

WHO WILL YOU VOTE FOR?

3

RED-TAILED HAWK

Scientific name: *Buteo jamaicensis*



Photographs by Audubon.org

Voice High-pitched descending scream with a hoarse quality, keeeer

These beautiful, large (19 inches long, with a 49-inch wingspan) birds are known for the distinctive brick-colored tail feathers in adult males. You will see them soaring in wide circles high over fields. But, also look for them along the edges of fields or perched on telephone poles and fenceposts, where they watch for prey then swoop down to catch it in their talons. They are often seen in the Skokie Lagoons, but you can sometimes see them in our neighborhoods, eating smaller birds. In breeding season, the Red-tailed Hawk initiates a spectacular sequence of aerial acrobatics, with males diving and then shooting straight up in the air. At times, the male may catch prey and, like a lateral football, toss it to the female while in flight.

Red-tailed Hawks mate for life and have a modern approach to parenting with both sexes incubating the eggs on their stick nest high above the ground.

Red-tailed hawks are keen-eyed and efficient hunters, playing an important role in local ecosystems by helping to control the populations of small mammals, including rodents, rabbits and squirrels. They also provide habitat for some small bird species, including house sparrows, that live in active Red-tailed Hawk nests (brave little sparrows!).

How climate change will reshape the range: There will be an increase in habitat in northern Canada.

Overall species vulnerability status: Stable

+35.6° Fahrenheit warming species vulnerability: Increasing and recurring fires would cause loss of habitat; and warm springs would put the young at risk while in their nests.

Credits: The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition; Written and Illustrated by David Allen Sibley, published by Alfred A. Knopf, 2014
<https://www.audubon.org>



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CLOSING DATE 30th JUNE 2021

www.villageofglencoe.org/impeckablebird

