

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, one of the largest birds of prey, the bald eagle is the revered symbol of the United States of America's independence and strength; once endangered with possible extinction, the bald eagle has made a strong and impressive comeback to the skies of New York State; and

Whereas, the bald eagle was federally classified as an endangered species in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, and was upgraded to a less imperiled, threatened status under that act in 1995; it was classified as endangered in New York State, in 1972, and subsequently reclassified as threatened, due to recovering population numbers; and

Whereas, the recovery of the bald eagle was accomplished through the environmental stewardship of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Bald Eagle Restoration Program, and has resulted in the restoration of more than 387 territorial pairs and 264 active nests of bald eagles throughout the state in 2015; and

Whereas, the New York State Bald Eagle Restoration Program fittingly began in our Nation's Bicentennial Anniversary year of 1976, in an attempt to reestablish a breeding population through hand-rearing birds to independence, known as *hacking*; and

Whereas, the New York State Bald Eagle Restoration Program's focus has now shifted to finding and protecting nesting pairs in New York State, and monitoring their productivity; currently, bald eagles continue to do well and, each year, New York State's bald eagles fledge about 10 percent more young eagles than in the previous year; and

Whereas, the bald eagle is a long-lived bird with a potential lifespan of more than 30 years and, one year ago, a 38-year-old bald eagle was found deceased outside Rochester, its band number indicating that it was the oldest eagle ever found in the nation – by five years – and raised in New York State in the late 1970s; this record is testament to the diligent conservation and restoration efforts carried out under the New York State Bald Eagle Restoration Program; and

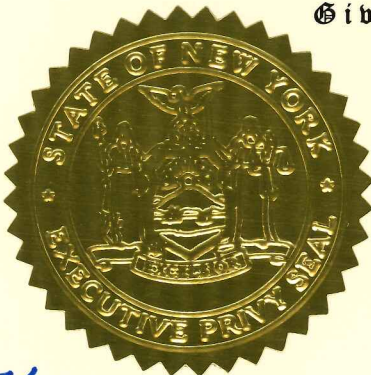
Whereas, the recovery of the bald eagle remains an environmental priority of New York State, and there is much optimism that the bald eagle population in the future will continue to increase in New York State and elsewhere, returning to areas from which they have disappeared; all New Yorkers are encouraged to join in support of the bald eagle's enduring presence in the state, the protection of its important natural habitat, and the commemoration of its living and symbolic presence;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2016 as

AMERICAN BALD EAGLE DAY

in the Empire State, and with a commitment to securing sufficient suitable eagle habitat and limiting human disturbance within these habitats, allowing the species to continue to live and expand in New York State.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifteenth
day of June in the year two thousand sixteen.



Governor

Secretary to the Governor