



Vocabulary

Level III—Grades 6-8

Anisodactyl: The arrangement of feet is such that three toes point forward and one points backwards. The arrangement found on most birds of prey.

Anklet and Jess: Pieces of soft leather fastened around a raptor's legs to which a leash is attached.

Crepuscular: Most active during dusk and dawn.

Crop: A pouch in the throat of many birds where food is held and softened before digestion.

DDT: A powerful insecticide used on crops that caused eggshell thinning in birds and the decline of the Peregrine falcon and Bald eagle.

Ecosystem: A community of living things and their environment.

Falconry: An ancient sport of using a trained raptor to hunt that originated more than 2000 years ago and is still practiced today.

Mantle: An action that involves spreading out the wings and tail in order to hide food that is being eaten.

Preen: The way a bird cleans and aligns its feathers by using its beak.

Rouse: When a bird lifts its feathers, shakes and returns them to their original order.

Secondary Poisoning: When an animal consumes another that has ingested poison thus causing the second animal to become poisoned.

Species: A category consisting of animals or plants having similar characteristics and the ability to interbreed.

Thermal: An ascending current of air caused by heat.

Zygodactyl: The arrangement of feet is such that two toes point forward and two point backwards. The arrangement found on most parrots.

Let Your Spirit Take Wing!