



# BIRDS OF PREY

GREEN BANK SCIENCE CENTER

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FAMILY SCIENCE LAB



Today, we're going to learn about **birds of prey**.

Animals can get their energy in many different ways.

Birds of prey are **carnivores**. A carnivore is an animal that eats other animals to get their energy.



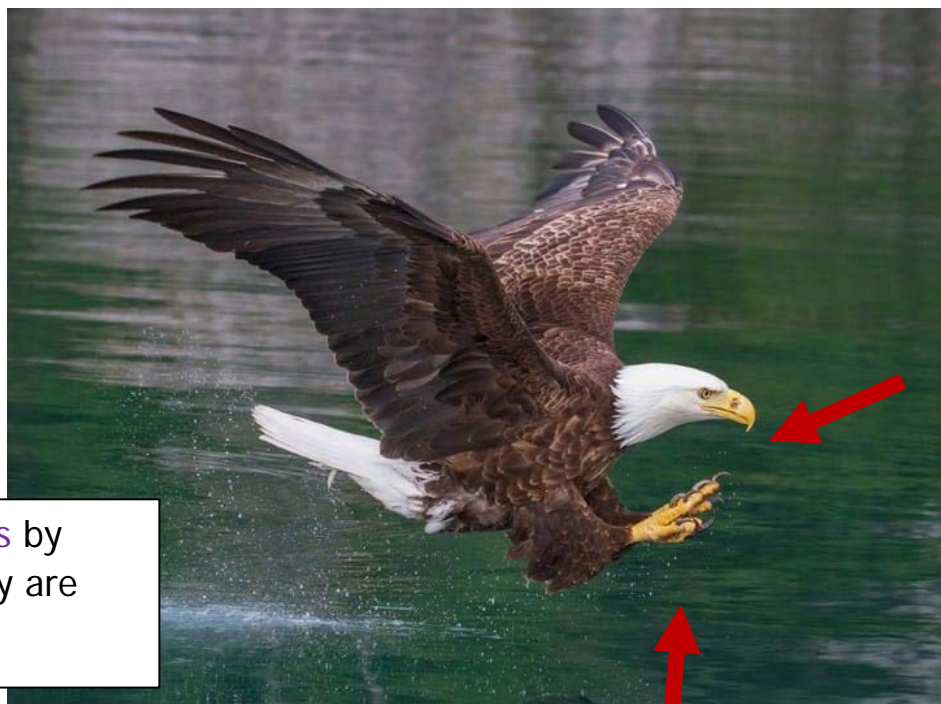
Other animals, like deer and giraffes, are **herbivores**. Herbivores get their energy by eating plants.

One way to tell whether a bird is a carnivore or a herbivore is how they walk. Birds that eat meat step **one foot at a time**, while those that eat plants **hop with both feet**.

People are **omnivores**! We get our energy by eating meat AND plants.

We're going to learn how to identify birds of prey native to West Virginia. Birds of prey are also called **raptors**.

All raptors have **hooked beaks** and **sharp talons**, or claws, like the bird below.



Sort your bird cards by whether or not they are raptors.

There are three kinds of raptors that hunt during the daytime.



**Eagles** are the largest kind of raptor. They are dark-colored, and have round wings.



**Hawks** have short tails. They are light in color and have round wings like eagles.



**Falcons** are the smallest kind of raptor. They have pointy wings and long tails.

Put aside your non-raptors, and sort your raptor cards into eagles, hawks, and falcons.



There is a fourth kind of raptor— **owls**! They're easy to tell apart from eagles, hawks, and falcons because they only hunt at night, so they have large eyes.

Add some owl cards, but keep them separate from the other kinds of raptors!

Now that they're sorted, we can [add them to our West Virginia Bird Identification Guide!](#)

\*All images from the Cornell Bird Lab: [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)