

Red-Tailed Hawk



Where Do They Live?

Red-tailed hawks are the most common bird of prey in Kansas and Missouri. They usually live in grassland areas or in marshy areas with shrubs. These hawks are able to adapt to many different places from forests to deserts, and from near sea level to high plateaus.

What Do They Eat?

Hawks are raptors, which are carnivorous hunting birds. Most of their diet consists of small rodents, rabbits, snakes and lizards.

How Do They Hunt?

Red-tailed hawks use their superior eyesight to hunt for food. They can see a mouse in the grass from one hundred feet in the air while soaring. They swoop down on the prey and capture it with their sharp talons. Sometimes they will hunt from high perches in trees near the edge of a meadow or field.



What Do They Look Like?

They have a lot of variation in the coloration of their feathers. Their tail is rounded and a russet red color. Their backs and the backs of their wings are usually dark brown. They are usually light on their underside.

