



# Raptors of Hawk Mountain

A Coloring Book

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# HAWK MOUNTAIN

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# Raptors of Hawk Mountain

## A Coloring Book

To learn more about Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, raptors, and raptor migration please visit our website at [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org). There also are several books that describe Hawk Mountain's history. Field guides can provide you with additional information about raptor identification.

### Some Books about Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Broun, Maurice. *Hawks Aloft: the story of Hawk Mountain*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1977.

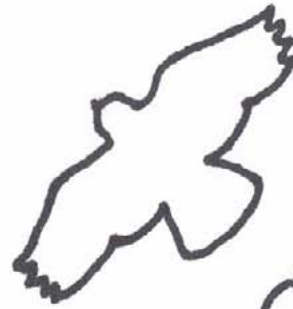
Harwood, Michael. *The View from Hawk Mountain*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1973.

### Some Field Guides about Raptors

Clark, William S. *A Field Guide to Hawks of North America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1987.

Wheeler, Brian K. *Raptors of Eastern North America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Wheeler, Brian K. and William S. Clark. *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*. San Diego: Academic Press Limited, 1995.



At Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, we teach people about raptors and raptor migration. This coloring book describes the 16 species of raptors that fly past Hawk Mountain's lookouts. We hope you have fun coloring and learning about these birds.

This book will help you learn: (1) what raptors look like when perched and in flight, (2) where raptors like to live, (3) what raptors like to eat, (4) where they come from and where they go to on migration, and (5) when and in what numbers raptors are seen at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. The glossary will help you understand some of the words that might be new to you. Once you learn about raptors, try to spot as many of them as you can!!



## Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary was established in 1934 as the world's first sanctuary for raptors. Each autumn, raptors follow ridges of the central Appalachian Mountains as they fly south making Hawk Mountain a great place to see migrating raptors. At Hawk Mountain, 16 species of raptors are seen migrating south each autumn.

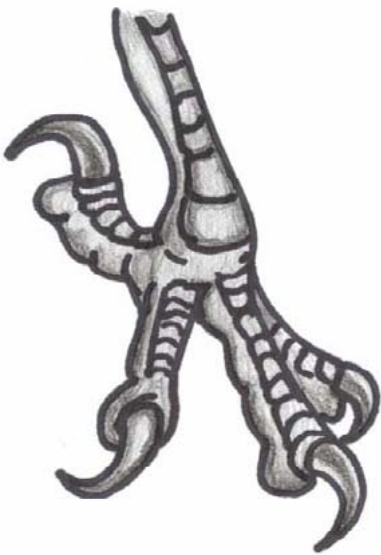
Before 1934, many people came to the lookouts at and near Hawk Mountain to shoot migrating raptors. At that time, people believed that killing predators was a good thing. They thought that if they shot raptors there would be more songbirds, game animals, and domestic animals. Since then, we have learned that predators are important parts of our ecosystems.

Rosalie Edge, a conservationist from New York, heard about the shooting at Hawk Mountain and wanted to put a stop to it. Mrs. Edge leased and then bought the land that is now Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. She hired Maurice Broun to take care of the land and to stop the shooting there. Maurice went to North Lookout and began counting migrating raptors in late September in 1934. Soon people started hunting the skies with binoculars instead of guns. Today Hawk Mountain continues to count, study, and teach people about raptors. Each year more than 70,000 visitors from around the world come to the Sanctuary to watch migrating raptors.

We hope that you will become part of Hawk Mountain's future. By coloring and reading about the raptors in this book, you will learn more about these amazing animals. We look forward to seeing you on our trails and lookouts soon!

# What are Raptors?

All of the birds in this coloring book are **diurnal** (daytime) **birds of prey** or **raptors**. Raptors are **predators**, which means they catch and kill other animals for food. Animals, like raptors, that eat meat are called **carnivores**. There are many carnivorous and predatory birds, but not all of them belong to the group we call raptors. We distinguish raptors from other birds because they have:

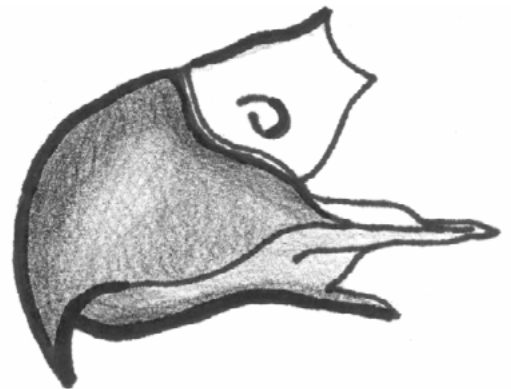


## 1. **Strong, powerful feet with sharp talons.**

Raptors use their feet to catch and kill their prey.

## 2. **Sharp, hooked beaks.** Raptors use their sharp, hooked beaks to pluck feathers and fur from their prey and to tear off pieces of meat. The things that raptors can not digest are coughed up as a **regurgitation pellet**.

3. **Keen eyesight.** Raptors can focus on objects that are far away from them. Raptors also are very good at sensing movement. If you were a predator, you would be interested in small moving objects because they could be food for you.



# Osprey

Large, Eagle-sized raptor that often holds its long, slender wings in a crooked "M" shape





I am an adult **Osprey**.

My scientific name is *Pandion haliaetus*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a large, eagle-sized raptor. My wings are long and thin, and I often hold them in an "M" shape. I have a wingspan of about 6 feet. My back is dark brown and most of my underparts are white. My head is white with a dark brown eye stripe that continues down my neck.

### **Habitat**

I am found on every continent except Antarctica. I always live near water.

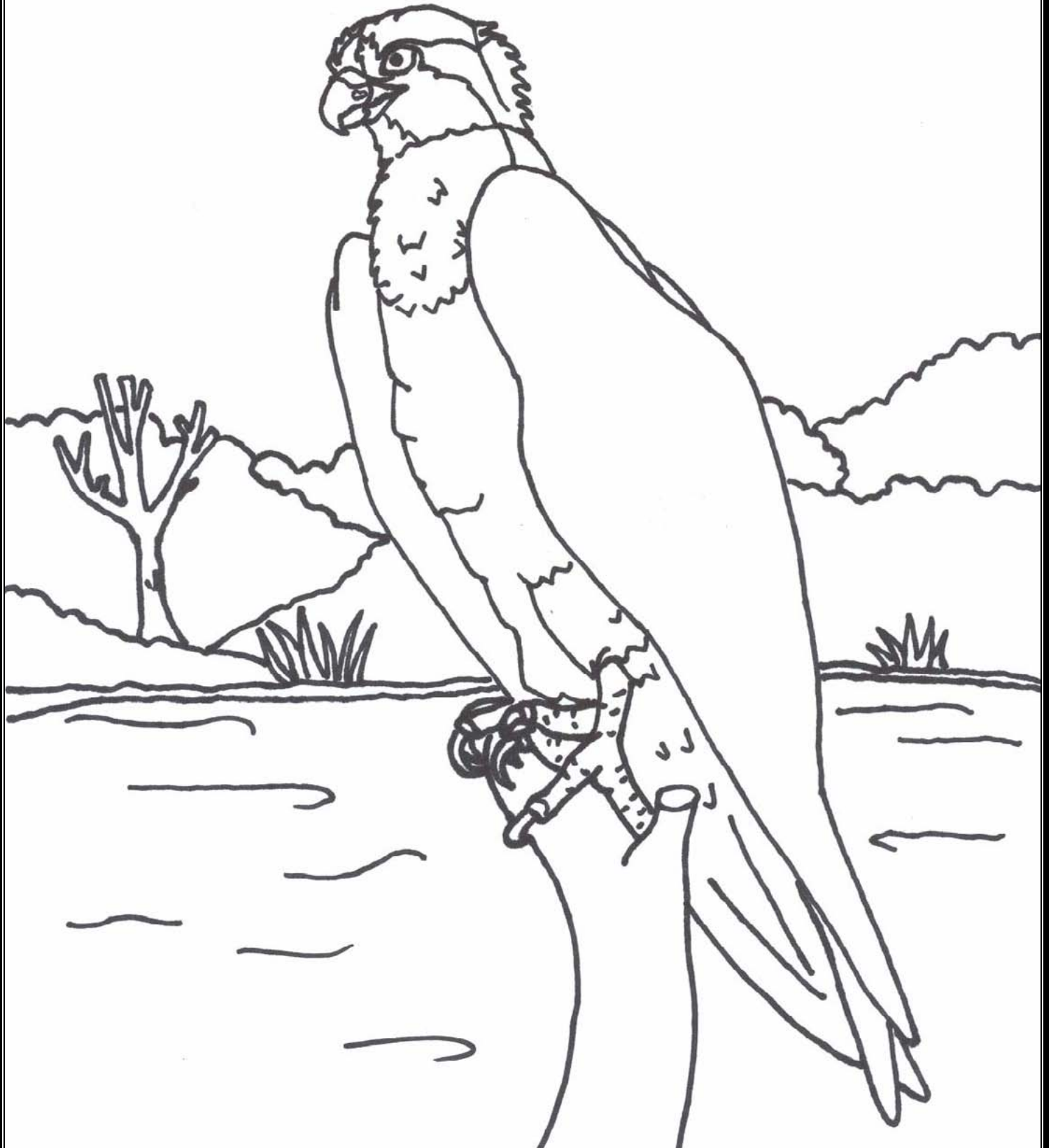
### **Food**

Some raptors eat many different kinds of food, but I almost always eat fish. Usually I search for fish while in flight. Once I see a fish, I dive into the water and try to grab it with my **talons**. The bottoms of my feet have spiky scales for holding onto slippery prey.

### **Migration**

Osprey that breed near the equator usually do not migrate, but those who live in other parts of the world usually do. I often follow coastlines or mountain ridges when I migrate. I often travel alone, and I flap, glide, and soar as I fly. Many raptors do not fly over large bodies of water, but I regularly make such water crossings. On my way south from North America, I sometimes fly across the Caribbean Sea. At Hawk Mountain, about 600 of us are seen each autumn, mainly in September.

# Osprey



# Vultures

Large, almost Eagle-sized raptors with featherless heads



## Black Vulture

- White wingtips
- Short, square tail
- Wings held flat

## Turkey Vulture

- Silver-gray trailing edge of wings
- Wings held in a "V"
- Rarely flaps, wobbles while soaring



I am an adult **Turkey Vulture**.

My scientific name is *Cathartes aura*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a large, dark brown bird with a featherless, red head. When I was young, I had a dark grayish head. I have a wingspan that is close to 6 feet. The undersides of my wings are two-toned; the leading half is blackish and the trailing half is silver-gray. I hold my wings in a "V," and I rock from side to side when I fly. I am great at soaring and I hardly ever flap. I often fly in **kettles** with other vultures.

### **Habitat**

I am found across most of North America and South America. I breed as far north as southern Canada. I nest in caves, on cliff ledges, and on the forest floor among rocks and fallen logs. Outside the breeding season, I **roost** with other Turkey Vultures and sometimes with Black Vultures.

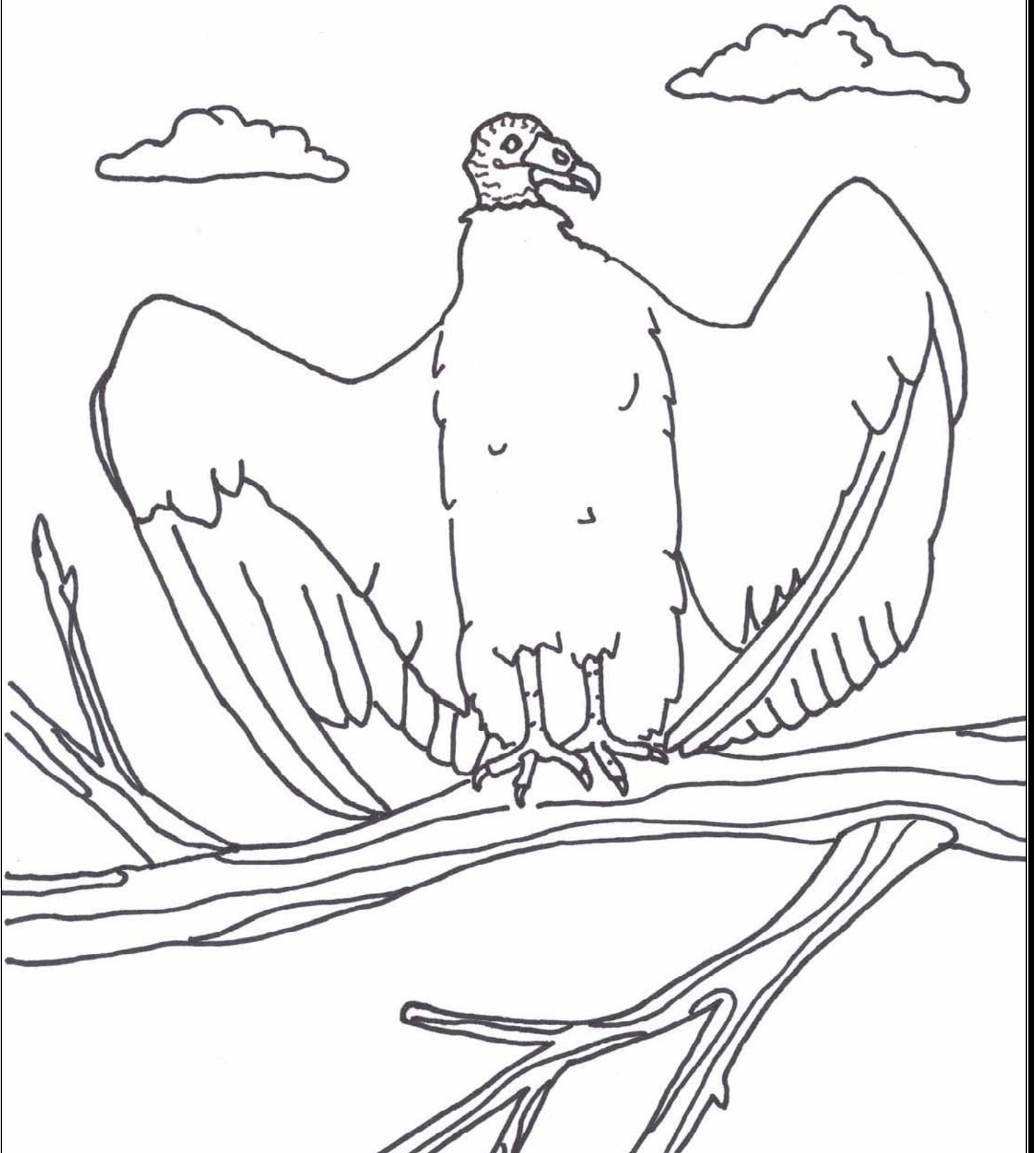
### **Food**

I am a **scavenger** and I eat **carrion**. Some people call me part of nature's clean-up crew. I have a sharp, hooked beak for tearing food apart, but unlike other raptors I do not have strong, powerful feet for catching prey. I have a keen sense of smell. I use my sense of smell, together with my sense of sight, to find my food.

