



Raptor Identification Resources

If you are looking to become a better hawk watcher, or just want to know what that blur was that swiped a finch from your birdfeeder, there are several resources out there that can assist you in identifying raptors. The first thing to note though is that the best way to learn identification is to get out in the field and spend lots of time at a local hawk watch like Braddock Bay. There are always friendly faces around to offer their advice and opinions on identification. Here are some other resources to use:

Hawk Migration Association of North America's website has a webpage with information and resources for those new to hawkwatching. <https://www.hmana.org/new-to-hawkwatching/>

HawkWatch International's Raptor ID Fact Sheets <http://hawkwatch.org/learn/factsheets>

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's website has a "Raptorpedia" with lots of information on hawks, and how to start learning identification. <https://www.hawkmountain.org/visit/raptors-at-hawk-mountain>

The following books & field guides are valuable hawk watching tools as well:

Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Hawks in Flight, by Jerry Liguori (Princeton University Press, 2005)

Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors, by Jerry Liguori (Princeton University Press, 2011)

Hawks In Flight: The Flight Identification of North American Migrant Raptors – 2nd Edition, by David Allen Sibley, Clay Sutton, and Pete Dunne (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1989)

Hawks In Flight: The Flight Identification of North American Migrant Raptors, by David Allen Sibley, Clay Sutton, and Pete Dunne (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1989)

A Photographic Guide to the Raptors of North America, by Brian K. Wheeler & William S. Clark (Princeton University Press, 2003)

Raptors of Eastern North America, by Brian K. Wheeler (Princeton University Press, 2007)

The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors, by Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori, and Brian Sullivan (Princeton University Press, 2013)

Birds of Prey of the East, by Brian K. Wheeler (Princeton University Press, 2018)

FACEBOOK Raptor ID Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1387877288186021/>

Raptor ID App by HawkWatch International <https://hawkwatch.org/blog/item/1164-raptor-id-app-now-free>

Raptor Identification YouTube videos by David Brown at LycoBirds

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LycoBirds/playlists>

<https://www.lycobirds.com/raptor-guide/>

Optics Resources

The Bird House – local retailer <https://www.thebirdhouseny.com/>

Birding Optics – Tips from The Bird House YouTube video –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vruGz5YNWU>

The Cornell Lab Review: Affordable Full-size 8x42 Binoculars

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/the-cornell-lab-review-affordable-full-size-8x42-binoculars/>

The Audubon Guide to Binoculars

<https://www.audubon.org/gear/binocular-guide>