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# BROAD-WINGED HAWK

*Buteo platypterus*

## Range & Habitat

Broad-winged Hawks nest in contiguous deciduous or mixed forests across the state. Higher nest densities correspond to the northern hardwood and the mixed conifer-deciduous forests of northern Pennsylvania. The Broad-winged Hawk preys on small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and small birds, and is elusive under the forest canopy during breeding.



## Nesting Behavior

Broad-winged Hawks prefer nesting in large forests with extensive wooded cover. They place their nests in larger deciduous or evergreen trees including tulip trees, oaks, birches, maples, white pines and eastern hemlocks.

Although pairs often return to the same nesting area annually, they rarely reuse the same nest or nest tree. They start building their nest in late April through mid-May, and will lay 1 to 4 eggs per season. The incubation period ranges from 28-30 days, with the young hatching in June and leaving the nest in July. Adults and young often hunt near small openings in the canopy and can be heard calling out their high-pitched two-note whistle, 'pee-weeee'.

Stout, compact buteo, with broad pointed wings and a short tail. Adults have a conspicuous white and black tail band.



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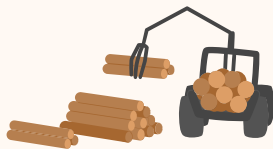
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## What Does a Broad-winged Hawk Nest Look Like?

Nests are usually situated in the first main crotch of a tree, in the lower third of the canopy. The nest, generally 20 to 25 inches across, is made up of small sticks, bark chips, and fresh sprigs and is about 50 feet above the ground. You can tell a nest is active if you see feathers stuck to sticks in the nest.

## Status & Threats

The Broad-winged Hawk, is considered “Area Sensitive” and a species of high responsibility for Pennsylvania due to the importance of large forest blocks in its breeding range. Habitat fragmentation and alteration may have a significant impact on the species during nesting, and during migration and wintering periods.



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## Conservation & Management During Nesting

Strategies should prioritize preservation of large forest blocks with streams or ponds, and maintaining larger (>16 inches diameter at breast height) trees for nesting. Timber-management plans should consider short timber rotations and not harvesting trees during the breeding period (April-August).