

Our Arroyo Ecosystem



Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

One of North America's largest raptors with a wing-span approaching 7 feet, this remarkably agile bird can reach speeds of up to 200 mph. Its feathers are a dark brown with a golden sheen. For several years, younger birds have white patches in the base of its tail and wings.

Golden eagles are monogamous and mate for life. They build nests up to 6 feet in diameter on cliff-sides, in trees, on the ground, on windmills and towers. They maintain territories of up to 8 to 12 square miles, and over the years can establish as many as 12 aeries in cliffs and trees.

Usually seen flying solo or in pairs, it captures its prey on or near the ground, locating it while soaring, flying low to the ground, or hunting from perches. Rabbits and other small mammals are its typical prey, though it can attack larger animals and defend its prey or offspring from coyotes and bears.

For more information, visit Audubon California www.ca.audubon.org/golden-eagle and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "All About Birds" Allaboutbirds.org/guide/golden_eagle/id

