

Bird of the Month - March

Northern Harrier

IDENTIFICATION

- **ALL BIRDS** - Fly low over the marsh, white patch on the rump, owl-like face
- **MALES** - Silver above, white below with black wing tips
- **FEMALES** - Brown above, white below with streaked breast
- **IMMATURES** - Cinnamon above and solid warm brown below

FOOD

- Small rodents and birds, hunts by flying low over the marsh

PREDATORS

- Not many. Young can fall prey to skunks, coyotes or owls

BEHAVIORS AND FUN FACTS

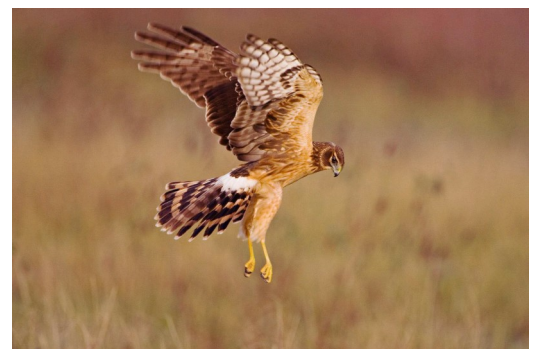
- Hunts by sight and sound. Can hear better than other hawks
- One male may mate with several females (unique among hawks in North America)
- Nests on the ground in heavy vegetation like cattails
- Breeding season takes place from April to July
- Also known as the Marsh Hawk
- Present year-round in the wetlands



Male Northern Harrier



Female Northern Harrier



Immature Northern Harrier