

WHERE?
WHERE?
WEDGIE!

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Birds of prey

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

➔ Key features useful for field survey during *Where? Where? Wedgie!*

► White flying birds



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Obvious yellow underwings, under tail and crest. Very large head and very short tail. Very broad, blunt wings. Bow-winged and very erratic, deep flapping. Incessant screeching. Raven sized.



Grey Goshawk

Pure white in Tasmania. Long tail and small, neat head. Often soars on rounded wings. Very direct flight with shallow flaps, gliding on flat wing profile. Yellow legs and cere. Females the size of a cockatoo or raven, males the size of a corella or magpie.



Long-billed Corella **aka Slender-billed Corella**

Subtle yellow underwings and under tail. Large head and beak, beak tip often showing in flight. Short tail. Wings slightly tapered. Steady, strong flapping. Obvious crimson front to the face, and usually a red bib. Sized between a raven and galah.

Note: Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Corellas often flock together.



Little Corella

Subtle yellow underwings and under tail. Large, neat head and moderate length tail. Wings somewhat tapered. Steady strong flapping - when alarmed, not unlike pigeons. Blue around eyes. Some red in front of eyes only. Sized between a raven and galah.

► White perched birds



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Little Corella

Sometimes shows a short white crest.



Grey Goshawk

Long tail and yellow legs usually obvious.



**Long-billed Corella
aka Slender-billed Corella**
Red bib usually obvious



White-bellied Sea-eagle

Only adults white on front. Very large raptor, only possible to mistake when perched front on at a distance.



**PLEASE HELP
ENSURE WE GET
ACCURATE NUMBERS!**

Record only to the level that you're sure of: if you weren't able to clearly identify the bird, an identification at the level of e.g. 'falcon' or even 'bird of prey' is appropriate.

FIELD NOTES:



Note: Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Corellas often flock together.

► Brown / dark flying birds



Peregrine Falcon

Heavy, compact build. Black 'motorbike helmet' contrasts with pale throat. Pointy wings and moderately long tail. Very powerful flight on flat wing profile. Yellow legs and cere. Raven sized but appear smaller because of compactness.



Australian Hobby, aka Little Falcon (adult)

Small size, slender but powerful body. Long tail and very long, pointed wings. Fast flight with quick flaps. Glides on a flat wing profile. Smaller than a magpie.



Brown Falcon (adult)

Pale underside streaked and blotched with dark brown. Dark brown upper side with rusty flecks. Long, moderately pointed wings and long tail. Glides with wings held in shallow V wing profile. Often soars and jinks in fast, descending display flight. Long, grey/blue legs. Slightly smaller than a raven.



Brown Goshawk, aka Australian Goshawk (juvenile)

A classic hawk shape. Very long, rounded tail and neat head. Direct flight with shallow flaps and a flat wing profile. Slightly smaller than a raven.



Collared Sparrowhawk (adult)

A classic hawk shape. Long, squared tail and small neat head. Direct flight with shallow flaps and a flat wing profile. Smaller than a magpie.



Nankeen Kestrel, aka Australian kestrel (adult)

Very small and slender. Often hovers. Buoyant with long wings and tail, adult males with a black tip. Pale undersides. Yellow legs. Much smaller than a magpie.



Swamp Harrier

A large hawk with long, broad wings with emarginated 'fingered' tips when soaring. Long tail with a distinct pale rump, usually white (arrowed). Very buoyant, tireless flight, with distinct V wing profile. The left one is an immature and the right one an adult. Substantially larger than a raven.

► Brown / dark flying birds



Wedge-tailed Eagle (adult)

Extremely large, swan sized. 'Classic' eagle, unmistakable if the long pointed tail can be seen. Soars with a V wing profile. Adults universally very dark brown with pale base to the underside of primaries. Juveniles and other immatures paler, especially the nape.



Wedge-tailed Eagle (juvenile)

Compare with juvenile White-bellied Sea-eagle.



White-bellied Sea-eagle (adult)

Extremely large, swan sized.



