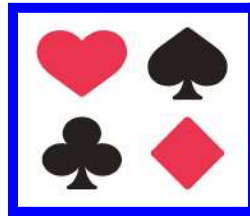


CHATTANOOGA BRIDGE CENTER

March 2026

News and Tidbits

A Publication of ACBL Unit 206



Editor: Mary Robertson

A Message From Richard Splanger Our President...

Thanks to everyone for a successful tournament!! We increased our table count +30% versus last fall and almost DOUBLED the table count from a year ago!! Amazing. Many people from out of town approached me to congratulate us on a successful event. They really appreciated how everyone welcomed them to the event and, as a result, they promised to spread the word. Thanks to all of you for

our success. It is because of YOU that our table count increased and the positive feedback we received.

Learn Bridge in a Day (LBIAD) starts in March. One of our key objectives is to bring new people into the club and we have decided to increase the frequency of LBIAD to twice a year. Bridge Tips will end right before then and LBIAD will start March 28. Please get the word out!! Thanks to Suzy for coordinating this important effort. Thanks to Janie and Margie for their leading our Bridge Tips classes and of course to the mentors who help support these lessons.

See you at the Club!!

Richard Spangler

President

A Message From Myra Reneau

Our Club Manager

Well, another Chattanooga sectional is in the books. I hope you were able to attend and had a great tournament. Many master points were awarded. I just want to take a few moments again to brag on Chattanooga Bridge players. Whether you were bringing food or parking cars or just being friendly at the table, it was all noticed by our members and guests. We received great kudos for the tournament we put on. I know there were major snafus, which trust me, we are working behind the scenes to ensure

that does not happen again. It is not up to our standards. Our tournament is really growing, so I can only anticipate great things for the future. Just know that any donations of your time, money, food and talent are always appreciated. Again, I think Chattanooga deserves to pat themselves on the back for a job well done!

Myra

HATS OFF TO SHAYNA SCOTT

Hats off to Shayna Scott for coordinating our food efforts for the tournament! Her support was invaluable. This is not an easy job to coordinate to ensure we have a well fed group of bridge players throughout the game. The venue changes each day and the needs change as well but each time, we had sufficient breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks and side dishes to keep us going. Thanks to everyone who supported her as well, especially with the main dishes, the coffee and soft drinks. We especially appreciate the various side dishes prepared for each lunch. Thanks again to Shayna for a successful event and to those that supported her!

MARCH CLUB EVENTS

Look for email updates from Margie Moses

For the most current events calendar, follow this link to our club's website calendar for more information: [CBC Calendar](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

Team Game/Lunch	Sunday, March 22 Lunch at 12:30 (Look for a food sign up sheet) Game at 1
Learn Bridge In A Day	Saturday, March 28th 10 AM

Led by Suzy Bryant

Novice Game

Mondays-6:30-9PM

Enjoy a short lesson at 6:30, followed by a game at 7 and ending at 9 PM. More experienced players are encouraged to come play with Novices. A Novice (newer player) can have zero masterpoints, but simply wants to learn more about playing duplicate bridge. \$5 per player.

Chat With Joe

Tuesday, March 10 at 10:30 AM

Do you have a question about a particular hand? How is your defense? Here is a great chance to seek feedback from an advanced player. Just bring yourself and your questions.

Bridge Tips

Saturdays at 10 AM

Lessons begin promptly at 10 a.m. Cost: \$5. The topic varies from week to week. Led by Margie Moses and Janie Hunt. These class sessions will pause on the 28th as Learn Bridge In A Day begins its session.

Mentor Mentee

Mentor/Mentee occurs on the fourth Friday each month. Be sure to sign up and let Bruce know if you can play.



One Small Thing

By Bruce Antman

**One Small Thing
When Partner Makes a Takeout Double**

Your left-hand opponent opens with one of a suit, and your partner makes a takeout double. What do you do?

Partner has started describing her hand, and wants to compete. She needs your help in determining the strain (suit or notrump) and the level your partnership should compete to. When determining what to do on your first bid, you should assume that partner has 12-14 HCP, 4-card support for your best suit, and a small singleton or doubleton in the opponent's suit.

Here are the available bids, with examples for illustration only.

Minimum bid in a suit: What partner expects to hear. Over a one bid with responder silent, this shows 0-8 points. You know about this one. If responder bids a suit above yours, you might have a bit more than 8.

