

Kid's KOrner

The Bald Eagle serves as a national symbol

We learn so much about birds and animals on the farm, but do you know anything about America's national bird - the bald eagle? Settle back and read all about this proud bird...

The bald eagle, now an endangered species throughout most of the country, was adopted as the central figure of the great seal of the United States by the second Continental Congress on June 20, 1782, six years after a committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson was named to recommend an official seal for the newly-independent country.

"By next June, the bald eagle will have served as our national bird and symbol for 200 years," said Dr. Jay D. Hair, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation. "An eagle bicentennial will remind all Americans of our wildlife heritage—a priceless natural resource that we must manage wisely if it is to survive—and it will also remind us of the virtues—the strength and courage—that the eagle symbolizes."

On the national seal and also the Presidential seal the eagle carries an olive branch, signifying the country's desire for peace, in one talon. In the other it holds a bundle of 13 arrows, symbolizing the willingness of the 13 colonies to fight for freedom.

NWF has asked President Reagan to declare the "Year of the Eagle" in a Presidential proclamation, Hair said, and is now awaiting word from the White House on the President's response.

The high-powered committee appointed to develop a national seal, which included two future Presidents, was created on July 4, 1776, the same day that the colonies declared their independence from England. Benjamin Franklin later said he opposed the choice of the eagle on grounds that it was a cowardly creature of "bad moral character" that stole its food from other birds.

In a letter he wrote in 1784, Franklin said he had favored the turkey gobbler as the national bird despite the fact that turkeys were sometimes "vain and silly."

Zoologists dispute Franklin's contention that the bald eagle, a bird found only in North America, is a "rank coward." After years of study by three committees, William Barton, a Philadelphia expert on heraldry (and brother of Benjamin Barton, a well-known naturalist), submitted a design to Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, and Thomson presented his drawing, with some changes, to the Congress.

The U.S. was by no means the first country to use an eagle—there



The Bald Eagle

are more than 50 species of the bird worldwide—as its symbol. Eagles appeared in the heraldry of Mesopotamia more than 3,000 years before Christ and served as emblems for Roman emperors, Charlemagne, Napoleon, and Peter the Great.

Ornithologists believe the bald eagle soared over all of the present "lower 48" states when the first Europeans arrived on this continent. Their numbers declined steadily as settlers pushed back the frontier and destroyed their wilderness habitat, then fell sharply in the 1950s and 60s as DDT, dieldrin, and other man-made pesticides contaminated their food supplies. The indiscriminate use of these deadly pesticides was outlawed in the early 1970s.

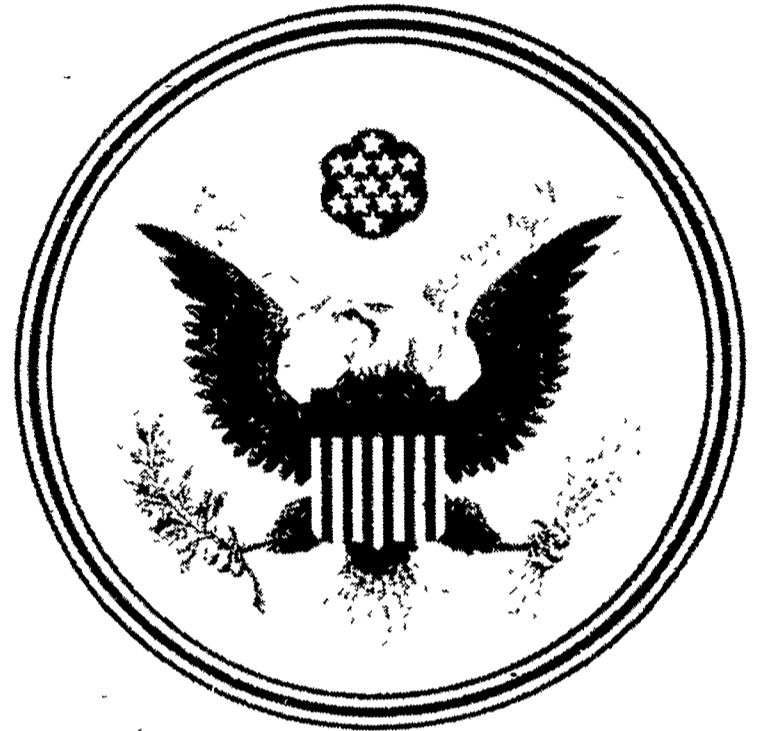
Shooting has also taken its toll of the "bird of freedom." Until 1940, when Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act, some states actually paid bounties for carcasses of the predatory "varmit" bird. The federal protection law was reinforced by the Endangered Species Acts of 1966 and 1973 and by a campaign by the National Wildlife Federation to stamp out illegal shooting of the bird.

