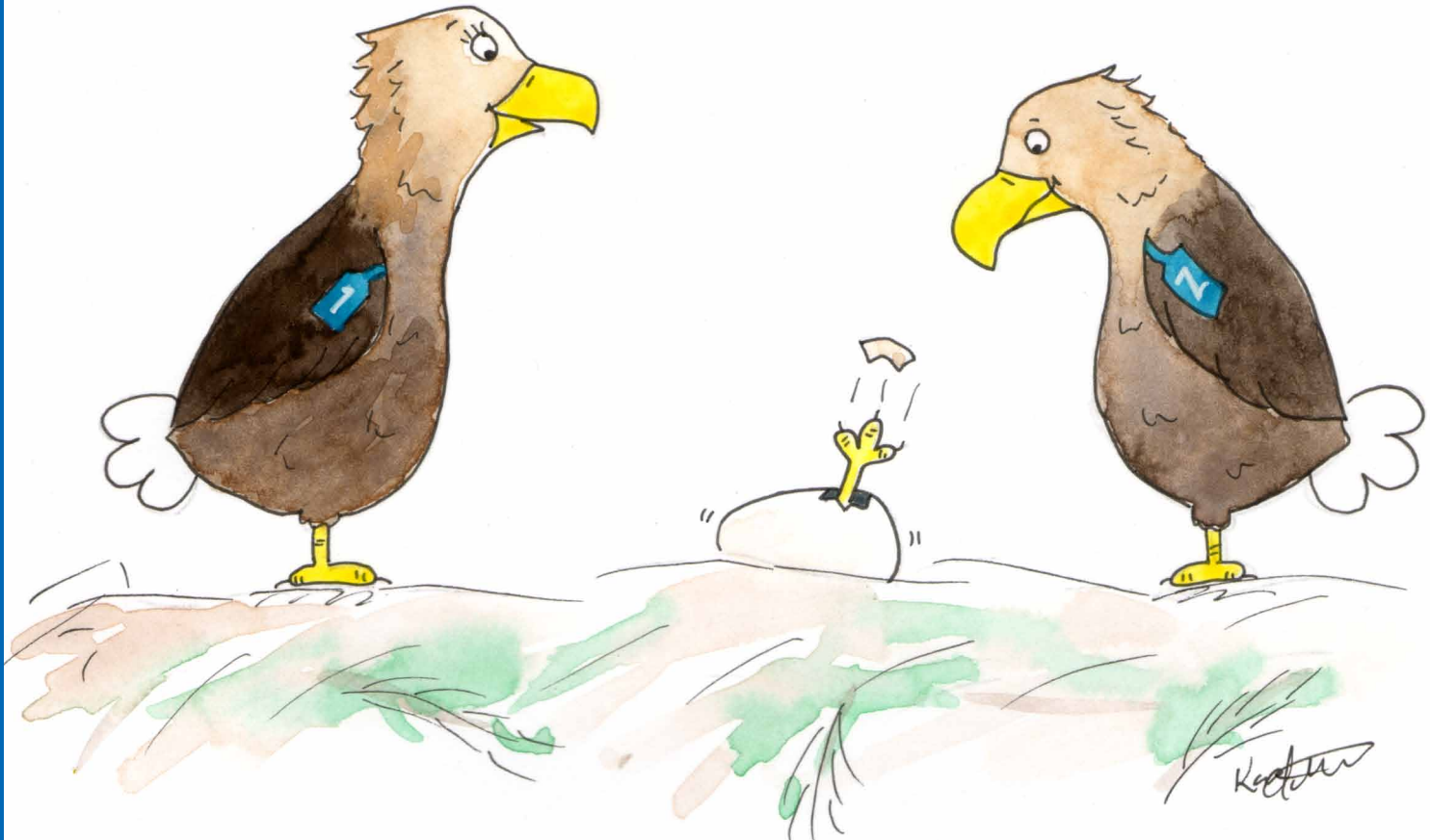


# EAGLE ANTICS

## Tales from the Nest



Written & Illustrated By Karen Hartnell

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## Somewhere in the Kingdom of Fife ...

Two of the 2009 east Scotland released White-tailed Eagles (part of the third phase of the Scottish reintroduction) have set up home together in Fife. *Turquoise 1*, the female, and *Turquoise Z*, the male, are so-called because of their respective turquoise coloured wing tags with identifying letter/number. They made history in 2013, raising the first White-tailed Eagle chick in the east of Scotland for almost 200 years.

