

Red-Tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

ANIMAL CHARACTERISTICS

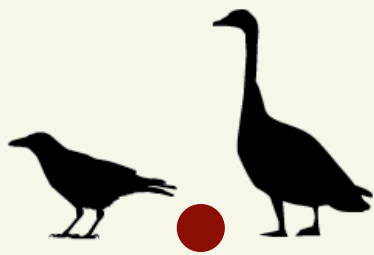
Appearance: Red-tailed hawks are large hawks with very broad, rounded wings and a short, wide tail. Most of these hawks are rich brown above and pale below, with a streaked belly. The tail is usually pale below and cinnamon-red above.

These hawks can be as big as a crow or a goose!

Habitat: They can be found in various terrains that offer open ground for hunting and some high perches, such as woodlands, mountains, plains, and roadsides.

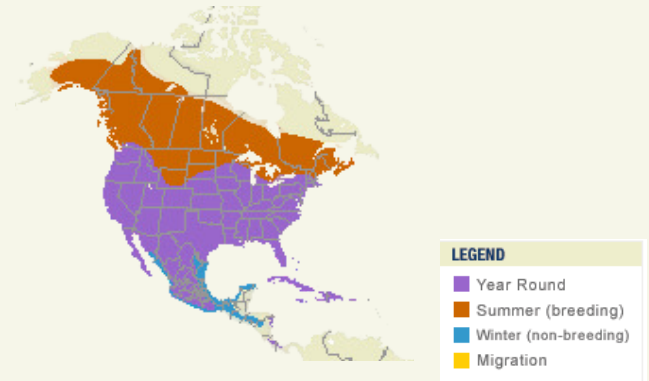
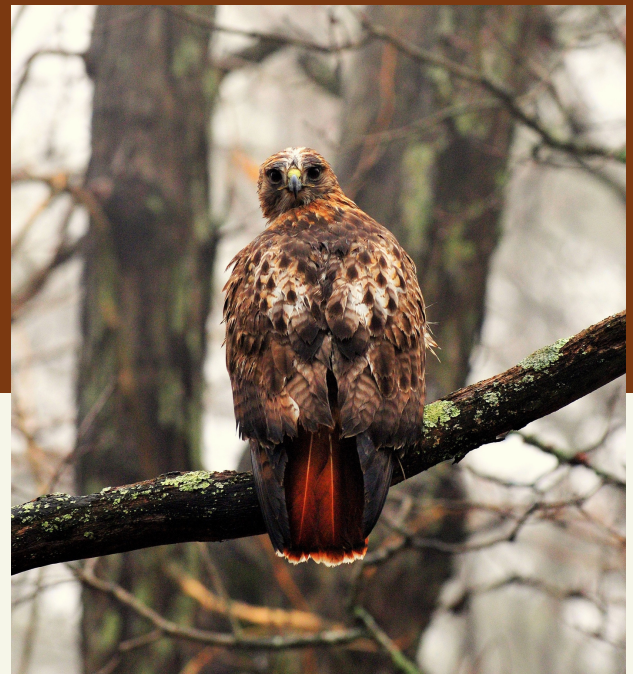
Diet: Their diet consists of small mammals, birds, and reptiles, and it may vary depending on their location and the season.

Sound: Red-tailed hawks use their signature scream to defend their territory.



CONSERVATION STATUS

Red-tailed hawks are widespread and common especially in Texas. They have increased in some areas in North America since the 1960's, and numbers are now stable or still increasing.



MIGRATION

Northern Red-tailed hawks may migrate southward, while those at central or southern latitudes, especially adults, tend to be permanent residents. The majority of migration occurs in late fall and early spring.

WHERE DO I LIVE IN THE ELM FORK NATURE PRESERVE?

The best way to find me is to go for a hike in the preserve, keeping your eyes peeled in the sky. Chances are good that the first hawk you see will be a Red-tailed hawk.