

# Golden Eagle

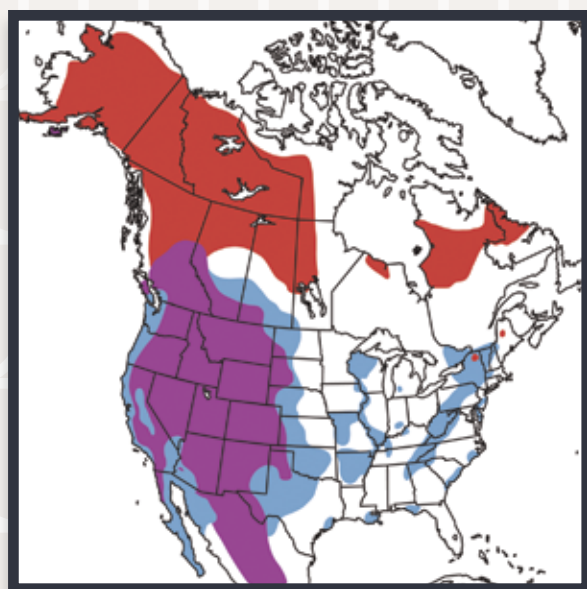
*Aquila chrysaetos*



Wingspan: 72-89"  
Average length: 28-35"



Golden Eagle / Krogman



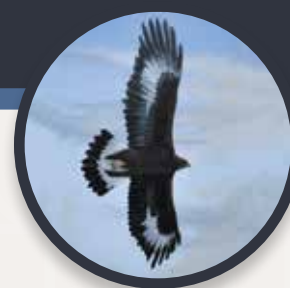
■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America

American  
Crow

## In the exhibit:



Adult (mounted)  
Two adults and one juvenile



## Habitat

Golden Eagles can be found in the western mountains and plains, in the forests of northeastern North America, as well as in the blufflands of southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin in winter.

## Adaptations

Golden Eagles are distributed around the world, across the northern hemisphere, in varied habitats including tundra, forest and desert.

## Diet

Golden Eagles feed on small mammals, reptiles, and birds, but are also known to hunt much larger prey including pronghorn, wild turkeys, and white-tailed deer.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Large, brown body
- Distinct golden color on the nape (back of the neck)
- Juveniles have well defined white patches on the underside of the wing and tail

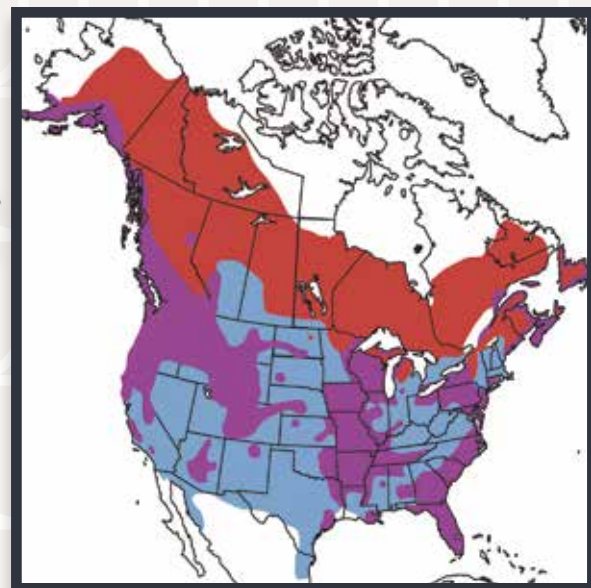
Golden Eagles are one of the largest birds in North America, with wingspans of 6-8 feet (2-2.75m). They typically soar with a slight dihedral or V-shaped wing position.

# Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



Wingspan: 71-96"  
Length: 27-35"

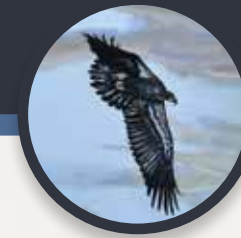


■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America

## In the exhibit:



Two juveniles and  
one adult (mural)

## Habitat

Bald Eagles are found across North America, nesting in nearly every U.S. state. Preferred habitat is typically, but not exclusively, near lakes and rivers. Large nests are commonly built atop mature white pines or cottonwood trees.

## Adaptations

Having an eagle eye is an apt metaphor: the Bald Eagle's large eyes and keen vision allow them to see a rabbit running up to 3 miles away.

## Diet

Bald Eagles are opportunistic predators. Part of the Fish (Sea) Eagle family, their primary diet is fish. However, they also scavenge on carrion and feed on small mammals, reptiles, and birds.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Large, brown body and wings
- Distinct white feathered head and tail (adult)
- Juvenile is primarily brown, but may have a mottled appearance.

Bald Eagles reach maturity at five to six years of age, as indicated by white head and tail feathers.

