



# Eagle Fact-Finder

## Did You Know?

- Bald eagles were taken off the Endangered Species List in 2007.
- The male eagle is smaller than the female.
- An eagle's life expectancy is 30-50 years.
- The Latin name, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, means "white-headed sea bird."
- The Old English word "balde" meant white, not hairless.
- An eagle's talons & beak are made of keratin; the same material that makes up human hair & fingernails.



## Nest to Maturity

- 1-3 eggs take about 35 days to hatch.
- 3-4 weeks they develop most of their feathers.
- 6-7 weeks they can walk.
- 3 months they can fly.
- 4 months they leave the nest for good.
- 4-5 years to become adults (white head & tail).
- Young eagles stay with their parents even after they have grown to full size; they separate when they migrate.



	Male	Female
<u>Weight</u>	8-11lbs.	10-14lbs.
<u>Size</u>	35"	42"
<u>Wingspan</u>	6.5'	8'

## Mating & Breeding

- Bald eagles mate for life.
- Eagle pairs often return to the same nest year after year.
- The technical name for a bald eagle's nest is aerie.
- The male and female will alternate sitting on the egg.
- Eagles often nest within 100 miles of where they were born.



## Hunting Habits

- Fish make up 60-90% of the eagle's diet.
- Eagles can fly 30-40 mph.
- Eyesight is 6x greater than a human's.



## Range

- Found in all states, except Hawaii.
- Alaska has the largest winter pop.
- More than 263 active nest in IL.

## BALD EAGLE

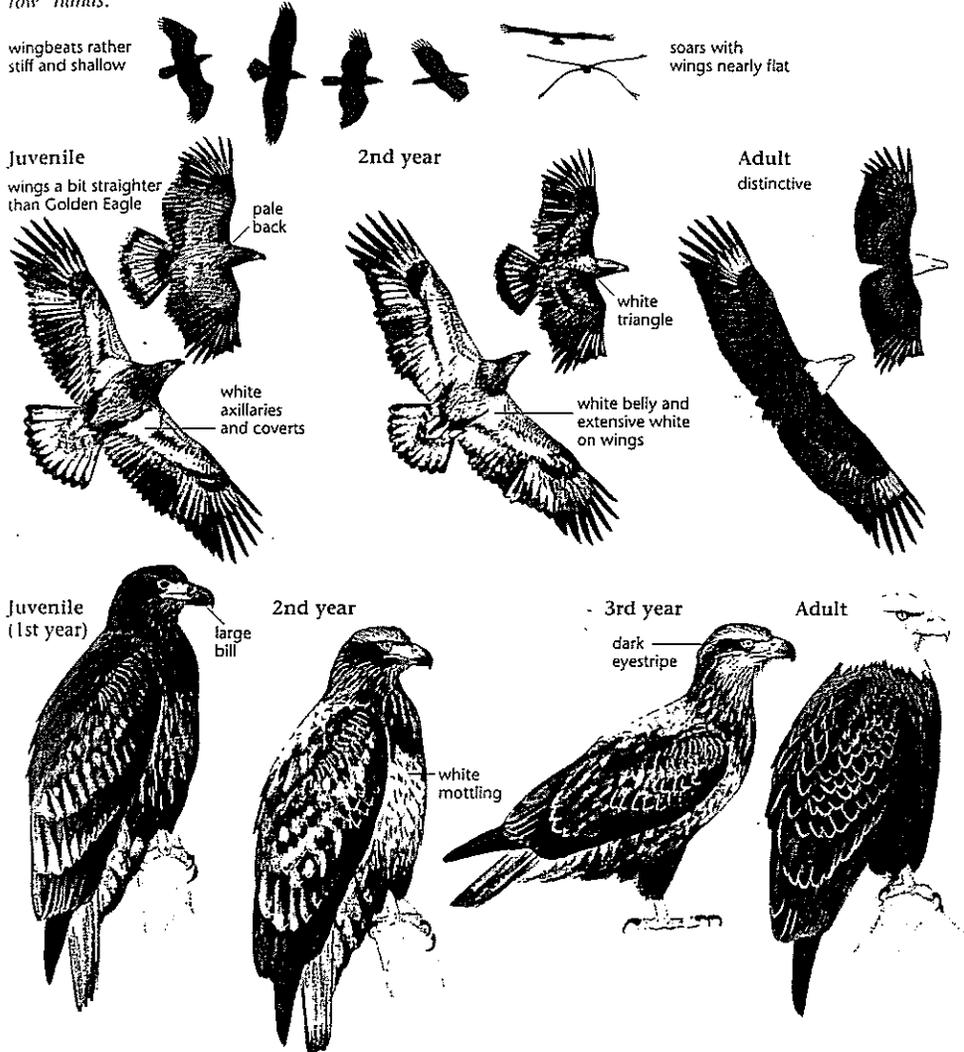
This species is not closely related to Golden Eagle. Usually found near water (in large numbers where prey is abundant), it feeds mainly on fish (often scavenged) and waterfowl captured in pursuit.

### Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

l. 31" ws 80" wt 9.5 lb (4,325 g) ♀ > ♂

Less buteolike than Golden Eagle. Relatively large head and bill; broad, straight-edged wings with relatively narrow "hands."



Voice: Call rather weak, flat, chirping whistles, stuttering, variable. Immature calls generally harsher, more shrill than adult until three to four years old.



Southern breeders smaller, average 10 percent shorter-winged and 20 percent shorter-tailed than northern breeders; differences are broadly clinal. Southern juveniles fledge in Mar; northern juveniles are not independent until Aug. Southern juveniles wander north to Canada May-Sep and can sometimes be distinguished from the northern by date and relatively worn plumage.

Juveniles of both Bald and Golden Eagles have broader wings and longer tails than adults. 2nd year birds retain longer juvenile feathers among shorter new ones.

Above information gathered  
from *The Sibley Guide to Birds*.