### **Migration**

I am a **partial migrant**. I like to soar when I migrate, and I usually migrate in flocks that range in size from several birds to several thousand birds. I am the most commonly seen "local" raptor at Hawk Mountain. Each autumn about 200 Turkey Vultures are counted as migrants at the Sanctuary.

# Turkey Vulture



I am an adult **Black Vulture**.

My scientific name is *Coragyps atratus*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a large, black bird with a featherless, wrinkled, black head. When I fly, I usually soar and I rarely flap my wings. I have a chunky body, a short tail, and long, broad wings with white patches on their tips. My beak is black with a bone-colored tip. When I was young, my beak was all black and my head was not wrinkled. Unlike Turkey Vultures, I hold my wings flat when I fly.

### **Habitat**

I breed in many places in the United States, in southern Canada, and throughout much of Central America and South America. My range is expanding northward. I nest on the ground near logs and rocks, in caves, and in empty buildings. Outside of the breeding season, I **roost** with other Black Vultures and sometimes with Turkey Vultures.

### **Food**

I am a **scavenger** and I usually eat **carrion**. I also sometimes catch and kill small animals, and I will eat pumpkins and coconuts.

### **Migration**

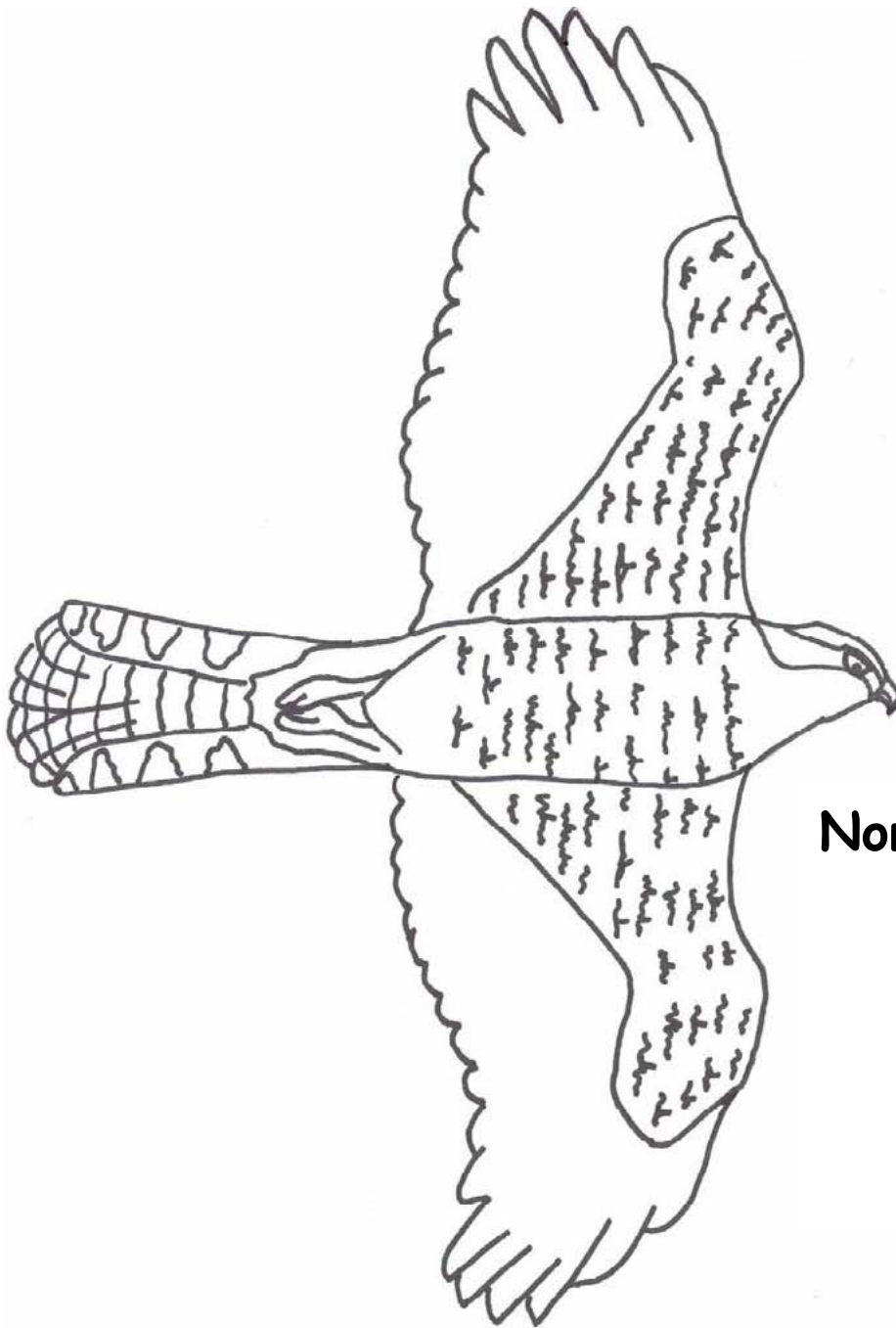
I am a non-migratory, year-round resident in most of my range. But some of us who live in North America do migrate. I usually soar while I am migrating and I often migrate in **kettles** of several birds to several dozen birds. About 50 migrating Black Vultures are counted at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary each autumn.

# Black Vulture



# Accipiters

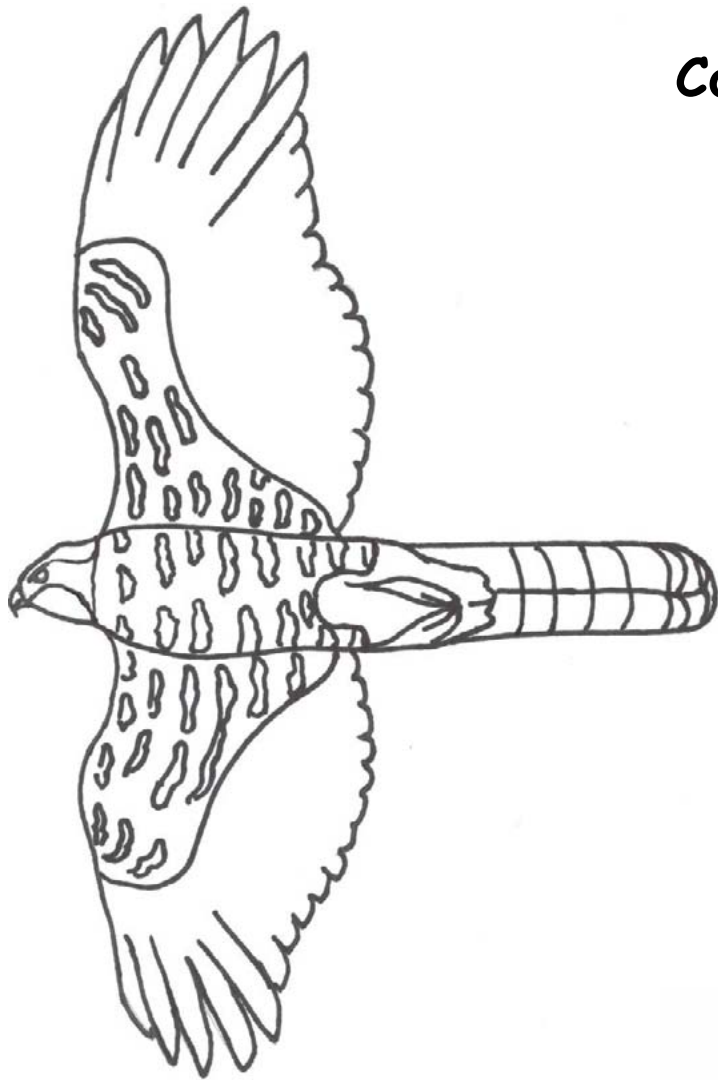
Forest-dwelling raptors with short, rounded wings and long tails that often flap and glide when they migrate



## Northern Goshawk

- Largest Accipiter in North America
- Goshawks may look like Buteos
- Heavy body
- Long, broad wings
- Broad tail



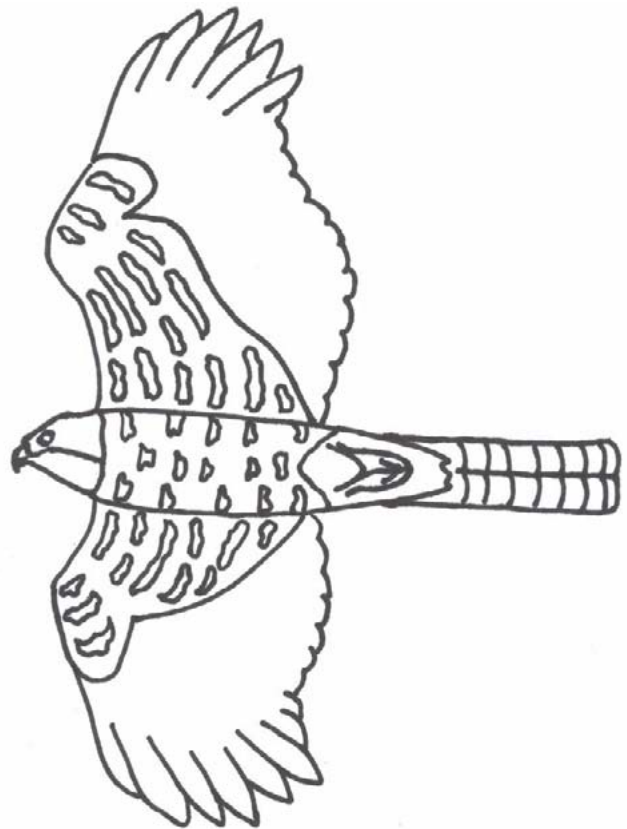


## Cooper's Hawk

- Same plumage as the smaller Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Rounded tail
- Large head sticks out ahead of the wings

## Sharp-shinned Hawk

- Same plumage as the larger Cooper's Hawk
- Smallest of the North American Accipiters
- Square-tipped tail
- Head does not stick out much since leading edge of the wings usually pushed forward at elbow



I am an adult **Northern Goshawk**.

My scientific name is *Accipiter gentilis*.

### Field Marks

I am the largest of the three **Accipiter** species found in North America. Like other Accipiters, I have short, rounded wings and a long tail. On migration, I often flap and glide. My back and wings are blue-gray, and my underparts are whitish with grayish-black bars. I have a gray-banded tail. The top of my head is black and I have a white stripe over each of my red eyes. When I was young, I was browner and I had yellow eyes.