# Red-Tailed Hawk

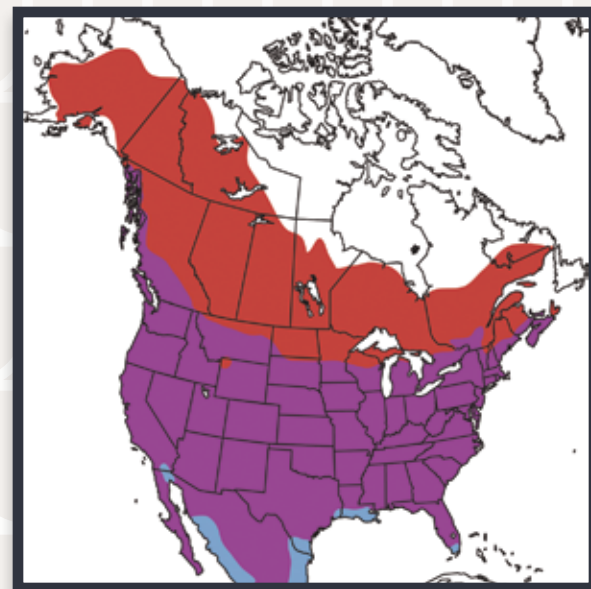
*Buteo jamaicensis*



Red-Tailed Hawk / Denise Bush



Wingspan: 43-56"  
Length: 17-22"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

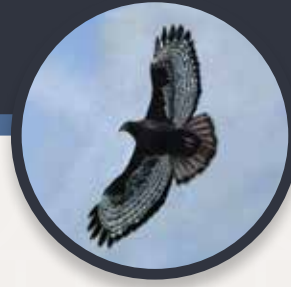
Range maps adapted from  
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Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

## In the exhibit:



Adult and juvenile (mounted)  
Adult, rufous morph (mural)



## Habitat

Red-Tailed Hawks live in a variety of habitats, including open fields, forests, and deserts.

## Adaptations

Red-Tailed Hawks are well adapted to urban or rural life, perching on light poles and fences, or hunting in roadside ditches.

## Diet

Red-Tailed Hawks eat a variety of animals including mice, voles, rabbits, squirrels, birds, and snakes. In winter, they occasionally feed on carrion.

## Field Marks and Notes

Red-Tailed Hawks plumage can vary widely by region. The following field marks describe a light morph, a common plumage pattern:

- Light breast
- Belly band (dark feathers across the belly)
- Dark patagial bar (visible on outstretched wings, on the front edge of the wing near the body)

Morphs, or plumage patterns, for Red-Tailed Hawks include light, dark, and rufous (a reddish-brown color).

*Look up and find the rufous morph Red-Tailed Hawk.*

# Rough-Legged Hawk

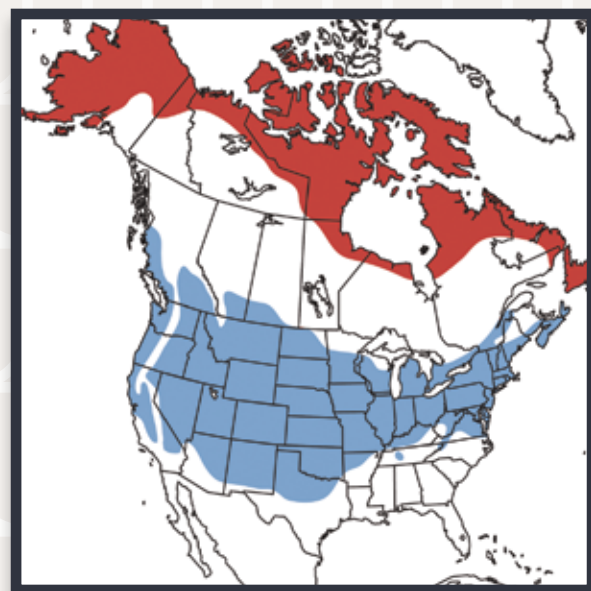
*Buteo lagopus*



Rough-Legged Hawk / Frank Taylor



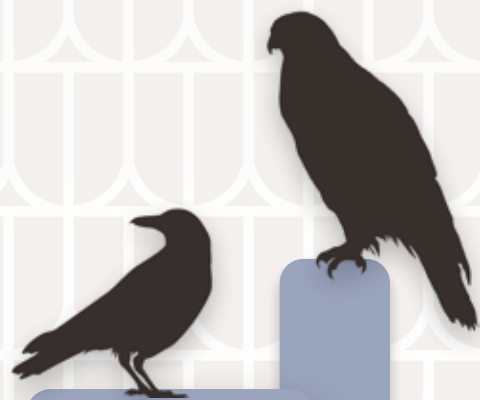
Wingspan: 48-56"  
Length: 18-23"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

## In the exhibit:



Adult (mounted)  
Adult, dark morph (mural)  
Adult (mural)



## Habitat

Rough-Legged Hawks breed in the open arctic tundra, but spend the winter in fields or grasslands across the United States.

## Adaptations

Small feet allow Rough-Legged Hawks to perch on very small branches.

## Diet

Rough-Legged Hawks prey on lemmings and other small mammals in the tundra. In winter, they feed on mice, voles, and birds.

## Field Marks and Notes

- White at the base of the tail
- Dark patches on the wrist (midway on the outstretched wing)
- Soars with wings in slight dihedral, V-shaped wing position

Rough-Legged Hawks are named for their feathered legs. Feathers cover the legs down to the toes, insulating them from the arctic cold, sort of like wearing long underwear!

