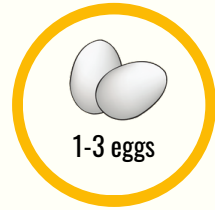
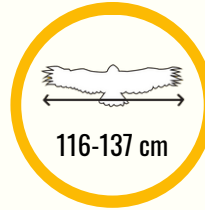




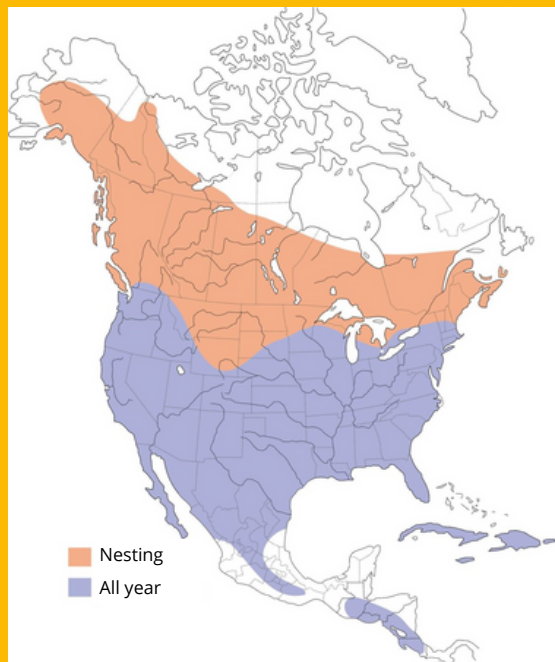
Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis



IDENTIFICATION

It can be recognized in flight by its short, rounded red tail. A large hawk, its back is brown with white spots and its wings are broad and rounded. The upper chest (plastron) is white with a belt of brown stripes. Males and females are similar. It differs from other hawks by the plain color of its tail at maturity.



ECOLOGY

Nutrition

Opportunistic, the Red-tailed Hawk hunts motionless from a high perch, from which it dives to capture its prey. It feeds mainly on small mammals, but also on birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and sometimes even fish or dead animals.

Breeding

The nest is generally built high up, in a tree or an artificial structure, offering a view over the territory. The female incubates her eggs for 4 to 5 weeks. The young remain in the nest until they fledge at around 8 to 9 weeks of age. They remain dependent on their parents until 12 to 15 weeks of age.

DISTRIBUTION

This is one of the most common hawks in Canada. It is often seen along highways and country roads. It lives in open environments, such as forest edges and fields. Its breeding range is vast, stretching from the Maritimes to the West Coast and north to the Yukon and Northwest Territories. In winter, it occupies southern Canada and the United States as far south as Florida.

STATUS AND POPULATION

Since 1970 in Quebec, its population has increased by 30%, probably thanks to the increased availability of its habitat, such as fields and roadsides.¹ The species is classified as secure.²

¹ Canadian breeding bird survey, 2016

² Wild species of Canada report, 2015