

# Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

**Q. Dear Twig: Is there really something called a monkey-eating eagle?**

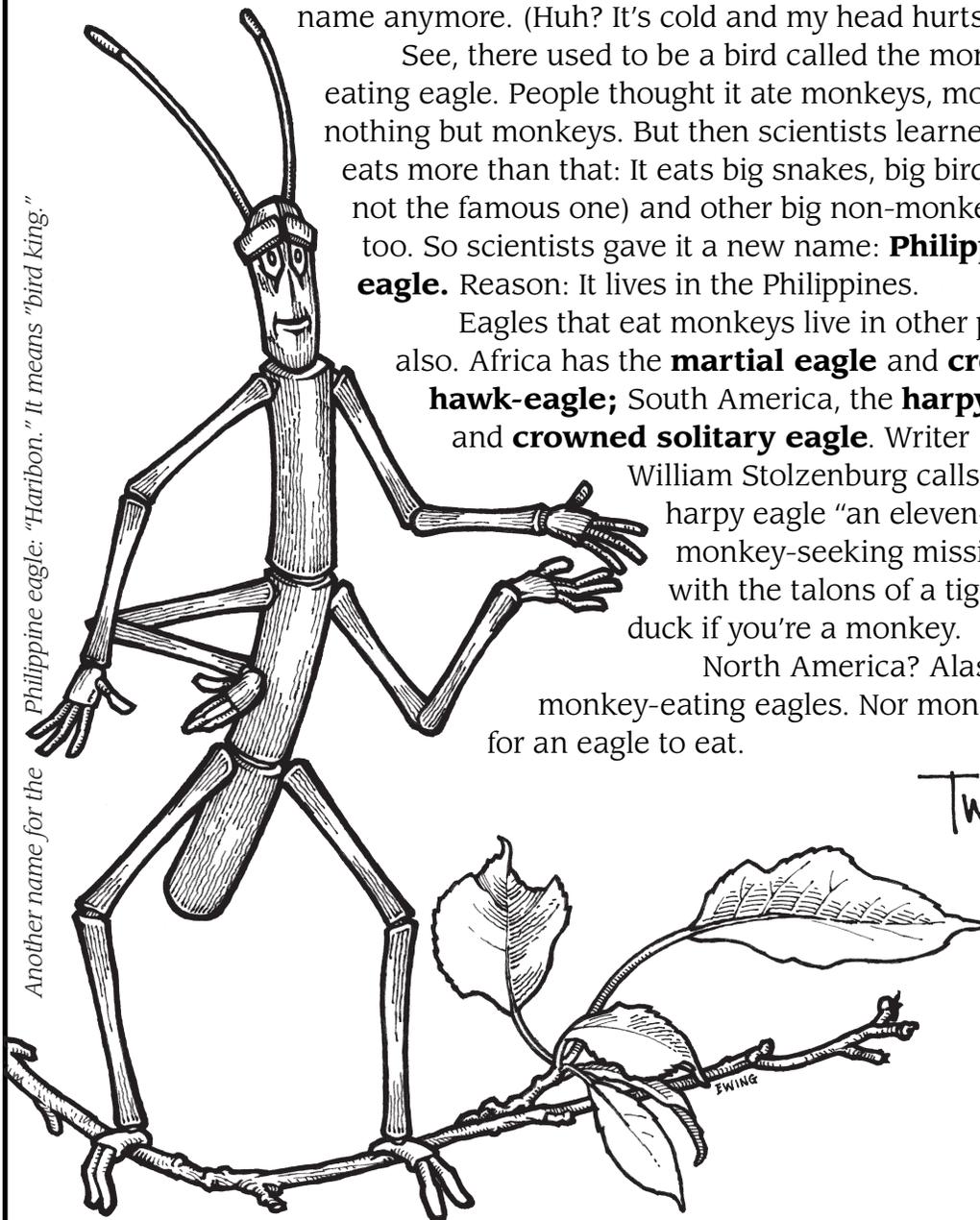
A. Yes. No. And there's more than one kind. But none of them go by that name anymore. (Huh? It's cold and my head hurts.)

See, there used to be a bird called the monkey-eating eagle. People thought it ate monkeys, monkeys, nothing but monkeys. But then scientists learned it eats more than that: It eats big snakes, big birds (but not the famous one) and other big non-monkeys, too. So scientists gave it a new name: **Philippine eagle**. Reason: It lives in the Philippines.

Eagles that eat monkeys live in other places also. Africa has the **martial eagle** and **crowned hawk-eagle**; South America, the **harpy eagle** and **crowned solitary eagle**. Writer

William Stolzenburg calls the harpy eagle "an eleven-pound monkey-seeking missile ... with the talons of a tiger." So duck if you're a monkey.

North America? Alas, no monkey-eating eagles. Nor monkeys for an eagle to eat.



Another name for the Philippine eagle: "Haribon." It means "bird king."

From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center ([www.oardc.ohio-state.edu](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu)) and OSU Extension ([extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)).



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**Notes:** The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources lists the Philippine eagle as critically endangered. Fewer than 500 Philippine eagles still exist. Reason: Mainly, people keep cutting down the forests the eagles live in. William Stolzenburg wrote a book called *Where the Wild Things Were*. It came out last year. It talks about top-of-the-food-web predators, the good they do in ecosystems, and the bad things that can happen if, for example, we wipe them out. It's written at an adult reading level but is written really, really well ("Monkey-seeking missile"? Exxxcellent ...), so if you don't read at an adult level yet but are interested, check it out anyway, see how it goes.

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