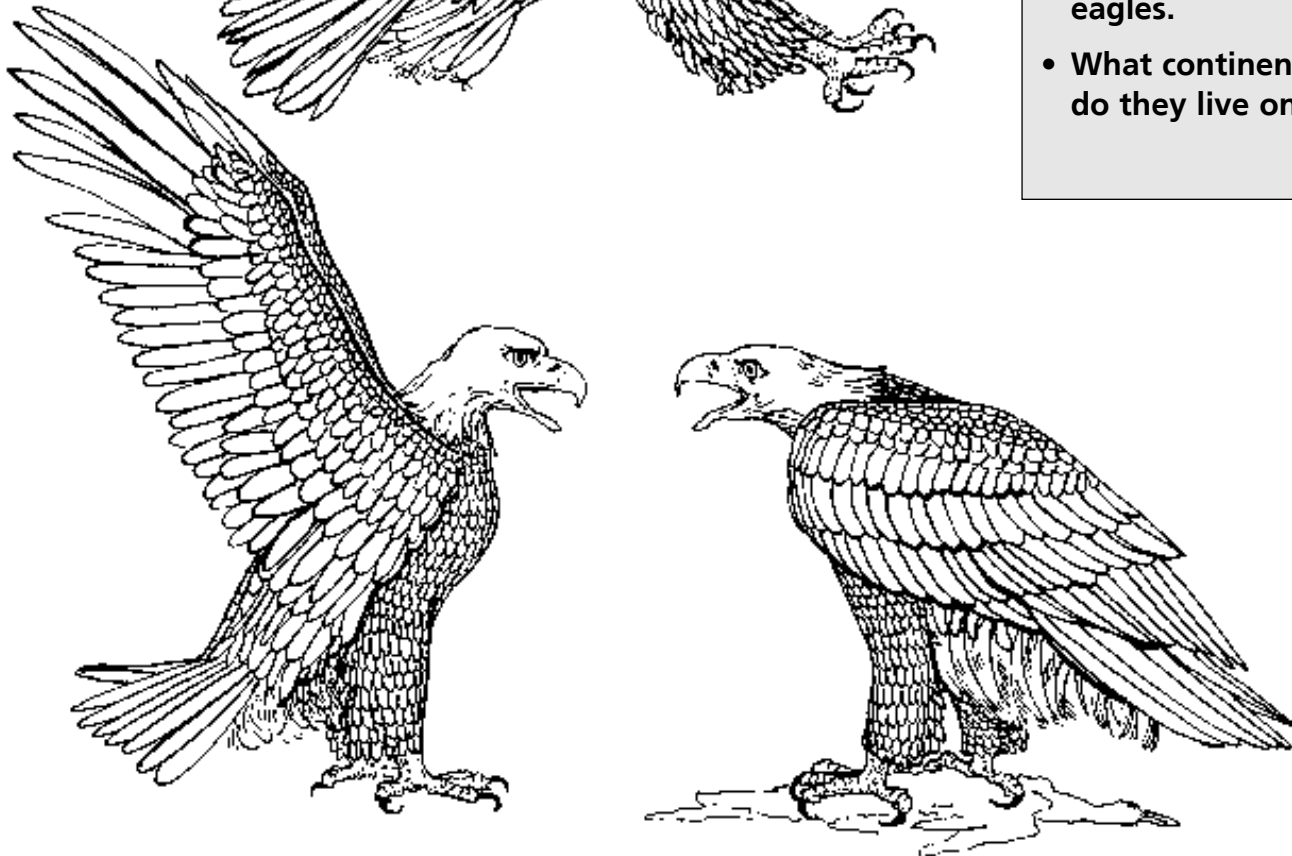


**The bald eagle** is one of the world's sea eagles. It is a large bird of prey that lives only in North America and nests along our waterways.

 **Web search**

- Find the other sea eagles.
- What continents do they live on?



### **Hunter and Scavenger**

The bald eagle makes its living scavenging dead creatures or by hunting live quarry, but mainly by catching or stealing fish — its favored food. Because of the bald eagle's scavenging habits, it has learned to tolerate other eagles being nearby at temporary food gatherings, like salmon spawning runs, or a dead whale or deer carcass that may be gone the next day. This sociability changes during the nesting season when it defends a small nesting territory to preserve its food supply for the young eaglets.



