

Raptors

Hawks, Accipiters, and Eagles are more closely related to each other than to Falcons. They are all in family *Accipitridae*.

- Kingdom: **Animalia**
- Phylum: **Chordata**
- Class: **Aves**
- Order: **Falconiformes**

Hawks

Hawks are of the genus *Buteo*. They are often called “broad wings.” They are heavy bodied birds particularly adapted for soaring or using gravity to drop on their prey. These birds use their powerful feet and strong talons to bind to their prey constricting it in their grasp and puncturing vitals.

This group contains members such as the Red-Tailed Hawk and the Ferruginous Hawk.

Accipiters

Accipiters are in the genus *Accipiter*. They are often called “true hawks” and "short wings" and sometimes the "yellow-eyed hawks". These birds are marked by their broad, round wings that are shorter than Buteos, short neck, and long tails. Juvenile eyes are yellow turning to red in adulthood. Their typical flight pattern is a *flap-flap-flap* followed by a glide. Soaring isn't a preferred flight method as they are just so efficient at their flapping-glide. These birds seem to be in a constant state of motion, and almost nervous. Members of this group include the Goshawk, the Cooper’s Hawk, and the Sharp-Shin Hawk.

Eagles

Eagles are the genus *Aquila*. There are 9 members of this genus. These birds have long, broad wings and a medium tail. The Golden Eagles of this group are rare for falconry in America, but are used.

Falcons

Falcons are in the family *Falconidae* and the genus *Falco*. They are often called “longwings” and sometimes the "dark-eyed hawks" and are most known for their high-pitched stoops. These are the most widespread land-bird family covering all but the high arctic and Antarctic regions. These birds have a much different body form than the others listed here. They have long, pointed wings and a long tail. The short, hooked beak has a unique notch specifically for snapping the neck of prey. Their toes are long and thin with less substantial talons than hawks or eagles.

These are birds such as the Peregrine Falcon, the Kestrel, and the Merlin.