**Bald Eagle**

**From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

The **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is a bird of prey found in North America, most recognizable as the national bird and symbol of the United States of America. This sea eagle has two known subspecies and forms a species pair with the White-tailed Eagle. Its range includes most of Canada, all of the continental United States, and northern Mexico. It is found near large bodies of open water with an abundant food supply and old-growth trees for nesting.

The Bald Eagle is a large bird, with a body length of 71–96 centimeters (28–38 in), a wingspan of 168–244 centimeters (66–88 in), and a weight of 3–6.3 kilograms (6.6–14 lb); females are about 25 percent larger than males. The adult Bald Eagle has a brown body with a white head and tail, bright yellow irises, taloned feet, and a hooked beak; juveniles are completely brown except for the yellow feet. Males and females are identical in coloration. Its diet consists mainly of fish, but it is an opportunistic feeder. It hunts fish by swooping down and snatching the fish out of the water with its talons. It is sexually mature at four or five years of age. The Bald Eagle builds the largest nest of any North American bird, up to 4 meters (13 ft) deep, 2.5 meters (8 ft) wide, and one ton in weight.

Bald Eagles normally squeak and have a shrill cry, punctuated by grunts. They do not make the scream that is found in films; this is usually the call of a Red-tailed Hawk, dubbed into films for dramatic effect.

The species was on the brink of extirpation in the continental United States (while flourishing in much of Alaska and Canada) late in the 20th century, but now has a stable population and has been officially removed from the U.S. federal government's list of endangered species. The Bald Eagle was officially reclassified from "Endangered" to "Threatened" on July 12, 1995, by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. On July 6, 1999, a proposal was initiated "To Remove the Bald Eagle in the Lower 48 States From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife."It was delisted on June 28, 2007.

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| http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/69/Haliaeetus_leucocephalus-tree-USFWS.jpg/240px-Haliaeetus_leucocephalus-tree-USFWS.jpg | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Kingdom: | Animalia | | Phylum: | Chordata | | Class: | Aves | | Order: | Falconiformes | | Family: | Accipitridae | | Genus: | Haliaeetus | | Species: | H. leucocephalus | |  |
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