

## PASSAGE 2

The next three passages are about bald eagles. Read the first passage and answer questions 8–11. Then, read the second passage and answer questions 12–13. Then, read the third passage and answer questions 14–19.

## The Eagles Are Back!

by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

In his 1999 Fourth of July celebration speech, President Bill Clinton declared that our national symbol, the bald eagle, was no longer endangered. This welcome news for wildlife wasn't just the result of good luck. For more than twenty years, scientists and volunteers across the country have worked to help the bald eagle come back. And come back it did.

Once bald eagles spread their wings over every state except Hawaii. Before European settlement, between 25,000 and 75,000 bald eagles lived in the lower forty-eight states, with thousands more in Alaska. But as settlers cut down trees and turned wilderness into towns and cities, the number of eagles began to decline.

At first the number of eagles dwindled slowly. Then during the late 1940s, bald eagle populations began to plummet. And where eagles did survive, few raised chicks. By the mid-1960s many biologists feared our national bird would disappear forever. Fewer than five hundred breeding pairs of bald eagles were left in the lower forty-eight states.

Luckily, scientists soon discovered the major cause of the bald eagle's decline—the pesticide DDT. Starting in the late 1940s, DDT was widely used to control insects such as mosquitoes and crop pests. But while it did kill pests, DDT also got into the food chain, and eagles ate contaminated fish and other prey. The DDT didn't kill eagles, but it did weaken the shells of their eggs. When a parent nestled up to its eggs to warm them, the shells would break, killing the developing birds inside. Other birds, such as pelicans and ospreys, were having the same problem.

Something had to be done. In 1972 the U.S. government banned DDT. Then in 1973 the all-important Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress. The Endangered Species Act protects plants and animals whose populations are so small that they might disappear forever. If a species is in danger of becoming extinct, it is listed as endangered. A species at risk of becoming endangered is called threatened. The bald eagle was listed as endangered in forty-three states and threatened in five. Only in Alaska was the bald eagle holding its own.

Eagles started to recover in 1974 when the effects of leftover DDT began to wear off. But the government didn't stop there. Places where bald eagles lived were protected. Eagles require gigantic trees to build their huge nests. They feed largely on fish and water birds, so they need to live near undisturbed lakes, ponds, and rivers. When bald eagles nested on public land, people were kept away so the birds wouldn't be bothered. And anyone who killed a bald eagle had to pay a large fine.

Because a pair of eagles normally produces just two eggs each year, scientists searched for ways to increase the number of eagles faster. One way to do this was to raise eagle chicks in captivity. Bald eagles were brought to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland and bred there. As soon as a female eagle laid a clutch of eggs, they were removed and kept warm so that they would hatch. Most birds then laid two more eggs, which they were allowed to care for. The extra eggs could be placed in the nest of a pair of eagles whose eggs didn't hatch. The foster parents would then raise the chick or chicks as their own. In this way, four eaglets instead of two could be raised from each mated pair. By the time the program ended in 1988, 124 bald eagles had been hatched there for release into the wild.

Young eagles can learn to live on their own through a method called hacking. When captive eaglets are eight weeks old, they are given a new home high on a tower or in an abandoned eagle nest in a good eagle habitat. Humans who stay out of sight bring food for the young birds until they can fly and hunt well enough to feed themselves.

All the work to save bald eagles paid off. The number of bald eagles in the lower forty-eight states has increased steadily since 1975.

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

E05.B-K.1.1.2

8. Read the details from “The Eagles Are Back!”

“But while it did kill pests, DDT also got into the food chain, and eagles ate contaminated fish and other prey.”

“The extra eggs could be placed in the nest of a pair of eagles whose eggs didn’t hatch.”

Which main ideas of the passage are supported by the details?

- A. The bald eagle has been endangered in the past, and the bald eagle is now near extinction.
- B. People were responsible for the bald eagle’s decline, and people have helped the bald eagle return.
- C. The bald eagle has lived in many states, and the bald eagle needs to live near lakes and rivers.
- D. People were celebrating the bald eagle’s return, and people have cut down trees where bald eagles lived.

E05.B-V.4.1.1

9. What does the word contaminated mean as it is used in the passage?

- A. poisoned
- B. furious
- C. astonished
- D. worthless

E05.B-V.4.1.2

10. In "The Eagles Are Back!" which word is an antonym for gigantic?

- A. peaceful
- B. steady
- C. bare
- D. small

E05.B-C.3.1.1

11. How does the author of "The Eagles Are Back!" support the point "by the mid-1960s many biologists feared our national bird would disappear forever"?

- A. by stating the opinion, "this welcome news for wildlife wasn't just the result of good luck"
- B. by providing the statistic, "fewer than five hundred breeding pairs of bald eagles were left in the lower forty-eight states"
- C. by including the detail, "eagles started to recover in 1974 when the effects of leftover DDT began to wear off"
- D. by stating the fact, "by the time the program ended in 1988, 124 bald eagles had been hatched there for release into the wild"

Read the second passage and answer questions 12–13.

