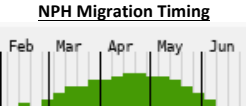
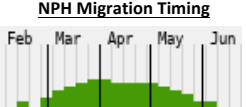
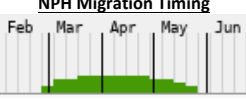


Ontario's Three Accipiters, Identification in Flight Comparison Table

- Accipiters have broad wings (width) like buteos, but unlike buteos they have a relatively shorter wingspan (length) and a longer tail.
- Accipiters are bird hunting specialists and their shorter wings and longer rudder-like tails enable them to maneuver quickly and catch other birds over short distances on the wing. They will also eat other small animals and will capture prey off the ground.
- Generally, accipiters intersperse soaring and gliding with intermittent flaps. They typically have more flaps and shorter glides than buteos.
- All comparisons below are relative to other species in the chart, unless otherwise stated.
- Bird size, proportions, and field marks vary, and flight is dynamic. Therefore, descriptions are based on most typical characteristics and attitudes displayed. This chart is not definitive.
- Like all raptors, female accipiters are larger than males (reverse sexual size dimorphism). Streaking on a bird is vertical and barring is horizontal
- Wingspan refers to the distance from wing-tip to wing-tip with wings fully outstretched. Length refers to distance from beak tip to tail tip
- NPH Migration Timing graphs reflect daily averages from annual spring migration counts at Beamer Conservation Area from 1975 to 2019

Accipiter	Size & Proportions	Field Marks	Flight Behaviour and Flight Shapes	Migration
<p>Sharp-shinned Hawk</p> <p>SS</p>	<p>-Smallest hawk in Canada</p> <p>-Body appears to be triangular with wider shoulders and smaller "hips"</p> <p>-Tail is typically squared off</p> <p>-Male tail is notched</p> <p>-Wing width to length is 1:2</p> <p>-Wing width to tail is 1:1</p> <p>-Wingspan Range: 1' 5" to 1'10"</p> <p>-Length Range: 9" to 1'1"</p> <p>-Weight Range: 3 to 8 ounces</p>	<p>-Blue-grey on top</p> <p>-Underside of body has thin white and reddish barring</p> <p>-Dark and light barring on wings and tail</p> <p>-White undertail coverts</p> <p>-Dark on top of head and down through the nape; appears like a "hood"</p> <p>Juvenile:</p> <p>-Similar to above except: -Brown on back</p> <p>-Underside has heavy, coarse, brown tear-drop shaped streaks</p> <p>-Head and nape are streaked</p>	<p>Flight:</p> <p>-Most buoyant</p> <p>-Rises more quickly in thermals and updrafts</p> <p>-Most affected by wind</p> <p>-Most frequent flapper</p> <p>Wingbeats:</p> <p>-Flaps are from the wrist, looks "snappy"</p> <p>-Flapping is so quick that they seem "uncountable"</p> <p>In a Soar:</p> <p>-From below, wings are outstretched and can be slightly pushed forward at wrist</p> <p>-Head on, the wings are flat or slightly raised</p> <p>In a Glide:</p> <p>-From below, wrists are forward with distinct pocket between the head and the wrists, head appears to disappear into the pocket</p> <p>-Head on, wings are flat or slightly bowed</p>	<p>-Migrant and year round resident</p> <p>-Approximate ratio of 10: 1 SS to CH during spring migration</p> <p>-Will migrate in 1's, 2's and up to groups of 8</p> <p>NPH Migration Timing</p>  <p>NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 1079/year</p>
<p>Cooper's Hawk</p> <p>CH</p>	<p>-Medium-sized accipiter</p> <p>-Body appears tubular</p> <p>-Head is proportionately bigger than SS and head projects further than SS</p> <p>-Tail often looks rounded</p> <p>-Wing width to length is 1:2</p> <p>-Slightly longer tail than SS, wing width to tail is 1:1.25</p> <p>-Wingspan Range: 2' to 2' 11"</p> <p>-Length Range: 1'3" to 1'6"</p> <p>Weight Range: 8 oz - 1 lb 8 oz</p>	<p>-Blue-grey on top</p> <p>-Underside of body has thin white and reddish barring</p> <p>-Dark and light barring on wings and tail</p> <p>-White undertail coverts</p> <p>-Head is dark on top breaking to a pale nape, looks like a "cap"</p> <p>Juvenile:</p> <p>-Similar to above except: -Brown on back</p> <p>-Underside has brown streaking</p> <p>-Light brown head with heavy streaking, pale nape with less streaking so still has appearance of "cap"</p>	<p>Flight:</p> <p>-Appears in control in low to medium winds</p> <p>Wingbeats:</p> <p>-Looks stiff</p> <p>-Wingbeats are "countable"</p> <p>-More powerful than SS</p> <p>In a Soar:</p> <p>-From below, wings are outstretched, head protrudes well in front of the leading edge of the wing, looks like a cross</p> <p>-Head on, the wings are flat or slightly raised</p> <p>In a Glide:</p> <p>-From below, wrists are forward and head projects beyond the leading edge of the wing</p> <p>-Head on, wings are flat or slightly bowed</p>	<p>-Migrant and year round resident</p> <p>-Migrates through but also now commonly breeding in Southern Ontario</p> <p>-Average ratio is 1:10 for CH to SS during spring migration</p> <p>NPH Migration Timing</p>  <p>NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 113/year</p>
<p>Northern Goshawk</p> <p>NG</p>	<p>-Large accipiter</p> <p>-Stout and muscular looking overall</p> <p>-Wing width to length is 1:2.25, and this relatively longer wing length creates a buteo-esque appearance</p> <p>-Tail is broad so looks like extension of the body</p> <p>-Wingspan Range: 3'4" to 3'10"</p> <p>-Length Range: 1'9" to 2'1"</p> <p>Weight Range: 1 lb 6 oz – 3 lbs</p>	<p>-Blue-gray back</p> <p>-Fine light grey and white barring on underside of body</p> <p>-Light and dark barring on wings and tail</p> <p>-White undertail coverts</p> <p>-Overall underside appears lighter than SS and CH</p> <p>-Head has dark cap and dark mask across eye with prominent white supercilium</p> <p>Juvenile:</p> <p>-Similar to above except: -Brown and blotchy above</p> <p>-Variable streaking on underside of body</p> <p>-Light brown head and streaked nape and less pronounced white supercilium</p>	<p>Flight:</p> <p>-Least affected by wind</p> <p>Wing Beats:</p> <p>-Most steady and powerful</p> <p>In a Soar:</p> <p>From below, wings are outstretched</p> <p>Head on, the wings are flat or slightly raised</p> <p>In a Glide:</p> <p>From below, wrists forward and head projects in front of the leading edge of the wing</p> <p>Head on, wings are flat or slight bowed</p>	<p>-Resident to short distance migrant</p> <p>-Historically had periodic southward irruption due to snowshoe hare and grouse population crashes</p> <p>NPH Migration Timing</p>  <p>NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 1/year</p>