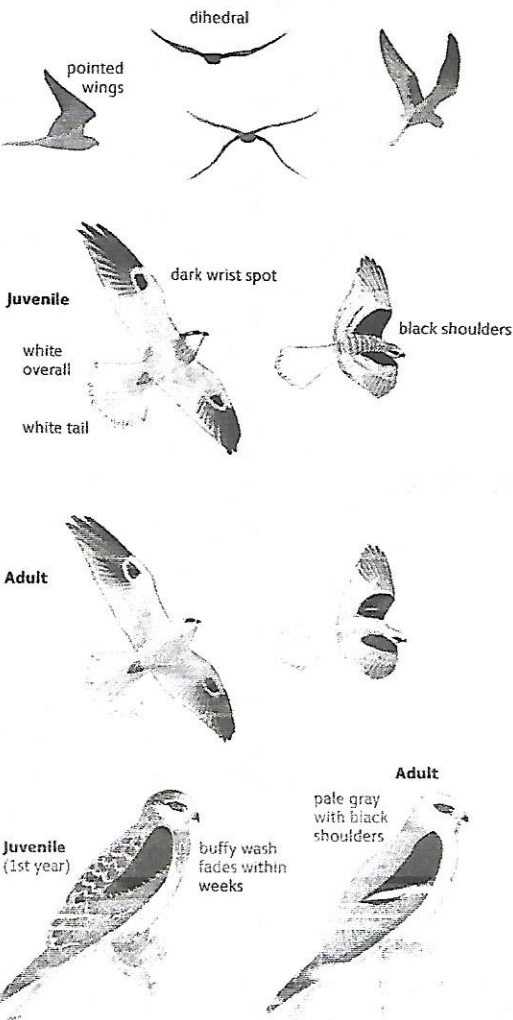


White-tailed Kite

Elanus leucurus

L 15" WS 39" WT 12 oz (340g)

A small hawk; slender and long-tailed. Very white overall, with conspicuous white tail and contrasting black shoulders. Confused as much with gulls and terns as with hawks.

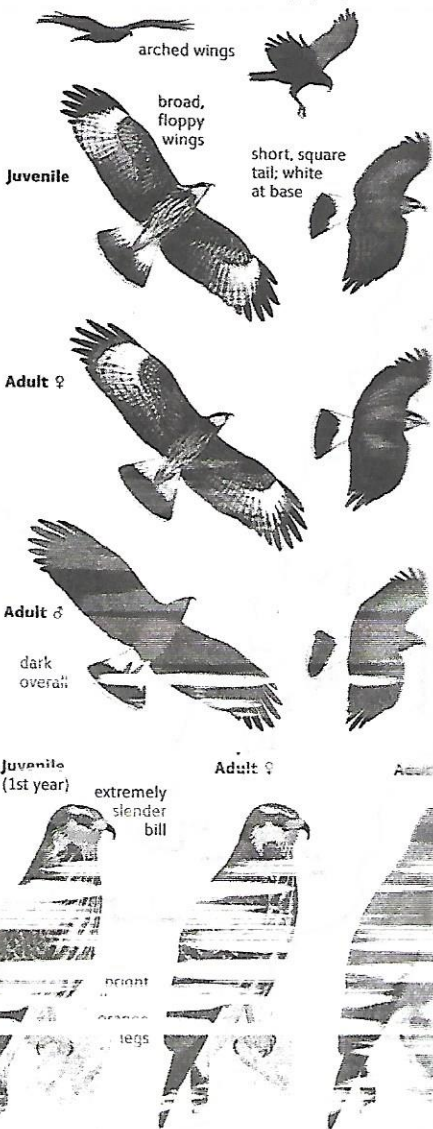


Snail Kite

Rostrhamus sociabilis

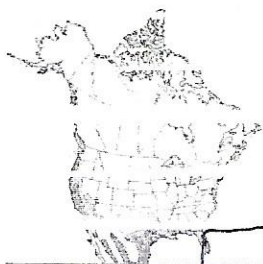
L 17" WS 42" WT 15 oz (420g)

Flies with floppy wingbeats and slow floating flight across water, settling gently on water to pick up apple snails. White base of tail could cause confusion with Northern Harrier. Broad arched wings, short tail, and floppy flight distinctive.



whistle followed by low, dry, harsh notes *sweeekrrkr*. In aggression a *teewp*.

