

**Number of feathers and weights of various systems in a Bald Eagle.**—As far as I am aware the number of feathers has never been determined for any member of the Order Falconiformes. A yearling female Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was obtained in Volusia County, Florida, on January 15, 1953. While preparing this bird as a skeleton, I counted the contour feathers. The total count was 7182 feathers, distributed as follows: head 2175, neck 805, body 334, tail 139, left wing 1234 (of which 754 were on the upper surface, and 480 on the under surface), right wing 1369, left leg 551, right leg 535. It is interesting to note that the eagle had only a few more feathers than a Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*), fewer than a Barred Owl (*Strix varia georgica*), and considerably fewer than several species of swimmers of smaller size (Brodkorb, 1951. *Quart. Jour. Florida Acad. Sci.*, 12:241-245).

The total weight of the eagle was 4082 grams. The weights of various parts of the body are given in the table below:

System	Weight in Grams	Percent Body Weight
Integument	1044	25.58
(Contour feathers)	(586)	(14.36)
(Down)	( 91)	( 2.23)
(Skin, including rhamphotheca and podotheca)	(367)	( 8.99)
Muscles and nervous system	2360	57.81
( <i>M. pectoralis superficialis</i> )	(646)	(15.83)
Skeleton	272	6.66
Digestive tract	247	6.05
(Esophagus)	( 33)	( 0.81)
(Stomach)	( 27)	( 0.66)
(Intestine)	(130)	( 3.18)
(Liver)	( 57)	( 1.40)
Respiratory System	76	1.87
(Trachea)	( 17)	( 0.42)
(Lungs)	( 59)	( 1.45)
Heart	58	1.42
Kidneys	25	0.61
Total	4082	100.00

In the paper previously cited I estimated that the weight of the plumage might exceed that of the skeleton. This is substantiated by the present data; in fact, the weight of the skeleton of the eagle was less than half that of the feathers.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, February 18, 1955.*