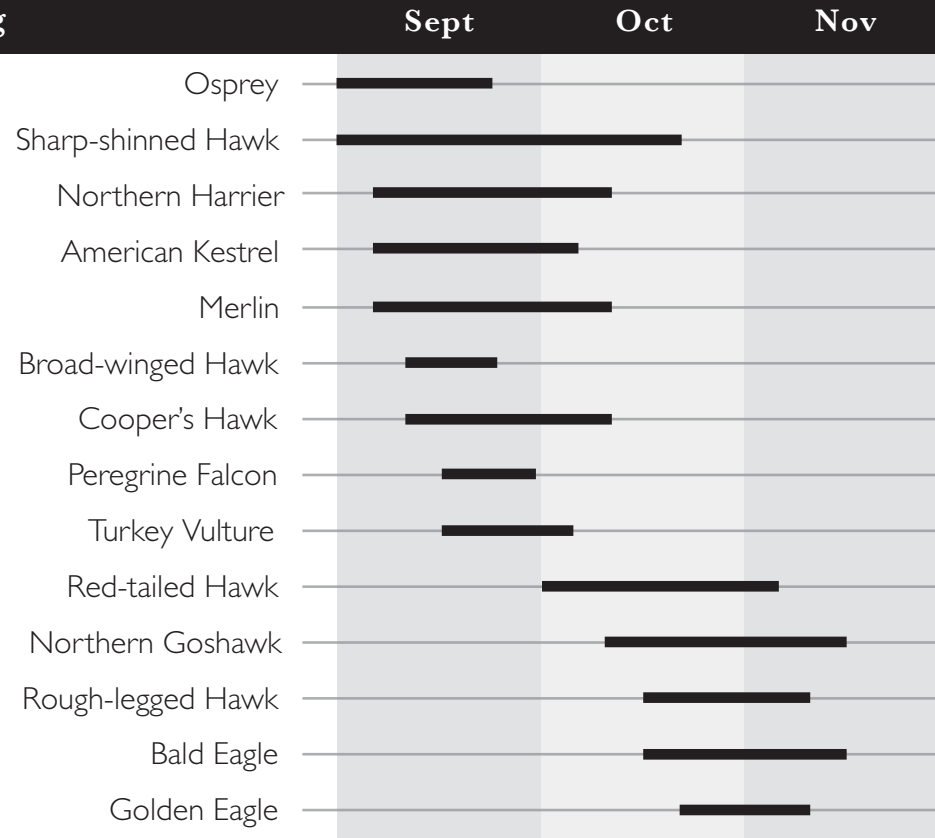
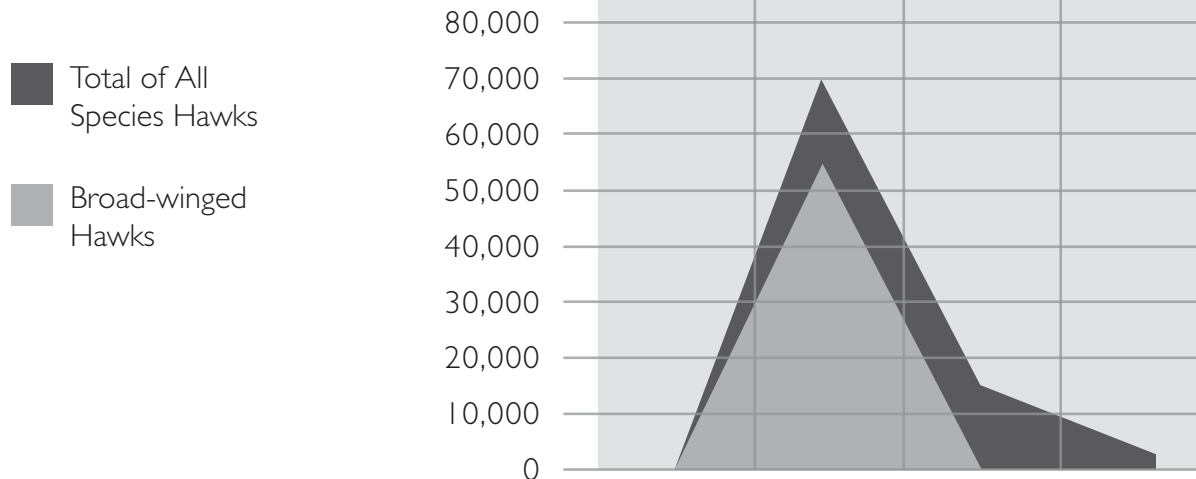


## Species Timing



## Monthly Average Hawk Counts



### Our Mission

The Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory seeks to protect birds of prey and other migratory birds in the Western Lake Superior Region through research, education, and stewardship.

