



CONSERVE WILDLIFE  
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

**2015 Duke Farms Eagle Cam Nest Updates**

*In order from newest to oldest updates.*

**6/18/2015**

Yesterday Duke Farms staff went out to the nest site. They saw one of the eaglets flying and no signs of damage to the nest tree or camera. The full report and photos are on the Duke Farms website.



**6/15/15**

The oldest eaglet fledged on Friday June 12th. She returned to the nest on Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately the camera equipment was struck by lightning during the storm last night and was damaged. Duke Farms staff is checking to see if repairs can be made.



**6/11/15**

Both chicks were up on a branch this morning.

**6/4/15**

The chicks are almost 10 weeks old. Today one of the chicks hopped/flapped up onto a branch "branching". They are strengthening their muscles as they flap, hover and hop around the nest.



**C/94 Update**

After much careful consideration it has been decided that the Duke Farms nest will not be banded this season. The climber from past years, Mick Valent, has retired. The Duke Farms tree is very difficult to climb and reach the chicks. Our new climber though already trained and skilled, will be gaining valuable experience this season. The climber and chicks safety is the top priority. We thank you for your understanding.

**C/94 Update**

Duke Farms Alumni C/94 is nesting in CT. The nest observer took these photos of the chick which is exactly one week older than the oldest DF chick.



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@Cyndi Pratt Didan

## 4/27/15

The chicks are now four weeks old. This screen shot shows the pin feathers starting to emerge. It's easy to tell the older chick right now as he/she has many more pin feathers on its back and head than the younger sibling. A turtle shell can be seen on the edge of the nest behind the oldest chick.

## 4/14/15



At two weeks of age the chicks have their second coat of down and can regulate their own body temperature. They no longer need to stay under the adults and are moving about the nest. At times you might not see an adult but most likely there is one close by the nest just out of view of the camera.

The chicks are now a week old. They are both getting plenty of food and there is always a stockpile of food in the nest. The chicks can often be seen peeking out from under the adults.

## C/94 Update

Update on C/94 the male from the 2009 Duke Farms nest and now nesting in CT. He and his mate had hatching on March 20th and one chick has been seen in the nest so far.

7:34 am - The second chick hatched at ~7 am



C/94 with chick in CT nest @Cyndi Pratt Didan

## 3/29/15

6:47pm; chick being fed, 2nd egg with pip.



## 3/27/15

First chick has hatched 3:37pm. Chick's wing is visible in photo.

Chick emerging from egg 1:08 pm



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Pip in egg 11:40, hatching is in progress.

### 3/23/15

The first egg could hatch any day now. The Duke Farms blog explains what to expect during the hatching process.

An update about Duke Farms alumni C/94, nesting in CT. The first egg in that nest hatched this past Friday during the snow and sleet storm. Cyndi was able to read the band on the female in the pair and she was banded June 11th, 2008 at Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts.



### Duke Farms Eagle C/94 nesting in Connecticut

We recently were contacted by Cyndi Pratt Didan regarding a pair of eagles she has been observing up in CT. She was able to get a reading of the green band on the male C/94. It turns out that C/94 is a Duke Farms eagle from the 2009 nesting season. In 2009 there were three chicks in the nest and all were male. C/94 was the youngest and considerable smaller in the beginning as he was a week younger than the oldest chick.



He is now nesting approximately 150 miles away in CT. His mate is also a banded bird, most likely from Massachusetts. The pair nested last year and fledged two chicks. They are nesting again this season and are due to hatch next week.



It's exciting to know that one of the Duke Farms chicks has survived and is now raising chicks. We'll be sure to post updates about this DF alumni.

*Photo by Cyndi Pratt Didan*

### 3/2/15

The clutch size this year is two eggs.

- **1st egg laid 2/17- possible hatch date 3/24/15**
- **2nd egg laid 2/20- possible hatch date 3/27/15**

The adults have been incubating through, snow, sleet and rain with more to come this week. It certainly doesn't look like fun for the birds when they are sitting in the nest covered in snow, but this is the easy part. Eagle feathers insulate them from the cold and protect them from the rain. Once the eggs hatch



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they'll be busy protecting the chicks as well as bringing food back to feed the chicks. There has been some concern about the amount of time that the adults were off of the eggs last week. The eggs can't

get too cold but they also can't get too hot. The adults know when the eggs need heat or cooling. They are experienced parents so though there aren't any guarantees in nature, we hope for the best.

On February 20th, the first eagle nest hatched in NJ. The dates that eagles begin laying eggs in NJ is spread out from January through March.

## 2/20/15

The second egg was laid this afternoon around 2:20. The third egg will most likely be laid early next week.

- 1st egg laid 2/17- possible hatch date 3/24/15
- 2nd egg laid 2/20- possible hatch date 3/27/15



## 2/18/15

The first egg was seen the morning of the 17th, so the egg was laid sometime during the night or early morning hours. Now that incubation has started one of the adults will remain on the egg at all times for the next ~35 days. In 2014 the first egg was laid on the 17th and the second on the 20th, so we can expect that the second egg will be laid this Thursday or Friday.



## 2/5/15

The pair has been busy working on their nest. In 2014 they started incubating on 2/17 and in 2013 on 2/14. So we can expect them to begin around that time period again this year.

Twelve eagle pairs are currently incubating in NJ.

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**1/15/15**

Yesterday Duke Farms staff was able to zoom in on the bands on the males legs. We still need more information from the band to confirm exactly where and when in NJ this bird was banded. We do know that this is a narrower type of band that was used up till 2003 when we started using the wider bands. The "A" series ended in 2002, so we can say for certain the bird was banded between 1995-2002. So at the minimum the bird would be 13 yrs. old. The code used on the band is a letter followed two numerical digits. So we need to figure out what the numbers are next to the letter. In one photo it looks like the number could be a five, if that is the case the bird would have been banded in 1999.



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