

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

(*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)



Adult



Photo: Neil Fifer.

Juvenile

Description

The White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) is a large, white bird of prey with greyish wings and a short, rounded tail. Adults have a white head, breast and abdomen, and the tail is grey with a distinctive broad, white tip. The juveniles are speckled brown with a pale face. By their second year, they are whiter in colour, although still patchy; they do not acquire their full adult plumage until their fourth year.

Juvenile birds may sometimes be mistaken for Wedge-tailed Eagles (*Aquila audax*). The most distinctive

features of the juvenile White-bellied Sea-Eagle is the pale head and short, rounded white tail, whereas the Wedge-tailed Eagle has a darker head, varying from brown to black and a longer, dark wedge-shaped tail.

The voice of the White-bellied Sea-Eagle is very distinctive. Often adults will make a loud, deep goose-like honking or cackling; whereas begging juveniles will give a more prolonged yelping or wailing. The voice of a Wedge-tailed Eagle is more of a whistle or loud, shrill scream.

Photos by Chris Field unless stated otherwise

Wedge-tailed Eagle

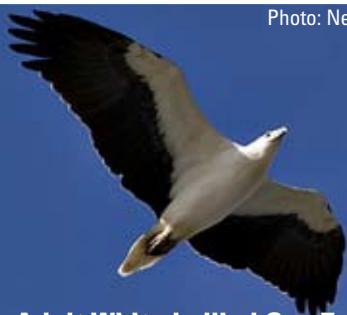


Adult



Juvenile

Photo: Neil Fifer.



Adult White-bellied Sea-Eagle



Juvenile White-bellied Sea-Eagle



Adult Wedge-Tailed Eagle



Juvenile Wedge-Tailed Eagle



www.malleecma.vic.gov.au

To report a sighting, log on to www.malleecma.vic.gov.au/get-involved

mallee
catchment management authority