

POEMS ABOUT EAGLES

This document contains poems and reflections - old and new - about eagles. Some you may recognize because they are included in anthologies. Others are from "Kindred Spirits" whose musings about eagles lead them to put pen to paper. Some have been sent to us to share, and we are happy to do so here.



Washington DC Nest - Food Delivery! ©2017 American Eagle Foundation

If you have a poem you'd like to share about eagles,
please email webmaster@eagles.org.

The Dalliance of Eagles

by Walt Whitman

Skirting the river road, (my forenoon walk, my rest,) Skyward in air a sudden muffled sound, the dalliance of the eagles, The rushing amorous contact high in space together, The clinching interlocking claws, a living, fierce, gyrating wheel, Four beating wings, two beaks, a swirling mass tight grappling, In tumbling turning clustering loops, straight downward falling, Till o'er the river pois'd, the twain yet one, a moment's lull, A motionless still balance in the air, then parting, talons loosing, Upward again on slow-firm pinions slanting, their separate diverse flight, She hers, he his, pursuing. ∞∞



Isaiah 40:31

KJV

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. ∞∞

The Eagle

by Edwin Curran

The dome of heaven is thy house
Bird of the mighty wing,
The silver stars are as thy boughs
Around thee circling.
Thy perch is on the eaves of heaven
Thy white throne all the skies
Thou art like lightning driven
Flashing over paradise! ∞∞



Photo by Woodrow Dawson: Used by permission.

The Eagle

by Isaac McLellan (1806-1899)

Monarch of the realms supernal,
Ranger of the land and sea,
Symbol of the Grand Republic,
Who so noble and so free?
Thine the boundless fields of either,
Heaven's unfathom'd depths are thine;
Far beyond our human vision,
On thy vans the sunbeams shine.

Borne on iron-nerved pinion,
Forth from Pole to Pole you sweep,
O'er sea-islands, craggy mountains,
O'er the blue and trackless deep.
Now thy winnowing plumes o'ershadow
Northern cliff and iceberg grim,
Now o'er Southern, soft savannas,
Thy unflagging pinions skim.

Him who feeds the hungry raven
And the sea-bird of the rock
Tempers the inclement breezes
To the shorn and bleating flock--
Leads thee o'er the waste of ocean,
Guides o'er savage wild and wood,
And from Nature's bounteous storehouse
Feeds thy callow, clamorous brood.

O'er the mountains of Caucasus,
Over Apennine and Alp,
Over Rocky Mounts, Cordilleras,
O'er the Andes' herbless scalp;
Far above their snowy summits,
Where no living thing abides,
He that notes the falling sparrows
Leads thee, watches thee, and guides.

Thou wingest where a tropic sky
Bendeth its celestial dome,
Where sparkling waters greet the eye,
And gentlest breezes fan the foam;
Where spicy breath from groves of palm,
Laden with aromatic balm,
Blows ever, mingled with perfume
Of golden fruit and honey'd bloom.

Green shores adorn'd with tropic wood,
Gay grottoes, island solitudes;
Savannas where palmettoes screen
The Indian's hut with living green;
A land like visionary dreams,
Delicious with its groves and streams--
Realms such as these behold thy sweep,
Careering in the upper deep. ~~~



Photo: USFWS

THE AMERICAN EAGLE

by Kate Watkins Furman

Great masterpiece, unfurl your wings
Soaring where the water sings,
Blue Heaven touches earth below
Where fruitful fields and flowers grow.

Where wars, now past, have set us free,
Sweet symbol of our liberty,
Fly on, fly on, your strength increase
God lift you up on winds of peace.



