

*Sexing
Bald Eagles*

(A Personal Observation)

DVOC Ornithological Study
by Debbie Beer, February 2008



Bald Eagle

Gender Differences:

Reverse Sexual Size Dimorphism
apparent in Bald Eagles and most
raptors.

Females up to 25% larger and
heavier-bodied than male.

Size varies among individuals and
geographic distributions. Northern
populations are bigger and heavier
than southern.

Females consistently at the larger
end of the size ranges:
Body length: 28–38 in (71–96 cm),
Wingspan: 66–96 in/5.5–8 ft
(168–244 cm),
Weight: 6.6–14 lbs (3.0–6.3 kg)





Bald Eagle

Gender Differences:

Female head is proportionately larger than male.

Female bill size noticeably larger than male bill, particularly the height, from top (of upper mandible) to bottom (of lower mandible).

Culmen mean measurements from Friedman, 1950:

Male (northern): 52.5 mm

Female (northern): 54.1 mm

(Lack of data about bill height)



Copyright A Binns

MALE or FEMALE?

B

PRECISION OPTICS

ELITE

BY BUSHNELL

Hybrid Technology

Optical glass substrate

Aspherical lens element

Aspherical Lens

Focus plane

Delivers superior edge-to-edge resolution

Original Elite Binoculars
finest birding binoculars
you'll ever lay eyes on.

binoculars

nell.com

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The advertisement features a large, detailed profile of a bald eagle's head on the right side. On the left, there are technical diagrams: a lens cross-section labeled 'Hybrid Technology' showing an 'Optical glass substrate' and an 'Aspherical lens element', and another diagram labeled 'Aspherical Lens' showing light rays converging at a 'Focus plane'. Below the diagrams is a small image of a pair of binoculars. The text 'Original Elite Binoculars finest birding binoculars you'll ever lay eyes on.' is positioned above the binoculars. The Bushnell logo (a 'B' in a circle) is at the top left, and the brand name 'ELITE BY BUSHNELL' is prominently displayed in the center. The website 'nell.com' is at the bottom left, and a copyright notice '©2007 BOP' is at the bottom right.



MALE or FEMALE?

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References:

- Bent, Arthur Cleveland. 1937. Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey.
- Buehler, David A. 2000. Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/506>
- Friends of Blackwater Refuge, MD Bald Eagle live webcam (January 2008)
- Personal observation of nesting adult pair of Bald Eagles, Philadelphia PA (February-April 2007)

Photos:

- Copyright Adrian Binns
- Bushnell advertisement on back cover of *Birding* magazine (Nov/Dec 2007)
- Wikipedia, online free and open photo