

Gillespie Creek Journal

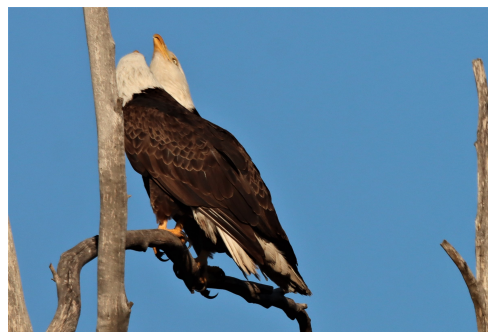
The American Bald Eagle became the symbol of our country in 1782, shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed. The exact design of the bird's pose was made by William Barton, a Pennsylvania lawyer. His design which shows the strength of the magnetic bird appears on official documents, flags and public buildings. Although in the 1800 there were estimated to be more than 100,000 Bald Eagles in America, congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act to maintain the species. By 1978 given the new threat from the DDT pesticide use, the Raptor was put on the endangered species list. Twenty years later the population had recovered sufficiently to move it to the "threatened" status. 2007 Bald Eagle populations had been restored. The "Bald Eagle Protection Act" prohibits taking, possessing, transporting any male or eagle parts which includes nests, eggs, feathers, etc without prior authorization. Penalties for violation of the law include up a year in jail and fine of \$15,000.



Minor Nest Repair Needed
February 10, 2022



Eaglets Left Alone for the First Time: Parents on the Lookout



Honey, Scratch My Neck

Photos by Buddy Walker



Peaceable Kingdom

Photo by Judy Appel

President John F. Kennedy wrote to the Audubon Society that the founding fathers made an appropriate choice in selecting the Bald Eagle as the emblem of the nation. He felt that the "fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolize the strength and the freedom of America." From my observations and photos taken during the past weeks I believe that the Bald Eagle shows other iconic traits to emulate as well. Bald Eagles are loyal, efficient, protective, and compassionate. As evidenced by the final photo, Bald Eagles respect the right of other species to share their territories. An Eagle preys only for sustenance. Both male and female dedicate their lives during each breeding season to diligently, nurturing and protecting succeeding each other as well as their progeny.

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