THE FLEDGLING

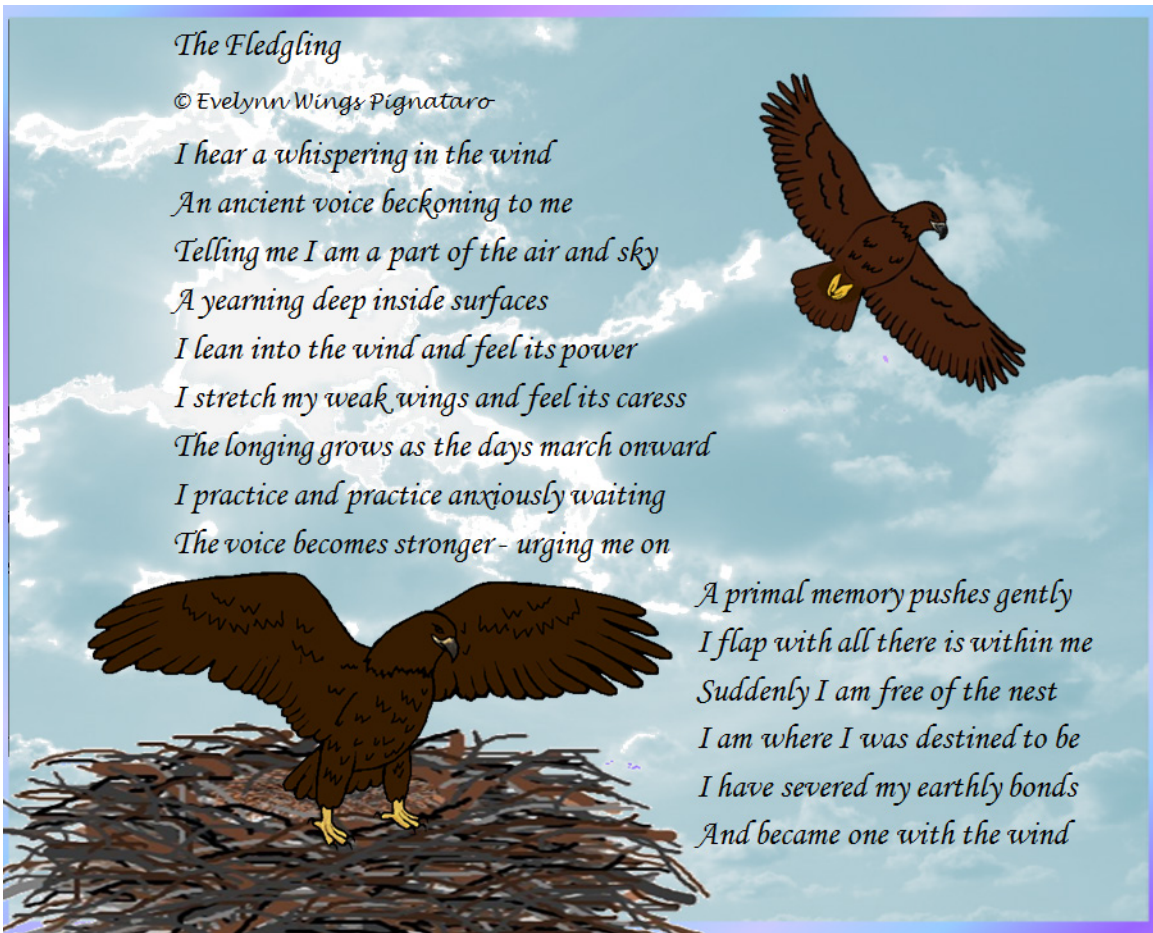
by Evelynnn Wings Pignataro

The Fledgling

© Evelynnn Wings Pignataro

*I hear a whispering in the wind
An ancient voice beckoning to me
Telling me I am a part of the air and sky
A yearning deep inside surfaces
I lean into the wind and feel its power
I stretch my weak wings and feel its caress
The longing grows as the days march onward
I practice and practice anxiously waiting
The voice becomes stronger - urging me on*

*A primal memory pushes gently
I flap with all there is within me
Suddenly I am free of the nest
I am where I was destined to be
I have severed my earthly bonds
And became one with the wind*



© Evelynnn Wings Pignataro

Two Little Eaglets

By Jim Weller ~ June 16, 2011

Two little eaglets
way up in the tree.
Two little eaglets,
looking down at me.

You sit there in your aerie
staring at the sky,
and every time you flap your wings
my heart lets out a sigh.

Silly little eaglets
hovering o'er the nest,
Don't you know that you can fly?
Your wings will stand the test.

Do you care that I'm waiting here
to see you soaring high?
I'm tethered to the earth below,
but you, you own the sky!

If I were an eaglet
and could do what you can do,
without a moment's hesitation
I would launch into the blue.

(But wait! One's perched upon the edge!
It leans into the breeze!
It spreads its wings! Then hops back down.)
You're such a little tease.

I know that you are old enough,
your wings are sure and strong.
Dancing high across the sky
is where Eagles belong.

You're made for inspiration.
You can make the mute heart sing,
rejoicing in your majesty
borne on outstretched wing!

"Why don't you fly?" I ask out loud,
"When will you learn to soar?"
I know that you are ready.
What are you waiting for?"

Then deep within my spirit,
the eaglets speak somehow.
They say, "We'll take that leap of faith
when we hear God whisper, 'Now!'"



Jim Weller (EagleJim) writes a blog post for the Eastwood Eagle Watchers, a group of eagle enthusiasts based in Dayton, Ohio. He often focuses on two of his favorite eagles, Jim & Cindy, reporting faithfully about their comings and goings. Jim's blogs and his eagle poems are treasures to read again and again! Follow Jim at eastwoodeaglewatchers.wordpress.com/

NATURE CALLS

There's a backstory to the poem below. To anchor the poem with the story, here's some background information: In July 2019, Prairie, an eaglet recently fledged from a nest in Ohio that Jim Weller monitors, was observed on the ground, apparently in trouble and with a possible eye injury.

As Jim reminds us in his blog post, nature calls us to step away from the din of modern living and its stressful demands and breathe. Nature calls us to be refreshed, calmed, exhilarated and restored. And then there are times when nature calls for our help.

A local eagle watcher, observing Prairie on the ground, spoke on nature's behalf and called Jim about the fledgling. Jim contacted all the proper authorities — the eaglet was rescued, and taken to a rehab center where it could be treated, rehabbed, and hopefully released. To read the entire blog post, go to <https://eastwoodeaglewatchers.wordpress.com/2019/07/14/when-nature-calls/>

At the end of the post, Jim said:

"Left on the ground, young Prairie would have been doomed. Someone asked me, "Why not just let nature take its course? Why intervene?" To me that question shows a great, yet common misunderstanding. We humans are part of nature too. When humans intervene on an animal's behalf, nature is taking its course! Like helping lost children find their parents, pulling a person from a burning automobile, freeing a fawn from a thicket or assisting an eagle in need of help, there are times when we humans must be willing to answer with action when nature calls!"

Nature Calls

by Jim Weller - 2019

Nature calls and the strongest rise
The lion prowls and the eagle flies,
The whale dives and the spider spins
And across the globe new life begins.

But threats abound and the danger's real
And fragile life may soon lack zeal
When survival's struggle takes its toll
And strength grows weak in body and soul.

There comes a time when within that scene
The compassion of man must intervene,
For wild things may rise or wild things may fall
On how we answer nature's call.



Eagles of Inspiration

by Jim Weller

A single eagle atop a tree
speaks of many things to me.
I see a sentinel brave and strong
perched up high where he belongs.
Diligent throughout the day
aware of all that comes his way,
with eyes alert, he views the skies
for any threat that might pass by.

A pair of eagles in a tree
speaks of other truths to me.
I see a bond that none may shake
and only death itself dare break!
Devoted to each other so,
yet year by year devotion grows,
through every trial that they share
in togetherness and mutual care.