♠ J965 ♥ KT5 ♦ Q962 ♣ 32	1♦ x P 1♠	6 HCP & 4 spades
♠ T98 ♥ QJT54 ♦ KJ3 ♣ 93	1♣ x P 1♥	7 HCP & 5 hearts
♠ T98 ♥ JT5 ♦ 98763 ♣ 93	1♦ x P 1♥	1 HCP & 3 hearts – can't defend 1♦x
♠ K98 ♥ AJT5 ♦ 763 ♣ J32	1♣ x 1♠ 2♥	9 HCP & 4 hearts – too weak for 3♥

Jump in a suit: Shows extra values and an invitational hand.

♠ J965 ♥ KT5 ♦ KQ62 ♣ 32	1♦ x P 2♠	9 HCP & 4 spades
♠ T98 ♥ QJT54 ♦ AJ3 ♣ 93	1♣ x P 2♥	8 HCP & 5 hearts
♠ T98 ♥ QJT54 ♦ AJ3 ♣ Q3	1♣ x P 2♥	10 HCP & 5 hearts
♠ KJT9 ♥ Q543 ♦ 3 ♣ KJ32	1♣ x 1♥ 2♠	Not a weak bid!
♠ KJT96 ♥ Q73 ♦ 3 ♣ AK32	1♣ x P 2♣	Too strong for 2♣

Multiple jump in a suit: Shows a weak[ish], highly distributional hand.

♠ QJT9653 ♥ 85 ♦ K2 ♣ 32	1♦ x P 3♠	Why go down in 4?
♠ QJT9653 ♥ 85 ♦ 32 ♣ 32	1♥ x 2♥ 4♠	Opponents probably make 4♥

Notrump: If opponents bid a major, shows a double stopper against a lead of that suit. If opponents bid a minor, shows at least one stopper with no 4-card major.

1NT – 7-10 HCP 2NT – 11-12 HCP 3NT – 13-15 HCP

♠ J96 ♥ KT5 ♦ KQ62 ♣ 832	1♦ x P 1NT	Denies 4 hearts or spades
♠ A98 ♥ QJ4 ♦ A3 ♣ J7653	1♣ x P 2NT	
♠ A98 ♥ QJ4 ♦ A3 ♣ K9653	1♣ x P 3NT	

Cue bid: Almost any opening hand, except one that can bid 3NT. Forcing to game. Doesn't say anything about your suits. Partner is expected to bid his best suit, or make another cue bid without a strong preference.

♠ AQJ96 ♥ KT5 ♦ K62 ♣ 83	1♦ x P 2♦
♠ A98 ♥ QJ4 ♦ AKQ53 ♣ 53	1♣ x P 2♣
♠ A9832 ♥ 4 ♦ AQJ643 ♣ 3	1♣ x P 2♣
♠ AKQ9832 ♥ 4 ♦ A643 ♣ 3	1♣ x P 2♣
♠ AK32 ♥ 4 ♦ A643 ♣ KJT3	1♥ x P 2♥

Pass (when right-hand opponent did not bid): Very rare. You should have at least 4 tricks in the opponent's suit, remembering that his honors are over yours. If you can beat the opponents at the one level in their suit without 4 trump tricks, you probably have a game somewhere.

♠ AKT965 ♥ 54 ♦ 62 ♣ 932	1♠ x P P	Barely enough, no good alternative.
♠ T98654 ♥ 54 ♦ 62 ♣ 932	1♠ x P 2♣	Ugh! But you can't defend 1♠ doubled
♠ AKT96 ♥ QT4 ♦ Q2 ♣ 932	1♠ x P 2NT	Inviting to 3NT

Pass (when right-hand opponent did bid): When both opponents and your partner have bid, you are often very weak. Even with 4-5 points, only bid if you have something useful to say.

♠ T965 ♥ JT5 ♦ Q62 ♣ Q32	1♠ x 1NT P	Whew!
♠ T98 ♥ Q54 ♦ QJ63 ♣ 932	1♣ x 1♥ P	Your ♦s are nothing special
♠ JT98 ♥ Q543 ♦ 3 ♣ J932	1♣ x 1♥ 1♠	8-card major fit is worth a bid

If partner was a passed hand, or she doubled in the balancing seat (after two passes), or the opening bid was a weak 2 or preempt, you need a bit extra to do anything except make your lowest possible suit bid.

