



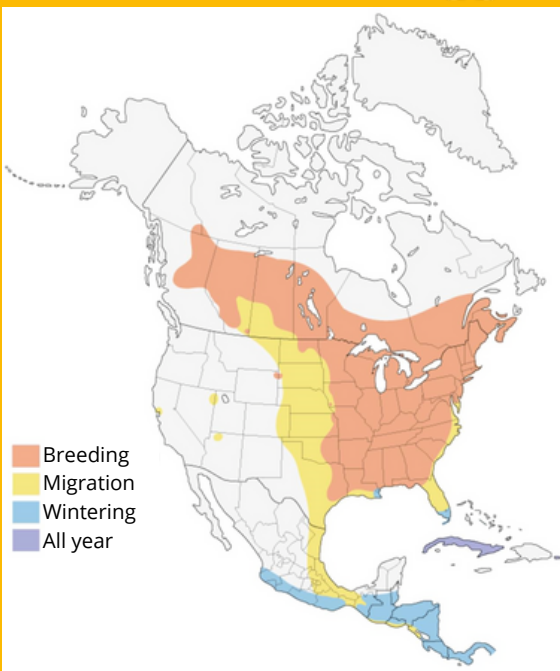
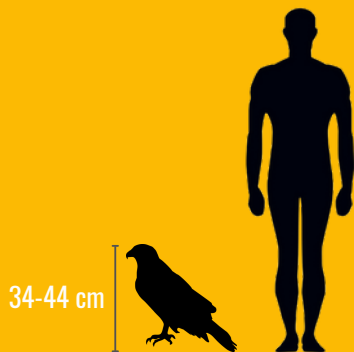
Broad-winged Hawk

Buteo platypterus



IDENTIFICATION

This raptor is slightly smaller than a crow. Males and females are similar. The adult has a chest marked with russet spots, a white throat and a short dark tail crossed by broad white stripes. The Broad-winged Hawk can be distinguished from the Red-shouldered Hawk by the pale underside and dark outline of its wings.



ECOLOGY

Nutrition

This hawk eats rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and sometimes fish. To spot prey, it perches high up and remains motionless. It then lunges at its prey, dropping to the ground.

Breeding

A breeding pair can stay together for a number of years. The nest is built in a tall tree well camouflaged by foliage. The female incubates her eggs for 4 weeks. The chicks make their first flight at around 35 days of age. The young depend on their parents until they are 8 weeks old.

DISTRIBUTION

The Broad-winged Hawk prefers large mixed forests and maple groves close to a river or clearing. It lives in the deciduous and mixed forests of southern Canada, from Alberta to the Maritimes. In early autumn, it migrates south to central and even south America. This migration can sometimes be observed in groups of several thousand individuals.

STATUS AND POPULATION

Populations have been increasing since 1970¹. Forest fragmentation in its breeding areas is creating conservation concerns for the species. The species is designated secure.²

¹ Canadian breeding bird survey, 2016

² Wild species of Canada report, 2015