### Habitat

I like to live in deep forests. I am found in Canada and in the northern United States, as well as in the mountains of the western United States and in northwestern Mexico. I am also found in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

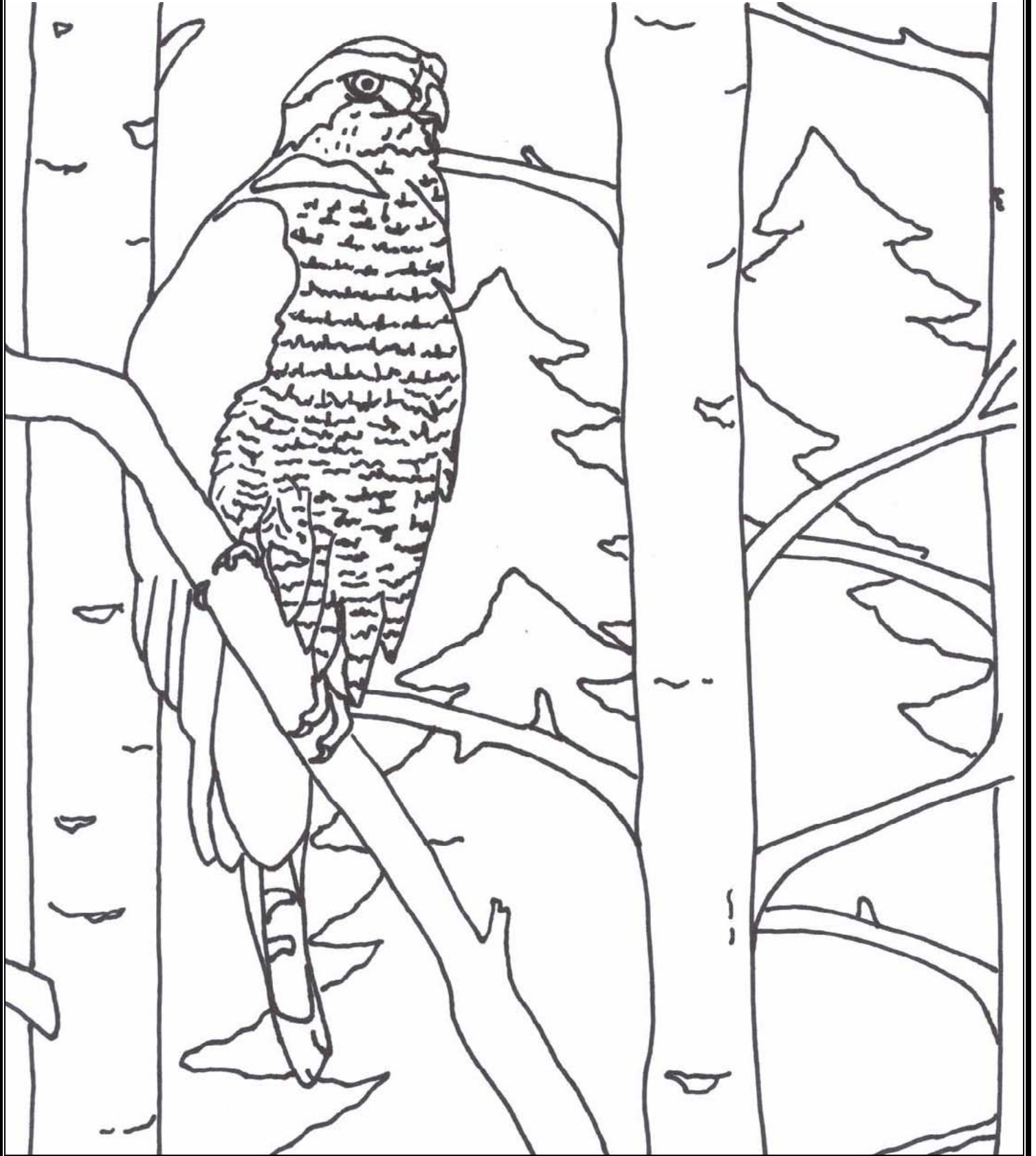
### Food

I eat many kinds of birds and mammals. I usually hunt from a perch. In the North, my favorite prey is Snowshoe Hare and Grouse.

### Migration

I am an **irruptive migrant** and I usually migrate alone. I am more likely to migrate in years when food is scarce. At Hawk Mountain, about 50 Northern Goshawks are seen each autumn. Most of us pass the lookouts in November.

# Northern Goshawk



I am an adult **Cooper's Hawk**.

My scientific name is *Accipiter cooperii*.

### Identification

I am an **Accipiter** about the size of an American Crow. Like other Accipiters, I have short, rounded wings and a long tail that help me move quickly through the forest. I often flap and glide when I migrate. I have a blue-gray back and wings. My tail has light and dark gray bands and a white tip. My eyes are red. The top of my head is black, and my underparts are whitish with reddish-brown barring. When I was young I was browner and my eyes were yellow.

### Habitat

I live in forests in southern Canada, the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize. When I am not migrating I spend most of my time in the forest where I can be difficult to see.

### Food

Like other Accipiters, I use surprise to catch my prey. I eat birds and small mammals, as well as lizards and amphibians.

### Migration

I am a **partial migrant**. Those of us who breed south of Hawk Mountain are less likely to migrate than those of us who breed north of the Sanctuary. I usually migrate alone. Each autumn about 700 Cooper's Hawks are counted at Hawk Mountain. Our flight peaks in early October. Most migrants that pass the Sanctuary spend the winter in the central and southeastern United States.

# Cooper's Hawk



I am an adult **Sharp-shinned Hawk**.

My scientific name is *Accipiter striatus*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a small **Accipiter** about the size of a Blue Jay. Like other Accipiters, I have short, rounded wings and a long tail. When I migrate, I often mix flapping with gliding. I have orange or red eyes. My back and wings are blue-gray, and my chest is white with reddish bars. I have a gray-banded tail. When I was young, I had yellow eyes and I was browner.

### **Habitat**

I live in forests in North America, Central America, and South America. I am difficult to see because I spend most of my time in the forest and do not perch in open areas or soar above the canopy very often. I am easier to spot when I am migrating.

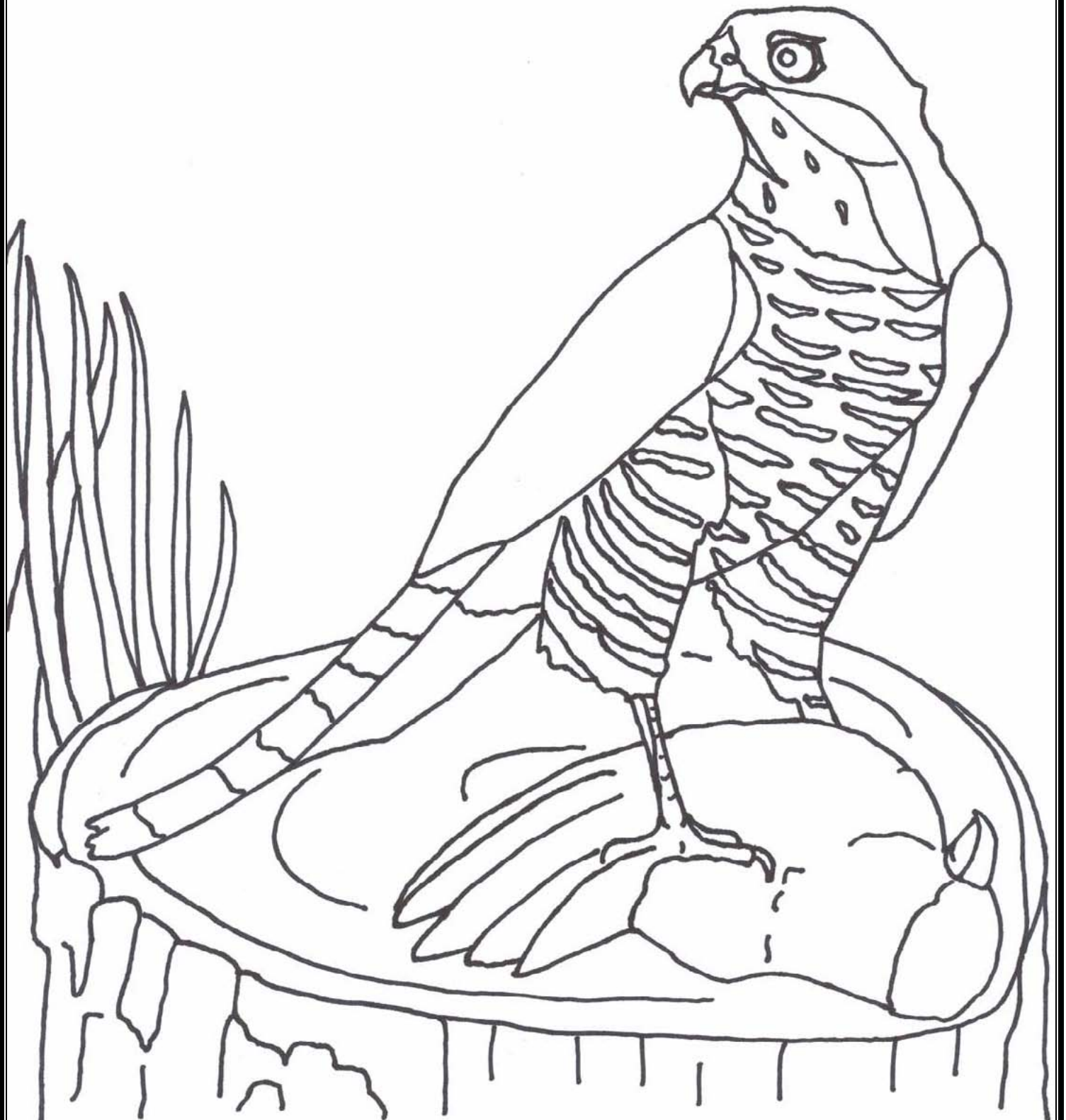
### **Food**

Small birds are my favorite food, and they make up 90% of my diet. I also eat insects, frogs, lizards, and small mammals. I sometimes catch birds or small mammals at birdfeeders.

### **Migration**

I am a **partial migrant**. I usually migrate alone, but I am sometimes seen in small groups with other Sharpshins, Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, or American Kestrels. I am the second most common migrating raptor at Hawk Mountain, and about 5,000 of us are seen each autumn. Almost all of us pass the lookout between early September and early November.

# Sharp-shinned Hawk



# Eagles

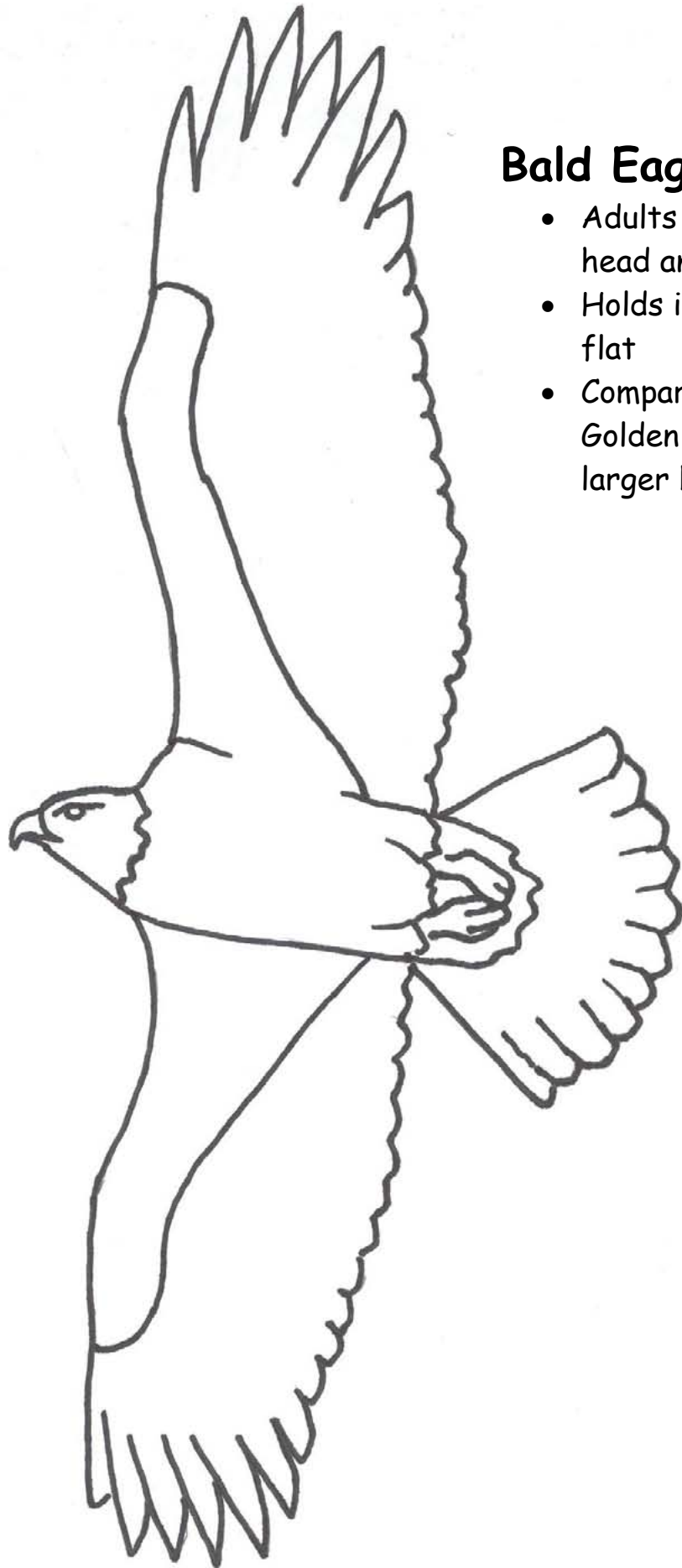
Very large raptors with long, broad wings



## Golden Eagle

- Adult is dark brown with golden feathers on the back of its head and neck
- Holds its wings in a shallow "V"
- Compared to the Bald Eagle it has a small head and bill





## **Bald Eagle**

- Adults have a white head and tail
- Holds its broad wings flat
- Compared to the Golden Eagle it has a larger head and bill

I am an adult **Bald Eagle**.

My scientific name is *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a very large raptor with a wingspan of 6 to 7 feet. I have a white head and tail, a dark brown body, and a very large, yellow beak. Before I was 5 years old, I did not have a white head and tail. In my first year of life, I was mostly dark brown. Over the next few years, I had white markings on different parts of my body, until I acquired my adult **plumage**.

### **Habitat**

I am found in North America from Canada and Alaska in the north to northern Mexico in the south. I always live near water.

### **Food**

Fish are my favorite food. But I also catch reptiles, birds, and mammals, and I often eat **carrion**. Sometimes I steal food from other birds like the Osprey. Outside of the breeding season, sometimes many of us come together in areas where food is plentiful.

