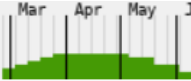
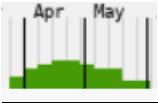


Ontario's Northern Harrier and Osprey, Identification in Flight Comparison Table

- The Northern Harrier is a slim, graceful raptor that flies low over open areas to hunt. Field marks differ between sexes.
- The Osprey lives near water to hunt for their prey (fish). Oiled wings allow them to submerge themselves in water to catch their prey and spicules on their feet along with long talons enable them to successfully hold on to their slippery prey.
- 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, the female is larger than the male (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

Raptor	Size & Proportions	Field Marks	Flight Behaviour and Flight Shapes	Migration
<p>Northern Harrier</p> <p>NH</p>	<p>-Medium</p> <p>-Exceedingly long and slender wings and long slender tail</p> <p>-Body is also slender looking</p> <p>-Thick neck and small head create blunt projection</p> <p>-Wing width to wing length is 1:2.25</p> <p>-Tail is equal to or longer than wing width</p> <p>-Wingspan Range: 3'4" to 3'11"</p> <p>-Length Range: 1' 6" to 1'8"</p> <p>-Weight Range: 11 oz to 1 lb 11 oz</p>	<p>All:</p> <p>-Distinct white patch on undertail coverts (top side), visible from many angles</p> <p>Male:</p> <p>-Silvery gray above with gray head</p> <p>-White body and all white underside contrasted by ink black primary tips and trailing edge of the wing</p> <p>Female:</p> <p>-Brown above (may have rufous on wing coverts)</p> <p>-Underside is pale and/or buffy</p> <p>-Brown spotting/streaking on chest and flanks</p> <p>-Jagged brown and light barring on flight feathers</p> <p>Juvenile:</p> <p>-Some dark rufous on topside wing coverts</p> <p>-Underwing coverts are cinnamon-orange</p> <p>-Belly can look pinkish with typically less streaking than adult female</p>	<p>Flight:</p> <p>-This ground hugging hunter can migrate high in the sky along with other raptors</p> <p>-Due to light wing load, it looks buoyant and rocks unsteadily in even light winds</p> <p>-On windless days, wings may be held flat</p> <p>-Powered flight can be in an unbroken sequence or followed by a short glide</p> <p>Wingbeats:</p> <p>-Regular, loping, and lazy looking</p> <p>In a Soar:</p> <p>-From below, wings and tail are long and narrow</p> <p>-Head on, the wings are in a dihedral</p> <p>-Tail often held closed</p> <p>In a Glide:</p> <p>-From below, wrists are forward with long swept back primaries</p> <p>-Head on, wings are in a modified dihedral with the wrist to primary tips leveled off</p> <p>-Can glide for longer periods of time than most other raptors</p>	<p>-Migrant and year round resident</p> <p>NPH Migration</p>  <p>Timing</p> <p>NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 65/year</p>
<p>Osprey</p> <p>OS</p>	<p>-Large</p> <p>-Very long wings with shortish slender body</p> <p>-Skinny head projection</p> <p>-Tail is medium length and broad</p> <p>-Wrists usually held forward</p> <p>-Wing width to wing length is 1:3</p> <p>-Wing width to tail is 1: .75</p> <p>-Wingspan Range: 4'11" to 5' 11"</p> <p>-Length Range: 1'9" to 1'11"</p> <p>Weight Range: 3 lbs 1 oz - 4 lbs 7 oz</p>	<p>-Head is white with broad black mask over the eyes and face, and a black beak</p> <p>-Body and underwing coverts are white</p> <p>-May exhibit some dark streaking on the breast, a "necklace"</p> <p>-Dark, distinct wrist patch</p> <p>-Dark outline to underwing coverts and dark flight feathers, except for pale inner primaries</p> <p>-Primary tips are dark</p> <p>-Tail is finely barred</p> <p>Juvenile:</p> <p>-Similar to above except:</p> <p>-More buffy underwing coverts (less stark white than adult)</p> <p>-Trailing edge of wing is clean and tipped in white</p> <p>-Tail also tipped in white</p>	<p>Flight:</p> <p>-Uses thermals and updrafts extensively during migration</p> <p>Wingbeats:</p> <p>-Deep and stiff</p> <p>-In heavy flapping the body bobs up and down in counterpoint to the wing stroke (body is seemingly too light relative to the wing)</p> <p>In a Soar:</p> <p>-From below, wings are outstretched</p> <p>-Wrists are forward to varying degrees but always have the suggestion of an M shape</p> <p>-Primaries are deeply slotted</p> <p>-Sometimes the M shape creates suggestion of a gull but gulls do not have slotted primaries and they have larger heads and head projection</p> <p>-Head on, the wings are nearly flat</p> <p>In a Glide:</p> <p>-From below, wrists are pushed forward, and are sharply swept back from the wrist</p> <p>-Deeply slotted primaries can often still be visible</p> <p>-Creates a bolder M shape</p> <p>-Head on, wings are arched up from the shoulder then angled down from the wrist creating a head-on M as well</p>	<p>-Migrant</p> <p>-Migrates solo, or in pairs, and sometimes in small groups</p> <p>NPH Migration</p> <p>Timing</p>  <p>NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 45/year</p>