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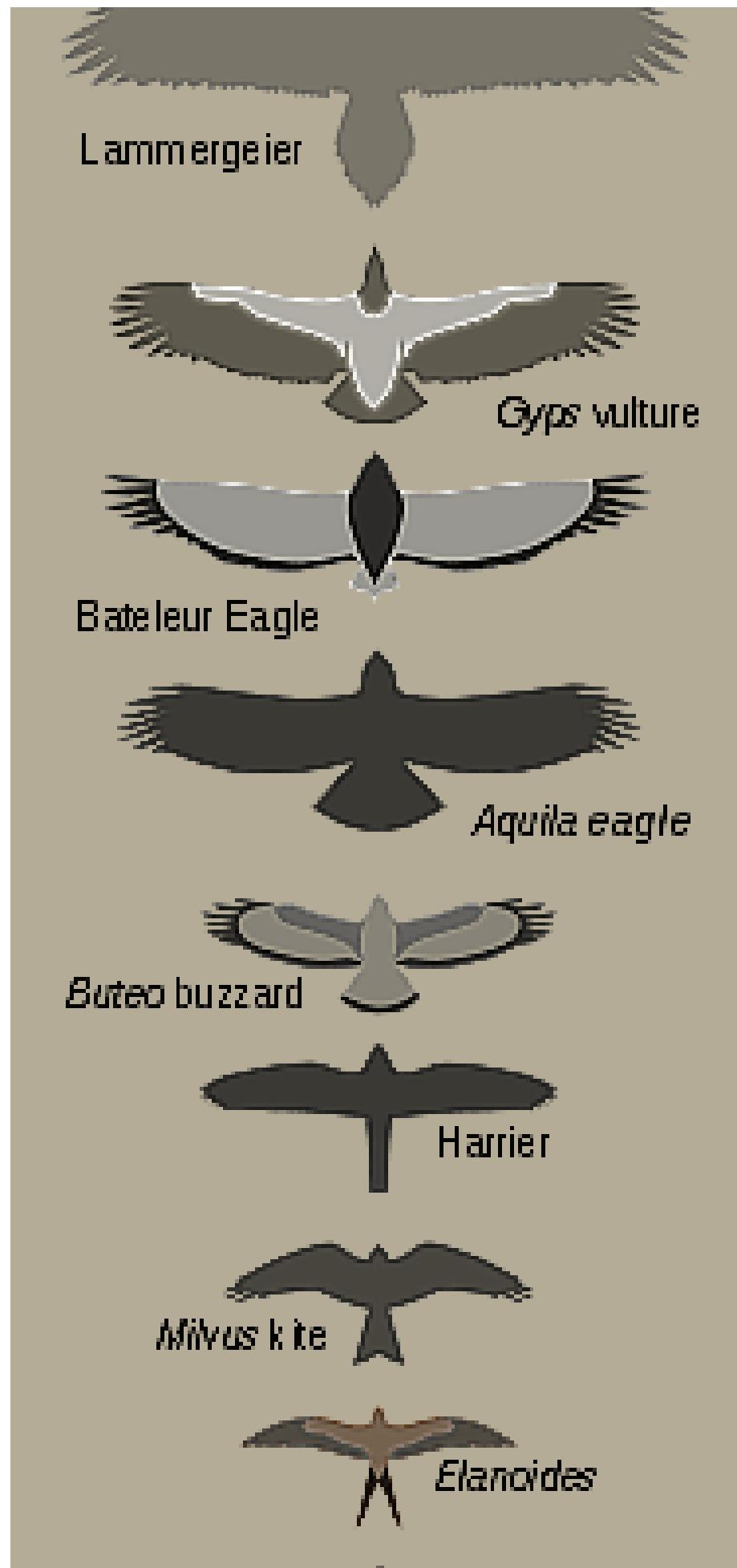
**Colorado Raptor  
Monitoring Project**



## Raptor what are they?

Many species of birds may be considered partially or exclusively predatory; however, in Ornithology, the term "bird of prey" applies only to birds of the families listed below. Taken literally, the term "bird of prey" has a wide meaning that includes many birds that hunt and feed on animals, and also birds that eat very small insects. In ornithology, the definition for "bird of prey" has a narrower meaning; birds that have very good eyesight for finding food, strong feet for holding food, and a strong curved beak for tearing flesh. Most birds of prey also have strong curved talons for catching or killing prey. By way of an example, the narrower definition excludes storks and gulls, which can eat quite large fish, partly because these birds catch and kill prey entirely with their beaks, and similarly bird-eating skuas, fish-eating penguins, and vertebrate-eating kookaburras are excluded. Birds of prey generally prey on vertebrates, which are usually quite large relative to the size of the bird. Most also eat carrion, at least occasionally, and vultures and condors eat carrion as their main food source.

