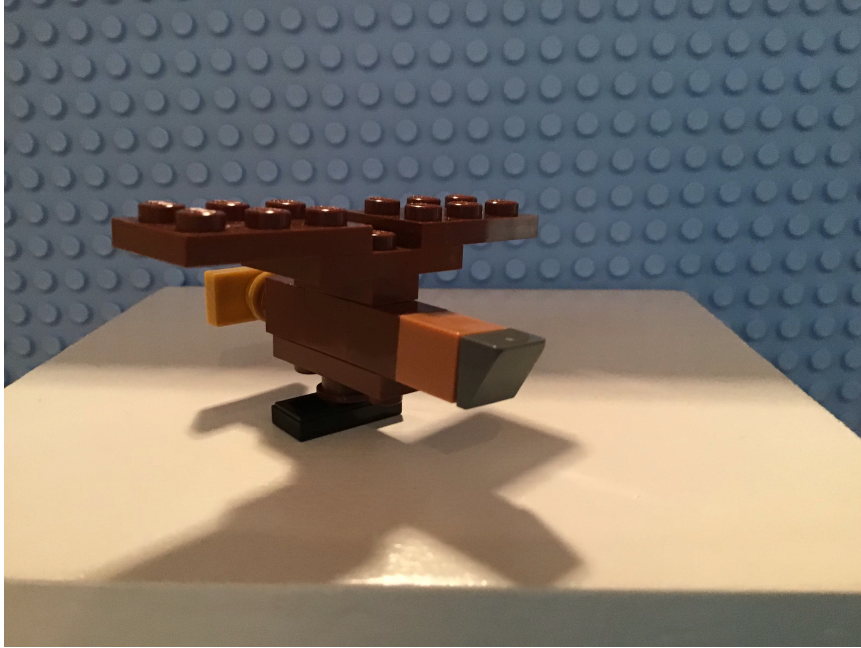


# RED-TAILED HAWK



By Gavin

## What am I?

A hawk is a bird. How you can tell is because it has wings and feathers and it can fly. The hawk is a vertebrate, warm blooded, lays eggs, has hollow bones, and breaths through lungs.



# Where do I live?



Hawks live in deserts and fields because it is easier to find their prey.

# What do I look like?

Red-Tail Hawks are 18-25 inches long. The female hawk is one third larger than the male. The Red-Tail Hawk is dark brown or gray brown on its back and top of its wings, cream on its underside and reddish on its neck, chest and tail.





# Adaptations

## **Behavioral adaptations**

**They live in deserts and fields to see their prey better. They spend a lot of time hunting. They flap their wings while in a fight. They often perch on trees.**

## **Structural adaptations**

**They have excellent vision and see in color.  
They have strong talons to catch fish.  
They have strong beaks to tear open their prey.**

