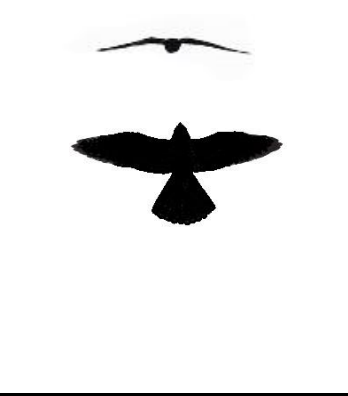
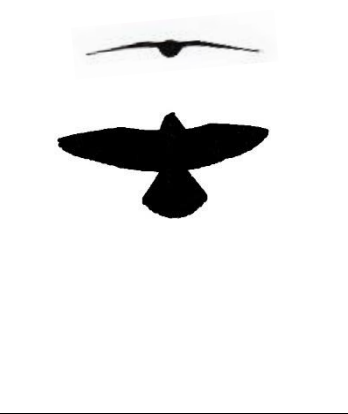


# Ontario's Three Common Falcon Species – Flight Behaviour and Silhouettes

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Falcon	Flight Behaviour		Soar	Glide
<b>American Kestrel</b>  <b>AK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smallest falcon</li> <li>• Seen in loose groups of up to ~10</li> <li>• Light, buoyant and will wander in the wind, both rising and falling and tacking side to side</li> <li>• Has a flap, flap, glide pattern akin to an accipiter, with more flaps with a longer glide</li> <li>• Flaps are fluttery, dainty, and appear from the wrist</li> </ul>	<b>In a Soar:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wings outstretched and trailing edge rounds forward approaching a point at the primary tips</li> <li>• Tail is often fanned</li> </ul>	<b>In a Glide:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrists forward, primaries are angled back to a point, tail is narrow</li> <li>• Head on, wings are flat or slightly drooped</li> </ul>	
<b>Merlin</b>  <b>ML</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to AK in size, but is more robust</li> <li>• Usually flies solo</li> <li>• Direct, fast, and less affected by winds than AK</li> <li>• Most active flapper and often flies low at a remarkably fast pace</li> <li>• Flaps are rapid, constant, with piston-like strokes</li> <li>• Flaps are faster than the other falcons</li> </ul>	<b>In a Soar:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wings are outstretched with pointed primaries, tail is often fanned</li> </ul>	<b>In a Glide:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrists forward with primaries angled back to a sharp point, looks very angular</li> <li>• Often travels fast and will resort to powered flight</li> <li>• Head on, wings are flat or slightly angled down</li> </ul>	
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>  <b>PF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largest of the three falcons</li> <li>• Usually flies solo</li> <li>• Direct and capable of exceptional speed</li> <li>• Deliberate flight and least affected by wind</li> <li>• Flaps are generally slower than a Merlin</li> <li>• Flaps are fluid, rhythmic, and whip-like (undulating)</li> <li>• Flaps appear less deep than a ML</li> </ul>	<b>In a Soar:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wings outstretched with a rounded trailing edge giving an arrow-like point to the primaries</li> </ul>	<b>In a Glide:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrists forward, primaries swept back to a point, wings look angular</li> <li>• Head on, wings are flat, or slightly raised, body looks more bulky than AK and ML</li> </ul>	