# Red-Shouldered Hawk

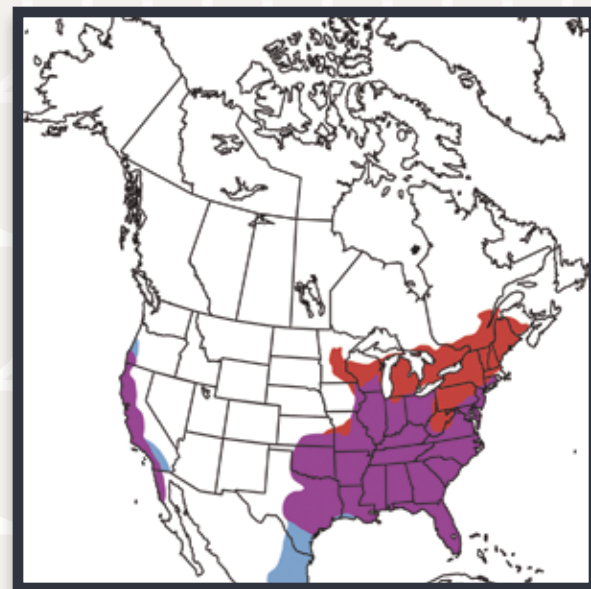
*Buteo lineatus*



Red-Shouldered Hawk / Frank Taylor



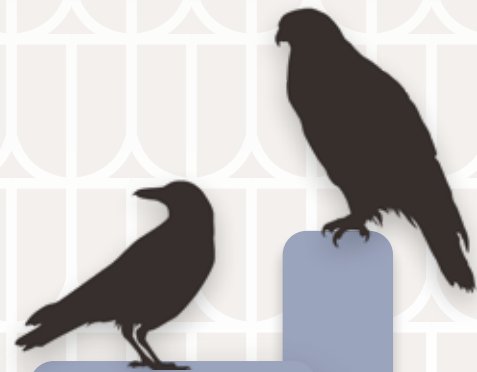
Wingspan: 37-42"  
Length: 15-19"



- Regular breeding range
- Regular year-round range
- Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American Crow

In the exhibit:



Adult (mounted)

## Habitat

Red-Shouldered Hawks live in lowland forests, especially near swamps or rivers.

## Adaptations

Long tails help Red-Shouldered Hawks maneuver through dense, swampy woods.

## Diet

Red-Shouldered Hawks eat small mammals, frogs, birds, and even crayfish.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Reddish shoulders and breast
- Translucent “windows” on their outstretched wings when seen from below

Red-Shouldered Hawks are often heard before they're seen, with their characteristic scream: *kee yar, kee yar, kee yar*.

*The mounted Red-Shouldered Hawk was made possible by a gift from an anonymous donor in honor of the remarkable ambassador eagles and staff of the National Eagle Center.*

# Broad-Winged Hawk

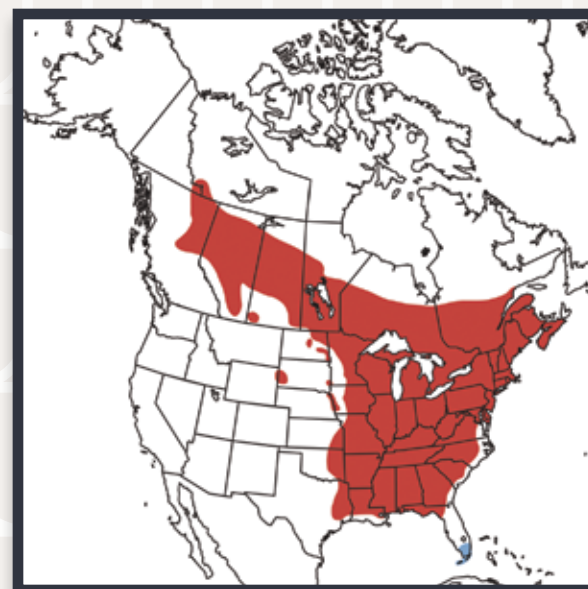
*Buteo platypterus*



Broad-Winged Hawk / Frank Taylor



Wingspan: 32-36"  
Length: 14-17"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
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Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

In the exhibit:



Juvenile (mounted)  
Adult and juvenile  
(mural)

## Habitat

Broad-Winged Hawks nest in deciduous woodlands across eastern North America and migrate in the early fall to the forests of equatorial South America.

## Adaptations

Broad-Winged Hawks, like many raptors, can see into the ultraviolet spectrum, allowing them to see urine trails to help locate their prey!

## Diet

Broad-Winged Hawks feed primarily on reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, and insects such as grasshoppers, caterpillars, and praying mantis.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Relatively short tail, more squared at the end than other buteos
- Tail has distinct broad white band (adult)
- Dark trailing edge of underwing

Migrating Broad-Winged Hawks are well known to form large congregations or kettles. A kettle is a group of raptors, usually hawks, soaring on warm air currents, often circling as they rise, like bubbles in a boiling kettle.

