

The Carson Valley bottomlands are carpeted with haylands, pastures, wetlands and the Carson River floodplain and channel. Pasture grasses, alfalfa and mixed grass hay stands are the dominant vegetation. The river area is mostly cottonwood and willow plant communities with native and introduced grasses. Most of the cottonwood and willow habitats along the river have active erosion problems. Numerous conservation projects with dozens of partners are currently working to restore the watershed.

On the valley bottomlands you will find 95 percent of the **Bald Eagle** population. **Bald and Golden Eagles** come to feast on the nutrient-rich afterbirth in the winter calving season. These habitats are all managed by the local ranches. Without their agriculture and stewardship of the land, the **Bald Eagles** would probably not migrate to the Carson Valley.

The other raptors commonly seen include:

- * **Red-tailed Hawk**
- * **Rough-legged Hawk**
- * **Ferruginous Hawk**
- * **Coopers Hawk**
- * **Sharp-shinned Hawk**
- * **Northern Harrier**
- * **Swainson's Hawk**
- * **Turkey Vulture**
- * **Osprey**
- * **Prairie Falcon**
- * **American Kestrel**
- * **Merlin**
- * **Burrowing Owl**
- * **Great Horned Owl**
- * **The Barn Owl**

The **Peregrine Falcon** is an annual visitor to the Carson Valley but sightings are rare.

Agricultural Lands:

A Non-Renewable Resource in the West



With the advent of the personal computer and the Internet, rural America is rapidly urbanizing. Every agricultural valley with scenic mountains and a river course is now subject to development pressure. High technology and dotcom businesses no longer have to locate in cities to compete in the world market. Like never before, agricultural lands are being split into subdivisions, small ranches and housing tracts.

Agricultural lands provide habitat for wildlife, floodplains for rivers, recharge for groundwater, view sheds, carbon sequestration, and food and fiber for the world. When agricultural lands disappear under asphalt, we lose precious soil, stable economic sectors and the very reason many of us move to rural America — "quality of life." Eagles & Agriculture is not just bird watching and ranch education. It is a program focused on the precious non-renewable agricultural land and wildlife habitat we lose when we pave over our ranches and farms. They are more than range, pastures and haylands — they are the fabric of our communities and we need to find a way to protect their intrinsic values before they become extinct.



Good ranching practices are beneficial to livestock and wildlife.

We wish to thank our generous supporters:

Senator John Ensign & Assemblyman James Setteimeyer—Honorary Co-Chairmen
 Byington Ranch
 Burr Ranch
 Mack Ranch
 Park Ranch
 Settelmeyer Ranch
 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority
 Carson Valley Conservation District
 Carson Valley Inn
 Douglas County Farm Bureau
 Douglas County Historical Society
 Full Circle Compost
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 Ranch 1
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 Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development

For next year's details call:
 Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development at (775) 883-2292
 or
 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce at (775) 782-8144.
 or
 Go to www.visitcarsonvalley.org

The Carson Valley Welcomes Eagles & Agriculture Tour 2007



February 21 & 25

"A program demonstrating how agricultural stewardship benefits wildlife and their habitats in Nevada."

Program Goals



Encourage the conservation and prosperity of ranching in western Nevada



Promote the benefits that agriculture provides wildlife and the community



Teach participants about eagle habits, habitat, and life cycle and the history of agriculture in the Carson Valley



Demonstrate an example of agritourism that will potentially enhance profitability for local agricultural operations and businesses.

~Washoe Tribe~

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, whose traditional lands extend throughout 1.5 million acres in and around Lake Tahoe in what is now the states of Nevada and California. For thousands of years the Washoe people lived within the graceful patterns and rhythms of nature. They knew the territory well and respected all its resources. As a strong and resilient people, they have achieved great self-reliance by diversifying their economic base, protecting natural resources, improving family services, expanding educational and job opportunities and strengthening community ties.



Special thanks to our local tribe for trespass permission and conserving wildlife habitat!

~Carson Valley ranchers conserve and protect our natural resources~



Settlemeyer Ranches were established in 1890, when William Arthur Settlemeyer purchased the Allerman ranch. William moved to this community from West Phalia, West Germany, and raised the money to buy the ranch after working for 10 years. Several generations of Settlemeyers have cared for the ranches, generation after generation.

Fritz Heise (Burr) Ranch was established in the late 1800s. Fritz and Doretta had eight children. The oldest son died of pneumonia when he was 17 years old. The ranch originally had dairy cows. Fritz was the treasurer for the Carson Valley Creamery Co-op. He was killed in a wagon accident in 1913. Doretta and three of the children, Sigfried, Otto and Anna, continued running the ranch operation. Hilda Heise married Clarence Burr Senior and they had two children, Clarence Junior and Mary. Clarence and his family lived in Oakland, California. Clarence came to the ranch as a young man and started learning about ranching from his uncles. The tractors and equipment were his favorite. Today the ranch runs about 160 beef cows and raises premium certified, weed-free hay on 650 acres.

