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# Red-Shouldered vs Red-Tailed



**RED SHOULDERED**

**RED TAILED**

**Skinnier**

**Belly Band**

**Darker underwings**

**Square end wing**

***KEY ahhh (ahh descends in pitch)***

## View From Below

KN



### FALCONS

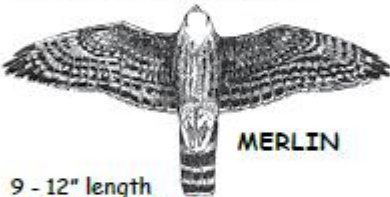
Streamlined - Long pointed wings; Long compressed tapered tails; Strong rowing wing beats; lose some pointed wing and tapered tail look when not in direct flight.



**PEREGRINE  
FALCON**

14 - 18" length

- Light breast and throat.
- Crow size, falcon shape.
- Quick, powerful wingbeats.



**MERLIN**

9 - 12" length

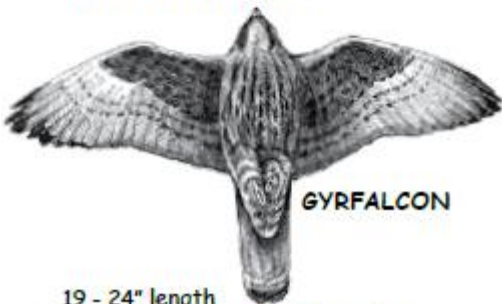
- Banded gray tail.
- Dark-looking underside.
- Streaked body.



**AMERICAN  
KESTREL**

8 - 11" length

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



**GYRFALCON**

19 - 24" length

- Robust - larger than Peregrine.
- Body uniformly colored-4 color morphs.
- Rare Arctic visitor.



## BUTEOS

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



**RED-TAILED  
HAWK**

17 - 22" length

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



**RED-SHOULDERED  
HAWK**

15 - 18" length

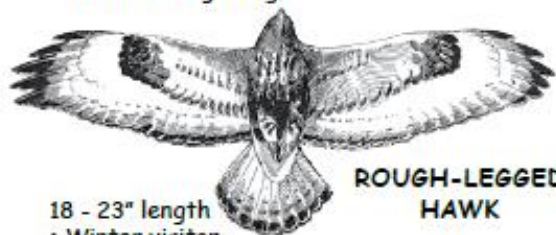
- Black tail with narrow white bands.
- Dark underwing coverts.
- Crescent windows near tip of wing.



**BROAD-WINGED  
HAWK**

13 - 17" length

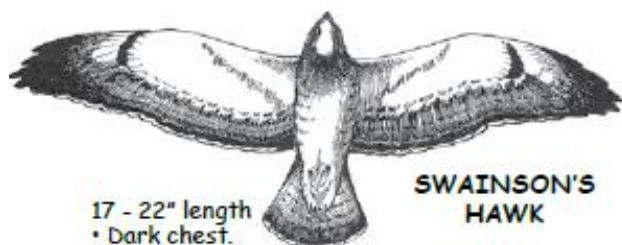
- Smallest Buteo, crow size.
- Equal white and black on tail.
- Whitish wing linings.



**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**

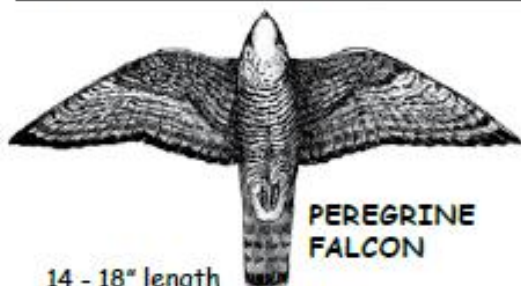
17 - 22" length

- Dark chest.
- Light underwing coverts, dark flights.
- Uncommon western visitor in northeast.



## 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.



**PEREGRINE  
FALCON**

14 - 18" length

- Light breast and throat.
- Crow size, falcon shape.
- Quick, powerful wingbeats.



**MERLIN**

9 - 12" length

- Banded gray tail.
- Dark-looking underside.
- Streaked body.



**AMERICAN  
KESTREL**

8 - 11" length

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



**GYRFALCON**

19 - 24" length

- Robust - larger than Peregrine.
- Body uniformly colored-4 color morphs.
- Rare Arctic visitor.

# RAPTOR GROUPS



## Accipiters

- Three species in this group
- Short broad wings are built for maneuverability
- Short fingers in the wings
- Long tails



## Buteos

- Twelve species in this group
- Broad wings
- Moderate fingers in the wings
- Short, square tails
- Chunky, broad-bodied



## Eagles and Osprey

- Three species in this group
- Very large birds
- Large wings built for soaring
- Long fingers in the wings
- Medium-long tails



## Falcons

- Six species in this group
- Long, pointed wings are built for speed
- Narrow wingtips with no fingers
- Long tails



# VULTURES

**BLACK**



**TURKEY**



Narrower wings