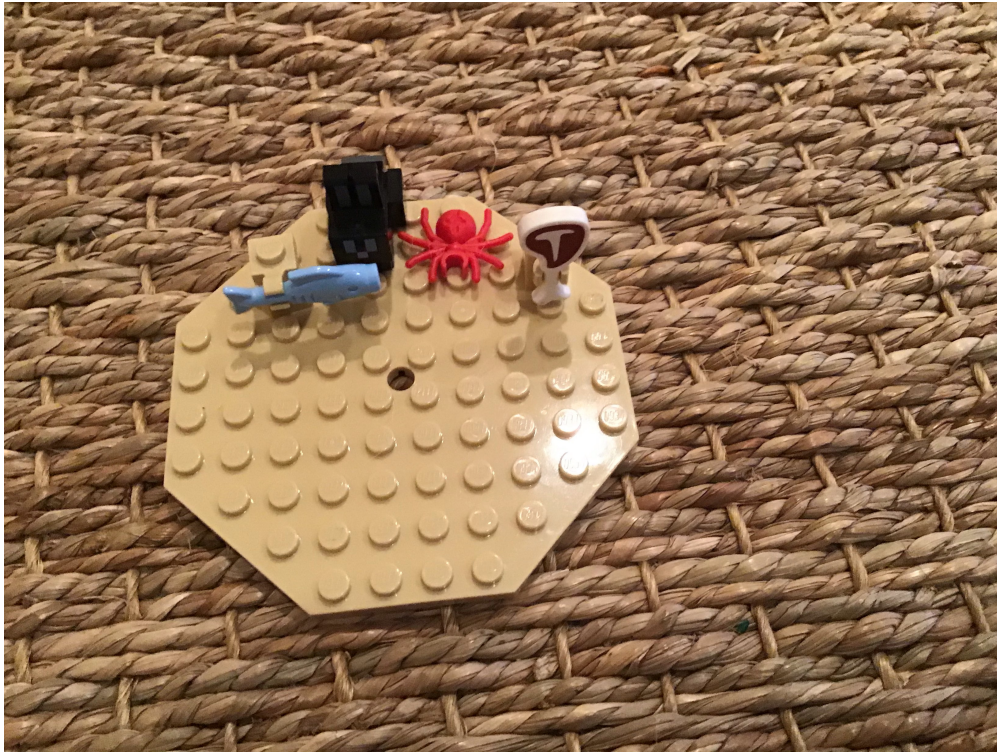
# How does the Red-Tail Hawk look after its young?

When the eggs are layed by the female hawk, the hawk starts to fly around looking for food, usually on clear days. The female hawk usually defends the nest while the male hawk defends the hawks' territory. The hawks feed their babies from the day that they hatch until the baby hawks are about six weeks old.



# What do hawks eat?

Hawks eat fish, mice, rats, squirrels, rabbits, large insects and carrion stolen from other raptors.



The photo to the left shows some of the stuff Red-Tail Hawks eat.

# Are Red-Tail Hawks the prey of other animals?

Red-Tail Hawks are the prey of great-horned owls and crows.

# MY RED-TAILED HAWK OBSERVATIONS

I saw an injured Red-Tailed Hawk in my backyard which my family helped rescue, but I don't remember what it specifically looked like other than it was a very large bird. It was injured and could not fly so I was not able to see how it behaved.





# **HAWK INTERVIEW OBSERVATIONS**

**I asked two people that saw a Red-Tail Hawk over Spring Break what they observed. Ellison and Mr. Smith shared the observations and photos that follow with me.**

Gavin,

I saw the red-tailed hawk soaring through the air. It was soaring in circles like a vulture and then it flew straight. It was too small to be a vulture and we matched it with the Overhead Flight Silhouettes. It was off of Lessburg Highway. It was not eating but I think it was looking for food. It was not with another hawk either. We were not very close to the hawk so I could not see where it was looking and I it did not see us so we were not a threat.

We also saw an red-tailed hawk another time. This time it was eating something. It looked like a mouse or another type of small rodent. It was sitting on a branch of a tree behind our house. It was not with another hawk. It was also not looking for prey because it was already eating something. It would look at it's food and tear some off and eat it then look out to see if there was a threat.

I hope this answers your questions.

From,  
Ellison

Hi Gavin, I have noticed a hawk on our campus for the past two years. What usually draws my attention to the hawk is the screeching noise it makes as it is circling in the sky. I believe a hawk will screech in part to identify his or her territory. I have observed the hawk in several different trees on campus; the pine tree in Mr. Giuliani's back yard, the tree to the rear of the parking lot by the dumpster, and the tall tree up the path towards the barn (photo). I have witnessed the hawk hunting small birds. One of the hunts was captured on camera at the front door of the Miller House (photos). I also saw it chasing small birds on two other occasions. I have not noticed this hawk with another hawk. When I driving in my car I often look in trees by the roadside along with the power lines. Hawks like to observe their surroundings beside a road. Somebody told me that they like watching the different colors of the cars passing by. I don't know if that is true or not, but it may be worth researching. The red-tailed hawk is my favorite bird to observe. They are so powerful and majestic. I hope you enjoy the rest of your school year.

Security Dave







