



Gile Mountain Hawk & Haiku Quest

Norwich, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Difficult

Special Features: Natural Vista

Duration: 1:00

Bring: Field Guide, Binoculars

To get there: Take Interstate 91 to Exit 13. This is the Hanover/Norwich exit. Go west towards Norwich. Pass Dan and Whit's store and continue for approximately ½ mile. Take a left onto Turnpike Road. In 2.6 miles, the paved road turns to dirt. In 5.3 miles you will see a sign for the Gile Mountain Trail and Parking.

Clues:

Wood sign names this place
And the trail meanders right:
Proceed, eyes open.

Tiny turkey tails
Like little fuzzy brown ears
Mark stump on the left.

See tree tops snipped off,
White birches doubled over:
Signs of ice and wind.

Trail turns to the right—
Not a conifer in sight—
At two blazes blue.

Stop at tiny bridge:
Sensitive fern spore cases,
Each spore a new life.

Turn up hill. Look up
For a three-crotched tree and see

Where a hawk might be.¹

Wires marching south.
Kestrel perch on them waiting
For the grasshoppers.

Steeper. Trees again.
Hawks migrate above these trees—
Come in fall and see!

Uphill. The thermals
Lift off the land in columns.
The hawks rise with them.

Look: ice storm central.
Sheared trees and blown down branches—
The storm left its tracks.

An empty shelter
Waits for you rain, sleet or snow.
Thank you, volunteers!

Climb up the tower
For seven stories of view,
Migrating hawks, too.

Last clue for you!
Take 25 steps North at standard pace, just away from tower's base
Find a huge and old, old maple tree,
Trunks count one half and three.
At its base lies a syrup can sans lid.
Your treasure inside.
Be sure to place it back, well hid.

Created by Steven Glazer and Ginger Wallis in 2000.
Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.



Valley Quest is a collection of 100+ treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region's challenges.

¹ Hawks can't weave nests but can lay sticks down. They need a sturdy place like a 3-crothed tree.