

Bald Eagle



Our nation's national emblem since 1782, the majestic bald eagle is always a welcome sight. Bald eagles are hardly "bald" but the term in old English means "white." Juvenile bald eagles are all dark, gaining more white as they age.

In fact it may take 5 years for juveniles to obtain the pure white head and tail characteristic of adult eagles.

Bald eagle numbers plummeted during the use of the pesticide DDT in the mid-1900s. Special protection under the Endangered Species Act and the banning of DDT in the U.S. saved the bald eagle from further decline and their populations re-bounded.



Bald eagles are often found near the Pine and Chippewa rivers at CNC. This time of year, look for bald eagles near open sources of water where they can hunt fish and waterfowl. When these spots begin to freeze, bald eagles may congregate in small groups around the remaining open water.

Early Nesters

The bald eagle nesting season could start as early as mid-March or April in Michigan.

At 5-6 feet in diameter and 2-4 feet tall, bald eagle nests are easy to see from long distances.

Nests are often reused (sometimes by other birds of prey) and the pair adds to the nest year after year. Both males and females bring materials to the nest, but the female does most of the placement.



Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.