

America's
**ANIMAL
COMEBACKS**

Bald Eagles



A Chemical Nightmare

by Meish Goldish

[Intentionally Left Blank]



Bald Eagles

A Chemical Nightmare



by Meish Goldish

Consultant: Bob Hatcher

Eagle Consultant to the American Eagle Foundation (www.eagles.org)
and Retired Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Coordinator (1978–2001)
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Mervyn Rees/Alamy; 4, © Stephen Mcsweeney/Shutterstock; 5, © Bettmann/Corbis; 6, © John Eastcott & Yva Momatiuk/National Geographic/Getty Images; 7A, © R. Gino Santa Maria/Shutterstock; 7B, © Tadija/Shutterstock; 7C, © James E. Knopf/Shutterstock; 8, © Paul Nicklen/National Geographic/Getty Images; 9, © Jim Brandenburg/Minden Pictures; 10, © AP Images; 11, © Richard Day/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 12, © 2007 Lon Lauber/AlaskaStock.com; 13, © Leo Keeler/Accent Alaska; 14, © Ken Cole/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 15, © Robert Falls Photography; 16, © Erich Schlegel/Dallas Morning News/Corbis; 17, © Werner Forman/Art Resource, NY; 18, © Marsha Wilson/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 20, © Cary Anderson/Accent Alaska; 21, © Fish & Wildlife Service; 22, © William Munoz; 23, © William Munoz; 24, © Bill Clark/Roll Call Photos/Newscom.com; 25, © John Edwards/Getty Images; 26, © Dorothy Keeler/Accent Alaska; 27, Courtesy of NASA Kennedy Space Center; 28, © Tony Campbell/Shutterstock; 29A, © Michael Dick/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 29B, © David Hodges/Alamy; 31, © Arlene Jean Gee/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Amy Dunleavy

Cover Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Goldish, Meish.

Bald eagles : a chemical nightmare / by Meish Goldish.

p. cm. — (America's animal comebacks)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-505-1 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-505-0 (library binding)

1. Bald eagle—Effects of pesticides on—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL696.F32G65 2008

598.9'42—dc22

2007009751

Copyright © 2008 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Contents

Stopping a Killer	4
A Better Past	6
The Trouble Begins.....	8
A New Problem.....	10
Danger for Babies	12
A Big Discovery.....	14
Special Feathers.....	16
A Steady Growth.....	18
Safe Homes	20
Helpful Scientists	22
An American Hero	24
The Future	26
Bald Eagle Facts	28
Other Eagles in Danger	29
Glossary.....	30
Bibliography	31
Read More	31
Learn More Online	31
Index.....	32
About the Author	32

Stopping a Killer

More than 50 years ago, a mystery puzzled American **wildlife** officials. The bald eagle **population** was dropping sharply throughout the United States. No one could figure out why.

A bald eagle is not bald. In Old English, *balde* means white.



Then a bird lover named Charles Broley made a discovery. While studying bald eagles in Florida in the 1940s and 1950s, he noticed that there were fewer young birds each year. Broley believed that the problem was due to a chemical called DDT. Could anything be done to save the eagles?