*Look up and find the kettle of hawks in the mural.*

# Swainson's Hawk

*Buteo swainsoni*



Swainson's Hawk / Audio Excellence



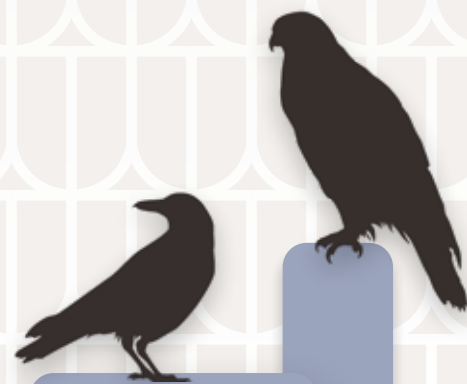
Wingspan: 47-54"  
Length: 17-22"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

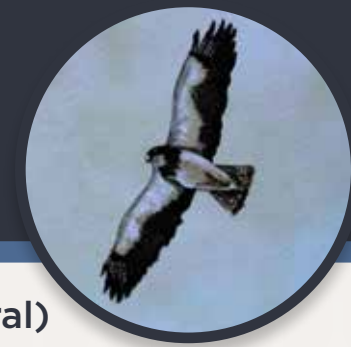
Range maps adapted from  
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Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

In the exhibit:



Adult (mural)

## Habitat

Swainson's Hawks breed in grasslands and agricultural areas of western North America and spend the winter in Central and South America.

## Adaptations

Swainson's Hawks often follow tractors working agricultural fields, seizing the insects and rodents disturbed by the machinery.

## Diet

Swainson's Hawks feed on large insects like grasshoppers most of the year, but nestlings are often fed small mammals and birds.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Dark breast or "bib"
- Distinct light and dark pattern on the underside of the wing —light color toward the front edge with a dark trailing edge

Many Swainson's Hawks migrate more than 6,000 miles from Canada to Argentina in as little as two months, averaging 124 miles per day!

# Osprey

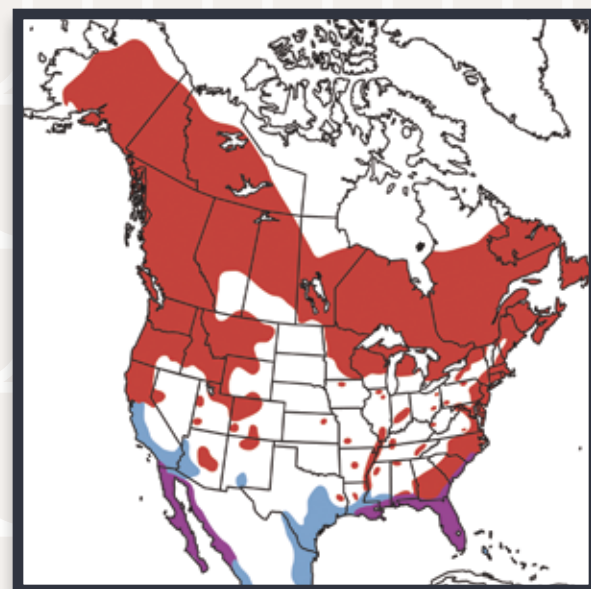
*Pandion haliaetus*



Osprey / Simon Carrasco - CCPL 2.0



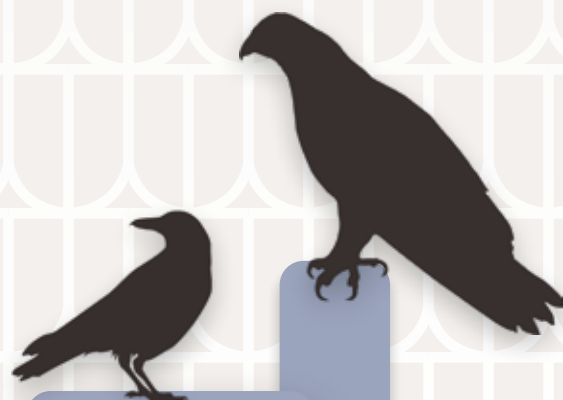
Wingspan: 59-67"  
Length: 21-26"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

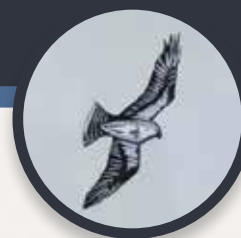
Range maps adapted from  
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Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

## In the exhibit:



Adult (mounted)  
Adult (mural)



### Habitat

Osprey occupy diverse habitats near bodies of water around the world.

### Adaptations

Osprey feet are especially adapted to catch and carry fish. When needed to carry fish more easily, Osprey can arrange their toes with two toes forward and two back, unlike most other raptors that always have three toes forward and only one in back.

### Diet

Osprey almost exclusively eat fish. They are sometimes called fish hawks.

### Field Marks and Notes

- Black eye stripe
- Distinct "M" shape of outstretched wings
- Black marks at the wrist

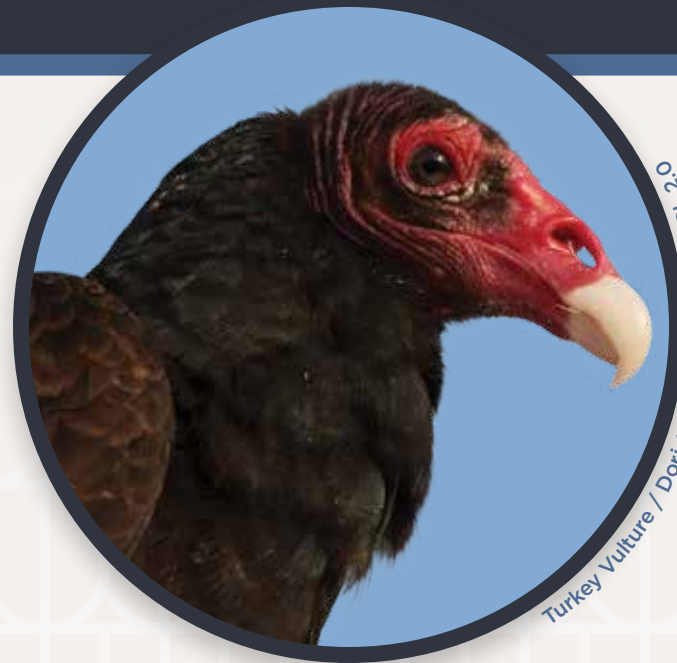
Though smaller, Ospreys are often better at catching fish than Bald Eagles since they are able to plunge into the water and still take flight with their catch.

