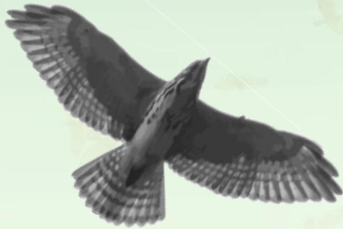


# GUIDE TO MIGRATORY RAPTORS SEEN IN SOUTH AMERICA

These are the migratory raptors observed in different areas of South America. Many species have a wide variety of appearances, depending on age, sex and their colorations.

## BUTEOS

Broad wings and broad round tails, often seen gliding in circles.



*Buteo platypterus*  
**Broad-winged Hawk**

Rounded wings with marked wing margin in adults, wide fan-shaped tail with black and white bands.



*Buteo swainsoni*  
**Swainson's Hawk**

Wings wide and elongated, slightly pointed and held above body, dark flight feathers



*\*Buteo jamaicensis*  
**Red-tailed Hawk**

Unmarked light-to-red tail; 9 morphs  
Very visible patagials

## KITES

Long, thin or triangular tail. Wings long and sharp, in some cases wide and rounded.



*Ictinia mississippiensis*  
**Mississippi Kite**

Long, narrow wings, triangular tail. Acrobatic and erratic behavior when flying.



✂ *Ictinia plumbea*  
**Plumbeous Kite**

Very similar to Mississippi kite, tail slightly shorter with a white band. Very characteristic orange patches on the primaries.



✂ *Elanoides forficatus*  
**Swallow-tailed Kite**

Very long, thin and sharp wings. Scissor-shaped tail very characteristic of the species



✂ *Chondrohierax uncinatus*  
**Hook-billed Kite**

Very wide wings with defined "fingers", wide and long tail. Slow wingbeats

## ACCIPITERS

Short and very wide wings. Long tail



*\* Accipiter cooperii*  
**Cooper's Hawk**

Cross shape: Long, rounded tail, short wings and prominent head. Flappy wing beats with pauses



✂ *\*Accipiter striatus*  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

T shape: pronounced shoulders, small head. Square off tail.

\* Observed north of the continent  
✂ With resident populations

# GUIDE TO MIGRATORY RAPTORS SEEN IN SOUTH AMERICA

These are the migratory raptors observed in different areas of South America. Many species have a wide variety of appearances, depending on age, sex and their phases.

## FALCONS

Long pointed wings. Long, thin tail. When not in direct flight, less pointed silhouette. Active and direct flight with fast wingbeats.



✂ *Falco peregrinus*  
**Peregrine falcon**

Long, pointed wings. Long rounded tail.  
Fast and deep wingbeats



*Falco columbarius*  
**Merlin**

Thin, sharp wings. Long tail. Fast  
consecutive wingbeats



✂ \* *Falco sparverius*  
**American kestrel**

Light underneath. Often seen levitating  
with short, fast wingbeats looking at the  
ground



*Circus hudsonius*  
**Northern Harrier**

Long, narrow wings and long, thin tail. V-  
shaped wings in glide. Facial disc



✂ *Cathartes aura*  
**Turkey Vulture**

Very wide and long wings. Long and  
round tail. V-shaped wings in glide. At a  
distance the head is almost non-existent.  
Resident subspecies



*Pandion haliaetus*  
**Osprey**

"M" shape. Broad and long wings, black  
patches on the wings, and a long tail.

\* Observed north of the continent

✂ With resident populations

This guide has been produced with the financial support of the Hawk Migration Association (HMA). HMA is a nonprofit organization committed to the conservation of birds of prey through the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration.

Esther Vallejo S., Alfredo Beltrán S., Daniel Gutiérrez S.