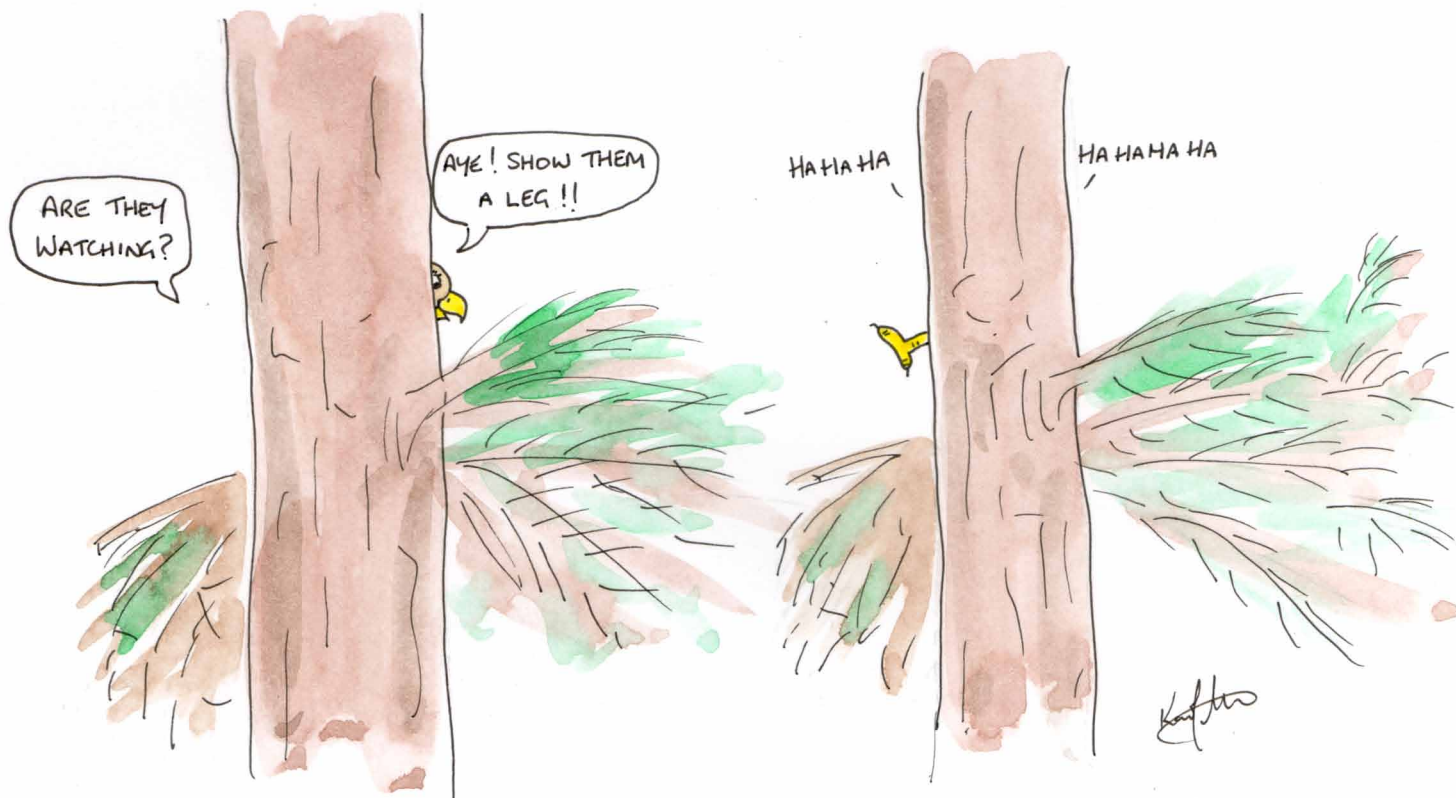
In 2014, another chick successfully fledged the

nest, proving what great parents 1 and Z are. Being a crucial and sensitive time for the Eagles, a Nest Watch team was set up to ensure there was no disturbance. During Nest Watch, it became apparent that, despite the Eagles' large size, they are incredibly sneaky birds. Plus, there were annoying branches, foliage and a tree obscuring the view to the nest, often only allowing brief, tantalising glimpses of the action! This is a record of the pair's 2014 nesting season.



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Behind the annoying tree, branch and foliage, the Eagles were teasing the Nest Watch team ...





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The Eagles' calls often filled the air ...



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It is very important to keep a tidy nest ...



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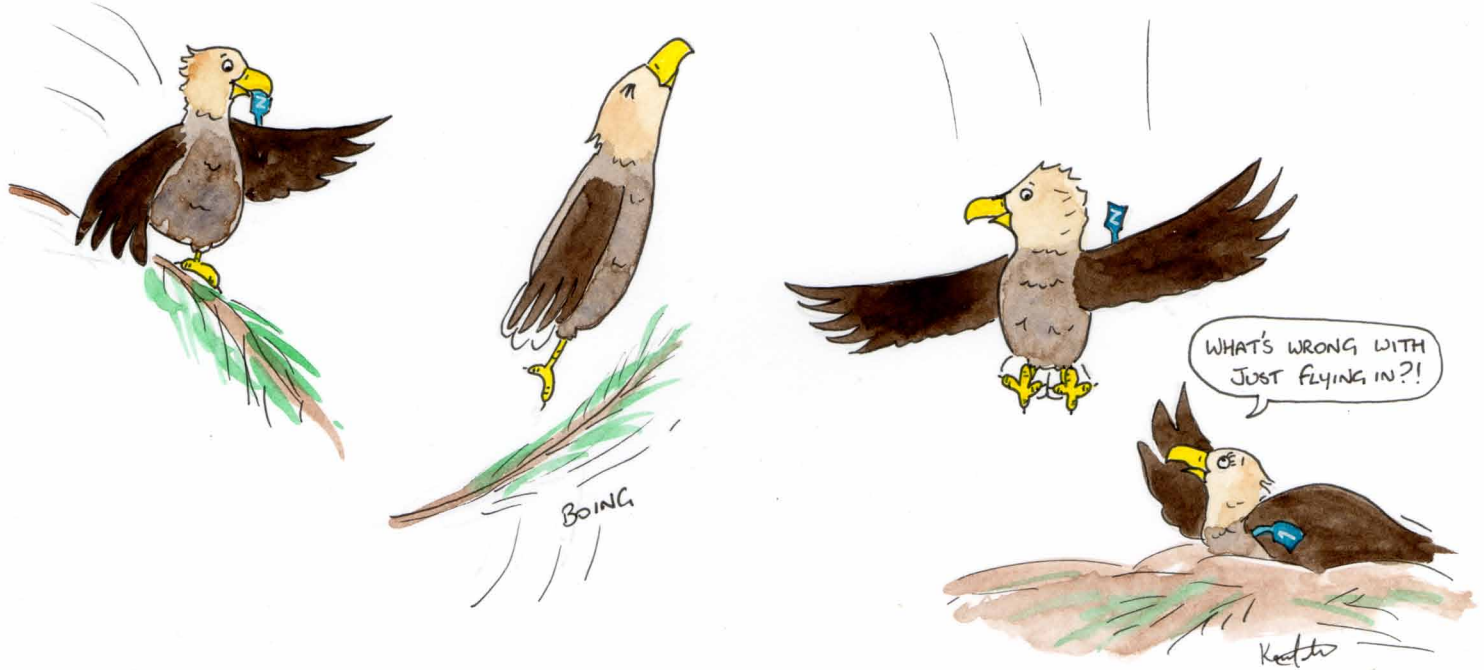
Turquoise Z was experimenting with new ways to enter the nest.