*This mounted Osprey was made possible by a gift from Bruce and Carolyn Adams.*



# Turkey Vulture

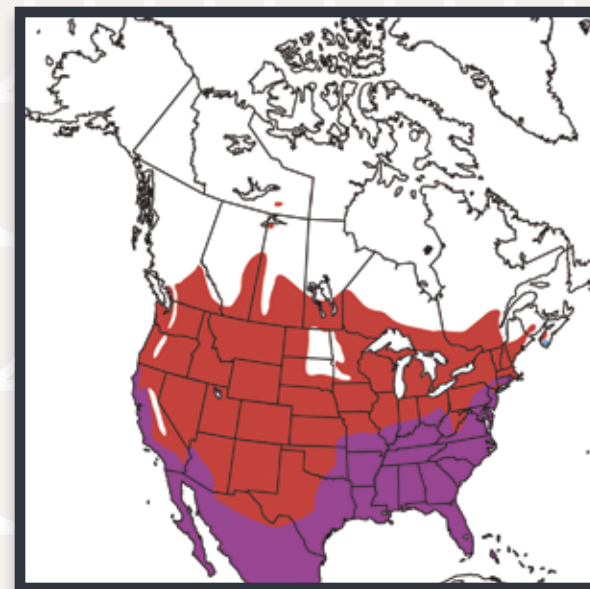
*Cathartes aura*



Turkey Vulture / Dori (dori@merr.info) - CC BY 2.0



Wingspan: 63-71"  
Length: 24-28"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
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Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

## In the exhibit:



Juvenile (mounted)  
114 in kettle (mural)

## Habitat

Turkey Vultures live in a wide variety of habitat types throughout their range.

## Adaptations

Turkey Vultures use their keen sense of smell to find their food. Their bald, unfeathered heads clean off easily after delving into a carcass to feed, helping to limit bacteria and disease.

## Diet

Unable to kill prey, these scavengers feed on carrion, or animals that are already dead.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Wings held in dihedral or V-shape
- Gentle rocking or tilting when soaring
- Contrasting dark and light pattern on underside of wings
- Often seen soaring in groups or kettles

Lacking powerful feet and sharp talons to kill their prey, these meat-eating birds are not technically raptors.

Vultures are highly social. They often gather around a carcass to feed, and roost in groups at night.

# Northern Harrier

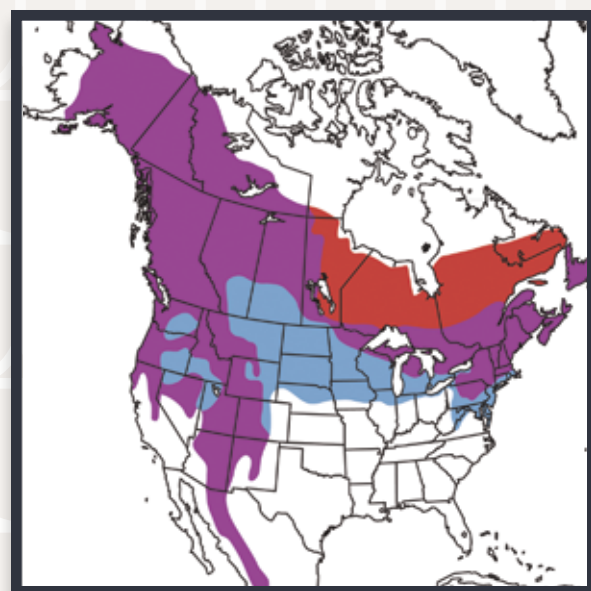
*Circus cyaneus*



Northern Harrier / Frank Taylor



Wingspan: 38-48"  
Length: 16-20"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

In the exhibit:



Adult male (mural)

## Habitat

Northern Harriers can be found throughout North America in open fields and marshlands.

## Adaptations

Northern Harriers have a facial disc, which is an arrangement of feathers on the face that funnels sound to their ears, amplifying sounds of their prey moving in the vegetation below.

## Diet

Northern Harriers are versatile predators that feed on mice, shrews, voles, rabbits, songbirds, amphibians, and reptiles.

## Field Marks and Notes

- White rump patch visible in flight
- Contrasting black wingtips (male)
- Brown streaks on buffy breast (female and juvenile)

Northern Harriers often fly low over a marsh or field with uplifted wings and a butterfly-like flight pattern.

