
























FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF HAWKS

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Flight Behaviors: Soar, Glide, Flap, Hover (Size shows usage)

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SPECIES	GROUP	FLIGHT BEHAVIOR				HEAD ON VIEW *		CHARACTERISTICS		
		S	G	F	H	Soar	Glide	Visible in Flight	Close View	
Black Vulture	Vulture	S	G	F				Short Tail, Bat-like	Rudder Feet Fast Beat	White Tips
Turkey Vulture	Vulture	S	G	F				Strong Dihedral	Tipping Headless	Silver Lining ad: Red Head
Osprey	Osprey	S	G	F				Gull-like Stiff slow flap	M shape Droop	eye line black&white
Bald Eagle	Eagle	S	G	F				Plank, More↑ than↓	Turtle Neck Ends on ↓Stroke	Black w white
Northern Harrier	Harrier	S	G	F	H			Dihedral Ends on ↑ stroke	Long Lanky	White Rump
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter	S	G	F				Flap, flap, glide Wings forward	Outer wing flap Hunched	Square Tail
Cooper's Hawk	Accipiter	S	G	F				Stiff, Stiff, glide	Whole wing flap Tube, Head	Rounded Tail
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo	S	G	F				Wing droop bel body Wings forward, ↑↓	Crescent Windows	Bow shape Patterns
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo	S	G	F				Wide Tail Band, Wings ⊥ Body	Flame Tips	Dark Outline
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo	S	G	F	H			Muscular Ends on ↑stroke	Square Windows Fingers	Dark Patagial
Direct Flight - Steady Wingbeat w. glide										
American Kestrel	Falcon	S	G	F	H			Flutter Flap Wind blown ↑↓	Light below hovers	Red Tail, Pearls 2 mustaches
Merlin	Falcon	S	G	F				Zooms Flap powerful	Dark	Banded Sq Tail 1 mustache
Peregrine Falcon	Falcon	S	G	F				More glide Flap flexes	Sickle shape Wing tips slight ↑	Heavy Mustache

1 ft

2 ft

3 ft

4 ft

5 ft

6 ft

7

* Head-on Views from *Hawks in Flight*. Pete Dunne, David Sibley, & Clay Sutton. 2nd ed, 2012

Above scale for wingspan; vertical line/species approximate.