

Chapter 1 : Perspective - Soaring Crime

CRIME STATE PERSPECTIVES. Alabama Crime in Perspective Mississippi Crime in Perspective Missouri Crime.

As an occasional outdoor scribe who has scaled bluffs and rappelled off cliffs in pursuit of authentic firsthand stories, I feel their pain. They are not the kind of predators who present a nuisance to anybody. Last year was marked by a rash of eagle killings in Reynolds, Gasconade and Pulaski counties and along the Mississippi River. The deaths in the aggregate have officials especially alarmed. Yamnitz tells me the destruction of the eagles is deliberate, noting that rifles were used and almost certainly fired from camouflaged areas. Eagles have eyesight eight times superior to that of human beings. Native Americans saw bald eagles as sacred birds, protectors of the people. American settlers must have had similar ideas, for in they made the eagle our national emblem. But descendants of the settlers have not always regarded bald eagles with the same reverence as Native Americans. The bald eagle was nearly wiped out in the last century through destruction of its habitat, excessive hunting and use of harmful chemicals such as DDT. The Missouri eagle population hit rock bottom in the s, and state conservationists and naturalists launched a painstaking program to bring nesting birds back, protect migrating birds and clean up and preserve their habitat. The program has paid off. Although the bald eagle remains an endangered species, more than 2, of the birds now winter along the Mississippi River and other Missouri watersheds. According to MDC ornithologist Andy Forbes, during some recent migration years, Missouri has been second only to Alaska in the number of wintering bald eagles. They are easily seen below dams on the Mississippi, where fish are stunned or killed in the turbines, and the turbulence below the spillway keeps water open for the eagles for their hunting. John Solodar, bird-trip coordinator for the St. Louis Audubon Society, reports that the society has counted about 60 nesting eagle pairs that now stay in Missouri all year long. How strange that in this time when our patriotic fervor is kicked into overdrive, eagles are in the crosshairs. What an outrage that even as former Missouri Gov. Anyone with information about eagle killings should contact the U. Fish and Wildlife Service. Eagle killings may be reported in confidence by calling Operation Game Thief at Whether soaring on 8-foot wingspans or diving for fish at 30 to 50 mph, eagles draw crowds even in temperatures well below freezing. However, the most dependable viewing is north of St. Louis, along the Mississippi River.

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Crime in Missouri, FOREWORD This publication is produced by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Statistical Analysis Center. It is intended to provide a basic understanding of Missouri's crime problems, their characteristics, and.

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