

Kids' KOrner

National bird is eagle-eyed, but not bald

LANCASTER — Want to know why the American bald eagle is called "bald?"

Or why "eagle-eye" is an apt description for someone with good eyesight?

These are just two of many questions about America's national bird answered in the current issue of Ranger Rick, the National Wildlife Federation's monthly publication for children.

A bald eagle isn't bald at all. His head is covered with white feathers. The word bald comes from the Old English word "balde," which means white.

And "eagle-eye" refers to the eagle's extraordinarily keen eyesight, which enables some of them to spot a fish from more than a mile away. An unusually high number of "cone cells," or specialized vision cells, give the eagle's eye its long-distance focusing capability, says Ranger Rick. The extra cells also make the eagle's eye large in proportion to the rest of his body. Some eagles have eyeballs larger than a human's.

Among the other questions about the majestic bird answered by Ranger Rick are these:

— How high do eagles fly? No one knows for sure, says Ranger Rick. But they do fly high — even out of sight — by riding on top of rising columns of air, called thermals.

— How big is a bald eagle's nest? They are often huge, because eagles (who mate for life) tend to use the same nest, piling new materials on top of the old year after year. One of the largest nests ever found weighed more than a ton, and measured 20 feet deep by 9½ feet across. A new nest is small by comparison — about three feet

deep and five feet across, according to Ranger Rick.

— Do eagles nest in the same place year after year? Not always. Some pairs have several nests in the same area, and they

use a different one each year. But one pair of eagles nested in the same place for 20 years.

— How much do eagles weigh? A mature American bald eagle weighs between eight and twelve

pounds. Most female bald eagles weigh a little more than their mates.

— What do bald eagles eat? They seem to prefer fish — dead or alive. Eagles are great fishermen,

able to nab a live fish right out of the water by swooping down and grasping it with sharp talons. But eagles will also eat ducks, geese, turtles, rabbits, rats, squirrels — and even garbage.

Hunterdon County, N.J., 4-H reports meetings

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Following are the latest reports on the 4-H events in Hunterdon County, N.J.

Busy Beavers

The January meeting of the Busy Beavers 4-H prep club was held at the Lohner Residence in Whitehouse Station. Club members made birdfeeders from bleach bottles, wood and pinecones. They will learn how to mold candy at their next meeting at the Fichner home in Whitehouse Station.

4-H means fun

LANCASTER — What combines work, camping, fitness, FUN, art education, cultural heritage, leadership training, FUN, service to others, learning, and FUN? It's FUN, otherwise known as 4-H — a smorgasborg of activity.

Want to do something? Want someone to do it with? Four-H recreational groups specialize in a wide variety of seasonal sports from canoeing to skiing. Or how about arts and crafts, model airplanes and rockets, or fitness and dance? Four-H programs not only offer the opportunity to master these skills and abilities, but also give young adults the opportunity to share them with others through the volunteer training programs.

Tired of the same old thing? Wonder what to do? Have FUN! Be part of 4-H this winter.

4-H Beef Club

The Hunterdon County 4-H beef club decided which logo would go on their club's T-shirts — a drawing of a calf. Two members will give demonstrations at the next meeting. Many of the club members plan to attend 4-H Winter Camp, which will be held at Lindley G. Cook Camp from February 19-21. A committee was set up for the club's entry in the Window Display Contest. Posters were made after the meeting, which will be used to recruit new club members. New members are cordially invited to join the club at their next meeting on February 22, at the Fabijanec home in Stockton.

Flour Children 4-H Club

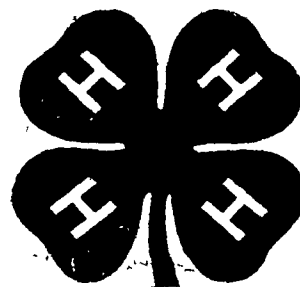
Members of the Flour Children 4-H foods club made snickerdoodles

at their last meeting. Some of the members also did an experiment with measuring liquids. Most of the club plans to participate in the Bake-Off Contest, scheduled for Saturday, March 13. Brownies will be made at their next meeting, set for February 9.

4-H Horse Club

Lonni Quenault was a guest at the last meeting of the Trail Blazers 4-H horse club. Members

plan to participate in the 4-H Window Display Contest in April. A trip to the United States Equestrian Headquarters is also planned. A bake sale was held by the club at the Califon A&P. Colleen McDonald and Cindy McCall gave demonstrations during the meeting. Members will select a club motto and emblem at their next meeting, to be held on February 8. New members are invited to attend.



CHRIS CLOVER



COLOR THIS!

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. BLACK | 6. PINK |
| 2. RED | 7. GREEN |
| 3. YELLOW | 8. LT. BROWN |
| 4. PEACH | 9. LT. BLUE |
| 5. BROWN | 10. LT. GREEN |

VERMONT IS THE ONLY NEW ENGLAND STATE WITHOUT A SEACOAST. THE NAME VERMONT COMES FROM THE FRENCH WORD "VERT MONT," MEANING "GREEN MOUNTAIN" IN 1777 VERMONT DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND. IN 1791 IT BECAME THE 14th. STATE. VERMONT'S COMMON NICKNAME IS "THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE."

