

Broad-winged Hawk

Migratory Species

Petite Buse
Buteo platypterus

Wingspan: 81 cm to 99 cm



The Broad-winged Hawk is easily recognized by its sharp and whiney cry. This bird of prey, which is slightly smaller than a crow, has a rufous chest and a short tail striped with black and white bands. Its back and wings are brown.



The male and female are similar.



The Broad-winged Hawk lives in forests located near water or a clearing.



The diet consists of rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and sometimes even fish.



The lifespan averages 14 years, and the record is for 18 years 4 months.



The nest is built in a large tree and well hidden by the leaves. The Broad-winged Hawk couple sometimes uses a nest that has been abandoned by another bird of prey, by crows, or even by squirrels. The female generally lays 2 to 3 eggs.



The young take their first flight around 35 to 40 days of age. They remain dependant upon their parents until they are about 50 to 56 days old.



The population of Broad-winged Hawks decreased slightly at the beginning of the 20th century, probably due to destruction of its habitat by deforestation and land development for agriculture. Since the 1970s, the population seems to have stabilized.



In the 1930s, people would hunt birds of prey either for pleasure or because they considered them to be a nuisance. Thousands of birds were killed each year. Today, all birds of prey are protected by law in Canada. In Quebec, it is illegal to hunt or capture a bird of prey. It is also illegal to own a tame bird of prey or even a part of one (skull, talons, wing, feather, etc.)...Even a feather found on the ground can not be taken! This is simply because it is not possible to prove that the feather was not plucked directly from the bird.