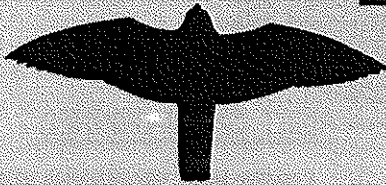


# A GUIDE FOR HAWKS SEEN IN THE NORTHEAST

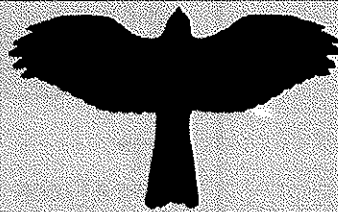
Because many hawks differ in appearance due to age and various dark and light morphs, only the adult of the most common form is illustrated.

## KNOW YOUR SILHOUETTES



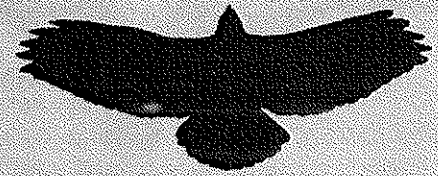
### FALCONS

Streamlined - Long pointed wings; Long compressed tapered tails; Strong rowing wing beats; lose some pointed wing and tapered tail look when not in direct flight.



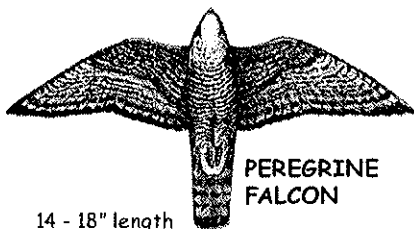
### ACCIPITERS

Short, wide rounded wings; long tails. flap, flap, flap - sail flight.



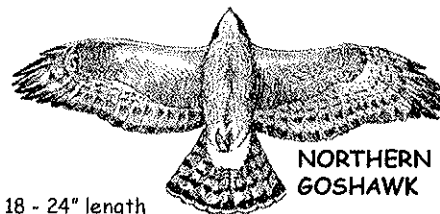
### BUTEOS

Broad wings and broad rounded tails; often seen soaring in wide circles high in the air.



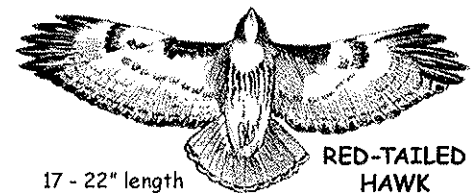
### PEREGRINE FALCON

- 14 - 18" length
- Light breast and throat.
- Crow size, falcon shape.
- Quick, powerful wingbeats.



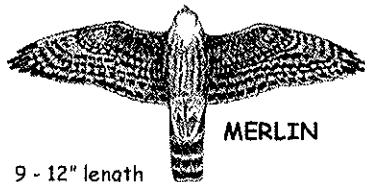
### NORTHERN GOSHAWK

- 18 - 24" length
- Pale gray underbody.
- White undertail coverts.
- Larger than crow.



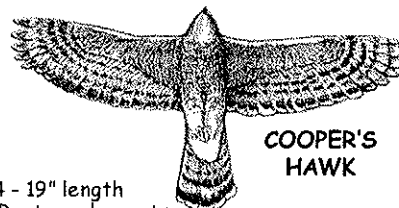
### RED-TAILED HAWK

- 17 - 22" length
- Unmarked light to red tail.
- Light breast and dark leading edge to wing.
- Streaked, variably dark belly band.



### MERLIN

- 9 - 12" length
- Banded gray tail.
- Dark-looking underside.
- Streaked body.



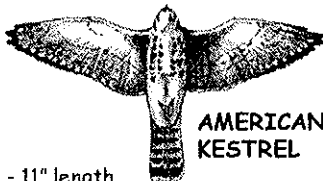
### COOPER'S HAWK

- 14 - 19" length
- Rusty underparts.
- Round tipped, long tail.
- Near size of crow.



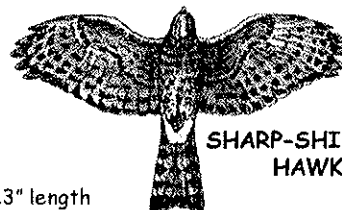
### RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

- 15 - 18" length
- Black tail with narrow white bands.
- Dark underwing coverts.
- Crescent windows near tip of wing.



