

**SWAINSON'S HAWK
(BUTEO SWAINSONI)**

Federal/California status: --/Threatened



Description

The Swainson's hawk is about 21 inches (53 cm) in length and has wingspan of about 52 inches (132 cm). In its light phase, it has whitish or buffy-white wing linings that contrast with the darkly barred brown flight feathers. It also

has a dark bib, with whitish to pale buff underparts. The dark phase bird is dark brown, without the sharp contrast between the wing linings and brown flight feathers.

In California, Swainson's hawks begin nesting in late March, with the young usually leaving the nest by July. Nests are constructed in trees, shrubs, or on utility poles at heights of 4 to 100 feet (1 to 30.5 meters) above ground.

Habitat

Swainson's hawks prefer open habitats. Within California, they favor agricultural areas, riparian areas, and oak savannas. In the summer months, these hawks primarily eat insects, birds, and small mammals.

Range/distribution

Within the project area, Swainson's hawks occur in Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo counties.

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Photos

