



Ranger Marcy's Acorn Adventure: Eagle Search & Lake Visit!

Eagle Fun facts in [The Last Green Valley](#)! Teach your friends about eagles!

- Became our national emblem in 1782 (235 years ago!)
- Became very rare in the lower 48 states (including CT) by the 1960s.
- Became a federal Endangered Species in 1973.
- CT documented its first successful nesting of bald eagles since the 1950s when a pair raised 2 young in Litchfield County.
- The bald eagle's status in Connecticut was reclassified as threatened in 2010.
- The flight speed of a bald eagle ranges between 36 and 44 miles per hour.

Description:

- Immature eagles are uniformly grayish-brown.
- Adult bald eagles have a snow-white head and tail, and a brownish-black body. The bill, eyes, and feet are yellow.
- They look like this when they are 4 to 5 years of age.
- Bald eagles are about 34 to 43" or about 3-4' long, can weigh 8 to 14 pounds, and have a wingspan of 6-8'.
- The sexes (boys & girls) are similar in appearance, although the females are larger.
- Bald eagles have a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years, and longer in captivity.

Habitat and Diet:

- Natural year-round habitat of bald eagles includes lakes, marshes, rivers, or seacoasts, where there are tall trees nearby for nesting and roosting and plenty of fish for eating.
- Although bald eagles feed primarily on fish, they also are opportunistic predators and scavengers that will eat anything that can be caught easily or scavenged, such as waterfowl, small and large mammals, and livestock carrion.
- They have a reputation of being thieves, robbing other raptors (like hawks) or gulls of their catch. Eagles kill prey by grasping it with their strong feet and sharp talons.
- They can carry their prey in flight but are unable to carry much more than 4 pounds.
- An eagle's beak is used solely for tearing flesh.

The breeding season:

The breeding season in Connecticut begins in January, and most pairs lay their eggs in February and March. Bald eagles return to the same nesting areas year after year and often breed with the same mate.

If something happens to either the male or female, the surviving bird will find a new mate.

The nest:

Can measure 7-8' across, is a flat-topped mass of sticks, with a lining of fine vegetation such as rushes, mosses, or grasses. It is built in trees, 10-150' above ground.

The eggs:

There are usually 1 to 3 (average 2) dull, white eggs in a clutch.

Both the male and female incubate the eggs and feed the young.

The eggs are incubated for about 35 days (a little more than a month), and the chicks usually fledge (reach flying stage) in 12 weeks (3 months).

How You Can Help:

Winter is a difficult time for any wildlife species, including bald eagles. Food is harder to find and cold temperatures cause energy stress. If you see one or more eagles feeding or roosting, leave them alone and observe them from a distance.

It is also important to stay away from nesting areas to avoid disturbing the birds. Several Connecticut bald eagle nests are located on private property where there is no public access. Respect posted areas and do not trespass on private property to view eagles.

This information and photo are from the [CT DEEP Eagle Fact Sheet](#).

About Roseland Park: (www.roselandpark.org)

- Historic Roseland Park opened in 1876 (141 years ago.)
- It was donated by the Bowen Family to the people of Woodstock and the surrounding towns.
- Henry C. Bowen was a Woodstock native who became an influential New York merchant, publisher, abolitionist and philanthropist, who spent his summers in Roseland Cottage, or "The Pink House," now maintained by Historic New England.
- You can visit every day to go walking, hiking, boating, fishing, or picnicking!
- 62 acres of forested land, manicured lawns, sports fields, and playgrounds.
- Beside the 90-acre Roseland Lake with over 1/2 mile of shore line.
- Boat launchings are made easy by the well maintained crushed stone ramp.
- Sailing, kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding are encouraged.
- Fishing is considered excellent in this state stocked lake.
- You can have a party or event here! Just talk to Rick & Dawna – did you know they were both in the service? They built this dock and Rick spent a lot of time in a SUBMARINE!

About The Last Green Valley: (www.thelastgreenvalley.org)

- A National Heritage Corridor! (OK – START BRAGGING NOW!)
- Kind of like a National Park, but way better - with natural resources (like trails & forests), wildlife (like eagles), history (like the story of Roseland Park & the Pink House).
- Still 77% undeveloped! How much is that? Try this - Hold up all 10 fingers! Now fold down 2 fingers. Look at those 8 fingers. Wiggle them! That is how much of The Last Green Valley is still GREEN. Woods, forests, farmlands, waters. Look around you here at Roseland Park to see it!
- YOU can be a proud member of The Last Green Valley!

Acorn Adventures are sponsored by