This sounds like a lot of information, but it's all fairly logical. To summarize the basics:

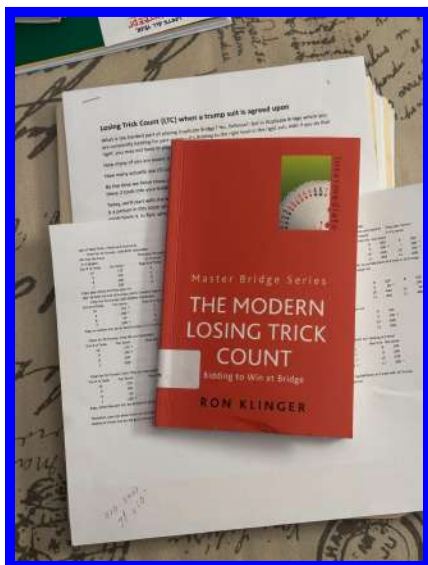
- 0-8 points – minimum bid in a suit
- 9-11 points – jump in a suit
- 12+ points – cue bid

As always, it's best to discuss things with your partners, but in this case almost everyone uses the same system. So don't be intimidated when the opponents open and your partner doubles!

Did You Miss These Great Classes?

Special thanks to John Felker for all the hard work in creating content to instruct 6 weeks of class on Law of Total Tricks, Losing Trick Count, Spiral or QQ, DON'T, tips on Pre-emptive Raises in Competition, and Responding to Jacoby Transfers. These sessions were very well attended and truly appreciated. Thank you, John!

This is a photo of the textbook written by Ron Klinger he referenced. Two are in our library and you may wish to order this from Amazon if you want this in your own personal stash of bridge books.