Galeppi (Byington) Ranch at 560 Genoa Lane was first established in 1864. In 1895 Mary and John Rosser purchased the ranch and established the JR brand that is still used today. The Settlemeyer and Schacht family purchased the property in 1895 from the Rossers. In 1950 the August Schacht family sold the ranch to Frances and Leo Galeppi from Doyle, California. The Galeppis had two daughters, Sandra and Barbara. In 1959 Barbara married Dallas Byington from Sparks. A family corporation called Galeppi Land & Livestock was owned by Dallas and Barbara Byington and their son, Russel, and Sandra with Robert Snively and daughters, Stormy and Jill, as shareholders. Dal and Barbara have operated the ranch since 1963 and both still oversee to the day-to-day operations.

Mack Land & Cattle is one of the few ranches in Nevada that have remained in the family for more than 100 years. H.H. Springmeyer arrived in Carson Valley from Prussia with his intended bride Wilhelmine Heidtman in the mid 1800s. They were married in Virginia City soon after and returned to the Springmeyer ranch home, which is now Mack Land & Cattle. H.H., as he was called, ended up owning thousands of acres in the Carson Valley. He and Wilhelmine had 10 children. One of the daughters married Morris Mack and purchased the ranch from H.H. in 1920. They deeded the property to their son Duane and his wife Mary in 1937. At their death in 2002, the property went to their children, Maureen (Renee) Mack and Dr. Thomas Mack. In its heyday, the ranch was known for its fine shire horses and outstanding cattle. Today it is known for purebred angus and premiere horse hay and is run by Renee Mack and her son Brian Parks.

Special thanks to our local ranches for trespass permission and conserving wildlife habitat!



2006 Tour participants viewing Bald Eagles

~Bald Eagles~



Bald Eagles migrate from the northern Great Basin and the Pacific Northwest and arrive in Carson Valley as early as November and begin leaving the valley in March. By the end of March it is rare to spot **Bald**

Eagles. **Golden Eagles**, on the other hand, are year-round residents of Carson Valley and nest in the Pinenut Range to the east and Carson Range to the west. The **Bald Eagle** has attempted to nest in Eagle Valley (Carson City) to the north and in the trees on the shores of Lake Lahontan to the east. Breeding begins when birds are 3 to 5 years of age. They commonly produce a clutch of two eggs. They mate for life and generally return to the same nest year after year.

In 2003, in a 4-hour period, 120 birds of prey were sighted in the Carson Valley, including 35 **Bald Eagles**.

Carson Valley: Wildlife and Birds of Prey Habitat



Carson Valley is home to more than 21 different bird of prey species. The wildlife habitats of the area are as diverse as the birds that use them.

High in the Carson Range, fir, pine and cedar forests are home to owls and the spectacular **Northern Goshawk**. Lower down the mountain, pinyon and juniper woodlands give way to antelope bitterbrush and big sagebrush shrub communities that support **Golden Eagles** and numerous hawk species that prey on rodents.

(continued on back)

