

Bald Eagle

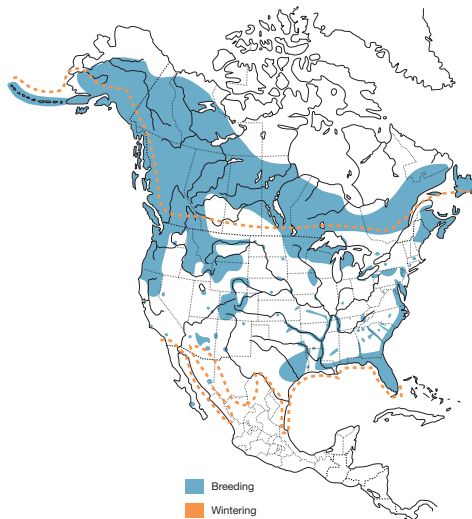
Haliaeetus leucocephalus



Photo: Bruce Di Labio



Photo: F. Truslow



PROVINCIAL STATUS

Endangered

(south of French and Mattawa Rivers)

Special Concern

(north of French and Mattawa Rivers)

DESCRIPTION

- large bird of prey with large talons
- dark brown with white head and tail, large head, yellow bill
- immatures: pale back and head, white belly, extensive patchy white on underwings
- holds wings horizontal when soaring
- takes 4 to 5 years to reach full adult plumage
- wings uniform breadth through length (2m wingspan)

VOCALIZATION

- sharp pleading creaking cackle, *kleek-kik-ik-ik-ik*, or a lower *kak-kak-kak*

PREFERRED HABITAT

- forested edges of lakes and large rivers

MIGRATION

Fall arrival: late September

Spring departure: early April

WINTERING GROUNDS

- southern USA, particularly near rivers
- St Lawrence and Hudson Rivers
- Renfrew County near food sources (open water, deer yards)

LOCAL POPULATION

- nesting population increasing in Renfrew County
- regular migrant
- nests throughout Ontario

THREATS

- pesticide accumulation
- habitat destruction and alteration
- sensitive to human activity especially at nesting sites

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats fish, waterfowl, rabbits, dead animals
- nestlings eaten by raccoons, Great Horned Owls
- active in daytime
- lives near water bodies where fish and waterfowl are found
- very large nests in tall trees, often on islands; cliffs

WHAT WE CAN DO

- reduce pesticide use



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