

sticks. Two eggs are laid in the hollow of soft material. As a rule, these are deposited the first part of March and the period of incubation is about a month. When born the eaglets are covered with white down. While it takes approximately four weeks for a robin or finch to rear a family, it requires four months for an eagle to grow from egghood to full feather.

In some ways the golden eagle is a nobler bird than his white-headed cousin. The bald eagle is a resident along the big rivers, on the shores of lakes, and on the islands of the sea. Its favorite food is fish. It often catches these, or compels an osprey to pay tribute. In some places it lives almost entirely on the dead fish it finds along the shores. The golden eagle is more of a hunter. It has seldom been known to touch dead animals.

In mythological times the eagle rested at the side of Jove as a symbol of strength and power. He was borne on Roman standards. France under the Bonapartes, Austria, Prussia and Russia have used the eagle as a national bird. On June 20, 1782, the venerable white-headed bird of Washington was adopted as the emblem of our country.



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THE AMERICAN EAGLE, EMBLEM OF LIBERTY

Millions of people daily see our national emblem on the coins and arms of our country, but it is safe to say that a very large proportion have never seen an American eagle in the sky. It is a bird naturally shy and wary, swift in flight and strong in body. He is more than a match for any animal of equal size, but cannot withstand the modern weapons in the hands of man.

In North America we have two species of eagles, the American or bald eagle found in the wilder sections of the United States, and the golden eagle now restricted almost entirely to the mountainous regions of the West.

The term bald originated from the white head which is an unmistakeable mark of identity of the full grown bird. It also has a white tail. Up to the time it is about three years old, the bald eagle is dark brown in color, somewhat resembling the golden eagle. From the time of Audubon, these young bald eagles were considered a separate species.

The golden eagle is a large powerful bird, dark brown in color with the feathers of the head and neck lighter brown or golden. To distinguish one species from the other, look at the lowest joint of the leg. If this is covered with brown feathers down to the toes, it is a golden eagle. If the lower part of the leg is naked, the bird is a bald eagle.

Eagles are undoubtedly mated for life. The same acry is used year after year. During the month of February the nest is re-carpeted with twigs and dry leaves, because the eaglets of the preceding summer wear it down to a rough platform of large