

With a somewhat open winter with little snow cover, high water on the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, and other factors the normal Bald Eagle local flock is not present. The birds are feeding inland, away from the river. This is evident in late December during the Christmas Bird Counts and mid-January during the Golden Eagle count. Many eagles were counted in areas of small streams and near feed lots where Bald Eagles were feeding and day roosting in farm lot trees and stream-side vegetation. As far as other factors, one of the Eagle Day presenters commented that almost half of the eagles he has fitted with locators have not shown up in the normal wintering area and staying north for this winter season. With weather changes, including southern winds, Bald Eagles seem to be moving into the area with several kettles of eagles seen Monday and Tuesday. Meanwhile local Bald Eagles are staying close to their nests as they are probably sitting on eggs and maybe finishing up egg laying. The migration of Bald Eagles, where as many as 500 of them have been seen on Gremore Lake north of Prairie du Chien, is just starting. Water levels are down, ice is beginning to disappear on sloughs with running water, and more migrants are showing up. As temperatures warm and backwater sloughs begin to open, Bald Eagles will be found feeding, resting, and roosting in their normal migration locations.

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