Red-tailed Hawk
**RED-TAILED HAWK**
Buteo jamaicensis

ORDER: Falconiformes

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**IDENTIFICATION CLUES**

- 19 inches long; 50 inch wingspan
- variable in color, from pale to reddish to almost black
- younger birds have light-colored tail with reddish bars or stripes; older birds have a rust-red tail with no bars
- pale breast with dark bands or splotches

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**Where to Look**

Red-tailed hawks can be seen soaring over open fields or land in search of prey. They will also perch on telephone poles or branches overhanging open areas.

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**Nesting**

Red-tailed hawks build large nests of sticks in tall trees or on the edge of a cliff. They lay 1-5 eggs.

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**What It Eats.**

Red-tailed Hawks feed on mice, rats, snakes, frogs, toads, birds and other small animals.

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**Call or Song**

The call is a loud, raspy, screamed “kree-eee-ar”. The call of the red-tailed hawk is often used in movies to represent the call of any eagle or hawk.

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**Did You Know**

During courtship, Red-tailed hawks put on quite a display. The pair can be observed spiraling high into the sky. The male will then dive straight down and then back up again to the female.