# Peregrine Falcon

*Falco peregrinus*

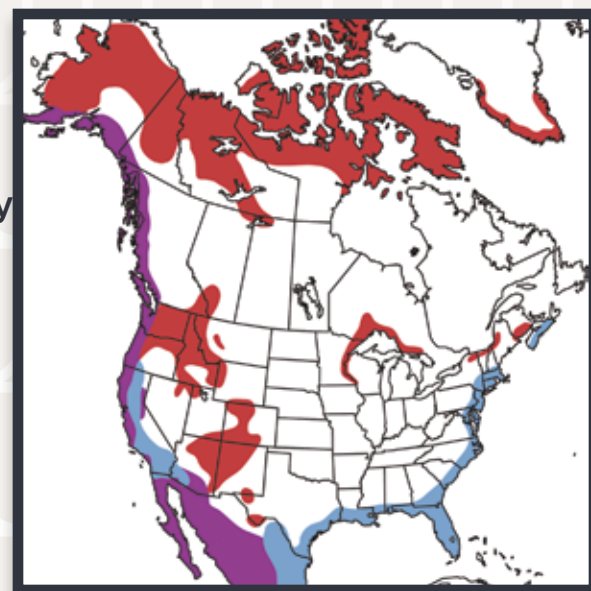


Peregrine Falcon / Lyle Mallen



Wingspan: 37-46"  
Length: 14-18"

Reintroduced birds are found throughout the U.S., particularly in cities.



- Regular breeding range
- Regular year-round range
- Regular winter range

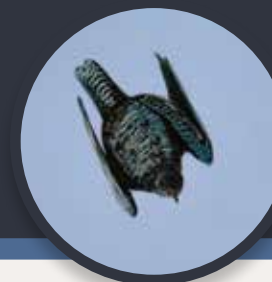
Range maps adapted from *The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of Hawk Migration Association of North America



American Crow

In the exhibit:



Juvenile (mounted)



Adult in stoop (mural)

## Habitat

Peregrine Falcons nest on cliff faces in the arctic, rock outcroppings of Lake Superior's North Shore, and the bluffs of the Mississippi River valley. More recently they have begun to use urban skyscrapers, smokestacks, and bridge supports for nesting.

## Adaptations

Peregrine Falcons have a unique hunting style. Searching for prey from above, they go into a stoop (a fast dive), and strike at high speeds, breaking the prey's spinal column.

## Diet

Feeding mainly on birds, their typical diet includes shorebirds, ducks, gulls, and pigeons.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Long, tapered wings
- Black hood with dark gray back
- Barred belly, legs and tail

Peregrine Falcons are the fastest animal on the planet and have been clocked at over 200 mph. They also inhabit every continent except Antarctica.

# Merlin

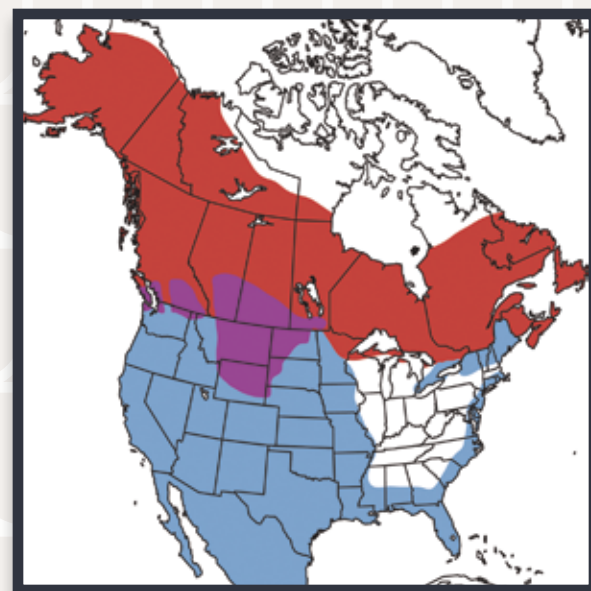
*Falco columbarius*



Merlin / Frank Taylor



Wingspan: 21-27"  
Length: 9-12"



- Regular breeding range
- Regular year-round range
- Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

## In the exhibit:



Juvenile (mounted)

### Habitat

Merlins can be found in forests and prairies as well as in urban and suburban settings.

### Adaptations

Like all falcons, Merlins have a tomial tooth, a notch on their beak, which they use to snap their prey's spinal column.

### Diet

Merlins' primary diet is sparrow-sized songbirds, but they also prey on larger birds such as American Robins and Northern Flickers.

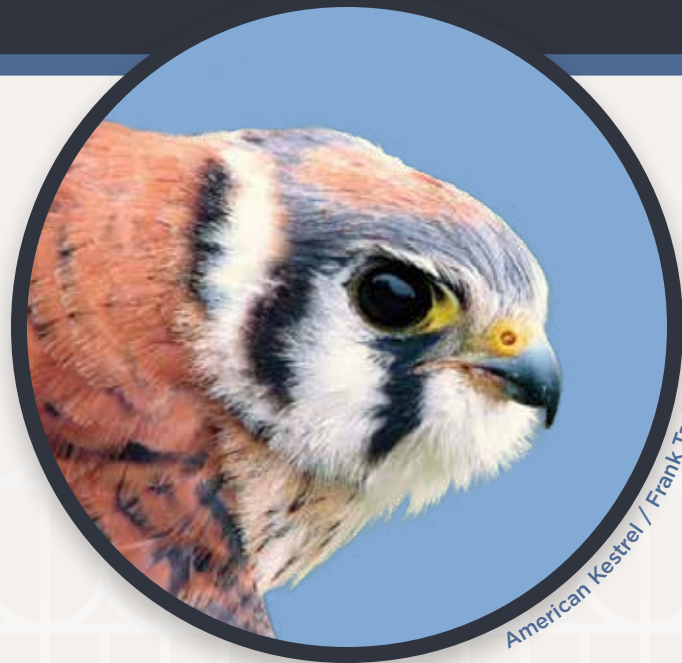
### Field Marks and Notes

- Pale eyebrow
- Streaked breast

Merlins are very vocal raptors with a shrill *ki-ki-kee* call that is used in courtship as well as territorial defense.

