



Eagle Nature Foundation, Ltd.

300 East Hickory Street, Apple River, IL 61001

Phone: 815-594-2306 Fax: 815-594-2305 Web Site: eaglenature.com

e-mail: eaglenature.tni@juno.com

Tax Exempt No. 36-4015400

Board of Directors

President & Exec. Dir.

Terrence N. Ingram
Apple River, IL

1st Vice-President

Joseph Lukascyk
Hickory Hills, IL

2nd Vice-President

James Ronnerud
Darlington, WI

Secretary

Susan Ertmer
Scales Mound, IL

Treasurer

Thomas Gerard Holland
Apple River, IL

Directors

Russell Balbirona
Janesville, WI

Richard Briggs
Orangeville, IL

Ralph Douglas
Winslow, IL

John Grigsby
Canton, IL

John Jankowski
Stockton, IL

Ray Ruthenberg
Stockton, IL

Victor Temple
St. Charles, IL

Advisory Board

Steve Anderson
Hartford, WI

Dr. William Bowerman
Clemson, SC

Billie D'Entremont
Las Vega, NV

John Grigsby, Sr.
Canton, IL

Robert Hatcher
Brentwood, TN

Yvonne Johnson
Sycamore, IL

Dr. Peter Justen
Schaumburg, IL

Roy Klehm
Barrington, IL

Doris Mager
Clyde, SC

Dr. Daniel Raab
Houston, TX

Phyllis Sigafus
Apple River, IL

Robert Torsberg
The Villages, FL

Mar. 1, 2011

Dear Eagle Counters,

Enclosed is a copy of the results of ENF's **2011 Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count**, a copy of **51 Years of Midwinter Bald Eagle Counts** and the news release we are sending out with these results. There is something going on with our bald eagle population, at least here in the Midwest, and after watching this population for the past 50 years, I don't like what I see.

The total number of eagles that you have counted this year rose from its low of 1567 last year to 2042 birds this year. But we are still losing eagles along the length of most of the Mississippi River. The numbers of eagles along the Wisconsin River was down slightly, but its percentage of immatures seems to be holding its own. The Peconica/Rock Rivers had an increase of total eagles, but a 15.3% decrease in the percentage of immatures. The Illinois River had the greatest increase in numbers of eagles and in the percentage of immatures. An interesting note on the Illinois River is that the boat team recorded in an hour and one half almost one third of all the immatures and adults counted in the whole count area from Minnesota to Tennessee.

Some interesting highlights as you can see: this year we had a new report from inland in Iowa near lock and dam 17; we received a new count from Louisiana; and we missed getting reports from five areas. Even without these counts we had more eagles counted than last year. But the encouraging point is that the percentage of immatures has now returned to above 30% for the first time in ten years. The troubling part of this fact is that just two persons saw one half of all the immatures, which were recorded for the whole count. I do not believe that it is healthy for the whole bald eagle population to have half of all the immatures concentrated in just two locations. A disaster, such as weather or disease, could have a great impact on the survival of many of them.

Last year, the northern six dams of the Mississippi River and the St. Croix River reflected that the total numbers of eagles in the area was increasing, but this year this has reversed itself and these areas also reflect the decline that is occurring all along the Mississippi River down to St. Louis. The Illinois River recovered back to the numbers they had back in 2007, while the percentage of young has done the same.

Some people say that we have to look at trends. Well, the count results this year is changing the trend which had been downward. The latest 5 year average for percentage of immatures now stands at 23.7% which is where it was back in the late 1960's. When I look at only the part of this year's count, which was covered in the first decade of the count, we have about the same number of birds and the same percentage of young as we had in the early 1960's. To me that is what is frightening!

Thank you all for your excellent cooperation in conducting this count!

Sincerely yours,
for a Better Environment

Terrence N. Ingram, President

News Release

Eagle Nature Foundation, Ltd.

300 East Hickory St., Apple River, IL 61001

Phone: 815-594-2306

Fax: 815-594-2305

Homepage: eaglenature.com

e-mail: eaglenature.tni@juno.com

Tax Exempt No. 36-4015400

For Immediate Release

March 1, 2011

What Is Happening to Our Bald Eagles?

Apple River, IL) The results of the 51st Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count, which was conducted on Jan. 29th and 30th, have just been released by Terrence N. Ingram, Executive Director of the Eagle Nature Foundation, coordinator for the count. Volunteers this year reported finding 620 immatures, 72 sub-adults, 1317 adults and 33 with age unknown, for a total of 2042 bald eagles counted.

This Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count has been conducted for 51 years. It was the result of this count in the early 1960's which raised the awareness of a problem with the bald eagle population which eventually led to the bald eagle being placed on the Endangered Species List in 1976.