White-bellied Sea-eagle (juvenile)

Juvenile only can be dark brown, strongly patterned underwing with a short, white tail with indistinct dark tip. Heavy, bare, grey legs.



Wedge-tailed Eagle (adult)

In a 'pot-hook' flight display.



Forest raven for comparison. This species is very common and can occur anywhere. In some circumstances it can be mistaken for a raptor.

► Small to medium brown / dark perched Tasmanian raptors



Collared Sparrowhawk (adult)

Neat, rounded head with 'surprised stare'. Long, square or slightly forked tail.



Collared Sparrowhawk (juvenile)

Juvenile collared sparrowhawks and brown goshawks have white underparts, with heavy brown streaks on the breast grading to coarse brown bars on the belly.



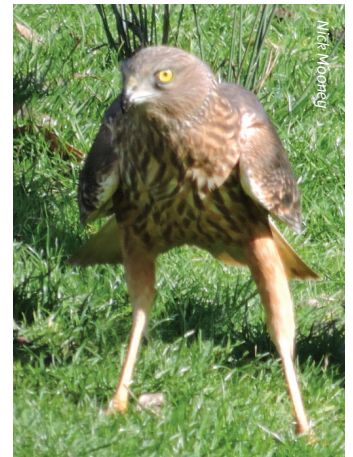
Peregrine Falcon (adult)

Very compact, solid build with dark 'motorbike helmet' contrasting with pale throat. Rich yellow legs and 'cere'. Moderate length tail.



Brown Goshawk, aka Australian Goshawk

(left and above) Very long, rounded tail. Flattish head with 'frowning glare'. Yellow legs. The bird to the left is an adult, while the bird above is a juvenile.



Swamp Harrier (adult)

Streaked belly, very long, skinny legs and very pale or white rump flash. Rarely in trees.



Nankeen Kestrel, aka Australian Kestrel.

Small and gracile with pale underside and cinnamon (nankeen) upper side. Yellow legs. Hovers expertly. Often perches on powerlines, poles etc. This one is adult.



Brown Falcon (adult)

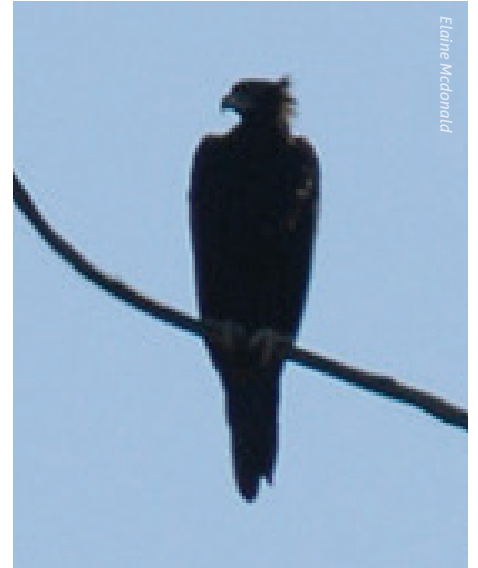
Balanced build, soft brown blotching and grey legs. Often on powerlines, poles etc.

► Very large brown / dark perched raptors



Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Very long, dark, pointed tail and legs feathered to the feet. Can appear very elongate (far right). Golden blond nape on juveniles (above and right), progressively darker with age.



White-bellied Sea-eagle.

Juveniles (above and middle) are dark brown on the back with a paler head, older immatures are slatey brown on the back, adults (right) are grey with a white head. All have white tails and bare grey legs.



Forest raven for comparison

WHAT IS NATURE TRACKERS?

NatureTrackers is an initiative of the Bookend Trust, a not-for-profit founded in Tasmania in 2008, which inspires people of all ages and abilities to develop careers and interest in the environment, and to find positive solutions to environmental problems. NatureTrackers is the Bookend Trust's overall program of 'citizen science' projects, coordinating schools and the community to track the progress of our threatened species and better understand their needs.

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- youtube.com/user/BookendTrust/videos

Email: info@naturetrackers.com.au

Education: www.expeditionclass.com

WARM THANKS To:

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