
From: "Ralph Wirsig" <r.wirsig@gmail.com>
Date: February-16-08 8:48 AM
To: "Ralph Wirsig" <krwirsig@xplornet.com>
Attach: BE Letter.doc; Overwintering_factsheet_final.doc
Subject: FW2: Bald Eagle Winter Survey



PO Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6, info@bucklake.ca
"To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations"

Dear Buck Laker:

The following, relating to over-wintering bald eagles, has been sent to the Buck Lake Association by Kate Maddigan, a biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources, asking for any assistance any of us can provide. The information and survey instrument is self-explanatory. I invite any of you with information about eagles you have seen to communicate directly with Ms. Maddigan via your return of her survey.

Ms. Maddigan, by the way, was in charge of a survey of fish in Buck Lake this past summer, the results of which will be made available to us in the near future. We will be in touch when we get them.

Duncan Sinclair,
President

----- Original Message -----

From: [Angela Barrie](#)
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 9:27 AM
Subject: Bald Eagle Winter Survey

Good morning everyone:

On behalf on the OMNR I am sending this Bald Eagle survey out to all of my lake contacts. Along with the survey there is an overwintering factsheet as well as a letter giving an overview of the project and why it is beneficial to have this overwintering information. If you could please find the time to take a look at this it would be very much appreciated. Thank you in advanced for your participation. Finished surveys and/or questions should be addressed to the contact given on the forms.

Angela Barrie



Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Visit us at our website <http://www.gov.on.ca>

Call any MNR Office in Ontario for information at -
1-800-667-1940 (English) ... or ... 1-800-667-1840 (French)
8:30 am to 5 pm - Monday to Friday

Dear Partner in Conservation:

With the leadership from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and through funding from the Canada-Ontario Agreement program, the various community partners have come together to deliver a multi-year Bald Eagle Restoration Program. The geographic area of focus is the Lake Ontario Basin as the recovery of this particular species has been slower in this part of the province than most others. They have received funding for research and nesting platform construction. Under this program the OMNR are also monitoring active Eagles in the area.

A critical part in monitoring eagle activity and determining suitable habitat is to look at their over wintering activities. In order to locate the area that would be ideally suited for a nesting platform it is useful to know whether there is over wintering activity in that area. Simply put, the bald eagles may come to the nest in the spring, but if there is no over wintering habitat for them they may abandon the area.

As part of this project the partners have decided it would be useful to determine where the Bald Eagles are in fact over wintering. Our friends to the south in New York have been participating in an annual mid-winter bald eagle survey for the past 29 years. With our new initiatives and funding we have decided to follow their lead and develop a similar survey. We are hoping with the help of local volunteers who are willing to take the time to fill out a short survey we can learn a little more about bald eagles and their over wintering habitat and activities. We ask that you please review the attached survey and consider filling in the details should you be fortunate enough to have over wintering Eagles in your area.

We thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely;

Kate Maddigan, Biologist
Ministry of Natural Resources
Kingston Area Office
51 Heakes Lane
Kingston, ON
K7M 9B1
(613) 531-5715
Kate.maddigan@ontario.ca

Over-Wintering Bald Eagles on Lake Ontario



Photo: Doug Rawlinson

Lake Ontario is an ideal place for Bald Eagles to spend the winter. They can often be seen around ice-free waters in groups, feeding on some of their main winter food: deer carcass or waterfowl. These eagles have often traveled from far-away northern places, and good over-wintering habitat is critical to their survival.

What should I do if I see a Bald Eagle in the winter?

- Do not approach roosting eagles, whether on foot, vehicle, snowmobile, or boat.
- Do not get close to eagles. Use binoculars for a better view.
- Report locations with four or more eagles between December and March, as this may reveal an important winter roost site.
- Look for and report coloured leg bands.

If you see four or more eagles in one location, this could indicate important over-wintering habitat. Please use the form on the reverse side of this factsheet to report your observations.



For more information, please check out the following:

Your local Stewardship Council: www.ontariostewardship.org

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources: www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR

Bird Studies Canada: www.birdscanada.org



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Bald Eagle Reporting Form - Winter Observations

Please fill out as much as you can. Our goal is to identify critical roosting, feeding, and perch areas. Observations of eagles flying over are not as critical.

Observers Name and Contact Information:

Date and Time

Location: (Name of waterbody, County, Township, Lot, Concession#, and/or Coordinates)

Picture taken (yes/no):

Describe amount of ice and open water at the site:

Total Bald Eagles counted in one location:

of Adults: _____

of Immatures: _____

of Unknown Age: _____

of Unidentified eagle species:

Survey Method (*Circle All That Apply*): Road Vehicle Fixed Wing Helicopter Boat Foot Travel

What were the birds eating, if anything?

Were they perched in a tree, or seen on the ground/ice?

Eagles with coloured wing tags or leg bands - *list colours seen, and how many eagles were seen with tags/bands*

Please note any of the following behaviours:

- pairs of eagles cartwheeling in the sky or aerial chases
- “rollercoaster” displays
- stick carrying

Return Form to the address below by mail or email (please include your contact information):

Kate Maddigan, Ministry of Natural Resources, 51 Heakes Lane, Kingston, ON K7M 9B1
Kate.Maddigan@ontario.ca, phone 613.531.5715