





Ontario's Astur and Accipiter Species – Flight Behaviour and Silhouettes

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Species	Flight Behaviour		Soar	Glide	
<p>Sharp-shinned Hawk</p> <p>SS</p> <p>Family: Accipitridae</p> <p>Genus: Accipiter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallest of the three • Will fly in groups of 1, 2, up to ~ 8 • Most buoyant and most affected by winds • Most frequent flapper of the three • Flaps are from the wrist, look “fluttery and so quick they seem “uncountable” 	<p>In a Soar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From below, wings are outstretched, but typically somewhat pushed forward at wrist with primaries swept back somewhat • Head is smaller and less projected beyond the leading edge of the wing than the CH • Head on, the wings are flat or slightly raised 	<p>In a Glide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From below, wrists are forward with distinct pocket between the head and the wrists • Head appears to disappear into the pocket, barely projects beyond leading edge of the wing • Head on, wings are flat or slightly bowed 		
<p>Cooper's Hawk</p> <p>CH</p> <p>Family: Accipitridae</p> <p>Genus: Astur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium • Typically flies solo • Appears in control in low to medium winds • Flaps look stiff and are “countable” • Flaps are more powerful than SS 	<p>In a Soar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From below, wings are outstretched, head protrudes well in front of the leading edge of the wing, looks like a cross • Head on, the wings are flat or slightly raised 	<p>In a Glide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From below, wrists are forward but head projects well beyond the leading edge of the wing compared to a SS • Head on, wings are flat or slightly bowed 		
<p>American Goshawk</p> <p>AG</p> <p>Family: Accipitridae</p> <p>Genus: Astur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest (size of a male Red-tailed Hawk) with broad tail, as wide as abdomen • Typically flies solo • Species that is least affected by the wind • Flaps are steady and powerful 	<p>In a Soar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From below, wings are outstretched, and wings exhibit a secondary bulge (similar to RT but AG tail is longer) • Head on, the wings are flat or slightly raised 	<p>In a Glide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From below, wrists are forward and head projects in front of the leading edge of the wing • Head on, wings are flat or slightly bowed 	