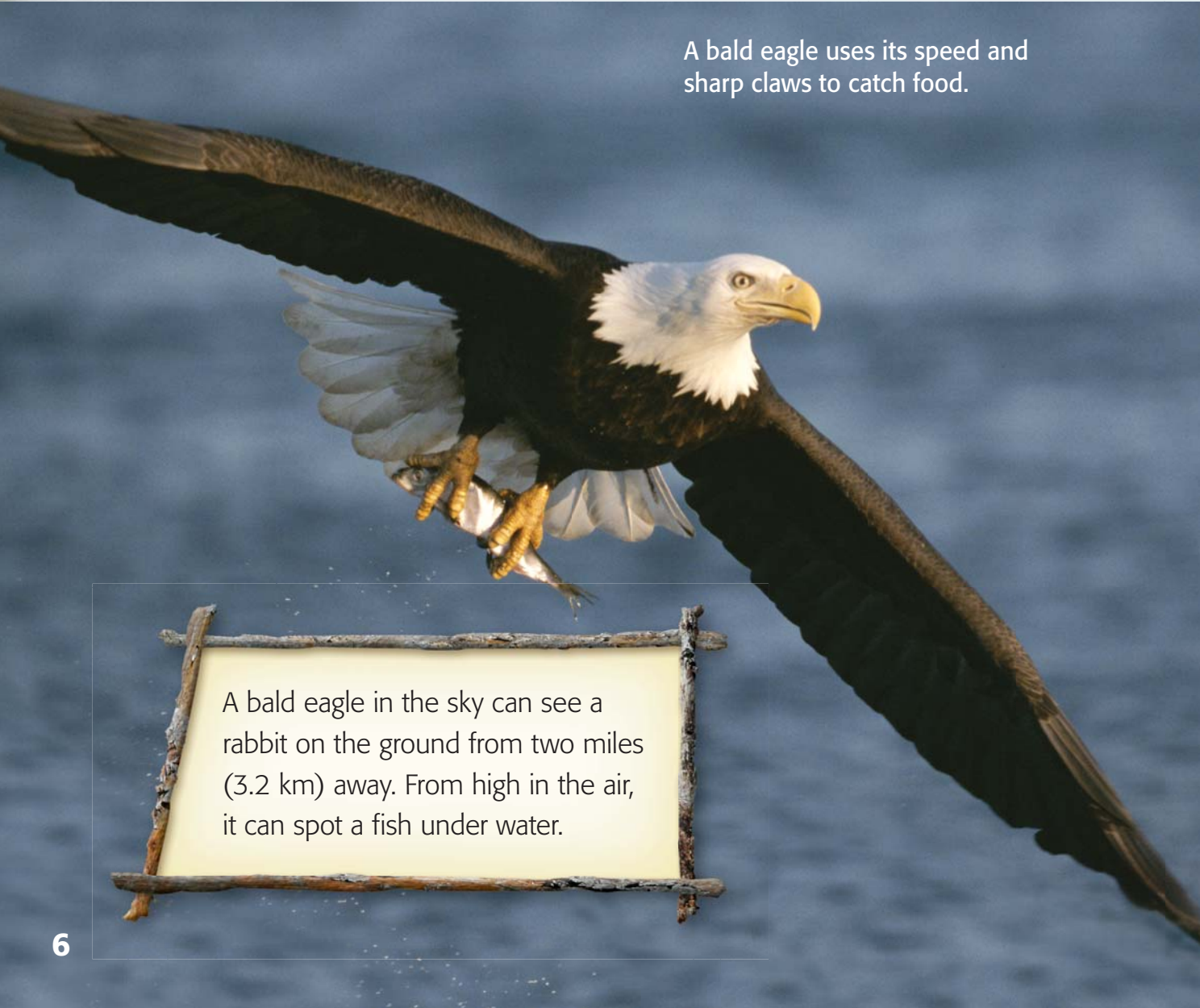
Charles Broley

Bald eagles live only in North America. They are found in every state in the United States except Hawaii.

A Better Past

Life was not always so bad for bald eagles. In the 1600s, between 250,000 and 500,000 bald eagles flew freely in North America. **Native Americans** praised the bird for its beauty. They admired its speed and strength. They respected its **keen** eyesight and hunting skills.

A bald eagle uses its speed and sharp claws to catch food.



A bald eagle in the sky can see a rabbit on the ground from two miles (3.2 km) away. From high in the air, it can spot a fish under water.

After the United States became a nation in 1776, Americans continued to honor the bald eagle. In 1782, it was named the national bird. The eagle appeared on U.S. coins and bills. It became a symbol of freedom for America. So how did things turn so bad for this special bird?



The bald eagle appears on U.S. paper money and even on passports.

Index

- Alaska 20, 26, 28
- American Eagle Foundation 24
- blood samples 22–23
- Broley, Charles 5, 15
- calcium 12
- Canada 26, 28
- Challenger 24–25
- Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve 20
- DDT 5, 10–11, 12, 14–15, 16, 18, 26
- eaglets 12–13, 24
- eggs 12, 14, 21
- electric power lines 27
- Endangered Species Act 28
- extinct 19
- feathers 14, 16–17
- fish 6, 9, 11, 20, 28
- Florida 5, 23
- Harpy eagle 29
- hatching 12, 21
- Hawaii 5
- hunting 6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 28
- livestock 9, 10
- lower United States 13, 18–19, 23, 26
- Maryland 21
- Mealey, Brian 22–23
- national bird 7, 29
- National Eagle Repository 16
- Native Americans 6, 16–17
- nests 8, 22, 27, 29
- North America 5, 6, 27, 28
- Parks, Greta 22–23
- Patuxent Wildlife Research Center 21
- Philippine eagle 29

About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 100 books for children. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, where the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* is a popular newspaper.

[Intentionally Left Blank]



Bald Eagles

A Chemical Nightmare

Was it too late to save the bald eagle? More than 50 years ago, the eagle population began dropping sharply throughout the United States. No one could figure out why. Then a bird lover named Charles Broley made a discovery. He found that the problem was due to a deadly chemical called DDT. Would people find a way to help the bald eagle survive?

American Alligators
Freshwater Survivors

American Bison
A Scary Prediction

Bald Eagles
A Chemical Nightmare

Black-footed Ferrets
Back from the Brink

Florida Manatees
Warm Water Miracles

Florida Panthers
Struggle for Survival

Gray Wolves
Return to Yellowstone

Grizzly Bears
Saving the Silvertip

Southern Sea Otters
Fur-tastrophe Avoided

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-505-1
ISBN-10: 1-59716-505-0



9 781597 165051

90000