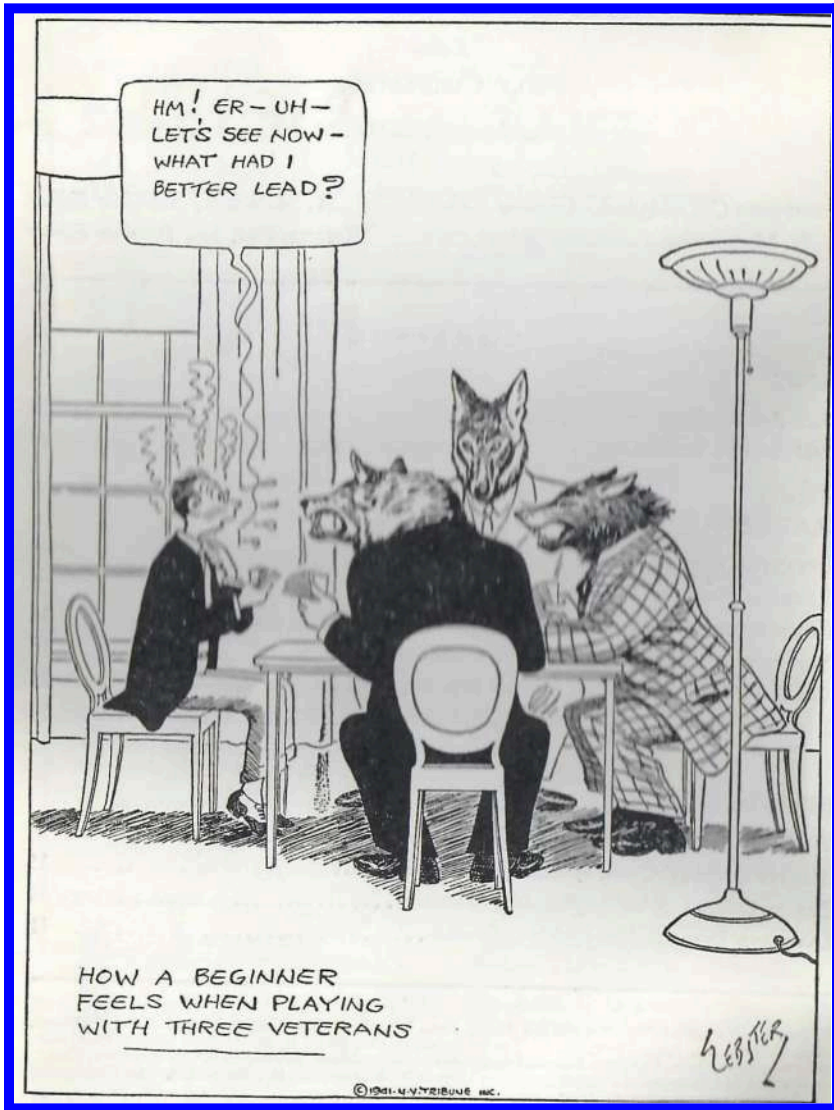


We Take Pride In Our Building

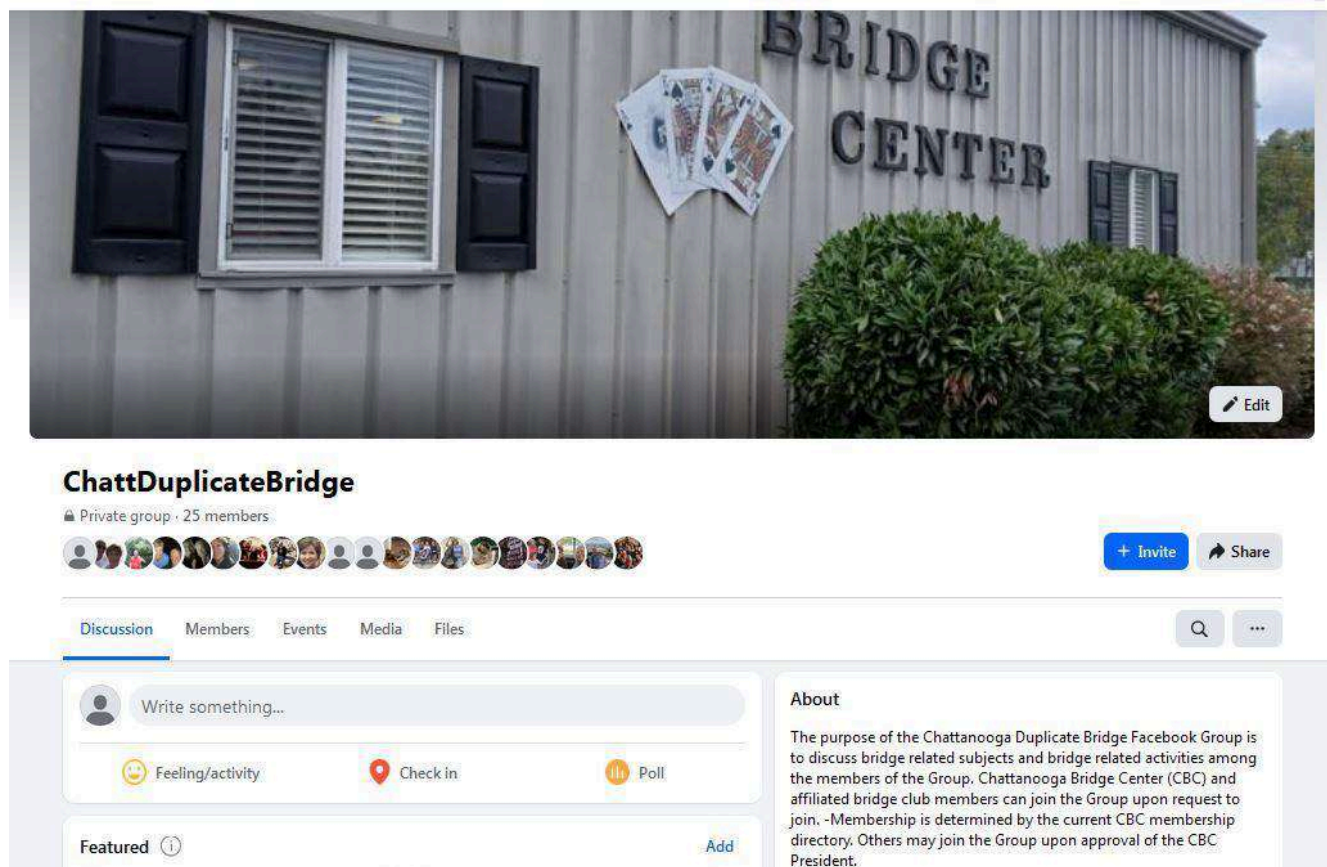
Look around the grounds when you drive up to the Bridge Center-do you notice the pretty Lenten Roses blooming? Do you notice the lack of weeds in our flower beds? What about the wild brush growing along on our property line that borders the storage units? Many, many thanks to Marian Creighton, John Prescott and Judy Monen for coming out to work very hard to make our property and making it so much nicer.

