

# **Birds of Prey in Winter: A Study of Adaptation**

*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, January 2010*

Instructor: Dr. Chris Farmer

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Schedule: Friday, Jan 22, 7 - 9 pm – Introduction and owling  
Saturday, Jan 23, 8 am - 4 pm – Field trip to Middle Creek Wildlife  
Management Area  
Sunday, Jan 24, 8 am – 4 pm – Road Survey for Raptors and Field trip to  
chicken farm for wintering Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks

## **Field Logistics:**

Binoculars and a field guide are *essential* (you won't enjoy the trips if the birds are just specks in the sky or trees). Dress for cold weather, **wear layers**. Bring your lunch! If you are going to miss one of the field trips please call Chris at 610-756-3194 the evening prior or by 7 AM that morning.

## **Course Objectives:**

This course will examine how the complex interactions among raptors and their environments influence their behavior and biology in winter. All students obtaining Cedar Crest College credits are required to take a written test on Sunday afternoon.

## **Course Requirements:**

Your grade will be based equally on field participation (attendance, spotting and helping identify birds [50%]) and the written test [50%].

## **Course Grades:**

Attendance and Participation – 50% of grade

Written Test – 50% of grade

The test will include sections on:

1. Raptor Identification
2. Raptor Ecology
3. Raptor Behavior
4. Reading Material – Raptor Density (provided by instructor)

## **Suggested Additional Reading:**

Bildstein, K.L. 1987. Behavioral ecology of Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*), Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), and American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) in South Central Ohio. Ohio Biological Survey Notes No. 18 viii, 53pp.

Craighead, J. J. and F. C. Craighead. 1956. Hawks, Owls, and Wildlife. Stackpole, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.