

An Insider's Guide to Raptors – A Reprise

Study Moderator: Pat Tivnan

Presenters: Anna Morris, Grae O'Toole, Jim Armbruster, Nick Baer

Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

5 weeks beginning January 30

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 40

Learn about these amazing hunters of the sky from the skilled staff of Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in Quechee, Vermont, and from Colby-Sawyer College Professor Nick Baer. This course will feature aspects of raptor biology: how wild bird rehabilitators work to heal sick and injured birds, the daily life of raptors, how raptors think and how they interact with humans.

Recent research about raptor behavior and populations in the Northeast will be shared, along with tips to identify raptors in the sky and your own backyard. The course will conclude with a trip to VINS to learn about the raptors firsthand.

Week 1 - Jan. 30: Raptor Biology and Rehabilitation - Anna Morris & Grae O'Toole, VINS

An overview of the anatomy and physiology of the birds of prey: hawks, eagles, falcons and owls. Learn about their complex classification and how wildlife rehabilitation addresses the injuries and illnesses wild raptors encounter in order to return them to their ecosystems.

Week 2 - Feb. 6: Raptor Research at VINS - Jim Armbruster, VINS

What are we still learning about raptors today? Through community science and collaboration, learn what VINS is currently doing to study raptor populations across New England.



Pat Tivnan



Anna Morris



Grae O'Toole

Week 3 - Feb 13: Raptor Behavior - Anna Morris, VINS

Hunting, nesting, breeding, migration and mortality: learn what it takes to survive as a raptor in any of the countless habitats they occupy, including what it takes to train these birds, as falconers have done for nearly 3,000 years.

Week 4 - Feb. 20: Raptor Migration at Cape May, New Jersey - Nick Baer, Colby-Sawyer College

Become an expert in identifying raptors and learn all about the long-running banding research done in Cape May, New Jersey.

Week 5 - Feb. 27: Meet the Raptors at VINS!

Come along on a field trip to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, where you'll get up close and personal with several representatives of raptors species! Witness some of their unique behaviors, practice your raptor identification skills and ask all of your behind-the-scenes questions as you explore everything the VINS Nature Center has to offer. (Admission to VINS included in course fee.) Field trip details will be furnished upon course registration. *Please note the snow date for this field trip is March 6.*



From the VINS website: *"Today, headquartered in Quechee, VT, on 47 acres of forest, meadow, and rolling hills, VINS features 17 state-of-the-art raptor enclosures that house hawks, eagles, falcons, owls, and other birds of prey. In addition, the site has two songbird aviaries, which are home to a cedar waxwing and northern cardinal among other species. The facility includes four major centers: the Visitor Welcome Center and Nature Store, the Center for Wild Bird Rehabilitation (CWBR), the Center for Environmental Education (CEE), and the Center for Environmental Research (CER) from which operates an active Citizen Science program. VINS also has an indoor and outdoor classroom, interpretive nature trails (the McKnight trail and Forest Canopy Walk are ADA/ABA compliant), a heated four-season Neale Pavilion and an outdoor August Pavilion designed for exhibits, events, meetings, and live raptor programs."*



Jim Armbruster



Nick Baer