

Laws that protect Bald Eagles today

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act - BGE-PA – Protects Bald and Golden Eagles with fines of up to \$5,000.

<http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/baldegl.html>

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act - MBTA – protects migratory species with fines for violations ranging up to \$2,000 and/or two years of imprisonment.

<http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html>

The Bald Eagle Management guidelines to Florida -

http://myfwc.com/media/427567/Eagle_Plan_April_2008.pdf

The National Bald Eagle Management guidelines -

<http://www.fws.gov/MississippiES/pdf/Eagle%20Guidelines.pdf>

Wildlife Alert is a reward program administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for persons providing information about a wildlife offender. Informants remain anonymous, and are eligible for up to \$1,000 reward if a conviction results. To report a Wildlife Emergency: 1-888-404-FWCC.

Testimonials from Audubon EagleWatch Volunteers

“I’ve been in EagleWatch for 10 years now. When I started I didn’t know there were bald eagles in Florida! Over the last 10 years we have seen the delisting of the bald eagle and watched the population explode. I’ve enjoyed every single eagle and all of the people that I have met through the years that share their love for eagles”

- Barb Walker,
Pinellas County EagleWatch

“EagleWatch is overseen by a very experienced group of people who have demonstrated their ability to implement successful, on-the-ground conservation for bald eagles. They have effectively integrated volunteer training, nest monitoring, education and outreach efforts to better protect Florida’s eagles among a growing human population.”

-Michelle Vandeventer,
FWC Bald Eagle Plan Coordinator



Audubon EagleWatch

A Citizen Science Nest Monitoring Program

Audubon EagleWatch is a program of Audubon Center for Birds of Prey and Audubon Florida. Audubon Center for Birds of Prey is dedicated to promoting a stewardship ethic towards Florida’s birds of prey and their habitats through medical rehabilitation, interactive education and practical research. Each year the Center treats more than 75 Bald Eagles with the goal of releasing them back into the wild.

For more information visit our website at: <http://fl.audubon.org>, find us on FB or follow us on twitter @auduboncbop



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(407) 644-0190 or
e-mail eaglewatch@audubon.org

<http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-eaglewatch>

To donate to the Audubon EagleWatch program visit our webpage GiveToAudubonFlorida.org



Based at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Audubon EagleWatch seeks information about Bald Eagles, active nest locations and possible disturbances or threats to nesting activities. As one of the premier Citizen Science programs in Florida, EagleWatch works to protect approximately 20% of the states nesting pairs.





Join Audubon EagleWatch

Audubon needs dedicated volunteer citizen scientist to help protect and conserve Bald Eagles, their nests and surrounding habitat. EagleWatch focuses on collecting important nesting and productivity data on urban nests around the state. Volunteers are located statewide in more than 40 Florida counties.

Your data is important. As part of the Audubon EagleWatch program, volunteer participants are trained in general eagle nesting biology, applicable laws, the identification of nest threats, monitoring techniques and the verification of previously unrecorded active eagle nests. Data collected is compiled and used to assist both state and federal agencies protecting eagles and their habitat.

Your investment contributes to conservation

As an EagleWatch volunteer, your investment of time, transportation and training is appreciated. Volunteers are asked to donate approximately 2 hours a month to monitor, document, and collect important data on a specific eagle nest or nests. Volunteers must be able to travel to your nest location. Staff works to minimize travel and match nest locations close to your area. Audubon EagleWatch trainings are free and held throughout the state. As a new volunteer, Audubon recommends participating in a training workshop at the beginning of the eagle nesting season.

Benefits to volunteers

Audubon values our citizen science volunteers. As an Audubon EagleWatch volunteer, you will gain extensive knowledge of an iconic species and will be provided with training and support from Audubon staff and other volunteers. You will be able to spend time outdoors becoming part of an active community of citizen scientists that help protect Florida's lands and wildlife.

To be a part of this team of conservation volunteers email eaglewatch@audubon.org

Bald Eagles

Bald Eagles, one of the largest birds in North America, are native only to our continent and are a successful example that protection under the Endangered Species Act works.

With more than 1,400 nesting pairs, Florida has one of the largest populations of Bald Eagles in the contiguous United States, excluding Alaska. The nesting season extends from October 1 through May 15, with individual pairs often returning to the same nesting territory year after year. Most nests are located in the tallest pine or cypress tree near water or pasture land, although in urban areas the birds are increasingly utilizing man-made structures.

The state's Bald Eagle Management Plan prioritizes education of the general public on remaining, post-delisting legal protections for eagles. Public outreach is an important component of the EagleWatch program in order to ensure that eagles continue to thrive in Florida. Education programs include current protections for eagles and potential threats to nesting success. Threats to Bald Eagles include collisions with cars and power lines, illegal shooting, lead and other toxins, loss of habitat due to development and fishing line entanglement.

About the EagleWatch Program

The Audubon EagleWatch Program started in 1992 in the Central Florida region, with only 22 volunteers. Today the program is statewide, reaching more communities each year and continuing to heighten awareness of Bald Eagle nesting activities throughout the state. Audubon EagleWatch volunteers contribute significantly to the conservation of Bald Eagles in Florida by being the eyes in the field and advocates in their community.

The Audubon EagleWatch Program seeks to:

- Compile data for publication to document nesting activity
- Emphasize monitoring of pairs nesting in artificial structures to record long-term nesting trends
- Identify potential threats to nesting success since most threats are related directly or indirectly to human activity
- Expand Audubon EagleWatch on a statewide basis while generating increased public awareness of our national symbol.
- Influence decision makers on appropriate protections and conservation measures for both the Bald Eagle and its habitats.
- Work with state and federal agencies to assist with implementation of the Bald Eagle Management Plan, and to provide information to law enforcement when requested.