Also, have you noticed the really nice updates to our bathrooms and kitchen? Thank you to Iris and her husband, Lee, plus John Prescott and Marian Creighton for their hard work in updating our building.

NEED SOME LAUGHTER TODAY?



Our Club's Facebook Discussion Group is Growing



We are up to 30 members now - way to go!!

The group is all about bridge -- ask a question, comment on a club or other bridge event, or find a partner, and more. It is for all CBC club members, including our two sister bridge clubs.

To join, just enter your Facebook app, find the group by name:(ChattDuplicateBridge), and ask to join by clicking on the blue join button. Administrators Bruce Antman or John Hubbard will approve you, usually within a day. Then join the conversations.

A few of the conversations posted were:

- Bruce Antman reminded me about the upcoming Mentor/Mentee game.
- John Hubbard told about a super birthday party for Alice Greenleaf at the Pigeon Forge tournament.
- Administrator John posted about John Felker's hand evaluation class starting soon.
- Mary Robertson asking, and getting, for a bridge partner the day before the club game.

LOOKING FOR A BRIDGE GAME?

'Nooga East Bridge Club

Every Monday at 12:30 p.m. there's a bridge game at Christ United Methodist Church located at 8645 East Brainerd Road across from Hurricane Creek Shopping Center. Players are asked to arrive no later than 12:15 p.m. so the game can begin promptly. For those of you in Cleveland or North Georgia, this is just a hop, skip and a jump away. We are a very welcoming, fun group and are always looking for new players of all levels. Are you interested? Just email noogabridgeeast@gmail.com to make a reservation. Need help finding a partner or have a question? You can text or call Sue Riddle at 423.509.3583 or Sharon Lewis at 423.240.5360.

The Fairyland Duplicate Bridge Club

The Fairyland Bridge group plays every Thursday at our Club. This group often combines celebrating special occasions along with a delicious lunch and great cards. Stay tuned to upcoming game announcements to make sure you don't miss the fun. Players should be registered before 10:15 to allow play to begin at 10:30. Lunch is provided between 12-12:30, afterward the game resumes. Reservations are appreciated, please reach out to Susie Crouch at 423.443.6889. Don't miss out on their fun holiday gatherings.

The Fairyland group loves to celebrate the holidays and special occasions. Don't miss out on the fun. Check it out.



Friday Face-to-Face Mentor/Mentee

The fourth Friday each month is our popular Mentor/Mentee games. Be

sure to sign up so Bruce knows who is playing. Questions? Text or call Bruce Antman at 423.290.8207.

Partnership Coordinate

If you need a partner, our Partnership Coordinator can help. Contact Anne Donnovin at 423.605.2996.

2026 CBC Board of Directors

President:	Richard Spangler
1st VP:	Bruce Antman
2nd VP:	Janie Hunt
Secretary:	Mary Robertson
	Marian Creighton
	John Prescott
	John Hubbard
	Sharon Lewis
	Joe Schatz

Supported by our Club Treasurer: Myra Tatum
Club Manager: Myra Reneau

The Bald Eagle-My Story



Greetings! My name is Seraphina. I soar the skies with effortless elegance. I catch falling prey mid flight. I dive-bomb into the waters to snag salmon. I am a highly specialized predator with four powerful toes on each foot with sharp talons. The tiny projections on the bottom of my feet called “spicules” help me grasp my prey. I also have serrations on the roof of my mouth that help me hold slippery salmon, and the black pigment in my wing feathers strengthen them against breakage when diving into water. My ability to pull off these extraordinary maneuvers may have been eons in the making. Evolutionary biologists believe that my incredible physiology, built for life near the water, has been literally millions of years in the making.

May I hasten to add that my male and female brothers and sisters share the same flying and hunting talents and skills described above. Contrary to what is found among most birds and animals on our planet, female bald eagles are usually bigger and have a deeper, wider beak, weigh more, and have larger wing spans than males. Female bald eagles have a height range of 33 to 38 inches, while males stand at an average height of 28 to 32 inches. Wingspans for female bald eagles measure between 72 and 96 inches, while the wingspan of males measure from 66 to 77 inches. In the weight category, female bald eagles weigh an average of 10 to 15 lbs, while males weigh in at an average of 6 to 9 lbs. These are significant differences to the acute observer, and while being able to distinguish between male and female eagles may be important for bird watchers and students engaged in a science project, they elude the casual observer of us majestic birds.

