

Emily and Dimitri The GNC Red-tailed Hawks

General Red-tailed Hawk Information

Scientific Name

Buteo jamaicensis

Size/Weight/Speed

Length: 18-26 inches, Wingspan: 43-57 inches. Weight: 1.5-4.5 lbs. Speed: Soaring: 20-40 mph, Diving: 120+ mph.

Life Span

10-15 years in the wild, 20+ years in captivity.

Range

Canada, the United States (including Alaska), Mexico, and Central America.

Diet

The red-tailed hawk feeds mainly on small mammals such as mice, rats, and rabbits though it has been known to eat birds, reptiles, bats, insects, fish, and crustaceans.

Breeding

Red-tailed hawks are monogamous, meaning they mate with the same individual for life. They nest high up in trees or cliff sides, laying 1-3 eggs. Females usually incubate the eggs while the males gather food that they bring back to the nest. The eggs hatch after 28-35 days.

Population Status

Abundant with an estimated 1,000,000 birds in the United States alone.

Native Americans

Under current law, feathers of red-tailed hawks are protected. It is illegal to possess these feathers and it's possible to be fined up to \$25,000 if caught. However, there are exceptions for Native Americans who consider the tail feathers of the red-tailed hawk to be sacred. They are permitted to have these feathers for religious ceremonies and to adorn their clothes.

About the GNC Red-tailed Hawks

The GNC red-tailed hawks are all rescue animals that can no longer be returned to the wild. Sometimes adult hawks get injured and the GNC can rehabilitate them and then release them back into the wild. However, there are times when they are injured to the point where they can never fully recover, and those are the ones that end up being kept in captivity.



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