

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ONE GATEWAY CENTER
SUITE 700

NEWTON CORNER, MASSACHUSETTS 02158

TO: Area Managers, DAO, HAO, NEAO &
Project Leaders, Wildlife Assistance Offices,
Refuge Managers, SAC's and LE Officers, R5

FROM: ^{ACTING} Regional Director, Region 5

DATE: 11 DEC 1980

SUBJECT: Annual Bald Eagle Midwinter Survey

We are again joining with the National Wildlife Federation in an effort to accurately count bald eagles throughout the lower 48 States this January. In January 1980, over 12,000 bald eagles were counted in the survey.

I consider this nationwide effort worthy of our continued support. Therefore, I am asking that you, along with all field personnel make a special effort to count bald eagles during the January 2-16 period as part of your field activities. We would prefer that field observers contact their State Coordinators (see attached list) to attempt to insure as thorough a coverage as possible, and report all eagle counts directly to the State Coordinators. Counts of eagles on refuges should continue to be reported on the routine wildlife output forms (Raptorial Birds, Form 3-245c). Whenever possible the counts should be conducted as close to January 2-16 as possible to insure the most uniform nationwide count. Counts at roosts are the most desirable, but all counts of any eagles are important and should be reported. Please submit a negative report when appropriate, so they will record a response from each addressee. It is very important to receive information about those areas in which people have looked for eagles but did not observe any birds.

Additional funds to cover any added expenses of this count are not available. We expect most Service individuals taking part to be counting eagles during routine patrols or investigations. We see little need to schedule special aircraft services for the sole purpose of counting eagles. Counts from the ground will be the most welcomed (foot, car, or boat). Observers conducting the Midwinter Waterfowl Inventory should use both the NWF Special Count Form and the Continental Eagle Project Forms to report their data, as the forms will go to two different computer data banks.

We ask as much participation in this eagle count as possible. Staff personnel who wish to participate should check first with their supervisors and then with the appropriate State Coordinators for assignments. I again wish to encourage supervisors to allow interested staff members the opportunity to help in this count whenever possible.

Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>
Asst. Manager	<i>[Signature]</i>
Clerk	
Mntnoman	
Staff	
	file

RECEIVED
DEC 15 1980

Attached are two copies of the NWF 1980 Bald Eagle Midwinter Survey Field Form, one copy of the list of State Coordinators for this survey and a general information sheet. Please contact these coordinators if you have any questions. Bill French in ARW-MB will coordinate activities at the Regional level.

WA personnel, please note that two forms are resulting. One, as before, the Continental Eagle Project, will accompany the regular Midwinter Waterfowl Survey Form. The NWF Forms will go direct to the NWF State Coordinator of the state concerned. No doubt both forms will contain identical eagle-count numbers. As mentioned above, the eagle data will end up in two different locations and two different computer data banks. Eventually, we expect the NWF survey to replace the Continental, but for January 1981, we ask both forms be completed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Balzer Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Attachments

U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE PARTICIPATION

ANNUAL BALD EAGLE MIDWINTER SURVEY

In 1978 the Raptor Information Center (RIC) of the National Wildlife Federation announced the initiation of an annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey. Director Greenwalt sent a memo to all Service personnel encouraging our participation in the nationwide (except Alaska and Hawaii) effort; ". . . I am asking that all field personnel, who are not occupied in some other extremely important work, as an incidental part of their field activities to count Bald Eagles during the . . ." January 2 - 16 (target dates 9 and 10 January) period.

The data contributed by Service employees have contributed substantially to important new information about the numbers (more than 12,000 in 1980) and distribution of wintering Bald Eagles in the United States. With these data, and those to be gathered on similar surveys in the next few years, the RIC, Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory of the Service, and the Office of Endangered Species, and cooperators at North Dakota State University are delineating the winter range of eagles and designing sample schemes which will allow us to monitor their population levels. We have found that Bald Eagles occur in many more areas than had been known in the past, and their dispersion changes somewhat from one winter to the next. Only with the contributions of hundreds of observers, in all parts of the country, can we learn more about the distribution, population dynamics and resource needs of eagles. Therefore, we encourage your participation in the counts and especially wish to emphasize the importance of submitting information about areas in which you looked for eagles but did not see any between 2 and 16 January. These "negative" results are as important as sightings of birds.

