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The call of the African Fish-Eagle Haliaeetus vocifer is the iconic voice of the rivers and lakes of Africa. Nothing can be more evocative than the ringing dawn chorus in an area such as the Okavango Delta in Botswana, when several adjacent pairs announce their presence in their respective territories. The African Fish-Eagle belongs to the same genus as the American Bald Eagle, the USA's national bird, and both prey predominantly on fish which are caught just below the surface of the water in a spectacular stoop. The Bald Eagle suffered a serious decline in the USA as a result of contamination of waterways by pesticides, but has since recovered as the result of conservation action.

Photo and text: Peter Steyn
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