

The eagle has landed at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute along with hawks,

owls, falcons and much more. "Raptors: Hunters in the Sky" will be on display at RTP1 through April 7. This unique collection of mounted specimens, live birds, artwork and photography was created to give visitors a look into the lives and habits of these feathered hunters.

According to RTP1 President Jim Berry, "The raptors exhibit combines artwork, photography and museum specimens into an interesting and interactive show. Many of the displays use flip up labels so that visitors have a chance to learn the basics of raptor identification. The exhibit was designed with children and families in mind, although the content would certainly appeal to almost anyone with an interest in nature."

Three special live raptor guests highlight this exciting exhibition. A redphase screech owl named Sierra, a saw-whet owl named Nova

Their primary goal is to provide care for injured animals and return them back to the wild where they belong. The three birds that are part of RTP1's exhibit sustained permanent injuries, which prevent their release back into the wild.

Most of the birds represented in the exhibition are found in the Northeastern United States. Visitors will enjoy artwork and photography depicting raptors in their natural habitat and see mounted specimens of a variety of different birds including a bald eagle, great horned owl, osprey and a snowy owl.

What is a raptor? The word raptor comes from the Latin word *raptare*, meaning "to seize and carry away." A raptor is a bird of prey with three notable adaptations: a hooked beak for tearing meat, grasping feet with sharp talons and binocular vision that may be eight times more powerful than human vision. It is these three characteristics that make up the diverse group of birds we call raptors. "Raptors: Hunters in the Sky" utilizes compare and contrast displays to illustrate the differences between birds of prey and all other birds. By comparing strong, taloned raptor feet, hooked beaks and powerful eyes, to those of other kinds of birds, it is easy to see why these three characteristics set raptors apart.

Raptors are not the only birds that eat meat. In fact, gulls, herons, kingfishers and even some kinds of ducks are meat eaters. But unlike raptors, which use their talons for gripping and their beaks for tearing flesh, these birds swallow their prey whole. Other birds have strong feet and good eyesight, but in order for a bird to be called a raptor it must exhibit all three of the adaptations noted above.

What exactly is a raptor? The group includes hawks, eagles, vultures, owls,

stamps to dollars are a regular part of our life. Why do we hold



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