



New York State **BALD EAGLE** Restoration Project

Before 1900, up to 80 bald eagle nests were known in New York State. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, logging and human developments significantly reduced our bald eagle population. Strong national laws protecting eagles were passed in 1940.

Beginning in the 1950s and 1960s, eating fish from waters polluted with pesticides, especially DDT, made the eggs of eagles so weak that they broke when adult birds sat on them. By the early 1960s, only one pair of bald eagles nested in the state.



DDT was banned in 1972, and eagles started to produce young again. In 1976, DEC brought two eight-week old eaglets from Wisconsin to New York. They were put in a man-made nest and fed by humans from behind a screen so the birds would not get used to people. This technique of raising and releasing young raptors to the wild is called "hacking."

From 1976 to 1988, 198 nestling bald eagles were released at four sites in New York. Now there are about 80 pairs of bald eagles that nest in the state. Due to the success of the restoration project, the bald eagle was changed from an endangered species to a threatened species in New York in 1999.

The eagle population is growing, but DEC still monitors, manages and protects our national emblem. Protecting where they live is our biggest challenge.

Opposite: School children look at a bald eagle up close.

Lower left: Eaglets on their way to the hacking tower.

Top left: Eaglets in hacking cage.

Top right: Eaglets arrive at the hacking tower.

Lower right: Eaglets born in the wild.

