

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

State: California

Project Number: E-W-5 Project Title: Endangered, Threatened and Rare Wildlife

Job Number: V-14.2 Job Title: Bald Eagle Breeding Population Inventory

Period Covered: October 1, 1980 - September 30, 1981 Job Type: Survey and Inventory

SUMMARY:

State and Federal agency personnel and cooperators surveyed 71 historical Bald Eagle breeding territories in California in 1981. Bureau of Land Management assisted in compiling survey data. The status of one territory was not determined and 12 territories were unoccupied. Of 58 territories occupied by adults, 48 pairs were reproductively active. Of these active pairs, 39 were successful in raising 60 young to fledging, 8 pairs were unsuccessful, and status of one was unknown. All known active nests were located in eight northern California counties. One nestling was translocated for release on Santa Catalina Island, and three other nestlings were banded in two nests.

OBJECTIVE:

Determine the status of territories and number of young produced at known Bald Eagle breeding territories in California.

PROCEDURES:

Field biologists from the Department and cooperating agencies surveyed known Bald Eagle breeding territories throughout northern California during the breeding season. At least two visits each were made to most territories. Agency field data forms or field notes were prepared by cooperators, and these data were to be submitted to the Department's Endangered Species Section for tabulation and filing. Bureau of Land Management assisted in this tabulation work by assigning a seasonal employee, Robert Lehman, to compile submitted reports, to collect overdue field data from cooperators, and to report statewide results.

FINDINGS:

Cooperators surveyed 71 historical territories (Table 1). Nest site field data forms and field notes are maintained in Department files. A comprehensive report of the 1981 breeding season survey will be prepared by Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the Department, for publication as a Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Management Branch Administrative Report.

Table 1. 1981 Bald Eagle Nesting Summary, California

County	Number of Territories							No. of fledglings
	Surveyed	Unoccupied	Occupied, activity unkn.	Occupied, not active	Active, success unkn.	Active, no success	Active, successful	
Butte	1					1		2
El Dorado	1	1						
Lake	1					1		2
Lassen	16	6	2			6		10
Modoc	5		1		1	3		3
Plumas	10	1	1		2	6		9
Shasta	30	5	1		1	20	1	31*
Siskiyou	2		1		1			
Trinity	5		1		2	2		3
Totals	71	13	4	5	1	39	1	60

*One was removed for translocation; three others were banded.

As part of efforts to restore a Bald Eagle population to the California Channel Islands, one nestling from a Shasta County nest (with three young) was removed and released on Santa Catalina Island (see E-W-5, V-14.4). In the process of obtaining this nestling, three other wild nestlings in two Shasta County nests were banded.

ANALYSIS:

Job objectives are being met. The survey this year represents the fifth consecutive year in which reasonably thorough coverage of the State's breeding population was obtained, and adequate reproduction data were collected for seasonal and regional comparative analyses.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue annual Bald Eagle breeding season survey in California. Increase efforts to identify previously unreported and newly established territories and nests.

Prepared by: Ronald M. Jurek
Ronald M. Jurek
Wildlife Biologist

Approved by: Robert D. Mallette
Robert D. Mallette
Nongame Wildlife Coordinator

Approved by: Eldridge G. Hunt
for Eldridge G. Hunt, Chief
Wildlife Management Branch

Date: 4-22-82