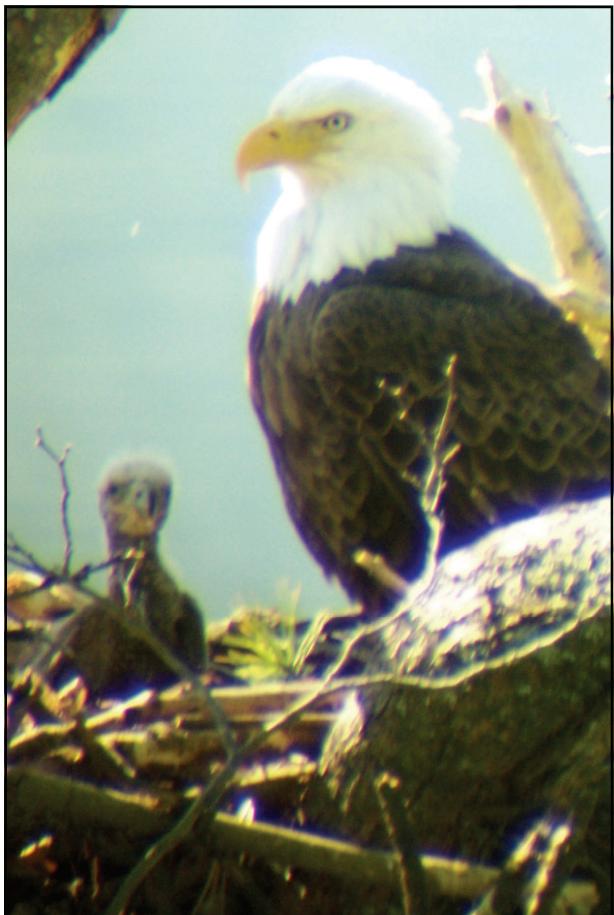


# 2012 Eagle Update

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake



This photograph was taken in 2006 from a remotely operated camera observing the nest located near the Dam. The size of the young eaglet is representative of what one might see at the time of this article.

**Raystown Lake, April 25, 2012** - The 22nd annual mid-winter Bald Eagle survey was completed on January 12, 2012. With relatively mild temperatures and fair conditions, surveyors from The Corps of Engineers and The Pennsylvania Game Commission recorded 13 eagles while navigating the nominally frozen waters of Raystown Lake. This number is on point compared to trend data and staff expect a consistent population in the months to come.

The Eagle population at Raystown Lake has steadily increased since tracking began in 1990. Three Eagles fledged (or successfully left the nest) last year, bringing the total to 57 Eagles fledged at Raystown! Explanations for the trend vary, but the excellent habitat and food supplies available at Raystown remain a consistent factor for success.

Park Ranger Tara Whitsel has been coordinating monitoring of known nests since the winter survey. She is happy to announce that four nests are confirmed active with Eaglets (babies) present. These nests are generally located near the dam, MM10, Lake Raystown Resort and a new nest spotted near James Creek Boat Launch. Direct observation of young can be difficult, but estimates are that seven Eaglets exist within the nests.

Whitsel explains that for nests with multiple Eaglets it is not uncommon for one to succumb to competition for food and space prior to fledging the nest. Nests have also been known to fall prior to the fledge.

Staff will be watching the nests carefully over the next few months to track the progress of these young Eagles. Visitors are reminded to observe wildlife and nests from a distance and to follow posted restrictions.

## A Year In The Life Of A Raystown Eagle

