



Bald Eagle

Why in News?

The **American bald eagle** (National bird of the US since 1782) **was taken off the endangered species list in 2007**. Since then, their population has steadily increased, which is **considered as one of the biggest success stories in the history of conservation**.

- A **2021 report by the US Fish and Wildlife Service** revealed that the number of bald eagles in the wild has **quadrupled since 2009**.

What is there to Know About Bald Eagles?



- **About:**
 - The scientific name of the bald eagle is *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.
- **Habitat:**
 - The bald eagle's **natural range covers most of North America**, including most of Canada, all of the continental US, and northern Mexico.
 - It is the **only sea eagle endemic to North America**.
- **Characteristics:**
 - The average **life span of bald eagles is 20 to 30 years**.
 - Bald eagles **build their nests at the very top of tall trees** so the eggs will be safe.
 - **Female bald eagles are a bit bigger than the males**.
- **Feeding Pattern:**
 - Besides live fish, bald eagles also **prey on other birds**, small mammals, snakes, turtles, and crabs, and **they readily eat carrion** (decaying flesh of dead animals).
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Status:** Least Concern

Note: The ban on **Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) in 1972** by the US was a crucial step towards protecting the bald eagle and other wildlife species from the harmful effects of this pesticide.

- DDT is an insecticide used in agriculture. Some countries outside the US still use DDT to control mosquitoes that spread [malaria](#).

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