

Scientific Name: *Buteo regalis*
Common Name: Ferruginous Hawk

Element ID: 8796

Alt Com Name: Buse rouilleuse

Taxonomy

Taxonomic class: Aves

Order: Falconiformes

Family Name: Accipitridae

Family Common Name:

Genus Name: Buteo

Genus Common Name:

Taxonomic Comments:

Ranking and Protection Status

Global Rank: G4

COSEWIC Status: Special Concern

Provincial Rank: S4B,S4M

Provincial Protection Status:

Diagnostic Characteristics

Identification Comments:

The ferruginous hawk is the largest hawk in North America. Adults are heavy bodied with long, tapered, and powerful wings. Both sexes look alike, except that the female is larger than the male. By far, the majority of these hawks are light-phased. Their underparts are whitish and their tails are whitish or light coloured. Their back and wings are rusty-brown and their head is similar or lighter in colour. Ferruginous hawks are one of only two hawks who have feathers down to their toes. The feathers on their thighs are also rusty-brown. In flight, the rusty-brown of the thighs appear as a "V" against the whitish underparts. The dark phase of the ferruginous hawk is uncommon. Dark phase birds have light tail and wing feathers and a dark brown body.



Harris, W. ©

Lookalikes:

Habitat Information and Comments

Habitat Comments:

Ferruginous hawks live in sparsely treed mixed grass prairie in southern Saskatchewan. Isolated trees, abandoned farm shelterbelts, steep hillsides, or coulee or river banks are required for nesting, and large, open areas are needed for hunting.

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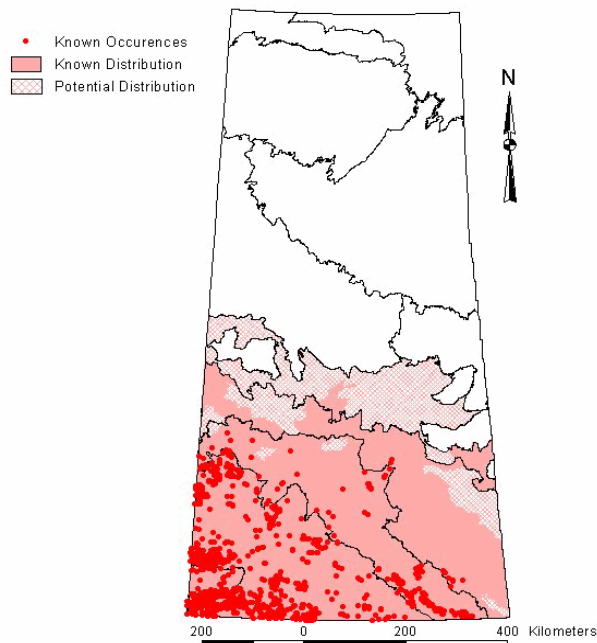
Threat Comments:

Susceptible to poisoning via small mammal control.

Protection Comments:

Protect nesting habitat (e.g., solitary trees known to be used for nesting purposes, abandoned farmsteads, etc.). Incorporate setback distances from nest sites of about 1000 meters for intensive land use developments of any kind. Restrict high impact activities around or near known nest sites during the period March 15 to July 15. Record active nesting location(s), and contact the provincial agency responsible for wildlife management to discuss the specifics of a particular site. Eliminate the use of rodenticides and other techniques to control ground squirrel populations. (NCC 2005).

Saskatchewan Distribution



Rural Municipalities:

- ANTELOPE PARK (SK)
- ARLINGTON (SK)
- AUVERGNE (SK)
- BENGOUGH (SK)
- BIG QUILL (SK)
- BIG STICK (SK)
- BONE CREEK (SK)
- BROCK (SK)
- BROKENSHELL (SK)
- CALEDONIA (SK)
- CAMBRIA (SK)
- CANAAN (SK)
- CARMICHAEL (SK)
- CARON (SK)
- CHAPLIN (SK)
- CHESTERFIELD (SK)
- COALFIELDS (SK)
- CYMRI (SK)
- DEER FORKS (SK)
- ELMSTHORPE (SK)
- ENNISKILLEN (SK)
- ENTERPRISE (SK)
- ESTEVAN (SK)
- EXCEL (SK)
- EXCELSIOR (SK)
- EYEBROW (SK)
- FOX VALLEY (SK)
- FRONTIER (SK)
- GLEN MCPHERSON (SK)
- GOLDEN WEST (SK)
- GRANDVIEW (SK)
- GRASSY CREEK (SK)
- GRASS LAKE (SK)
- GULL LAKE (SK)
- HAPPYLAND (SK)
- HAPPY VALLEY (SK)
- HART BUTTE (SK)