VOICE: Usually silent. Gives a harsh, *carbling* *teewp* in aggression. Gives a harsh, coarse scream.



uncommon, found in open grassy areas with scattered shrubs. Hunts from the air, hovering gracefully then dropping straight down. Perches

Rare. Fewer than 1,000 in US. Found in expansive, open areas. Insects, especially *teewp* flying low over grass. perching in nearby trees.

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Swainson's Hawk

Buteo swainsoni

L 19" WS 51" WT 1.9lb (855g) ♂ > ♀

A lanky buteo, slender and long-winged. More slender than Red-tailed Hawk, with more pointed wingtips, uniform dark upperside, dark chest, and dark gray flight feathers.



wingbeats deep, loose, somewhat harrier-like

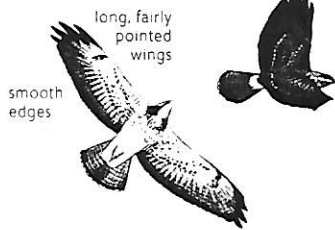


soars with wings raised in dihedral



gliding shape similar to Osprey

Light juvenile



smooth edges

long, fairly pointed wings

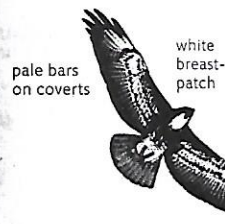
Intermediate juvenile



Dark juvenile



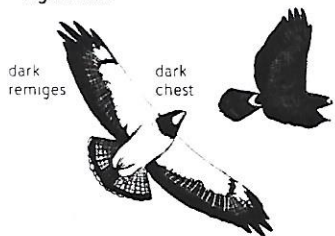
Light juvenile



pale bars on coverts

white breast-patch

Light adult



dark remiges

dark chest

Intermediate adult



Dark adult



light undertail coverts

dark gray overall

slender, pointed wings

Dark juvenile



Light juvenile (1st year)

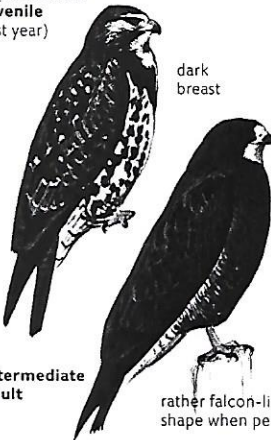


worn juvenile in spring looks white-headed

white face

Light adult

Intermediate juvenile (1st year)



dark breast

Intermediate adult

rather falcon-like shape when perched

Dark juvenile (1st year)



Dark adult

Juvenile (1st year)



white markings on head

wingtips project beyond tail

VOICE Long, high scream like Red-tailed but higher, clearer, weaker; may be short *cheeeeew* or long, drawn-out *kwee-aaaaah*, sometimes a series of whistled notes *pi tip, pi tip*.... Juvenile gives soft, plaintive whistle or mew.



Uncommon in prairies and farmland. Nests in isolated trees. Usually solitary, but migrates in large flocks along favored routes at migration points. Hunts from the air or a perch or while walking on the ground. Feeds mainly on small mammals and reptiles in summer; grasshoppers and other invertebrates the rest of the year.

Occurs in range of color morphs: light, rufous, and dark, with many intermediates. Combined dark and intermediate morphs less than 10 percent of most populations, more in far West.

Swainson's, Broad-winged, and White-tailed Hawks are the only buteos with four notched primaries (other buteos have five). These "fingers" can usually be seen on soaring birds and fewer notched feathers creates a more pointed wingtip.

VOICE: Rather high, laughing *reee* (female call differently accented); sneezy *tseef*; Juvenile (through 1st year) gives a long *squeal meeee*.

