

TAPESCRIPT

Narrator: *Listening Test*

All About Birds (Advanced Level)

Section 1

You will hear a talk on the design features of the American bald eagle given by your biology teacher Miss Fung.

The recording will be played twice. Do as much as you can the first time and answer all the questions the second time.

You have 30 seconds to look at your questions.

[30 sec music]

Listen and answer the questions.

{ Miss Fung:

You can see the picture of the bald eagle in front of you. It is a large bird which can have a wingspan, that is the length from the tip of one wing to the other, of two point three metres.

Look at its eyes – the eyeball takes up most of the space in its head – this is one of the reasons it has such good eyesight. The excellent eyesight allows the bird to spot the animals it hunts from far away – they can see a rabbit from a mile away.

You will also notice its strong feet with their sharp talons, which are used to catch animals and tear flesh. Despite eating rabbits, the bald eagle eats mostly fish. Fish can be slippery, so on the bottom of its toes are spicules which are small, rough projections which help the eagle to hold onto its food.

Its beak is sharp and hooked – this allows it to tear its food into smaller pieces. The food is then stored in a sack in its throat, called a crop. The crop separates the food from other things it can't eat, such as bones.

For such a big bird, the bald eagle is surprisingly light – because some of its bones are actually hollow. This feature, along with its large breast muscles in its chest, are features it shares with other flying birds.

Bald eagles can soar for hours and can even dive at 100 miles per hour, taking the animals they are catching by surprise.

Air movement also helps eagles to glide – thermals, warm rising air, keep them up. And they adjust the large wing slots, the gaps at the ends of their wings, to move around in the air. }

Narrator: *Now listen to the recording again.*[repeat recording]

You have 30 seconds to check your answers. [30 sec music]

This is the end of Section 1.