

## Raptors

Birds of Prey = Hawks, Eagles, Owls, Falcons.

This group has a diet of meat. Many species feed exclusively on fish, others on small birds. Some mix and match their diet based on what is available – rodent, reptile, amphibian, insect, carrion. Idaho Raptors (some reside & some migrate) = Merlin hawk, Sharp-Shin hawk, Cooper's hawk, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Red Tail Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Great horned owl, Saw-whet owl, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Turkey Vultures.

Semi-Altricial. Babies hatch with downy covering but require parental feeding and warmth. April through June is the time for nesting and brooding. The young begin to leave the nest a few months later.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is an excellent resource. <http://birds.cornell.edu>  
Tips on how to prevent birds from striking your window, [www.flap.org](http://www.flap.org)

These birds do not cause a problem for humans, children or most pets. There are ways to protect your pets from the outdoor dangers. [www.keepanimalssafe.ca](http://www.keepanimalssafe.ca) (Canadian organization)

Keep the chicken coop covered or close them in at night.

Do not let the small pets roam unattended.

For tips on cat enclosure designs go to [www.habitathaven.com](http://www.habitathaven.com)

“Outdoor Cat Myth busters”

1. It is nature's way for cats to kill wildlife.

False! Cats are not part of the 'natural wild species ecosystem'. Cats were domesticated over 4000 years ago, they were brought here by European settlers.

2. It is beneficial for cats to kill small rodents like mice.

False! Mice are a main staple for the wild predators. When one item is reduced or removed, there is a ripple affect to the entire ecosystem.

3. Well fed cats do not kill wildlife.

False! The hunt instinct that drives the animal not hunger. Additionally it is not appropriate to allow 'barn cats' only mice to eat. They must have nutritionally balanced dry food. Studies have shown that the cats offered a dry food remove the mouse population better than those without.

4. My cat has a bell on her collar; it cannot sneak up on the wildlife.

False! When your cat is stalking, its prey the body moves in such a way the bell does not make noise. More information is found at [www.abc.org](http://www.abc.org)

5. My cat just plays with the wildlife then lets them go unharmed.

False! Cats might not kill the wild animal they caught but the damage is done, which leads to a lingering and painful death.

6. My cat only kills a few animals.

False! The numbers add up quickly. The average cat kills 50 to 100 each year. There are over 100 million outdoor cats in North America. Many migratory song birds are on the decline and considered endangered.

7. It is unnatural to keep cats inside; they need to hunt.

False! Cats need to be stimulated like all other animals. Indoor play is effective and fun for both owner and pet. Outside cats face harm from cars, poisoning, diseases, predation, traps and human abuse, parasites, displacement and overpopulation.

The above information is simply provided for information purposes. We do not endorse any of the organizations. [WWW.AHWF.ORG](http://WWW.AHWF.ORG)