The 'Tarzan' manoeuvre:

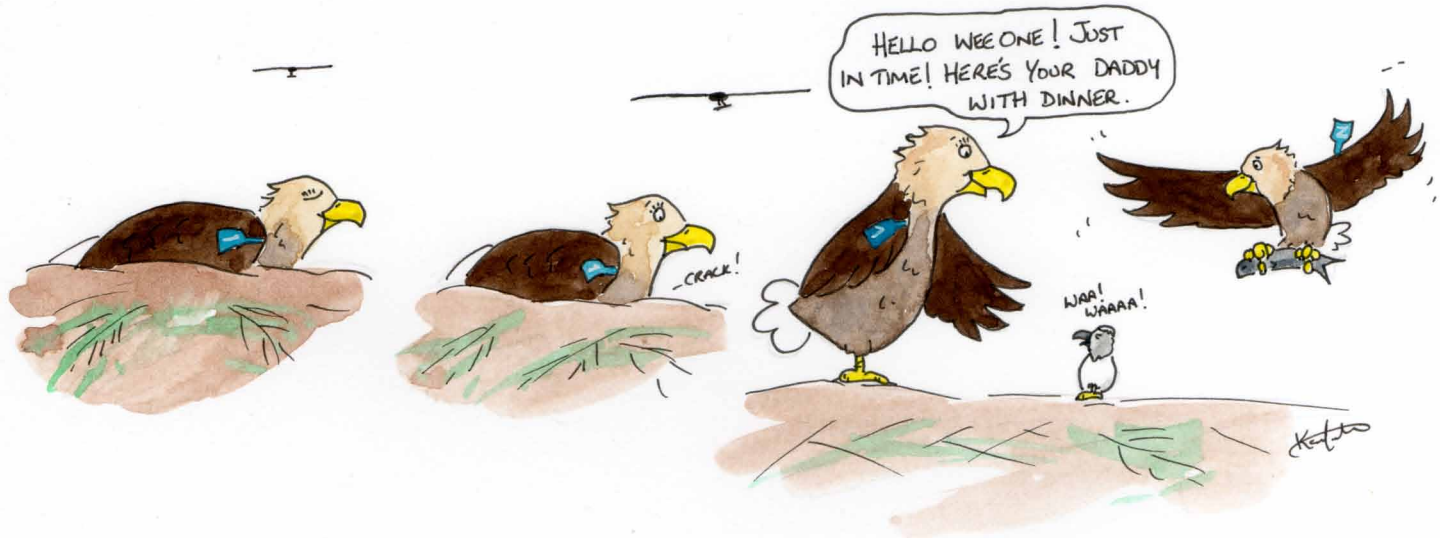




The 'Boing' manoeuvre:

