

# EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

Two ospreys orphaned by a huge storm need a new nest and new osprey family. How do scientists rescue ospreys and help protect their species in the wild?

## SWOOP AND SOAR

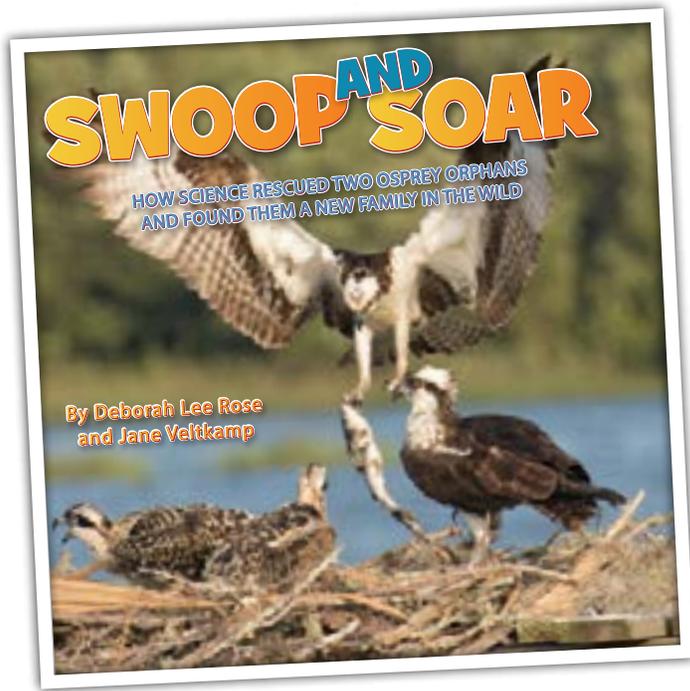
HOW SCIENCE RESCUED TWO OSPREY ORPHANS  
AND FOUND THEM A NEW FAMILY IN THE WILD

By Deborah Lee Rose  
and Jane Veltkamp



**California Reading Association 2022 Eureka! Nonfiction Silver Award**  
**Common Sense Media Selection for Books Award**  
**Common Sense Media 5 stars/A+ for Educational Value/Positive Role Models**  
**Character Strengths: Compassion, Courage, Curiosity, Perseverance, Teamwork**

Written by Deborah Lee Rose and Jane Veltkamp  
Authors of the award-winning book *BEAUTY AND THE BEAK*  
[www.deborahleerose.com](http://www.deborahleerose.com) and [www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org](http://www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org)  
*Swoop and Soar* cover photo by Anne Kamzelski © Jane Veltkamp



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Swoop and Soar, two young osprey chicks, are safe in their forest nest until a powerful storm sends their tree crashing to the ground. **SWOOP AND SOAR** is the true story of how raptor biologist Janie Veltkamp used science to rescue the orphans and find them a new osprey family in the wild. In a race against time, Janie sets out to find the chicks a new nest and new parents. *But will the new osprey parents accept Swoop and Soar as their own chicks, or fly away from the nest forever?*

*"...science in action that will help make readers more keenly aware of the need to protect wildlife, and might even inspire them to consider a career in science. Great for classroom or home reading." — Common Sense Media*

*"Rose and Veltkamp distinguish their book from other non-fiction by crafting a personal story around the scientific facts, and highlighting it with amazing photography on every page." — EngageTheirMinds.com*

## NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS)

- **Adaptation:** Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.
- **Environmental change:** Populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. When the environment changes in ways that affect a place's physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die.
- **Information processing:** Different sense receptors are specialized for particular kinds of information, which may then be processed by the animal's brain. Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions.



LEXILE  
LEVEL

**380L**

GRADE  
INTEREST  
LEVEL

**2-8**

ISBN	Book Category	Page Count
978-1-943978-56-4	Non-fiction	56

## READ SWOOP AND SOAR

Through inspiring wild bird photos and STEM-rich text in the book *SWOOP AND SOAR*, young readers see closeup how two orphaned osprey chicks grow and survive. How do their parents feed them and protect them from hungry predators? How do the chicks take their first flights? How do they dive and crash underwater to catch fish, their only food?

*SWOOP AND SOAR* also teaches how ospreys were once endangered because of the insect spray DDT, and how scientists including Janie reintroduced ospreys and brought them back from near extinction in parts of the U.S. and other countries.

Readers learn that ospreys still face challenges of extreme weather, habitat loss, and plastic pollution—but human efforts to protect our environment offer hope for ospreys' future.



