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## Squirrel keeps outfoxing Pittsburgh bald eagles



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Wed., January 29, 2020 8:21 p.m.

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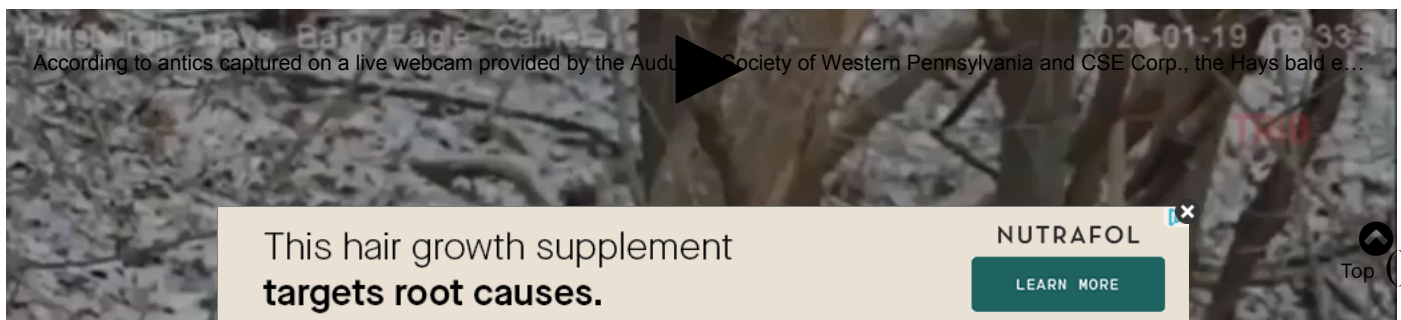
PIXABAY

When it comes to a sly fox, the Pittsburgh Hays bald eagles don't give it more than a passing glance.

But a rascally squirrel? That's another story.

According to antics captured on a live webcam provided by the [Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania](http://www.aswp.org/pages/hays-nest) (<http://www.aswp.org/pages/hays-nest>) and CSE Corp., the eagles have been outsmarted numerous times by a bushy-tailed critter that routinely scurries through the raptors' nest.

The comings and goings of the eagle couple is literally under a lens as the [webcam](https://www.csecorporation.com/Pittsburgh-Hays-Bald-Eagle-Cam) (<https://www.csecorporation.com/Pittsburgh-Hays-Bald-Eagle-Cam>) is live, currently documenting "nestorations" and renewed courtship. The eagles are expected to lay their eggs in mid-February.





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A fox is not an unusual resident in the Hays woods that the Pittsburgh eagles call home. It's a massive area of Pittsburgh above the Monongahela River near the Glenwood Bridge.

The eagle doesn't view the fox as food, according to Doug Bergman, a Pennsylvania Game Commission game warden covering southern Allegheny County. "Its natural food source is fish, and an eagle doesn't typically attempt to capture or eat anything bigger than itself or heavier than five pounds," he said.

The fox isn't a threat for the eagle because it does not climb trees, Bergman added.

However, the squirrel is different.

"Now the squirrel would be a food source, and the eagle more than likely is trying to capture the squirrel to eat it," he said.

Why have the eagles been unsuccessful in nabbing the squirrel?

Brian Shema, conservation director for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, said like other predatory birds, eagles are opportunistic. "But they are not agile, and catching a squirrel could be challenging."

Mary Ann Thomas is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Mary at 724-226-4691, [mthomas@tribweb.com](mailto:mthomas@tribweb.com) (<mailto:mthomas@tribweb.com>) or via Twitter [https://twitter.com/MaThomas\\_Trib](https://twitter.com/MaThomas_Trib).

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**Kelli Anne Busey**

Squirrels will taunt other predators. I have seen them do that to my feral cat. I watched them one day as they tried to lure her up a tree that she would have had real problems with getting back down.

The eagles aren't being 'out smarted'. They are just protecting their nests.

Like · Reply · 1w

**Deborah Sammi Griffiths**

Doesn't look like the eagles are really trying to catch it. There are no eggs to protect yet, and eagles don't generally eat squirrels. They are more likely just trying to scare it off.

Great footage, though. It's fun to watch.

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**Pamela Fletcher Sturt**

It doesn't look to me like the eagles are trying to catch the squirrel. I'm not saying they WOULDNT, but as the article and some of the commenters say, they prefer fish, and living near the river, they probably have enough fish that they don't need to go outside their preference. I think they just fly to the nest when they see the squirrel, to insure that he or she doesn't disturb their nest, or come back when their eggs have been laid. Squirrels aren't stupid; if the eagles were in "kill mode", the squirrel would know it and steer clear. Just my opinion, as someone who knows a lot about squirrels, and a little about non humans in general.

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**Roxan Henk Sekinger**

Eagles don't like to eat animals with fur. My husband has a series of pictures of the Pittsburgh Hays eagle eating a squirrel. It took about 45 minutes to peel off the fir and eat the meat. Two of those pictures are on Facebook in Hays Strong.

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**Judy Leipski**

Eagles eat rabbits and squirrels. And chipmonks. I have found hair piles in our yard. So do owls.

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This is the brilliant reason why you should pour dish soap in your toilet!

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Every night before bed she puts a bar of soap beneath his sheets! Can you guess why? ([https://www.tips-and-tricks.co/lifehacks/every-night-bed-puts-bar-soap-beneath-sheets/?utm\\_campaign=ENAbedsoapUS&utm\\_source=\[EncodedAdbladeTracker\]](https://www.tips-and-tricks.co/lifehacks/every-night-bed-puts-bar-soap-beneath-sheets/?utm_campaign=ENAbedsoapUS&utm_source=[EncodedAdbladeTracker]))

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She sticks a rose stalk into a potato and look what happens a week later! Amazing!

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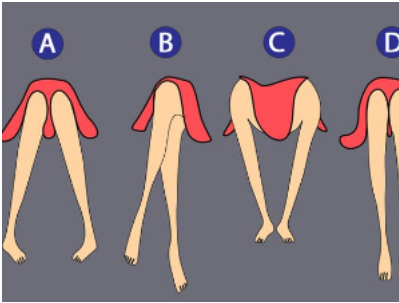
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This is what could happen if you wrap a slice of bread around your foot! Will you try it? ([https://www.tips-and-tricks.co/health/wrap-bread-foot/?utm\\_campaign=ENAbreadfootUS&utm\\_source=\[EncodedAdbladeTracker\]](https://www.tips-and-tricks.co/health/wrap-bread-foot/?utm_campaign=ENAbreadfootUS&utm_source=[EncodedAdbladeTracker]))

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This Is What Your Sitting Position Can Tell You About Your Personality!

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Wrap your feet in aluminum foil and a few hours later you will have this result! This is genius! ([https://www.tips-and-tricks.co/health/wrap-feet-aluminum-foil-hours-later-will-result-genius/?utm\\_campaign=ENAluminumUS&utm\\_source=\[EncodedAdbladeTracker\]](https://www.tips-and-tricks.co/health/wrap-feet-aluminum-foil-hours-later-will-result-genius/?utm_campaign=ENAluminumUS&utm_source=[EncodedAdbladeTracker]))

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