Recommended Books on Hawk Identification

**Hawks in Flight: Second Edition** by Pete Dunne, David Sibley, and Clay Sutton; Houghton Mifflin (2012). Among the world’s most popular birds, hawks can be some of the most difficult birds to identify. They’re most often seen flying high above and at a distance. In the first edition of *Hawks in Flight*, Pete Dunne, David Sibley, and Clay Sutton presented a holistic method of hawk identification, using general body shape, the way they move, and the places they are most likely to be seen. The new edition that Roger Tory Peterson called a "landmark" integrates an array of carefully selected photographs, David Sibley’s superb illustrations, and a clear, information-packed text, and takes raptor identification to a higher level. This edition covers all North American breeding raptors, including those with limited ranges in Florida, the Southwest, and Texas.

**Photographic Guide to North American Raptors** by Brian K. Wheeler and William S. Clark; Academic Press (2003). Whether soaring or perched, diurnal birds of prey often present challenging identification problems for the bird enthusiast. Variable plumage, color morphs, and unique individual characteristics are just some of the factors bird watchers must consider when identifying the different species. In this authoritative reference, two of the world’s top experts on raptors provide an essential guide to the variations in the species, allowing for easier recognition of key identification points. This spectacular book contains 377 gorgeous full-color photographs of 43 species of North American raptors.


**Hawks at a Distance** by Jerry Liguori, Princeton University Press (2011). The ultimate must-have guide for identifying migrant raptors, *Hawks at a Distance* is the first volume to focus on distant raptors as they are truly seen in the field. Jerry Liguori, a leading expert on North American raptors, factors in new information and approaches for identifying 29 species of raptor in various lighting situations and settings. The field guide’s nineteen full-color portraits, 558 color photos, and 896 black-and-white images portray shapes and plumages for each species from all angles. Useful flight identification criteria are provided and the text discusses all aspects of in-flight hawk identification, including flight style and behavior. Concentrating on features that are observable at a distance, this concise and practical field guide is ideal for any aspiring or experienced hawk enthusiast.

**Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors in Flight** by Jerry Liguori, Princeton University Press (2005). This is a superb guide, with 339 color photos of hawks in flight. The author emphasizes key characteristics for identification and discusses confusing species. This book is extremely helpful for anyone planning to do a lot of hawk watching.

**The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors** by Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan; Princeton University Press (2013). Comprehensive and authoritative, the book covers all 34 North American diurnal raptor species. Each species is featured in stunning color plates that show males and females, plumage variations by age and color variants, depicted near and far, in flight and at rest, and from multiple angles, all illustrated in their typical habitats. There are comparative, multi-species scenes and mystery photographs to allow readers to test their identification skills (answers and full explanations are in the back of the book).
**Hawk Watch International Raptor ID App** by Hawk Watch International (2018) The first raptor identification app designed for mobile devices; "HawkWatch International's Identification Guide to Raptors" puts expert hawk identification content in the palm of your hand. In this guide to North America's 34 species of diurnal raptors, you'll find nearly 1000 annotated photos, and cutting edge identification video for each species, geared toward helping you identify raptors in flight. If you're just getting started with birding, this app covers the basics; if you're already an expert hawk watcher, this app covers all the variation that can lead to identification confusion, even among the most seasoned birders.