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HEART S HILL (SK)
HURON (SK)
KINDERSLEY (SK)
KING GEORGE (SK)
LACADENA (SK)
LAC PELLETIER (SK)
LAURIER (SK)
LAWTONIA (SK)
LAKE ALMA (SK)
LAKE JOHNSTON (SK)
LAKESIDE (SK)
LOMOND (SK)
LONE TREE (SK)
MANKOTA (SK)
MAPLE BUSH (SK)
MAPLE CREEK (SK)
MARIPOSA (SK)
MCCRANEY (SK)
MCKILLOP (SK)
MILDEN (SK)
MILTON (SK)
MONET (SK)
MONTMARTRE (SK)
MORSE (SK)
MOUNT HOPE (SK)
NEWCOMBE (SK)
OAKDALE (SK)
OLD POST (SK)
PERDUE (SK)
PIAPOT (SK)
PINTO CREEK (SK)
PITTVILLE (SK)
PLEASANT VALLEY (SK)
POPLAR VALLEY (SK)
PRAIRIEDALE (SK)
PRAIRIE ROSE (SK)
PROGRESS (SK)
REFORD (SK)
RENO (SK)
RIVERSIDE (SK)
RODGERS (SK)
SARNIA (SK)
SASKATCHEWAN LANDING (SK)
SCOTT (SK)
SHAMROCK (SK)
SNIPE LAKE (SK)
SOURIS VALLEY (SK)
STONEHENGE (SK)
SURPRISE VALLEY (SK)
SUTTON (SK)
SWIFT CURRENT (SK)
TECUMSEH (SK)
TRAMPING LAKE (SK)

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USBORNE (SK)
VAL MARIE (SK)
VICTORY (SK)
WAVERLEY (SK)
WEBB (SK)
WELLINGTON (SK)
WEYBURN (SK)
WHEATLANDS (SK)
WHITE VALLEY (SK)
WILLOW BUNCH (SK)
WINSLOW (SK)
WISE CREEK (SK)
WOOD RIVER (SK)
WREFORD (SK)

Range Extent Comments:

Breeding range estimated to be 118185 km², concentrated in the Cypress Hills, Mixed Grassland and Moist-mixed Grassland Ecoregions. In Saskatchewan, the range of the Ferruginous Hawk has retreated southwesterly to areas where ranching on native range predominates (Houston and Bechard 1984).

Phenology

Time of Year

Phenology

Currently no phenology for this species.

Phenology Comments:

Based on results from northwestern North Dakota, adjusted two weeks for the increase in latitude, mean egg hatching occurs in early June (Murphy and Ensign 1996).

Reproduction and Ecology Comments

Reproduction Comments:

Currently no reproduction notes for this species.

Management Needs:

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-Maintain, retain or restore suitable habitat. Habitat alteration through factors such as cultivation, fire suppression that allows woodlands to expand and replace grasslands, and fragmentation of the landscape by various land-use activities can negatively influence Ferruginous Hawk populations.

-Erect artificial nest platforms and monitor their use and success. Artificial nests have been used in Alberta as a method to allow Ferruginous Hawks to nest in areas where trees are scarce, and to reduce the impacts of nest predation and disturbance. Approximately 3% of Alberta's Ferruginous Hawk population currently uses artificial nests (Schmutz 1999).

-Retain trees known to be used for nesting. In a landscape where trees are scarce, the retention and maintenance of solitary trees known to be used by these hawks for nesting is important. Also, trees in abandoned farmsteads are frequently used for nesting purposes and should be retained, if possible.

-Monitor nest sites. Identify nest site locations and monitor on a regular basis (e.g., annually, once every five years) to determine use, breeding success and productivity.

-Ensure an adequate prey base. There is good evidence that Ferruginous Hawks regularly prey on ground squirrels for their food source. Programs and efforts to reduce numbers of ground squirrels must consider the ramifications of those actions on Ferruginous Hawks. This is particularly important in those areas where hawks utilize small parcels of grassland within intensive farming areas and have little or no opportunity to shift to alternate hunting grounds.

-Reduce the extent and scope of human disturbance near active nest sites. Ferruginous Hawks are sensitive to disturbance at their nests and are likely to desert if this occurs during the egg stage, especially if disturbances are unfamiliar. It has been found that Ferruginous Hawks nesting in disturbed areas fledge significantly less young than hawks in relatively undisturbed areas (White and Thurow 1985).

-Information and education. Explore and put into practice methods of informing and educating owners/operators of industrial sites, agricultural producers and other land users of the effects of disturbances on nesting Ferruginous Hawks.

-Notice in environmental impact assessments. List the Ferruginous Hawk as an 'automatic' species of concern in environmental impact assessments for pipelines, mining, and other industrial activities.

-Data entry. Ensure Ferruginous Hawk nesting data is entered into appropriate centralized databases following each field season. (NCC, 2005)

Management Comments:

Currently no management guidelines for this species.

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