

Red-tailed Hawk



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

RED-TAILED HAWK

Buteo jamaicensis

ORDER: Falconiformes

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



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.



What It Eats.

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



Nesting

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



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.



Migration?

The Red-tailed Hawk is a year round resident of Georgia.



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.