



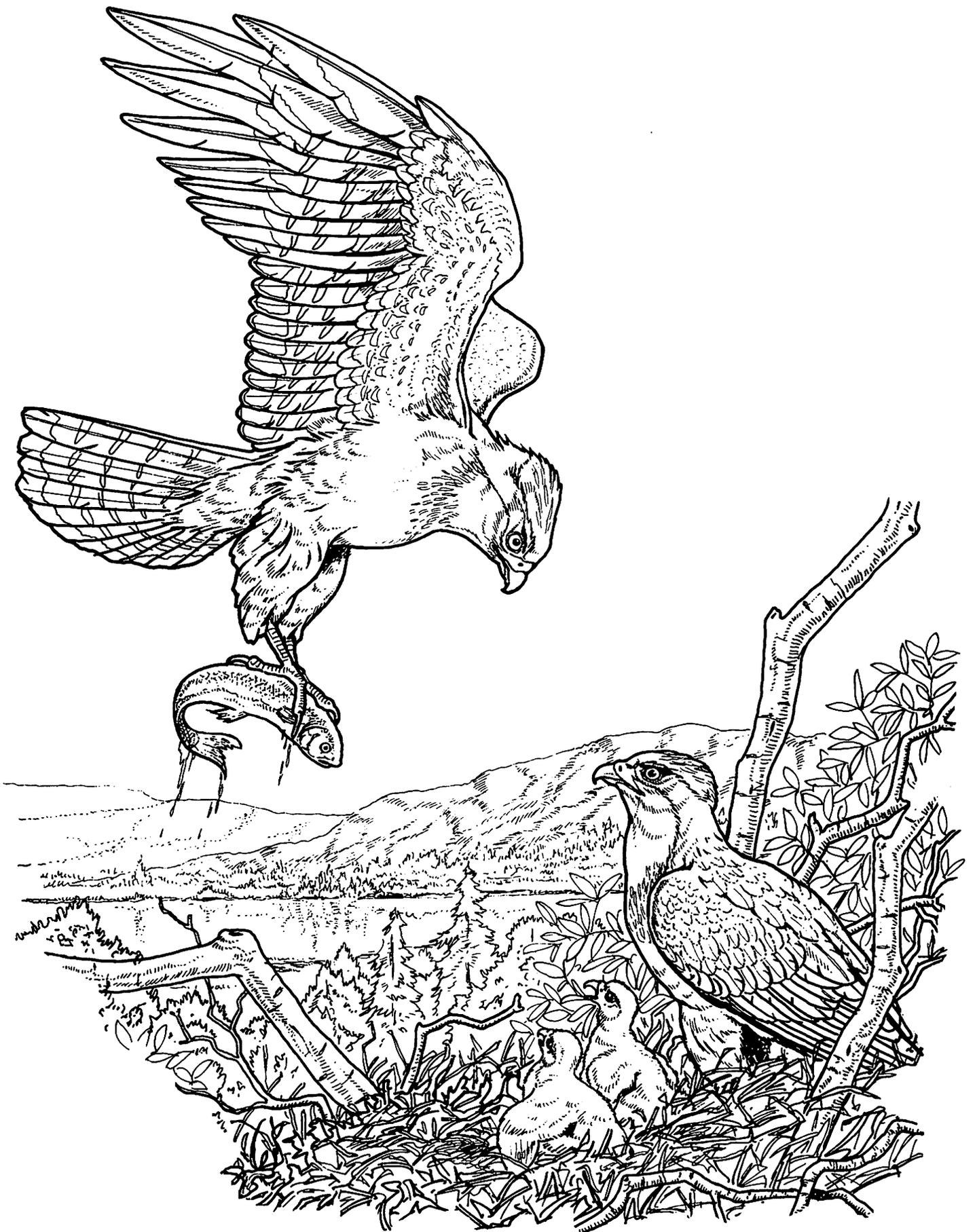
The **American kestrel** is a brightly-colored bird and the smallest member of the falcon family. Kestrels hunt all kinds of prey in the prairie, including insects, reptiles, mice, and other small mammals and birds. Kestrels perch on trees, fence posts, and telephone lines and can also hover over their prey before pouncing on it.

