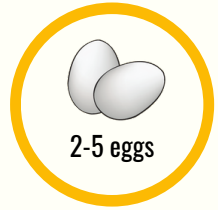
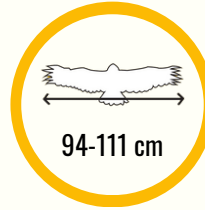




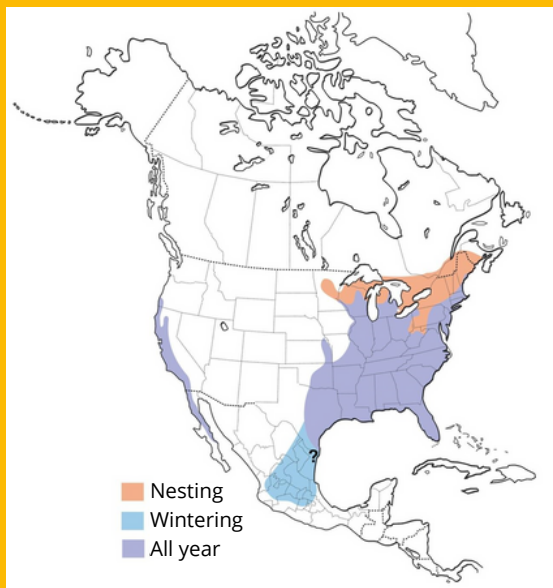
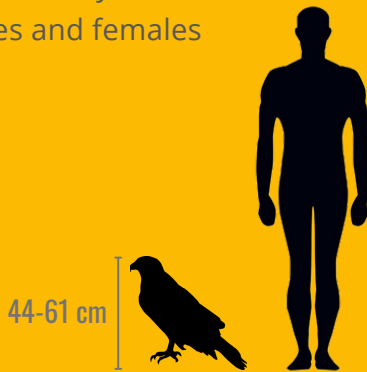
# Red-shouldered Hawk

*Buteo lineatus*



## IDENTIFICATION

The Red-shouldered Hawk can be recognized by its streaked rufous breast and checkered dark brown and white back. Adults display characteristic reddish patches on the wrists, similar to epaulets, which can be seen when the bird is resting or in flight. Both juveniles and adults have a distinctive pale crescent on their primary wing feathers. It has a long black tail crossed by thin white stripes. Males and females are similar.



## ECOLOGY

### Nutrition

The Red-shouldered Hawk's hunting technique is to perch motionless on the edge of a clearing and swoop down on its prey as it passes close by. Small mammals make up the majority of its meals. Frogs and garter snakes may also be included.

### Breeding

Breeding pairs will often stay together a number of years, using the same tree for nesting. They choose a large tree near a river in a forest. The female incubates her eggs for 6 to 7 weeks. The young fledglings make their first flight at around 7 weeks of age. They remain with their parents for a further 8 to 10 weeks.

## DISTRIBUTION

It frequents mixed and coniferous forests near rivers, clearings and swamps. It is increasingly easy to observe near cities and suburbs. It is found in south-central Canada, mainly in southern Ontario, southern Quebec and southwestern New Brunswick during the breeding season.

## STATUS AND POPULATION

Since the 1950s, the population has been in steep decline. The main cause is thought to be habitat destruction, mainly caused by logging, drainage of wet forests and pesticide use. Since 2015, however, the number of individuals has been increasing, and the risk of extinction has diminished. The species is considered safe.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wild species of Canada report, 2015