

Species Fact Sheet



BIRDS <http://www.peoriazoo.org/birds.html>

Red-Tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

Peoria Zoo Exhibit **Education Programs**

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/education.html>

Habitat: Open areas with scattered elevated perches, fields, woodlands, and scrub desert.

Range: From Alaska to Mexico and down into Central America and the Caribbean

Activity Cycle: Diurnal-active during the day

Size: Body length 17-22 inches, wingspan 3.5-4.5 feet

Social Structure: Red-tailed hawks are monogamous and mate for life. Male-female pairs are highly territorial. Both sexes will defend their territory from other hawks and birds.

Distinguishing Features: A large hawk with long, broad wings, a broad red tail and most commonly a pale chest with a dark band across the stomach. They come in both a light and dark color phase, so they can look very different from each other. They are a sit and wait type of predator, usually watching for prey from above. Commonly seen on fence posts and telephone poles along roads.

Diet: Small and medium-sized mammals, birds and reptiles. (Nearly 80-90% of their diets is made up of mice).

Life Span: 10-21 years

Did you know?

The eyesight of a hawk is 8 times as powerful as a human's eyesight.