Where to Find us: We, bald eagles, are endemic to North America. Our natural range includes Canada, the United States, and northern Mexico. Outside of North America, we have been introduced to a few areas, but our populations remain small and localized. The largest gathering of bald eagles in the world occurs each fall on a 4-mile stretch of the Chilkat River north of Haines, Alaska, where between 3,000 and 4,000 eagles converge to feast on a late run of chum salmon that lingers deep into winter.

Our Evolution: We eagles are descendants of an ancient line of carrion feeders and fish predators with a reptilian ancestry called kites. According to biologists, feathers may have evolved from the scales of reptilian skin. Between 144 million and 66 million years ago, during the Mesozoic era, the first birds began to

evolve. Fossil records from this period reveal that the earliest birds had teeth. Eventually, tens of millions of years ago, an ancient group of birds called kites developed that are thought to have scavenged and hunted fish. Our hunting and feeding behaviors closely resemble those of our kite forebears. We evolved from these ancient kites about 36 million years ago. While no one knows precisely when we bald eagle appeared on our planet, the earliest known fossil remains that closely resemble us date back to about a million years ago.

Our Conservation: Once abundant in North America, we became rare in the mid-to-late 1900s—the victims of trapping, shooting, and poisoning as well as reproductive failures caused by pesticides. By 1978, we were listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Since 1980, gentler treatment by humans along with the banning of DDT (our main pesticide threat) have led to a dramatic resurgence. By the late 1990s, breeding populations of Bald Eagles could be found throughout most of North America. In June 2007, our recovery prompted our removal from the Endangered Species list. Continuing threats to our populations include lead poisoning from ammunition in shot prey, collisions with motor vehicles and stationary structures, and development-related destruction of shoreline nesting, perching, roosting and foraging habitats. We are still vulnerable to environmental pollution, as evidenced by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska where an estimated 247 of our brothers and sisters died from oil exposure. Population levels in the Sound decreased by almost 4% the following year but the local population returned to pre-spill levels by 1995. Our recovery from near extinction is a spectacular conservation success story as numbers have increased by nearly 4% per year between 1966 and 2019, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Partners in Flight estimates the global breeding population at 200,000 but in 2021, the US Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that the total population in the Lower 48 (breeding adults and immatures) was more than 316,000. As a species we rate a 9 out of 20 on the Continental Concern Score indicating a species of low conservation concern.

Our Diet: Fish of many kinds constitute the bulk of our diet including salmon, herring, shad, and catfish. We eat a wide variety of foods depending on what's available, including birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates such as crabs, and mammals including rabbits and muskrats. We sometimes gorge, ingesting a large amount of food and digesting it over several days. We can also survive fasting for several days, even weeks.

Our Reproduction: We Bald eagles are monogamous. This means that we have the same mate year after year, even though each eagle may spend the winters on his or her own. The same mating pair will continue to produce offspring every year unless one of the pair dies. When this happens, the remaining eagle will search for a new mate at the beginning of the next nesting season. As is the case with many other bird species, the female bald eagle chooses who she wants to mate with. To choose her mate, the female selects a male she likes the look of to fly with. During this process she'll pick a stick and drop it to see if the male can catch it. If he does, she'll continue to pick larger sticks and fly higher, dropping a stick for the male to catch each time. The courtship ritual may also include the death spiral (see interesting facts about us at the end of my story). For us, the

actual mating happens while perched on a branch. The male will come up behind the female and touch his cloaca to hers. This transfers the sperm from the male to the female and is referred to as the cloacal kiss. This copulation may occur several times a day and over a number of days until it has produced a successful result.

Our Nesting: We nest in trees except in regions where only cliffs or ground sites are available. We select tall, sturdy conifers that protrude above the forest canopy, providing easy flight access and good visibility. In southern parts of our range, we may nest in deciduous trees, mangroves, and cactus. Nests are typically built near the trunk, high up in the tree but below the crown. We build some of the largest of all bird nests—typically 5 to 6 feet in diameter and 2 to 4 feet tall, and ranging in shape from cylindrical to conical to flat, depending on the supporting tree. Both sexes bring materials to the nest, but the female does most of the placement, weaving together sticks and filling in the cracks with softer material such as grass, moss, or cornstalks. The inside of the nest is lined first with lichen or other fine woody material, then with downy feathers and sometimes sprigs of greenery. Ground nests are built of whatever's available, such as kelp and driftwood near coastal shorelines. Nests can take up to three months to build, and are usually reused and added to year after year.

