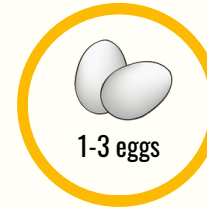




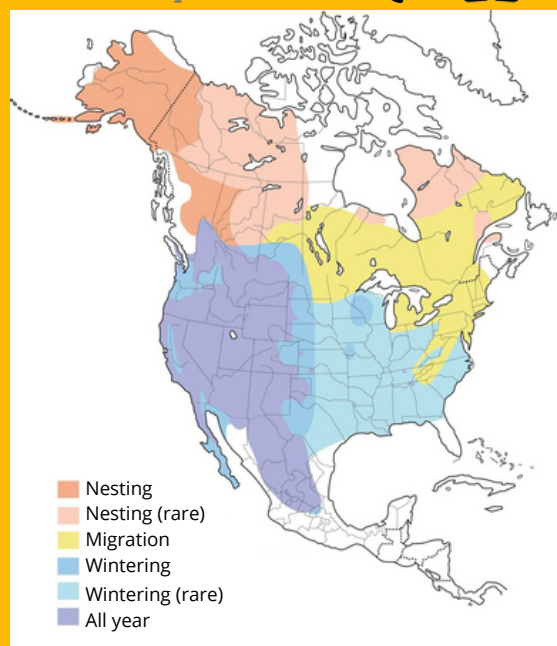
# Golden Eagle

*Aquila chrysaetos*



## IDENTIFICATION

Its plumage is entirely dark brown, but adults show golden highlights on the back of the head. Its broad wings are very long and slightly rounded, and the adult's tail is slightly mottled with white.



## ECOLOGY

### Nutrition

Golden Eagles hunt in relatively open habitats. They feed on a wide variety of prey: geese, ducks, crows, gulls, marmots, hares, deer fawns and other birds of prey. Occasionally, they will feed on carcasses when prey is scarce, such as during winter.

### Breeding

The nest is built on a cliff ledge or in a tall tree. It can measure from 1 to 1.5 meters in diameter and up to 1 meter in height. The female usually lays 2 eggs, and exceptionally 1 or 3. Mates are faithful. The young leave the nest at around 10 weeks of age. They then depend on their parents until they are 14 weeks old.

## DISTRIBUTION

The Golden Eagle is widely distributed across North America, but individuals are rare and scattered according to region. It frequents wide-open spaces which facilitate hunting, such as mountainous regions with plateaus, peat bogs, or burned areas. It can be found in tundra, taiga and boreal forest, where it occupies open black spruce forests and herbaceous and shrubby meadows. It is rarely seen in southern Quebec, except during migration.

## STATUS AND POPULATION

The species is considered secure<sup>1</sup>, but was classified as vulnerable by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs in 2005. It is highly sensitive to changes in its territory, which can lead to nest abandonment. Habitat loss, accidental trapping and disturbance are the main threats to its population.

<sup>1</sup> Wild species of Canada report, 2015