

American Bald Eagle

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

By: Kendall Madsen



History:

- The Bald Eagle was declared the American national bird in 1782.
- 1960s the count of bald eagles had dropped to fewer than 450 nesting pairs
- 1978 it was declared an endangered species
- 1995 it went from endangered to threatened
- 2007 it was removed from both list

Today we have a count of 1,000 in California!

Here in Lake Tahoe we have seen our numbers go from 27 in 2017 to 42 being spotted as of January 8th, 2021



Size:

**How Large do you think it is standing?
How long do you think its wingspan is?**

It is no doubt that this bird is large, with the adult male being around 90cm (36 inches) long and a wingspan of 2 meters (6.6 feet) while females may reach 108cm (43 inches) long and can have a wingspan of 2.5 metres (8 feet)

WOW Now thats a big bird!

Calls:

- Commonly mistaken is the sound of these birds in movies. In films they use the call of a red-tailed hawk as the bald eagles call.
- Bald eagles will use their calls for things like
 - Calling for a male
 - Warning other birds/animals



Nesting

- Picking old-growth trees, snags (dead trees), cliffs, and even rock promontories
- These birds build some of the largest nests out of all birds. They are usually around 5-6 feet in diameter and 2-4 feet tall.
- Incubation Period: 34-36 days
- Nesting Period: 56-98 days
- Clutch Size: 1-3 eggs
- Egg Description: Dull white usually with no markings



Habitat

Bald Eagles prefer tall, mature coniferous or deciduous trees that afford a wide view of their surroundings. They will nest forested areas that are near to large bodies or water.





Food:

Bald Eagles are known to harass a hunting Osprey until they drop their prey. They even will take fish directly out of an Osprey's nest or even talons.

Bald eagles primary food is fish but they will also eat other birds or animals like raccoons, squirrels, prairie dogs, or even rabbits.

Seeing the American Bald Eagle:

If you would like to see this beautiful large bird, head to water such as lakes rivers or the ocean! This is where they will be looking for fish.



Thank You