### **Migration**

I am a **partial migrant**. I am more likely to migrate if I live in an area where the water freezes in winter. At Hawk Mountain, Bald Eagles are seen in highest numbers in late August-early September and in November. Those of us that pass the Sanctuary early in the season are traveling south to Florida to breed. Most of us that pass the Sanctuary later in the season have bred north of Hawk Mountain and are heading south to spend the winter in the southeastern United States.

# Bald Eagle



I am an adult **Golden Eagle**.

My scientific name is *Aquila chrysaetos*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a very large raptor with a 6 to 7 foot wingspan. My body and wings are brown, and the back of my head and neck have golden feathers. When I soar, I often hold my wings in a shallow "V." I acquired my adult **plumage** when I was 4 or 5 years old. Before then, my tail feathers were white at the base, and I had white patches on my wings.

### **Habitat**

I am found in the Northern Hemisphere, and I live in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. I am found from Alaska and Canada in the North to Mexico in the South. I am more common in the West, and I am rare in the East.

### **Food**

I eat medium-sized mammals and birds. I like to catch live prey, but I also eat **carrion**. I do most of my hunting while in flight.

### **Migration**

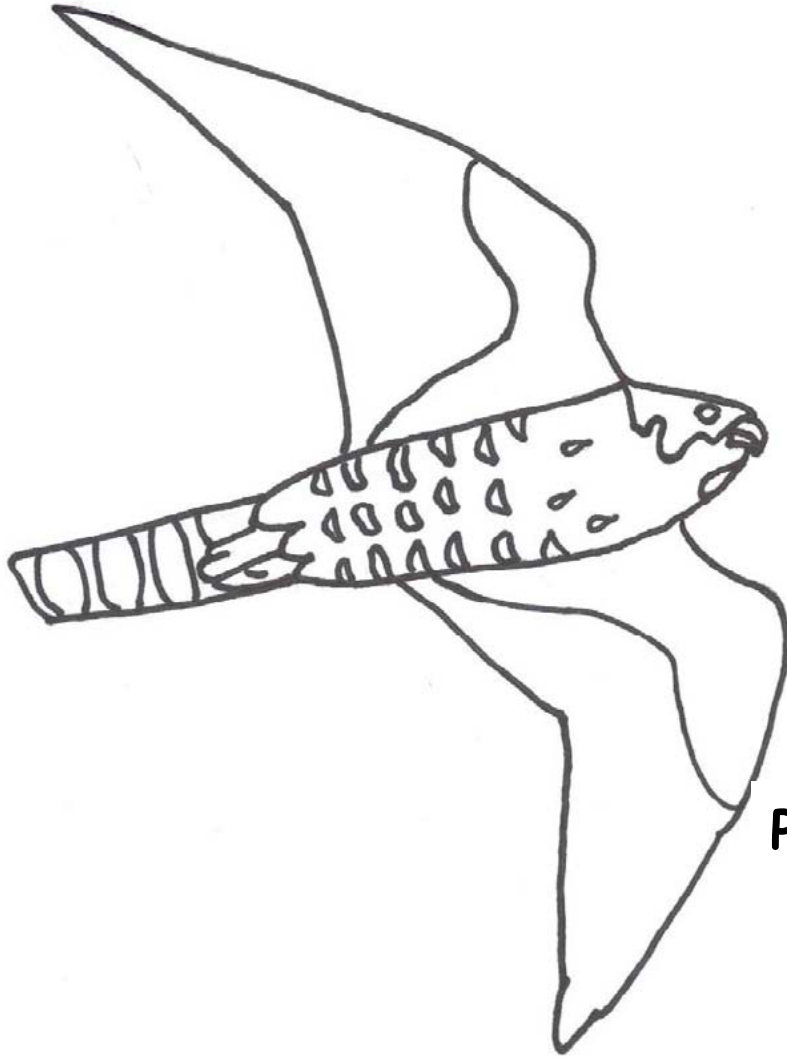
I am a **partial migrant**. Some Golden Eagles stay on their breeding grounds year-round. I like to soar on the **mountain updrafts** that are created along ridges. I usually fly alone. About 100 of us are seen at Hawk Mountain each autumn. Most of us pass the lookouts in November as we head to the Mid-Atlantic States and southern Appalachians. In the eastern United States, I am best seen on migration.

# Golden Eagle



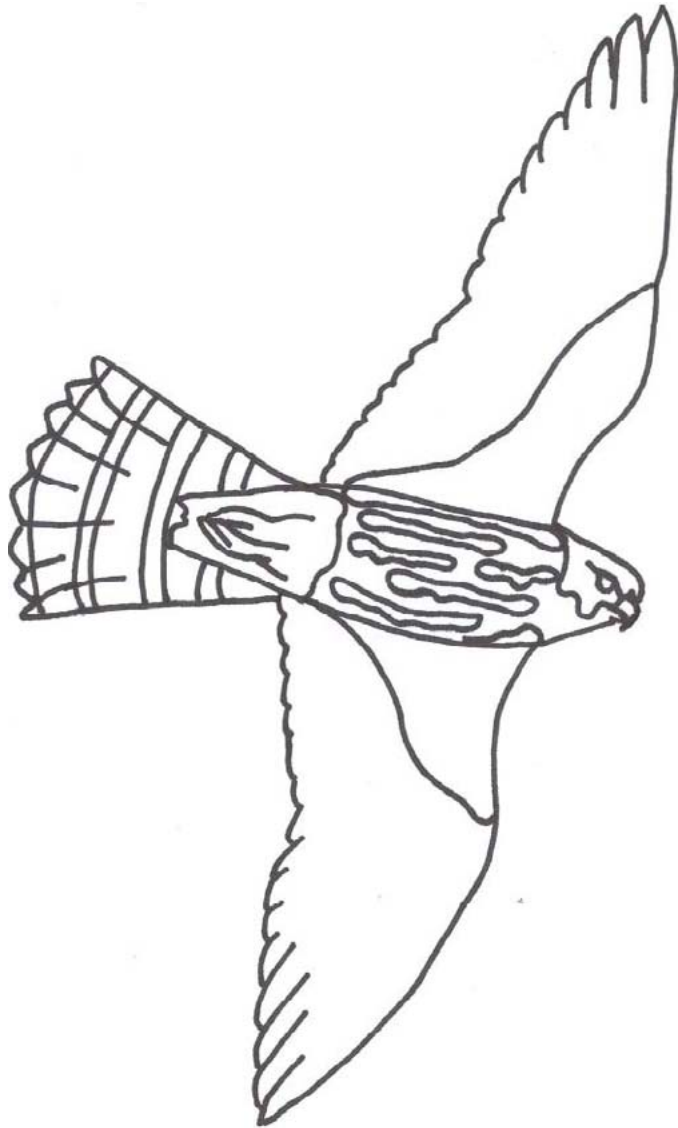
# Falcons

Raptors with long, pointed wings and long tails that often flap a lot when they migrate



## Peregrine Falcon

- Dark mustache mark on side of head
- Long, tapered wings
- Flies with steady, fluid wingbeats

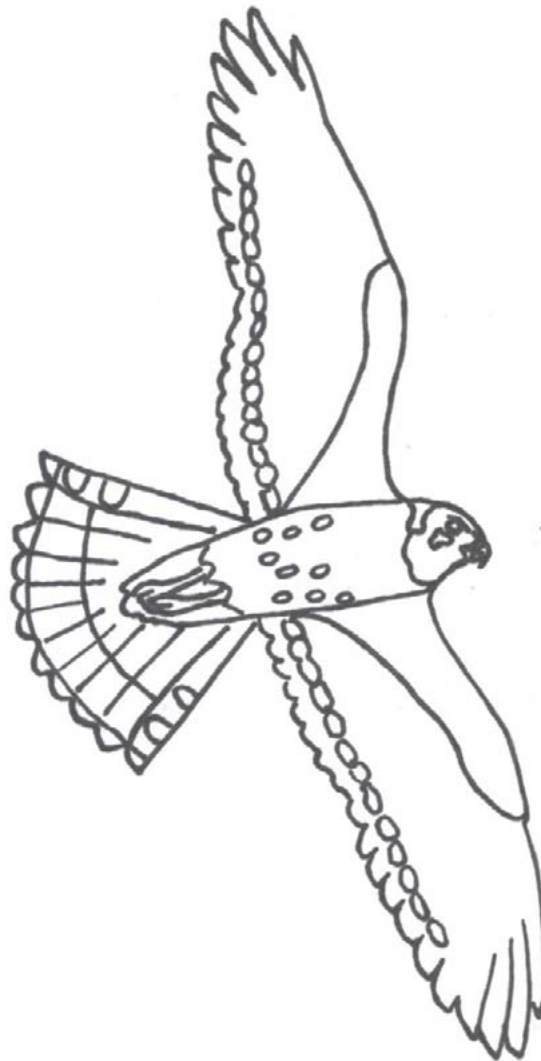


## Merlin

- Dark falcon with heavy streaking on its underside
- Fast flier that flies with quick, short wingbeats
- Aggressive raptor that will harass other raptors

## American Kestrel

- Small and colorful
- Double mustache marks on side of head
- Long, sickle shaped wings
- Fluttery in flight



male

I am an adult **Peregrine Falcon**

My scientific name is *Falco peregrinus*.

### Identification

I am a **falcon** about the size of an American Crow. Like other falcons, I have long, pointed wings and a long tail. I flap and soar on migration. My wings and back are bluish-gray. My chest is whitish, and my belly is whitish with dark markings. The undersides of my wings and tail are barred with pale gray and black. My head is dark gray, and I have a vertical mark through each eye that is called a "mustache." When I was young, I was browner.

### Habitat

I am found all over the world except in Antarctica. I live in many different habitats, including tundra, tropics, wetlands, deserts, islands, forests, plains, and mountains. I often breed in cities.

### Food

I like to eat small to medium-sized birds like pigeons and ducks, but I also will eat other animals if they are common. I catch most of my prey when I am flying, either by diving in a "stoop" or after a long chase.

### Migration

I am a **partial migrant**. I have a "leap-frog" migration pattern. Those of us who live in southern areas migrate only a short distance or not at all, and those of us who live farther north migrate to the tropics. I sometimes fly over large bodies of water when I migrate. About 50 of us pass the lookouts at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary each autumn.



# Peregrine Falcon



I am a female **Merlin**.

My scientific name is *Falco columbarius*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a small, dark **falcon** about the size of a Blue Jay. Like other falcons, I have long, pointed wings and a long tail. On migration, I flap most of the time. My back and wings are dark brown, and my tail is dark brown with light bands. My underparts are light brown with dark brown streaks. Adult male Merlins have blue-gray backs and wings and black tails with grayish-white bands.

### **Habitat**

In North America, I breed in the forests and prairies of Canada and the northern United States, and I spend the winter as far south as Central and South America. I also am found in Europe and Asia. I am uncommon throughout most of my range.

### **Food**

My favorite food is small to medium-sized birds, but I will also eat insects, reptiles, and mammals.

### **Migration**

I am a **partial migrant**. I sometimes travel long distances on migration. I will fly across large bodies of water. I also fly in light rain, and I sometimes fly very early in the morning and very late in the day. Many Merlins migrate along coastlines where they often eat shorebirds. Each autumn about 100 of us are seen at Hawk Mountain.

# Merlin



We are adult **American Kestrels**.

Our scientific name is *Falco sparverius*.

### **Field Marks**

We are the smallest **falcons** in North America. Like other falcons, we have long, pointed wings, long tails, and we flap a lot while migrating. Male and female American Kestrels have different **plumages**. Although both of us have reddish backs and tails, males have blue-gray wings, and females have reddish-brown wings with dark brown bars. Males also have one wide, black tail band, while females have many dark brown bands on their tails. The tops of our heads are blue-gray, and we have white cheeks with 2 black "mustache" marks.

### **Habitat**

We are found in open habitats across most of North America. We nest in holes in trees, in buildings, and nest boxes. We can be found in cities and towns, and we can often be seen perched on telephone lines or hovering over fields hunting for prey.