Golden Eagle

JUVENILE EAGLES

Bald Eagle

small flat head

big round head

gold nape

no gold nape

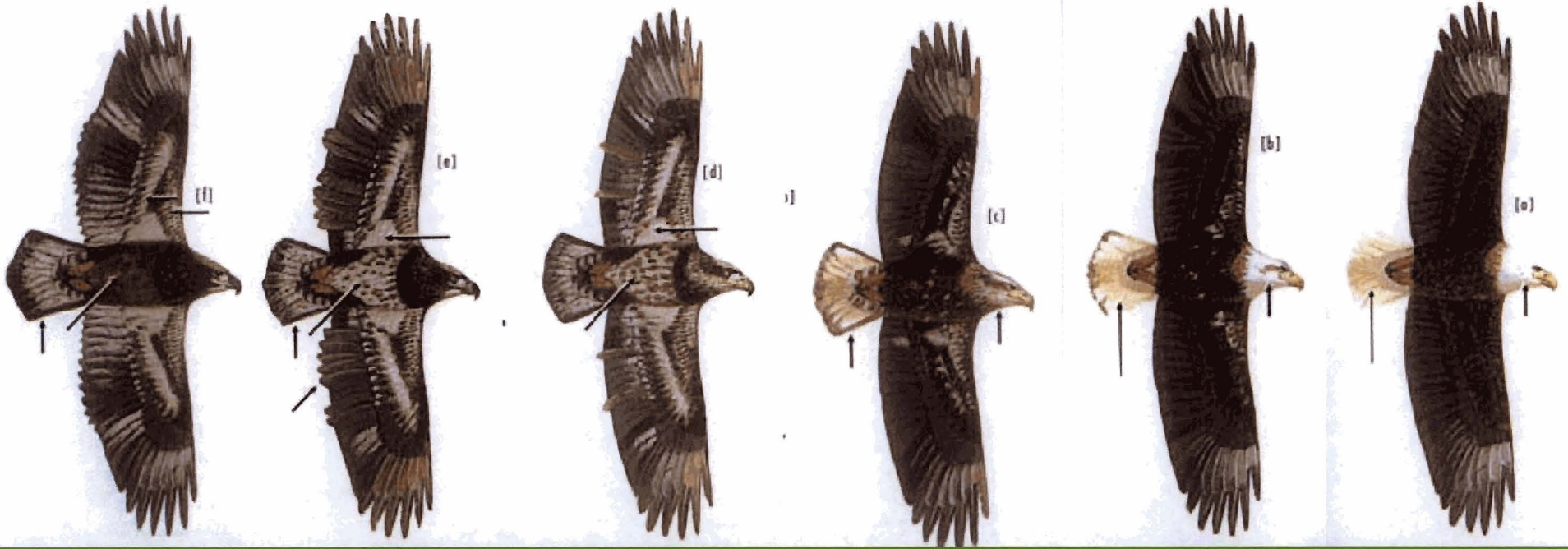
dark brown

spotchy brown

crisp tail white

tail muddy white





JUVENILE

less than
a year old

brown belly
white wingpits

SUBADULT

1 to 3 year old

white belly
white wingpits

NEARLY ADULT

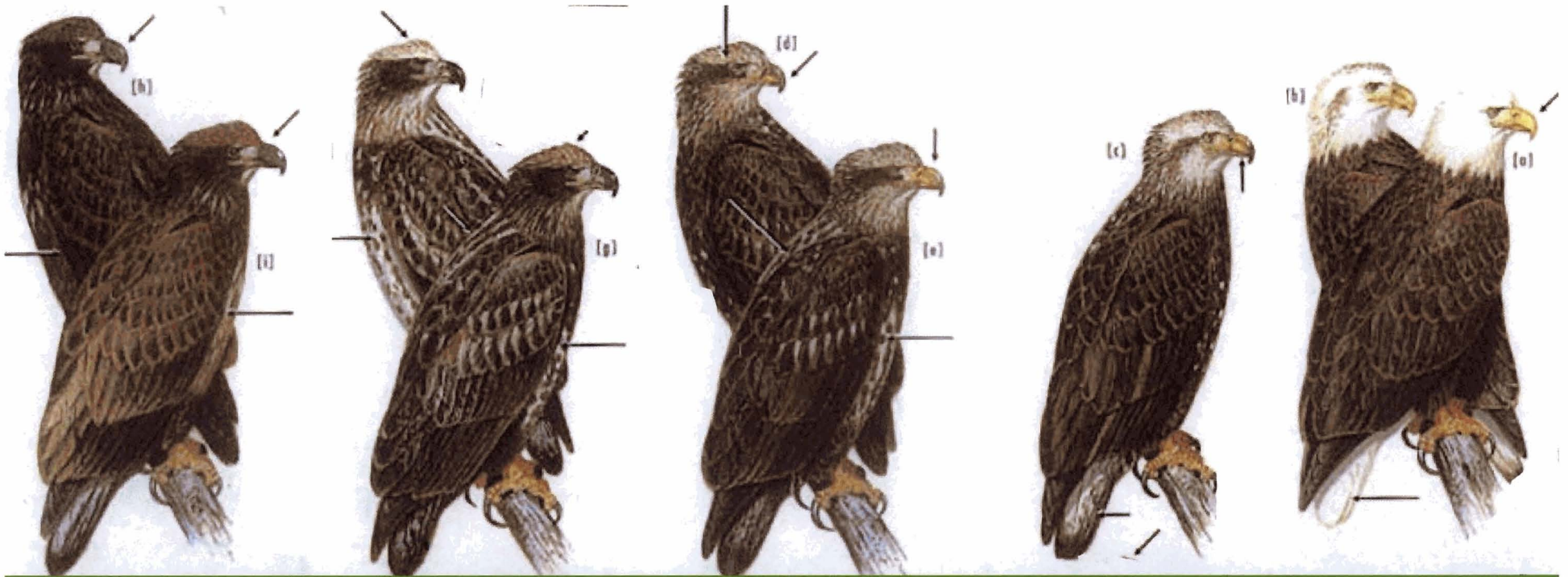
4 year old

brown belly
dark wings
nearly adult

ADULT

5+ year old

classic adult
**BALD
EAGLE**



First Year



Second



Third



Fourth



Fifth

black bill
brown body
brown belly

bill starts
belly white

bill
yellowish
belly white
head starts

bill
yellowish
belly brown
head whitish

bill lemon
belly brown
head white
tail white

JUVENILE

WHITE BELLY

NEARLY

ADULT
Bald Eagle