Since 1972 the NWF has paid 13 \$500 rewards for information leading to the conviction of eagle killers—a program that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now duplicates as a deterrent to eagle poaching. Since the national Bicentennial of 1976, when it

established the NWF Raptor Information Center to serve as a clearing-house for data on eagles and other birds of prey, the Federation has also acquired and placed under the protection of wildlife agencies eagle roosting sites in five states.

Each January the NWF conducts a bald eagle census in the lower 48" states which is considered to be the most thorough count conducted in the U.S. The Federation has also lobbied and been involved in several lawsuits in efforts to safeguard habitat for the nation's symbol.

The bald eagle is now listed as "endangered" in all but five of the lower 48 states. In Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Washington, and Oregon it is listed as "threatened." In the 49th state, Alaska, bald eagles are plentiful and in the 50th, Hawaii, they are non-existent.



The Great Seal of the United States

Kids, summer vacation is only half over this week so there's still some time for fun in the sun.

But when the clouds roll in and the outdoors aren't so pleasant, keep these recipes on hand to bake some delicious fun.

Chewy Chews

Ingredients:
1 six-ounce package butterscotch chips
2 T. peanut butter
1 three-ounce can chow mein noodles
1/2 cup chopped peanuts

Procedure:
1. Melt chips and peanut butter.
2. Remove from heat and gently mix in rest of ingredients.
3. Drop onto foil or wax paper.
4. Let harden and then chew.

Cream Cheese Cookies

Ingredients:
1/4 cup softened butter or margarine
1 small package cream cheese softened
1 egg yolk
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
1 package yellow or devils food cake mix

Cream butter and cheese. Blend in egg yolk and vanilla. Add dry cake mix, 1/3 at a time, mixing well after each addition. If mixer is used, add last third of cake mix by hand. Cover. Chill 30 minutes.

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Drop by level teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until light brown. Cool slightly before removing from baking sheet.

Achievement night features horse, dairy bowl

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN — Members of local 4-H clubs participated in the Annual Schuylkill County 4-H Achievement Contests in demonstrations, public speaking, and horse and dairy bowl categories. The two bowl contests include quizzing teams on the care of horses and dairy cattle.

The Dairy Bowl contest was won by Allen Daubert, Robert Reed and

Machelle Moyer of the South Schuylkill Cattle Club. Members of the Pitman 4-H Club: Ryan Kahler, Mark Snyder, Steve Snyder and Tracy Snyder finished second.

The Junior Dairy Bowl contest was won by Kristen Heffner, Karen Heffner, Kevin Wolfe and Becky Wolfe from the South Schuylkill Club.

The Horse Bowl contest pitted the 4-H Mustangs, Hegus Valley Trailriders and the Penrose Broncos against one another. The Hegus Valley Trailriders, with Kathy Balmer, Nancy Tallman, Craig Kline and Tracy Jusinski emerged victorious. Other members participating were: Rose Scherr, Michelle Sterner, Barb Stoyer, Wilann Blain, Lori Lodato and Wendy Lodato.

The Junior Horse Bowl saw the

Trailriders outscore the Mustangs. Valerie Jusinski, Mary Jo Krammes, Stacy Bixler and Dawn Fowler outlasted Robert Blain, Kelly Moyer, Cindy Doran and Cindy Brower.

The blue ribbon winners for the Senior Demonstrations were: Rose Scherr, Jeff Kline and Theresa Gahen. The red awards were presented to Kathy Balmer, Craig Kline and John Williams. Tracey Jusinski took home a white ribbon for her demonstration.

The two Senior Public Speakers, Nancy Tallman and Anne Daubert, earned blue ribbons. Robert Paul of the MRD Wranglers won a red ribbon in Junior Public Speaking.

Most of the top winners are eligible to participate in State Achievement Days which is held annually at The Pennsylvania State University.

Grubby