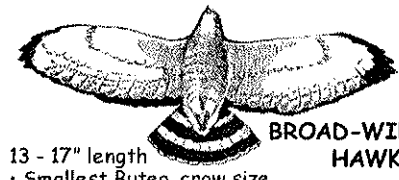
### AMERICAN KESTREL

- 8 - 11" length
- Tail: rufous-male, barred brown -female
- Light underneath.
- Near size of Blue Jay.



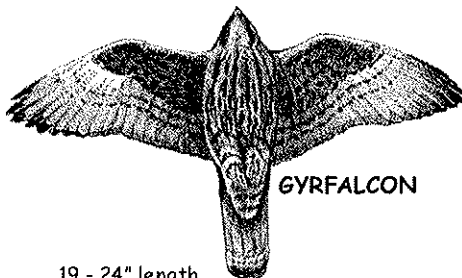
### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

- 9 - 13" length
- Rusty underparts.
- Square or notched tail tip.
- Near size of Blue Jay.



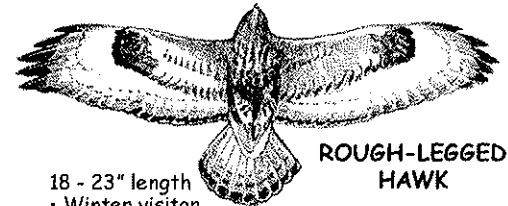
### BROAD-WINGED HAWK

- 13 - 17" length
- Smallest Buteo, crow size.
- Equal white and black on tail.
- Whitish wing linings.



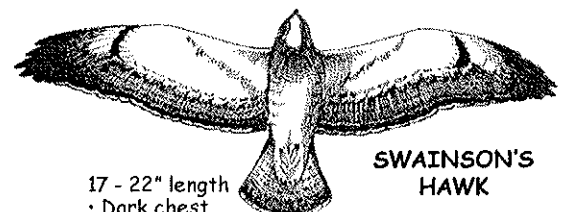
### GYRFALCON

- 19 - 24" length
- Robust - larger than Peregrine.
- Body uniformly colored-4 color morphs.
- Rare Arctic visitor.



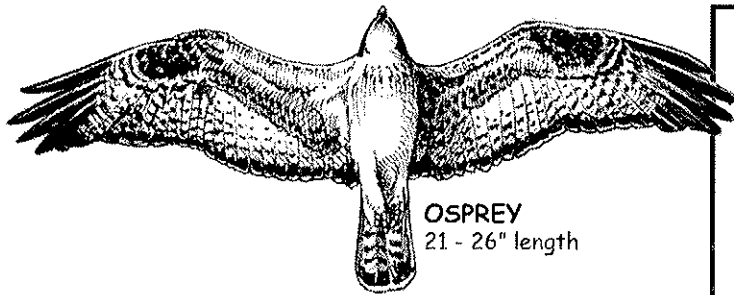
### ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

- 18 - 23" length
- Winter visitor.
- Dark belly, wrist patch and terminal tail band.
- Dark morph: body, wing linings solid dark



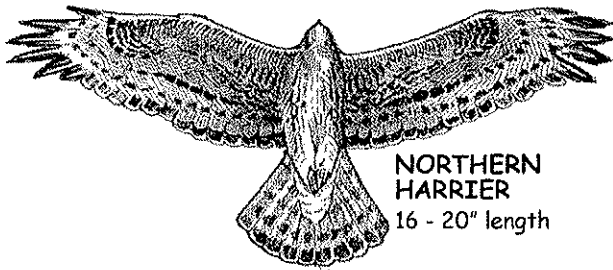
### SWAINSON'S HAWK

- 17 - 22" length
- Dark chest.
- Light underwing coverts, dark flights.
- Uncommon western visitor in northeast.



