





























# PRIMARY MIGRATION TIMING

SPECIES	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Osprey 			
Sharp-shinned Hawk 			
Northern Harrier 			
American Kestrel 			
Merlin 			
Broad-winged Hawk 			
Cooper's Hawk 			
Peregrine Falcon 			
Turkey Vulture 			
Red-tailed Hawk 			
Northern Goshawk 			
Rough-legged Hawk 			
Bald Eagle 			
Golden Eagle 			

— FUN FACTS —

Hawk Ridge count & banding research have been in action for **OVER 40 YEARS!**

Hawk Ridge averages **OVER 75,000** migrating raptors each fall.

The RECORD NUMBER of raptors counted in:

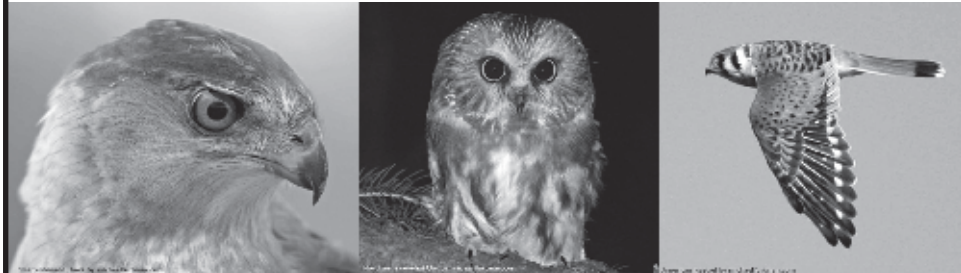
ONE DAY:  
**102,321**  
on Sept. 15, 2003

ONE SEASON:  
**205,087**  
in 2003

## IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

to the Raptors of

**HAWK**  **RIDGE**  
BIRD OBSERVATORY DULUTH, MINNESOTA



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

## Activities at Hawk Ridge

- Hawkwatching
- Live Bird Education Demos
- Hiking
- Photography
- Public programs
- Kid's Cart
- Merchandise Trailer

**Contact Us!** [www.hawkridge.org](http://www.hawkridge.org)  
[mail@hawkridge.org](mailto:mail@hawkridge.org) • 218.428.6209

## 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 coverts.

## BUTEOS

- Most apt to soar & glide
- Broad, rounded wings & 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 & soars in an 'M' shape
- Little flapping

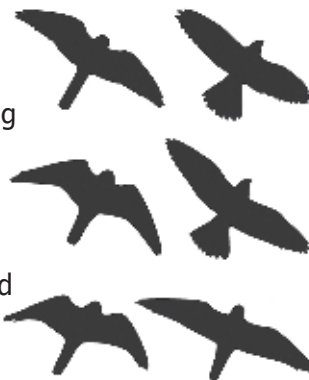


### Osprey (Aug, Sep)

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 & 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.