

Birds of a Feather Flock Together at the Ganaraska Forest Centre

The Ganaraska Forest and surrounding area is home to many species of birds of prey, including Owls, Buteos, and Accipiters. It is important to increase awareness of these amazing creatures as they 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.

When it comes to owls, the Barred Owl is most commonly seen in the forest, but also the Great Horned Owl, Screech Owl and the Saw Whet Owl.

Buteos, more recognizably named hawks, are what most people relate to when it comes to these raptors. The Red-tailed Hawk can be found in the area, as well as the Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk.

Then there are Accipiters, which 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 14th, from 1:00 to approximately 3:00 pm, join the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority to learn more about these awesome creatures. Ontario’s Birds of Prey will be held at the Ganaraska Forest Centre and will include special guests from the Ontario Specialized Species Centre. The event will include an interactive and educational discussion about these amazing animals that we call raptors, with a variety of live birds headlining the afternoon.

To take advantage of this unique opportunity to get up close to these highly refined and localized birds of prey, please call the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority at 905-885-8173 to register. Fees are \$15/adult and \$8/youth (8-16 years of age).

