

Turkey Vulture – *Cathartes aura*

Habitat Requirements:

Turkey vultures are commonly found in open areas, such as along roads, farm fields, countryside, and suburbs. They are attracted toward food sources such as landfills, trash heaps, and construction sites.

Diet:

Turkey vultures eat carrion, primarily selecting mammal carcasses with their excellent sense of smell.

Fun Facts:

- The Turkey Vulture flies low to the ground to pick up the scent of dead animals. It is able to fly at low altitudes by holding its wings in a V-shape and teetering from side to side.
- While many Americans view vultures as bringers of death, other cultures see them as sacred for their cleanup role. Tibetan Buddhists and Zoroastrians traditionally offer their dead to be consumed by vultures, the latter for their belief that it releases the soul from the body.



Year-Round Resident

Broad-winged Hawk – *Buteo platypterus*

Habitat Requirements:

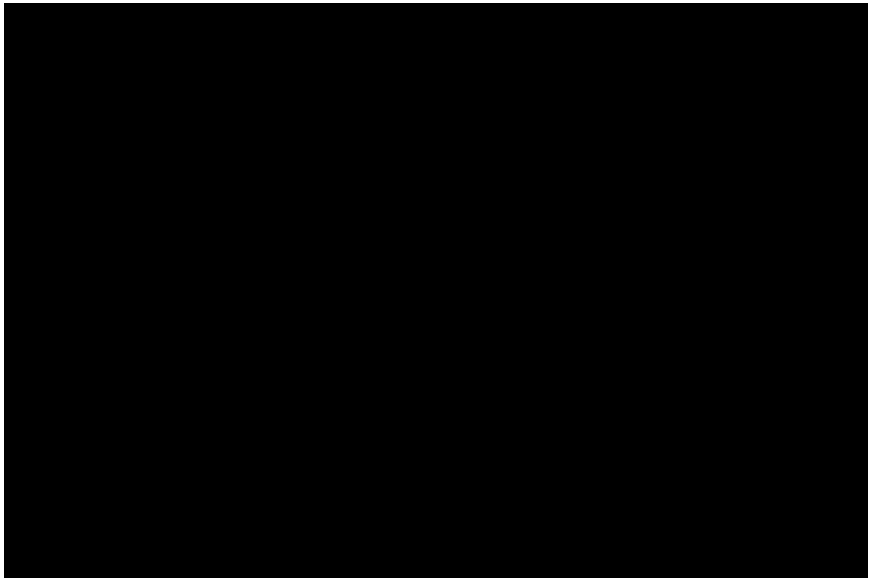
Broad-winged Hawks live in forests, where they spend most of their time under the canopy of trees.

Diet:

These hawks prey on small animals such as mammals, amphibians, and insects. The hawks swoop from their perches in the trees down to the forest floor to catch their meal.

Fun Facts:

- During migration, Broad-winged Hawks travel an average of 69 miles per day and 4,350 miles total to northern South America.
- While traveling back from their wintering grounds, huge flocks of Broad-winged Hawks, called kettles, can contain thousands of birds at a time. The circling birds have been known to attract spectators.
- These raptors can be easily identified by broad black and white bands on their tails.



Summer Resident

Barred Owl – *Strix varia*

Habitat Requirements:

Barred Owls live in large, mature forests of mixed coniferous and deciduous trees, often near water.

Diet:

Barred Owls eat various small animals, including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates.

Fun Facts:

- The hooted call of the barred owl is commonly heard “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?”
- Young Barred Owls can climb trees by grasping the bark with their bill and talons, flapping their wings, and walking their way up the trunk.
- Barred Owls recently expanded their range into the Pacific Northwest, where they are now displacing and hybridizing with Spotted Owls, which are already threatened from habitat loss.



Year-Round Resident

Bald Eagle – *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Habitat Requirements:

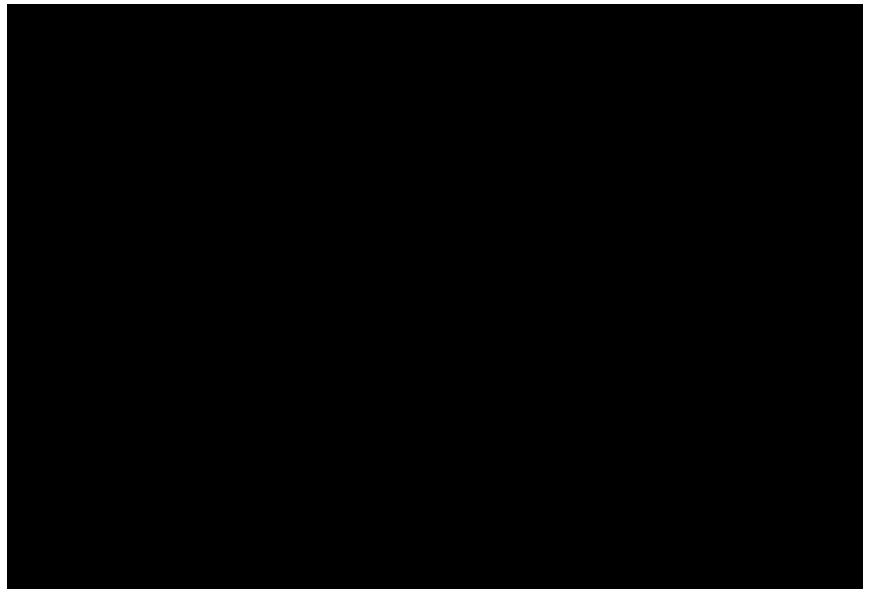
Bald Eagles live near bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, marshes, reservoirs, and oceans.