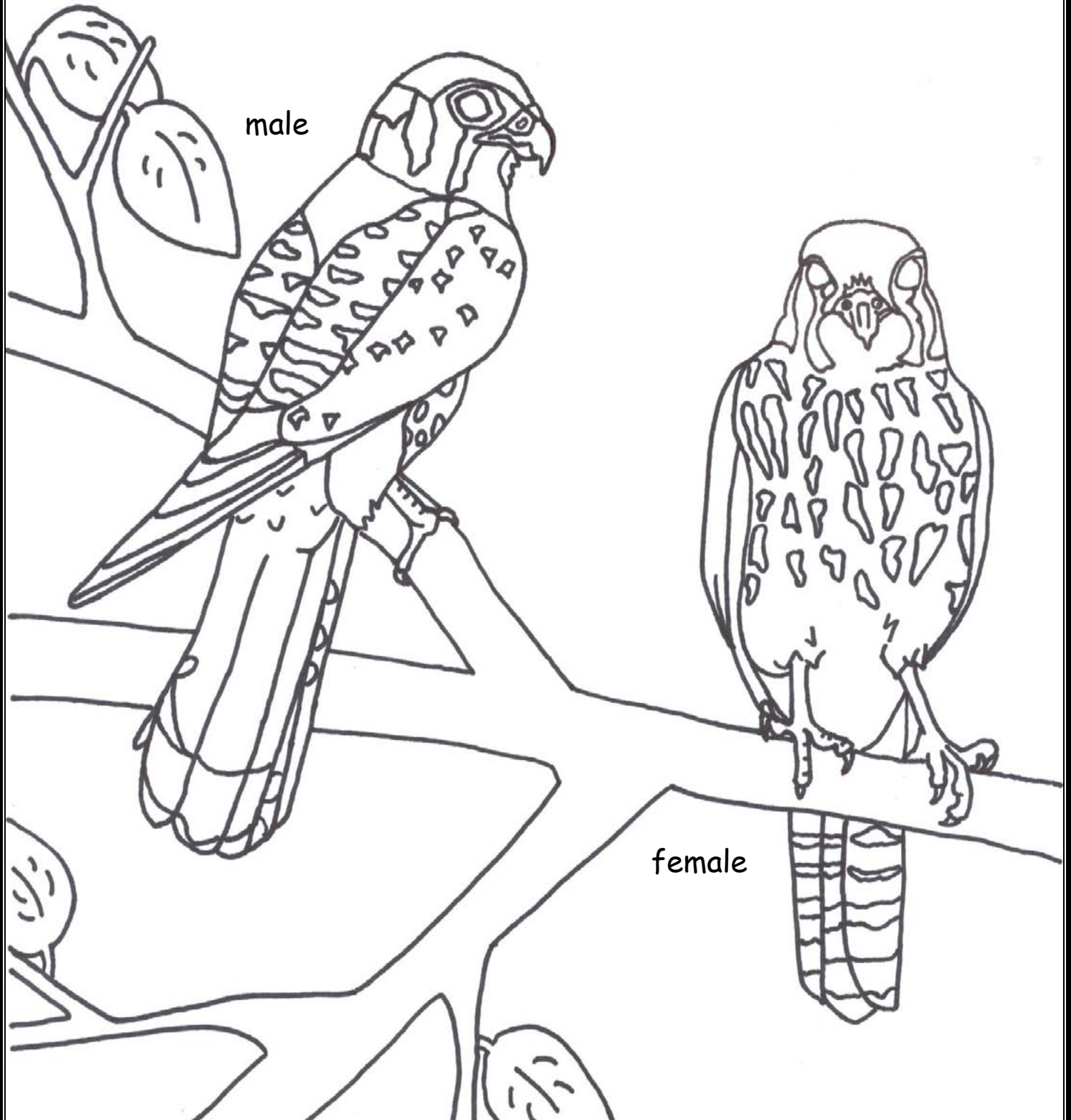
### **Food**

We hunt from perches and while hovering. We eat insects and small rodents, as well as amphibians, reptiles, and small birds.

### **Migration**

We are **partial migrants**. We usually migrate alone or with a few other kestrels. Unlike Merlins and Peregrines, few of us are long distance migrants, and we do not usually make long water crossings. At Hawk Mountain, about 600 kestrels are seen each autumn. Most of us are counted in September and October, mainly in early October.

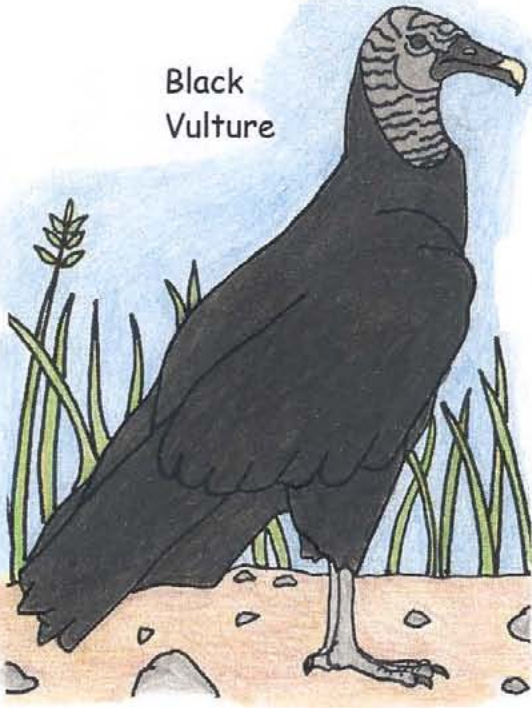
# American Kestrel



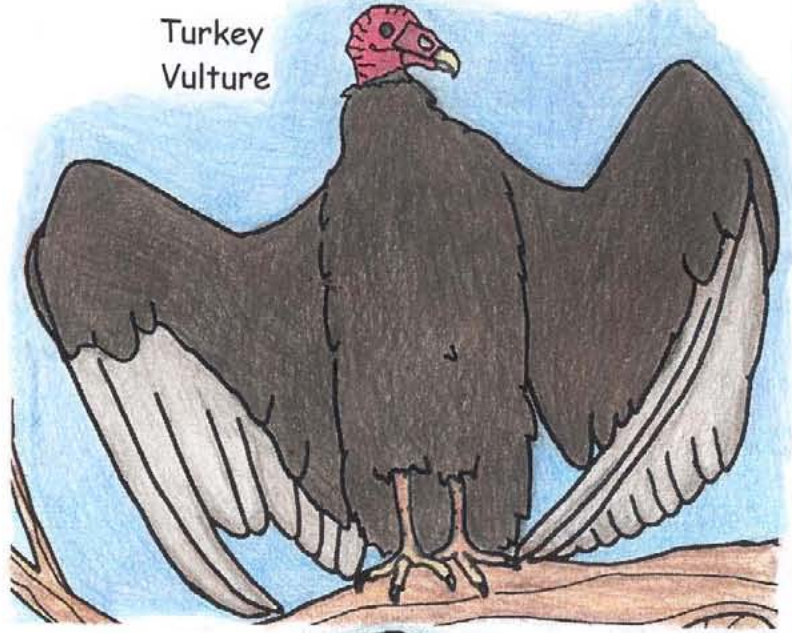
male

female

Black  
Vulture



Turkey  
Vulture



Osprey



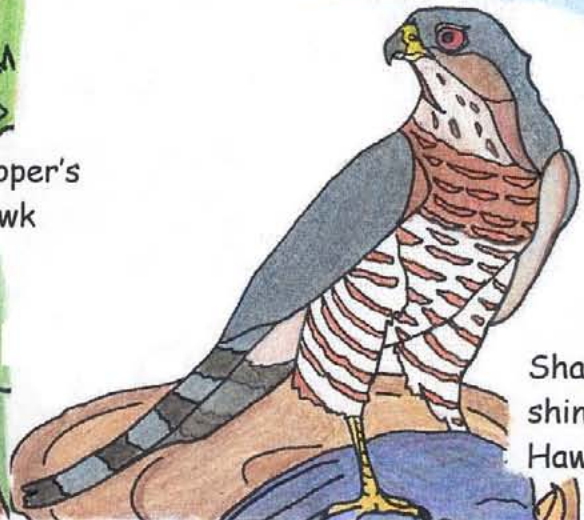
## Vultures, Osprey, & Accipiters



Northern  
Goshawk



Cooper's  
Hawk



Sharp-  
shinned  
Hawk

# Vultures, Osprey & Accipiters



Black  
Vulture



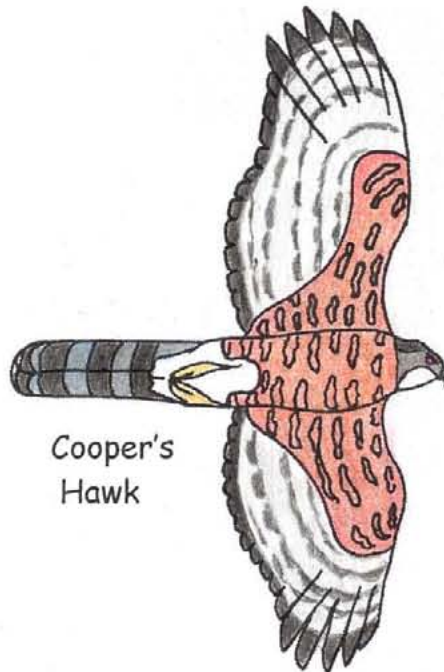
Osprey



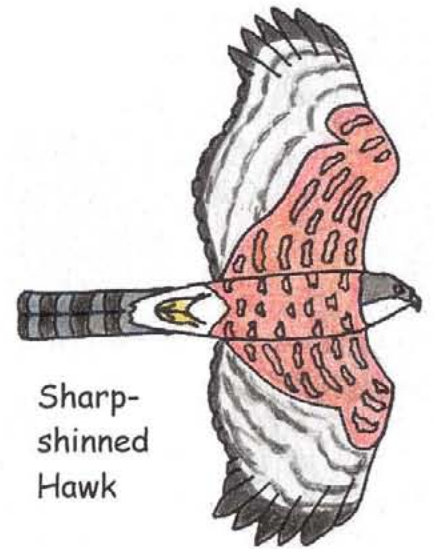
Turkey  
Vulture



Northern  
Goshawk



Cooper's  
Hawk



Sharp-  
shinned  
Hawk

Bald Eagle



Golden Eagle

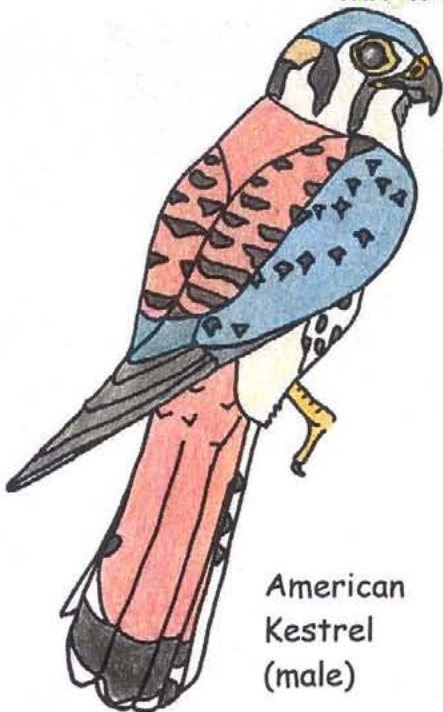
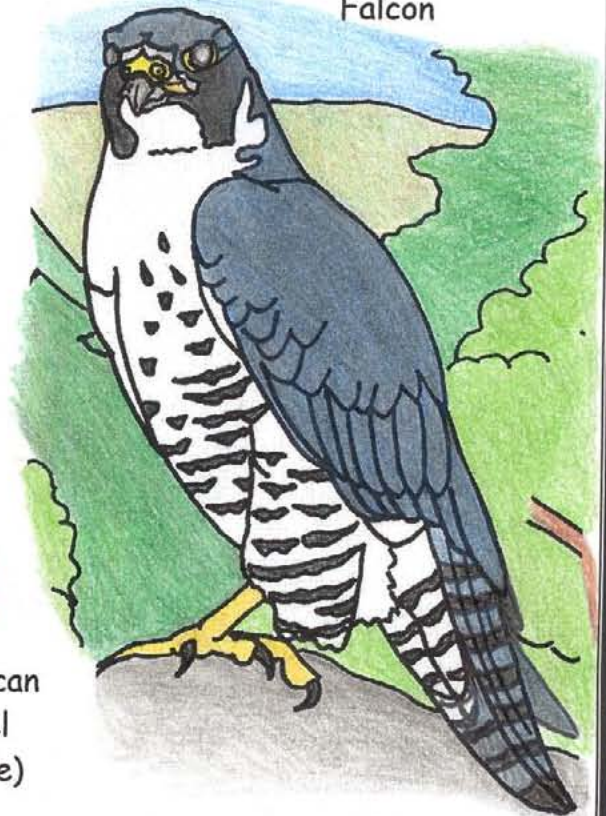


# Eagles & Falcons



Merlin

Peregrine Falcon



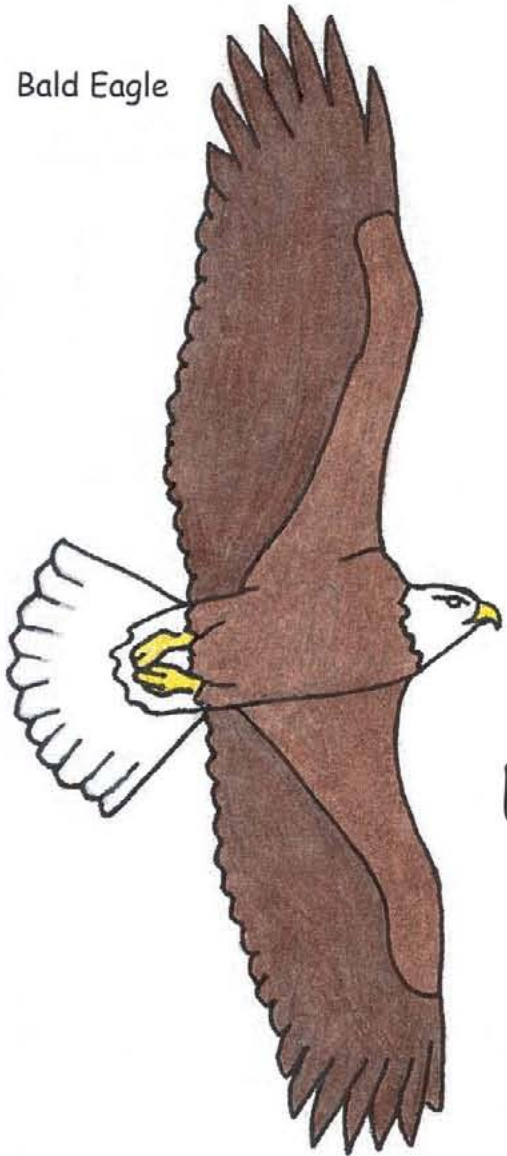
American Kestrel (male)



American Kestrel (female)



Bald Eagle



Golden Eagle



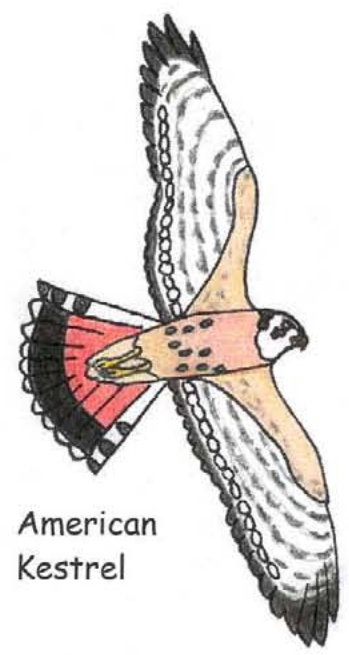
# Eagles & Falcons



Merlin



Peregrine  
Falcon



American  
Kestrel

# Northern Harrier

Harriers are thin-bodied raptors with long wings, long tails, and a white rump patch, and often fly with their wings held in a "V"



male

# Northern Harrier



We are adult **Northern Harriers**.

