

“Bald Eagle”



In 1979 there were only 36 documented sightings of bald eagles in the state of South Carolina. The national symbol of the United States was on the brink of extinction. Long before the harmful effects of DDT ravaged eagle populations across the country, hunting was threatening the species' livelihood. Bounties were issued for the lawful killing of bald eagles in the United States up until the mid-1950s. A

lack of understanding and scientific study led to widespread misplaced fear of eagles. The misunderstanding continues today as the Avian Conservation Center still treats gunshot wounds in local bald eagles.

There are an increasing number of threats facing the remaining populations. A recent study analyzing the blood lead levels of eagles in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida found that eagles in South Carolina had significantly higher blood lead levels than in other states. Lead poisoning is lethal to birds such as Bald Eagles. Eagles and other birds of prey are ingesting animals that have been hunted with lead bullets.

In 2017, a federal ban on hunting with lead bullets was lifted. Many hunters use lead ammunition because it is heavier than steel or copper, meaning the bullet reaches the target more accurately. Lead ammo is also cheaper than steel or copper. The increased use of the lead bullets has led to an alarming rate of deaths among the Bald Eagle population.

Laura Palermo donates 10% of the profits from all wildlife art sales to conservation of our threatened and endangered species.