But a pair of eagles on the wing
makes my heart both laugh and sing!
Together, high up in the air,
they soar along without a care.
In unfettered freedom by and by
they dance their way across the sky
until, at last, as I strain to see,
they're absorbed into its azure sea.

What a blessing to behold
this sight more valuable than gold,
this sight that sets my spirit free
to be what I was meant to be!
It snaps harsh tethers of earthly care
and sends me high into the air!

We're designed by God to be so much more,
with hearts to watch, and love, and soar!



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Photo: Woodrow Dawson

The Eagle's Nest Stands Silent

By Jim Weller (June 17, 2013)

The eagle's nest stands silent
Her annual labor done
She's proven herself trustworthy
Each battle fought, she's won.

As wandering eagles see her
Without a word she'll say,
"This territory's taken!
You'd best be on your way!"

Through the blistering heat of summer
While standing high and proud
She'll chant of former glories,
But not a word aloud.

Crowning autumn's canopy
She will breathe a quiet sigh
As her master and her mistress
Dance across the sky.

Speechless through the snowfall
Atop that barren tree
She'll patiently anticipate
The things that are to be.

Then just before the springtime
She will end her time of rest
And sing anew a song of joy
With new life in her breast!

The eagle's nest stands silent
Yet has so much to say
If we just pause to listen
As we hasten by today. ❧



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TOGETHER

By Jim Weller (February 2017)

Way up high in a cloudless sky a love story unfolds,
On gracious wings where two hearts sing despite the winter's cold.
A majestic eagle and his mate frolic in the air,
Enraptured by each other's form, they dance without a care.
Each movement brings them closer and strengthens lifelong bonds
That will see them through tomorrow, the next day and beyond.
The bonds that they are forming will be tested day by day,
But through testing they'll grow stronger
While they strive to find their way.
Together they will conquer!
Together they will cope!
Together they're victorious!
Together they have hope!
High across the heavens they dance on outstretched wings
While, here below, I stand in awe as my spirit soars and sings!



THE BACKSTORY.....

Jim Weller's loyal fans shared his grief when Bald Eagle Jim lost his long-time mate, Cindy, in November 2016, just as the new nesting season was beginning. It was a difficult time for everyone who follows that nest (aptly called "The Treetop Palace"), and a reminder that in Nature, nothing is certain.

After Cindy's death, Jim (the eagle) did the predictable thing and searched for her, and when his searches proved to be in vain, he returned to his favorite perch and waited. A young female Bald Eagle chased after him for awhile, but then disappeared. Around the beginning of the new year Jim was seen in the company of a more mature female and their bonds began to grow—and now she has stolen Jim's heart! Her name is Hope.

In a February 2017 blogpost, Jim Weller wrote, "This week I have had the privilege of watching Jim and Hope as they all but finished the preparation for this year's eggs. After completing their daily work on the nest they danced their way across the sky in wide, independent circles that intersected with flips and twirls where they reached out for one another, talon to talon. As I watched those wide circles seamlessly merged into a singular arc of two eagles flying side by side, wingtip to wingtip. My human ears cannot comprehend the silent melody to which they dance but they embrace the age-old refrains with complete ecstasy, becoming totally enraptured in one another's presence. Simply amazing! Eloquently breathtaking! Purely inspirational!"

As he watched these two soaring above, Jim grabbed a piece of paper and put thoughts to words – in this poem of hope and promise. He has graciously allowed us to share it with you, our readers.



*Way up high in a cloudless sky
a love story unfolds...*



*Hope is the new Queen of Treetop
Palace!*



A new beginning - Jim and Hope.



Photo: <https://www.tnhomeandfarm.com/travellsoar-to-new-heights-on-an-eagle-watching-tour/>

The Bald Eagle

Don R. Wilkins / Motley, MN © 2007

My Aerie, built on craggy cliff,
or in a tree top high.
I soar above the reaching hills,
on lifting winds I fly.

I raise my young with tender care,
until they fly away.
Their destiny to fly alone,
it is but Nature's way

My prey I seek with piercing eye,
grasp with talon strong.
Then lift into the endless sky
to sing my victory song.

By strength of wing will soar on high.
My future yet to be,
to glide beyond restricting Earth.
Eternity to see.

My place in Nature is secure.
I'm viewed now with respect.
A Symbol for the strong and free,
I fly with no regret.

With courage yet unquestioned,
there's challenge in my cry,
I lift to heights, unhindered,
An EAGLE... flying high. ~~~

Watchman of the Wild

By Cain Pence

Soar above
Oh Eagle of America
Symbol of freedom, guardian of the wilderness
Winged watcher, witness of pioneer dreams
Hunter of prey, hope of patriots
Protector of rivers, provost of river men
Bird of beauty, beast of majesty

Soar high above mountain and Mississippi
Soar high above fruited plain and delta
Soar high above foothills and blue lakes
Soar high above canyons and forest

Oh, great Eagle of America
Watchman of the wild
Remain vigilant and strong
Watch over our great land
And let America rise and soar
Like the mighty Eagle who guards
Her rivers and shores. ~~~

Cain Pence is a writer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Pence is a graduate of Georgetown University and has travelled extensively throughout all 50 states. Mr. Pence grew up exploring the banks of the Mississippi River and has always loved the majestic eagles found along its banks. He wrote this poem to celebrate the spirit of freedom symbolized by the eagle and America. He can be reached at caino@cainpence.com.

Untitled

By Don R. Wilkins

By strength of wing will soar on high.
My future yet to be,
to glide beyond restricting Earth.
Eternity to see.

My place in Nature is secure.
I'm viewed now with respect.
A Symbol for the strong and free,
I fly with no regret. 🦅



Photo by Scott Kelly - wild4photos.com

The American Eagle

Kate Watkins Furman

Great masterpiece, unfurl your wings
Soaring where the water sings,
Blue Heaven touches earth below
Where fruitful fields and flowers grow.

