



<http://cdn.ammoland.com/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/American-Bald-Eagle.jpg>

BALD EAGLE

An Endangered Bird

By Jack Thomas Nagy

Grade 5

Leverett Elementary School

Winter 2013

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Names	4
Description	5
Hunting	6
Habitat and Range	7
Mating Habits and Life Cycle	8
Threats and Solutions	9
Myths and Legends	10
Fun Facts	11
Bibliography	12



http://imgc.artprintimages.com/images/art-print/david-northcott-bald-eagle-diving-homer-aska-usa_i-G-30-3066-RQZDFOOZ.jpg

Introduction

Once I was walking in the woods near a stream. I felt the cool breeze blow on my skin. It was fall. Then a majestic figure dove into the water. I didn't know what it was. Then it went onto a rock and I saw it. A bald eagle was tearing away at its prey. I was scared. That if I moved, it would attack me. I slowly crept away and then ran. That was the first time I saw a bald eagle, but I hope it is not my last.

Names

Bald eagles have many different names. The bald eagle's common name, as you may have guessed, is "bald eagle." The bald eagle's scientific name is *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*, which is Greek for "salt eagle white head." Other names are raptor, carnivore, predator, scavenger, and aquila, which is Latin for eagle. Whatever you call it, the bald eagle is an amazing animal.



Bald Eagle

http://imgc.artprintimages.com/images/art-print/david-northcott-bald-eagle-diving-homer-alaska-usa_j-G-30-3066-RQZDF00Z.jpg

Description

Bald eagles are the kings of the sky. Surprisingly, they are not bald. They have white feathers on their head, neck, and tail, but they are mostly brown. A bald eagle's beak, talons, and feathers are made up of a tough protein called keratin. Bald eagles have approximately seven thousand feathers. When bald eagles fly, they soar. They rarely flap their wings. A bald eagle's wingspan is seven feet. That's taller than most people. Some of these attributes are why the bald eagle is such a good hunter.



Bald Eagle

http://c5.nrostatic.com/uploaded/pic_giant_052112_DM.jpg

Hunting

Bald eagles are very vicious birds. Two of the bald eagle's most important weapons are its talons and its eyesight. Its talons are used to kill its prey, and its eyesight is very keen and helps it to spot its prey from far away. A bald eagle can see things from a mile away! On the bottom of their feet, they have spicules, which are bumps that help bald eagles hold on to fish. Ninety percent of a bald eagle's diet is fish, but they will eat seabirds, ducks, geese, rabbits, and other small animals.



Swooping Bald Eagle

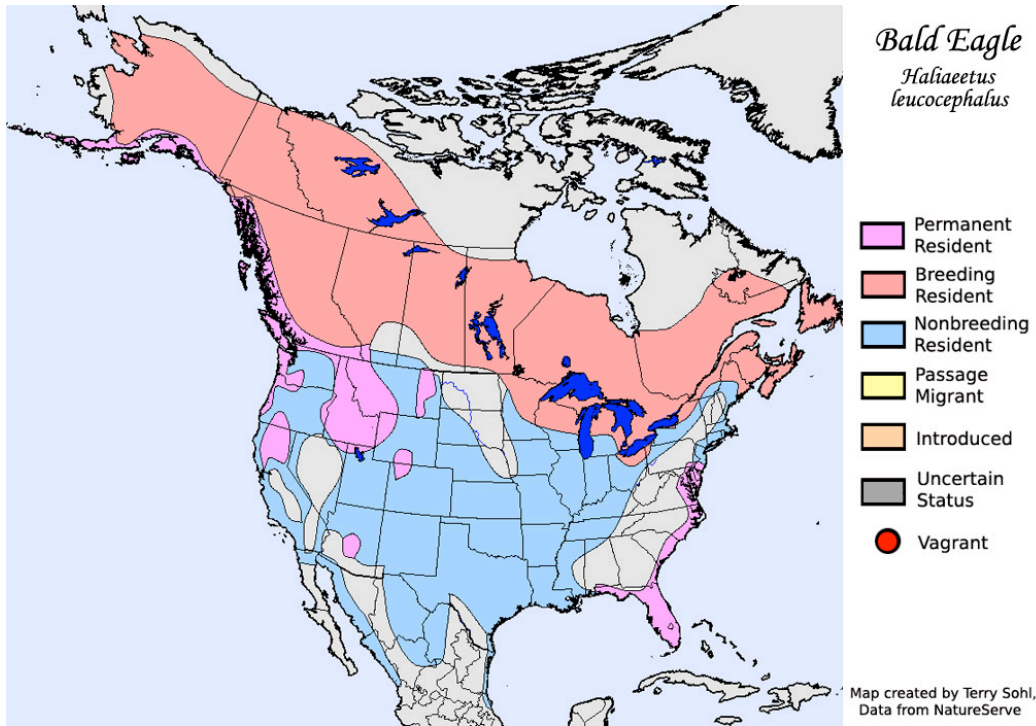
<http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/soaring-bald-eagle-carrie-obrien-sibley.jpg>

