

The Thief

On a cold spring morning, a slight breeze filled the air. Noises of chirping birds and chattering squirrels woke up the calm forest. And up perching in its nest of an old pine tree was a bald eagle, hungry and gazing at its surroundings with its powerful eyesight for food.

As the eagle continues his search for food he spots a trout in a near-by lake. As he gets ready to glide down to the lake to attempt his catch, he suddenly spots another bird swooping down and snatching up the fish.

As he watched the bird start to fly off with the fish, he quickly sprung off his perch and started off towards the thief.

Once the eagle caught up to the bird he quickly tried to grab it from him. The bird quickly jerked it away. But the eagle was hungry, so once again he tried to grab the fish and both birds quickly locked feet and tumbled through the air.

Finally, the eagle gave it one last powerful tug and pried the fish away from the bird. As the thief flew away, the eagle went back to his nest to eat his meal.

Physical Characteristics: Good eyesight, yellow bill & feet, sharp talons, white head, dark brown body. Female is larger & 30% heavier than male. wingspan 5.5-8 ft. weight 6.6-13 lb.

Food Sources: Mostly fish, carrion, small mammals, & young sea otters.

Predators: Rarely humans.

Life Cycle: Makes large nests in treetops. lays 1-3 eggs mostly 2.

Defenses: Powerful wings & sharp.

Behavior: skims over water to catch fish.

Habitat: Tops of trees & faces of rocky cliffs.

Contribution to the Forest Ecosystem: Helps keep fish population balanced

Sources

Bald Eagle Facts - NatureMapping

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/bald_eagle_712.html

Bald Eagle - Haliaeetus leucocephalus – NatureWorks

<http://www.nhptv.org/natureworks/baldeagle.htm>

NGKids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bald-eagle/>