



Bald Eagles



1 The image of the bald eagle is part of the Great Seal of the United States. These birds have been the national symbol of the United States since 1782. There are over 60 types of species of bald eagles. Bald eagles have a life span of 35 years in the wild. They can be found in North American forests. A female bald eagle's body can be up to 37 inches long. A male bald eagle's body can be up to 34 inches long.

2 These types of birds build nests for their babies. The nests are so heavy that they can weigh a ton! Nests are built using twigs, grass, and sticks. Bald eagles protect their nest by building them high up in trees. They find the tallest trees and build their nest on the very top. This makes it hard for predators to come and attack their babies.

3 The baby eagles are also known as eaglets. Eaglets are born a very light color. The babies are born gray, and, as time goes by, they turn to brown. Once the babies are around five years old, they develop their normal white heads and tails.

4 When bald eagles fly, their wings can expand up to 90 inches wide. They can soar over 10,000 feet high in the sky. Since they are up so high, their great eyesight helps them see fish up to a mile away. When bald eagles attack, they drop down from the sky at 100 miles an hour.

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Flamingos



5 Flamingos are well known for their long, tall legs, and s-shaped neck. There are six different species of flamingos in the world. Flamingos are mostly found in areas of Africa and Southern Europe. They live in areas that are full of lagoons and shallow lakes. Flamingos have a life span of up to thirty years. In captivity, their life span may increase to fifty years. Flamingos may look tall in size, but their weight is very small. The largest weight a flamingo can be is up to eight pounds.

6 Flamingos have very long, skinny legs. Their legs can be longer than their entire body. When a flamingo bends its leg backward, the actual part of the leg that bends is the ankle. The knee of this bird is not visible to the naked eye. To conserve body heat, flamingos stand on one leg.

7 When a flamingo eats, it holds its long curved beak upside down in the water. They use their beaks like long shovels. The bird sucks in the muddy water through their beaks. Dinner for a flamingo is shrimp, snails, and algae.

8 Flamingos build nests that are made of mud mounds. These nests for their babies are built along waterways. At the very top of a mud mound, they create a shallow hole for one bird egg. The mother bird lays one egg in the mud mound. Together the mother and father flamingo take care of the egg. The parents take turns sitting on the top of the egg until it hatches. Finally, after about thirty days, the egg hatches.

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