Our scientific name is *Circus cyaneus*.

### **Field Marks**

We are thin-bodied raptors with long wings and long tails. We have owl-like faces, distinctive white rump patches, and in flight we often hold our wings in a "V." Unlike many raptors, male and female Northern Harriers do not look alike. Males have light blue-gray backs and wings. Their wings have whitish undersides and black tips. Females have brown backs and wings and whitish underparts with brown streaks. Young harriers resemble adult females, but their underparts are cinnamon-colored with dark streaks.

### **Habitat**

We live in open habitats such as marshes, fields, and pastures. We are found in North America, northern South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. We nest on the ground. In winter, we sometimes **roost** in groups on the ground.

### **Food**

We almost always hunt while flying low, and we use both hearing and sight to find our prey. We eat small mammals and birds, as well as insects, amphibians, and reptiles.

### **Migration**

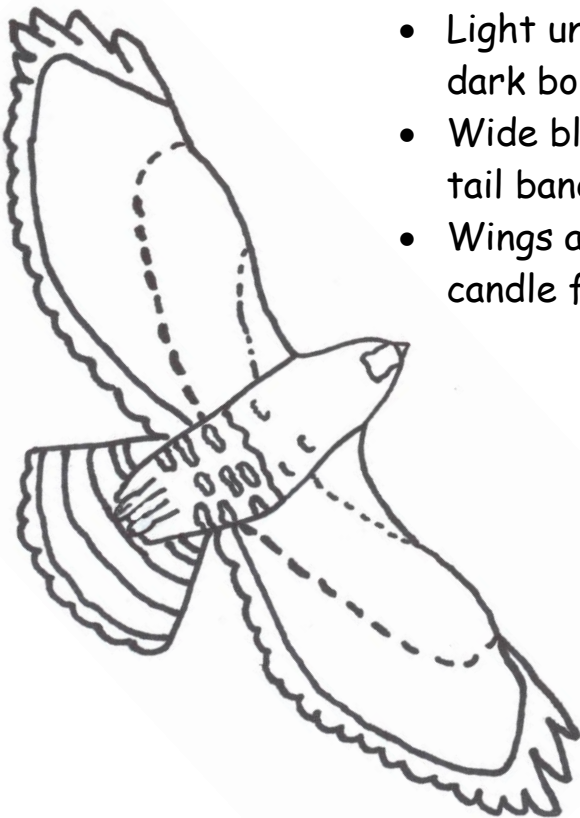
We are **partial migrants**. When we migrate, we flap and glide, and also soar. On migration, we fly lower than other raptors, and we often migrate in light rain and snow. About 200 Northern Harriers are seen at Hawk Mountain each autumn. Most of us are counted between September and November.

# Buteos

Raptors with chunky bodies and broad wings that often soar with their tails fanned when they migrate

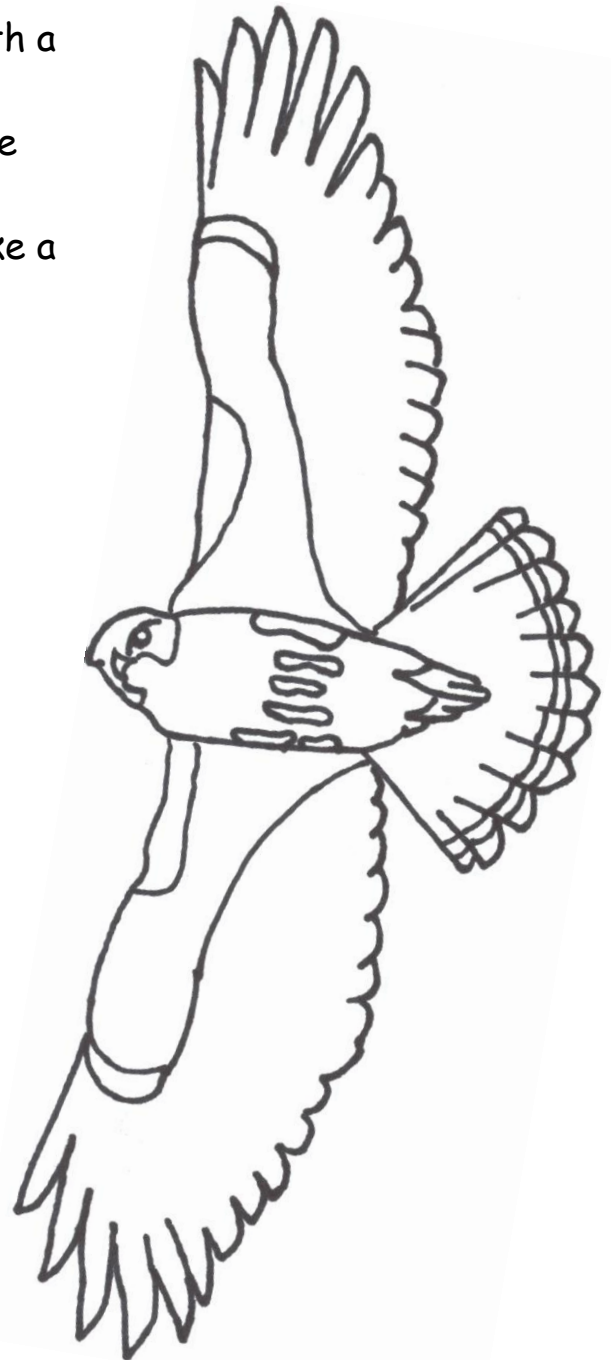
## Broad-winged Hawk

- Light underwings with a dark border
- Wide black and white tail bands
- Wings are shaped like a candle flame



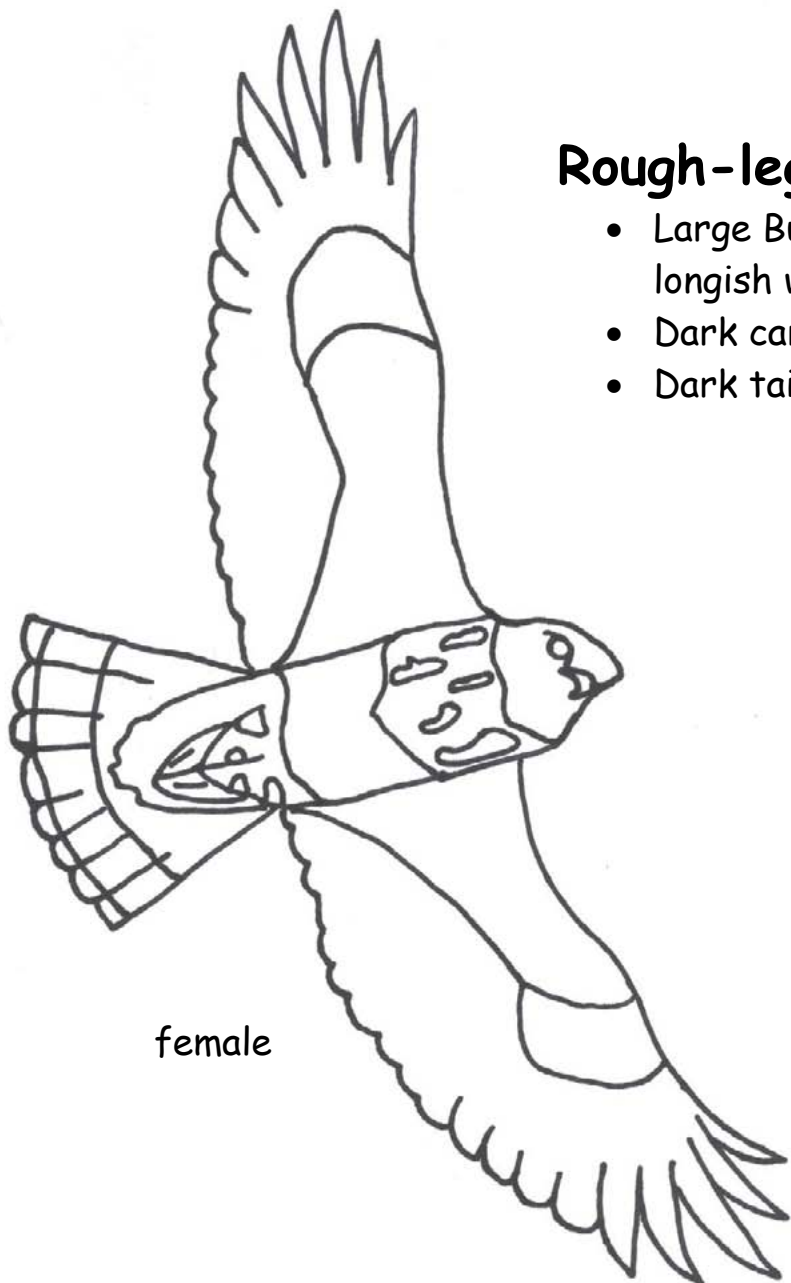
## Red-tailed Hawk

- Large Buteo with long, broad wings
- Light underwings with dark patagial markings and wrist commas
- Many have a dark belly band



## Rough-legged Hawk

- Large Buteo with longish wings
- Dark carpal patches
- Dark tail band



female

## Red-shouldered Hawk

- Medium-sized Buteo with a longish tail
- Black tail with thin, white tail bands
- Crescent-shaped light patches near wingtips



I am an adult **Red-tailed Hawk**

My scientific name is *Buteo jamaicensis*.

### Field Marks

I am a large **Buteo** with a four foot wingspan. Like other Buteos, I have a chunky body, broad wings, and I often soar with my tail fanned. My head, back, and wings are brown. I have whitish underparts. Many of us have dark markings that form a "belly band." My underwings are light with dark **patagial** patches. As an adult, I have a reddish tail. When I was young, I had a light brown tail with many dark-brown bars.

### Habitat

I am one of the most commonly seen hawks in North America. My range stretches from Alaska and Canada south to Panama. I am usually found in open areas with some forest cover. You can often see me when you are traveling on a highway because I perch on the side of the road, and hunt in the open, grassy areas.

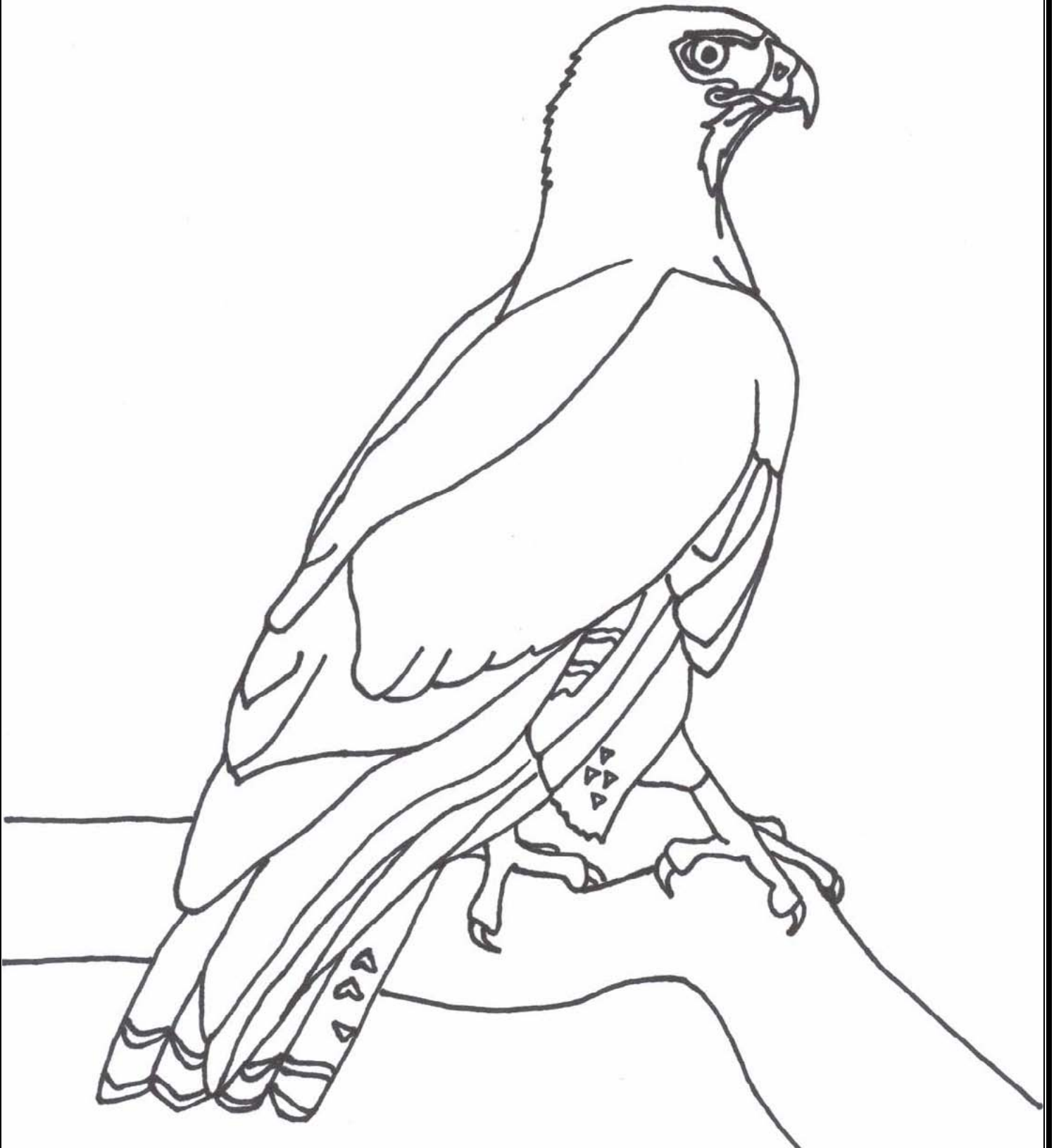
### Food

I often hunt from a perch. I eat small to medium-sized reptiles, birds, and mammals. I usually prey on the most common and the most easily caught animals living in my area. I also eat **carrion**.