# American Kestrel

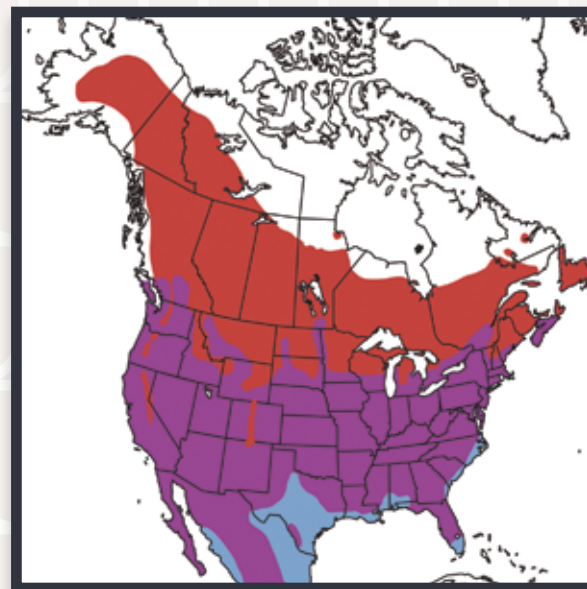
*Falco sparverius*



American Kestrel / Frank Taylor



Wingspan: 20-24"  
Length: 8-11"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

In the exhibit:



Adult male (mural)

## Habitat

American Kestrels are found in grassland and meadow habitats with short ground-cover including agricultural fields.

## Adaptations

American Kestrels have a unique hunting style that involves hovering in place with rapid wing beats while searching for prey.

## Diet

American Kestrels primarily eat insects including grasshoppers, cicadas, and dragonflies. They occasionally feed on snakes, lizards, frogs, small mammals, or birds.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Prominent malar marks, black “sideburns” common to all falcons
- Reddish-orange back with black spots
- Slate blue-gray wings and crown (male)

American Kestrels are one of the few sexually dimorphic raptors, with adult males and females having different plumage.

As cavity nesters, American Kestrels will sometimes use nest boxes placed in the right habitat.

# Northern Goshawk

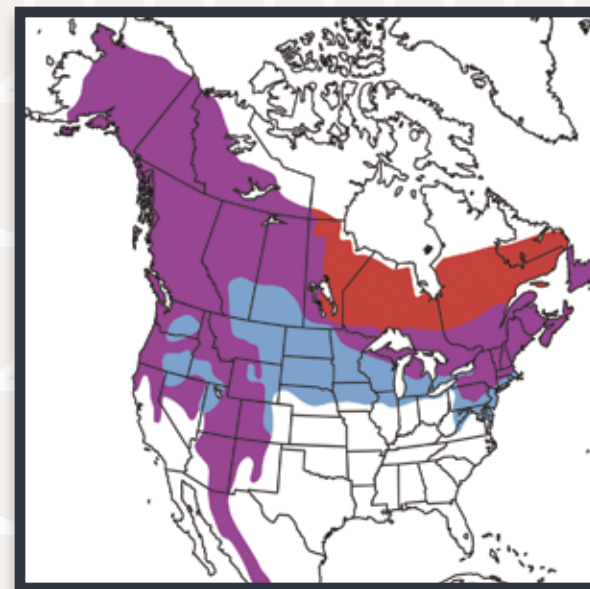
*Accipiter gentilis*



Northern Goshawk / Frank Taylor



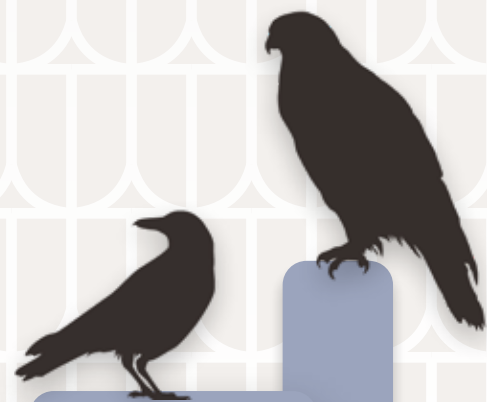
Wingspan: 38-45"  
Length: 18-24"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

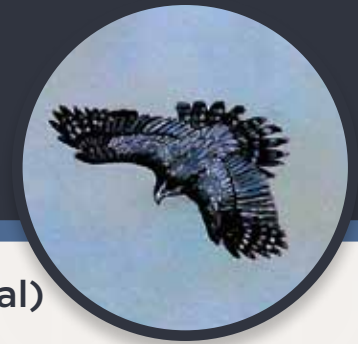
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Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

In the exhibit:



Adult (mural)

## Habitat

Northern Goshawks nest in mature northern forests.

## Adaptations

Like other accipiters, Northern Goshawks' eyes change color as they age. Juvenile Goshawks have bright yellow eyes, while adults' eyes are a deep red.

