



2023-24 Winter Eagle Viewing in Land Between the Lakes

Eagles lose vital energy and become stressed when approached.

Keep both you and the eagles safe by observing them from a distance.

Respect wildlife protection areas and do not approach nests or roosting areas.

Check out the map on the other side for potential viewing spots. Good luck!



Bald Eagle Basics

Bald eagles are found by lakes, rivers, and marshes, since 75% of their diet is fish. All bald eagles have a dark body, but only adults (5+ years) have a white head and tail. Young bald eagles resemble golden eagles, but golden eagles are rarely seen in Land Between the Lakes.

Wingspans range from 6 to 8 feet, and they weigh between 6 and 14 pounds. Eagles return yearly to their nests, adding to them each year.

Some nests can get up to 9 feet wide and weigh over a ton!

Federal Protection of Eagles

Conservation efforts, such as banning DDT and the reintroduction of young eagles to healthy habitats like Land Between the Lakes, have allowed bald eagles to thrive. Working together, various agencies released a total of 44 bald eagles into Land Between the Lakes over an 8 year period. In 2020, US Fish and Wildlife estimated there were 316,700 eagles in the lower 48 states.



Land Between the Lakes Eagles

Winter is the best time to see eagles at Land Between the Lakes. Typically 100-150 bald eagles live on the Lakes during the winter.

About 20 eagle pairs stay for the entire year to nest and raise young. During a 2023 winter survey, researchers found 23 active nests in Land Between the Lakes. There are currently 208 active nests in Kentucky (data collected 2021-23), more than quadruple the number of nests seen in 2007.

Eagle Spotting Tips

- Flying eagles are flat, and flap their wings stiffly. Flying vultures tilt their wings up, making a "V" when observed head-on.
- Eagles tend to perch in the top 1/3 of a tree.
- Perched eagles look like a squirrel nest. (Adult eagles look like a snow covered squirrel nest)
- On nice days, eagles often perch where the bay meets the lake. On rainy or cold days, they often perch at the back of the bay, far away from the lake.
- Eagles spook easily. For best viewing, use binoculars and observe from a distance.

Winter Eagle Viewing at Land Between the Lakes

Eagle Viewing Guidelines

- Avoid spooking eagles. View from a distance.
- Do not approach nests or roosting areas.
- Respect wildlife protection areas.
- Stay on 100 and 200 level roads.
- If road does not seem passable, turn around.

Potential Eagle Viewing Spots

1. Kentucky Dam*
2. Barkley Dam*
3. Pisgah Point (End of Rd. 111)
4. Smith Bay
5. Honker Dam/Bobcat Point
6. Sugar Bay
7. Redd Hollow
8. Ginger Bay (End of Rd. 212)
9. Panther Bay
10. Fort Donelson National Battlefield*

*outside of Land Between the Lakes

More detailed maps are available at Golden Pond Visitor Center or online at

www.landbetweenthelakes.us/maps

