
Golden Eagle

Aquila chrysaetos

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Accipitriformes*

Family: *Accipitridae*

Characteristics:

The wings are broad and long. The tail projects further from the body than does the head. The feathers are dark brown feathers with a gold sheen to the head and neck regions. One can identify the golden eagle from afar based on its white marking at the base of its tail and wings. When it glides, it holds its wings in a slight “v” shape. The flight feathers at the end of the wing stick out like fingers ([All about Birds](#)).

Behavior:

Often solitary animals. They locate their prey by soaring or perching above their hunting grounds. They’ll also employ a range of hunting and killing tactics and may carry their prey items back to their nesting site (ex: [large prey cliff hunting](#)).

Reproduction:

Court one another by make gentle dives at one another. When a pair is formed, they potentially mate for life. This pair has multiple nesting sites that they may alternate through every year. These nests are usually large stick nests lined with grasses and other soft grasses. These nests can be located on cliff sides, tall trees or tall perches. Once a year, the pair will lay 1 to 3 eggs (rarely 4). They are incubated for a maximum of 45 days and the chicks will fledge anywhere from 45 to 81 days ([All about Birds](#)).

Diet:

Wild: Opportunistic: Mostly medium and small birds but can hunt larger

Zoo: Special bird of prey diet, rats, mice and fish

Conservation:

There are only 500 left in Japan due to poor habitat maintenance (Audubon). It is also a protected species in the United States. Possession of a feather or body part can cost 10,000 dollars.

FYI:

- Largest bird of prey in North America
- Most widely-distributed eagle in the world
- Wind farms in Ireland have decreased their range ([Walker et al 2005](#))
- Adult eagle calls ([Youtube](#)).
- Young eagle calls ([Audubon](#)).



Range & Habitat:

Open to semi-open areas



- = year round range
- = breeding range
- = non-breeding range

Lifespan: up to 68 years in captivity, 30 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations:

- Long, broad wings
- Clever

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

