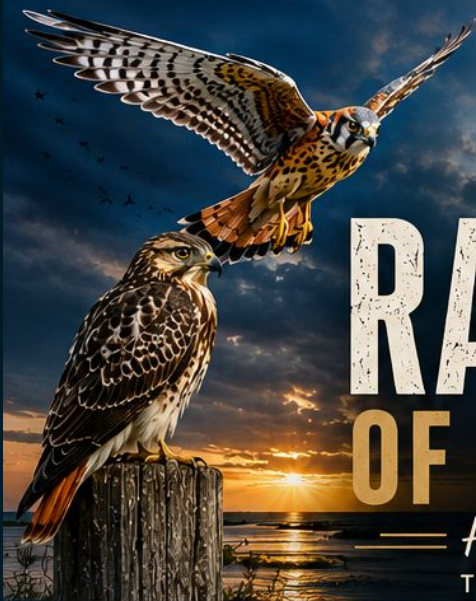




RAPTORS OF ROCKPORT

Hunters From Above
TEXAS COASTAL BEND



AMERICAN KESTREL (sparrow-sized)
America's smallest falcon. A jewel-box bird — rusty back, slate-blue wings, bold face markings. Hovers over roadsides hunting grasshoppers and mice. Common winter visitor along Hwy 35 fence lines.



MERLIN (robin-sized)
A compact, aggressive falcon that punches way above its weight. Chases shorebirds and dragonflies at full speed. Streaky brown, fierce yellow eye. Winter visitor, often seen near Little Bay.



SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (jay-sized)
The accipiter of backyard feeders — small, fast, built for threading through brush. Square tail, short wings. Ambushes songbirds mid-migration. Fall passage migrant.



COOPER'S HAWK (crow-sized)
Sharp-shinned's bigger, bolder cousin. Rounded tail distinguishes it. Nests locally, year-round resident. The hawk most likely raiding your bird feeder.



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (crow-sized)
Loves the wooded edges near freshwater. Distinctive reddish barring on chest, translucent "windows" in wingtips in flight. Year-round resident in the Live Oak woodlands.



FERRUGINOUS HAWK (extra large - 2.5ft)
Prairie giant, rare winter visitor from the west. Rusty upper parts, nearly white below. Largest buteo in North America. Uncommon but worth watching for in open fields.



BROAD-WINGED HAWK (crow-sized)
Migration spectacle — thousands kettle together in September thermals. Rarely seen alone. Short, broad wings, bold tail bands. Passes through in massive flocks called "rivers of raptors."



OSPREY (large - 2ft tall)
The fishing hawk. Dives feet-first into Aransas Bay, almost always catches something. Reversible outer toe grips slippery fish. Year-round presence, nests on channel markers.



RED-TAILED HAWK (large - 2ft tall)
The classic roadside hawk — the one everyone knows. Brick-red tail catches afternoon sun. Common year-round resident, hunts open fields and marsh edges.



CRESTED CARACARA (large - 2ft tall)
Not a true hawk — closer to a falcon but walks like a vulture. Black and white with a bare orange face. Year-round resident of South Texas Plains. Already has its own RBHQ page.



PEREGRINE FALCON (large - 1.5ft tall)
The fastest animal on earth — 240mph in a stoop. Hunts shorebirds along the coast during migration. Steel-blue back, helmeted face. Spring and fall migrant, occasional winter resident.



BALD EAGLE (extra large - 3ft tall)
Increasingly common around Aransas Bay and Goose Island. Immatures are brown and mottled — often misidentified. White head and tail arrive at 4-5 years. Nests in the area.

WHERE TO SEE THEM:



ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK



LITTLE BAY



LAMAR PENINSULA & HWY 35 FENCE LINES

LOOK UP.

Every field, bay, and fencepost could hold a hunter.



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RockportBirdingHQ.com

