



# Bald eagle viewing in Utah

*February is the best time of the year to see one of America's most iconic birds here in Utah. By the time February arrives, hundreds of bald eagles have migrated to the state. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources hosts viewing events around the state, and there are plenty of places where you can see eagles on your own.*

## **SOUTHERN UTAH**

### **Cedar City**

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**

### **Sanpete and Utah counties**

There is an eagle-viewing location approximately 3.7 miles south of the Fountain Green State Fish Hatchery, where a convocation of bald eagles often roosts in a large cottonwood tree. Wildlife viewers can also spot eagles in leafless trees, on utility poles and fence posts around the Sanpete Valley. Wales Reservoir and Utah Lake State Park are popular viewing spots as well.

## **NORTHERN UTAH**

### **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Wildlife Education Center**

From the education center, viewers can often see the bald eagles that have migrated into the nearby Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area. The education center is free and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.



Learn more about Utah's  
bald eagle events and  
viewing locations

## OTHER AREAS TO SEE BALD EAGLES

If you bring binoculars or a spotting scope, you can typically get great views of bald eagles at several other locations in northern and northeastern Utah.

Here are some of the best areas:

- In trees along the Weber River (near Croydon) and just below Echo Reservoir.
- Willard Bay Reservoir, west of Willard. You can often see eagles in trees near the reservoir.
- 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 south side of the WMA. The rest of the WMA is closed to visitors.
- Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, located in Randlett (Uintah County).

If you're driving and looking for eagles, please do so safely. Don't drive distracted, and don't stop in the middle of the road if you see an eagle. Instead, pull completely off the road before viewing. Your safety, and the safety of other motorists, comes first.



A bald eagle in Provo Canyon. Photo by Jim Shuler.

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

### ▶ 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).

### ▶ 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.

### ▶ 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.

### ▶ 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.

### ▶ DIVERSE DIET

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

### ▶ 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!

### ▶ 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.

### ▶ 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.