

Endangered Eagles

Beudouin's Snake-eagle

Wing span: approx. 64 inches. *Mass is unknown.*

The Beudouin's Snake-eagle (*Circaetus beudouini*) belongs to a group of fourteen species of relatively short-toed snake and serpent eagles, most of which feed largely on snakes and other reptiles. A relatively large snake eagle, the Beudouin's is gray-brown above with a barred white belly, and hunts from perches. The species occupies a relatively narrow band of sub-Saharan Africa from The Gambia and Senegal in westernmost Africa to northwestern Kenya in eastern Africa. Beudouin's Snake-eagle is threatened by the development of cotton fields and the use of organochlorine pesticides. Generally uncommon throughout its range, the declining world population is estimated to be at between 3,500 and 15,000 individuals. The Beudouin's Snake-eagle is considered **Vulnerable** globally.

Crowned Eagle

Wing span: approx. 65 inches. *Body mass:* up to 10 pounds.

As is true of many of the world's tropical or mainly tropical eagles, Crowned Eagles (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) are not known to migrate. The species is a large, darkish, and majestic bird of prey, with short rounded wings and a longish tail that ranges in Africa south of the Sahara. Crowned Eagles feed mainly on mammals in woodlands, savanna, and shrub-lands. In South Africa, where it is well studied, it sometimes occurs in suburban areas. Direct persecution is thought to occur in 90 percent of its global range.

Deforestation has led to population declines in portions of its range and the world population is thought to be between 5,000 and 50,000 individuals. Collisions with wind turbines also may be problematic. Overall, land-use change and hunting are the greatest threats to this eagle. The Crowned Eagle is considered **Near-threatened** globally.

Black-and-chestnut Eagle

Wing span: approx. 62 inches. *Mass is unknown.*

The Black-and-chestnut Eagle (*Spizaetus isidori*) has a narrow, altitudinally restricted range in the Andes of northwestern South America. The species occurs primarily in primary forests, which are in decline thought most of its range. Although it feeds mainly on wild mammals and birds, chickens made up over a third of its prey items at one nest in Colombia. A crested and sexually dimorphic eagle in which the male possesses a glossy black head and back, and the female has a creamy head and crown. The male is largely chestnut below, and the female is whitish with rufous streaking below. Principal threats are deforestation and, in some areas, human persecution. The global population is estimated at between 1,000 and 2,500 mature individuals. The species is considered **Vulnerable** globally.

Eastern Imperial Eagle

Wing span: approx. 77 inches (about 6.5 feet). *Body mass:* up to 9 pounds.

Eastern Imperial Eagles (*Aquila heliaca*) are large, robust, generally dark brown eagles with white scapular feathers and golden to cream napes. The species breeds in both Europe and central Asia and overwinters (juveniles at least) farther south in both

of these continents, as well as in Africa. A somewhat open-country species, Eastern Imperial Eagles feed on small to medium-sized mammals, birds, and reptiles, and, occasionally, on fishes, insects, and carrion. The species is common in parts of its range and less common in others. Principal threats include lack of large nesting trees and human disturbance. Unintentional poisoning also may play a role in some areas. Global estimates suggest populations of 3,500 to 15,000 individuals. The species is considered **Vulnerable** globally. The slightly smaller and closely related Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) also is considered **Vulnerable**.

Greater Spotted Eagle

Wing span: approx. 66 inches (about 5.5 feet) *Body mass:* about 3 to 6 pounds.

Greater Spotted Eagles (*Aquila clanga*) are medium-sized dark eagles that occupy a fragmented range that includes Eastern Europe and central Asia, with tiny numbers occurring in Pakistan and India, and overwintering birds being reported sporadically in Hong Kong. Bands of white spots occur across the upper wings of juveniles. The species occurs in lowland forests, usually near wetlands. It feeds on small mammals, waterbirds, frogs and snakes, as well as on carcasses. Threats to the small world population include hybridization with the far more numerous Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) together forest habitat destruction, intolerance of close human contact, including shooting in Russia, and accidental poisoning. Electrocution is a major mortality factor for birds overwintering in Israel. The world population is estimated at 3,300-8,800 mature individuals. The Greater Spotted Eagle is considered **Vulnerable** globally.

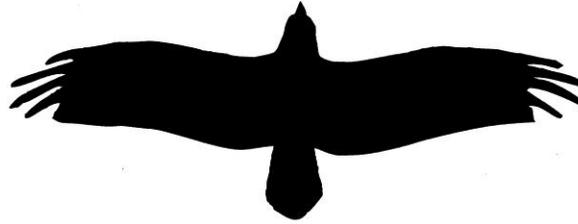
Madagascar Fish-eagle

Wing span: 68 inches (almost 6 feet). *Body mass is unknown.*

An island endemic, the Madagascar Fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*) is, by far, the largest raptor in Madagascar. A large fish eagle, the species has a reddish-brown back and underparts, a dark cap, and whitish cheeks and throat. The species occurs in wooded areas adjacent to wetlands where it feeds mainly on fishes. Threats include deforestation and the development of rice paddies, which together result in loss of both nesting and feeding habitat, along with direct persecution and entanglement in fishing nets. The global population, which may be in decline, is estimated to be about 240 mature individuals. The species is considered to be **Critically Endangered** globally.

Philippine Eagle - *Wing span:* approx. 75 inches (greater than 6 feet). *Body mass:* 10 to more than 18 pounds.

Along with the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) ranks as the largest forest-dwelling eagle in the world. The species is endemic to the Philippines and is most common on Mindanao in that Pacific Island archipelago, and most numerous in large contiguous expanses of tropical forest particularly in steep terrain. The species feeds mainly on mammals, including monkeys. The loss of old growth forests are a principal threat, as is mining activities. Juvenile birds are easily trapped and shot, as are adults near forest edges. Pesticides pose a potential, but unproven, threat. The global population, which is in decline, is estimated to be about 180-500 mature individuals. The species is considered to be **Critically Endangered** globally.



Why endangered eagles?

Sixty of the world's 330 species of raptors belong to four decidedly different groups of birds of prey known as eagles. In general, eagles are especially large raptors, many of which weigh more than 5 pounds and several of which weigh more than 15 pounds. Although many eagles are doing fine, twelve of them, including the seven species described here, are listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered*, *Vulnerable*, or *Near-threatened* globally. We display silhouettes of these endangered birds of prey on the Silhouette Trail to highlight their size and conservation status and to describe the factors that threaten them. Hawk Mountain works with conservationists globally, in an attempt to learn more about endangered raptors and how we can better protect them.

The specially commissioned images on the trail this spring and summer include seven endangered species and Near Threatened species: the Beudouin's Snake-eagle, the Black-and-Chestnut Eagle, The Crowned Eagle, The Eastern Imperial Eagle, The Greater Spotted Eagle, the Madagascar Fish-eagle, and the Philippine Eagle, all of which can be seen along the Silhouette Trail.

**We hope you enjoyed your visit.
Thank you for your support!**



Silhouette Trail

ENDANGERED EAGLES

Winter - Summer 2018

The Hawk Mountain's newest education venue, the Silhouette Trail, is an ADA approved, quarter-mile path that takes you from the Sanctuary's Trail Head to the South Lookout. This spring and summer, the trail features life-size, in-flight silhouettes of seven of the world's endangered eagles.

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