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## 1991 National Wildlife Federaton Eagle Survey Results

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#### **1991 National Wildlife Federation Eagle Survey Results**

From 3 to 17 January 1991, the National Wildlife Federation sponsored their midwinter survey of Bald and Golden Eagles in Nebraska. This year, the surveyors spotted a total of 642 Bald and 41 Golden Eagles. Of the 642 Bald Eagles, 176 birds were spotted along the Missouri River, and 466 were seen in the remainder of the

state (the Missouri area total is kept separately due to state boundaries which occur along the river). Only one of the 41 Golden Eagles was seen along the Missouri.

The 1991 eagle count was about 475 birds below the record set in 1989 and about 200 birds below the average over the past five years. Noteworthy drops in eagle concentration took place along the Missouri (17% below last year's total and the past four-year average), in the Harlan County Reservoir area, the Sutherland Reservoir area, and on the stretch of the Platte between Darr and Elm Creek. It is believed that the below normal temperatures from late December through the first part of January caused significant ice cover in several major eagle concentration areas. The timing of the cold weather plus the ice cover is believed to have pushed the eagles south. One area which did note an above normal level in eagle usage was the North Platte River Valley between Lewellen and Keystone (up 40 to 45%). This was mainly due to a high number of eagles—66—concentrated around the open water of Lake Ogallala.

The tables which follow give a breakdown of eagles seen by species and age. The tables are generally organized by river valley, with NWF checkpoints described as well as individual counts for each survey location.

Sites	Bald Eagles			Golden Eagles		
	Ad	Imm	Unk	Ad	Imm	Unk
<b>WHITE RIVER VALLEY &amp; PINE RIDGE</b>	2			7	2	
2 miles northeast of Harrison: Sioux County				2		
1 mile north of Montrose: Sioux County				1		
1 mile south of Ardmore, SD: Sioux County				1		
12 miles north of Whitney: Dawes County				1	1	
Whitney area: Dawes County				2	1	
4 miles east of Chadron: Dawes County	2					
<b>NORTH PLATTE RIVER</b>	84	41	1	8	2	
Wyoming Line to Bayard (incl. Lakes Minatare, Alice, and Winters Creek): Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties	7	4				
Bayard to Lisco: Morrill and Garden Counties	10	6		2		
Courthouse Rock: Morrill County	1					
Lisco to Lewellen: Garden County	12	2		2	2	
8 miles north of Oshkosh: Garden County				4		
Lewellen to Keystone: Garden and Keith Counties	42	24				
Keystone to Sutherland: Keith and Lincoln Counties	12	5	1			
Sutherland to North Platte: Lincoln County	None					
<b>REPUBLICAN RIVER &amp; TRIBUTARIES</b>	23	13		1		
Frenchman River: Chase County	3	1				
Enders Reservoir: Chase County		1				
17 miles north of Haigler: Dundy County				1		
Buffalo Creek: Dundy County		1				
Republican River, 3 miles east of Haigler: Dundy County	1					
Stratton to Trenton (incl. Swanson Reservoir): Hitchcock County	2	1				
Republican River, 4 miles west of Cambridge: Red Willow County	2					
Republican River, 2 miles east of Cambridge: Furnas County	1					
Republican River, 3 miles east of Arapaho: Furnas County	1					

Sites	Bald Eagles			Golden Eagles		
	Ad	Imm	Unk	Ad	Imm	Unk
Alma to Naponee (incl. Harlan County Reservoir): Harlan and Franklin Counties	9	6				
Turkey Creek: Harlan County	2	1				
Naponee to Inavale: Franklin and Webster Counties	1	2				
4 miles north of Hardy: Nuckolls County	1					

<b>SOUTH PLATTE RIVER</b>	7	10				
Colorado Line to North Platte: Deuel, Keith, and Lincoln Counties	4					
Sutherland Reservoir: Lincoln County	3	10				

