



# Red-tailed Hawks

- The most common North American hawk, the red-tailed hawk lives in virtually every state in the continental United States, in all kinds of habitats from deserts, prairies and pastures to open forests and cityscapes.
- Most red-tailed hawks stay in the same territory year-round. Birds that summer in the Northern Great Plains migrate to the southern U.S. for the winter.
- The red-tailed hawk's raspy scream is so dramatic that Hollywood directors use it on soundtracks as the "voice" of an eagle, falcon or other fierce raptor.
- Though their wingspan may be as much as 4½ feet, red-tailed hawks are amazingly lightweight. A large adult may weigh just 3½ pounds.
- Instead of plunging from a great height, red-tailed hawks swoop steadily towards their prey, striking with legs outstretched. They sometimes hunt in pairs. A male and a female hawk may take up positions on opposite sides of a tree trunk to capture a squirrel.
- The oldest known red-tailed hawk lived to age 28 years, 10 months.



Mark Bohn/USFWS