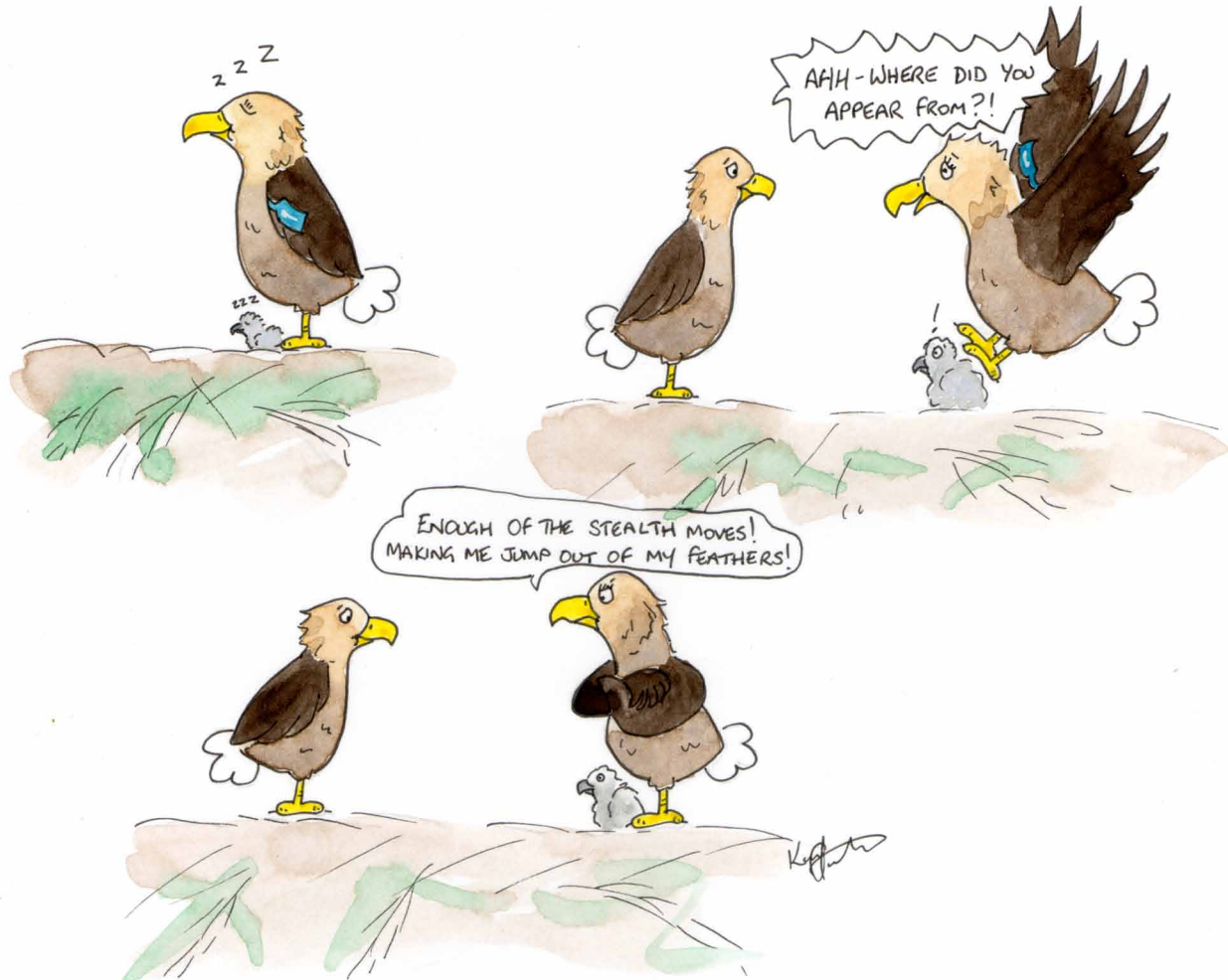


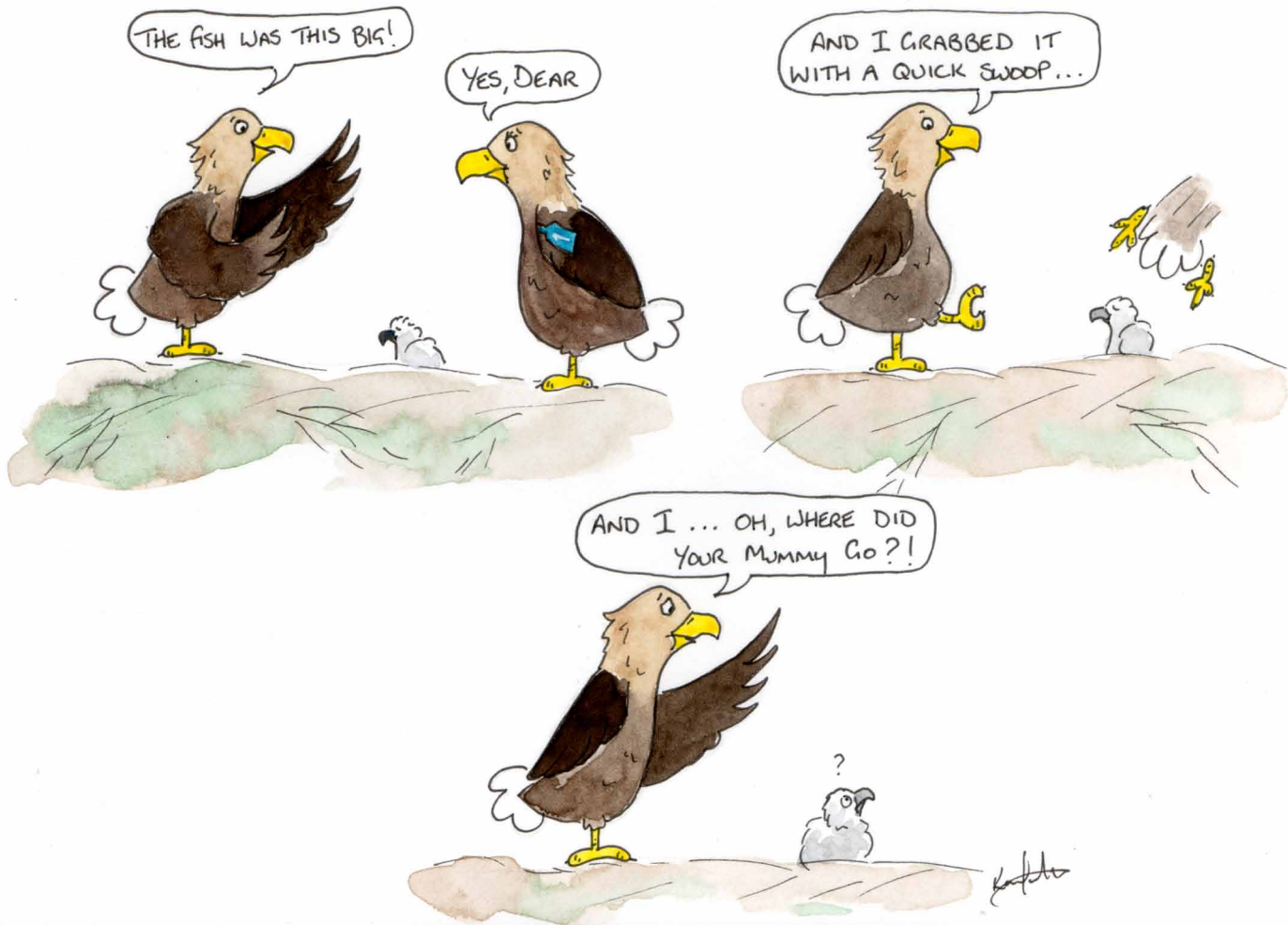
Finally, 1 and Z's hard work of egg sitting for hours and days on end was rewarded ...





Despite their huge size, the Eagles were masters of the Stealth Move!





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They grow up so fast ...

