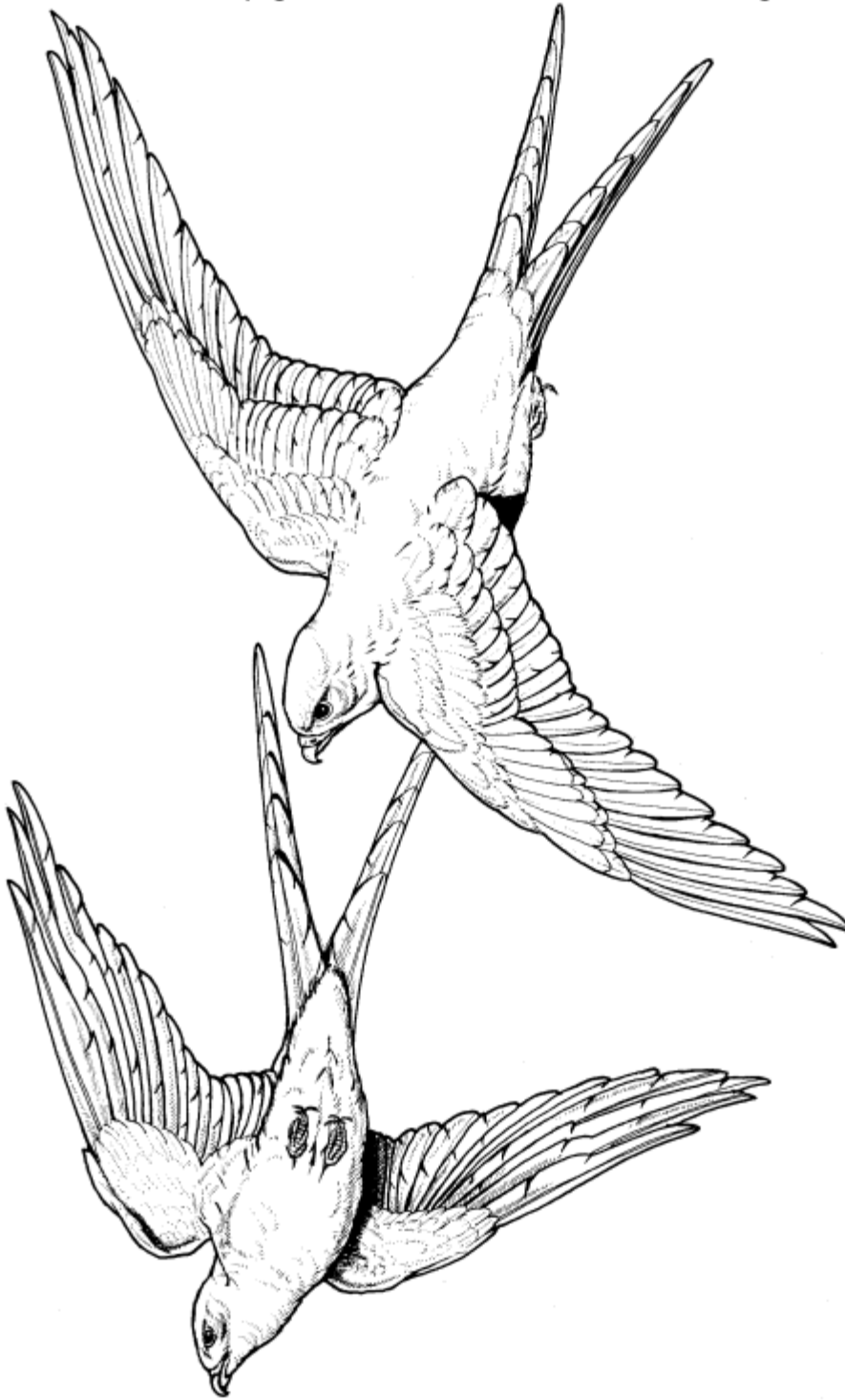


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insects in midair. Formerly found throughout much of the central and eastern United States, this medium-sized raptor (about 21 inches to the tip of its long, forked tail) is now restricted to the extreme southeastern United States, as well as parts of tropical Central and South America (including Mexico).

American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). COLORATION: Black and white. Although closely related to various other hawks, the kites form a distinct subgroup of their own. The American Swallow-tailed Kite is a particularly fast, graceful flier, suddenly descending upon a small snake or lizard, or catching and devouring