1st year eagle  
dark body



2nd year eagle  
mottled belly



3rd year eagle  
more white on belly



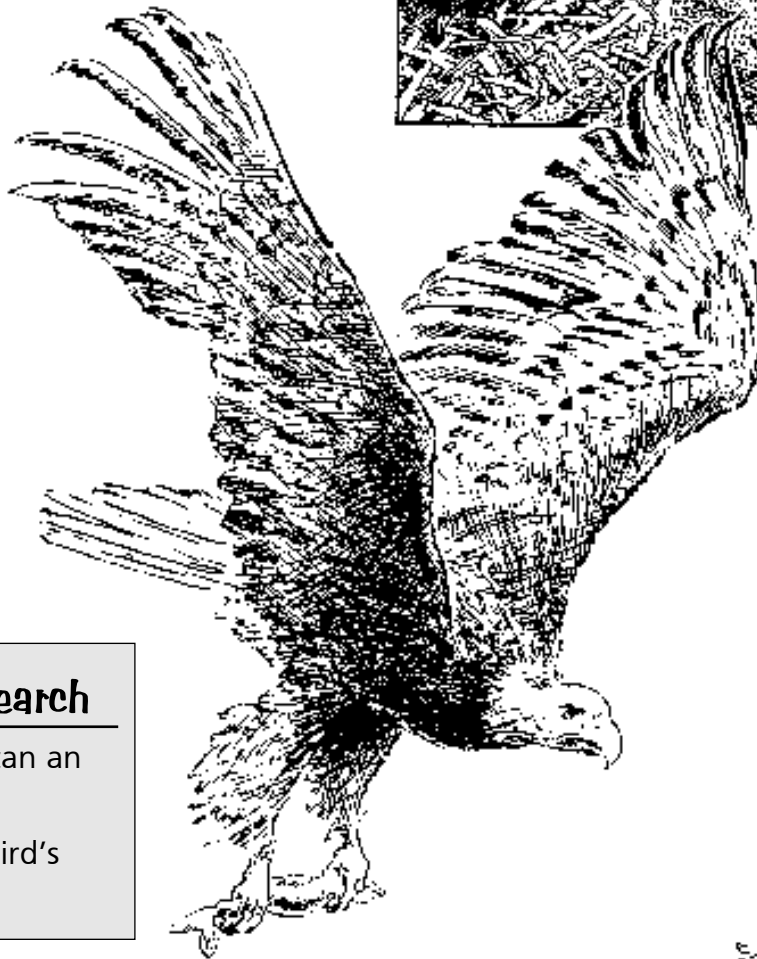
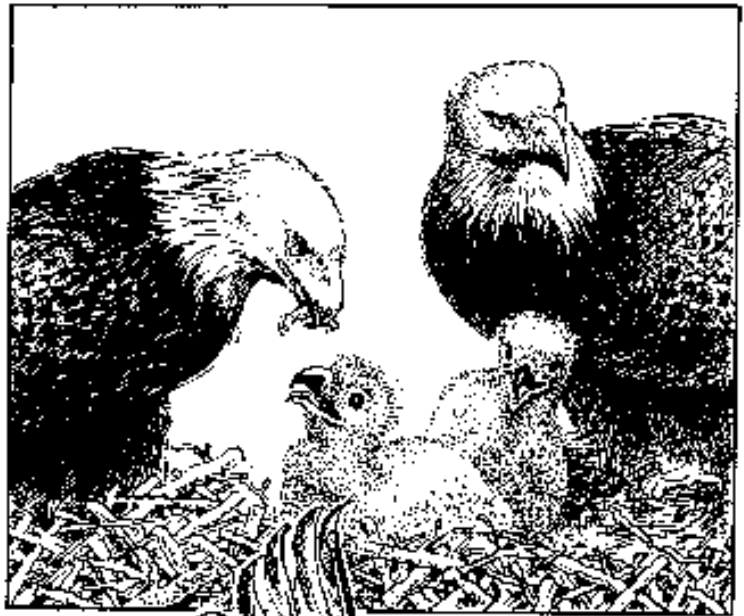
4th year eagle  
dark body again,  
near-white hood and tail

### **Juvenile Bald Eagles**

The bald eagle takes five years to get the characteristic white head and tail. In the first four years of its life it has brown plumage. The juvenile's brown coloration makes it look more like the other North American eagle — the golden eagle — which is a bird and mammal hunter, not primarily a fisher like the bald eagle.

## Shared Duty

The male and female bald eagles share in the nesting duties. Both bring the sticks to build the nest, but the female seems to spend more time rearranging them. Each brings soft grasses and moss for the nest bowl into which the eggs are laid. The parents share incubation duty, but during cold weather the female may do most of the incubating.



## Good Parents

The mom and dad hold their wings over chicks to protect them from rain, and stay nearby if danger approaches.



## Web search

- How long can an eagle live?
- What is a bird's crop?

## Food and Feeding

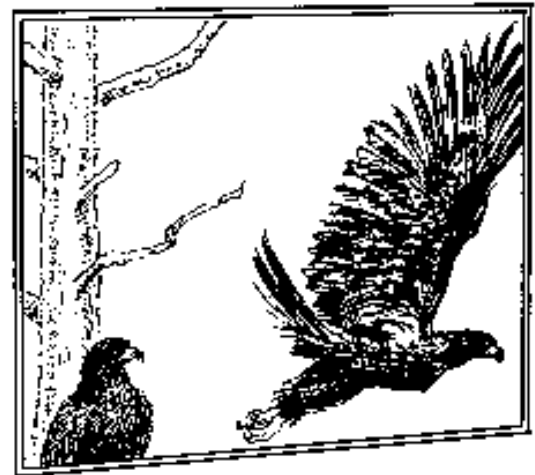
The first feeding, usually on the day following the hatching, is of tiny pieces of meat the size of a match head. At first the young chicks are fed every two hours, but soon this is reduced to three or four times a day. By five weeks of age the rapidly growing chicks can hold a large amount of food in their crops. From then, until they fledge at 12 weeks, the chicks are only fed about two times a day.



## Live Eagle Cams

The Hornby Island and Sidney bald eagles became famous around the world because they appeared on the Live Eagle Cam website at [www.hancockwildlife.org](http://www.hancockwildlife.org).

Retired school teacher Doug Carrick had put a video camera into an eagle's nest beside his house and viewed the nesting eagles from his living room. When eagle biologist David Hancock saw Doug's videos he arranged to have them broadcast over his website. Instantly the world fell in love with the devoted eagle couple. Unfortunately, the eggs were infertile and failed to hatch. Hancock arranged to have another camera placed beside a different nesting pair at Sidney, and the nesting cycle was completed. The eaglets "Victoria and Sidney" fledged, with millions of people watching.



Live cams bring the daily lives of birds and animals into homes and schools. See the activities of eagles, falcons, herons, and bears.

## Web search

- **LIVE EAGLE CAMS + other species:** [www.hancockwildlifechannel.org](http://www.hancockwildlifechannel.org)
- How many bald eagle cams can you find?

## Breakfast Arriving

Meals usually arrived at first light in the morning and late in the afternoon. Most often the meal was fish, but it was sometimes part of a road-killed rabbit, skunk or mallard.