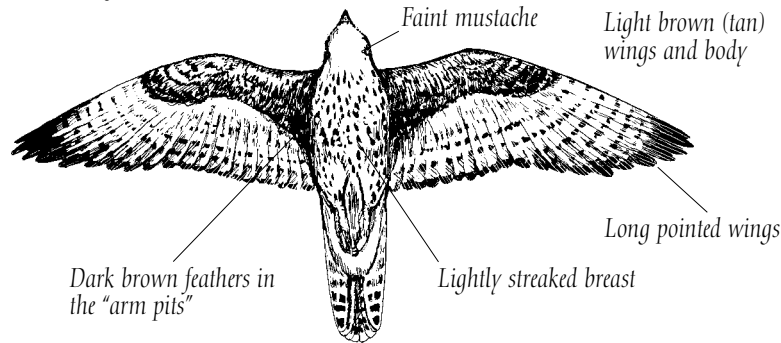


These are ten of the most frequently seen raptors in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). For positive identification, consult a commercially available bird field book. For additional information about the NCA contact the Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake River District Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705, (208) 384-3300.

Prairie Falcon (Falco mexicanus)

Rapid wing beats

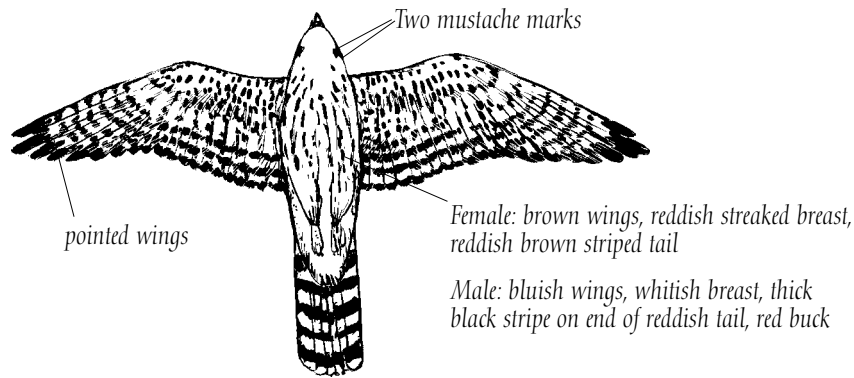


Size: 14 to 20 inches long
Wingspan: 30 to 40 inches
Weight: 1 to 2 pounds
nesting in NCA: 160 to 200 pairs

of eggs: 3 to 6 (brownish)
Eggs laid: early April - late May
Incubation & fledging: 8 to 10 weeks

American Kestrel (Falco sparverius)

"Hovers" over fields with rapid wing beats
Usually perches on phone wires

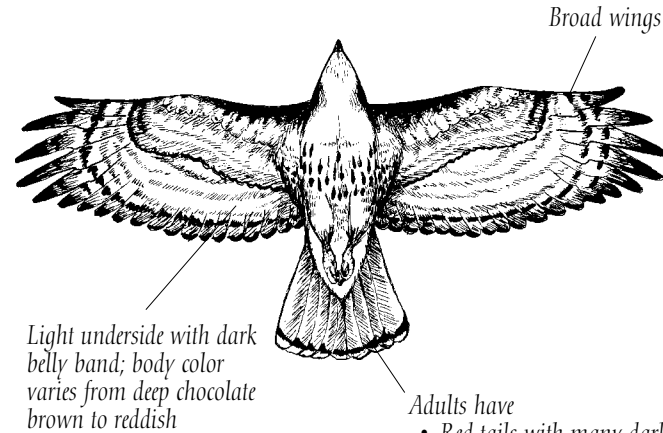


Size: 8 to 12 inches long
Wingspan: 21 to 24 inches
Weight: 1/4 to 1 pound
nesting in NCA: 30 to 45 pairs (survey incomplete)

of eggs: 4 to 5 (white with brown spots)
Eggs laid: mid April - early May
Incubation & fledging: 7 to 8 weeks

Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)

Usually soars for long periods without flapping wings



Size: 19 to 25 inches long
Wingspan: 48 to 53 inches
Weight: 1 3/4 to 3 1/2 pounds
nesting in NCA: 70 to 90 pairs