### Migration

I am a **partial migrant**. I like to soar on **thermals** and **mountain updrafts** as I migrate. I do not fly over large bodies of water. I am the third most common migrant at Hawk Mountain. Each autumn, about 4,000 Red-tailed Hawks are counted at the Sanctuary. Almost all of us pass the lookout between early October and early December, and we usually are seen in the largest numbers in early November.

# Red-tailed Hawk





I am an adult female **Rough-legged Hawk**.

My scientific name is *Buteo lagopus*.

### Field Marks

I am a large **Buteo** with a long tail and long, broad wings. I am called a Rough-legged Hawk because my feet are feathered. Our plumage is usually light colored, but some of us are dark. My tail has a white base with a wide, dark band at the end, and I have dark **carpal** patches on the undersides of my wings. Because I am a female, I have a solid, dark belly band. In flight I often soar with my wings held in a slight "V."

### Habitat

I am found in sub-Arctic areas around the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, I breed from mid-Canada north to the Arctic Circle. In winter I migrate to southern Canada and the United States. I like to live in open habitats such as tundra, prairies, and marshlands.

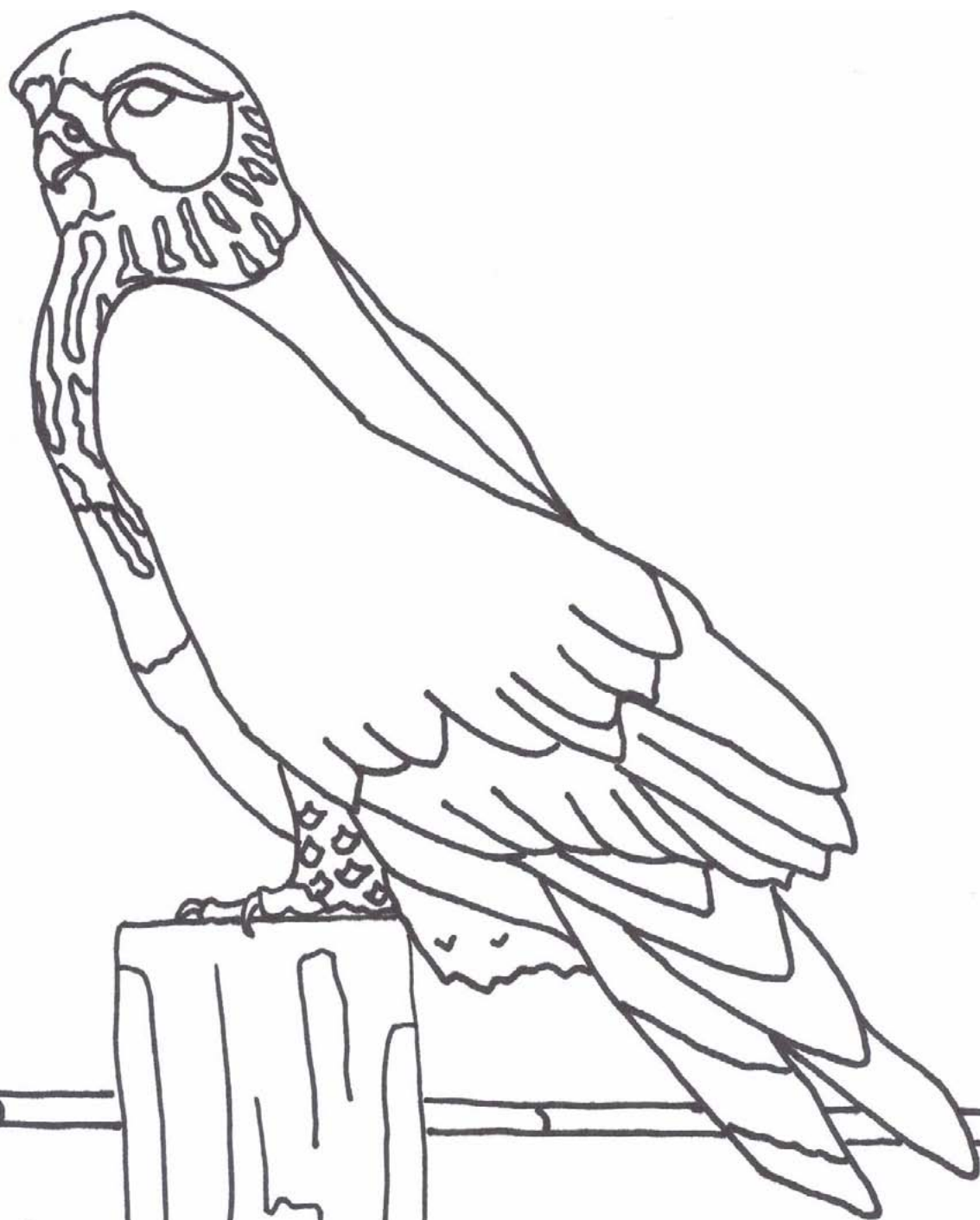
### Food

I often eat small rodents, especially lemmings, voles, and mice, as well as, small birds and **carrion**. I will hunt from perches and when hovering.

### Migration

I am a **complete migrant**. I am usually seen migrating alone, but I sometimes travel with other Roughlegs. I try to move away from areas with snow cover. Unlike many Buteos, I will sometimes make water-crossings when I migrate. I soar in **thermals** and **mountain updrafts**, but I flap more than many other Buteos. Only about 8 of us pass the lookouts at Hawk Mountain each autumn.

# Rough-legged Hawk



I am an adult **Red-shouldered Hawk**.

My scientific name is *Buteo lineatus*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a thin **Buteo** with a longish tail. Like other Buteos, I have broad wings and I often soar with my tail fanned. I have a brown head and back, black and white flight feathers, and rufous shoulders. My underparts are rufous with white barring and brown streaks. I have a black tail with thin white bands. When I was young, I was browner.

### **Habitat**

I live in forests, especially bottomland forests near streams, rivers, swamps, and marshes. I am found in southeastern Canada, the eastern United States, Oregon, California, and Mexico.

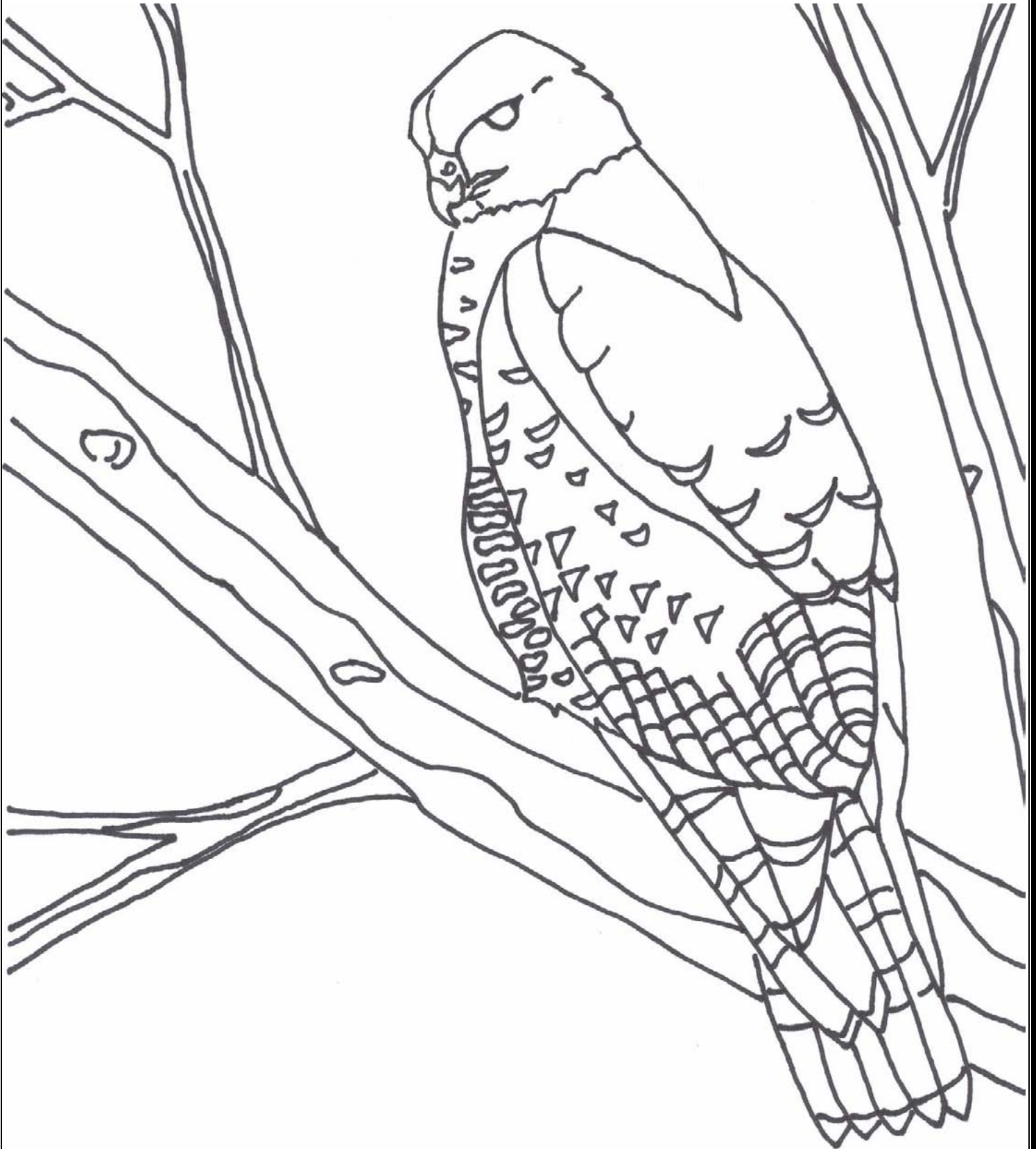
### **Food**

I hunt from perches and while in flight. I eat insects, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and small mammals.

### **Migration**

I am a **partial migrant**. Most of us who breed north of Hawk Mountain migrate. Birds that breed south of the Sanctuary are not as migratory. I usually migrate alone or in small flocks. I follow mountain ridges and coastlines as I fly south, and I do not like to fly over large bodies of water. About 300 of us are counted at Hawk Mountain each autumn. Most of the Red-shouldered Hawks that fly past the Sanctuary spend the winter in the southeastern United States, although some go as far as Mexico.

# Red-shouldered Hawk



I am an adult **Broad-winged Hawk**.

My scientific name is *Buteo platypterus*.

### **Field Marks**

I am a small **Buteo** about the size of an American Crow. My wingspan is about three feet. Like other Buteos, I have a chunky body, broad wings, and I often soar with my tail fanned. My head, back, and wings are brown and I have reddish-brown bars on my chest. My tail has thick black and white bands, and my underwings are light with a dark edge. When I was young, I was browner.

### **Habitat**

I like to live in large forests and I often hunt at the edge of the forest. I breed in the eastern United States and Canada and winter in Central America and South America. Some Broadwings live year-round on islands in the Caribbean.

