



Ferruginous Hawk

(Buteo Regalis)

This magnificent King of the Skies is the largest and most eagle-like buteo in North America. The Ferruginous Hawk has a streaked brown and white appearance with streaks of orange cinnamon on its upper body with a with a mostly white mottled underbelly.

Habitat & Diet

The Ferruginous Hawk feeds heavily on small to medium sized mammals, such as squirrels and jackrabbits. They live in open grasslands with patches of scrubby trees. They build nests in trees if they are available, or they nest on the ground. They thrive on unaltered grasslands and are not able to live in areas that are cultivated or suppressed by fire.

Fascinating Facts

A pair of Ferruginous Hawks will build and use up to 5 nest sites a year and will travel back and forth to each nest. When Ferruginous Hawks court each other they parachute down to the earth together with cupped wings and locked talons. Ferruginous Hawks use greenery to line their nests which may help cut down on parasites and bacteria in the nest since they show a preference for plants whose leaves contain insecticidal chemicals.

Status

The Ferruginous Hawk is under consideration to be officially listed as a threatened species in North America and has been on the world's Red List of threatened species. The Ferruginous Hawk is suffering from a loss of grassland habitat to agriculture, cattle grazing, and the growth of human settlement in sensitive areas.



Weight: 1,059-1,231 grams

Wingspan: 421-450 millimeters

Habitat: semiarid grasslands of the Great Plains

Life Expectancy: the oldest on record was 15 years, 11 months

Baby: nestling (before feather development)

fledgling (after feather development)

Group: Accipitridae



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