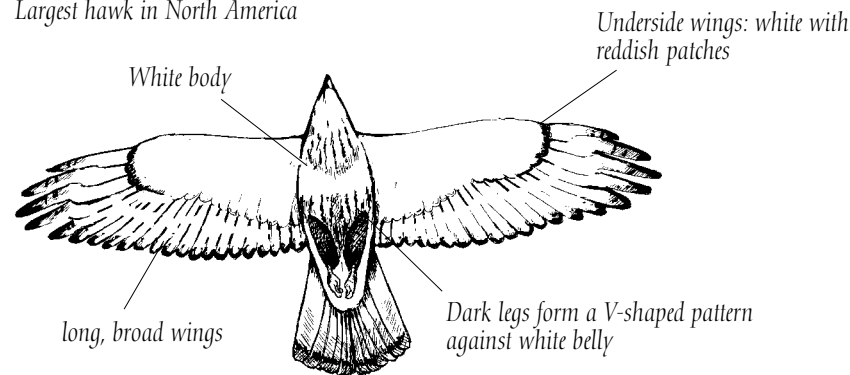
of eggs: 2 to 5
Eggs laid: white with brown spots
Incubation & fledging: March - early April

Adults have

- Red tails with many dark bars in the tail
- Usually have some white on the breast and white mottled or streaked tail

Ferruginous Hawk (Buteo regalis)

Largest hawk in North America

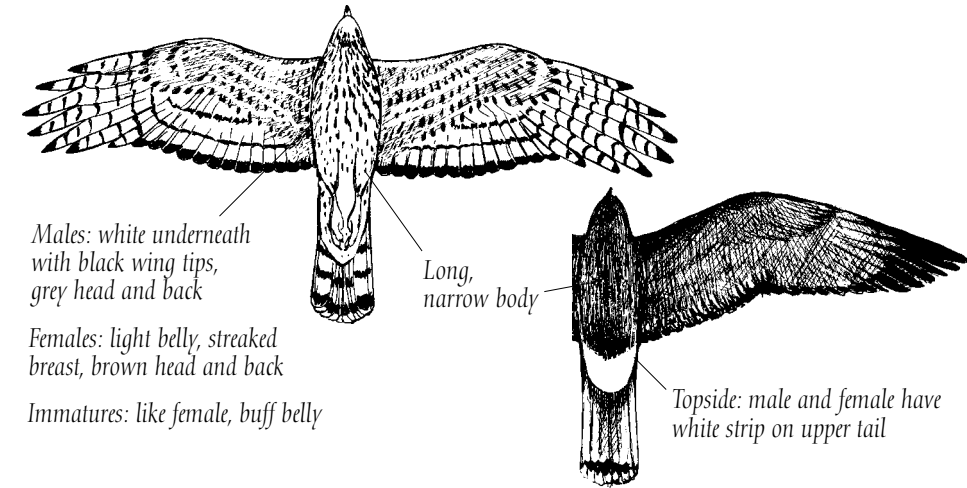


Size: 22 to 25 inches long
Wingspan: 50 to 60 inches
Weight: 2 to 5 pounds
nesting in NCA: 20 to 35 pairs

of eggs: 3 to 5 (white and brown blotched)
Eggs laid: early April - early May
Incubation & fledging: 10 to 11 weeks

Northern Harrier (Circus cyaneus)

Usually flies low over fields with an undulating flight

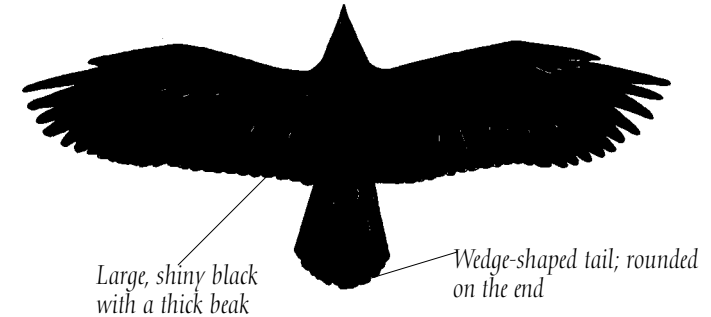


Size: 17 to 24 inches long
Wingspan: 48 to 54 inches
Weight: 3/4 to 1-1/4 pounds
nesting in NCA: 75+ pairs

of eggs: 3 to 9 (white)
Eggs laid: mid April - mid May
Incubation & fledging: 8 to 9 weeks

Common Raven (Corvus corax)