Care of Our Young: Our female partner lays two dull-white eggs in the spring and one or two chicks are hatched after 35 days with both parents taking turns incubating the eggs. The chicks are covered with white down when they are born. Both parents hunt for food for their chicks and the female usually feeds them. If two are hatched, usually only the chick that is more aggressive and takes most of the food survives. Often the other chick will die from starvation. At 11 to 12 weeks, the parents lure the fledglings to fly out of the nest by holding food in their beaks in a nearby tree. These young eagles can fly but the parents continue to feed them for 4 to 6 more weeks while they learn to hunt. At 15 weeks of age, the young permanently leave the nest to fend for themselves. They do not develop adult coloration until they are 2 years old.

Our Role in American and Native American Culture and Symbolism: We, bald eagles are very proud to have been selected as the national emblem of the United States since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native American people for far longer than that. Our role as America's national bird is linked to us being selected in 1782 to appear on the Great Seal of the United States. Shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress gave Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams the job of designing an official seal for the new nation. However, the three founding fathers failed to come up with a design that won Congress' approval, as did two later committees that were given the task. In mid-June 1782, the work of all three committees was handed over to Charles Thomson, the secretary of Congress. Thomson chose what he thought were the best elements of the various designs and made the eagle—which had been introduced by Pennsylvania lawyer William Barton in a design submitted by the third committee—more prominent. Since ancient times, we have been considered a sign of strength; Roman legions used us as their standard, or symbol. Congress adopted this design on June 20, 1782, and as the design went on to appear on official documents, currency, flags,

public buildings and other government-related items, we became an American icon.

We hold a prominent place not only in American culture and wildlife but also in the rich tapestry of Native American culture. Revered for our majestic appearance and remarkable hunting skills, we symbolize strength, freedom, and spirituality among various Indigenous American tribes. We play a multifaceted role in Native American culture, including in symbolism, spiritual significance, and impact on tribal traditions and practices. For many Native American tribes, we bald eagles are more than just birds; we represent a connection to the spiritual realm. Our high-flying nature symbolizes a link between the earth and the heavens, making us a powerful figure in tribal lore and beliefs. We are often associated with strength, courage, and resilience. Our ability to soar at great heights and navigate through storms reflects qualities that many tribes admire and aspire to embody. This symbolism resonates deeply within the cultural narratives of Native American tribes, where the struggle for autonomy and self-determination is a central theme. Our feathers are particularly sacred and are used in various ceremonies and rituals. They are believed to carry spiritual power, allowing individuals to connect with the divine and seek guidance from higher powers. Our feathers are used in prayer, in healing rituals, and traditional dances. The eagle feather dance is a significant ceremony that honors us and invokes our strength and protection. When a member of a tribe earns an eagle feather, it is a mark of respect and achievement, often awarded for acts of bravery, leadership, or significant contributions to the community. The process of obtaining an eagle feather is sacred, and the feathers are treated with the utmost reverence. We also have a prominent place in Native American art and mythology. From totem poles to intricate beadwork, the eagle's image is often depicted, showcasing its importance in tribal narratives. Stories of eagles are common in oral traditions, illustrating moral lessons, cultural values, and the interconnectedness of all living beings. For instance, in some tribes, there are stories of eagles guiding warriors in battle or offering protection to those in need. These narratives reinforce our role as a guardian and protector, emphasizing our significance within the community. It is crucial to recognize and respect our dual symbolism—both as a national American emblem and as a sacred creature within Native American beliefs.

Other Interesting facts about us:

- 1) When it rains, all birds except us eagles take shelter. We avoid the rain by flying above the clouds.
- 2) In one of our spectacular courtship displays, a male and female fly high into the sky, lock talons, and cartwheel downward together, breaking off at the last instant to avoid crashing to earth.
- 3) We are capable of floating in water, and we use our wings to “row” in water too deep for wading.
- 4) We play an essential ecological role as top predators, helping to maintain healthy ecosystems.

5) According to a 2024 survey there are 316,700 bald eagles on planet Earth including 71,400 nesting pairs.

6) We are not really bald, but our white feathered heads in contrast to our chocolate-brown body and wings give the impression of being bald from a distance.

Thank you for reading our story. We hope it gives you a clear understanding of who we are and how we contribute to the diversity and wellbeing of our beautiful planet. Please share it with your friends.

Yours truly, Seraphina

Email: ajmeagher@aol.com