

Why Red-Tailed Hawks don't migrate

By **STEVE ROARK**
Columnist

While several hawk species migrate, the red-tailed hawk stays around all year and is the most common one seen. They prefer to hang out in open fields near woodland edges. Seeing a red tail gliding across the sky and hearing their high-pitched cry gives one a pleasing dose of wildness.

The red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) has a body around two feet long with wings that span around 4 four feet, making it the largest hawk we have. The female is 1/3rd larger than the male. The tail is broad, rounded, and indeed red on top. It may not be obvious when looking up at the underside of the bird, but sunlight filtering through the tail feathers may make the tail appear red from below. You may also catch a flash of color when the hawk banks in flight. Another identifying feature to look for is a band of brown streaks across an otherwise white belly. The cry of this hawk is a high-pitched "keer-r-r-r" that fades downward.

The red tail is a bird of prey, doing a beneficial job of keeping rodent populations in check, which make up around 90% of their diet. Their tactic is to swoop down onto prey from a high observation point, extending their talons forward for the kill. They are capable of "kiting," holding still against the wind on set wings, much like a kite tugging against string. This allows them to hover over potential prey before dropping the hammer. Few birds can do this. Like all raptors, they have excellent vision, and can see colors like we can, as well as those in the ultraviolet, which we cannot. They also perceive black and white well enough to be able to hunt rodents at dusk when they are most active.

Red-tails typically do not begin breeding until their third year. Pairs build a large stick nest near the top of a tree (usually deciduous) at forest edges. Two to four eggs are usually laid in April or May, hatching in about 30 days. The young remain in the vicinity of the nest until they can fly, then follow their parents as they learn to forage for themselves. There is only one brood per year.

Hawks were once killed on site due to their threat to chickens back when subsistence farming was the norm. Due to protection laws and social changes, they again have a stable population.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Red-Tailed Hawk is perched on a fence.

House bill 593 takes aim at data center needs

By **TOM LATEK**
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT – As tech companies plan to bring more data centers to Kentucky, legislation has been introduced that would ensure Kentuckians would not be subsidizing the utility costs.

The House Economic Development and Workforce Investment Committee heard from Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mount Vernon, on Thursday. He is the primary sponsor of House Bill 593, which addresses the issue.

Bray said he's spent the last two years on the Artificial Intelligence Task Force learning about the utility needs of data centers.

"What this bill does is make sure Kentucky handles data centers the right way, so that we protect our ratepayers, and we take advantage of kind of a unique opportunity and protect our future economic interest going forward," Bray said.

If a tech company wants to bring a data center to Kentucky, HB 593 would require the company to do one of three things, Bray told the committee.

First, a company could choose to provide its own electric generation for a data center and donate any excess back to the



LRC PHOTO

Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mount Vernon.

local utility. The second option is the company could enter into a power purchase agreement, and the third option would be purchasing the electricity on the national open market.

The legislation would also require a minimum, non-refundable \$75,000 application fee.

"If we have to increase generation, if we have to increase transmission, then the data center should pay for all of those expenses," Bray said.

The legislation also includes a provision addressing water, gas and wastewater costs, he noted, and would apply to both municipal and private utility companies.

Rep. William Lawrence, R-Maysville, stated HB 593 is a "due diligence" bill that addresses one of the biggest concerns many constituents have about data centers in Kentucky. "I feel like we are always on the backside of fixing problems here in

Frankfort, and this is a bill that gets ahead of the game. We're setting the parameters. We're making the guardrails, which we should as the people who set the laws for the state."

Bray added, he believes the bill is "pretty clear" that ratepayers cannot subsidize data centers.

The committee approved the bill unanimously, sending it to the House floor.

McDaniels, award-winning journalist, remembered for 'making a difference'

Enterprise Staff Report

A reporter who also served as an advocate for eastern Kentucky in her reporting, Jennifer McDaniels left a lasting impact on Harlan County and eastern Kentucky. The award-winning reporter who started her newspaper career in the 1990s with the Harlan Daily Enterprise, died last Monday after suffering a heart attack last week.

"Jennifer was one of the hardest working reporters I've worked with over the years," said Harlan Enterprise Managing Editor John Henson, who hired McDaniels at the Enterprise in the 1990s and brought her back to

the paper in 2025. "She really tried to make a difference in her reporting, helping those people and organizations who needed their voices heard. She was also a very talented photographer and also worked in radio in recent years. She loved to tell the story of Harlan Countians in whatever way she could."

McDaniels returned to the Enterprise recently and sparked a resurgence in news coverage. "Jennifer was everywhere," Henson said. "She would often cover four or five stories every week. People and organizations contacted her because they were so comfort-



Jennifer McDaniels

able letting her tell their stories."

McDaniels also worked with WUKY, a radio station owned by the University of Kentucky that covered the entire state. WUKY hired McDaniels as an eastern Kentucky correspondent bringing Lexington area listeners authentic perspectives of the people and issues important to her region including how coal communities survive and re-invent them-

selves in the wake of the industry's demise.

A lifelong learner, McDaniels was an English doctoral student and attended Morehead State University, the University of Kentucky, Carson Newman College and Cawood High School as a 1991 graduate.

Visitation was held on Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Anderson Laws & Jones Funeral Home. Graveside services took place Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at Putney Cemetery with the Rev. Robert Amundsen officiating.

LEGAL NOTICE
The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky's noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*), Nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Maretail (*Conyza canadensis*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese knotweed, (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) and Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*).

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TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
This project is funded under a grant contract with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Local Journalism Protects Our Communities

Middlesboro News
www.middlesboronews.com
Phone: 606-248-1010
Joe Imel, Publisher • joe.imel@bgdailynews.com
515 N 15th St, Middlesboro, KY 40965
Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Published weekly on Wednesdays except on federal holidays
by BLUEGRASS NEWSMEDIA LLC
USPS 347300
ISSN 10417095
Periodical postage paid at Middlesboro, KY

Postmaster: Send change of address forms to: Middlesboro News,
P.O. Box 2658, Middlesboro, KY 40965

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