Not a raptor, Largest song bird, Hawklike in flight

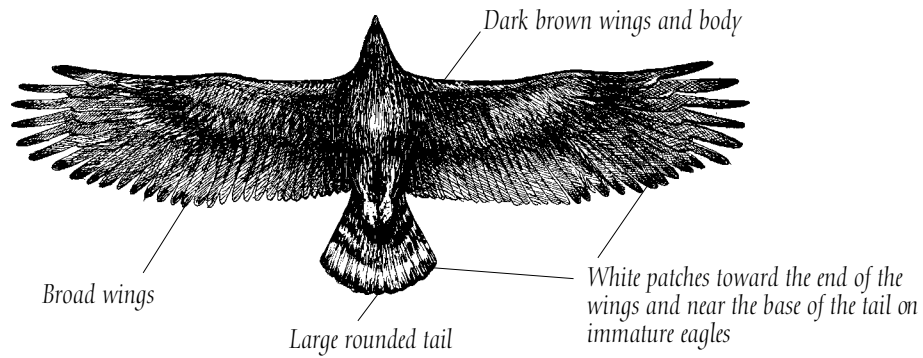


Size: 21 to 27 inches long
Wingspan: 45 to 50 inches
Weight: 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds
nesting in NCA: 150+ pairs

of eggs: 4 to 7 (blue with brown blotches)
Eggs laid: March - May
Incubation & fledging: 9 to 10 weeks

Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)

Largest raptor in the NCA
Usually soars for long periods without flapping wings

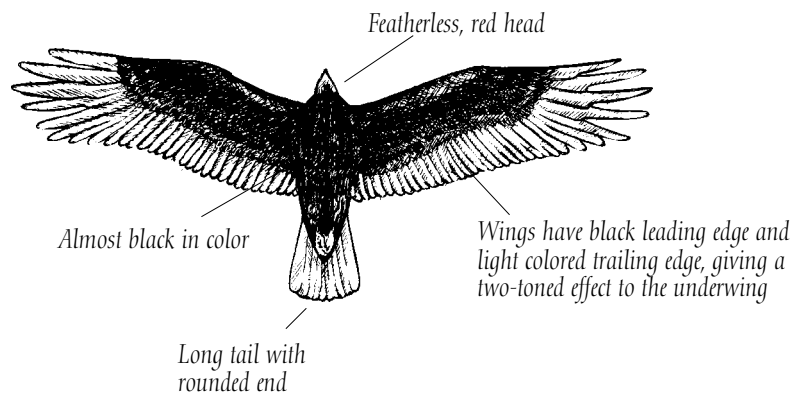


Size: 30 to 42 inches long
Wingspan: 74 to 97 inches
Weight: 7 to 15 pounds
nesting in NCA: 25 to 30 pairs

of eggs: 1 to 3 (dull white with brown blotches)
Eggs laid: early Feb. - mid March
Incubation & fledging: 15 to 16 weeks

Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura)

Slightly smaller than a golden eagle
Soars with wing in a V-shape, rocking or teetering from side to side

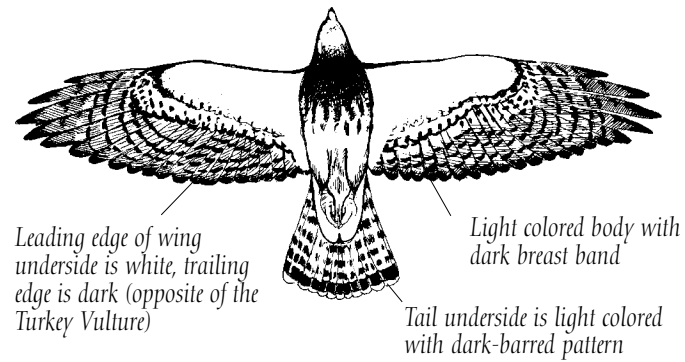


Size: 26 to 32 inches long
Wingspan: 68 to 72 inches
Weight: 2 to 5 pounds
nesting in NCA: 1 to 2 pairs

of eggs: 1 to 3 (white with dark blotches)
Eggs laid: April
Incubation & fledging: 15 to 16 weeks

Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsoni)

