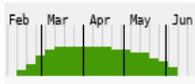
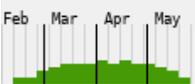
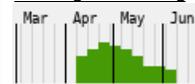


Ontario's Four Common Buteos, Identification in Flight Comparison Table

- Buteos are a diverse group of hawks with relatively broad (width) and long (length) wings, and shorter tails than other raptors.
- Buteos are known for their soaring abilities as are vultures and eagles, in contrast to accipiters and falcons.
- All comparisons are relative to other species in this 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.
- Rough-legged dark morphs are included (10% - 25% of species) in chart whereas rare Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks are not.
- Like all raptors, female buteos are larger than males (reverse sexual size dimorphism). Streaking on a raptor 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.

Buteo	Size and Proportions	Field Marks	Flight Behaviour and Flight Shapes	Migration
Red-tailed Hawk RT	-Large buteo -Robust body -Wing width to length is 1:2.33 -Wing width to tail is 1: .75 Wingspan Range: 3'9" to 4'4" Length Range: 1'6" to 2'2" Weight Range: 1 lb 8 oz to 3 lbs 3 oz	-Underside body and wing coverts vary from pale to dark, but all have contrasting dark field marks and thin black and white barring on wings -Dark leading edge of the wing in armpit (diagnostic), and often shows dark commas along edge of underwing coverts -Black-tipped primaries and black trailing edge of wings -Usually dark head and variable streaking/speckling across belly known as "belly band" Red tail (diagnostic for adult) Juvenile: Same as above except: -pale and brown finely barred tail -pale/translucent squarish patches, "windows", located in the primaries	Flight and Wingbeats: -Master soarer and less affected by winds than RS and BW -Strong, even wing beats In a Soar: From below, secondary bulge gives "muscular" appearance and wingtips appear round In a Glide: -From below, wings project forward from the wrist -Head on, the wings look arched or cupped	-Migrant and year round resident NPH Migration Timing  NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 1284/year
Red-shouldered Hawk RS	-Medium sized buteo -Looks slender and longer than RT and BW -Wing width to length is 1:2.5 -Wing width to tail is 1:1 Wingspan Range: 3'1" to 3'8" Length Range: 1'5" to 2' Weight Range: 1 lb 1 oz – 1 lb 11 oz	-Underside body has rich orange body and undertail coverts - Thin black and white barring on wings with black-tipped primaries and black trailing edge of wings -Translucent crescent just inside the primary tips (diagnostic) -Thin black and white barring on tail Juvenile: -Similar to above except -variably streaked on body and can lack black trailing edge to wing	Flight and Wingbeats: -Less stable in the air and flapping appears "batty" and from the wrist In a Soar: From below, primaries look round and often reaching forward; appear to be hugging the sky -Head on, wings are flat or slightly raised In a Glide: -From below, wrists are thrust forward -Head on, wings are slight bowed	-Migrant and rare year round resident (increasing) NPH Migration Timing  NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 381/year
Broad-winged Hawk BW	-Our Smallest buteo -Tapered edge to primaries giving the wings a more pointed appearance than other common buteos -Tail is shorter than other buteos -Wing width to length is 1:2 -Wing width to tail is 1: 0.6 Wingspan Range: 2'8" to 3'3" Length Range: 1'1" to 1'5" Weight Range: 9 oz – 1 lb 4 oz	-Relatively pale underside with reddish-brown barring on the chest and underwing coverts, and fine light and dark barring on wings -Dark primary tips and trailing edge of wings -Tail has broad black and white bands, often one large white and one black band is visible in flight Juvenile: -Similar to above except: -Pale chest with range of light to heavy streaking on face, throat, sides, and belly -Narrow tail bands with one broad terminal band	Flight and Wingbeats: -Affected by wind and will correct its course with wing flaps -Stiff and choppy In a Soar: -From below, wings look short and broad, and tapered -Head on, wings look flat In a Glide: -From below, leading edge of the wing is curved akin to a paring knife, primaries are tapered to a point and trailing edge looks straight -Head on, wings look bowed from the shoulders down	-Migrant -Migrates in large groups (kettles) NPH Migration Timing  NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 2587/year
Rough-legged Hawk RL	-Large buteo -Longer wings than RT -Robust body -Wing width to length is 1:3 -Wing width to tail is 1:0.8 Wingspan Range: 4' to 4'8" Length Range: 1'6" to 1'8" Weight Range: 1 lb 9 oz - 3 lb 1 oz	Light Morph -Bold, dark wrist (carpal) patches -White flight feathers contrasting with dark primary tips and trailing edge of wings -Underside dark patches (streaked to solid) on chest and belly variable by age & sex -White tail with dark sub-terminal/terminal tail band(s), variable by age & sex Dark Morph - Same as above except -Carpal patches blend with overall dark underside coverts, and dark chest and belly	Flight and Wingbeats: - Adept at powered flight -Wingbeats are steady, deep and rowing In a Soar: -From below, wings appear round and can be held slightly forward -Head on, in a slight dihedral In a Glide: -From below, wrists are thrust forward and long primaries are swept back -Head on, wrists are raised, and wrist to primary tips are more level to each other	-Breeds in the arctic -Migrant and winter resident NPH Migration Timing  NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 27/year