Habitat and Range

Bald eagles live in a very specific habitat. Bald eagles live throughout North America. Bald eagles

have to live near water. They build their nests in tall trees, on cliffs, or on rocks. There are only 70,000 bald eagles left in the wild.

Imagine trying to find a home with such specific needs!



Bald eagle population map

http://sdakotabirds.com/species/maps/bald_eagle_map_big.jpg



A probable bald eagle home

http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4987420-Nuukio_National_Park_Nuukio.jp

Mating habits and Life Cycle

One of the most important things about a bald eagle are their mating habits. Bald eagle mating season is September to April. A female bald eagle lays eggs. Bald eagles stay with the same mate for life. Which are much different from those of a human. Baby bald eagles are called eaglets. After five weeks of incubation, eaglets are born with white fluffy feathers, called down. Eaglets need to be fed eight times a day. Their parents teach them first learn to fly, then to hunt. There are many different stages of a bald eagle's life cycle. At birth, an eaglet will weigh 3.2 ounces and have light gray feathers. By four weeks, eaglets start to grow adult feathers and know how to stand. At eight to fourteen weeks, eaglets weigh eleven pounds and are called juveniles. They have started to fly and wander from the nest. By the age of four to five years, they have their adult feathers and can mate.



A parent and an eaglet

<http://www.kanecountyaudubon.org/images/Bald%20Eagle%20and%20eaglets%20-%202005-10-11.jpg>

Threats and Solutions

Bald eagles are making a comeback, but continue to need our help. In the 1950s bald eagles were becoming extinct because of pesticides and hunting for sport. The government used to pay fishermen in Alaska to kill bald eagles because people thought that bald eagles were eating too many fish. Today the government has made it illegal to shoot the bald eagle. You can help by raising awareness or if you're a farmer stop using harmful pesticides. With your help the bald eagle population will come back fully.



http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3063/2369131466_9db1e1f27e.jpg

Myths and legends

Bald eagles aren't just our national symbol, they are also symbols all over the world. In the U.S. National Seal, the bald eagle holds arrows of war and an olive branch of peace in its talons. There are also many legends involving the bald eagle. One is that ancient Babylonians believed that the souls of rulers went to heaven on an eagle. Aztecs believed that the eagle and the jaguar fought over who would become the sun and who would become the moon. The eagle flung himself into a fire and became the sun. The jaguar followed and became the moon. The bald eagle is a symbol of force and power all over the world.



Gold bald eagle decoration.

http://tickets.constitutioncenter.org/Images/Press_room/hi/LynnHist_Eagle.jpg

Fun facts

There are many amazing facts and superlatives about the bald eagle. One is that the largest bald eagle nest ever found was twenty feet long, nine and one half feet high, and weighed two tons! Another is an interesting theory: that the bald eagle evolved from the Tyrannosaurus Rex. The eagle was also the name of the Apollo Eleven spacecraft. As you can see bald eagles are fascinating birds.



<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-L8OLBZjw24k/TpaIk3sOUDI/AAAAAAAAADqA/nkpn-7XQC60/s1600/T-rex.jpg>



http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4http://cache.virtualtourist.com/6/4987420-Nuukio_National_Park_Nuukio.jpg

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Horton, Casey. Endangered Eagles. Tarrytown: Benchmark
Books, 1996. Print.

Worsley, Arlene. Bald Eagles. New York: Weigl publishers Inc.,
2006. Print.

Nationalgeographic.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 7 Feb. 2013.

<<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/bald-eagle/?source=a-to-z>>.

Stone, Lynn M. Bald Eagles. Minneapolis: Lerner publications
Company, 2004. Print.

Warhol, Tom, and Chris Reiter. Eagles. Tarrytown: Benchmark
Books, 2004. Print.