## Diet

Northern Goshawks prey primarily on snowshoe hares and ruffed grouse, but may also eat other birds including pigeons and waterfowl.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Dark cap and stripe through the eye
- White eyebrow stripe
- Blue-gray back and wings

Very protective of their nests, Northern Goshawks are known to respond aggressively to people or animals that approach too closely.

# Cooper's Hawk

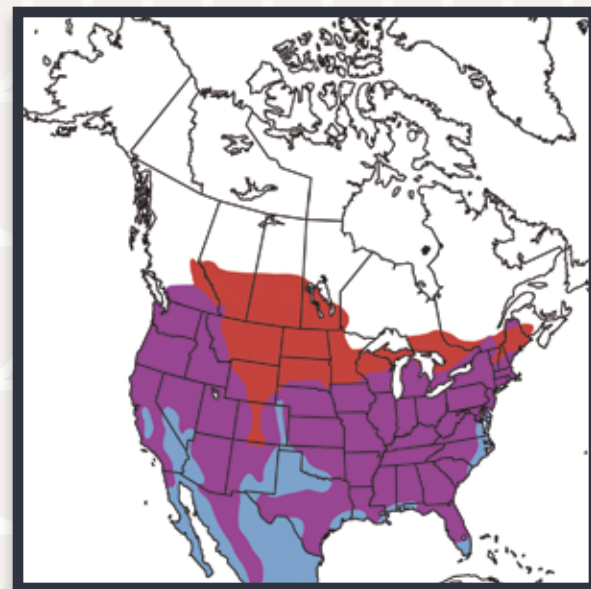
*Accipiter cooperii*



Cooper's Hawk / Frank Taylor



Wingspan: 28-34"  
Length: 14-19"



■ Regular breeding range  
■ Regular year-round range  
■ Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America



American  
Crow

## In the exhibit:



Two juveniles (mounted)  
Juvenile (mural)



## Habitat

Cooper's Hawks can be found in dense forested areas as well as in urban and suburban landscapes.

## Adaptations

Cooper's Hawks have relatively long legs and use their strong feet and sharp talons to kill their prey with pulsing squeezes.

## Diet

Cooper's Hawks prey mainly on other birds including pigeons, mourning doves and songbirds, but will occasionally take small mammals such as squirrels.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Slate gray back and dark cap (adult)
- Horizontally barred orange breast and belly (adult)
- Streaked breast and belly (juvenile)

Cooper's Hawk populations were once declining, but taking advantage of backyard birdfeeders to locate prey, their numbers are now stable.

# Sharp-Shinned Hawk

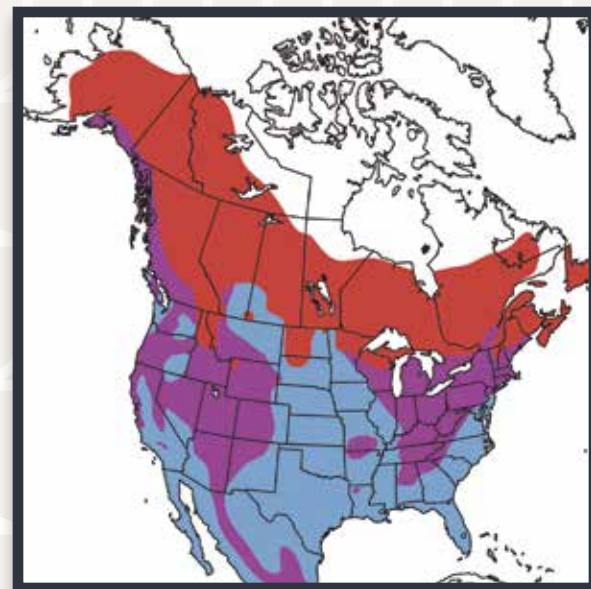
*Accipiter striatus*



Sharp-Shinned Hawk / Frank Taylor



Wingspan: 20-26"  
Length: 9-13"

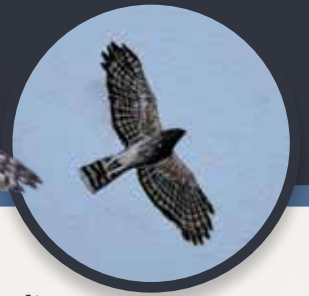


- Regular breeding range
- Regular year-round range
- Regular winter range

Range maps adapted from  
*The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors*, Princeton University Press

Drawing of field marks by Paul Carrier, courtesy of  
Hawk Migration Association of North America

In the exhibit:



Adult and juvenile (mounted)  
Juvenile (mural)

## Habitat

Sharp-Shinned Hawks nest in dense, boreal forests. In winter they inhabit forest edges, urban, and suburban landscapes.

## Adaptations

Sharp-Shinned Hawks use their short rounded wings and long tail to maneuver skillfully through tangles of brush in pursuit of their prey.

## Diet

Songbirds (robin-sized or smaller) make up the majority of the Sharp-Shinned Hawk diet.

## Field Marks and Notes

- Dark gray back and wings
- Reddish-orange barring on breast and belly (adult)
- Heavily streaked breast and belly (juvenile)

Similar in plumage to Cooper's Hawks, a large female Sharp-Shinned can easily be confused with a small male Cooper's Hawk.

Don't underestimate these guys because they're small! Before bringing prey to its mate or young, a male Sharp-Shinned Hawk will often tear off the prey's head and eat it.



American Crow



# Mural Key

