



## A Bald Eagle Release Story



copyright 2006 Journey North  
[www.learner.org/jnorth/](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/)

Photos© Peter Nye  
By Mary Hosier



## Say "Good-bye" to Eagle U27!

U27 was captured while feeding along New York's Delaware River. Eagleye Nye and his team caught her under a big net while she was busy feeding. She was "gently captured" and not hurt at all. After weighing and measuring her they strapped a back-pack satellite radio unit onto her back.

*What season is it?*



## A Powerful Bird

Image holding on to 14 lbs of taut, steel-strong muscle. The eagle's legs contain about 35 different muscles. An eagle's sharp beak and strong claws can cause a lot of injury. Eagle biologists must be alert. See how Eagleye directs the bird straight ahead toward the river as he releases her? *Is this eagle ready to fly?*



### **A Closer Look**

It takes great energy to flap such large wings; like running with a large kite until it takes off. Notice how high up the wing tips reach. *What will the wings do next? How does this help to make the bird fly?* Notice the eagle's feet have scales instead of feathers. U27 now wears a NYS blue leg band and a USFWS aluminum leg band.



### **Flapping and Soaring**

Eagles have long, large wings, short necks, and legs they can tuck into their belly feathers after takeoff. U27's wing span is 6 to 7 feet! Imagine what it takes to flap those wings. When eagles fly long distances, as on migration, they often soar on thermals until they reach a high altitude. This helps them travel using less energy.





### **Home? or Just a Rest Stop?**

Do you think U27 can find food, water and shelter to keep her alive in this habitat? Where will she go next? Will she stay all year? Or, will U27 prove to be a migrating eagle that happened along the Delaware River one winter day searching for food? *What will help us find these things out?*



### **Stay Tuned U27. Keep in Touch!**

Look at U27's body shape as she flies away. Can you see the bright white of her tail feathers? Notice her wide wing span. Bald eagles are easy to identify when you know what to watch for. Her transmitter will send signals to let us track her on our Journey North maps. *Where will she go?* **Stay tuned; the answer is coming this spring!**