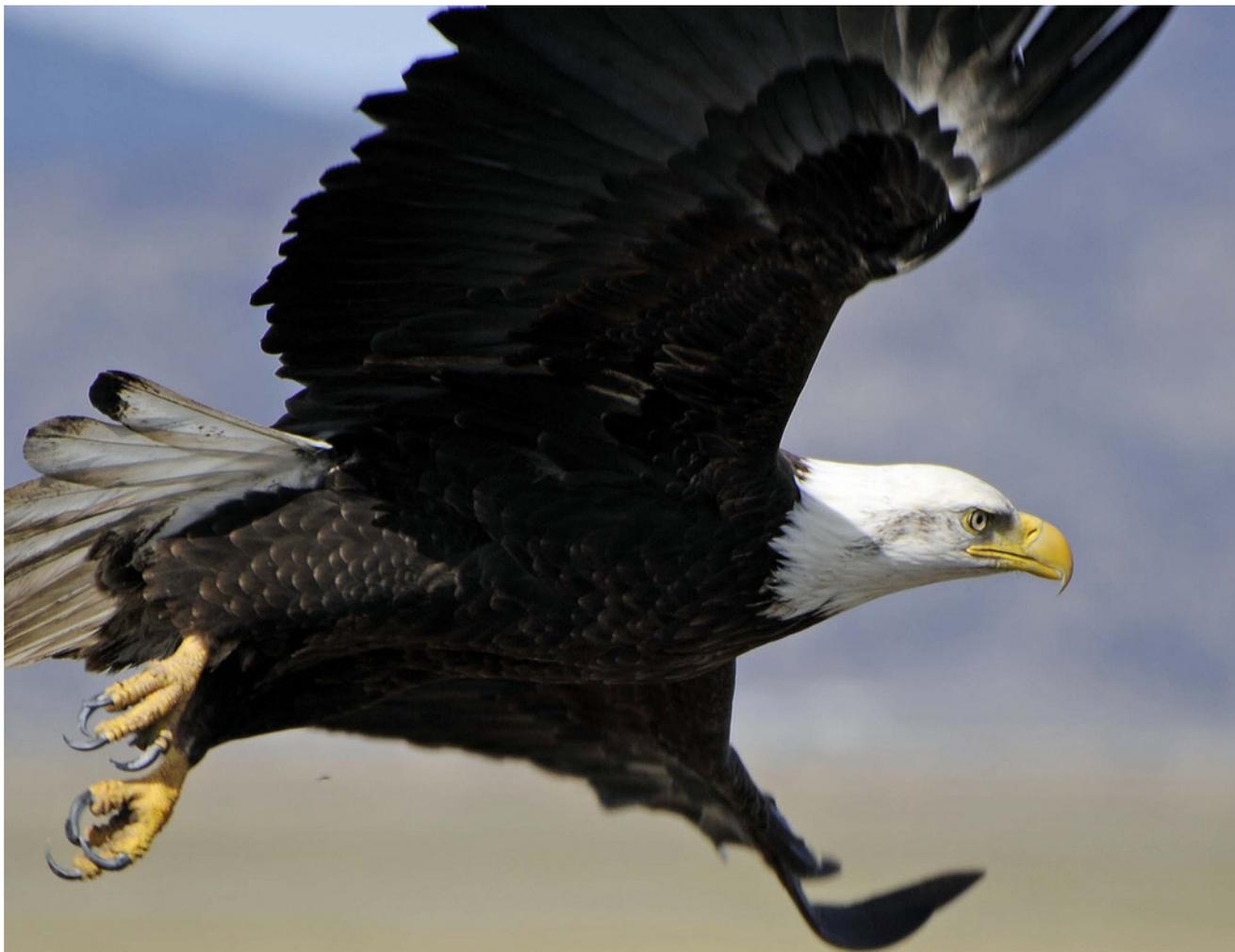




Bald Eagles

- Bald eagles live throughout the continental United States. Alaska has the most, with about 50,000 eagles. Their ideal habitat is mature forest with clearings, near water with abundant fish and waterfowl.
- Bald eagles truly have “eagle eyes.” They can spot a moving rabbit almost a mile away. An eagle flying at 1,000 feet can see prey across almost three square miles. With wingspans of six to eight feet, they can lift prey weighing up to four pounds.
- Bald eagles can fly about 65 miles per hour, soar to altitudes of 10,000 feet, and stay aloft for hours using wind currents and thermal updrafts.
- Bald eagles mate for life. During courtship they perform “sky dances” -- spectacular aerial displays in which the male and female soar and dive together, or lock talons and cartwheel toward the ground.
- Before European settlers sailed to America’s shores, there may have been 500,000 bald eagles on the continent. In the 20th century, their population fell to endangered levels, with fewer than 420 pairs in the lower 48 states in the early 1960s. Bald eagle populations have rebounded, so the US Fish and Wildlife Service removed them from the endangered species list in 2007.



George Gentry/USFWS