

HAWKS



# Animal Fact Sheet

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## General Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: Hawks

Expected lifespan 10 years old

Natural Habitat: Hawks are found almost everywhere in the world except Antarctica. They live almost everywhere they can find food. They live in dry regions to towering mountains, from the steamy tropics to the chilly Arctic tundra.

Physical features: Hawks are armed with strong legs and sharp, curved talons that help them kill and hold their prey. They have hooked beaks for tearing their food. At the base of their beak is an area of bare skin called the cere. The cere is sometimes brightly colored in shaded of yellow and red.

Type of hawk: African Sparrow Hawk

Height: Less than 10 inches (25cm)

Weight: 3 ounces (84g)

## Living Habits

Types of food eaten: Hawks are mainly meat eaters. They hunt other creatures from insects to reptiles to small mammals. The Osprey Hawk feeds mainly on fish.

Obtains food by: Many hawks watch for movement on the ground as they fly. If they see a mouse or other tasty animal scurrying through the grass they dive down and grab it with their sharp talons. Talons are hawks feet.

Type of home and how it is built: Most kinds of hawks build isolated nests high up in trees or on cliffsides. Often, the males and female build it together very early in the spring. They make use of twigs, branches, dried leaves or any other materials they can find.

care of its young: The eggs hatch at different times. The first eggs laid are usually the first to hatch. Their mother stays busy keeping each baby warm as it hatches from its shell. While the mother stays with the father leaves to hunt for food. Growing hawks have big appetites. When the babies are older the mother will sometimes leave them alone while she hunts for food too.

## ENVIRONMENT

How has the animal adapted to its environment: While some hawks look for certain food, many can and will adapt to whatever is available. The Red-tailed hawk dines on everything from rabbits and mice to lizards, snakes, and crabs. The Mississippi kite mostly eats insects such as grasshoppers, dragonflies, beetles, but it will also eat frogs and small lizards. The American swallow-tailed kite has been known to eat everything from mice to insects to fruit.

Means of defense: The hawk's coloring is very useful. As a hawk flies overhead, its light underbelly helps it to blend into the sky so that it is not easily seen by animals on the ground.

## OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

1. Hawks can see four to eight times better than most humans. A hawk can spot the tiny movements of a feeding mouse from hundreds of yards in the air.
2. Peregrine Falcon dives through the air at 290 kilometers (180 miles) per hour. That is faster than many race cars.
3. Hawks can soar and glide for great distances without flapping their wings.

## Animal Report

### General Information

My report is about hawks. The expected lifespan of the hawk is ten years old. Hawks are found almost everywhere in the world except Antarctica. They live almost everywhere they can find food. They live in dry regions to towering mountains, from the steamy tropics to the chilly Arctic tundra. Hawks are armed with strong legs and sharp, curved talons that help them kill and hold their prey. They have hooked beaks for tearing their food. At the base of their beak is an area of bare skin called the cere. The cere is sometimes brightly colored in shades of yellow and red. The African Sparrow Hawk is less than 10 inches (25cm) in height and its weight is 3 ounces (84g).

### Living Habits

Hawks are mainly meat eaters. They hunt other creatures from insects to reptiles to small mammals. The Osprey Hawk feeds mainly on fish. Many hawks watch for movement on the ground as they fly. If they see a mouse or other tasty animal scurrying through the grass they dive down and grab it with their sharp talons. Talons are hawks feet. Most kinds of hawks build isolated nests high up in trees or on cliff sides. Often, the males and female build it together very early in the spring. They make use of twigs, branches, dried leaves or any other materials they can find. The eggs hatch at different times. The first eggs laid are usually the

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## Environment and Defense

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## Other Interesting Facts

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