

# Birds of Prey are Cool

Guitar Chords: / A / G / A / D

By Steve Engel with verses by the Goshute Mountain Hawk Watch crew, ©1991

D G  
We want a bird, a special kind of bird  
A D  
We want a bird, a special kind of bird  
D G  
One with good eyesight and a hook in its beak  
A D  
It's got good eyesight and a hook in its beak  
D G  
It catches its prey, with its feet  
A D  
It catches its prey, with its feet  
D G  
That's a predator, That's a bird of prey  
A D  
That is a raptor and this is what we say

## Chorus

D A G  
Birds of Prey are Cool,  
Birds of Prey are Cool,  
Birds of Prey are Cool

D G  
Hawks and eagles, falcons too  
A D  
Kites and harriers all wear the same shoe  
D G  
Vulture is related but not quite the same  
A D  
Cuz vulture plays the decomposition game  
D A  
He's bent at the wrist, keeled at the breast  
G A  
A head without feathers and he eats all the rest  
D A  
That's a turkey vulture, a flying T.V.  
G A  
In black and white and color, come and see...why

## Chorus

Birds of Prey Are Cool, continued

Dressed to kill in black and white  
Fish are the only item on my diet  
I got black carpal patches on my wrist  
My wings aren't straight, they have a slight twist (Osprey)

I got a great big body, wings that soar  
I'm like a red-tail, but a couple feet more  
I have white on my wings at an early stage White  
on my tail if I'm under age (Golden Eagle)

Some say my wings are as straight as planks  
Others look for me, at the bank  
Some say I'm not a hunter, I'd rather steal instead  
Others think I don't have a hair on my head (Bald Eagle)

I'm a buteo of the most common species  
I live out in the desert and I live up in the trees  
I might look very different, yet I'm still the same  
It's the color of my tail that gives me my name (Red-tailed hawk)

The pattern on my underside is just reversed  
From all the buteos you have rehearsed  
My long pointy wings keep me on the go  
As I make my way to Tierra del Fuego (Swainson's hawk)

My undersides are white, framed in black  
Sometimes it seems a tail, I do lack  
They call me alas anchas down in Mexico  
All the way to South America, I do go  
(I'm a long range buteo) (Broad-winged hawk)

I spend my summers at the North Pole  
Differences in plumage, define our roles  
I've got the belly band and the carpal patch  
And on my legs I wear chaps (Rough-legged hawk)

I'm as big as an eagle and my body's mostly white  
I'm identified by my three points of light  
I'm totally continental, I'm always at home  
To Mexico or Canada, I seldom roam (Ferruginous hawk)

You might find me perched on your mist net pole  
The color of our plumage defines our roles  
It's easy to tell the boys from the girls  
It's the boys that wear the pearls (American kestrel)

Birds of Prey Are Cool, continued

I'm faster than fast, like the speed of light  
Try and see me and you just might  
I'm a raptor, I'm a falcon, I'm magic on the wing  
Here I come there I go, they call me Merlin (Merlin)

I strike fear in the rodent's hearts  
I have black on my underarm parts  
When you see me, I'm just a pale flash  
If you want to adopt me, you'll need lots of cash (Prairie falcon)

I am found the whole world wide  
In the cities in the mountains in the countryside  
I fly across the desert, I don't need no ridge  
When you see me coming you'd better pop the pidge (Peregrine falcon)

You got your compact body, wings held flat  
What kinds of hawks, look like that?  
Flap and glide, then they glide and they flap  
Long skinny tail with bands of grey and black (Accipiters)

Of this kind of hawk there are three types  
That they're hard to identify is just a lot of hype  
All it takes is a sharp eye for proportion and shape  
And you can make the call, while others wait (Accipiters)

Sharpies and coops can throw you for a loop  
The goshawk is the largest and all three stoop  
But the coops block-headed  
And the sharpie's square-tailed  
The Goshawk has a stove-pipe, for a tail (Accipiters)

I'm the great fooler, the grey ghost  
I have many names, but there's one you'll hear the most  
My newest name has direction in it now  
If you see my face, you might think I'm an owl (Northern harrier)