

# Red Tail Hawk

**Scientific Name:** *Buteo jamaicensis*

**Biology:**

Mass: 2.4 lbs. (1.1 kg.)

Wingspan: 3.4 – 4.8 ft. (103.6-146.3 cm.)

Length: 18 – 26 in. (45.7-66 cm.)

Mass: 2.4 lbs (38.4 oz.)

Conservation status: Least Concern (Population increasing)

**Description:** One of the most common hawks in North America, Red-tailed hawks soar above open fields, circling for prey. You can also see them on top of telephone poles, searching for movements or waiting out cold weather before climbing an upward air current into the open sky (AllAboutBirds).

**Mating Ritual:** Courting Red-tailed hawks soar in wide circles at a great height, until the male dives through the air and then shoots up at a steep angle. He then draws near the female from above and touches her briefly. Sometimes, the pair can be seen grabbing onto one other, linking talons, and spiraling toward the ground before pulling away at the last moment (AllAboutBirds).

**Subsistence:** Red-tailed hawks are often seen hunting as a pair, guarding opposite sides of the same tree to catch small mammals, especially rodents and rabbits. Birds, reptiles, fish or large insects occasionally fall prey as well (AllAboutBirds).

**Cultural Geography:** The Red-tailed hawk resides throughout most of North America, from the interior of Alaska and northern Canada to as far south as Panama and the West Indies. It has an electrifying scream which has become famous in popular media. Whenever a bird of prey appears on screen, the piercing, high-pitched cry is almost always from a Red-tailed hawk (AllAboutBirds).

**Citations:**

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed\\_Hawk/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed_Hawk/id)

