

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “MEET YOUR LOCAL HAWKS”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, July-August 2024, www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine.

Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine is your guide to wild things. Every other month, six times a year, the magazine arrives in your school library. Each one has a story for Young Naturalists like you. **Are you curious about wild things?** Young Naturalists tells true stories that can answer all kinds of questions such as these—

Have you ever heard of a purple wartyback? How about a pink heelsplitter, pimple-back, or monkeyface? All are Minnesota freshwater mussels. Read Young Naturalists stories to learn which species (kinds) of critters live in Minnesota—frogs, salamanders, snakes, wild cats, wild dogs, weasels, mice, and rabbits.

Want to **peek inside the den of a red fox** and see how the kits grow up? Are you a rock hound searching for agates? Have you ever wondered what’s alive under snow? How animals see? Why is a bluebird blue? How birds fly?

Would you like to hear the true story of **giants of the ice age**? Young Naturalists also tells you about the underground universe. You can read the story of a tiny owl that went to a hospital with an injured wing. Find out about a boy who worked in a logging camp. Read the story of Ojibwe children today hunting and gathering like their ancestors did.

Learn how to get started **camping, snowshoeing, ice fishing, or canoeing**.

Find these stories and more online at www.mndnr.gov/young_naturalists.

Your knowledge of wild things helps you explore and enjoy the outdoors. Have fun!

“MEET YOUR LOCAL HAWKS”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, Sept-Oct 2024, www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine.



1. WHICH OF THE THREE TYPES OF HAWKS DESCRIBED IN THE STORY INHABIT BOTH FORESTS AND OPEN SPACES IN MINNESOTA?

- A. BUTEOS
- B. ACCIPITERS
- C. HARRIERS
- D. FALCONS

2. NAME THREE WAYS HAWKS ARE ADAPTED TO HUNTING AND EATING THEIR PREY.

3. TRUE OR FALSE: IF YOU SEE A HAWK NEARBY THAT ISN'T ONE OF THE 9 SPECIES DESCRIBED IN THE STORY, YOU MOST LIKELY ARE SEEING A SPECIES NOT NATIVE TO MINNESOTA.

4. WHICH HAWK FEATURED IN THE STORY HAS FLUFFY FEATHERS ON ITS LEGS AND THE TOPS OF ITS FEET?

- A. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK
- B. NORTHERN HARRIER
- C. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK
- D. RED-TAILED HAWK

5. PLACE THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTORS IN ORDER FROM BROADEST TO MOST SPECIFIC: HAWK, RAPTOR, AMERICAN GOSHAWK, BIRD, ACCIPITER.

6. WHICH OF THE SPECIES IN THE STORY HAS A NAME THAT COMES FROM THE OLD ENGLISH WORD FOR “GOOSE HAWK”?

- A. AMERICAN GOSHAWK
- B. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK
- C. NORTHERN HARRIER
- D. BROAD-WINGED GOOSE HAWK

7. THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK AND BROAD-WINGED HAWK BOTH HAVE BANDED TAILS. WHICH OF THE TWO HAWKS HAS THE TAIL WITH MORE BANDS THAN THE OTHER?

8. IF YOU SAW A HAWK AT YOUR BIRDFEEDER, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD IT MOST LIKELY BE?

- A. NORTHERN HARRIER
- B. COOPERS HAWK
- C. AMERICAN GOSHAWK
- D. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

THE STORY MENTIONS THAT BROAD-WINGED HAWKS MIGRATE IN FLOCKS TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA TO SPEND THE WINTER THERE. IN 2003, COUNTERS AT HAWK RIDGE IN DULUTH, A COMMON SPOT FOR SPYING MIGRATING HAWKS, COUNTED MORE THAN 100,000 BROAD-WINGED HAWKS IN A SINGLE DAY! IF NORTH AMERICAN’S BROAD-WINGED HAWK POPULATION IS ABOUT 1 MILLION, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BROAD-WINGED HAWK POPULATION WOULD YOU HAVE WITNESSED HAD YOU BEEN AT HAWK RIDGE ON THAT DAY IN 2003?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. USING DETAILS FROM THE STORY, CONTRAST THE WING SHAPE AND GENERAL FLIGHT PATTERN FOR BUTEOS, ACCIPITERS, AND HARRIERS.

2. WHY IS THE RED-TAILED HAWK HARDER TO IDENTIFY?

- A. IT IS VERY UNCOMMON IN MINNESOTA AND NOT OFTEN SEEN BY PEOPLE.
- B. IT IS CAMOUFLAGED (ITS FEATHERS BLEND IN WITH THE TREES’ LEAVES).
- C. IT FLIES VERY FAST.
- D. IT COMES IN 9 DIFFERENT COLOR VARIATIONS.

3. BASED ON THE STORY DETAILS, WHAT CAN YOU INFER REGARDING WHAT THE AUTHOR HOPES YOU WILL DO AFTER READING THE STORY?

- A. DONATE MONEY TO HELP PROTECT HAWKS AND THEIR HABITAT.
- B. VISIT STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE REFUGES.
- C. INTRODUCE YOUR FRIENDS TO THESE MAGNIFICANT HAWKS THAT WE HAVE IN MINNESOTA.
- D. BUILD BIRD FEEDERS SO THAT HAWKS HAVE MORE FOOD TO EAT DURING THE WINTER.

4. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CLAIM THAT HAWKS ARE MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY?

- A. THE STORY SAYS THAT THE ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK “LIVES IN THE ARCTIC DURING THE SUMMER AND FLIES SOUTH TO VARIOUS, INCLUDING MINNESOTA, FOR WINTER.”
- B. THE AUTHOR OF THE STORY IS A NATURALIST WHO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT HAWKS AND THEIR MOVEMENTS.
- C. MINNESOTA HAS 9 SPECIES OF HAWKS, AND OTHER STATES LIKE CALIFORNIA HAVE MORE THAN 9 SPECIES.
- D. ALL OF THE ABOVE

5. THE AUTHOR DESCRIBES THE RED-TAILED HAWK AS THE ROBIN OR CHICKADEE OF MINNESOTA HAWKS FOR WHAT REASON?

- A. IT IS ONE OF THE FIRST BIRDS TO ARRIVE IN THE SPRINGTIME.
- B. IT IS FOUND IN MANY PLACES.
- C. IT IS GENERALLY A FAVORITE HAWK SPECIES FOR MOST PEOPLE.
- D. THE AUTHOR WAS TRYING TO MAKE THE STORY MORE INTERESTING FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BIRDS.

VOCABULARY

Talon – the claw of a bird of prey

Pudgy – chubby

Lanky – skinny

Elusive – difficult to see or find

Scamper - run with quick light steps, either with excitement or fear

Prospective – likely to come about, or expected

Maneuver – to move skillfully or carefully

Deciduous - trees and shrubs that seasonally shed leaves