Please contact the coordinator for your state (list enclosed) to notify the coordinator of the localities you can cover. Please follow the instructions and submit the data on the form provided by the RIC (copy enclosed). Use of the form is necessary to insure that all the required data are recorded and for facilitation of data entry to the storage system developed by the RIC. If you use a Service form to tally sightings recorded on midwinter waterfowl surveys or refuge surveys, please transfer your data to the RIC form. Submit your completed RIC form to your coordinator.

Bill French will coordinate activities at the Regional level. If you have any questions or need more forms, contact your State Coordinator or Bill French.

As in the past, additional funds to cover any added expenses of this count are not available. We expect Service personnel to record eagle data during routine patrols, field work and waterfowl surveys. We encourage supervisors to allow staff members the opportunity to help with the count whenever possible. Thank you for your cooperation!

Name of Recorder: Daryle Lons Affiliation: Erie NWR, USEWS
Address and Phone: RD# 2, Guys Mills, Pa. (814) 789-3585 No. of observers: 1

Office Use			Location ^a	Lat/Long ^b	County	Count ^c		Date ^e	Time ^f	Adult B.E.	Imm. B.E.	Unk. B.E.	Total B.E.	Adult G.E.	Imm. G.E.	Total G.E.	Other ^g Eagles			
A	B	C				Type	Method ^d													
			Sugar Lake Unit, Erie NWR	795-0413	Crawford		CR	1-15-81	1100				○			○	○			
Please complete "Comments" section on back of form.																				
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- a) List each location surveyed as specifically as possible (e.g., Skagit River from Marblemount to Newhalem; Jackson Canyon roost; Rush Valley from Vernon to Faust along Rte. 36). Maximum size for a described location should not exceed a 10 minute lat./long. block (see superscript b) (e.g., for a survey along 55 mi. of a river, report data separately for each 10 minute block surveyed along the river or for more specific locations, such as a lock and dam, within each block). Discrete locations occurring in a 10 minute block should also be reported separately (e.g., a stretch of river occurring in the same block as an upland night roost). REPORT ALL LOCATIONS AND 10 MINUTE BLOCKS SURVEYED, INCLUDING THOSE IN WHICH NO EAGLES WERE SIGHTED. IMPORTANT: Attach a map (portion of State highway map or map with more appropriate scale) with the survey route clearly outlined in detail. Include on the map an estimate of the mileage or area censused which corresponds to the route depicted. IF SUCH A MAP DOES NOT ACCOMPANY YOUR SURVEY FORM, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO USE YOUR DATA.
- b) Record the first three digits of latitude and the first four digits of longitude for the SE coordinates of the 10 minute block of latitude and longitude in which the survey occurred. Example: a feeding area located at appx. 48° 23' latitude, 122° 45' longitude is within the 10 minute block delineated by 48° 20' to 48° 30' latitude and 122° 40' to 122° 50' longitude. The coordinates of the SE corner of this block are 48° 20' and 122° 40' and are coded "482-1224" (note: for longitudes less than 100° -- 77° 33' longitude would be coded "0773").
- c) Indicate whether the survey at this location was a count of a night roost by the letter "R".
- d) Indicate survey method: Fixed wing (FW), helicopter (H), Boat (B), count route (CR), fixed point (FP).
- e) Month/day/year
- f) Use military time (e.g., 0900)
- g) Eagles not identifiable as balds or goldens.

COMMENTS

Visibility: clear

Precipitation? none

Ice conditions at various locations surveyed: impoundments frozen over

Prey availability and types: _____

Local movements of eagles during survey period (if known): _____

Wing or band tag markers seen: _____
(describe in detail)

Other: Last bald eagle observed on the refuge was during November, 1980.