ONE WEEK OLD:



FOUR WEEKS OLD:



10 WEEKS OLD:

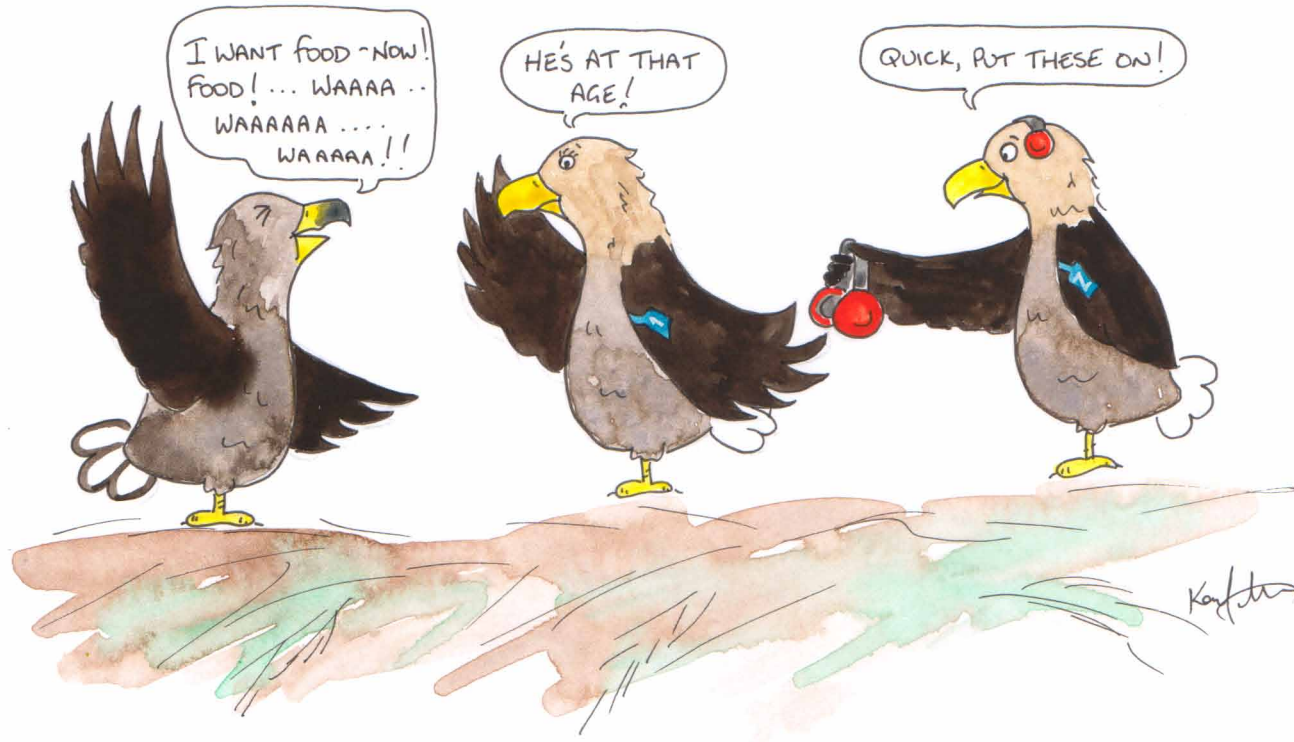




Once old enough, the chick was fitted with white wing tags with the letter 'A' on them to enable him to be identified in the future - and he became known as, unsurprisingly, 'White A'!



It's surprising how much noise a young Eagle can make ...



**Eagle Antics**

Soon it was time for White A to test his nerve (and balance), taking his first steps out of the nest, known as 'branching out'. This involved a lot of bouncing around on branches, while exercising those big wings, building up muscles in readiness for his first flight ...

