocular vision – a way of seeing using both eyes looking straight ahead that results in a three-dimensional view produced by overlap of vision.

Bird of prey – a predatory bird that uses its hooked beak and sharp talons to catch and eat other animals; also called a Raptor.

Brancher – fledgling-aged raptor that ventures from the confines of the nest onto nearby branches or to the ground, exercising its wings before fledging.

Brood – the baby birds that hatch from a clutch of eggs.

Buteo – a type of hawk with broad wings and short tail, that soars and often preys on rodents. There are 12 species in North America. Such as the Red-tailed hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk.

Camouflage – concealment by blending in with the background.

Carnivore – a flesh-eating animal, usually a predator.

Diurnal – active during the day

Eyas - a nestling hawk

Nocturnal – active during the night

Pesticide – a chemical used to kill pests such as insects or rats and mice.

Plumage – all the feathers that cover a bird's body.

Predator – an animal that hunts, kills, and eats other animals.

Preening – the grooming action of a bird in which individual feathers are drawn through the bill to restore neatness and waterproofing. The bill is rubbed across the oil (uropygial) gland, located on the top region of the tail, and supplies waterproofing oil for the feathers.

Prey – an animal that is hunted, killed, and eaten by other animals.

Primaries – the long flight feathers on the tip of the wing, originating from the wrist.

Ridge lift – the upward movement of wind off a mountainside or high hill.

Rousing – cleansing action of a bird in which all contour feathers are elevated, wings and tail are held loosely, and the bird vigorously shakes itself.

Raptor – a predatory bird that uses strong feet and sharp talons to catch and carry prey, has a hooked bill to kill and tear prey, and is carnivorous by.

Resident – an animal that stays in the same area year round without migrating.

Roost – to settle for rest or sleep; a place where birds rest or sleep.

Scavenger – an animal that eats dead things.

Soar – to fly without flapping wings, to ride the moving air on outstretched wings.

Stoop – a steep, fast dive through the air in pursuit of prey.

Talon – the long, sharp, curved claw of a bird of prey.

Territory – an area used for hunting or nesting that is defended by an animal.

Thermal – a rising column of warm air.

Updraft – a wind going up over an obstacle.