

# Just for Kids

## Soar Like an Eagle!

*Bald eagles are found in Connecticut. More than 100 spend the winter and our state's nesting population has been growing.*

Eagles are large birds. A bald eagle's wingspan can be up to 7 feet. Females weigh 10 to 14 pounds, while males weigh 8 to 9 pounds. Adult bald eagles are easily recognized by their white head and tail. Young eagles (less than 4 years old) have dark-colored heads and tails which become whiter as they age.

### Deadly DDT!

The bald eagle is a threatened species in Connecticut. Populations declined because habitats were destroyed, eagles were illegally shot, their nests were disturbed by people, and their foods were contaminated by the pesticide DDT. DDT had a great effect on the birds because it made their egg shells very thin; so thin that when the parent birds sat on the eggs to incubate them, the eggs collapsed. In 1972, the United States banned the use of DDT. This, along with laws passed to protect the birds, has led to an increase in some eagle populations. The bald eagle was removed from the federal Endangered and Threatened Species List in 2007.

### What do you think...

*How many pounds can an eagle's nest weigh?*

Answer:

*Eagles usually use the same nest each year, adding more sticks every year. Sometimes, nests reach 10 feet across and weigh as much as 2,000 pounds!*

### Eyeing Eagles

*Where can you see eagles in Connecticut during winter?*

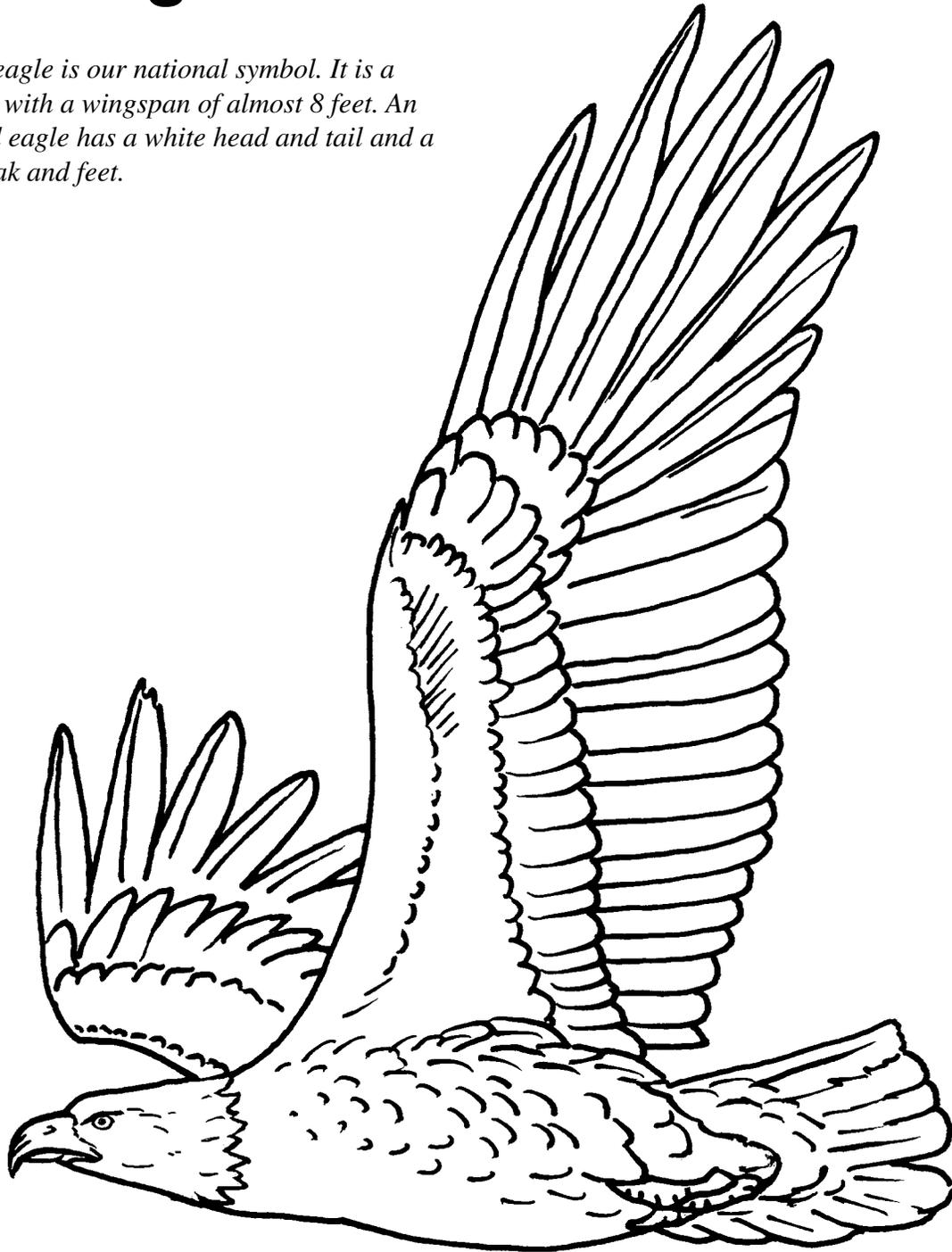
- along the Connecticut River
- at the Shepaug Dam in Southbury (by reservation, from late December to mid-March).

### It's a Fact!

- The bald eagle has been our national symbol since June 20, 1782.
- The bald eagle gets its name from an old English word, "balde" which means "white," not "hairless."
- Bald eagles eat fish. They also eat anything that can be caught easily or is found dead. But, they can't lift more than four pounds.
- Their eyesight is very powerful, at least 3 to 4 times greater than that of humans.

# Bald Eagle

*The bald eagle is our national symbol. It is a large bird with a wingspan of almost 8 feet. An adult bald eagle has a white head and tail and a yellow beak and feet.*



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