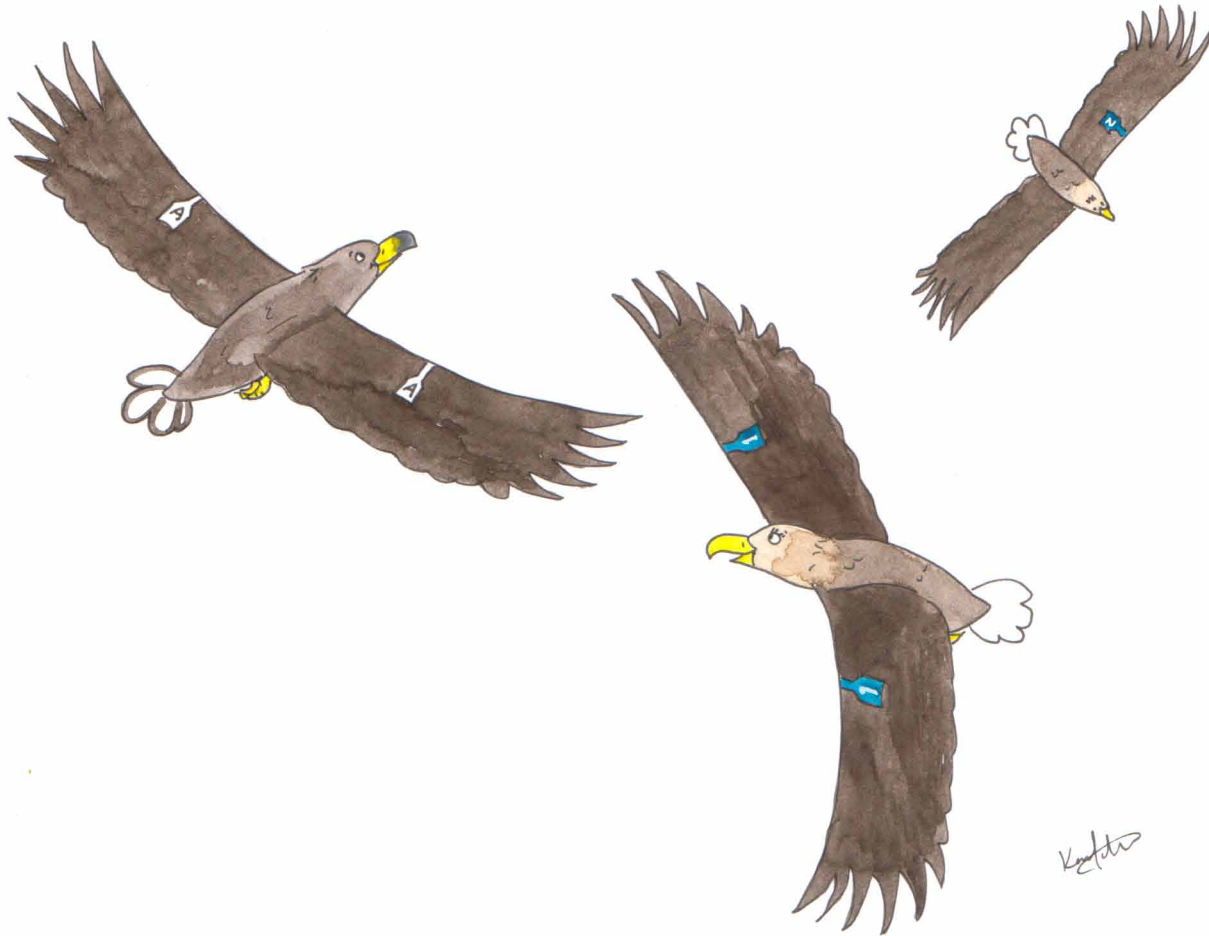




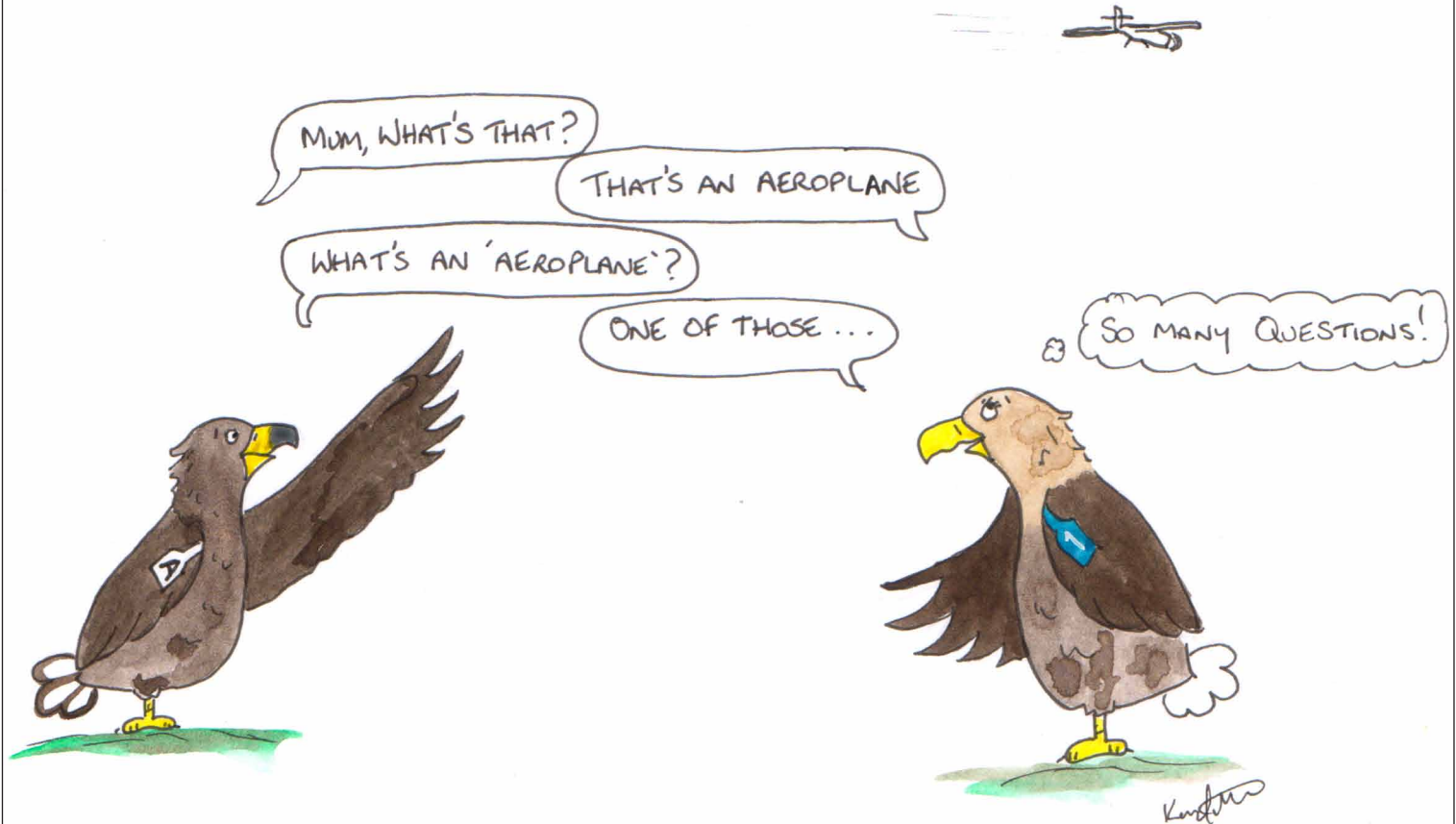
After bouncing around in the trees for a few days, it was finally time to make the big leap ...



*Eventually, White A picked up the courage to fledge and joined his parents on the wing ...*



Now that he was out of the nest, new and interesting things caught the attention of the young Eagle ...



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The local Crows found time to introduce themselves ...



A camera trap was set up to try and capture interesting footage of Eagle behaviour ...