Where wars, now past, have set us free,
Sweet symbol of our liberty,
Fly on, fly on, your strength increase
God lift you up on winds of peace. 🦅



Photo by Scott Kelly - wild4photos.com

EAGLE MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY

DOLLYWOOD

At Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN) guests can stroll along the edge of Eagle Mountain Sanctuary, where they will see the largest exhibit of non-releasable Bald Eagles in the United States. The Bald Eagles residing within Eagle Mountain Sanctuary are all permanently disabled and would not be able to survive in the wild. This 400,000 cubic-foot aviary houses two Bald Eagle nesting pairs in separate breeding enclosures, as well as about a dozen other non-mated, co-habiting eagles, all cared for the non-profit American Eagle Foundation.

Eaglets hatched and raised at Eagle Mountain Sanctuary are transferred to the AEF's hacking tower at about 6–7 weeks of age where they will acclimate to a wild, natural setting into which they will be released at fledging age.

HD video cams provide 24/7 access to 3 compartments on the mountain, and viewers are able to see the non-releasable eagle parents and their babies each season.

Our faithful “Chatters” who watch our live streaming HD video cams often express their thoughts in poem and prose -- these are whimsical, beautiful and poignant, bringing back happy memories of seasons past, along with bright hopes of seasons yet to come. This section focuses on the Dollywood Eagles.



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Photo by Gena Flanigen; ©American Eagle Foundation

CHALLENGER

In the state of Louisiana back in 1989,
A storm came up with gusty winds that lasted quite some time.
An eaglet was blown from its nest amidst the rain and wind,
Kind-hearted people found him, gave him food and took him in.
They took him to New Orleans to get care at Audubon,
From there the experts moved him so his journey could go on.
In Scottsboro, Alabama, at their hacking tower high,
He was further cared for, raised to fledge to freedom in the sky.
But this eaglet sought out humans, his first bonding held on strong,
He could not forget the people who first shielded him from harm.
The attempts to give him freedom proved that he could not survive
Without the help of humans to feed him and help him thrive.
He was placed with a foundation that knew how to help him fare;
The AEF became his home, with Al and all who care.
They named this eagle "Challenger," for heroes who had perished
In service of their country, and soon he would be cherished.
Al trained this mighty eagle to free-fly and represent
Our country and our freedom: Challenger is Heaven sent.
He raised the country's spirits when our tallest towers fell,
And he flies in all our stadiums as he makes our hearts swell.
He educates our children, an ambassador of love,
And visits our great veterans, a blessing from above.
Our tear-filled eyes reflect the pride this eagle makes us feel,
As Challenger reminds us love of country is still real.
So if you see him flying as our anthem plays aloud,
Salute the flag, hand over heart, and be forever proud.

