



Eagle Timeline

1782: The bald eagle is named America's National Symbol

1940: The bald eagle protection act passes, prohibiting the taking, possession, and commerce of bald eagles due to the declining population

1960's: Scientists report 417 nesting pairs of eagles remain in the lower 48 states. Scientists report few young eaglets are hatching. Further study finds the eggshells of eagle eggs are thin. An analysis of eggshells reports traces of a chemical called DDT. The U.S. government commissions scientists to find out why the bald eagle is laying eggs with shells that are too thin and soft to hatch.