

# Red-Shouldered Hawk

(*Buteo lineatus*)



Red-shouldered Hawk

## Instant ID

- A medium-sized hawk with reddish barring on chest
- Wings have a checkered appearance, red patches or “shoulders” starting on the back and span up to 40 inches
- Tail is black with thin white bands
- Juveniles less distinctly colored
- Adults and juveniles have a translucent (lets light through) crescent near the tips of wings
- In northern Florida, it is brown and darker, while in southern Florida it is gray and paler

## Native Niches

- Found in and near forests and wooded areas with water
- From Nova Scotia south to Mexico and west to Texas
- Absent in plains and desert states, it can be found in coastal California forests

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## Favorite Foods

- Eats small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds
- Also eats large invertebrates (animals without backbones) such as crayfish

## Critter Characteristics

- Call is a sharp “kiyeer” repeated several times
- Oldest known individual was 22 years five months old and banded (ID on leg) in Florida
- Baby hawks keep the nest clean by shooting their feces (poop) over the side

## Population Protection

- Some northern states have seen a 90% drop from historic population numbers
- Clearing of forests results in a drop in population
- Protected lands, like Florida State Parks, provide safe habitats to many species

