

Culture & History

Eagles were prized for their beautiful feathers. For the Salish & Pend d'Oreille warriors, golden eagle feathers were the highest honor that they could receive. Hawks are also respected as powerful birds and often appear in creation stories.

Falcon feathers were also used by warriors, particularly for falcon feather capes. Łataití, the man who first brought the bison calves to the Flathead Reservation, was named after these capes: Little Falcon Robe.

Owls are considered highly intelligent and in Salish & Pend d'Oreille culture, they are messenger birds. Though some consider them bad omens, the news they bring can be positive or negative.

Crows and ravens are important as they help keep the land clean and free of disease. They are believed to take death and disease into themselves and purify it.

Kootenai would also collect their eggs in the spring to be boiled and eaten.

A Lasting Impact

All animals need energy to maintain life and different types of food produce different amounts of energy. A herbivore who eats grass only absorbs some of the energy from the plants. When the herbivore is eaten by a predator, the predator absorbs an even smaller amount of energy. This is why predators need to eat more than herbivores to gain the same amount of energy.

A raptor, which is both a predator and maintains a costly mode of transport, flying, needs to eat a lot of meat to support themselves. Some raptors can eat up to 2,000 mice a year!

When humans introduce pesticides and other poisons into the environment to control rodents and insects, it can have devastating impacts on raptors. Raptors are exposed to poison when they ingest poisoned rodents, which may exhibit erratic movements that attract hungry raptors. Because they have to eat a high amount of prey to meet their energy requirements, toxins build and can lead to high mortality rates for raptors and decrease their populations.

The impact of pesticides and rodent control methods on 'non-target species' is a topic of interest for many research groups. Hopefully, alternative solutions can be found to help protect raptors and ensure their on-going survival.

RAPTORS & CORVIDS



If you are interested in learning more about our wildlife, contact us at :

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Interesting Facts

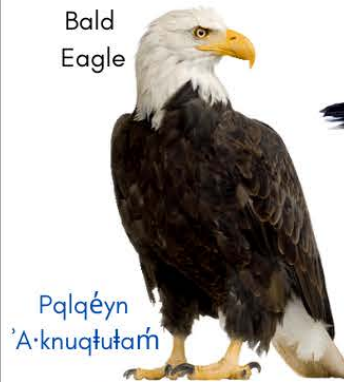
Corvids are some of the most intelligent birds on the planet! Not only have members of the corvidae family have excellent memories, they can solve puzzles and have been known to use tools such as sticks or rocks.

Many corvids like to play and can be very mischievous. If you look online, you can find many videos of crows, ravens, and magpies play on clothes lines, bringing things to trade with humans, or teasing pets, other birds, and even predators!

Many owls have asymmetrical ears, meaning one ear is higher than the other. This helps the owl judge how far a sound is, a great skill for pinpointing the exact location of a tiny mouse.

Owls can rotate their necks 270 degrees. When they turn them around, the blood circulation to their brain is actually cut off. To keep their brain supplied, they have a pooling system that holds a reserve of blood.

Many raptors are opportunistic hunters. While they prefer smaller prey like rodents or fish, they will eat anything that they find, including snakes, carrion, other birds, and even larger prey like rabbits or small pets.



Bald Eagle
Pqlqéyn
'A:knuqtutarñ



Ćíćísmú
Rough-legged Hawk



Short-eared Owl
Sníne?
Kupi



Great Horned Owl
Sníne?
Kaqqwat kupi



Long-eared Owl
Sníne?
Kupi



Sqéymí
Golden Eagle



Red-tailed Hawk

Ćíćísmú
'Inmak



Peregrine Falcon
ʔaátat
Kyaqkattu'k



Scʔaʔ
Xa:xaxa
American Crow



Sníne?
Kupi
Snowy Owl



Ćixw'cxw
Éu-Éu
Osprey



Magpie
ʔańñ
'Ań'ań



ÍMla
Common Raven

Animals not to scale

EXPLORE.
DISCOVER.
LEARN.



Raptors & Corvids: A Visitor Guide