

You can make a difference by *being a good eagle watcher!*

Most importantly you want to keep your distance from the eagle nest and from perched eagles. The goal is to watch the eagle without disturbing it. Respect all posted areas and refrain from approaching within 1,000 feet of any active eagle nest. While some of our more visible eagle nests are close to a road or building, it's best to watch these eagles from inside your vehicle to avoid becoming the focus of the eagles' attention. The rule of thumb in wildlife watching is to never attract the attention of the animal you're watching. With eagles, discreet watching from a safe distance means the birds will give their full attention to the survival of their offspring and themselves.

For more information please call: 609-292-9400

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.

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.)

Photo by Kevin & Karin Buynic



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

To report disturbances or violations,
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

The Rebound in the Garden State



Photo by Kevin & Karin Buynic

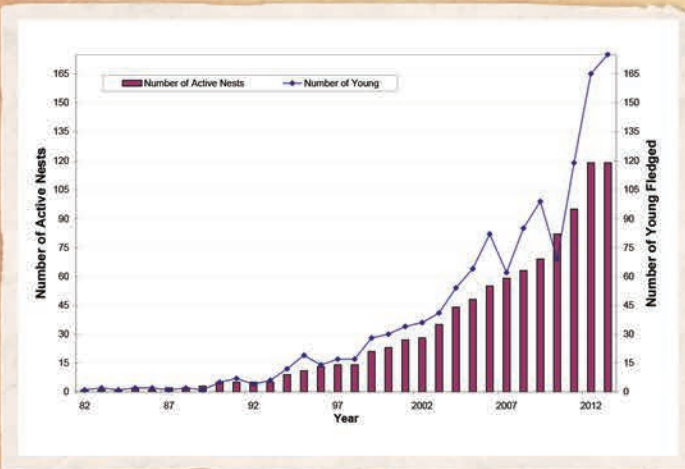
Bald Eagles Nesting in New Jersey

The Rebound in the Garden State

The New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey partner to monitor and protect nesting bald eagles. There are several things that you can do to help ensure each pair of nesting eagles is 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. Despite recent recovery, the bald eagle breeding population in New Jersey is listed as endangered and the non-breeding population is threatened.

NJ Eagle History



The number of active bald eagle nests (bars) and the young produced (line) each year, 1978-2013

By the 1970's New Jersey's eagle population had 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 of NJ, and countless dedicated volunteers, the state's eagle population has steadily increased. In 2013 there were 148 nesting pairs and 177 young produced a record for the state. This success is the result of cooperative conservation and protection by landowners, volunteers, concerned citizens, biologists and conservation officers.



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.

Photo by Mark J. Gorman



Photo by Tom McKelvey



Living with Eagles as your Neighbors

Eagles are very 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, incubating eggs, brooding 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 more attention to the people and less attention to their eggs or young. So even though an adult that is closely watching you may not seem "upset," it is not doing what it should and this lack of attention can put their nest or young at risk. However, when eagles learn that people never approach too close, they usually return to normal nesting behaviors.

Photo by Mick Valent

