



HAWK EYE

Carlsbad photographer Charles King spotted a rare bird and has since documented its unique beauty in his images.

Charles King first saw a leucistic (pronounced loo-siss-tick) Red-tailed Hawk in fall 2023. While Red-tailed Hawks are common, leucistic ones are not; only one in 30,000 birds across all species is thought to have leucism, a genetic condition that inhibits melanin and results in white plumage.

Since then, King has kept an eye (and his camera) on this unusual hawk. He's noted its eating habits ("On one occasion, I saw it consume a field mouse, a garter snake and squirrel in less than an hour") and its mating habits, as the bird has paired with a non-leucistic Red-tailed Hawk and produced two juveniles. King shares some of these photos in the following pages, and you can also see his work at charleskingcreations.com or on Instagram at [@charleskingcreations](https://www.instagram.com/charleskingcreations).



a) The leucistic mother hawk shows her kids how it's done. b) The two juvenile Red-tailed Hawks watch mom demonstrate the art of hunting. c) The leucistic hawk's mate surveys their territory. d) Mom watches the kids practice new skills. e) Leucistic Hawks with white plumage are rare birds.

