

HAWKS IN FLIGHT: BIRDS OF PREY

MAY 2, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: III COURSE #: S3035
FEE: \$40 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER

INSTRUCTOR: JEFF MAUGANS



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LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The diversity of birds of prey in Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park during spring is quite impressive. In a few hours of field time, we may locate turkey vulture, osprey, golden eagle, bald eagle, Cooper's hawk, prairie falcon, and other raptors. We will concentrate on this group of amazing diurnal hunters while possibly spotting other spring migrants and year-round resident species. We will discuss natural history as we watch and enjoy these magnificent predators of Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park. While out in the field, we will develop our bird identification and binocular skills while discussing raptor management.

COURSE LEVEL: III

Moderate hikes of less than five miles per day with elevation gain of less than 1,000 ft.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.RMConservancy.org):

Jeff worked as a park naturalist for the National Park Service from 1977 to 2009. His special area of interest is birds. He is a Pennsylvania native and has a degree in outdoor education and natural science from Pennsylvania State University. Jeff has worked at Mammoth Cave National Park, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Edison National Historic Site, Gateway National Park, Redwood National Park, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He came to Rocky Mountain National Park in 1990.

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To learn to identify and better understand the biology and ecology of raptors in the Rocky Mountains.
2. To understand the decisions the National Park Service must make to protect raptors and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM Meet at Field Institute for welcome/introductions.
- 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM Field session.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**

EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: It is highly recommended that participants bring a binocular and a field birding guide. A spotting scope is recommended, but not required. Jeff will have a spotting scope and one extra binocular. The day will involve hiking several miles on mostly level terrain. Be prepared for cold and/or rainy weather. Warm, layered clothing, hats, mittens/gloves, and boots are recommended. Also bring snacks, a sack lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hiking shoes.

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map and compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack lunch, snacks, water

Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Brian K. Wheeler, *Raptors of Western North America*, The Wheeler Guide, Princeton University Press

REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee. Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.