

What happened?

When bald eagles began to disappear in the United States, this is what happened...

- Pesticides washed into streams and lakes and poisoned fish
- Hunters shot waterfowl with lead bullets which poisoned wounded ducks and geese
- Eagles ate the poisoned fish and waterfowl, making them sterile, their egg shells too thin, and often killed them

Habitat management is critical to the survival of bald eagles and hundreds of native species in our region.

Every day we make decisions that can help or hurt wildlife. Let's choose to help!

Remember to **Respect the Resource** — become a part of the solution to conserve this incredible land and water we call home. Volunteer today: call **270.924.2007**.

Bald Eagle Viewing at Land Between the Lakes

Viewing in the recreation area is best December through February when northern birds are here looking for food. They prefer quiet, secluded areas along the shoreline. Tall trees provide nesting and roosting sites. Land Between the Lakes offers prime habitat for bald eagles.

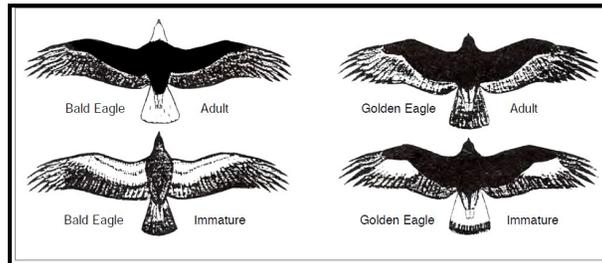
- Bald eagles will often fly off if disturbed or approached too closely. Use binoculars or spotting scopes to view them from a distance rather than trying to get up close.
- Be prepared for inclement weather conditions during prime viewing months.
- To protect eagles and nesting sites, viewing areas may occasionally be closed to public use.
- Ask any Woodlands Nature Station or Visitor Center staff member for recommendations on viewing site locations within Land Between the Lakes.

Take a Tour

Naturalists with the Woodlands Nature Station offer Eagle Van Tours and Eagle River Boat Cruises during the winter months. For more information, call 270.924.2299. Tour schedules subject to change.

Viewing Tips

- Flying eagles are flat, and flap their wings stiffly. Flying vultures tilt their wings up, making a "V" when observed head-on.
- Eagles tend to perch in the top one-third of a tree. Perched eagles look like a squirrel nest, and adult perched eagles look like a snow-covered squirrel nest.
- On nice days, eagles often perch where the bay meets the lake. On rainy or cold days, they often perch at the back of the bay, far away from the lake.
- Good numbers of eagles are often found along the northwestern bays of Land Between the Lakes, as well as Honker Lake and the two large dams' tailwaters.



This graphic illustrates the differences between adult and immature bald and golden eagles.

USDA Forest Service

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

General Information:

1.800.525.7077 or 270.924.2000

Website:

www.landbetweenthe lakes.us

EMERGENCY or reporting:

911 or 1.877.861.2457

Check out our Facebook page:

facebook.com/LBLNatlRecArea

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Fact Sheet

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES National Recreation Area

KENTUCKY | TENNESSEE



Bald eagles live at Land Between the Lakes year-round. Our population increases beginning in November as these majestic birds travel south for the winter. Our 300 miles of undeveloped shoreline offers two flowing rivers, tall trees, and plentiful fish to eat, making us an ideal stopover on their long journey.



Bald Eagle Fun Facts

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES *National Recreation Area*

- Bald eagles only live in North America, normally around large bodies of water.
- Bald eagles can live up to 50 years in captivity and 15-30 years in the wild.
- Bald eagles need three things to survive — a substantial amount of food, a nest site close to food, and to be left alone during nesting time.
- Bald eagles have over 7,000 feathers to keep them warm. Small down feathers line their body to provide an insulating layer of warmth.
- Eagle nests average 5 feet across and 3 to 6 feet tall. Typically, eagles build their nests 50 feet high in trees near water. Since eagles add more sticks to their nests every year, nests can become large.
- The largest eagle nest ever recorded measured 9.5 feet wide and 20 feet deep. It was located near St. Petersburg, Florida. It was documented in 1963 and estimated to weigh 2.5 tons!
- Bald eagles lay 1 to 3 eggs which hatch after 34 days. Both male and female eagles incubate their eggs.
- Adult eagles walk around the nest for the first few weeks with their talons balled up into fists to keep from injuring their babies, or eaglets.
- Eaglets usually take their first flights at 9-10 weeks of age. Like many wild animals, many do not survive their first year.
- Between 3 and 5 years, bald eagles slowly develop white head and tail feathers as they become adults.
- Most find a mate around 5 years of age. Eagles mate for life and return to their nest every year.

- Eagle wingspans range between 6 and 8 feet.
- Adults stand around 2 feet high and weigh between 8 and 14 pounds.



- Eagles are fierce hunters — their eyesight is 4 times stronger than ours and their grip is 10 times greater. They can lift objects up to half their weight. Eagles prefer to eat fish and waterfowl, although they will eat turtles and small mammals, too.
- In spite of their reputation, bald eagles have a less than dramatic voice. Movie makers use the red-tailed hawk's more powerful screech as a stand-in for the eagle's voice.
- You can see rescued birds of prey up close at our Woodlands Nature Station and during their Parade of Raptors program. Any feathers that our eagle sheds are sent to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Eagle Repository, which supplies feathers for Native Americans' religious and cultural practices.



1782

Bald Eagle Protection Act introduced

1963

DDT pesticide banned

1973

Bald eagles listed as an Endangered Species

1980s

First eagle nest in Tennessee since 1961

1984

First successful eagle nest in Kentucky since 1949, at Fulton Bay in Land Between the Lakes

1991

Est. 4,000 breeding pairs in lower 48 states

1995

Bald eagle delisted from the Endangered Species List | Est. 10,000 breeding pairs in lower 48 states

2016

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty still protect eagles today

Bald eagle declared National Symbol | Est. 25,000 to 75,000 breeding pairs in lower 48 states

1940

Est. 487 breeding pairs in lower 48 states | Causes of decline include Illegal shooting, lead poisoning, habitat destruction, and pesticide called DDT

1972

Endangered Species Act passed

1978

Multi-agency effort reintroduces Bald eagles to Land Between the Lakes

1983

First eagle nest in 40 years at Land Between the Lakes, located in Hughes Bay area

1989

Lead shot banned for waterfowl hunting in U.S.

1994

Bald eagle down listed to Threatened Species

2007

27 active bald eagle nests at Land Between the Lakes produce an estimated 31 eaglets