

**IDENTIFICATION OF FLYING HAWKS** is an art you can learn with lots of practice. Hawks make their wings as long and wide as possible to ride or "soar" on currents of rising air, and then bend their wings back at the "wrist" and close their "fingers" to pick up speed while descending in a "glide." The angles at which each hawk usually hold its wings are shown.

Hawks often look dark against the sky, but if the angle of the sun is just right you will see the colors and patterns underneath. Use the terms in the box below to describe what you see in the sketches.

The juvenile's markings are shown on the left half of each bird, with the adult's on the right. You can also listen for the birds' calls, which are most often heard in the spring and early summer.

soar

soar

soar

glide

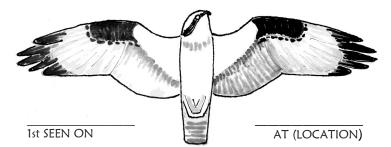
glide

glide

### **OSPREY**

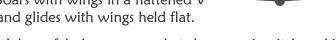
Soars with wings almost flat and glides with wings angled like a spread-out letter M. Almost always holds the glide position while fishing.

Repeats short, high-pitched whistles that sound like chirp chirp or hey hey HEY HEY hey hey.

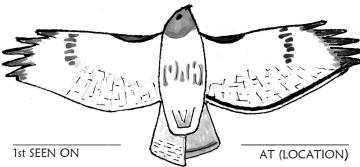


## **RED-TAILED HAWK**

Soars with wings in a flattened V and glides with wings held flat.



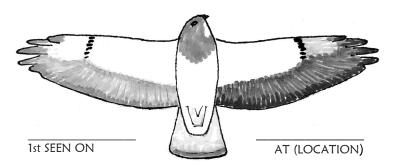
Makes a fabulous scream that decreases in pitch and is a bit like a horse's neigh, sounding like kEERr r r r r.



## **SWAINSON'S HAWK**

Soars with wings in a flattened V and glides with wings angled downward.

Makes a high-pitched but coarse whistle that decreases in pitch and volume, sounding like Hereeeeeeer.

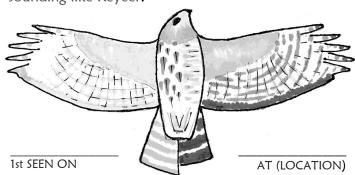


#### **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK**

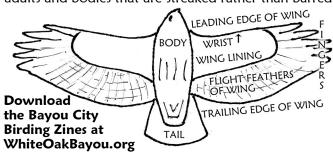
soar and glide

Soars and glides with wings in various positions, but usually cupped downwards.

Repeats a rough scream that typically drops in pitch, sounding like Keyeer.



Wing linings contrast with flight feathers, which can be checkered (Red-shoulder) or solid (Swainson's). Bodies can be streaked or barred (juvenile vs. adult Broad-wing). Tails can be banded (Cooper's) or barred (Osprey). Wrists can have a comma mark (Red-tail) or wrist patch (Osprey). Trailing edges of wings/tails can be light or dark. Juveniles can have longer tails than adults and bodies that are streaked rather than barred.

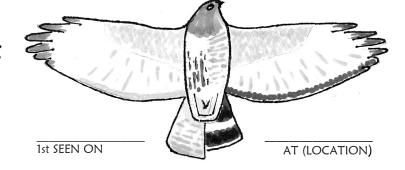


# **BROAD-WINGED HAWK**

glide

Soars with wings held flat and glides with wings angled down slightly.

Makes a high-pitched whistle of all one pitch and volume, sounding like we weeeeeee.



## **COOPER'S HAWK**



Soars with wings arched slightly and glides with wings drawn back to the body.

Makes a coarse quack-like call that rises in pitch and volume, sounding like kak kak KAK KAK KAK.

