

Attracting Raptors to Agroecosystems with Perches

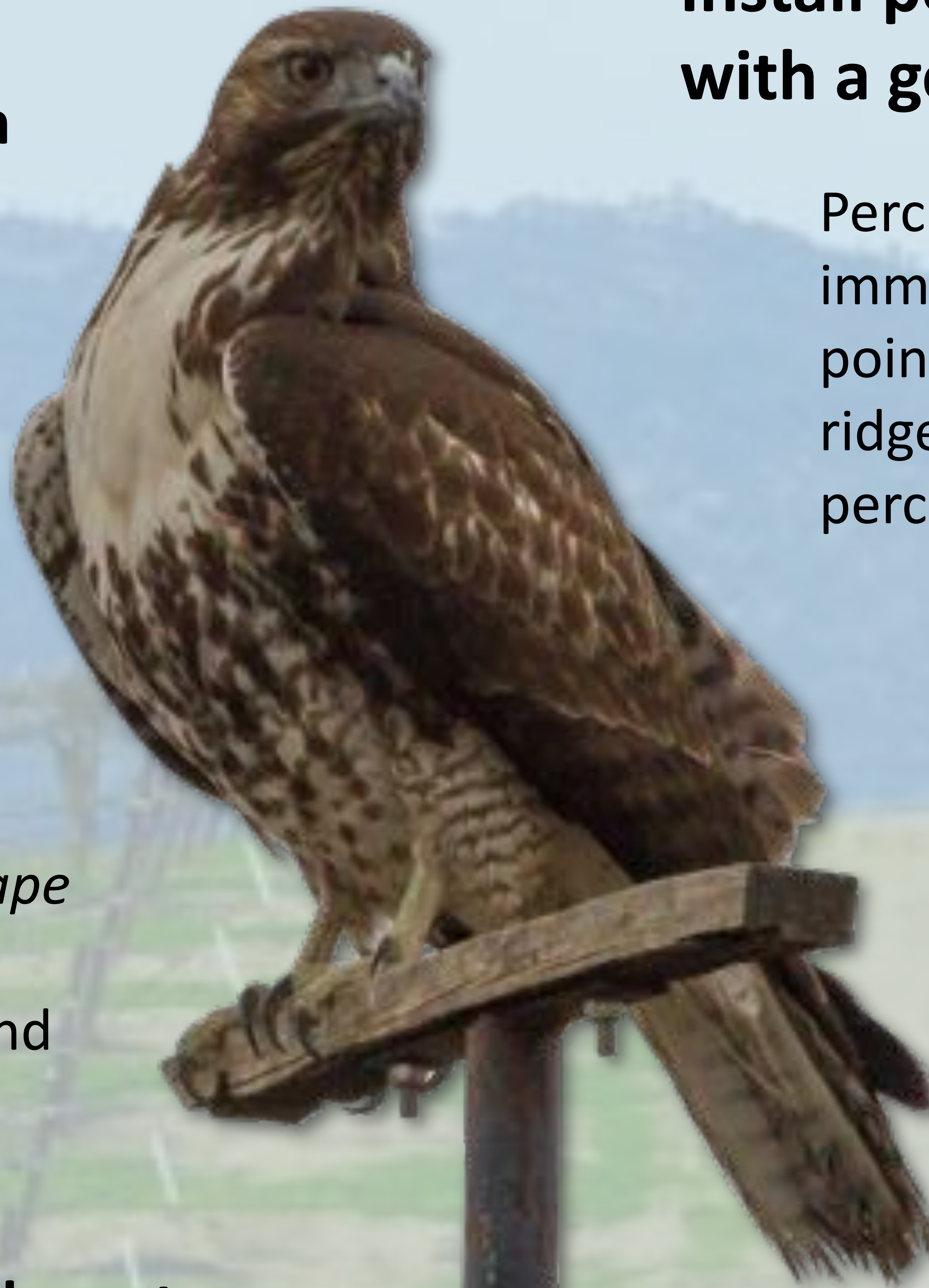
Raptors are beneficial in agroecosystems because their presence is correlated with decreased pest activity and damage.

Raptors eat common agricultural rodent pests, such as gophers, voles, mice, and rats. They help dampen the impact of pest outbreaks by targeting pest species when they become abundant.

Raptors contribute to pest control by directly consuming pests and by influencing pest behavior, a concept referred to as *The Landscape of Fear*. When predators are present, prey species spend less time and energy foraging and reproducing which results in less damage.



Maintaining edge habitat, large trees, and infrastructure for raptors, such as perches and nest boxes, can increase biological control of common rodent pests in agriculture.



Install perches in and around crop fields with a good view of the surrounding area.

Perches should be the tallest thing in the immediate area. Those located at the highest points on the landscape, such as hill tops and ridgelines, will be used more often. Distribute perches throughout and focus on problem areas.

Perches can be constructed from a variety of materials.

- ✓ Wooden crossbeam ~18 inches
- ✓ ~3/4 inch galvanized steel pole
- ✓ ~ 15 feet high
- ✓ Secure with concrete or to fence post

Barn Owl nest boxes make great raptor perches too!

