Raptors

Raptors, also known as birds of prey, are divided into two main groups, the diurnal (day flying) species and the nocturnal (night flying) species, commonly known as owls. All raptors have clawed feet and sharply curved beaks, which are well-adapted for feeding on meat.

Diurnal raptors are further classified into the following groups: New World Vultures (*Cathartidae*); Falcons and Caracaras (*Falconidae*); Hawks and Eagles (*Accipitridae*); Osprey (*Pandionidae*); Secretary bird (*Sagittariidae*). Nocturnal raptors are further classified into the following groups: Barn Owls (*Tytonidae*); Eared Owls or Typical Owls (*Strigidae*).

**Fun Facts:**

1. Did you know that feathers grow in distinct tracts or lines (called pterylae)?
2. The number of feathers on a bird varies with size, sex, health, season, temperature, and habitat.

**Habitat**

Varies depending on species.

**Diet**

Rodents and smaller birds; some are scavengers and will feed on carcasses

**Predators:** Varies depending on species.

**Behavior**

In general, raptors are not particularly social birds. However, some species will roost together, migrate as a flock, or be seen feeding together. Diurnal raptors spend most of the day hunting, sitting perched, preening, and roosting. Some species are territorial.

**Breeding**

Varies depending on species.

**Size**

Length: 14 cm to 1.40 m, depending on species

**Weight**

35 g to 12.25 kg, depending on species

**Life Span:** Varies depending on species.