



# Bald Eagles

**Adult bald eagles are easy to identify in the wild. They are known for their:**

## 1. Distinctive white heads

Despite their name, bald eagles are not really bald. They develop white feathers on their heads and tails when they reach adulthood (about 4-5 years old).

## 2. Remarkable eyesight

A bald eagle's vision is at least four to six times better than a human's eyesight. They can easily spot prey while in flight, sometimes from a mile away.

## 3. Lifespan and wingspan

A bald eagle typically lives 20-30 years in the wild. As one of the largest birds in North America, it has a wingspan that ranges from 6-7.5 feet. Female bald eagles are larger than males.

## 4. High-speed dives through the air

Although the bald eagle's soaring and gliding speed is around 30-40 miles per hour, it can dive through the air at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour.

## 5. Diverse diet

Bald eagles often eat fish, but they will consume other birds, small mammals and reptiles. They will also scavenge roadkill and steal the prey of other animals.

## 6. Extremely large nests

Bald eagles build big nests. The average nest is 4-5 feet across and 2-4 feet deep. The largest recorded bald eagle nest was 9.5 feet across and 20 feet deep — it weighed almost 6,000 pounds!

## 7. Role as a national emblem

In 1782, the Continental Congress approved using the bald eagle on the official seal of the United States of America. It has been a national icon ever since.

## 8. Conservation success story

Bald eagles came close to extinction in the 1960s. Multiple conservation efforts made a difference, and they were removed from the Endangered Species List in 2007.

## What's for dinner?

In the space below, color in what the bald eagle caught for dinner.





# Bald Eagle Viewing Locations

February is the best time of the year to see one of America's most iconic birds. Bald eagles fly to Utah in the winter to find food and escape colder conditions farther north. By the time February arrives, hundreds of eagles are typically in the state. If you're driving and looking for eagles, please do so safely. Don't stop in the middle of the road if you see an eagle. Instead, pull completely off the road before viewing. And, don't allow yourself to get distracted while looking for the birds. Your safety, and the safety of other motorists, comes first.

## SOUTHERN UTAH

Cedar City is the place to go to see bald eagles in southwestern Utah. Bald eagles are often visible at two roosts in and near the city:

- Rush Lake Ranch at 9600 N. Minersville Highway (state Route 130), approximately 12 miles north of Cedar City.
- A group of cottonwood trees west of 3900 W. and 2700 N. in Cedar City.

## CENTRAL UTAH

There are many places in Sanpete County where you can spot bald eagles during the month of February.

DWR Regional Conservation Outreach Manager Scott Root encourages you to grab some binoculars or a spotting scope, and drive from Fountain Green to the small town of Wales, and then from Wales to Moroni.

"This short drive will often produce an eagle or two to view," Root says.

"Eagles can be found in some of the large, leafless trees, on fence posts or even on the ground."

Occasionally, you might find an eagle roosting on a tree or utility pole next to a road. "Eagles usually fly off once a car door is opened," he says, "so it's best to stay in your vehicle and view from a distance."

Root reminds you not to trespass on private property.

## NORTHERN UTAH

- In the big cottonwood trees at Rendezvous Beach on the south end of Bear Lake.
- In trees along the Blacksmith Fork River east of Hyrum.
- In trees along the Weber River near Croydon and just below Echo Reservoir.
- Along the road leading to Lost Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is north of Croydon.
- Willard Bay Reservoir west of Willard. You can often see eagles in trees near the reservoir and on the iced-capped reservoir itself.
- Compton's Knoll at the Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area west of Corinne. You can view bald eagles and other wildlife from the Compton's Knoll viewing area on the northeast side of the WMA. The rest of the WMA is closed to visitors.
- The Eccles Wildlife Education Center at the Farmington Bay WMA west of Farmington. You can often see eagles on the portion of the WMA near the center. If you spot an eagle on the WMA, please remember not to stop your vehicle in the middle of the road. Instead, pull off to the side of the road so other vehicles can pass.

Admission to the center at 1157 S. Waterfowl Way is free. It's open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## NORTHEASTERN UTAH

Eagles are often visible along the Green River near the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge's auto tour loop begins just before you reach the refuge headquarters at 19001 E. Wildlife Refuge Road in Randlett. You can often see bald eagles near open areas of water, high in the trees above the river. You may also observe golden eagles along the cliffs that run next to the main refuge road.

Prepare for this trip by bringing your binoculars or a good spotting scope. Also, wear warm clothes. If you'd like, you can take a short hike through the river hardwood trees where you might see porcupines that live in the area.

To reach the auto tour route, travel on U.S. Highway 40 — roughly 14 miles west of Vernal or 13 miles east of Roosevelt — and turn south on state Route 88. Travel south on SR-88 for 14 miles, and then turn left into the refuge entrance. The refuge headquarters is 1 mile down the entrance road.