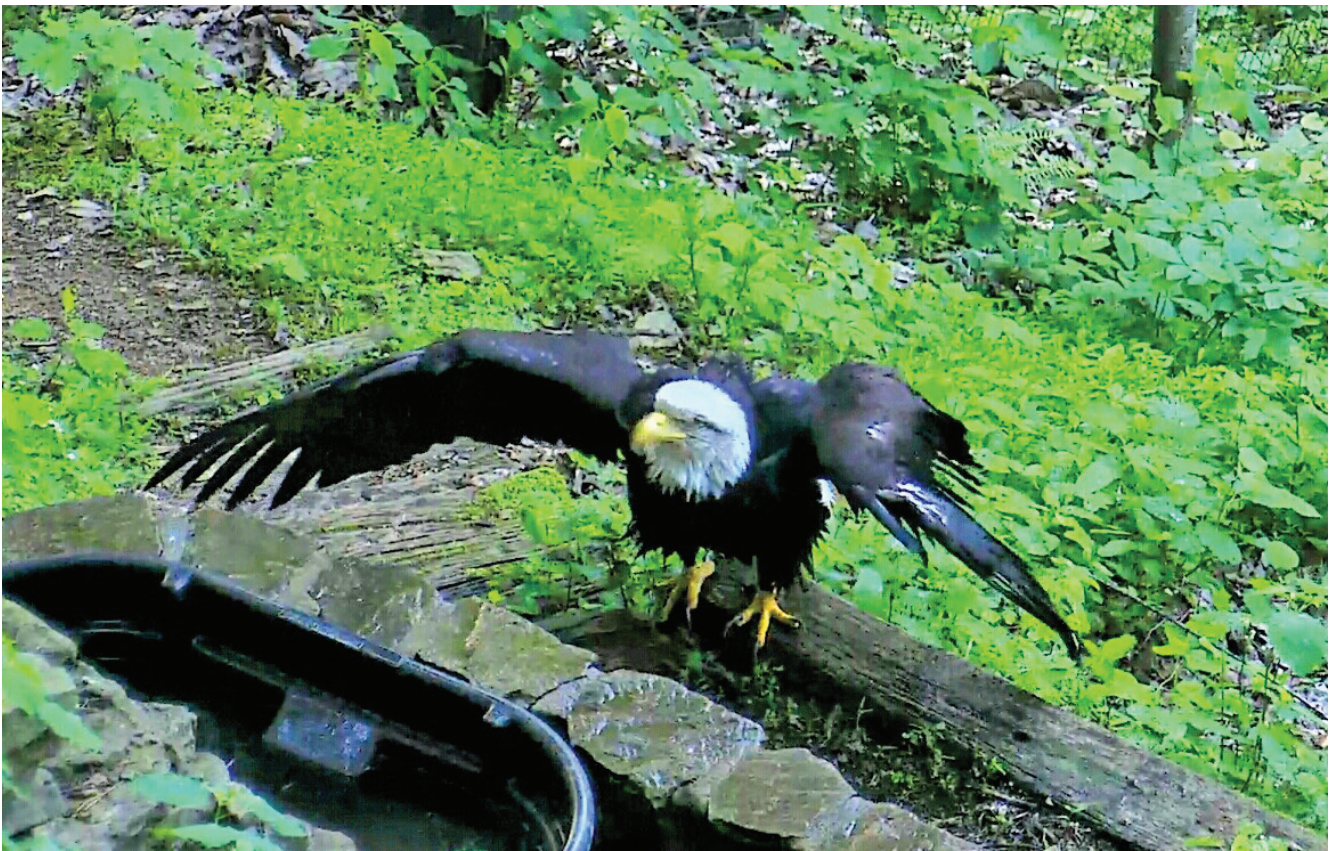


*Written in 2017 by Carolyn Harrison with love for Challenger and all of
the people, birds, and nests of the American Eagle Foundation.*

Feathered Angels

If there were angels here on Earth, with wings of endless grace,
With strength to lift them high above, toward Heaven's peaceful space,
Those angels would be eagles, flying strong and living free,
Their only goal to soar the skies in peace and harmony.
There's no way to imagine how someone could ever be
The one who harmed these angels, put an end to flying free.
To take away their beauty, and stop their endless flight.
To use a man-made weapon, when they can't put up a fight.
For this there is no reason, it takes a terrible toll.
Pure evil lies behind it, they must not have a soul.
The rest of us love everything these eagles represent,
We will all love them forever, feathered angels Heaven sent.
So when you see an eagle up above at Heaven's edge,
Send up a prayer for all the ones whose souls have gone ahead. ❧❧

~ Written by Carolyn Harrison for the eagles of the American Eagle Foundation, and in defense of all birds of prey.



Fledge Day - A Conversation Between Eaglets

by Chatter/Mod Carolyn STE - 2012

Two bald eaglets, sitting on a pole
Should they be cautious, should they be bold
Said one to the other - "Shall we try?
Shall we sit here or shall we fly?"

"I don't know," said Griffith to Braveheart"
We need to be cautious, we need to be smart
It's awfully nice right where we are
Fish in a dish, and we don't have to go far."

Braveheart replied, "I'm telling you
Ranger was brave, and we should be too.
He jumped and he pranced, and he finally flew high
His wings flapped so strongly as he sailed in the sky.

We must have courage, and we must take our chance
Nature is calling us to join the Big Dance
How far will we travel? What sights will we see?
What does the future hold for you and for me?

It's a wide world out there and we have to be strong
And careful, and caring - we can't get it wrong.
We have journeys to make, a soulmate to find
So we can raise eaglets & have more of our kind!"

Said Griffith to Braveheart - "I hope when we nest
We'll come back to this place - for sure it's the best!!" ~~~~

A side note: Ranger fledged first, on Aug. 14, 2012. Griffith and Braveheart did not fledge right away - hence the "conversation" in the poem between them. They both fledged the next day, but Griffith landed in the lake and hurt her foot. She was recovered so that her foot could heal. She fledged again on Saturday Aug 29, 2012 from the hack tower. Ranger (patagial tag F2) was spotted Feb. 27, 2014 near Lake Erie, so AEF is very encouraged about his ability to survive in the wild. No sightings have been reported of Braveheart and Griffith, but we hope they are well.



Braveheart and Griffith took their time (until the next day) before they decided to fledge. Eventually they did, and we hope they are having great adventures and doing well.



Ranger was spotted in 2014 near Lake Erie. In this photo, he is a 2-year-old juvenile.

Life In the Nest

From the Diary of a Dollywood Eaglet

by Nancy Huff

I am glad to be an eaglet
Born on Eagle Mountain
I crave sanctuary
I feel security
I obsess to be wild
I know protection
My doting mother *Independence*
She rules the roost
My watchful father *Franklin*
Stands proud sentinel in my midst
They have taught me well
I love fish and quail and any old rodent
I hope my feathers grow straight and strong
I desire to learn all the eagle ways
And take them with me when I fly away
You know I may soar back someday
My chatters and fans who watched me grow
I plan to give them a
Splendid
Magnificent
Awesome
Show. ~~~~

Untitled

by a Chatter who loves Eagle Mountain Sanctuary

Soft light falls magically on our nest at night
Babies sleep; parents close by, ever watchful.
Sentinels.
This is Eagle Mountain Sanctuary. This is their home.

Here they are protected, nurtured, loved.
Their parents — never again able to fly in the wild
- and restricted to a space on a shady, peaceful hill—
still find companionship and purpose for life, forming
bonds that will last their lifetime.

The cycle of life repeats each spring. Eggs are laid,
guarding secrets of newly forming life inside. The
parents guard them with their very lives, knowing the
value of what it is they are protecting.

A scratch, a tear, a tiny breathing space. And then
a small hole. Hours of work till finally the exhausted
tiny life escapes the small space of shell and enters a
world he will someday soar above.

Two others are hatched - all in the space of 30 hours.
Fighting for dominance and survival -
hard wired instincts. ~~~~



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NEFL—THE HAMLET

In 2013, Gretchen Butler introduced “her” nest in the Hamlet (location private, but in northeast Florida). The American Eagle Foundation made all the technical and financial arrangements to sponsor and live stream this nest, allowing the story of Romeo & Juliet to be shared with the world. Gretchen, a volunteer with Audubon, had monitored the nest and kept meticulous records from 2008.

From 2013 until 2019, each season brought joy and magic to the tens of thousands of viewers. Romeo and Juliet, the architects and defenders of this nest, were predictable and one could almost set a clock with the regularity of their nesting seasons. For 6 years, we watched as 2 eggs were laid each season, eaglets hatched and fledged, and we settled back until the next season when they made their return in late August or early September.

