



Spot a Raptor Near Home

Perched: Next time you take a car trip, look up! You might see a red-tailed hawk, kestrel, or other raptor perched atop a tree, telephone pole or road sign along the highway. These clear overlooks are good places for raptors to watch for the movement of mice and other prey in the open spaces below.

Flying: You can identify raptors in the air by noting the shape of their wings. Some raptors live in New England all year, but others *migrate* through this area in September, October and November. They are often spotted near cliffs and hills, where they can catch “thermals” or updrafts of hot air, that help them glide further on their journey. Some travel as far as Mexico!

Photo: Menno Schaefer/Creative Commons



Acadia National Park HawkWatch

Can you identify these migrating raptors from their silhouettes?



Accipiters:
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk



Falcons:
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon



Buteos:
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk



Northern Harrier



Osprey



Bald Eagle



Turkey Vulture
(not truly a raptor
but often seen)

*Silhouettes are not to scale