



# HAWKS

## OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

### NORTHERN HARRIER

*Circus cyaneus*

STATE ENDANGERED



**Description:** 17½-24". Males are pale gray with white underparts, and females are brown on top with streaked underparts. Both have a white rump patch above a long tail.

**Habitat:** Breeds in old fields, wet meadows and fresh and saltwater marshes; uses many open habitats for foraging. Prefers low woody vegetation for nesting sites.

**Range:** Breeds north of the White Mountains.

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### COOPER'S HAWK

*Accipiter cooperii*



**Description:** 14-20". Both males and females have a dark gray back and rusty barred chest. Long, banded tail is rounded.

**Habitat:** Uses mature hardwood, softwood and mixed forests, including small woodlots and suburban forests. Also hunts at birdfeeders.

**Range:** Year-round resident, but less common in the north.

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### NORTHERN GOSHAWK

*Accipiter gentilis*



**Description:** 20-26". Both male's and female's have a pale gray back and are pale gray and finely barred underneath. Both have a dark blackish crown and cheek and a white stripe over the eye.

**Habitat:** Mature softwood and mixed forests with dense canopies and open forest floors.

**Range:** Breeds throughout New Hampshire.

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### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

*Accipiter striatus*



**Description:** 10-14". Both males and females have a dark grayish back and rusty barred chest. Long, banded tail is square when perched (tails: sharp-shinned, square; Cooper's, curved).

**Habitat:** Mixed or coniferous forests bordering clearings or openings such as meadows. Preys on backyard birds at feeders.

**Range:** Breeds throughout New Hampshire.

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## RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

### HAWK

*Buteo lineatus*



**Description:** 17-24". Both males and females have heavy dark bands on both sides of the short, wide tail; rufous shoulders; and dense rusty/orange barring on underparts.

**Habitat:** Mature forests bordering wetlands, rivers, marshes and beaver ponds and near openings such as fields.

**Range:** Breeds throughout New Hampshire.

## BROAD-WINGED HAWK

### HAWK

*Buteo platypterus*



**Description:** 14-19". Brown on top, with white wing linings and barred or streaked breast. Both males and females have a short, wide tail with three wide black bands separated by white bands.

**Habitat:** Hardwood and mixed forests often near lakes, ponds and marshes. Commonly uses black or yellow birch trees for nesting.

**Range:** Breeds throughout New Hampshire.

## RED-TAILED HAWK

*Buteo jamaicensis*



**Description:** 19-25". Dark brown on top, distinct short and wide rufous tail. Paler underparts, w/ wide darker breast band, distinguish this hawk.

**Habitat:** Open areas, fields, meadows or parks, mixed with wooded areas. Nests and perches in large trees. Common along highways in winter.

**Range:** Year-round resident in southern N.H. Breeds in central and northern parts of the state.

## PEREGRINE FALCON

*Falco peregrinus*

STATE THREATENED



**Description:** 14-18". Slate gray color on top, w/ black face markings similar to sideburns. Pointed wings and banded tail may be seen in flight.

**Habitat:** Breeds in open areas w/rocky cliffs and ledges near rivers, streams, lakes or coastal waters. Also breeds on tall city buildings.

**Range:** Breeds mostly in the northern half of the state, plus in Manchester and Portsmouth.

## AMERICAN KESTREL

*Falco sparverius*



**Description:** 9-12". Size of a blue jay. Both males and females have a rufous back and tail and black and white face pattern. Males have blue-gray wings. Can sometimes be seen hovering.

**Habitat:** Nests in tree cavities or nesting boxes at the edge of pastures, marshes, power lines, beaver meadows and suburban areas.

**Range:** Breeds throughout N.H.; numbers declining.

## MERLIN

*Falco columbarius*



**Description:** 10-13½". Males are blue-gray on top w/black bands on a gray tail. Females are dusky brown on top with prominent streaks

underneath and banded brown tails.

**Habitat:** Breeds in forests with open areas such as lakes and fields. May breed in residential areas.

**Range:** Expanding range southward in state; currently breeds in the north and at scattered locations in central and western N.H. Occurs statewide during migration and occasionally winters along coast or in southern urban areas.

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