

What is a Bird of Prey?

A bird of prey is a special bird that hunts animals for its food. Hawks, eagles, falcons, osprey, vultures, condors, owls and kites are the eight types of birds of prey. They eat many different types of animals like mice, rabbits and snakes. These animals are called prey. Birds of prey have three characteristics different from other birds that help them find, catch, kill and eat their food.

1. Very good eyesight
2. Extremely strong feet with long sharp talons
3. A curved and hooked upper beak

Birds of prey differ from one another due to their different lifestyles.

- Most owls hunt at night so they have excellent hearing and silent flight to sneak up on prey.
- Falcons hunt other birds so they are built for speed. They are shaped like bullets which makes them very fast and maneuverable in flight.
- Hawks and eagles have broad wings and tails for soaring.
- Vultures and condors lack strong feet for catching prey because they eat dead animals.
- Osprey are mainly fish eaters and their feet are specially made for catching fish.
- Most kites prefer insects for their diet, catching and eating them while in flight.

Birds of prey are very important to have around because they help control the populations of mice, rats and insects. Because of this they are all protected by law and cannot be harmed in any way.

Birds of prey are sometimes unintentionally hurt by our activities. They collide with things like cars, power lines and fences. The poisons that we put into the environment can also seriously hurt birds of prey. This is why it is so important to be considerate and use our resources wisely and to be careful of what chemicals we put into the environment.

Let Your Spirit Take Wing!