

Red-tailed Hawk



Look up on your way outside and you might see CNC's resident Red-tailed Hawk. This juvenile bird is often perched near the Visitor Center or nature preschool building and enjoys stalking the squirrels visiting the Wildlife Viewing Area.

Unlike adult Red-tailed Hawks, juveniles lack the red coloring and have brown banded tails. Juveniles also have yellow eyes which shift to red-brown as they age. Pairs typically mate for life and may hunt together. Red-tailed Hawks prefer open country where they hunt for small mammals such as voles, rabbits and squirrels.

On warm days they can be found soaring the thermals on broad wings. Listen for their high, raspy scream which is almost always used by Hollywood directors for all onscreen hawks and eagles, no matter the species. If you don't have any luck seeing this species at CNC, pay attention on your drive home. Red-tailed hawks often perch near the sides of major roadways.



Cooper's Hawk

Another, common hawk is the Cooper's Hawk which can be found speeding



through forested areas in pursuit of other birds. These stealthy birds may also be found visiting busy bird feeding stations to catch an easy meal. They catch birds in midair with their feet and kill their food with repeated squeezing with their sharp talons.

Cooper's Hawks are smaller than Red-tailed Hawks, have a slender build and have very long tails.

Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.

This inSTALLation is available online at www.chippewanaturecenter.org under About Us, Publications.