2019 was a year of unpredictability as new eagles in the area took over the nest. Romeo and Juliet left the area and were not seen again. A new eagle appeared with several females to court - and this was Samson, an offspring of Romeo & Juliet from 2013.

As of this writing in July 2019, we wait to see if Romeo & Juliet will return. We pray for their safety.

The poems below reflect the magic of past seasons, and we thank those who sent them for sharing their love for these eagles with us.



The Hamlet

by Carolyn Harrison

Somewhere in Northeast Florida, grows a mighty long leaf pine.
It's weathered storms and hurricanes, and flourished in sunshine.
Some years ago a couple chose this tree to build their home,
The pair are great bald eagles, Juliet and Romeo.
They gathered all the sticks and moss that two eagles could carry,
And built their nest with trust and love,
A home that they would cherish.
They settled in when that time came,
To lay their eggs and wait.
Until the precious eggs would hatch,
This is an eagle's fate.
The eggs have hatched for seasons now,
Sweet eaglets grew and fledged.
The Hamlet sees them come and go,
Each season they've been blessed.
Life's never-ending cycle can be seen in this tall tree,
And all the Hope and Peace of life exists in flying free. ~~~

~ With love to the birds, nests, and people of the American Eagle Foundation. March 2017





The Hamlet Aerie

There's a place in Northeast Florida that is most extraordinary,
A tall and gorgeous long leaf pine holds quite a special aerie.
Bald eagles call this aerie home, they built their nest with care,
It's Romeo and Juliet who chose to settle there.
With sticks and moss and lots of love they made their dreams come true,
By yearly hatching eaglets, they have them two by two.
This couple has been blessed so far, their eaglets have all fledged.
They'll never know that human prayers may help fulfill their pledge,
To keep their offspring safe from hatch to learning how to fly,
These eaglets filled with Spirit as they take off for the Sky.

**Written by Carolyn Harrison, with love for the birds, nests,
and people of The American Eagle Foundation.*

Becoming Eagle

by STE

Hidden treasures
carefully tended
artfully turned
kept warm
and safe.
Weeks pass.
Storms threaten.
Rain pounds.
Parents cope.
And then
a pip.
Effort beyond effort.
An exhausting
relentless
struggle
to break free
and become
EAGLE. 🦅🦅





'Twas the Night Before Pip Watch

'Twas the night before pip watch, and all through the nest
Not a creature was stirring, not even a pest.
The eggs were all nestled, so snug in their bed,
While visions of hatching danced about in their heads.

Romeo on his Houdini Branch, and I on the nest,
Had just settled down for a long night of rest.
The moss in the nest bowl we placed with great care,
With hopes of the eaglets who soon would be there.

When out in the Hamlet, there rose such a clatter,
I sprang to the nest rail to see what was the matter.
Out in the distance I saw such a flash,
I knew in a moment that thunder would crash.

The wind and the rain and the lightning showed fury,
But I knew our nest tree was strong, so no worry.
Our two eggs were safe and warm underneath,
As I looked like a centerpiece in a nice Christmas wreath.

The very next day, when the rain came to a stop,
Into the nest Romeo came with a hop.
As I flew away, to Romeo I said,
"I must go dry off; I'll be back when I've fed!"

As Romeo sat there, the dutiful Dad,
The bright sun came out, and this made him so glad.
As he paid attention, and got up often to see,
It wasn't long before he heard a soft little 'squee.'

When I returned home, and the squees I did hear,
I knew in an instant that hatch time was near.
I nestled and bowldozed, and rolled those sweet things
I listened for peeping, all sounds amazing.

After hatch of our eaglets was a bountiful meal:
There's White Bass, there's Squirrel, there's Coot, and there's Eel.
As I looked around at this beautiful nest,
I couldn't help feel that we were quite Blessed.

And on Christmas morning, when the eaglets awoke,
It was then that my Romeo had finally spoke:
He said to the bobbleheads who started to squee
"One day you will grow up, and you will fly free." ~

*~ By Lori Staudt and Cindy Trudeau
December 2013*



Christmas in the Hamlet

Twas a few days before Christmas, and the Hamlet's abuzz
For the nest bowl's complete and is full of down-fuzz!
R and J always keep their priorities straight,
And carefully tend their 2 eggs, then...they...wait.

Their nest is built strong with sticks, big and small,
And the crib rails are high, so the Bobbles won't fall!
They share incubation and make sure the nest's lined,
With the softest dried grass and gray moss they could find.

They defend their nest fiercely, getting rid of all dangers;
When the Bobble-heads come, they'll chase away strangers.
They care for each other, sharing nibbles and beak-kisses,
Sometimes Romeo brings a treat home for his Missus!

Then, just when you think you can't wait one more day,
You see a spot on one egg that just won't go away.
Then the cam zooms in close...the spot's actually a pip,
Now we join R and J on a magical trip!

The pip in the egg's growing bigger each minute,
Before very long we'll see just who's been in it!
R and J still keep rolling their eggs forward and back,
Then suddenly we see the pip's turned into a crack!
Its egg tooth and feet push till the crack opens wide,
Then out pops the Eaglet who's been growing inside!

Great joy fills the Hamlet, news spreads near and far
"Our first Bobble-head's here, oh how grateful we are!"
Then we look in the nest...R and J still keep watch,
We almost forgot...Bobble-2 will soon hatch!



R and J still continue rolling egg number 2,
But Bobble-head 1's already looking for food!
So, Romeo flies in with a freshly-caught fish,
Juliet takes a break...Romeo, at last, gets his wish!
The new Eagle Dad finally meets hatchling-1,
"Hi, little eaglet, are you a daughter or son?"

Juliet returned quickly, but R was focused on his task,
"I just love my nest duty...maybe she won't even ask...
Maybe Juliet will let me stay longer, and not quibble."
Just then, J tweaked his head with her beak...Ouch! What a nibble!
Romeo got up fast, and perched in the nest tree,
His duties aren't just Hubby and Dad, but his family's safety.

