



Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus



America

My birthday is unknown, but I came to the Racine Zoo on March 24th, 2021!

You can find me in **Raptor Roost** next to Bear Ridge. I was originally from the wild, however, I became injured and was rescued by a raptor rehabilitation center. Due to the severity of my injury, they deemed me unable to return back to the wild; which is why I now call the Racine Zoo my home!

BALD EAGLES AT A GLANCE



- Bald eagles can fly as high as 10,000 feet, and are very maneuverable while flying, despite being morphologically less adapted for faster flight.



- Eagle eyes are the same size as a human's. Their vision is so precise, they can spot prey up to 2 miles away.
- My eyes have a **nictitating membrane** that covers and protects my eyes.



- I have **sharp talons** to help me catch prey and tear flesh apart.
- The grip of a bald eagle talon is 10x stronger than that of humans.
- In the wild, I eat small mammals, waterfowl, and fish. At the zoo, I am fed rodents and small birds.



Adult size:
12.5-3 ft tall
14 lbs

Wingspan:
6 - 8 ft

Avg. life expectancy in the wild:
20 - 30 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:
up to 50 years

WHERE ARE BALD EAGLE HABITATS LOCATED?



Bald eagles are found throughout the United States, most of Canada, and into northern Mexico. They prefer to inhabit forested areas surrounding lakes and reservoirs. Bald eagles are federally protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protections Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty (this includes transportation, hunting, and nest disturbances).

Bald Eagle Behavior

PREENING

Preening occurs after feeding, while perching during the day, in roosts at nightfall, and by adults in nests.

I preen to keep my feathers nice and healthy. It also helps me grow new feathers!



CALLS

For such a powerful bird, the Bald Eagle emits surprisingly weak-sounding calls—usually a series of high-pitched whistling or piping notes.

I will often make noise to communicate with my keepers, or other birds in the area.



DEFENDING

They vigorously defend their nesting territory when breeding. They will sit (perch) for long hours; in winter, for up to 98 percent of the day, conserving energy.

Even though I'm not nesting, I still patrol my area to defend from any intruders!



LOCOMOTION

Bald eagles have a variety of different ways they use to move around! Other than flying, they are great at walking, running, hopping, and climbing.

I don't fly often, I prefer hopping and climbing to get around my habitat!

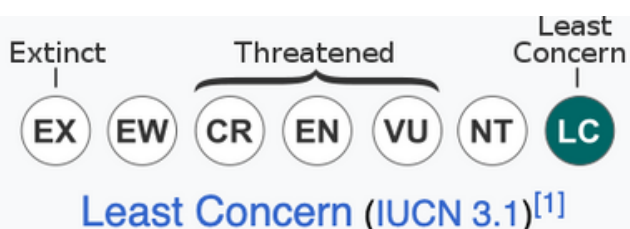


- Bald eagles build the largest nest of any North American bird.
- In times of food scarcity, bald eagles have been observed to scavenge and feed on a variety of animal carcasses.
- Bald eagles are not actually bald. Their heads are covered in white feathers. The name comes from an older meaning of the word "white-headed."
- Bald eagles return to the area they were born when they reach reproductive maturity and mate for life.

Bald Eagle Conservation

Threats in the wild include illegal shooting, lead poisoning, habitat loss, power lines and wind turbines.

They are listed as **least concern** on **IUCN Red List**. However, as more roads and buildings are being built, more raptors, like the bald eagle, are colliding into windows, buildings, fencing, and cars.



How can we help?

Bald eagles were previously endangered and nearly became extinct in the 1960s. They made a remarkable recovery after the passing of the Endangered Species Act and the banning of DDT. Avoid using poison for pests such as rodents, as eagles can be secondarily affected when they eat poisoned mice and rats. Be aware that keeping eagle parts, such as feathers or talons, is illegal without a federal permit.