## Type of Raptor?





The diagram illustrates the wing shapes of two raptor families. At the top, a falcon is shown from below, displaying long, pointed wings. Below it, an accipiter hawk is also shown from below, displaying shorter, more rounded wings.

Eagles tend to be large birds with long, broad wings and massive feet. Booted eagles have legs and feet feathered to the toes and build very large stick nests. Ospreys, a single species found worldwide that specializes in catching fish and builds large stick nests. Kites have long wings and relatively weak legs. They spend much of their time soaring. They will take live vertebrate prey, but mostly feed on insects or even carrion. The true hawks are medium-sized birds of prey that usually belong to the genus *Accipiter* (see below). They are mainly woodland birds that hunt by sudden dashes from a concealed perch. They usually have long tails for tight steering. Buzzards are medium-large raptors with robust bodies and broad wings, or, alternatively, any bird of the genus *Buteo* (also commonly known as "hawks" in North America). Harriers are large, slender hawk-like birds with long tails and long thin legs. Most use a combination of keen eyesight and hearing to hunt small vertebrates, gliding on their long broad wings and circling low over grasslands and marshes. Vultures are carrion-eating raptors of two distinct biological families: the (Accipitridae), which only occurs in the Eastern Hemisphere; and the (Cathartidae), which only occurs in the Western Hemisphere. Members of both groups have heads either partly or fully devoid of feathers. Falcons are medium-size birds of prey with long pointy wings. Unlike most other raptors, they belong to the Falconidae, rather than the Accipitridae. Many are particularly swift flyers. Caracaras are a distinct subgroup of the Falconidae unique to the New World, and most common in the Neotropics – their broad wings, naked faces and appetites of a generalist suggest some level of convergence with either the Buteos or the vulturine birds, or both. Owls are variable-sized, typically night-specialized hunting birds. They fly almost silently due to their special feather structure that reduces

turbulence. They have particularly acute hearing.

## Why are they a Protected Species?

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), codified at 16 U.S.C. §§ 703–712 (although §709 is omitted), is a United States federal law, first enacted in 1916 in order to implement the convention for the protection of migratory birds between the United States and Great Britain (acting on behalf of Canada). The statute makes it unlawful without a waiver to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill or sell birds listed therein ("migratory birds"). The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds and also grants full protection to any bird parts including feathers, eggs and nests. Over 800 species are currently on the list. Some exceptions to the act, known as the eagle feather law, are enacted in federal regulations (50 C.F.R. 22), which regulates the taking, possession, and transportation of bald eagles, golden eagles, and their "parts, nests, and eggs" for "scientific, educational, and depredation control purposes; for the religious purposes of American Indian tribes; and to protect other interests in a particular locality." Enrolled members of federally recognized tribes may apply for an eagle permit for use in "bona fide tribal religious ceremonies. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been issuing large exemptions to the protections, in the form of bird-killing permits to public and private entities that are not announced in the Federal Register and must instead be disclosed by cumbersome Freedom of Information Act requests. In May, 2013, an environmental activist in New York obtained 13 such permits issued in 2012 and 2013 that included, among others, one issued to a federal agency to kill 5,000 Canada geese and 3,700 other birds in 88 other species (including owls, hawks, osprey, mallard ducks, sparrows, cardinals, woodpeckers, etc.) across NY State from October 2012 to September 2013 .The Act was enacted in an era when many bird species were threatened by the commercial trade in birds and bird feathers. The Act was one of the first federal environmental laws (the Lacey Act had been enacted in 1900). The Act replaced the earlier Weeks-McLean Act (1913). Since 1918, similar conventions between the United States and four other

nations have been made and incorporated into the MBTA: Mexico (1936), Japan (1972) and the Soviet Union (1976, now its successor state Russia). Some of these conventions stipulate protections not only for the birds themselves, but also for habitats and environs necessary for the birds' survival.

