



Red-Tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis



Rudy

My birthday is **February 28th, 2014**

I am **observant** and **questioning**. You can find me perched on my roost watching people past me

You can find me at **Raptor Roast**. I originally from the wild until I had an injury and came in to be rehabbed. I was deemed **non-releasable**, so I now call Racine Zoo my home.

RED-TAILED HAWK AT A GLANCE



- I am covered in **feathers** that help me stay warm and fly.
- I am well known for my **copper-colored tail**.
- When I soar in the sky, I can dive and reach up to **120 mph**



- I have eyes with **excellent vision** that help me hunt during the day and at dusk.
- Hawks see colors like most humans, as well as those in the **ultraviolet range**
- My eyes have a **nictitating membrane** that covers and protects my eyes.



- I have **sharp talons** to help me catch prey and tear flesh apart.
- Red-tailed hawk grip strength is around **200 psi**
- In the wild, I eat small birds, reptiles, and rodents. I am fed mice and chicks at the zoo.



Adult size:
18-26 in tall
1.5- 3.5 lbs

Wingspan:
41-53 inches

Avg. life expectancy in the wild:
up to 12 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care:
up to 28 years

WHERE ARE RED-TAILED HAWK HABITATS LOCATED?



Red-tailed hawks can live in many different habitats: scrub deserts, plains, agricultural fields, pastures, urban parks, coniferous and deciduous woodlands, and tropical rainforests. Our range occupies Alaska, Canada, the United States, Mexico, and parts of Central America. They can be found roosting up in trees or soaring throughout the skies.

Red-tailed Hawk Behavior

PREENING

I use my beak to clean and strengthen my feathers.

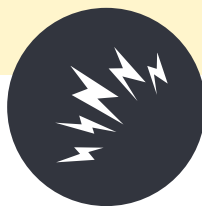
I preen to keep my feathers nice and healthy. It also helps me grow new feathers



CALLS

I make a loud “kee-ah” while soaring. Often repeated, it means that I am claiming territories or I am alarmed.

I am letting you know that you are in my area



PATROLLING

In the wild, I will rise up with a column of warm air, and circle through the sky without flapping my wings. This helps me save energy will I look for food .

Since I don't need to fly in my enclosure, I hop between each perch when patrolling.



CLEANING BEAK

When I am done eating my food and full, I will rub my beak on my perch or a branch to clean off any leftover food.

I am picking food off my beak like how you use floss to clean your teeth

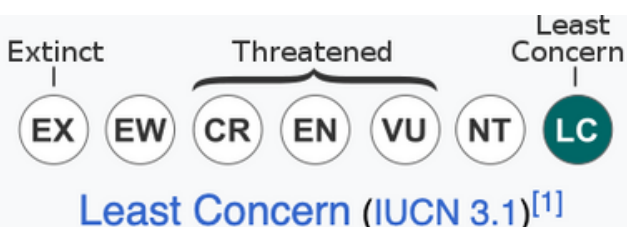


- Red-tailed hawks tend to keep their territory for their whole life; it can be as large as **9.6 square miles**
- Red-tails in Alaska and Canada will migrate as far south as Panama during the winter months, and return to their home range when the weather warms up again.
- They **mate for life** and will perform **aerial courtship dances** where they will lock talons and spiral downwards

Red-Tailed Hawk Conservation

Red-tailed hawks can get sick from toxins that are found in rodents that have consumed rat poison. Hawks and other non-target animals eventually die from the rodenticide if no intervention occurs.

They are listed as **least concern** on **IUCN Red List**. However, as more roads and buildings are being built, more raptors like red-tail hawks are colliding into windows, buildings, fencing, and cars.



How can we help?

We can use alternative rodent deterrents such as peppermint scents, rodent traps, light, and sound to prevent rodents into our spaces. Regularly check your vent and crawl space to prevent them from entering.

We can put colorful decals, string, or stickers on windows or fencing to let birds know that there is a physical object there and break up reflections.