

Raptor	Type	Relative Size	Wing Shape	Tail Length	Head	Chest	Wing	Tail	Flight Char.	Other
Sharp-Shinned	Accipt	Blue Jay	Broad	Long	Small	Heavy Streaks	Short, Wrists Forward	Notched or Straight, Narrow at body	Quick, Snappy	Along Ridges in high winds soars in full tuck
Cooper	Accipt	Crow	Broad	Long	Large	Fine Streaks	Long, Wrists straight except in tuck	Round, wide at body	Stiff, Slow from shoulder	Never soars in full tuck in high winds
Kestrel	Falcon	Robin	Pointed	Long	Moustache Stripes	Light, Tawny	Sickle Shaped, Narrow. Row of White Dots on Trailing edge	Male: single black band; Fem: Orange with multiple bands	Fluttery and wandering	
Merlin	Falcon	Robin	Pointed	Medium	Dark	Dark	Dark, Broad at body, hard angles	Narrow White Bands	Pigeon-like, hard pumping, direct	Small, dark, travels fast
Peregrine	Falcon	Slightly larger than Crow	Pointed	Long, Tapered	Single wide moustache	Light	Long, tapered, broad at base	Banded; Juv have wide, white tip	Steady, Rhythmic beat, powerful	Can Soar
Broad Wing	Buteo	Raven	Broad	Broad but thin when gliding	Heavy streak, face, throat white on adults	Heavy Streaks	Broad, White outline in black, tapered in soar	Mature have Wide White Sub-terminal band	Stiff and Choppy wing beat, Soars with candle tapered wings, glides wings down	Frequently migrates in large numbers
Red-Shouldered	Buteo	Medium	Broad, long	Long	Dark	Streaky	Translucent Crescents at tip of wings	Even banding	Wings held forward, Slight droop,	Flaps like an accipiter
Red-Tailed	Buteo	Large	Broad, long	Medium	Dark	Belly Band	Dark, patagial patch, Wrist commas	Red in adult: barred brown in juv.	Slow, heavy	Kites, Slight dihedral
Harrier	Harrier	Medium	Long, slender	Long	Dark, Owl disk	Male white; fem, Juv tawny	Male Black tips; Fem, juv streaked	Banded	Dihedral, lazy loping beat	White rump patch
Osprey	Osprey	Large	Long, Crooked	Long, broad	Dark eye stripe	Brown and white	Dark, white wrists	Fine banding	Soars more than flaps	Short-headed compared with tail
Bald Eagle	Eagle	Large	Long, Broad	Long	Adult White; Juv dark	Dark: Juv may have white	Plank like, Juv White underwing coverts	Adult White; Juv Dark	High upstroke, soars like an ironing board	Head and tail appear equal length
Golden Eagle	Eagle	Large	Long, Broad	Long	Tawny	Dark	Juv, White at base flight feathers	Dark; Juv white with dark band at base	Flat or slight dihedral, little up stroke	Head appears small compared to tail
Turkey Vulture	Vulture	Large	Long, Broad	Long	Red in adult, Small	Dark	Silver trailing edge	Long	Dihedral, Rocks in flight	
Black Vulture	Vulture	Large	Long, Broad	Short and broader than TV	Dark	Dark	White at tips	Short	Wings held forward and flat	

RAPTOR CHART by *Peter Zwadyk* for *Blue Ridge Birders*