### Fun Facts

Hawk Ridge averages over 94,000 migrating raptors each fall.

The record number of raptors counted in:

One day: 102,321 on Sept. 15, 2003  
 One season: 205,087 in 2003

### Activities at Hawk Ridge

- Hawkwatching
- Raptor demonstrations
- Hiking
- Adopt-a-Raptor
- Photography
- Public programs

### Contact Us!

[www.hawkridge.org](http://www.hawkridge.org)  
[mail@hawkridge.org](mailto:mail@hawkridge.org)  
 218.428.6209

# Identification Guide to the Raptors of HAWK RIDGE



## Accipiters

- Flap, flap, flap, glide
- Usually low
- Short, rounded wings
- Long tail
- 'T' shape



**Sharp-shinned Hawk** (Aug, Sep, Oct)  
Most common accipiter. Flaps and glides intermittently. Immature brown above with brown streaking on breast & belly below; adult, bluish-gray back, rusty breast. Jay size.

**Cooper's Hawk** (Sep, Oct)  
Uncommon. Coloration same as shin. Larger size and rounded tail often difficult to determine. Longer neck/head profile and straighter leading edge of wing vs. shin.

**Northern Goshawk** (Oct, Nov)  
Crow/raven size. Immature same coloration as shin; adult has slate gray back, lighter breast, white eye line, dark cap. Heavier bodied than other accipiters. Note paler wing covers.

## Buteos

- Most apt to soar and glide
- Broad, rounded wings and tail when soaring



**Broad-winged Hawk** (Sep)  
Smallest buteo. Abundant in large kettles during mid to late September. Immature has narrowly banded tail. Adult has a distinctive thickly-banded black and white tail. Underwing clear with black outline on all ages.

**Red-tailed Hawk** (Oct, Nov)  
Large, usually solitary, common, often has a light breast & belly with a noticeable belly band. Adult has rufous tail, immature has narrow brown bands. Plumage highly variable. Note dark shoulder patches and wrist "comma" on underwing.

**Rough-legged Hawk** (Oct, Nov)  
Large, black band on tail, distinctive black wrist spots. "Flappier" than other common buteos. Wings often held in a slight dihedral (V-shape). Dark-morph birds lack diagnostic tail and underwing patterns.

## Osprey

- Large
- Glides and soars in an 'M' shape
- Little flapping



**Osprey** (Aug, Sep)  
Usually alone or in pairs. Often confused with gulls because of their shape. Distinctive M-shaped wings from below and in profile. Dark back. White head ("headlight") and breast visible at a great distance.

## Falcons

- Steady flapping
- Fast pumping flight
- Pointed wings
- Bullet-shaped body



**American Kestrel** (Sep, Oct)  
Very common. Small, rufous back and tail with very pointy wings. Flapping is fast and looks loose-jointed.

**Merlin** (Sep, Oct)  
Common. A little bigger, darker, faster, heavier and more aggressive than the kestrel. Similar shape.

**Peregrine Falcon** (Sep)  
Crow size. A large, heavy falcon. Typically high and fast. Adults have dark backs, light breasts and dark mustaches. Immatures have paler heads, brown backs and brown streaks on the breast/belly.

## Eagles

- Very large
- Apt to soar and glide
- Usually very dark



**Bald Eagle** (Oct, Nov)  
Broad, flat wings. Usually alone. Immature is dark with white mottling, often mistaken for a Golden Eagle. Adults have dark bodies and wings with a white head and tail. Much more common than the Golden Eagle.

**Golden Eagle** (Oct, Nov)  
Uncommon. Broad, slightly dihedral wings. Adult all dark. Immature has white underwing spots and white on upper tail. Smaller head and beak than Bald Eagle.

## Harrier

- 'Flappy,' loose jointed
- Long, narrow wings and tail



**Northern Harrier** (Sep, Oct)  
Usually alone. Adult male is gray with light underparts and black wing tips. Female and immature are brown. All ages have vividly white rump. Wings often held in a dihedral. In migration flaps more and flies higher than when hunting.

## Vulture

- Large
- "Tippy" rocking flight
- Appears headless



**Turkey Vulture** (Sep, Oct)  
Common. Distinctive dihedral with a "tippy" flight. Rarely flaps. Two-toned black and gray under wing. Adults have a red head and immatures dark gray.