TAKE 1

EXTREME CLOSE-UP...



REC

TAKE 2

MIDGES...



REC

TAKE 3

AT LAST, SOMEWHERE QUIET  
TO READ THE NEWSPAPER...



REC

TAKE 4

TAKE-OFF PRACTISE ...  
1... 2... 3...



REC

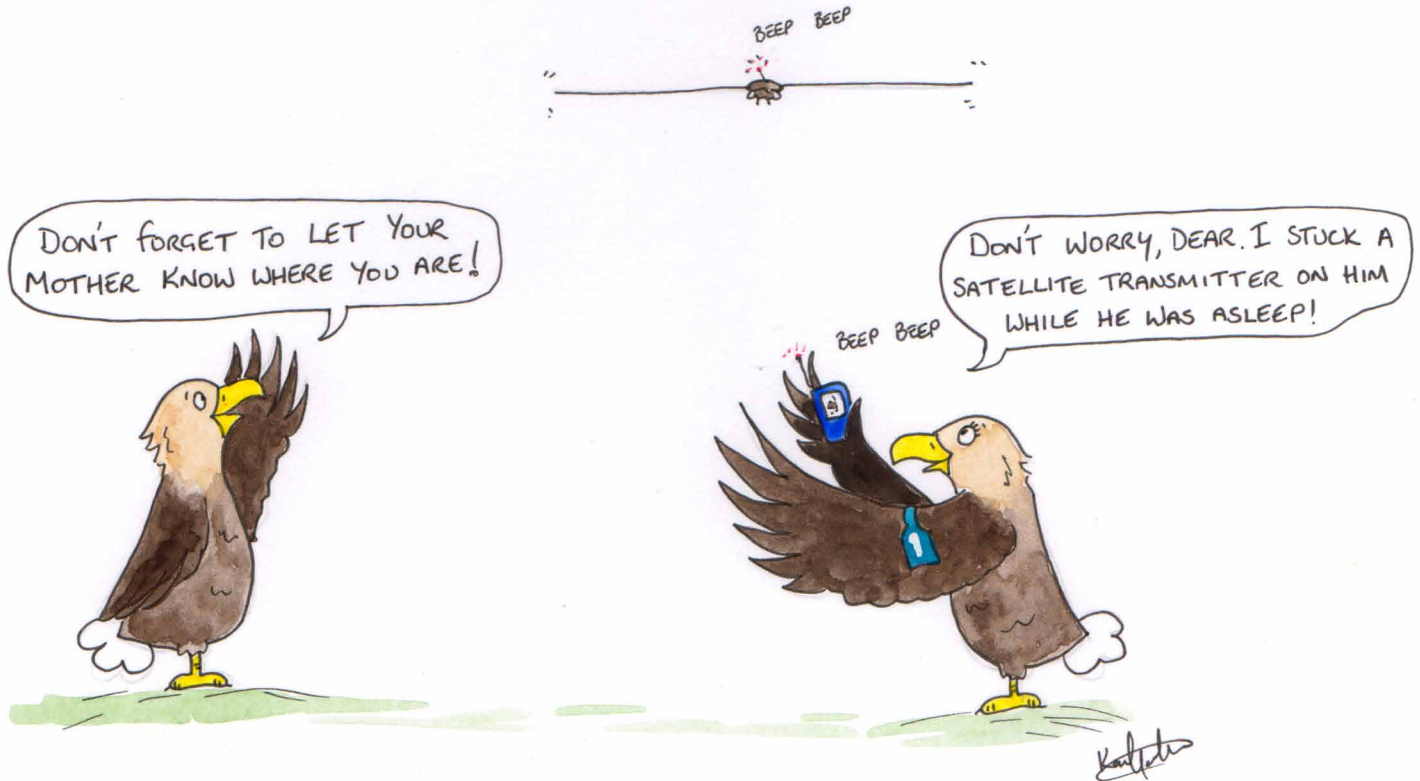
Karl  
Eagle Antics



Over the following weeks the proud parents taught their youngster the art of being an Eagle: from fishing and diving, to flight acrobatics ...



Days and weeks went by, but finally it was time for White A to go forth and discover the big wide world on his own ...



Good luck White A, wherever your wings may take you!

**Eagle Antics**

## *Meanwhile, on the Isle of Mull ...*

Mull's White-tailed Eagles have been busy this year too.

Appearances on BBC's Springwatch programme, another successful season at Mull Eagle Watch, and a pair went high-tech, with their very own

webcam streaming live nesting antics across the World Wide Web!

Let's catch up with a few of Mull's familiar White-tailed Eagle residents and see what they've been up to during the nesting season.

*Nest building was (reluctantly) getting underway for one pair of Eagles ...*



Mull Eagle Watch  
Fingal and Iona were making nesting preparations ...

FINGAL, DO YOU THINK THERE'S ENOUGH MOSS?  
MAYBE I SHOULD PUT THIS STICK OVER THERE?  
OR SHALL I PUT IT BACK WHERE IT WAS?



YES, DEAR ....  
... YES ....  
..... YES...



... MAY BE WE SHOULD USE  
THE OTHER NEST THIS YEAR?



IONA! THE NEST IS FINE!  
JUST LAY THE EGG!



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Then it was time for egg laying ...

PUSH, DEAR!

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M  
DOING, PLAYING THE VIOLIN?!  
FINGAL, THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

EVENTUALLY...

POP!

OH, FINGAL, I'VE GOT A WEE LIST  
OF THINGS I NEED YOU TO DO  
WHILE I'M ON THE NEST....

AYE

A 'WEE' LIST  
SHE SAID!!



Soon they were (almost) celebrating their new arrival ...



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Last year's youngster, Orion, was still in no rush to leave home ...