Diet:

Bald Eagles primarily eat fish, but will eat a large variety of foods, including carrion, depending on what is available.

Fun Facts:

- The Bald Eagle has been the national emblem of the United States of America since 1782.
- Bald Eagles have been known to play with toys such as plastic bottles and sticks.
- Bald Eagles often steal food that other creatures have caught. They will harass Ospreys until the smaller raptor drops its catch and the eagle can swoop in and take it as its own meal.



Year-Round/Summer Resident

Red-tailed Hawk – *Buteo jamaicensis*

Habitat Requirements:

Red-tailed Hawks spend most of their time in open country such as desert, grasslands, scrublands, roadsides, and pastures. They can be seen along fields or perched on fence posts, telephone poles, or solitary trees.

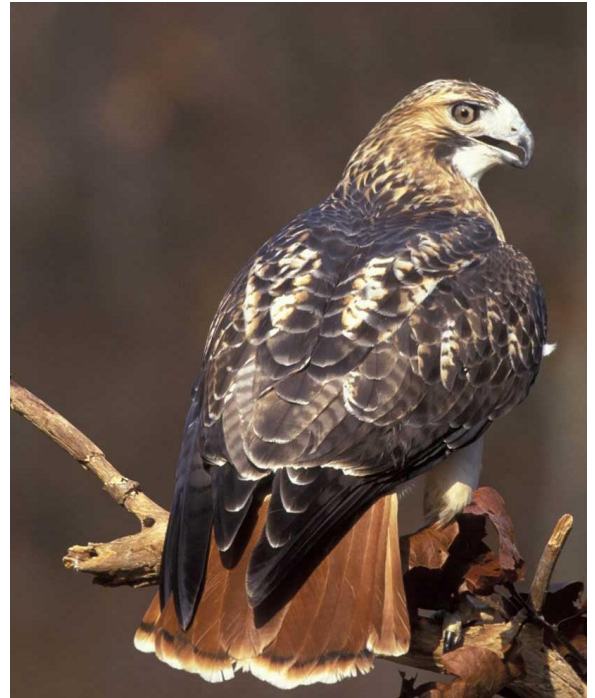
Diet:

These hawks primarily eat small mammals such as voles, mice, rabbits and squirrels. They also will eat birds, snakes, and carrion.

Fun Facts:

- Red-tailed Hawks are likely the most common hawk in North America.
- The shrill call of the Red-tailed Hawk is used commonly by movie directors to accompany various hawk and eagle species in film.
- The courtship dance of Red-tailed Hawks sometimes involves a male and female grasping talons and plummeting toward the ground in spirals before pulling away.
- Red-tailed Hawks have been observed hunting in pairs, cooperatively guarding opposite sides of a tree to catch tree squirrels.

Year-Round Resident



Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus*

Habitat Requirements:

Ospreys live near bodies of water including rivers, ponds, saltmarshes, estuaries, and reservoirs.

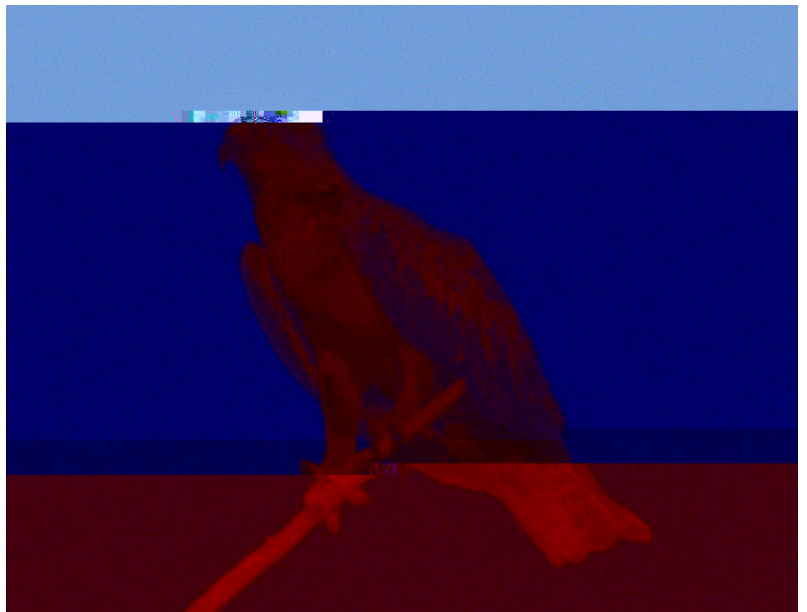
Diet:

The Osprey is the only raptor in North America that almost exclusively eats live fish.

Fun Facts:

- Ospreys can dive up to three feet beneath water's surface.
- The soles of Ospreys' feet have barbed pads to help them grip slippery fish.
- When flying with prey, they will align the head of the fish with their line of flight to decrease wind resistance.
- Ospreys will often times build their conspicuous stick nests on man-made structures such as telephone poles and channel markers.

Migratory Resident



A Site for Soaring Eyes: Dan's Mountain State Park Map

