

RAPTOR WATCH

wildlife
in the city



One of the best ways to identify a bird of prey
is by the way they fly!

Here are some hints about how to recognise a flying raptor...

Buzzard (Buteo buteo)



Buzzards use their large wings to soar through the air. They hold them in a v-shape, riding the air in large circles. Buzzards are also often seen perching on fenceposts and large trees, scanning the area for food.

REMEMBER, Buzzards:

- Have v-shaped wings
- Soar in large circles

Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)



Peregrines have a short tail compared to other birds of prey, but do have long pointed wings which help them dive at incredible speeds to catch their prey.

They are very agile in the air, as well as fast. Peregrines are largely blue/grey in colour, with pale undersides. They also have a distinctive moustache you can see if you are close enough!

REMEMBER, Peregrines:

- Have long pointed wings
- Dive to catch their prey



Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus)

Kestrels are known best because they hover, almost still, except for their rapid beating of wings. They stay still in the sky to watch for prey. Their hovering shape is unique, with a fanned tail - if you can get a good look, you may see a black bar on the end of the tail.

REMEMBER, Kestrels:

- Hover still in the sky
- Hover with a fanned tail

Sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus)



Sparrowhawks have rounded wings and long tails to weave between trees and buildings. They can only chase their prey for short distances and so are mainly found where their prey is (usually small birds). Sparrowhawks are sometimes confused with kestrels, but they never hover like a kestrel does.

REMEMBER, Sparrowhawks:

- Have rounded wings and long tails
- Only fly short distances

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