

## **White- bellied Sea Eagle**

### ***Haliaeetus leucogaster***

In recent years a pair of White-bellied Sea Eagles have been living, nesting and hunting in and around the Bundamba Wetlands. Dedicated local survey groups have identified a male and female pair located at Daley's Lagoon where the pair are rearing their young and teaching them to hunt.

The White-bellied Sea Eagle is classified in the large raptor category of predator birds. It is most commonly recognised by its distinctive grey and white plumage, short wedge-shape tail long and broad black tipped wings.

Precision eyesight, long talons (claws) and large bluish/grey hooked bill helps them to catch prey located in and around the waters below them. Adults reach heights of almost 1m tall with an enormous wingspan of 1.8m – 2.2m, making the White-bellied Sea Eagle an impressive addition to the Bundamba region.

White-bellied Sea Eagles are distributed in and around coastal areas of most of Australia. In South East Queensland, the White-bellied Sea Eagle can be found in-land along rivers and amongst creek and wetland areas. Typically they will be found perched high in a tree or hunting 10-20m in the sky, slowly gliding, circling and watching.

The White-bellied Sea Eagle is an opportunistic feeder, and will hunt for a variety of fish, birds, reptiles, mammals and crustaceans.

The main threats to the White-bellied Sea Eagle are habitat loss and the decline of waterways.

[http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon\\_id=943](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=943)

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Haliaeetus-leucogaster>

<http://www.birdlife.org.au/australian-birdlife>