



Species at Risk Profile Series: Ferruginous Hawk

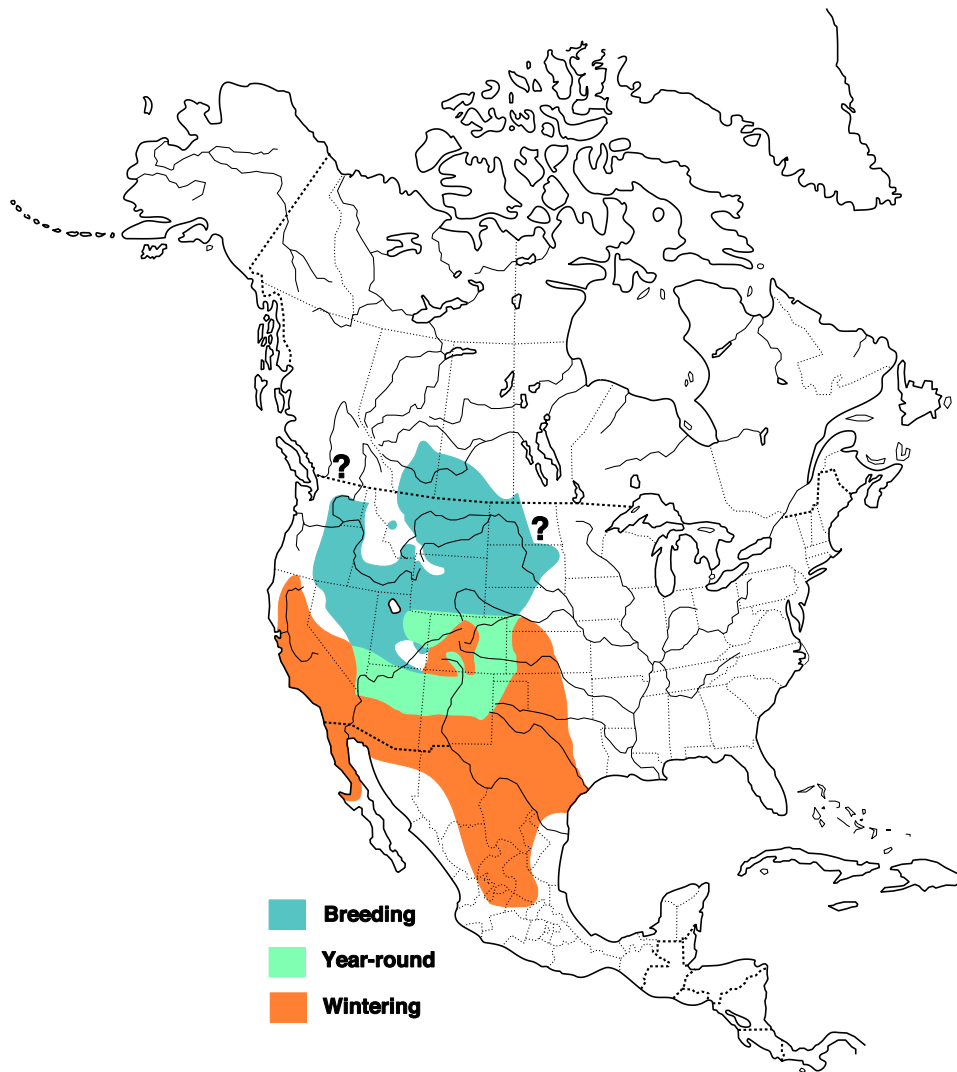


- Ferruginous Hawks are considered Threatened in Canada.
- They can be identified by their pale colour, red legs, and large, yellow gape (mouth).
- This oversized gape may assist in regulating their body temperature.
- They typically hunt from perches, while soaring, or from the ground.
- Their diet consists almost entirely of ground squirrels and rabbits.
- Courtship displays involve pairs locking talons and spinning towards the ground.
- They lay 2-4 eggs each year, and can start breeding at 2 years old.
- Historically, their nest construction included bison bones and wool.
- They nest in trees, nest platforms, cliffs, and on the ground.
- They are occasionally a prey item for Great Horned Owls.



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Conservation

- Ferruginous Hawks are found almost exclusively on native grasslands.
- Approximately 10% of all Ferruginous Hawks are found in Canada.
- Pastures grazed with moderate intensity provide optimal habitat for these hawks.
- Disturbance from oil and gas exploration may be contributing to their decline.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Ferruginous Hawks [here](#).
- In areas with Ferruginous Hawks, avoid poisoning ground squirrels.

Photo credit: An adult Ferruginous Hawk flies over a field while hunting near San Jose, CA by Shravans14 retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ferruginous_Hawk_Flying.jpg licensed under CC-BY-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en> (front)
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