

11. *Living on the Wind (Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, by Scott Weidensaul (1999)

Poetic, superbly written companion to Kerlinger's book. Although scientific in aspect, the author makes this book easy to read as well as entertaining. The majority is not about hawk migration, but the chapters written on the subject are special.

12. *Raptors, The Birds of Prey*, by Scott Weidensaul (1996)

A comprehensive book on raptors that has more information packed into one book than any other available. It covers everything from conservation to the origins of raptor names. No hawk watcher's shelf or coffee table should be without it.

13. *Proceedings of Hawk Migration Conference IV*, by HMANA (1985)

A difficult-to-find compilation of articles written for the Hawk Migration Association of North America journal. Many of the topics in this book are not found elsewhere, and include radar methods for studying hawk migration and estimating the altitude of migrating hawks. Technical, but intriguing.

14. *The Migration of Hawks*, Donald S. Heintzelman (1986)

(Out of Print) Written in 1975, and published in 1986, this is the original book written on hawk watching in the country. It details many of the lesser known sites across the nation and offers some statistics, although most are not thorough. The inter-library system should be able to find you a copy and it is worth reviewing from a historical point of view.

15. (Video) *Hawk Watch, A Video Guide to Eastern Raptors*, by Richard K. Walton & Greg Dodge (1998)

If there is one video to help you learn how to ID hawks in flight, this is it. As Pete Dunne puts it, "The next best thing to being there!" A bonus is the video quiz at the end of the tape that focuses on everything you learned. Run time is 45 minutes.

16. (Video) *Hawks Up Close*, National Audubon Society & Nature Science Network (1992)

Superb footage on the lives of hawks. This very entertaining video does not cover identification in detail nor migration studies. But that's not its purpose. It is well worth watching. Run time is 55 minutes.

17. (Video) *Audubon Society's Video Guide To Birds of North America: I* (1985)

Part of a video series containing a total of five volumes. This volume covers hawks as well as other birds. Total run time is 94 minutes, but the section on hawks is very short.

A Word on Websites

Because of the nature of the Internet, the author has, intentionally but regrettably, left out the many websites that offer excellent aid to viewing and identifying hawks, as well as general information. For those familiar with Internet use, try one of the search engines available to find these sites by simply typing in a few key words. The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) is a good place to start.

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Merlins don't rely on wind as much as food for migration.

The most important thing to remember when learning to identify hawks is patience. Not all hawks can be identified easily and all of the premier hawk counters in the country will admit, albeit under twisted arm, they have been mistaken from time to time on their calls. Try to identify each and every hawk by a process of elimination. Remember, chances are the hawk you are seeing will most likely fall under the 14 or so species common in our area. But keep in mind that hawks in migration do not necessarily follow the same rules as they do during other times of the year. For example, a Northern Harrier is usually seen flying low to the ground most of the time, but in migration it is not uncommon to see one soaring at great heights. It is also very important to study birds that can be mistaken for hawks. Crows, gulls, herons, and even soaring cormorants at a distance can easily display many of the characteristics of hawks in flight.

Whenever possible, go with someone who has a little experience. It'll help with any frustration you may incur when trying to decide on what you're actually seeing a mile away in the sky. Also, all of the books and videos mentioned above will help in one way or another, but nothing beats experience in the field. So pick a site you can frequent often and keep your eyes to the sky.

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