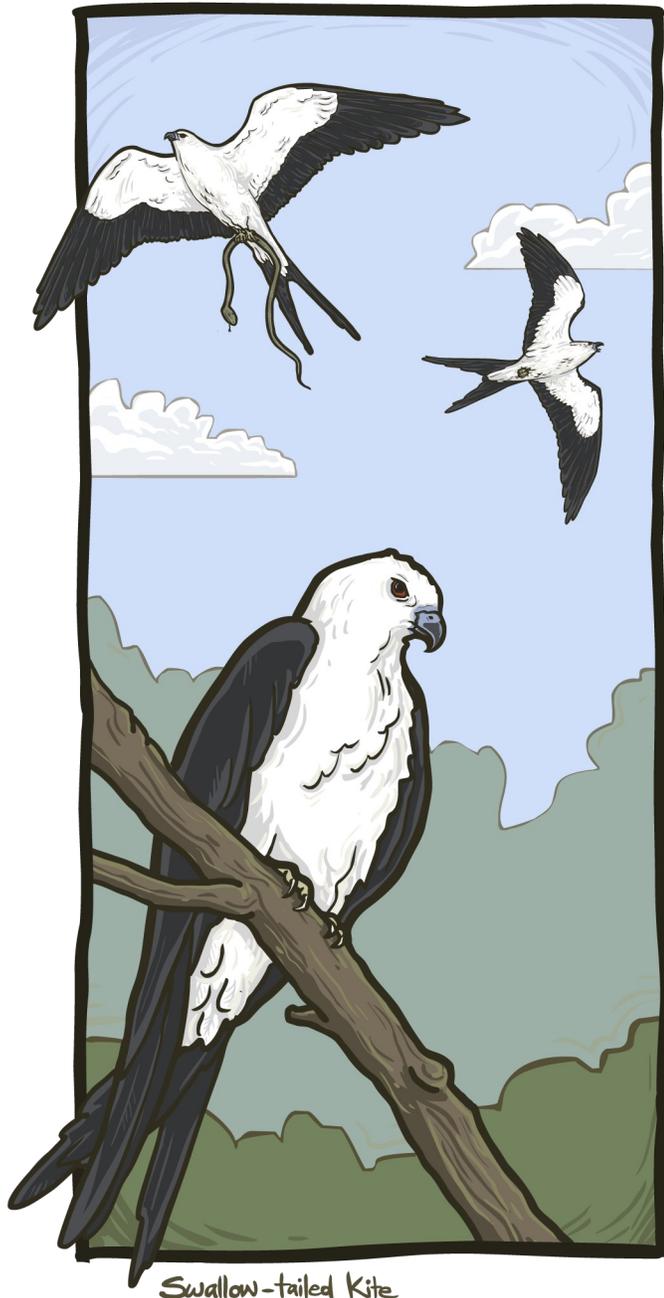


Swallow-Tailed Kite

(*Elanoides forficatus*)



Instant ID

- A black and white raptor (bird-of-prey with talons for capturing prey)
- Has a forked tail and pointed wings spanning over four feet
- Often seen soaring

Native Niches

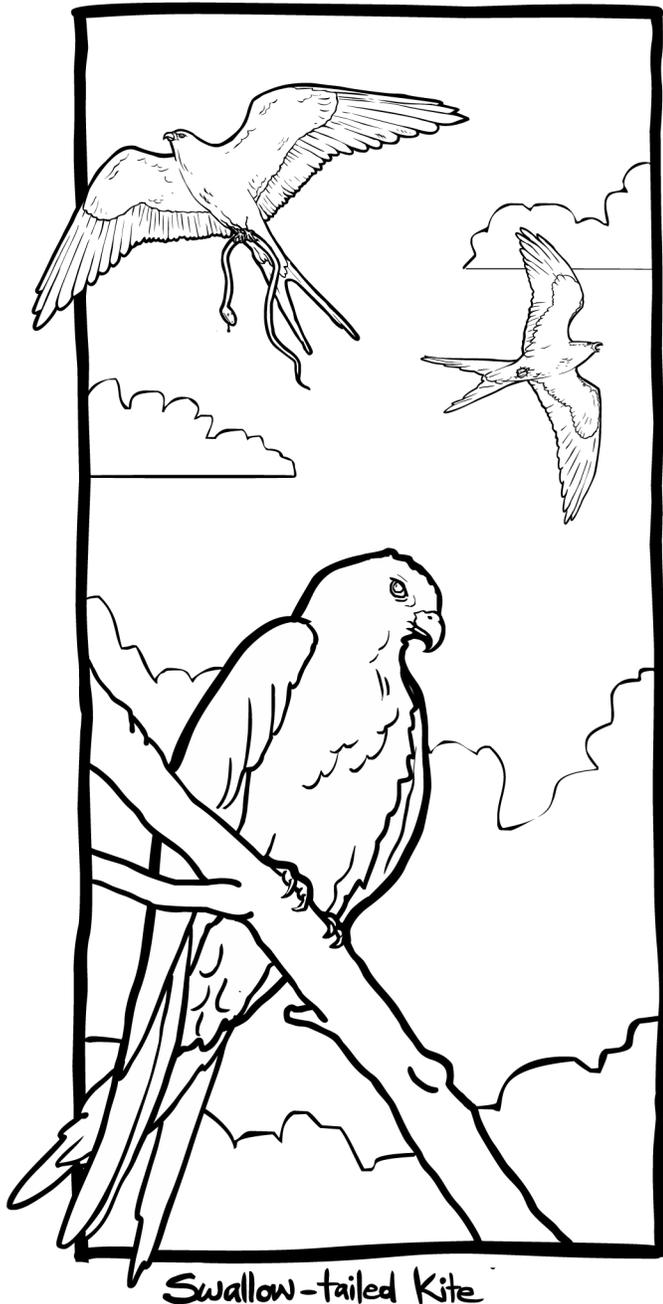
- Summer residents of Florida
- Prefers to live in areas with open spaces for hunting
- Uses nearby trees for shelter and nesting

Favorite Foods

- Eats large insects
- Also eats snakes and lizards
- Capable of grabbing prey out of the air or from tree tops

Swallow-Tailed Kite

(*Elanoides forficatus*)



Critter Characteristics

- Young have a less-forked tail than adults
- Drinks by skimming the water's surface
- One of four species of kite found in Florida State Parks
- Often seen performing "acrobatics" in flight
- Migrates to South America during winter months

Population Protection

- The Florida Park Service is protecting swallow-tailed kites by preserving their habitat
- Limiting the use of pesticides helps all kite species because they eat insects