**OSPREY**  
21 - 26" length

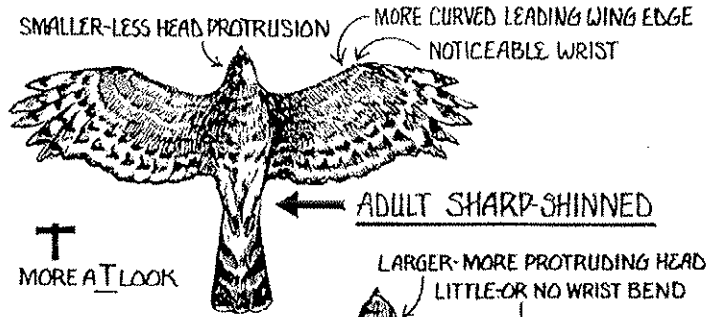
- . Flies with kink (W) in wings.
- . Eagle sized; clean white body.
- . Black wrist marks.



**NORTHERN HARRIER**  
16 - 20" length

- . Long, narrow wings and tail.
- . Brown above, streaked brown below-female.
- . Gray above, pale below with black wing tips-male.

**SHARP-SHINNED vs COOPER'S**



↑  
MORE A T LOOK

LARGER-MORE PROTRUDING HEAD  
LITTLE-OR NO WRIST BEND

ADULT COOPER'S →

LONGER LOOKING TAIL →

PAUL CARRIER'S SKETCHBOOK

↑  
MORE A CROSS LOOK

**WING PROFILE**



**BALD EAGLE**



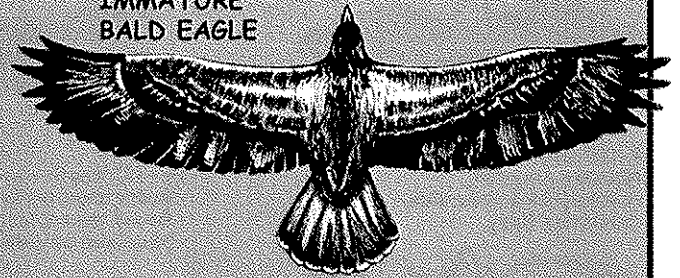
**GOLDEN EAGLE**

**SUB-ADULT GOLDEN EAGLE**

- . Like large buteo, curvy wings.
- . Less head protrusion than tail.
- . Slight dihedral to wing profile.

27 to 35" length

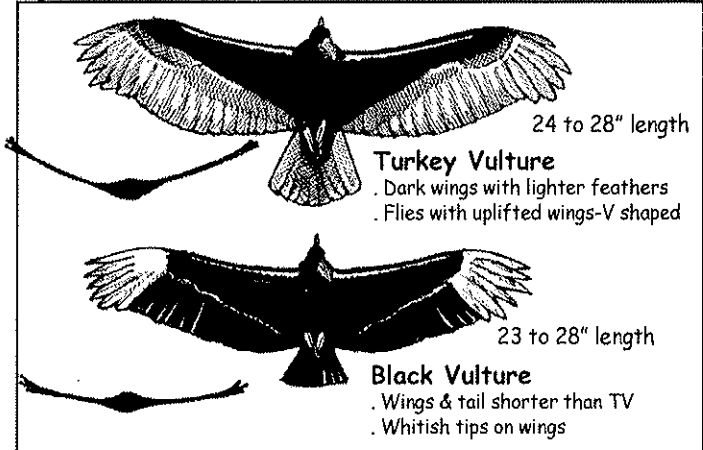
**IMMATURE BALD EAGLE**



**BALD EAGLE**

27 to 35" length

- . Long, straight wing extension.
- . Tail and head length similar.
- . Straight wing profile.



24 to 28" length

**Turkey Vulture**

- . Dark wings with lighter feathers
- . Flies with uplifted wings-V shaped

23 to 28" length

**Black Vulture**

- . Wings & tail shorter than TV
- . Whitish tips on wings

This guide developed by Paul Carrier is the property of the North East Hawk Watch (NEHW), a registered not-for-profit volunteer organization established to increase awareness, appreciation and protection of hawks. We do that by promoting hawk watching, the study of hawk migration, throughout New England, eastern New York, and northeastern New Jersey. Individuals may download or print single copies of this guide for their personal, non-commercial use. All other rights are reserved. For more information on hawk watching in the northeast, to join NEHW, or to purchase a durable, laminated printed version of this guide, visit [www.battaly.com/nehw](http://www.battaly.com/nehw).