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Eagle Eyes

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Did you know that a bald eagle can spot a fish up to three miles away, or that it can spot another eagle in flight more than 4 miles away? Eagles are gifted with superior eyesight, among the best in the world. The eyes of a bald eagle may be as much as eight times sharper than a human's. This gives them a most important advantage over their prey.

The eyes of a bald eagle consume most of the space their head and are almost as large as human eyes. Their eyes face forward, giving them binocular vision similar to humans. Binocular vision allows for precise depth of field. This is important for humans when manipulating small objects with our

hands, or for eagles, that must snatch prey with their talons while diving from the sky. Bald eagles also have color vision, unlike many mammals.

The bald eagle's eyes are protected and cleaned by a secondary eyelid, called the nictitating membrane. In addition, two sets of eyebrows shield its eyes from intense sun glare. This makes it possible for the eagle to stare directly toward the sun in its mid-morning hunts without danger of damage.

As Bald Eagles age, the color of their eyes change. Young eagles have dark eyes, which become yellow with maturity, and a silver blue in later years.