



Cold Stream Pond

Eagle News

The Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has given the Cold Stream Pond west shore nest site its Essential Habitat designation.

There are now more than 300 designated Essential Habitats in Maine with 270 pairs of threatened birds nesting here. Eagles do not migrate and have a life span of 25 years. They may return to the same nest year after year, adding to the nest on an annual basis until it becomes very large. One of the largest nests in North America is on the Kennebec River in Maine.

Essential Habitats are areas that may require special management considerations to protect an Endangered or Threatened species. Examples of areas that could qualify for designation are nest sites or important feeding areas. For some species, protection of these kinds of habitats is vital to preventing further declines or achieving recovery goals.

Historically, Maine was home to hundreds of pairs of nesting eagles along undisturbed shorelines of the coast, lakes and major rivers. However, eagle populations declined so drastically that they were listed as an Endangered Species in 1978. Increasing losses of undisturbed nesting sites during the late 1980s threatened growth and recovery of the species. Loss of undisturbed nesting sites is now the greatest danger to Maine's eagle population. Though the bald eagle was reclassified as a Threatened species in 1995, designation of nest sites as Essential Habitats plays an important role in the continuing recovery of our national bird.



Eagles

The male and female eagle pair returned again to their winter nest on the west shore of Cold Stream Pond. What a sight it was to observe them flying by on their route from nest to nest and in search of food. They seem to tolerate human observation from a distance, allowing a local photographer to snap photo after photo. As thanks for the many poses, an occasional treat (fish) was left for them on the ice and quickly accepted. As they begin to tidy their nest for spring, we are left to wonder, "Which nest will they choose this year to hold their family?"



Eagle Stats

Weight—6.6–13.8 pounds

Length—30.4"–36.4"

Wingspan—5'5"–8'

Sexual Maturity—4 years

Breeding Season—Apr.–Aug.

Number of Eggs—1–3

Incubation Period—35 days

Fledlings—70–92 days

Breeding Interval—1 year

Mating Habit—In the air

Typical Diet—Mainly fish

Life Span—25 years

(Photos by Roger Stevens)