



Birds of Prey in the Ganaraska Forest

The Ganaraska Forest and surrounding area is home to many species of birds of prey. The Barred Owl is the most commonly seen owl but Great Horned Owls, Screech Owls and the diminutive Saw Whet Owl can all be found here.

The large soaring hawks, also known as Buteos, are what most people relate to when it comes to these raptors. The Red-tailed Hawk is the most commonly seen species. Other Buteos found in the area include the Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk.

Accipiters are smaller woodland hawks known for their agile darting flight through dense forest cover. Cooper's Hawks can be frequently seen in the Ganaraska Forest, but usually only for an instant, as this secretive bird swiftly maneuvers its way through the trees. The Sharp-shinned Hawk and Northern Goshawk are less commonly seen Accipiters.

On Saturday, November 15th, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, the Ganaraska Forest Centre is hosting a new event, Ontario's Birds of Prey. Staff from the Ontario Specialized Species Centre will give an interactive and educational discussion about these amazing animals that we call raptors. Headlining the event are a variety of live hawks, owls and a falcon.

Why is it important to increase awareness of these amazing creatures? Raptors are "specialized species" meaning they are highly adapted to their particular habitat, food source, climate conditions, etc. If any of these specific requirements change, then that species is particularly vulnerable to population decline. These, and other mainly human-related interferences, have resulted in many of these beautiful birds finding their way onto the threatened or endangered list.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to get up close to these highly refined and localized birds of prey. Call the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority at 905-885-8173 to register.