R and J take turns feeding Bobble-1 with great care,
And egg-rolled Bobble-2, still in his shell under there.
Then, just when we thought our Joy couldn't be greater,
Bobble-2 pipped and hatched, a mere 2 long days later!

Once again, everyone in the Hamlet could see,
How the Eagles gladly added to their Family Tree!
"We must be sure all friends of the Hamlet are told,
We've added 2 more Bobbles, who are more precious than gold!"

The Town Crier grabbed the scroll listing AEF's members,
To review all their names, like he did last December.
So he untied the scroll and the first name to see,
Is our much-loved, "King Eagle," dear Al Cecere!

He then saw the names of the Zoomies and Mods
And he said to himself, "They're all blessings from God!"
For each name he read made him think how each one,
Did whatever was needed to help AEF run.
There's Gretchen, Glenn, L, beach, pc, debi, grt, woo, and squee,
And jerry, babyhawk, peanut, rick, mocha and jc;
Next is clawpaw, pfern, Sparky, bluemeanie, cg and cyn,
Mollykate, James, (the tech guy), otd, and Carolyn.
There are so many listed...every single one matters,
Zoomies, Mods, Volunteers, and don't forget all the Chatters!



He knew time was flying, no more time to read lists,
“I must spread this news fast—2 more Bobbles exist!”
Then it hit him: the best way this great news should be spread,
Is to open up Chat and post it there to be read.

He rushed to the room where the keyboard was placed,
And he typed out this message with a smile on his face.
“I have joyous news from the Hamlet’s Eagle residents!”
(It might even be better than their other Christmas presents!)
He continued, “We’ve been blessed with 2 Bobbles so sweet,
They’re all fluffy and gray and have the cutest clown-feet!”



He posted the message, then had a quick afterthought,
How did I not remember—this just can’t be forgot!
“Dear AEF Friends, in your own way give pause,
For these “gifts” we’ve received weren’t from Santa Claus.
Two more eaglets are here...2 sweet Bobbles to love,
They are both surely gifts that were sent from above!”

The Town Crier was relieved; everything was done right;
Now AEF’s Hamlet can rejoice this Christmas Night!
Romeo and Juliet have been tucked in by G,
Their 2 eaglets are safe...asleep in the nest tree.

What a great way to share the Holiday Season,
With friends ‘round the World, coming for lots of reasons;
To rejoice and learn about Eagles and their nest in this tree,
Many post heartfelt “Thank Yous” for Mr. Al Cecere!

It’s because of this man that AEF got its start,
And forever we’re grateful for the love in his heart.
His humility wouldn’t want praise to be regal,
But, if it wasn’t for him there’d be no haven for Eagles!
Our Country’s proud symbol wouldn’t be so well known,
And imagine not knowing where Challenger’s flown!

No place for injured Eagles and other raptors would exist;
Without him, Eagles would still be on the Endangered List!
Imagine our Country without Eagle Mountain,
Or without Dollywood and AEF's friend, Dolly Parton.
Education and breeding programs for Eagles we'd lack;
Imagine not having Douglas Lake nor Eagles to hack!
His AEF works tirelessly; hard-fought battles they've won;
We're so grateful for him, and all that AEF's done!



All the Hamlet is quiet, everyone's tucked-in tight,
Before we all know it, these 2 Bobbles'll take first flights!
So, let's savor each moment with our Eagle Family here,
Hopefully, we'll be blessed with more Eagles each year!

Now, it's time to join our Eagles, and get some well-deserved sleep,
For tomorrow will be filled with more memories to keep!
I hope that my tale about the Hamlet was done right,
All that's left is to say;
"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL—HAVE A WONDERFUL NIGHT"! ❧❧

With LOTS of Eagle Love!

By Donna Hartman
"K-9Pal"
12-09-15



Nestorations at the Florida Nest of Romeo and Juliet were in full swing when Hurricane Matthew struck the east coast of the United States October 7, 2016. Florida was threatened, and the safety of Romeo and Juliet, and the integrity of their nest home was on everyone's mind. As human residents evacuated their homes, our hearts were heavy with worry. Remote Cam Operator Jan Wendler's poem, written over the course of the Hurricane, is a heartfelt memory of that event.

Oct. 7

We wait and we worry, we pace and we pray;
 For our 2 special Eagles who are in harm's way;
 We secretly know they will weather this storm;
 And the nest they have crafted will be in fine form!
 How have they stolen our hearts so completely?
 By tending their young and each other so sweetly!
 The Lord knows they're special and He hears our prayers;
 They'll soon fly to the nest with some sticks for repairs.
 They'll weave and they'll tuck and they'll make the best nest;
 Then they'll tend to the bowl and give it a last test;
 Soon eggs will appear and they'll share incubation;
 In front of a watchful and most anxious nation;
 When autumn is over and a New Year finally starts;
 We will meet their newest hatchlings with very grateful hearts!!!

A Continuation: Oct. 8

Wait...news is now coming...the nest is okay;
 Cams firmly in place awaiting a new day;
 An eagle seen soaring...Gretchen on her way;
 Soon we will know...we continue to pray;
 She declared she will tuck when she gets home tonight;
 Once she sees her precious R and J, all will be right!