Spring/summer resident only, winters to Argentina

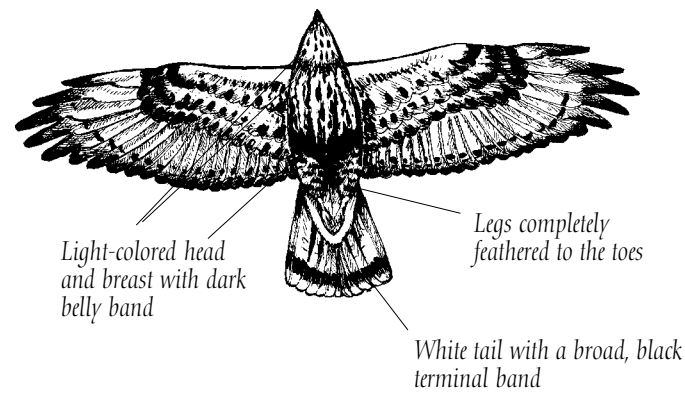


Size: 19 to 22 inches long
Wingspan: 48 to 54 inches
Weight: 1 1/4 to 2 3/4 pounds
nesting in NCA: 1 to 5 pairs

of eggs: 2 to 3 (white spotted with brown)
Eggs laid: April - May
Incubation & fledging: 8 to 11 weeks

Rough-legged Hawk (Buteo lagopus)

Wintering bird only, spring/summer spent in arctic areas
Commonly hovers like a kestrel when hunting

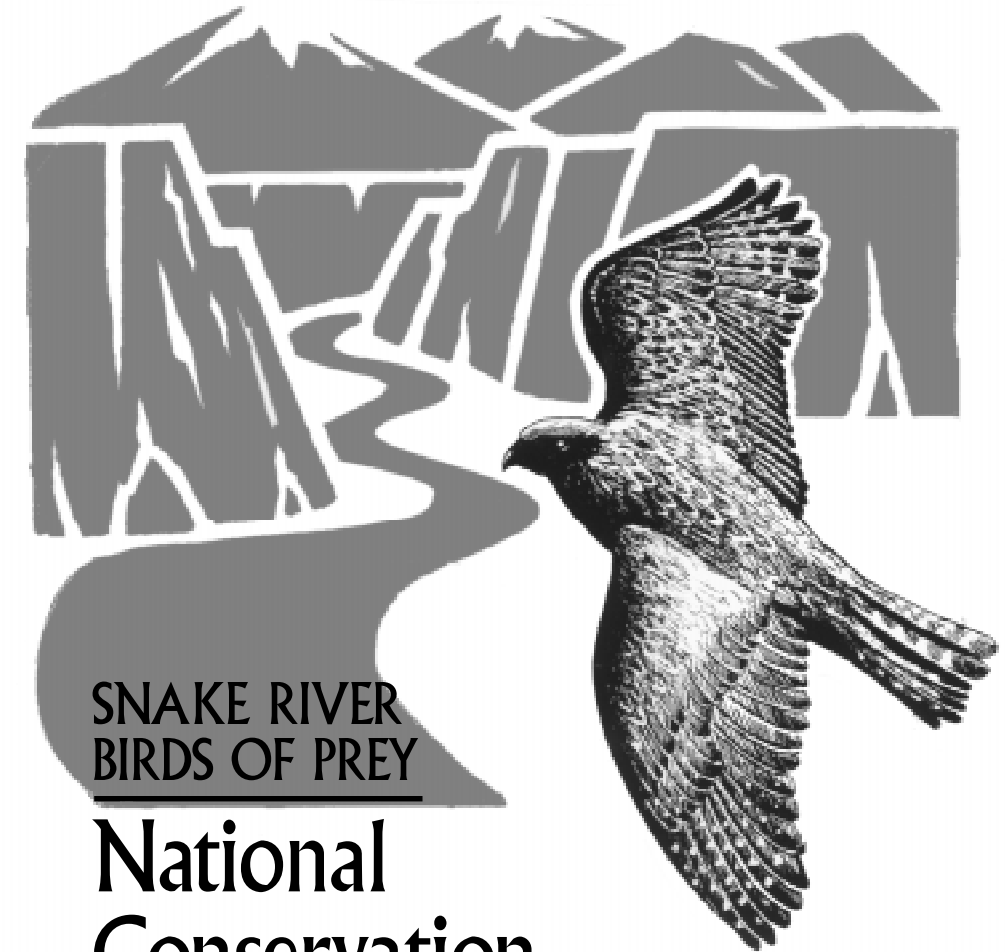


Size: 19 to 22 inches long
Wingspan: 48 to 56 inches
Weight: 2 1/4 to 3 pounds
nesting in NCA: none (migratory only)

of eggs: 2 to 6 (white w/brown)
Eggs laid: June
Incubation & fledging: 10 to 11 weeks

Raptor Identification Guide

for birds commonly seen in the



SNAKE RIVER
BIRDS OF PREY

National
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U.S. Department of the Interior
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