

BALD EAGLES

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

The bald eagle was adopted as the symbol of the United States because of its independence and strength.

The word bald in the eagle's name comes from a word in Old English that means white headed. Immature bald eagles lack the white head and tail. They are mostly chocolate brown with varying amounts of white over the body, tail, and underwings. Juvenile bald eagles are often mistaken for immature golden eagles, which are much rarer in New York.

This majestic bird is easily identified in adult plumage by its unmistakable brown body set off by a white head and tail and bright yellow bill (male and female eagles look identical, except that the female is usually about one third larger and heavier than the male, as is typical in birds of prey). Sexual maturity and the characteristic white head and tail are achieved at five years of age.

Despite their fierce image, bald eagles are actually quite timid and opportunistic. Since their primary prey is fish.

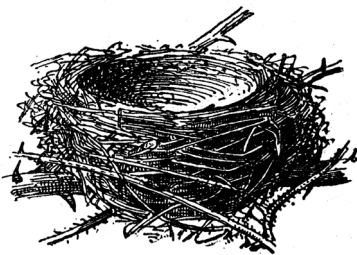
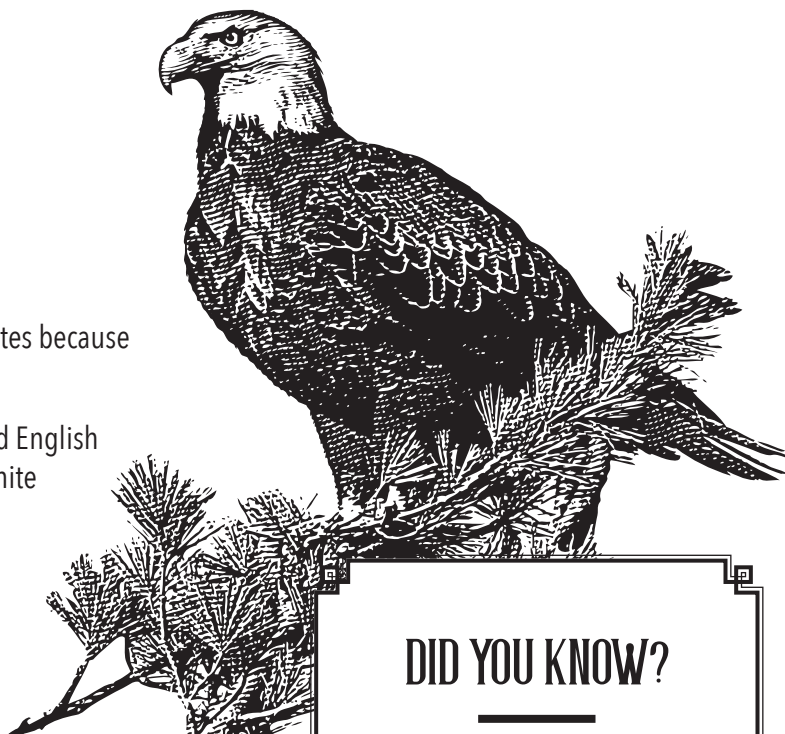
Bald eagles mate for life, returning to nest in the general area (within 250 miles) from which they fledged. **Once a pair selects a nesting territory, they use it for the rest of their lives.**

Bald eagles' aerial courtship is an amazing display of avian abilities. The pair soars high in the sky, begins a dive, and interlocks talons while descending in a series of somersaults.

THE NEST

A bald eagle nest can measure up to 8' deep, 6'+ across, and weighing hundreds of pounds. The nest is reused and added to (decorated) each year.

Bald eagles produce only one or two offspring per year. Eggs incubate for 35 days. The young fledge by mid to late summer at about 12 weeks of age. By 20 weeks they are largely independent.



DID YOU KNOW?

EAGLES ARE ONE OF THE LARGEST BIRDS OF PREY (RAPTORS) FOUND IN NORTH AMERICA

HEIGHT

Roughly 30" tall

WINGSPAN

72-84" (6-7.5')

WEIGHT

between 8 & 14lbs

GRIP STRENGTH

400 PSI – 10x's strength of human

EYESIGHT

8x's stronger than human

LIFE SPAN

of more than 30 years.

CAN FLY IN ALTITUDES OF OVER 10,000 FEET