It's been a tough week, they've been put to the test
 But our team has come home and now we can rest
 They've brought us the best news we could ever request...
 Our 2 Special Eagles are back in their nest
 There's work to be done and power to restore
 But with this much good news, who could ask for more?
 The season's a Go, there are eaglets to raise;
 Trust the Eagles and Trust God...He deserves all our Praise!
 And they lived Happily Ever After . ~~~~



The Long Leaf Pine is Smiling

by Sharon Santacroce (LadyPilot2)

2016-2017 Season

The Long Leaf Pine is smiling,
Its heart beats with a nest.
Romeo and Juliet chose its bough
And they fulfilled their quest.
To raise an eaglet family
Both fierce and gentle too.
We are blessed to share their life,
Thanking AEF for the view.
So let's rejoice in their success
Enjoying this special time
While Peace and Hope fly free and strong,
We smile with the Long Leaf Pine. ~~~





Fly, Spirit and Sky

A tribute to the AEF-NEFL nest 2018 season.

Fly, eagle, fly, Young Spirit and Sky
Fly, eagle, fly, O'er the thermals so high.
God delights while He watches you dance, soar, and play
And provides all the courage you'll need on your way.
Fly, eagle, fly, Ever so free
Fly, eagle, fly, Over land and blue sea.
You take many prayers from near and from far
As you soar to great heights and follow your star.
Fly, eagle, fly, Young Spirit and Sky
Fly, eagle, fly, As you dance cross the sky.
The training is over; you're beauties so true.
We all really miss you and send lots of love, too.
Fly, eagle, fly, Oh the things you will see
Fly, eagle, fly, Squirrels and fishies must flee.
The others you meet along your life's path
Will give you more lessons, like mom and like dad.
Fly, eagle, fly, On your way now for sure
Fly, eagle, fly, May your life be so pure.
Your adventures will teach you to grow proud and strong.
You're our National Symbol, may you fly ever so long.

By Chatter: frp_IN415/Fran Palmiter



The Hamlet Legacy
By Carolyn Harrison

In the Northeast part of Florida stands a beautiful slash pine,
It holds a precious eagle nest and has for quite some time.
A second generation now inhabits this sweet nest,
It's really quite a miracle, put Nature to the test.
Sweet Romeo and Juliet came here some time ago,
And chose this tree to raise their young, so many called it home.
For years the eaglets grew and fledged without a single care,
But then some sad things happened to that gorgeous eagle pair.
Before too long the wind brought in an eagle young and strong,
And Samson knew this special nest was right where he belonged.
He chose a mate, sweet Gabrielle, and they would stay together,
She laid two eggs that they protected through all kinds of weather.
When those eggs hatched, the Hamlet overflowed with joy and love,
We knew that things would be all right with blessings from above.
These special eaglets brought new life and washed away our tears,
To watch them grow and flourish would take away our fears.
And somewhere out there even though we haven't seen them yet,
Still in the Hamlet's spirit, Romeo and Juliet.
They're with us every moment and though Nature can be cruel,
Our eagles have been born again in Romy and in Jules.
So if you see two eagles soaring high above the pines,
We know that they are smiling and that everything is fine.
They watch over the Hamlet and are out there flying free,
Our Romeo and Juliet have left their legacy.

NATIONAL ARBORETUM - WASHINGTON, DC

In 2015, after an educational visit to Capitol Hill, the American Eagle Foundation had the privilege of visiting the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, where they first learned about this idyllic nest site. Afterwards, the AEF and USNA entered into a partnership to place two HD video cameras at the top of the nest with direct views into the nest. During the first year of streaming millions of people were introduced to Mr. President & The First Lady, and national media was captivated when two bobble-heads appeared in the nest.

In 2019, although the eagles were frequently seen and mating observed, no eggs were laid. Nature, once again, is not always predictable, so we wait for the next season to unfold — hopefully with baby eaglets to watch!

The poems below focus on this nest.



Visions of Eagle Flight

by Tamar D. Earnest MD

June 11, 2016

Soaring high, flying free
Spread your wings for all to see

Head of white, eyes of gold
Your picture's found on symbols old

Now your nest in Arboretum¹
Has Eagle Cams so all can see 'em²

From brooding eggs to eaglets flight
We watch by day and through the night

Eaglets fledged now "juvies" be³
They've learned to fly from tree to tree

Hunting takes a lot more time
If "juvies" learn they'll do just fine

When you return to nest next year
We will all be waiting here

Eagle cams we long to see
As you raise your family

We will watch by day or night
For visions of your eagle flight

Soaring high, flying free
Spread your wings for all to see 🦅



This poem is dedicated to the American Eagle Foundation⁴, the cam installers and operators, the chat moderators and to everyone who made this vision possible.

¹ U.S. National Arboretum <http://www.usna.usda.gov/>

² Washington, DC Bald Eagle Nest Cam <http://www.dceaglecam.org/>

³ DC Eagle Nest FAQs <http://www.dceaglecam.org/pdf/DC-FAQs.pdf>

⁴ American Eagle Foundation <https://www.eagles.org/>

Our DC EagleCam Nest at the National Arboretum was featured for the first time in 2015-2016, and the nation fell in love with this family of eagles! Millions of people watched daily and got an up-close-and-personal look at the lives of 'Mr. President,' 'The First Lady,' and their offspring, 'Liberty' and 'Freedom.'

Flight Envy

Standing in my nest
As safe as I can be
Almost fully grown
For all the world to see

My eyes are black and serious
My wings are strong and wide
One day I'll be so curious
And fledge the nest with pride

Other birds are chirping
They're also flitting by
I wonder how they do it
I wonder how they fly

I'm curious enough to do it
These wings will carry me
Above the trees so high
I'll do it one day you'll see!

Cold and wet the days
When I was just so small
Now are warm and green
And now I stand so tall

There's something crawling next to me
With legs and wings, oh my!
It flies around the nest
Oh it's just a silly fly

At first I'll fly with grace and strength
The landing not so true
It will take some practice
Believe me just a few

I'll be ready in my time
I'll be like the rest
Then you'll be so proud of me
Fledging from the nest

My life will be all mine then
But not so much alone
I will look so forward now
To a family of my own ∞∞

~ D. LaFleur ~
5/25/2016