Mr. Ingram, who has participated in this count almost since its inception, and has been coordinator for this count for over 30 years, states, "Over the past thirty years we have witnessed many wintering communities of bald eagles undergo declines. First, the percentage of immatures decline. Then the total number of wintering bald eagles in these communities gradually declines, until there are only one or two adult eagles left in this particular community of wintering bald eagles. In the past, declines in some communities have been offset by an increase in reproduction in other wintering communities. This year's count documents this community decline of the past several years along the length of Mississippi River from Minnesota to St. Louis. But the communities of bald eagles wintering along the tributaries of the Mississippi River; the Wisconsin, Pecatonica/Rock and Illinois Rivers, all seem to be reproducing fairly well."

"Wintering bald eagle populations along the Wisconsin and Illinois Rivers used to average close to 50 to 55% immatures, which would offset the low percentage of immatures wintering on the Mississippi River. This year the immature percentage along the Wisconsin River remained the same as last year at 41.7%, the Illinois River immature percentage rose 8.6% to 38.3%, while the Rock River percentage dropped 15.3% to 39.9%." The raised the overall percentage of immatures for the whole count by 10% to 34.4%. A point of interest is that over one half of all the immatures seen during the whole count were counted by only two people in two small areas. Could this be a problem with survival of the immatures?"

The 2011 Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count recorded a total of 2042 bald eagles wintering along the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries, which include the St. Croix, Wisconsin, Rock, Missouri and Illinois Rivers, compared with a total of 1567 last year. Of the total this year 620 were immatures, birds which do not yet have the adult plumage of a fully white head and tail and are less than five years of age. Many eagle experts believe that a healthy bald eagle population should have at least a 32 % immature ratio. This year's average of 34.4% immatures is the first time since 2002 that it has exceeded 30%.

The Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count sponsored by the Eagle Nature Foundation, is the only one day bald eagle count in the nation, that encompasses so much of the country. It extends from northern Wisconsin and Minnesota to Tennessee. Hundreds of volunteers across this region count the bald eagles on that one day. These include personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Fish & Wildlife Service, state DNR's, Audubon and other conservation clubs, and many, many private individuals. To keep potential duplication to a minimum, the majority of eagles are counted in a two hour period, primarily before 11:00 am.

For more information contact: *Terrence N. Ingram, Exec. Dir., Eagle Nature Foundation, 300 East Hickory Street, Apple River, IL 61001 Ph. 815-594-2306*

51 Years of

Midwinter Bald Eagle Counts

Compiled by
Terrence N. Ingram

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Year	Adults	Subadult	Immatures	Unknown	Total	% immatures of Known Age	5 year Average	10 Year Average
2									
3									
4	1961	470		111	40	621	19.1%		
5	1962	417		59	29	505	12.4%		
6	1963	416		102	7	525	19.7%	19.4%	
7	1964	294		61	130	485	17.2%		
8	1965	580		191	97	868	24.8%		
9	1966	586		156	58	800	21.0%		23.5%
10	1967	590		188	28	806	24.2%		
11	1968	444		177	50	671	28.5%	28.5%	
12	1969	511		292	3	806	36.4%		
13	1970	543		254	32	829	31.9%		
14	1971	564		225	12	801	28.5%		
15	1972	817		377	46	1240	31.6%		
16	1973	663		279	22	964	29.6%	29.3%	
17	1974	592		176	8	776	22.9%		
18	1975	751		346	34	1131	31.5%		
19	1976	729		296	63	1088	28.9%		29.3%
20	1977	590		205	25	820	25.8%		
21	1978	977		416	53	1446	29.9%	30.4%	
22	1979	1257		568	41	1866	31.1%		
23	1980	1170		580	57	1807	33.1%		
24	1981	527		237	61	825	31.0%		
25	1982	647		226	60	933	25.9%		
26	1983	379		128	1	508	25.2%	22.7%	
27	*1984	705		146	42	893	17.2%		
28	*1985	600		104	26	730	14.8%		
29	1986	629		386	54	1069	38.0%		28.5%
30	1987	658		263	38	959	28.6%		
31	1988	563		328	66	957	36.8%	32.4%	
32	1989	169		122	2	293	41.9%		
33	1990	921		311	28	1260	25.2%		
34	1991	962		315	132	1409	24.7%		
35	1992	796	5	353	12	1166	31.0%		
36	1993	1995	13	674	26	2708	25.6%	26.3%	
37	1994	1801	1	618	113	2533	25.6%		
38	1995	1230	9	429	16	1684	26.3%		
39	1996	1369	0	574	21	1964	29.5%		29.3%
40	1997	2720	38	927	46	3731	26.2%		
41	1998	1063	4	522	8	1597	33.1%	30.8%	
42	1999	1237	26	569	81	1913	32.5%		
43	2000	949	14	591	14	1568	38.9%		
44	2001	2010	9	1062	20	3101	34.8%		
45	2002	1653	27	764	67	2511	32.4%		
46	2003	2277	89	733	60	3159	26.5%	29.6%	
47	2004	2731	157	924	159	3971	28.4%		
48	2005	1181	61	324	72	1638	24.6%		
49	2006	1299	42	350	34	1725	23.2%		25.8%
50	2007	3033	88	656	47	3824	19.7%		
51	2008	3018	96	837	101	4052	23.6%	22.0%	
52	2009	2192	97	491	50	2830	21.2%	23.7%	
53	2010	1134	56	304	73	1567	24.1%		
54	2011	1317	72	620	33	2042	34.4%		
55	Total	54726	904	19947	2398	77975	27.6%		
56	Average	1073.1	17.7	391.1	47.0	1528.9	27.6%		
57	*	Not complete counts							

2011 Midwinter Bald Eagle Count

Sponsored by the
Eagle Nature Foundation, Ltd.