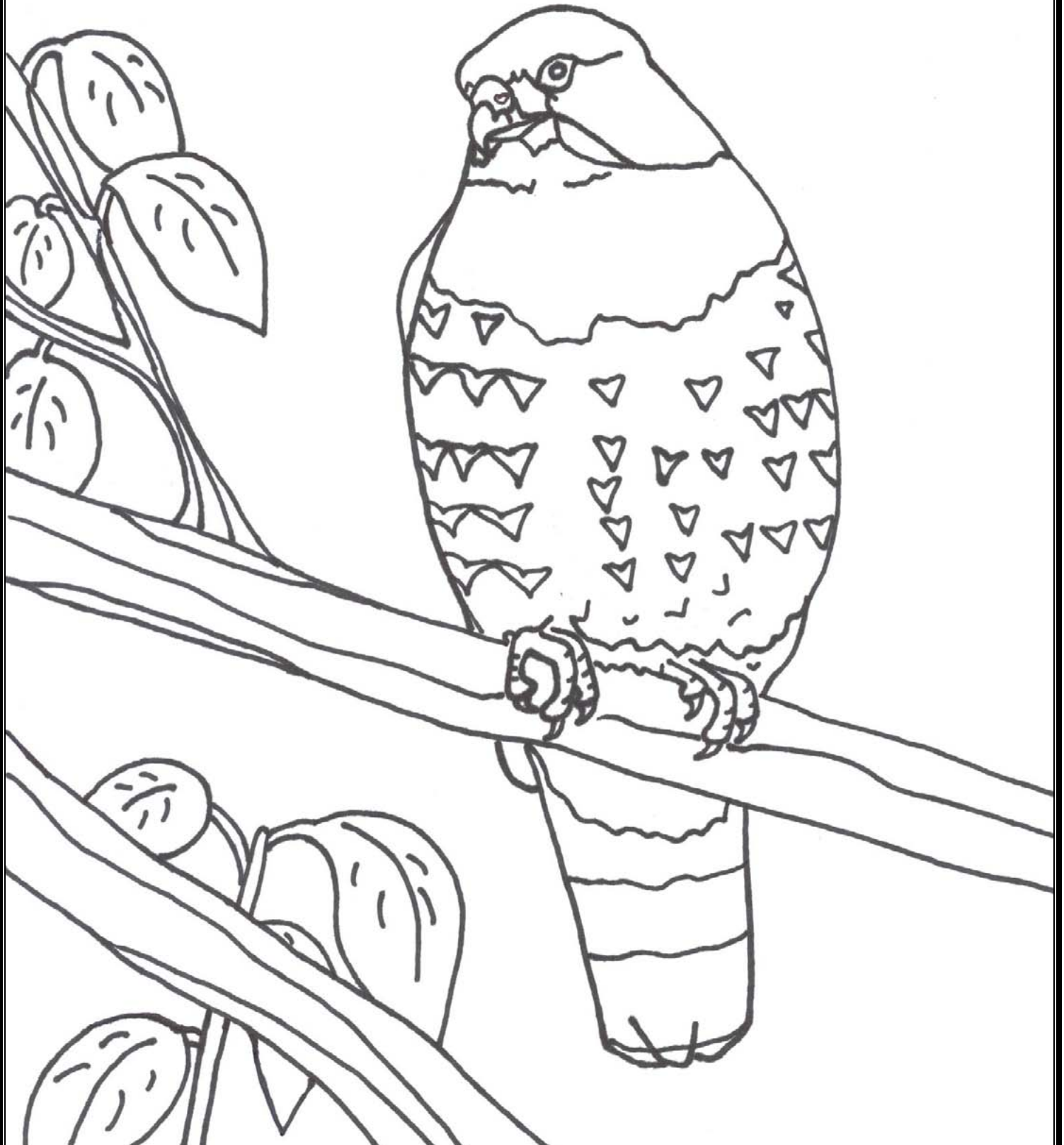
### **Food**

I usually hunt from a perch. I eat insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. When I migrate, I sometimes feed on songbirds and migrating insects.

### **Migration**

I am a **complete migrant**. I soar on **thermals** and **mountain updrafts** as I migrate. I migrate in early fall when thermals are strongest because the sun rises higher and the days are longer then. I usually fly with other Broadwings in **kettles** of a few birds to thousands of birds. I am the most common migrant at Hawk Mountain. Each autumn, about 7,000 of us are counted at the Sanctuary, mainly during the last two weeks of September.

# Broad-winged Hawk



## Glossary

**Accipiter:** A hawk that has short, rounded wings, and long tail. Accipiters are forest-dwelling raptors that use their long tails like rudders as they dart about the forest. These hawks often mix flapping, gliding, and soaring when they migrate. Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Northern Goshawks are Accipiters that are seen at Hawk Mountain.

**Buteo:** A hawk that has a chunky body and broad wings. Buteos often soar on migration. Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks are buteos that are seen at Hawk Mountain.

**Carnivore:** An animal that eats mostly meat.

**Carpal:** The wrist of a bird. Carpal patches are about halfway between the base and the tip of the wing. Rough-legged Hawks have dark carpal patches.

**Carrion:** Meat from the body of a dead animal.

**Complete migrant:** A species in which almost all individuals leave their breeding ranges and migrate to their wintering ranges.

**Eagle:** A very large raptor with long, broad wings. Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles are two eagles that are seen at Hawk Mountain.

**Falcon:** A raptor that has long, pointed wings and a long tail. Falcons are built for speed and when they migrate they fly quickly and often are seen in flapping flight. Peregrine Falcons, Merlins and American Kestrels are falcons that are seen at Hawk Mountain.

**Harrier:** A thin-bodied raptor that has long wings and a long tail. Harriers usually live in open habitats. The Northern Harrier is the only harrier that is seen at Hawk Mountain.

**Irruptive migrant:** A species whose migrations are more irregular than other migrants. Irruptive migrants are more likely to migrate in years when their food is scarce.

**Kettle:** A flock of raptors.

**Migrant:** A species that moves seasonally from one area to another.

**Mountain Updraft:** A mountain updraft is created when horizontal winds are blown up and over a mountain or hill. Mountain updrafts provide birds with lift and allow them to save energy because they are able to soar and do not need to flap as much.

**Osprey:** A raptor that has long, slender wings that they often hold in an "M" shape.

**Partial migrant:** A species in which some individuals migrate and others do not. Usually individuals living in northern portions of the species' range are more likely to migrate than those living farther south.

**Patagium:** The area on the leading edge of the wing between the body and the wrist. Red-tailed Hawks have dark patagial markings.

**Plumage:** A bird's feathers.

**Predator:** An animal that catches and kills other animals and eats them.

**Raptor:** A bird of prey with strong, powerful feet and sharp talons, and a sharp, hooked beak.

**Regurgitation Pellet:** A pellet made up of the indigestible material that raptors cough up.

**Roost:** Resting, usually at night.

**Scavenger:** An animal that feeds on dead animals or carrion.



**Talons:** Sharp claws that raptors have at the ends of their toes.

**Thermal:** A column of hot rising air that birds can soar in. Rising columns of hot air form when the Sun heats the earth's surface at different rates. By soaring in thermals, birds save energy because they do not need to flap as much.

**Vulture:** Large, almost Eagle-sized birds with featherless heads. Vultures are mostly scavengers and they do not have strong, powerful feet like other raptors. Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures are vultures that are seen at Hawk Mountain.

# Raptor Checklist

Species	Where seen	When seen
Turkey Vulture		
Black Vulture		
Osprey		
Northern Goshawk		
Cooper's Hawk		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		
Bald Eagle		
Golden Eagle		
Peregrine Falcon		
Merlin		
American Kestrel		
Red-tailed Hawk		
Rough-legged Hawk		
Red-shouldered Hawk		
Broad-winged Hawk		
Northern Harrier		

# Field Notes

# Field Notes

# Field Notes

Broad-winged Hawk



Rough-legged Hawk



Red-shouldered Hawk

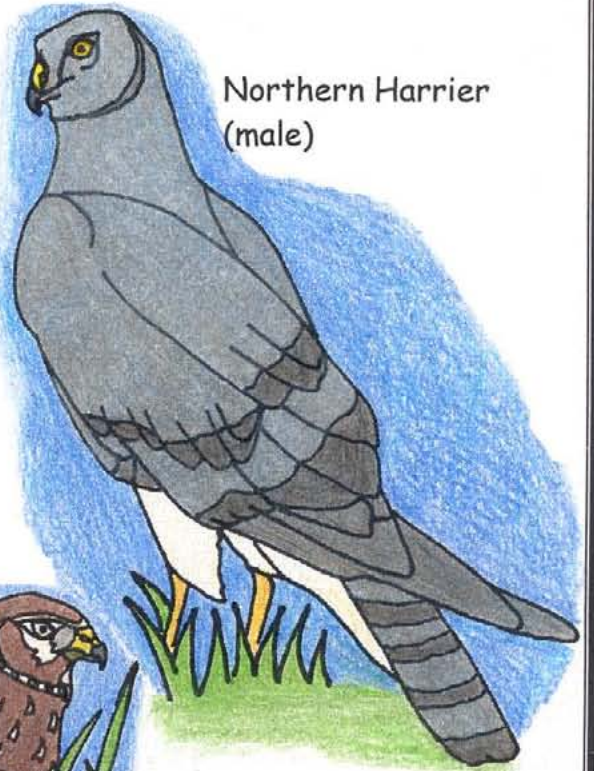


Red-tailed Hawk



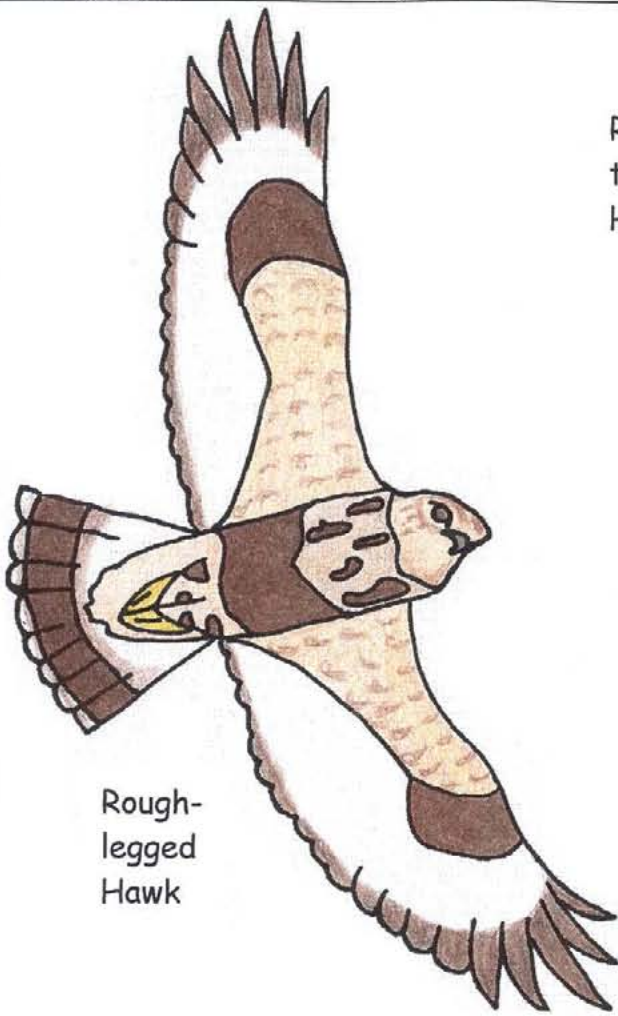
## Buteos & Northern Harrier

Northern Harrier (male)



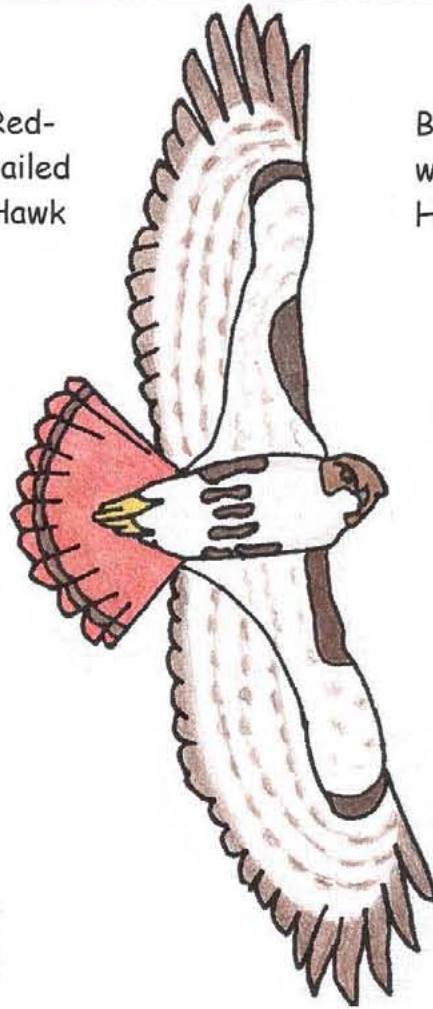
Northern Harrier (female)



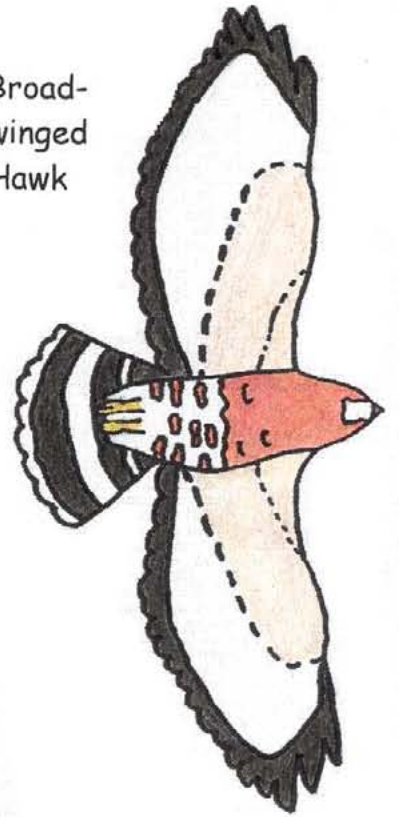


Rough-  
legged  
Hawk

Red-  
tailed  
Hawk



Broad-  
winged  
Hawk



## Buteos & Northern Harrier



Red-  
shouldered  
Hawk



Northern  
Harrier