\* Fingal was one of the Norwegian chicks released in Wester Ross, as part of the second phase of the White-tailed Eagle reintroduction to Scotland. Iona, on the otherhand, was born and bred on the Isle of Skye!

This year, Fingal and Iona had a daughter called 'Thistle' ...

... AND I WAS LIKE 'NO WAY!' SO UNFAIR!  
I WANT MY FEATHERS DYED PURPLE BUT MUM  
WON'T LET ME ...



I MEAN, PURPLE!... REALLY?! SHE'D  
LOOK JUST LIKE A THISTLE!

THISTLE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE  
DOING YOUR 'HOW TO FISH' HOMEWORK!

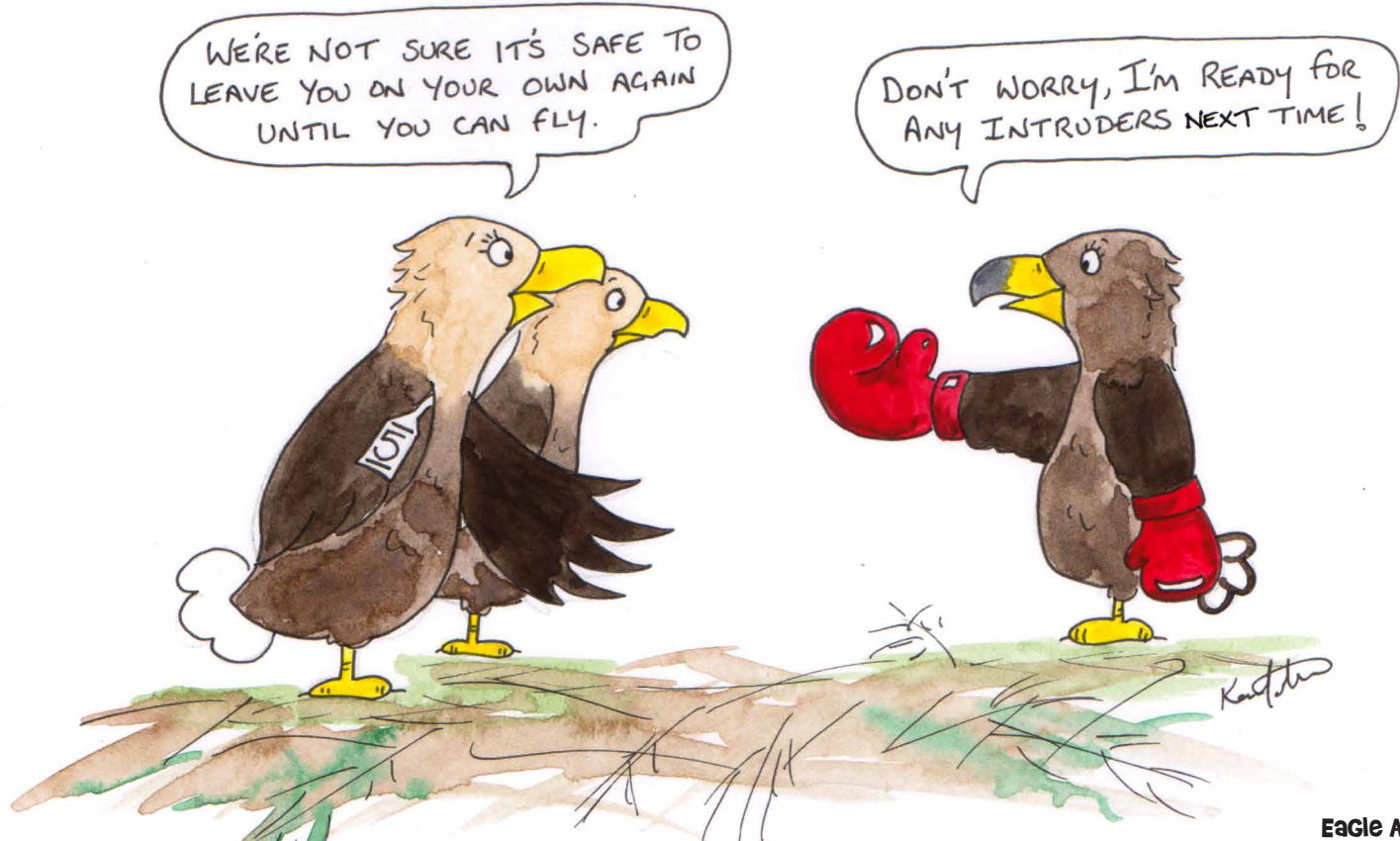


2014 was 'double trouble' for Yellow Black Spot and her mate ...





Sula (white '5' wing tags), released on the east coast of Scotland in 2007, and her mate, Cuin, appeared on BBC's Springwatch programme and had a live webcam trained on the nest. Disaster struck when an immature White-tailed Eagle saw the opportunity of a free meal! While trying to assert its dominance over the chick's dinner, the chick fell out ... or, was she pushed?! Luckily, she was unhurt and, thanks to expert human helpers, was safely returned to the nest. Eventually, even after all of that drama, she successfully fledged!



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Finally, we must not forget Springwatch's original stars, Skye and Frisa. Now enjoying time out of the limelight, they reminisced about their Springwatch days back in 2005 ...

FRISA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THE TENTH SERIES OF SPRINGWATCH THIS YEAR! REMEMBER HOW WE USED TO PRETEND THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW THE CAMERA WAS THERE AND TRIED TO LOOK BUSY!

AND TRYING TO MAKE SURE ITCHY + SCRATCHY WERE ALWAYS WELL BEHAVED WHEN THE CAMERA WAS ROLLING ... NIGHTMARE!!

IN 2005...

NOW WE'RE ABOUT TO CROSS LIVE TO THE WHITE-TAILED EAGLES ON MULL ...