## **why do State parks and wildlife department monitor Raptors?**

Raptor monitoring is a useful tool for park officials, state parks, and the wildlife division to make decisions on land management issues that can arise. It gives them a good idea of how the ecosystem is within the surrounding area and also gives them a good idea of what is needed within the area to keep the ecosystem thriving. Monitoring also lets them know what problems can be around within the area. The main goal of monitoring the raptors is the overall health of the area's ecosystems and what we can do to help maintain them and make them thrive for future raptor species.

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## Colorado Raptor Monitoring Project

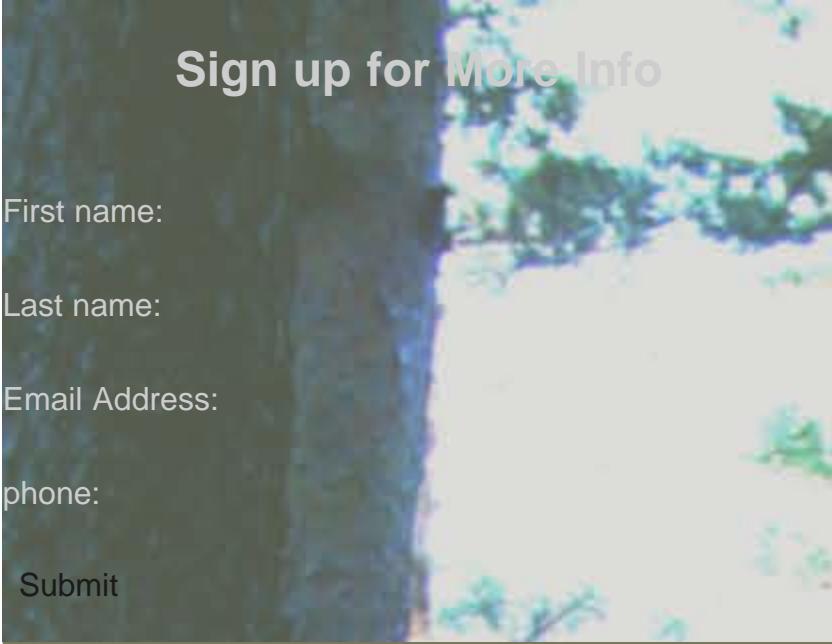
### About Us

Colorado Raptor Monitoring Project (C.R.M.P) began its journey in 2013 by Marcus Finning. He wanted to become a falconer, but did not have the money, or time needed,

So he did the next best thing, which was to promote the birds of prey. He also wanted to try to get the communities around him to become aware of the beautiful creatures of the sky. We are non-profit and mainly function on a volunteer basis with the cooperation of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, or (CDPW) for short.

## Our 5 goals

1. Enjoy what you are doing
2. Help improve habitat for all ecosystems
3. Provide up to date information of activity
4. Provide a safe environment for humans and Raptors alike
5. Love all nature has to offer



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## Colorado Raptor Monitoring Project

The History of Monitoring

Humans must have observed birds from the earliest times stone age drawings are among the oldest indications of an interest in birds. Birds were perhaps important as a food source, and bones of as many as 80 species have been found in excavations of early Stone Age settlements.

Cultures around the world have rich vocabularies related to birds. The traditional bird names are often based on knowledge of their behavior and with many names being of onomatopoeic nature and many are still in use today but traditional knowledge and knowledge of these practices is passed on through oral traditions today. The Hunting of wild birds as well as their domestication would have required considerable knowledge of their habits. Poultry farming and falconry were practiced from early times in many parts of the world. When in turns bring you to modern time in monitoring migratory birds to help keep track of there patterns and also give us a good idea of the amount of birds that are out there and give use the opportunity to help improve the ecosystem's out there and to help them for future generations to enjoy as we do.

