





ROUGH & READY

Rough-legged hawks nest in the
Arctic and visit Minnesota each fall,
sometimes staying all winter.

Photography

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THE ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK gets its name from its feathered or “booted” legs, a feature it shares with the golden eagle and ferruginous hawk. A breeding bird of the Arctic, the rough-legged hawk arrives in Minnesota each fall, usually in November, and can sometimes be seen hunting in open areas. Hunting from low perches and sometimes hovering in the air, the rough-legged hawk feeds chiefly on small mammals. When snow becomes too deep for hunting, this hawk will often continue south.







THESE HAWKS can be seen in two color variations. The dark morph (above) has a dark band of feathers along the leading edge of its wings, while the light morph (right) has a mottled pattern. 📌

