

## Hawks/owls

### **Issue – killing songbirds at feeders.**

**Note –** backyard feeders concentrate songbirds in an area and therefore attract predators. Raptors many be considered helpful to the ecosystem of your yard by helping weed out weaker birds.

**Suggestions –**

- ▶ Place feeders so songbirds can get to cover quickly.
- ▶ Plant more trees, shrubs and thickets, and leave brush piles as cover for the small songbirds.
- ▶ Remove your feeder for a few days to break the habits of a persistent hawk or other bird of prey.

### **Issue – killing domestic birds such as chickens**

**Note –** raptors that go after chickens are often young birds that are after easy food because they lack the experience to catch wild birds.

**Suggestions -**

- ▶ Keep domestic birds in a secure enclosure with a roof made of tightly-stretched, visible netting.
- ▶ Change your routine, as predators quickly learn when feeding times are and the chickens are less wary.
- ▶ Stretch highly visible flutter tape back and forth across the top of the chicken enclosure.
- ▶ Use scare devices – e.g. increased human activity including yelling and clapping; construct a wooden clapper that makes sharp loud sounds.
- ▶ Install a “hawk globe” (a round mirror designed to scare the hawk), placed in the normal flight path the hawk uses for attacks. It will see its reflection, believe that it is the hunting territory of another hawk and avoid returning to that place to forage.

