

Steller's Sea Eagle

Scientific Name: *Haliaeetus pelagicus*

Class: Aves

Order: Falconiformes

Family: Accipitridae



The largest eagle in the world, Steller's Sea Eagle has black plumage, white shoulders and a wedge-shaped tail. This eagle also has an orange/yellow, very deep and arched bill, known as its most distinguishing feature. Adults are more brightly colored than younger eagles. An adult Steller's Sea Eagle can have up to an 8 foot wingspan and weigh 20 pounds.

Range

Coastal regions of northwestern China and Siberia, along Kamchalia peninsula and the Japanese islands

Habitat

Along coastal and forested river valleys where fish are plentiful

Gestation

Roughly a 40 day egg incubation period and then 70 days to chick fledgling

Litter

Clutch size: 1 to 3 eggs

Behavior

Feeding is to perch 5 to 30 m above water and then swoops down in a dive. Also circles 6 to 7 m above water and dives or may stand in water, on bank or ice floe to do catch.

Reproduction

Sexual maturity at about 4 to 5 years. Laying generally in second half of April and early May, depending largely on climatic conditions. Courtship between February and March.

Wild Diet

Principally fish, but will take ducks and some small mammals.