## Bald eagles make a comeback in Chicago

*The following passage is from a television news report that was broadcasted on April 16, 2012. Brian Williams and Kevin Tibbles are television news reporters.*

**Brian Williams** (anchor): Finally tonight, bald eagles, the symbol of America, came close to being totally wiped out in America. But they've made a remarkable comeback, as you may know, in recent years. So much so, they're not just showing up in the wilds of Maine and Montana. They may live a lot closer to you than you think. Our report from NBC's Kevin Tibbles.

**Kevin Tibbles** (reporting): Some new neighbors are raising a family in St. Paul, Minnesota. In the 50 years Stan Wandersee's lived in this house, he's seen many come and go, but never any like these.

**Mr. Stan Wandersee:** This is a—this is a gift of nature.

**Tibbles:** The bald eagle is returning to areas [of] urban sprawl [that] pollution forced it to abandon decades ago.

**Ms. Megan Ross** (Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, Illinois): DDT was a really big problem for the bald eagles. Bald eagles in particular were not able to form appropriate shells, and so, since they weren't able to reproduce, their numbers really plummeted.

**Tibbles:** Once on the endangered species list, this majestic symbol of American pride is spreading its wings. And many can now see them in a setting that doesn't involve a trip to the zoo.

**Ms. Ross:** I think bald eagles are just such majestic creatures. It'll be really nice and exciting to see them right in our backyard.

**Tibbles:** When this pair nested at the Alcoa plant in Davenport, Iowa, employees set up a webcam to share these intimate pictures of the eaglets with the world. It's had five million views this year alone.

This secluded forest preserve sits hidden from the roughly 10 million people who call Chicago home. Yet here, just a few miles from the skyscrapers, is something that hasn't been seen in 100 years: an eagle's nest. The fact that they've come back, does that tell us anything?

**Mr. Chris Merenowicz** (Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois): I think it tells us a lot. It tells us that we're doing the right thing.

**Tibbles:** And it was a close call. By the 1960s, just 450 pairs of eagles remained in the lower 48 states. Today those numbers have soared to more than 9,000, giving hope these treasured icons can once again live side by side with the humans who cherish them. Kevin Tibbles, NBC News, Chicago.

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION**

E05.B-V.4.1.1

12. Read the sentences from "Bald eagles make a comeback in Chicago."

"By the 1960s, just 450 pairs of eagles remained in the lower 48 states. Today those numbers have soared to more than 9,000 . . ."

What does the word soared mean as it is used in the sentences?

- A. risen
- B. surprised
- C. mistaken
- D. found

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**SELECTED-RESPONSE QUESTION**

E05.B-K.1.1.1

13. This question has two parts. Answer Part One and then answer Part Two.

**Part One**

What is an inference that can be drawn from “Bald eagles make a comeback in Chicago”?

- A. People are very interested in seeing bald eagles in the wild.
- B. Bald eagles only live in urban areas.
- C. Media coverage has had a negative impact on the eagles.
- D. In the future the eagle population will decrease.

**Part Two**

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the inference in Part One?  
Choose **one** answer.

- A. “DDT was a really big problem for the bald eagles.”
- B. “Some new neighbors are raising a family in St. Paul, Minnesota.”
- C. “It’s had five million views this year alone.”
- D. “It tells us that we’re doing the right thing.”

Read the third passage and answer questions 14–19.

## Bald eagle deaths raising concerns

By Matthew Tresaugue  
San Antonio Express-News

Saturday, April 7, 2012 — At least seven bald eagles have died in eastern Texas in the past year because of unintended encounters with power lines, an alarming rate of death at a time when the once-endangered species is rebounding, federal wildlife officials said.

Jim Stinebaugh, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent based in Houston, said the raptors died from electrocutions or impacts involving power lines and poles in six counties, including Harris.

“It is happening more often, and because of the eagles’ resurgence, it is going to increase,” he said.

The bald eagle, a national symbol almost wiped out by pesticide, pollution and hunters in the 1960s, is flourishing again in Texas and across the country. The Interior Department removed the large and charismatic bird from the protection of the Endangered Species Act five years ago, with about 10,000 mating pairs nationwide.

At the time the species’ status changed, Texas had 156 breeding pairs, up from a historic low of five in 1970, according to the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Since then, the state agency has not conducted annual population surveys of bald eagles because of the financial cost, said Brent Ortego, a state biologist.

Ortego said he thinks the eagle population has continued to grow at a rate of about 10 percent a year.

“We think they are doing OK,” he said, “but we do not have the data.”

Still, Ortego said the number of deaths in the past year is high and “those are just the ones they found.”

As the population grows, the birds have had to adapt to the hubbub of humanity. They prefer forested areas near rivers and lakes, the same kind of places that also are drawing more people, more buildings and more energy needs.

