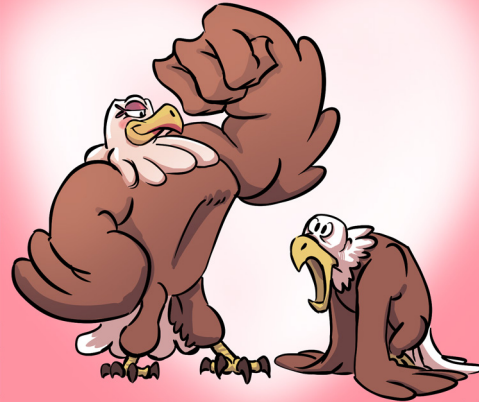


Mining for Eagle Info?



1 We all know bald eagles by their dark brown body, classic white head, and white tail. These powerful birds can weigh up to 14 pounds and have an 8-foot wingspan.



2 Male eagles are somewhat smaller than females.



3 That classic coloring doesn't happen until they reach adulthood at 4-5 years old. Youngsters can appear mottled or have salt-n-pepper heads.



4 Big birds build big nests! Bald eagle nests are large and bulky stick nests, which can reach 10 feet in diameter and weigh half a ton. Nests are used over and over again, with upgrades every year.



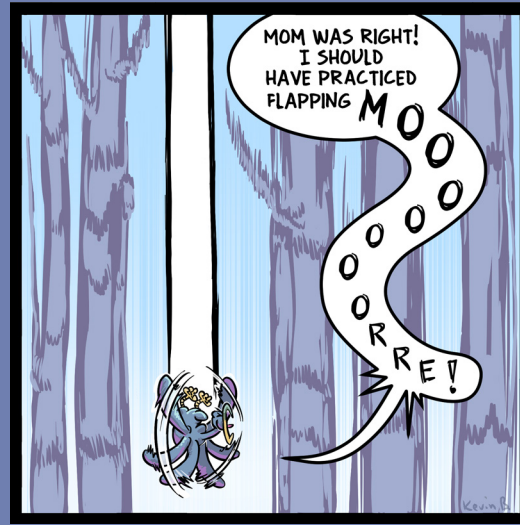
5 Nests are built anywhere that can hold these large structures, most often in large trees. Other places bald eagles have nested include the ground (especially on cliff tops or faces) and cell phone or other human-made towers.



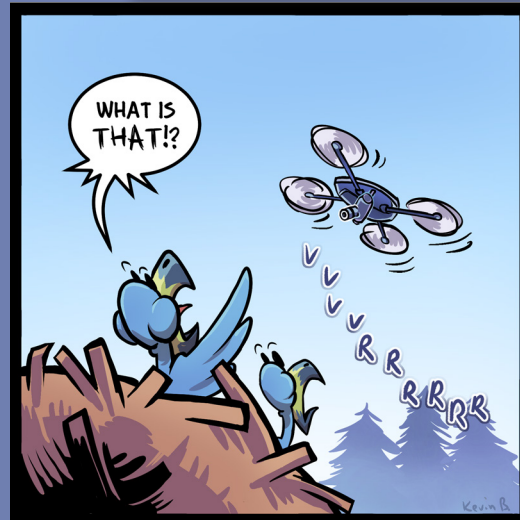
6 Bald eagles may build extra nests within their breeding territory, as practice or as backup.



7 What could scare a bird this big? Anything that sounds or appears threatening especially while they're incubating eggs or raising babies! Sudden loud noises can startle parents, causing them to fly from the nest and leave eggs or chicks vulnerable to weather, black bears or predatory birds.



8 Loud noises can also cause chicks to prematurely fledge (leave the nest before they are old enough). This happens when they're scared and accidentally jump out of the nest before they're ready to fly or be on their own.



9 Nesting eagles are especially sensitive to big loud things in the air, like helicopters, or airborne things that look like they could attack their babies, like drones.

Miners who care rock!

In Alaska, courtship (AKA dating) and nest building can begin in February and ends when the young fledge, usually by late August, sometimes into early September. Don't startle or surprise eagles while they are trying to raise a family:

Avoid blasting & other activities that make loud noises within ½ mile of active nests during the nesting period.

Keep helicopters and drones 1000 feet away (both to the side & above) from nests during the nesting period.



Contact us: ak_fisheries@fws.gov