



[Julie Anne Collier](#) is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator living in Springfield, Massachusetts. For many years she was both an editor and the art director of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, publisher of reference books. In her spare time she lectured on birds of prey and on Native American craftwork and culture. Now she is a full-time lecturer, traveling throughout the New England area. She is also a free-lance artist and writer specializing in artwork and articles on raptors, or birds of prey.

Julie's programs on birds of prey focus on their ecology and special hunting adaptations, as well as on the way the birds have been portrayed in history and art. She brings several live raptors with her to programs, all of them non-releasable birds cared for under her rehabilitation permit. Her talks on Native Americans focus on their craftwork, particularly on the way different tribes used raptor feathers. To illustrate her talks, she has researched and made reproductions of Native American headdresses, clothing, shields, and weapons. Many of these are decorated with feathers molted naturally by birds she and other raptor rehabilitators care for. Julie is part Native American; her Indian heritage comes from the Southeastern Creek and Chickasaw tribes.

In addition to caring for injured raptors, Julie provides a permanent home for those that cannot be released to the wild. These birds, many of which she has had for years, appear frequently in her raptor portraits. Her chosen medium is pen-and-ink, specifically India ink applied with a fine-nib pen in a line-and-stipple technique. This painstaking method is time-consuming (and occasionally even tedious and frustrating!), but it is also very rewarding, since it allows her to incorporate great detail into her artwork. By layering minute dots and lines of ink, she can suggest both the softness of an owl's plumage and the dagger-sharpness of an eagle's talons.

Julie is committed to the conservation of our magnificent birds of prey through rehabilitation and educational programs. She is on the board of directors of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, located in Milford, Pennsylvania.