

& Forage Initiatives. Brandon, Manitoba. They are a suitable location because their farm is an ideal location that should attract Ferruginous Hawks once the nesting structures are built there.

### After-Care

A magpie or crows nest should be placed inside of the nesting structure. Once the nest is in place, there is a new installation survey which should be filled out and an annual survey.

Directions on how to build the nests, the supplies, materials, primary and annual surveys, and costs associated with construction and maintenance can be found in the guide which can be found on MBFI's website at [www.mbf.ca/TBD](http://www.mbf.ca/TBD).

### Brochure References

Cornell University. (n.d). *Ferruginous Hawk*. Retrieved from: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ferruginous\\_Hawk/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ferruginous_Hawk/overview)

iankellsall1. (2008, May 26). *Ferruginous Hawk*. [Phoro] Retrieved by: <https://pixabay.com/photos/ferruginous-hawk-raptor-nature-3157880>

This brochure was made with help from:

*Alberta Species at Risk Program. (2011, March). Ferruginous Hawk Artificial Nest Poles: Inventory and Construction Protocol. Retrieved from: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/c5d878a3-e863-42d2-a2de-e83808b23fe4/resource/3d47ee3c-88e3-481a-920f-ef433b39323e/download/2011-sar140-ferruginoushawk-artificialnestpoles-mar2011.pdf>*

**If you are interested in becoming a Ferruginous Hawk landlord and have any questions, please contact the following to get started**

Manitoba Beef & Forage  
Initiatives  
Box 81 Site 520 RR5  
Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 5Y5

204-761-3300  
[information@mbfi.ca](mailto:information@mbfi.ca)

Visit us on the Web:  
[www.mbf.ca/TBD](http://www.mbf.ca/TBD)

This brochure is just a quick summary of the project and how and why protecting Ferruginous Hawks is important. If you are a landowner and you are interested in becoming a hawk landlord, a more detailed landowner's guide and the surveys can be found at web link above.

### Further Information & Contacts

Questions about the project, the hawks, and nesting structures:  
*Breanna Sheppard, Project Creator*  
[ferruginoushawk2@outlook.com](mailto:ferruginoushawk2@outlook.com)

**Or contact your local conservation district!**

# Protecting and Rehabilitating Ferruginous Hawk Populations in Manitoba

A Project by Breanna Sheppard



In Partnership With



## Why Protect Ferruginous Hawks?

Unfortunately, among many other species nowadays, they are classified as endangered. Ferruginous Hawks have remained on the *Committee on Endangered Wildlife in Canada* (COSEWIC) and *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) since 1980, over 40 years! This is said to be due to a loss of nesting habitats and food sources because of the large farming and industrial development that has been happening over the decades. Specifically in Manitoba, there has been an 82% decrease in their breeding population over the last 24 years.

Not only do Ferruginous Hawks contribute to species diversity but they have habits and characteristics that benefit the environment, humans, and other wildlife!

A pair of Ferruginous Hawks will consume up to 500 Richardson's Ground Squirrels (gophers) in one breeding season! Great for cattle farmers<sup>1</sup>. This will save time and money for landowners who may use other alternatives, such as poison, to get rid of unwanted rodents. Once the nest is in place and hawks have settled, minimal up-keep and maintenance is needed.

This brochure contains a quick summary on the project and provides information for landowners who may be interested in becoming a hawk landlord themselves. More details or the full version of the landowners guide can be found by visiting [www.mbf.ca/TBD](http://www.mbf.ca/TBD).

### Did You Know?

Ferruginous Hawks name is derived from the Latin word ferrum which translates to iron, because of their iron-rust coloured appearance!

## Becoming a Hawk Landlord

If you already have seen a Ferruginous Hawk around your farm, congratulations! This means you have suitable habitat for this species at risk, and probably a lot of others too.

### Nest Placement

Despite their large size and dominance in the hawk kingdom, Ferruginous Hawks are a very shy and sensitive species. These characteristics make where the nest is going to be placed very important to successful breeding. The following placement factors can help attract the hawks and hopefully make them return to their nest year after year.<sup>1</sup>

- Maintaining native grass prairies
- Areas of minimal disturbance and high gopher populations
- No other species at risk nearby
- Placing no more than 800m away from other possible nesting sites (i.e. trees or cliff)
- No other species at risk nesting nearby (i.e. Burrowing Owl) this relationship could become problematic – for a list of Manitoba bird species at risk, visit: <https://www.birdatlas.mb.ca/speciesatrisk/ma-aster.htm>



Figure 1 – Ferruginous Hawk being held to show off its pretty colors (jankellsall1, 2008)

### What's Included in the Guide?

- Identifying tips
- Other species at risk
- How to build a successful nesting structure
- Background and historical information
- Similar species
- Surveys
- MBFI feature page
- And much more!

## The Project

Despite efforts of rehabilitating Ferruginous Hawks since the late 1980's,

there has been no luck. This project will replicate a design that was proved successful in Alberta but changes to the flat nesting platform were suggested by a wildlife species-at-risk biologist (pers. observation by Ken De Smet) for Manitoba (figure \_\_\_\_\_).

The information in the guide, surveys, and brochure are all adapted from *Alberta's Species at Risk Program* and *the National Recovery Plan for Ferruginous Hawks 1995*. Two of the re-designed nesting structures will be put up at Manitoba Beef

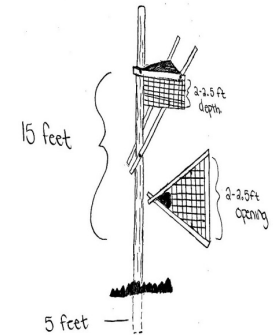


Figure 2 - Re-designed artificial nesting structure for Manitoba based on Alberta's Species at Risk Program

<sup>1</sup> Alberta Conservation. (n.d.) *Artificial Nesting Poles for Ferruginous Hawks*. Retrieved from: [https://www.ab-conservation.com/downloads/educational\\_materials/brochures/ferruginous\\_hawk\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.ab-conservation.com/downloads/educational_materials/brochures/ferruginous_hawk_brochure.pdf)