

N.J. Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act
(N.J.S.A. 23:2A-1-13)

Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act
(Title 54, Stat. 250, as amended; 16 U.S.C.)

Eagle Stewardship

It is illegal under state and federal laws to harass or otherwise disturb bald eagles, and there are substantial fines for those convicted. We are asking for your help in protecting this eagle nest by reporting disturbance to 877-WARN-DEP.

Each nest is monitored by a trained Eagle Project volunteer. We ask for your cooperation in allowing a volunteer onto your property to monitor the nest. They will keep you updated on the progress of the nest. All volunteers are covered by the state for liability purposes. We also encourage landowners to become involved as trained Eagle Project volunteers, if they have the time to devote to careful observation of the eagles nesting on their property.

We welcome your partnership and participation in eagle protection. Please call us to discuss protecting this nesting pair of bald eagles.

In southern NJ, call **Larissa Smith** at (609) 628-2103.

In central NJ, call **Kim Korth** at (609) 984-1581.

In northern NJ, call **Robert Somes** at (609) 259-6966.

Photo by Kevin & Karin Buynic



**Our shared stewardship will make this
a successful nesting season for the eagles!**

To report disturbance to the eagles
Please call: **877-WARN-DEP** (877-927-6337)

For more information on the
NJ Bald Eagle Project go to:

conservewildlifenj.org
and
njfishandwildlife.com/ensphome.htm



CONSERVE WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

Bald Eagles Nesting in New Jersey

**Information for Landowners
and Land Managers**



Photo by Kevin & Karin Buynic

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Information for Landowners and Land Managers

The New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ partner to monitor and protect nesting bald eagles. There are several things that you can do to help ensure each pair of nesting eagles are successful, which we describe below.

It is very exciting to have a pair of bald eagles nesting nearby. Not only are they beautiful birds, they are also good indicators of the health of New Jersey's environment. As of 2012, the bald eagle breeding population is listed as endangered and the non-breeding population is threatened.

NJ Eagle History

In the post-war era, New Jersey's eagle population plummeted to just one nest as a result of persistent pesticides, primarily DDT. Due to the tremendous efforts of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program, Conserve Wildlife Foundation, concerned citizens and countless dedicated volunteers, the state's eagle population has steadily increased. In 2013 there were 148 nesting and territorial pairs and 177 young produced—a record for the state. This amazing success is the result of cooperative conservation and protection by landowners, dedicated volunteers, biologists, concerned citizens and conservation officers.

Photo by Tom McKelvey



Photo by Mark J. Gorman



Photo by Kevin & Karin Buynie

Eagle Nesting Facts

In New Jersey, eagles begin courtship and nest building in early January. Pairs lay up to three eggs in late-January to mid-March, and incubate for about 35 days. Upon hatching, the chicks are helpless and require close parental care. After about six weeks, the young birds begin to stand up and feed themselves when the adults deliver food. Eaglets take their first flight around 11 weeks of age, typically in early July. Adults continue to provide food for young near the nest for up to two months while the eaglets learn to fly and hunt.

Living with Eagles as your Neighbors

In most cases you do not need to stop any of your normal outdoor activities. However, eagles are disturbed when people directly approach the nest, even if the eagles don't look like they are upset. We ask that you refrain from approaching within 1,000 feet of the nest during the period of January 1 to July 31. Sometimes eagles nest within 1,000 feet of houses or outbuildings; in those cases they usually tolerate normal activities that do not draw attention to their nest site. Normal activities include pre-existing farming and mowing, but not tree and brush clearing within 1,000 feet of the nest. Carrying out normal activities while avoiding any direct focus on the eagles, and respecting a nest boundary, are recommended.

Eagles are especially sensitive to human disturbance during the nesting season. Disturbance includes walking or driving



close to the nest, as well as any actions that cause the eagles to change their normal behaviors of tending to their nest, eggs or young, or feeding themselves or their young. Eagles have vision akin to us using binoculars, so they see everything going on around them and will react to anything that seems like a threat. When people are around, this often means they are "on guard" for hours, causing them to pay less attention to their eggs or young. However, when eagles learn that people never approach too close, they quickly return to normal nesting behaviors.

Serious or repeated disturbance may cause the adults to abandon their eggs or young. The most sensitive times are during nest-building and early incubation, and again shortly before fledging. In addition, if adults are disturbed during periods of cold or hot weather, eggs or young chicks can die of exposure.

Photo by Mick Valent