Power poles and lines are particularly attractive to birds, especially eagles, hawks and falcons, which use them to spot prey. The problem arises when electricity transmission wires are within the distance of an eagle’s wingspan, which ranges from 6 feet to 8 feet.

“The danger comes from the potential to touch two lines,” said Jeff DallaRosa, ecological programs manager for CenterPoint Energy Inc., which delivers power to Houston. “The eagle is such a large bird that a lot of poles do not have that kind of spacing.”



In January, an eagle carrying prey struck CenterPoint lines near the San Jacinto River in east Harris County. Crews found the dead bird while working to restore power in the area after the incident.

CenterPoint responded by providing a plan to prevent electrocutions to federal authorities. The strategies include installing “raptor guards” that prevent eagles from roosting on wires and poles and working with Houston Audubon and other bird enthusiasts to identify lines near nests for extra precautions.

“The young ones can be awkward and do not make the best decisions,” DallaRosa said.

Authorities can seek criminal prosecution of companies and others for the bird deaths under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty. Stinebaugh, however, said companies such as CenterPoint Energy recognize the problem and have done a good job taking corrective actions.

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

E05.B-V.4.1.1

14. In "Bald eagle deaths raising concerns," the meaning of the Latin prefix "trans-" helps the reader know that "transmission" means
- A. communication above.
  - B. communication beneath.
  - C. communication before.
  - D. communication across.
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E05.B-V.4.1.2

15. In "Bald eagle deaths raising concerns," which word is a synonym for restore?
- A. react
  - B. reflect
  - C. relate
  - D. repair

**SELECTED-RESPONSE QUESTION**

E05.B-K.1.1.3

16. The following question has two parts. Answer Part One and then answer Part Two.

**Part One**

Based on “Bald eagle deaths raising concerns,” what is the relationship between the existence of power lines and the rate of bald eagle deaths?

- A. The materials that are used to build power lines affect the rate of bald eagle deaths.
- B. The pesticides used near power lines affect the rate of bald eagle deaths.
- C. The distance power lines are from each other affects the rate of bald eagle deaths.
- D. The pollution created by power lines affects the rate of bald eagle deaths.

**Part Two**

What evidence from the passage supports your answer above? Choose **two** answers.

- A. “. . . electricity transmission wires are within the distance of an eagle's wingspan, . . .”
- B. “ ‘The danger comes from the potential to touch two lines,’ . . .”
- C. “Power poles and lines are particularly attractive to birds, . . .”
- D. “Crews found the dead bird while working to restore power in the area . . .”

Questions 17–19 refer to more than one passage. Be sure to read each question carefully.

### **MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

**E05.B-C.2.1.1**

- 17.** Which statement **best** describes the difference in the point of view of “The Eagles Are Back!” from the other two passages?
- A. “The Eagles Are Back!” is written from the point of view of a scientist interested in explaining the problems faced by bald eagles, while the other two passages are written from the point of view of biologists and politicians studying the effects of pesticides on bald eagles.
  - B. “The Eagles Are Back!” is written from the point of view of a student researching bald eagles, while the other two passages are written from the point of view of park rangers who discuss how parks have brought back bald eagles.
  - C. “The Eagles Are Back!” is written from the point of view of an individual providing a general history of bald eagles throughout the country, while the other two passages are written from the point of view of reporters who discuss sightings of bald eagles in particular areas of the country.
  - D. “The Eagles Are Back!” is written from the point of view of a resident who has sighted bald eagles, while the other two passages are written from the point of view of historians who describe where bald eagles used to live.

E05.B-C.2.1.2

18. What is the overall structure of **all** three passages?
- A. All three passages compare different ways that have been used to increase the number of bald eagles.
  - B. All three passages discuss the cause and effect of the bald eagle decreasing and then increasing in number.
  - C. All three passages ask a question about how the bald eagle has increased in number and then answer it.
  - D. All three passages discuss the issue of the decreasing number of bald eagles with details in order of importance.



E05.B-C.2.1.2

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**TEXT-DEPENDENT ANALYSIS QUESTION**

E05.E.1.1

19. The passages discuss the impact that people have had on the bald eagle. Write an essay analyzing how people are helping the bald eagle increase in numbers. Use information from all three passages to support your response.

## Writer's Checklist for the Text-Dependent Analysis Question

### PLAN before you write

- Make sure you read the question carefully.
- Make sure you have read the entire passage carefully.
- Think about how the question relates to the passage.
- Organize your ideas on scratch paper. Use a thought map, outline, or other graphic organizer to plan your essay.

### FOCUS while you write

- Analyze the information from the passage as you write your essay.
- Make sure you use evidence from the passage to support your response.
- Use precise language, a variety of sentence types, and transitions in your essay.
- Organize your paper with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

### PROOFREAD after you write

- I wrote my final essay in the answer booklet.
- I stayed focused on answering the question.
- I used evidence from the passage to support my response.
- I corrected errors in capitalization, spelling, sentence formation, punctuation, and word choice.

GO ON