Bald Eagles of Post Bayou

In 1782, the founding fathers chose the Bald Eagle as our National Symbol because it symbolized "*strength, courage, freedom and a long life*". Bald eagles once numbered an estimated half a million in North America. However, by 1963, the species was on the brink of extinction with fewer than seven hundred Bald Eagles remaining. Through the efforts of law- makers and concerned citizens, bald eagles are now protected and the species is making a come- back.

With a wing-span reaching over seven feet, the Bald Eagle is the largest **Raptor** *(hawks and eagles)* found in North America. This large wing span gives the bald eagle tremendous lifting ability, allowing it to lift and carry up to five pounds.

The bald eagle has white feathers on it's head, neck and tail. The word *"Bald"* is taken from an Old English term meaning white.

Bald eagles do not get their white feathers until they reach maturity, usually around four to five years of age. Until that point, the immature bald eagle is covered in brown feathers.

The bald eagle uses it's superb eyesight to locate fish swimming near the surface of the water. Once it spots a potential meal, the eagle swoops down and grabs the fish in it's powerful talons.

Arkansas Post National Memorial is fortunate to have one of thirty five active bald eagle nesting sites in the state. This nesting site is home to a pair of mature bald eagles which have produced five offspring between 1998 and 2004. The nest currently has at least one eaglet that has yet to leave the nest.

Use your "eagle eye" to find the nest in Post Bayou