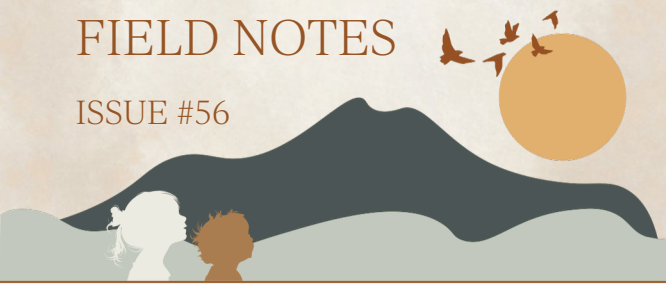


Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #56



Bald Eagle

RAPTOR (BIRD, AVES)

HABITAT

Live in North America, preferring areas near large bodies of water. Mostly carnivorous (meat eating), preying on fish and small mammals.

FUN FACT

Bald eagle chicks remain in the nest for around 12 weeks, much longer than small songbirds which fledge (leave the nest) after 2-3 weeks!



IS A BALD EAGLE TRULY BALD?

If you look closely at a Bald eagle, you will notice they are not bald! Their heads are covered in feathers. So why are they called bald? "Bald" comes from an Old English word meaning "white," and the Bald eagle's head feathers are white.

I saw those white feathers this morning as I was standing in front of our open window when a Bald eagle flew right over our house. It was so close I could hear the powerful flapping of its wings! It reminded me of another Bald eagle—three of them, actually—that I saw near our home a while back. The lake near us was frozen over with ice, but the wind was blowing strong and had broken up the ice, so it floated in pieces on top of the water's surface. A Bald eagle family was fishing at the lake. I watched as the mother and father taught their young juvenile (called an eaglet) how to catch fish. They stood at the edge of the floating ice and waited for fish to swim by in the open water. Watching these massive raptors braving a cold, windy day to teach their young one how to catch lunch was terrific.

After fledging or leaving the nest, a young eaglet stays with its parents for another 4-12 weeks, learning from them how to hunt and fly.

Has your parent or caregiver ever taught you something useful? What did they teach you? It could be a skill, like how to cook an omelet, or a word of wisdom, such as how to learn from a mistake. Proverbs 1:8 says, "My child, listen to your father's teaching and do not forget your mother's advice." We can receive good teaching and advice from those who love and follow God and live wisely. Like an eaglet carefully watching its parents before stretching its wings to fly or dipping low near the water to catch a fish, we can watch wise people and learn from how they live.

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