Compiled by
Terrence N. Ingram

Location	Adult	Sub-Adult	Immature	Unknown	Total	Compared to 2010	compared to 2009	compared to 2008	% Immatures of known age	Change in percentage
St. Croix River	14	0	2	0	16	-10	+1	-5	12.5%	12.5%
Wisconsin River										
Pettenwell to Ferry Bluff	19	0	16		35	-11	23	+7	45.7%	-8.6%
South of Ferry Bluff	30		19	1	50	-3	+50	+50	38.8%	16.2%
Wisconsin River Subtotal	49	0	35	1	85	-14	73	*57	41.7%	-0.1%
Rock River/Pecatonica	83	8	47	6	144	75	+85	+108	39.9%	-15.3%
Illinois River										
Hennepin & North	51	0	28	0	79	61	-28	+44	35.4%	29.5%
Henry	11	3	2	0	16	12	+13	+8	31.3%	-18.7%
South to Peoria	83	17	25	0	125	76	+75	+68	33.6%	-0.9%
Peoria to Havana	365	14	228	16	623	534	+480	+459	39.9%	16.8%
Havana to Beardstown	2	0	1	0	3	-11	-9	-4	33.3%	10.2%
South to Grafton	0	0	0	0	0	-12	-12	-14	#DIV/0!	-27.3%
Illinois River Subtotal	512	34	284	16	846	660	519	-100	38.3%	8.6%
Mississippi River										
Lock & Dam # 2 & 3	13	5	6	3	27	-11	-5	+12	45.8%	22.3%
Lock & Dam # 4 & 5	16	0	2	0	18	-48	-26	-26	11.1%	-2.5%
Lock & Dam # 5A & 6	18	2	7	0	27	-129	-35	-83	33.3%	21.6%
Lock & Dam # 7 & 8	3	0	0	0	3	-14	-67	-9	0.0%	-16.8%
Lock & Dam # 9 & 10	49	4	8	0	61	57	+48	+19	19.7%	-5.3%
Inland	10	1	1	0	12	6	0	+11	16.7%	-16.6%
Lock & Dam # 11 & 12	14	3	4	1	22	-22	-25	-125	33.3%	10.6%
Sav. Army Depot & Iowa	6	0	2	0	8	-18	-44	-68	25.0%	2.3%
Lock & Dam # 13	11	0	3	0	14	3	-198	-160	21.4%	1.4%
Lock & Dam # 14	36	0	10	2	48	-33	-68	-202	21.7%	-17.5%
Lock & Dam #15	56	0	16	0	72	7	-119	-178	22.2%	-13.3%
Lock & Dam #16	0	0	0	0	0	-39	-187	-227	#DIV/0!	-7.7%
Lock & Dam # 17	0	0	0	0	0	-6	-199	-330	#DIV/0!	-33.3%
Inland	45	0	17	0	62	62			27.4%	
Lock & Dam # 18	84	0	20	0	104	-89	-524	-1419	19.2%	-6.6%
Lock & Dam # 19	57	0	18	0	75	-17	-41	-103	24.0%	11.8%
Lock & Dam # 20	0	0	0	0	0	-78	-114	-35	#DIV/0!	-16.7%
Lock & Dam # 21 & 22	15	3	7	0	25	-53	-105	-24	40.0%	21.6%
Lock & Dam # 24 & 25	12	2	5	0	19	-76	-150	-53	36.8%	25.6%
St. Louis and South	143	7	102	4	256	211	+113	+141	43.3%	15.1%
Miss. River Subtotal	588	27	228	10	853	-287	-1746	-2859	30.2%	10.1%
Tennessee	4	0	0	0	4	-16			0.0%	
Kentucky	9	2	21	0	32	24	+28	-4	71.9%	
Missouri River	0	0	0	0	0	-2	+2	+2	#DIV/0!	
Louisiana	58	1	3		62				6.5%	
2011 Grand Totals	1317	72	620	33	2042	475	-788	-2010	34.4%	10.3%
2010 Grand Totals	1134	56	304	73	1567	-1263			24.1%	2.9%
2009 Grand Totals	2192	97	491	50	2830	-1267			21.2%	-2.4%
2008 Grand Totals	3018	96	837	101	4052	+228			23.6%	3.9%
2007 Grand Totals	3033	88	656	47	3824	2099			19.7%	-3.5%