



Red-Tailed Hawk

Red-Tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Instant ID

- A large hawk which is brown on the back, pale on the chest and has a rust colored tail
- Up to 24 inches tall with a wingspan over 50 inches
- Wings, which are brown from above, are light on the bottom with a dark leading edge
- Chest has varying amounts of brown speckling
- Juveniles' tails are banded black and white

Native Niches

- Found throughout North America south of the Arctic
- Also found in the Caribbean
- Found on the edges of forests near fields, prairies and other areas with few trees



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Favorite Foods

- Eats medium-sized mammals up to 2 times its own weight
- Will also eat birds and reptiles

Critter Characteristics

- Scream is often used on TV and in movies for the bald eagle
- Has an orbital ridge (bone over the eye) which acts as a visor
- Females are larger than males, yet only weigh about 3 pounds because most birds have hollow bones

Population Protection

- Often hit by cars, because roads provide open spaces for hunting
- Aids in disease prevention by controlling rodent numbers