*Where was Swoop and Soar's first nest?*

*What and how did their parents feed them in their nest?*

*When did the baby birds lose their nest and their parents?*

*Who helped rescue and nurse the osprey orphans back to health?*

*What idea did Janie have to give the chicks a second chance for life in the wild?*

*Why was Janie worried after she put the orphaned chicks into the new nest?*

*How did the new mother protect the chicks? How did the new father bring them food?*

*How did the chicks get ready for and take their first flights?*

*How did Swoop and Soar's feathers and eye color change as they became adults?*

## SWOOP AND SOAR: READ—ANSWER—DISCOVER!

**1. Ospreys are raptors or birds of prey. How do their adaptations—including sharp, curved beaks and talons, reversible toes, and protective eye membranes—make them expert fish hunters?** Take a walk and look for birds along the way. What adaptations for survival do you notice for the birds you watch? Do all the birds have the same adaptations, or are they different? How do you think these adaptations help birds find and eat food, and take care of their young?

**2. How did the chicks Swoop and Soar lose their nest?** Do you see any nests near your home, school or places you visit? Are there birds in or near the nests? Have you ever been in or seen a big storm? How do you think that storm affected birds and other wildlife?

**3. Janie Veltkamp, who put Swoop and Soar into their new wild nest, is a raptor biologist. Why could Janie feed and care for the rescued chicks without them becoming “imprinted” and dependent on humans forever?** Learn about Janie’s work at [www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org](http://www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org).

**4. How did Janie watch the chicks after she put them in the new nest? What did she observe the new osprey parents doing?** Have you ever seen baby birds with their parents, in a body of water or in their nest? How did the parents take care of their young?

**5. How did the mother osprey warn her chicks of danger? What did the chicks do to stay safe?** How do you stay safe at home or in other places?

**6. Choose a photo from the book SWOOP AND SOAR. What surprised you about this photo?** Take your own photos or draw pictures of any birds you can find, in the wild or cared for by humans. Write or tell someone about what your photos or drawings show.

**7. Visit a place or event to see live ospreys or other raptors.** You can also find osprey nest cams online, to watch osprey chicks grow and take their first flights.

**8. The osprey was once an endangered species. What is DDT and how did it damage osprey eggs?** How did Janie and other scientists reintroduce ospreys where DDT had almost or completely wiped them out?

**9. Ospreys today can be harmed by extreme heat, loss of habitat, and plastic pollution.** What can you do to help reduce and clean up plastic pollution?

**10. Ospreys are found on every continent except Antarctica.** Can you name all the continents where ospreys live and migrate? Find those continents on a map or globe, or draw your own picture of the world of ospreys.





## COMMON CORE STANDARDS FOR LITERACY

### READING/LITERATURE

- **3** Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by words in a story.
- **4** Refer to details and examples in the text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- **5** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as used in a text, including metaphors and similes.

### READING/INFORMATIONAL TEXT

- **3** Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect. Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
- **4** Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
- **5** Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text. Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).
- **6** Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes). Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

### WRITING/RESEARCH

- **3** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
- **4** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- **5** Conduct short research projects using several sources to build knowledge by investigating different aspects of a topic. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- **6** Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

## STEM CAREERS AND *SWOOP AND SOAR*

Many people in STEM-related careers helped the two young ospreys and helped bring the book *SWOOP AND SOAR* to life, including those with these careers:

- Raptor Biologist
- Wildlife Biologist
- Wildlife Rescuer
- Wildlife Photographer
- Conservationist
- Author and Publisher
- STEM Educator



Swoop and Soar's names are action words inspired by birds in flight. Find more verbs/action words in the book, such as...

- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| hovered | flew      |
| plunged | tore      |
| crashed | whistled  |
| lifted  | flattened |
| shook   | stretched |
| flipped | flapped   |
| hunted  | landed    |
| gulped  | grabbed   |
| spread  | dove      |
| huddled | molted    |

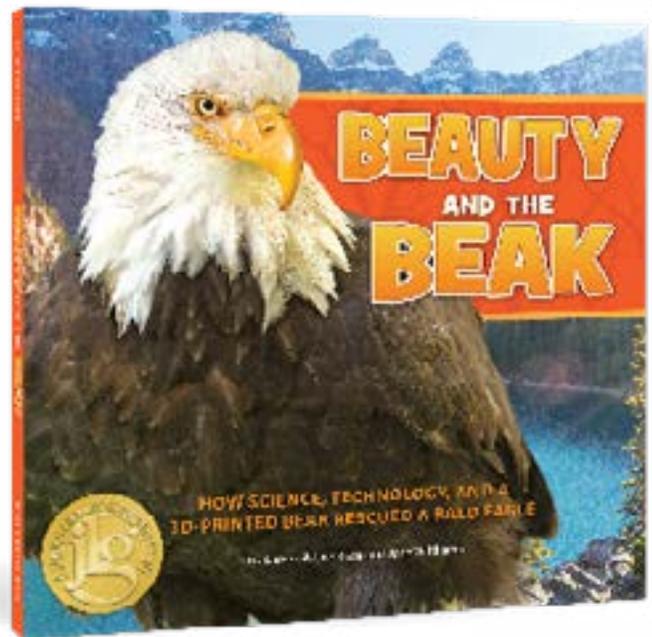
## LANGUAGE ARTS: *SWOOP AND SOAR* ACTION WORDS