## The History of Falconry

The history of falconry has been dated back and began in the Mesopotamia time dating back to 2000 BC there was also some evidence of raptor in the northern altal, western Mongolia. The falcon was a symbolic bird of ancient Mongolia tribes. There is some disagreement about early accounts of such early practices of falconry. Falconry was possibly induced to Europe around 400 AD, when the Huns and Alans invaded from the east. The most prominent falconer know in Europe is Frederick II of Hohenstaufen (1194-1250). He is believed to have received first hand knowledge of Arabic falconry during the wars in the region (between 1228 and 1229) by obtaining a copy of Moamyn's the manual of falconry and translated it in to Latin to "De arte venanbi cum avibus or known by the English as ("The art of hunting with birds") Witch is thee book for a falconer to read if you ever get involved in to any kind of falconry activity.

Historically, Falconry was a popular sport and the status symbol among Nobles of medieval Europe. In order to be involved with the world of falconry it requires a lot of time, a good amount of money and a lot of space and most commoners of the medieval times could not afford it. In today would it still dose cost money time and space but it also requires you to obtain permits to have a falcon and also a license to hunt and if you are just starting out it a 7 year processes. The first 2 year you are consider a apprentices and you need to have a master falconer to show you the rope and also need to do a lot of reading and take a test to get you apprentice permit and are restricted to only being able to have one of two type of falcons which being a red tail hawk or a American kestrel. At the third you are able to continue on with you studies as a falconer on you own and allowed to have two birds of any breed except for eagles and that is where most falconers stop and enjoy the sport. The ultimate goal is of coarse is the seven year mark which is a master falconer and you are able to have 3 birds and even a eagle with a special state and federal permit plus you get the pleasure of keeping the sport alive by taking on apprentices.

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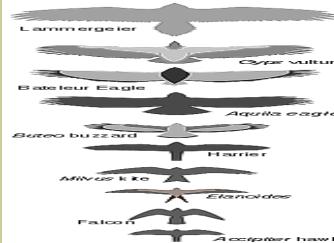


## Colorado Raptor Monitoring Project

### Gallery

In this gallery are some images of raptors being used for falconry by fellow C.R.M.P members. Some were taken by members on some of their monitoring trips to various locations within Colorado and other states.





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## Monitoring and Resources

## Monitoring

To be a good raptor monitor you will want to know your park. You will be required to visit the park at least twice a month on a regular basis, weather permitting of course. You will also want to have at least a 4 to 5 hour window to monitor depending on the size of the park. You want to be sure to visit the park early in the morning on one day and mid afternoon, or early evening on your other trip to the park to get a good idea of their habits. You also would like to have your scope and binoculars, as well as your field study sheets



### Items Needed

1. Field study sheets
2. Raptor Identification book or cards
3. Binoculars
4. Spotting scope
5. Camera (not necessary but you never know)
6. Food for yourself
7. First aid kit
8. Water

### Tips

The greatest tip is to have fun and enjoy monitoring. keep yourself hydrated. dress in layers especially in

the winter, since you don't know what the weather will do that day. Ω

## Resources

- [Fresc.USGA](#)
- [National Geographic](#)
- [peregrine foundation](#)
- [ENature](#)
- [Raptor Research Foundation.](#)
- [What bird](#)

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## Colorado Raptor Motoring Project



### Raptor Data Base Access



## What is the Data Base

The data base is the central location where all the monitoring information is entered by the monitoring groups of each park within Colorado, that has a monitoring program in place. The data that is gathered will be used for park management. It will also be used by state agencies that have access to the information to do reports and make good decisions about how to proceed with certain projects. It also will give a good idea of if the ecosystem is healthy or not.



## How do I use the Data Base

The date base is fairly easy to use all you have to do is log in and follow the field data sheet that you fill out when you are out monitoring the raptors. Enter the information as you see it on the field forms and submit it, then continue on entering the data. The database is also a good tool to use to see how other parks are doing and how successful they are.

## **Data Base Access**

In order to get access to the data base you must go through the training class that CPW will do with you once you sign up to be a monitor. Once the training is done they will give you the credentials to log in to the database so you can begin your adventure as a raptor monitor. Ω

## **Data Bases link**

[CPW data base](#)

[CPW Civicore](#)

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DEAD ANIMAL