Artwork by John Green, *Birds of Prey*

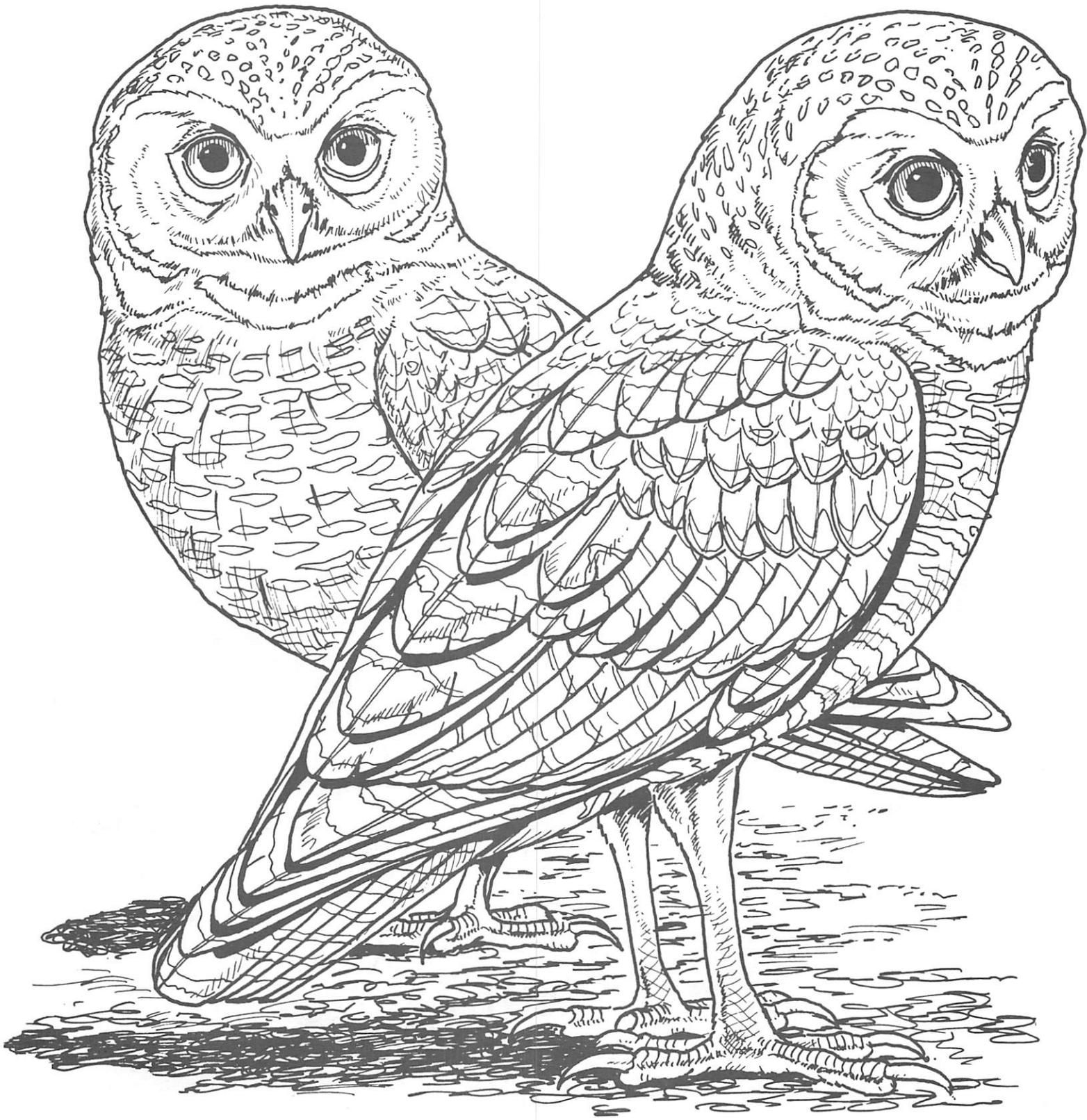


Red-tailed hawks are very common in Wyoming. They are members of the Buteo family, and have long, wide wings and broad tails that help them soar high in the sky in search of rodents, particularly mice. Red-tailed hawks are named because their tail feathers are red and can easily be seen when they are flying, especially on sunny days.

Artwork by John Green, *Birds of Prey*



Osprey are sometimes called; "fish hawks" because all they eat is fish. Osprey build large nests in trees, on poles, and on platforms specifically built for them. They live near open water where they can hover and dive down, feet first, to catch fish. Males and females look very similar, both having dark feathers on their backs, white feathers on their chests, and a dark stripe along their eyes.



These owls are called **burrowing owls** because they live in abandoned prairie dog burrows. They are not able to dig their own burrows. The owls hunt insects and other small reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. They don't hunt prairie dogs, they simply use the prairie dog towns for shelter and a place to hunt and raise their young.

Artwork by John Green, *Birds of Prey*