Sharing his Catch

Eating Habits of Eagles

Wildlife Observation Notes:

Getting ready to be nesting parents will require a lot of cooperation. Watch these two eagles to discover their feeding habits.

Observe the eagles and answer these questions:

1. What do eagles do when they catch prey?

2. How did the father behave when his partner ate his kill. Based on his behaviour, do you think he shared the food intentionally (on purpose)

3. How did the mother behave when she ate the food. Do you think she was given the food or do you think she took the food away from her partner?

Deeper Thinking

Things that we think of as selfish behaviours and giving behaviours are not always part of an animal's understanding. Animals behave in ways that increase their own species' chances of survival or successful reproduction. An instinct is behaviour that is genetically part of the way a species acts, for example, mice are timid and dogs bark. In this recording you see a female eagle eat a dove that her partner caught.

Why did the father eagle allow his partner to have the food? Keep in mind, there were no eggs in this nest yet. Why would such a behaviour be beneficial to the survival of his species?

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