<b>PLATTE RIVER</b>	106	55	9			
North Platte to Gothenburg (incl. Jeffrey Reservoir): Lincoln and Dawson Counties	17	12				
Gothenburg to Darr: Dawson County	17	7	1			
Darr to Elm Creek (incl. Johnson Reservoir, Elwood Lake): Dawson, Gosper, Phelps, and Buffalo Counties	37	23	6			
Elm Creek to Kearney: Phelps, Buffalo, and Kearney Counties	12	5	2			
Kearney to Grand Island: Buffalo, Kearney, Hall, and Adams Counties	6	4				
Grand Island to Silver Creek: Hall, Hamilton, Merrick, and Polk Counties	4					
Silver Creek to Columbus: Merrick, Polk and Platte Counties	None					
Columbus to Ashland: Platte, Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Saunders, Douglas, and Sarpy Counties	8	4				
Ashland to Plattsmouth: Saunders, Sarpy, and Cass Counties	5					

<b>NIOBRARA RIVER DRAINAGE</b>	36	11		8		
Walgren Lake: Sheridan County	1					
2 miles north of Clinton: Sheridan County				4		
4 miles south, 2 miles west of Gordon: Sheridan County				1		
Niobrara River, 18 miles southwest of Merriman: Cherry County	1					
Niobrara River, directly south of Eli: Cherry County	1					
Niobrara River, directly south of Nenzel (near Hwy. 97 bridge): Cherry County	1					
Snake River, directly south of Nenzel: Cherry County	1					
Niobrara River, directly south of Kilgore: Cherry County	2					
Snake River, Hwy.97 to Niobrara River (including Merritt Reservoir): Cherry County	13	3				
Niobrara River, Snake River to Cornell: Cherry County	2					
Valentine NWR: Cherry County	2	1		2		
Niobrara River, Cornell to Sparks: Cherry County	2	3		1		
Niobrara River, Sparks to Hwy. 183 Bridge south of Springview: Cherry, Keya Paha, and Brown Counties	4	1				
Bone Creek: Brown County	2	1				
Niobrara River, Hwy. 183 Bridge to Hwy. 137 Bridge north of Newport: Keya Paha, Brown, and Rock Counties	None					
Niobrara River, Hwy 137 Bridge to Niobrara:	4	2				

Sites	Bald Eagles			Golden Eagles		
	Ad	Imm	Unk	Ad	Imm	Unk
<b>RAINWATER BASIN/LITTLE BLUE RIVER</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		
Sac/Wilcox WMA: Phelps County	3	1				
Little Blue River at Hwy. 281: Adams County	5					
4 to 7 miles west of Clay Center: Clay County	3	1		3		
<b>LOUP RIVER DRAINAGE/ELKHORN RIVER</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	
Middle Loup River, Thedford to Dunning: Thomas and Blaine Counties	4			2		
North Loup River, Purdum to Saint Paul: Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Valley, Greeley, and Howard Counties	8	2				
Calamus River, 25 miles northwest of Taylor: Loup County		1			1	
Calamus Reservoir: Loup County	2					
Calamus River, 6 miles northwest of Burwell: Garfield County	2	1				
1 mile east of Mason City: Custer County	1					
Cedar River at Ericson: Wheeler County	2	1		4	1	
Middle Loup River, Loup City to St. Paul: Sherman and Howard Counties	4	2				
Beaver Creek west of Petersburg: Boone County	4	2		3	1	
11 miles west, 2 miles north of Belgrade: Nance County		1				
Loup River, St. Paul to Columbus (incl. Lake Babcock): Howard, Nance, and Platte Counties	12	3				
Elkhorn River, southeast of Beemer: Cuming County	2					
<b>MISSOURI RIVER (includes adjacent portions of Iowa, South Dakota, and Missouri)</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>21</b>				<b>1</b>
Ft. Randall to Sioux City: Boyd, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, and Dakota Counties	41	11				1
Sioux City to Omaha: Dakota, Thurston, Burt, Washington, and Douglas Counties	33	7				
Omaha to Nebraska City: Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, and Otoe Counties	29					
Nebraska City to Rulo: Otoe, Nemaha, and Richardson Counties	52	3				

---Data provided by Greg Wingfield, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, District IV, Route 4, Box 36, North Platte, NE 69101