



How to...

WOW!

When eagles dive for prey, they can reach flying speeds of up to 150 mph.



Eagles often fly near rivers or lakes to find food.

Go on an eagle watch

Late fall and winter are a great time to see these amazing birds.

You probably know what a bald eagle looks like. This huge bird is a national symbol of the United States. But have you ever seen one in real life? Bald eagles live all across North America but can be easier to spot in the US in fall and winter, when the weather gets colder. That's when many eagles migrate south from Alaska and Canada in search of food. The bare trees make it easier to spot eagles perched on branches. Here's what you need to know to spy an eagle while taking a hike with your family.

Learn their history

We're lucky to be able to see eagles in the US today. At one point they were in danger of going extinct (when a species no longer exists). In the 1950s, a pesticide (chemical meant to control pests) used by farmers began to poison eagles and harm their eggs. By 1967, bald eagles were put on the endangered species list. Efforts to protect eagles and ban the dangerous chemicals worked, and eagles are now thriving.

Know the types

There are two types of eagles in the US: bald eagles and golden eagles. Bald eagles can be spotted in all parts of the country. They have white heads and brown bodies. Golden eagles are completely brown and live

mostly in western states. Both types of eagles have wingspans of six to seven feet and are birds of prey. That means they use their sharp talons and curved bills to hunt, kill, and eat other animals.

Stand near water

The best place to spot eagles is while walking along rivers or large lakes. Eagles mainly eat fish, and in winter they travel south in search of waterways that aren't frozen. (They can't hunt for fish through a sheet of ice.)

Many state and national parks have special eagle viewing platforms near bodies of water.

Look up

Once you're at a good viewing spot, scan the skies. Bald eagles often soar over water, using their excellent eyesight to look for fish in the water. Scan the tops of nearby trees where an eagle might be perching.

Keep count

Even though eagles are no longer endangered in the US, it's still important for scientists to keep track of them to make sure their numbers don't become too low. And you can help: If you spot any eagles on your watch, ask your parents to create an account at ebird.org to record your findings. Scientists will use this data to continue their research on eagles.



Using binoculars can help you find an eagle's nest.

4 more animals to look for

Moose

If you live near the mountains, winter can be a great time to spot moose. The largest of the deer species, they come down from the mountains in search of food, such as leaves, bark, and twigs.



Owls

Go out at dusk, when these birds begin to hunt for food. Look toward the tops of a line of trees along a field or park.



Squirrels

Squirrel tracks are easier to spot in winter, when there's snow on the ground or the ground is muddy. Follow their tracks to a tree, where they live in nests. Snowy weather doesn't stop them from eating. Squirrels can sniff out food buried under a foot of snow.



Red foxes

Since foxes grow a thick coat in winter, they don't hibernate (sleep through winter) and can be spotted all season long. They are often seen at dusk or dawn along the edges of forests or parks. (But if you see one, it's best to keep your distance.)