## READING THE BOOKS *SWOOP AND SOAR* AND *BEAUTY AND THE BEAK TOGETHER*

*SWOOP AND SOAR* and *BEAUTY AND THE BEAK*, by Deborah Lee Rose and raptor biologist Jane Veltkamp, are true stories of rescuing birds of prey and using STEM to help them survive. In *SWOOP AND SOAR* the osprey chicks go back into the wild, but in *BEAUTY AND THE BEAK* the bald eagle must remain in Janie's care at Birds of Prey Northwest in Idaho. Find a special section in *SWOOP AND SOAR* about teaching with and learning from these two books together.

Find the *BEAUTY AND THE BEAK* educational guide at [www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org](http://www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org) or [www.deborahleerose.com](http://www.deborahleerose.com).

Janie is founding director of Birds of Prey Northwest. Both books are published by Persnickety Press/WunderMill Books, as are Deborah's STEM books *Astronauts Zoom!* and *Scientists Get Dressed*.



AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books  
Bank Street College Cook Prize for Best STEM Picture Book  
California Reading Association Eureka! Gold Award for Nonfiction

*Beauty and the Beak: How Science, Technology, and a 3D-Printed Beak Rescued a Bald Eagle* is the true story of the bald eagle who got a pioneering prosthetic beak, after a poacher's bullet shattered her real beak. Telling the story of Beauty the eagle's life not only after humans found and helped her, but in the wild before she was shot, let the coauthors teach kids about the lives of all bald eagles, our national symbol.

Raptor biologist Janie Veltkamp, who led the beak engineering team and has lifetime care of Beauty, and children's author Deborah Lee Rose bring Beauty's heart-lifting story alive and show how bioengineering is giving new chances to animals as well as humans.

*"This riveting survival story gives kids a close-up view of science and technology in service of wildlife...The abundant color photos of eagles in the wild and Beauty's progress and treatment will draw kids in. The text is crystal clear...And the main story of Beauty is beautifully told, with drama and suspense." — Common Sense Media*



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**DEBORAH LEE ROSE** coauthored the children’s book *Beauty and the Beak: How Science, Technology, and a 3D-Printed Beak Rescued a Bald Eagle*, winner of the AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books, the Bank Street College Cook Prize for Best STEM Picture Book, and the California Reading Association Eureka! Gold Award for Nonfiction. Deborah is the author of bestselling and beloved books read around the world, including *Astronauts Zoom! An Astronaut Alphabet* which was sent to the International Space Station for Story Time From Space, *Scientists Get Dressed*, *Jimmy the Joey*, *The Twelve Days of Winter*, and *Ocean Babies*. She speaks to schools and libraries, professional conferences and organizations. After many years in Northern California, Deborah now lives in Silver Spring, MD. Visit her website at [deborahleerose.com](http://deborahleerose.com).

**JANE VELTKAMP** coauthored the children’s book *Beauty and the Beak: How Science, Technology, and a 3D-Printed Beak Rescued a Bald Eagle*, winner of the AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books, the Bank Street College Cook Prize for Best STEM Picture Book, and the California Reading Association Eureka! Gold Award for Nonfiction. A raptor biologist and educator, Jane is founding director of the nonprofit Birds of Prey Northwest in northern Idaho. She cares for Beauty the bald eagle, ospreys and raptors of all kinds, and leads raptor education programs involving live, specially trained educational birds. She directed the successful reintroduction of ospreys in eastern South Dakota. She rescues and treats wild raptors under permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She is the osprey expert for the Sandpoint, Idaho osprey nest cam. Visit her website at [birdsofpreynorthwest.org](http://birdsofpreynorthwest.org).



*Janie's close observation of a second osprey nest, near the water, was critical for her to foster the osprey orphans into a new nest with new wild osprey parents.*

## EDUCATOR NOTES

Find a **Q&A** with Janie Veltkamp about *Swoop and Soar*, and **fun reading activities** for both *Swoop and Soar* and *Beauty and the Beak*, at Reading Is Fundamental's Literacy Central <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central> (search by book title).

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