

Goshawks Can Be Confused With These Other Species

Cooper's Hawk

- Smaller (crow sized or smaller) and slimmer.
- Shorter wings, long but slender rounded tail.
- Adults barred orange to rust color below.
- Voice sounds very nasal.
- Woodlots, suburbs, less common in deep forest.
- Rarely soar.



Sharp-shinned Hawk

- Much smaller (jay to pigeon sized).
- Short wings, long square-ended tail.
- Adults barred orange to rust color below.
- Voice high-pitched.
- Nests in deep forest, especially in younger conifers.



Red-tailed Hawk

- Big, chunky, short-tailed and broad-winged.
- Brown above, whitish below with varying amount of belly streaking, distinctive rusty tail on adults.
- Soar frequently, often high.
- Inhabit forest edge, mixed farmland/woodlots.
- Most frequently seen large hawk in PA.



Red-shouldered Hawk

- Bigger than crow; smaller, lankier than red-tail.
- Adults with distinctive black & white wings, tail.
- Highly vocal from March through June.
- Breeds in moist forests, swamps, bottomlands.
- Often dive at intruders near nest.



Broad-winged Hawk

- Crow-sized, chunky and big-headed.
- Adults mostly brown with black & white tail.
- Breeds in continuous deciduous or mixed forests.
- Widespread but secretive during breeding season.

