

Liberty and Patriot



Order:
Falconiformes
Family:
Accipitridae
Species:
Haliaeetus

Identification: Liberty is the female and Patriot is the male. Liberty is larger than Patriot and has a very distinct notch in the front of her white cap of feathers.

Nest location: The nest is located in a cottonwood tree on the north side of Rt 44 just east of exit 1

Nest Materials: As of fall 2010 the nest is 5.5 feet wide and 5 feet deep. It is made up of sticks and grasses. They will continue to add materials every year.

Nesting behavior: Most Bald eagles return from their wintering sites in February and begin nesting behaviors in March or April. Historically, Liberty and Patriot return around late October to begin their additions to the nest. They work on the nest in December and incubate eggs in February. Eaglets can usually be seen hatching in March.

Fun Facts:

- Liberty and Patriot moved in and began to nest in the fall of 2004, but were not successful hatching any eaglets until the spring of 2006.
- Most eagles are very sensitive to any human disturbance, but Liberty and Patriot were determined to nest at this site, even when, in late 2007, a cone was erected over their nest to try to encourage them to choose a new nesting area.
- The Rt 44 Dana to Downtown project began in the spring of 2008. Liberty and Patriot fledged two eaglets that year.
- The first camera was placed over the nest in October 2008. This allowed citizens of Redding to watch them up close for the first time. They have now been viewed by over a million people all over the country.
- The first egg to be seen by all on the Eaglecam was laid on February 6, 2009; followed by one on the 10th and a third on the 13th. All three eggs hatched and all three young fledged!
- Less than 5% of all Bald eagles lay and successfully fledge three eggs.
- A new camera was installed in October 2009. The new camera allowed close viewing of the 2010 egg laying and hatching, which occurred on February 15th, 18th, and 21st. Again, all three eaglets fledged
- As of 2010, they have successfully fledged 10 eaglets
- Liberty and Patriot are very successful due to the abundance of food near their nest, thanks to the Sacramento River.