

Mecklenburg Audubon Society



Species Notes: Hawks in Flight

To help you get ready for hawking watching this fall here are some tips for distinguishing between the three basic types of raptors.

Buteos:

Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged

- high-soaring
- chunky bodies
- large, broad wings
- short, rounded tails



Accipiters:

Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, N. Goshawk

- rounded wings and long tails
- Cooper's hawks - flap, flap, glide
- Cooper's hawks - longer neck that extends beyond their wings
- Sharp-shinned hawk - smaller neck, head does not extend beyond the line of their wing



Falcons:

Perigrine, Merlin and Kestrel

- long, pointed wings
- long tail
- powerful wingbeats
- constant flapping



