

ZooPro Adventure Program

Raptor Roundup

Main Program Topics:

Adaptations (tools) which different species of raptors have to be successful predators in their natural environment.

Importance of raptors, as of all native species, in their natural communities, and hence importance of protecting them and taking steps to ensure their survival.

Simple and concrete actions for all students and citizens to take to protect and ensure the survival of these species (e.g. no food litter on highways, habitat preservation, knowledge of and respect for conservation law)

Relation to Virginia SOLs:

K.2 (senses)

1.5 (life needs – habitat; physical characteristics)

1.8 (animals as natural resource)

2.5 (interdependence of animals with surroundings; habitat change)

3.4 (physical adaptations)

3.5 (predator and prey)

3.10 (human effects on the survival of species)

4.5 (habitats and niches; influence of human activity on ecosystems)

4.8 (animals of Virginia)

Special Notes Regarding This Program:

Special protected legal status of raptors will be emphasized. Cautionary explanation of why specimens shown cannot be returned to the wild will be given. These species will be handled with appropriate equipment, and only by trained and legally authorized presenters. As with live specimens in all programs, particular care will be taken to avoid physical contact with or inappropriate proximity to attendees.

Presentation of live rehabilitated raptors is crucial to gaining the interest, attention, and empathy of young attendees in order to convey the intended concepts and information.

Animal Species Used:

 Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Nocturnal adaptations such as large, fixed eyes; acute directional hearing; muffled flight; foot structure; species-specific habitat requirements
Eastern Screech Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	Nocturnal adaptations such as large, fixed eyes; acute directional hearing; muffled flight; foot structure; small adult size; typical prey; intraspecific communication
 Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Keen eyesight; beak, wing and foot structure; mode and patterns of flight; typical prey; species-specific habitat requirements

Other Material Used:



Graphics/pictures of the Bald Eagle, Osprey, and possibly other native raptors not shown live in the program will be used. Conservation history, status, physical adaptations, typical prey and other details of natural history of these species will be discussed.