

Grading System for Sharp-Shinned Hawk Mouth Lesions and waxy plaques

Data collector should open the bird's mouth to inspect the interior of the mouth, including the roof and under the tongue. If possible, interior oral plaques will usually appear as yellow to yellow-orange, hard occlusions, resembling beeswax. The bird may or may not have bleeding or inflamed edges.

- 0: Mouth shows no signs of lesions, internally or externally.
- 1: Inside of mouth 1 - 4 internal plaques, no larger than 1-2mm each. Gape clean, no external lesions or scabs.
- 2: Inside of mouth shows 1 - 4 internal plaques, with at least one up to 4-5mm in length. Gape clean, no external lesions or scabs.
- 3: Inside of mouth shows more than 4 plaques, all under 4-5 mm in length. Gape may be minimally affected or distorted, but no external scabs or lesions.
- 4: Inside of mouth shows multiple plaques, at least one over 4-5 mm in length. Multiple plaques may have joined to form larger plates. Gape may be distorted, but does not impede full mouth closure.
- 5: Gape is affected, with scab-like bilateral lesions in the corners of the mouth that may appear inflamed or bleeding. Size of lesions impedes full closure of the mouth. Clearly visible with external inspection.

Fat scale: deposits are found beneath the wing

- 0: no visible fat
- 1: thin deposit along crease of wing-pit (do not mistake thin white creases in the surface skin for fat)
- 2: thicker, somewhat bulbous line of fat
- 3: most or all of wing-pit filled with fat, but not bulging upward
- 4: most or all of wing-pit filled with fat, with a rounded bulge
- 5: entire wing-pit filled with fat spilling into the surrounding areas