

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
THE RESOURCE AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

BALD EAGLE BREEDING SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

BACKGROUND

The breeding season of Bald Eagles in California extends primarily from February through July. In past years, cooperating agencies, organizations, and private individuals participated in monitoring this species statewide to document nesting activities at each nesting territory. Though a coordinated monitoring is no longer occurring, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to track nesting territory status based on reported data.

Breeding season surveys are an important part of the population recovery effort. Survey information is used by resource agencies to aid breeding territory management or protection activities. Additionally, population status and trends can be monitored to provide the data needed for assessing population recovery.

SURVEY TIMING AND INSTRUCTIONS

Territories should be checked at least three times during the nesting season, although more frequent checking is preferred. Emphasis should be placed on checking during incubation and early nesting periods.

1. **Early March (early incubation)** – Territories in northern California should be checked in the first half of March, if possible, or as soon thereafter as road or weather conditions allow. The purpose of the first check is to determine whether a territory is occupied (record presence of adults, courtship behavior, evidence of nest repair or construction, incubation).
2. **Late April or early May (early nesting period)** – This check is needed to confirm that a territory is unoccupied, or if occupied in March, to determine whether the breeding pair is still tending the nest (incubating eggs or tending young nestlings).
3. **Mid June (late nesting period)** – The main purpose of this check is to determine how many nestlings are approaching fledgling age.

Survey dates maybe modified from these recommended time periods if the territories can be checked more frequently or if particular breeding pairs are known to begin nesting especially early or late in the season.

We recommend that observers report the stage of development of nestlings in accordance with An Illustrated Guide for Identifying Developmental Stages of Bald Eagle Nestlings in the Field, by G.P. Carpenter (April 1990). This booklet is available from the San Francisco Zoological Society, Sloat Blvd. At the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco, CA 94132 (415-753-7080).

SUBMISSION OF SURVEY FORMS

Please report observations on the **CALIFORNIA BALD EALGE NESTING TERRITORY FORM (revised 4/2010)**. Electronic forms can be found at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/survey_monitor.html. Forms will be maintained in Department files and annual survey results will be compiled on the basis of these reports.

Please email completed forms by September 1 of survey year to Carie.Battistone@wildlife.ca.gov, or mail them to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Carie Battistone

In place of field forms, you may also submit data using the Department's Online Field Entry Form – found here: <http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Submitting-Data>. This application allows users to submit data online to CNDDB. First time users will need to set up a free account. The application contains a mapping tool, allows users to generate reports of their data submissions, and saves all past and current submissions with your account. When entering data, if there are no field that exactly match to the data you wish to submit (e.g. # of young fledged, # of adults incubating, etc.), please include this information in the notes field.

If you have any questions please contact Carie Battistone at the above address or at Carie.Battistone@wildlife.ca.gov.

**California Department of Fish and Game
CALIFORNIA BALD EAGLE**

NESTING TERRITORY SURVEY FORM

Revised 9/2017

Territory Code: _____

County: _____ **Survey Year:** _____

Property Owner: _____ **If USFS:** _____ National Forest

Name (or general location of territory): _____

Name of nearest water body: _____

Location of Nest Site: LAT: _____ **LONG:** _____

Other location info: _____

No. of nests in territory - Intact: _____ **Remnant:** _____

Nest Tree: Species: _____ **Year last Used:** _____

Nest: Year last used _____

NOTE: Please attach a map showing the location of any newly documented nest tree.

Describe tree and nest condition and size, and add other remarks: _____

For each visit to a territory, note, in detail, the times, number and age of birds, behavior of birds (lying, perching, etc.), evidence of nesting (nest maintenance, courtship, incubation posture), disturbances, and other pertinent information:

| Initials of Observer | Date of Visit | Observations |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | |
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| | | |

(Attach additional pages, if necessary)

| Initials of Observer | Date of Visit | Observations |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
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(Attach additional pages, if necessary)

General Remarks: _____

PLEASE SUMMARIZE:

A. Successful Nestings: No. of young known fledged _____ or probably fledged _____

B. If no fledglings were produced this season please answer the following:

How many adults were seen in the territory? _____
 Was there evidence of nest repair or construction? Yes No
 Were adults seen in the nest? Yes No
 Were adults in incubating posture? Yes No
 Number of nestlings observed? _____
 Failed during incubation: _____ or nestling stage: _____ .
 Other remarks: _____

Observer(s) name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ **Fax:** () _____ **Email:** _____

Mail all completed forms by September 1 of survey year to: ATTN: Carie Battistone, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Branch, 1812 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Or email completed forms to Carie.Battistone@wildlife.ca.gov.

