

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game

California Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey  
January 1986

Compiled by

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1986

The fifth mid-winter Bald Eagle survey in California was conducted between January 2 and 16, 1986, with target dates of January 10 and 11. The survey was made in conjunction with the nationwide mid-winter Bald Eagle survey sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation.

Previous mid-winter count totals\* of Bald Eagles in California were:

<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
862	758	710	787

Participants in 1986 reported a minimum of 598 wintering Bald Eagles. This number is based primarily on reports for the period January 8 to 12, 1986. In the evaluation of report forms, possible duplicate sightings of eagles were excluded from the survey totals.

At least 206 people participated in the surveys as individuals or as representatives of the following organizations:

Biology Department, Chabot College  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
U.S. Forest Service  
Kings River Conservation District  
The Nature Conservancy  
Tulare Audubon Chapter

\*From Detrich, P. J. 1981. Results of the California Winter Bald Eagle Survey, 1979-1981. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento (and 1982 supplement).

U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
 Biosystems Analysis, Inc.  
 Institute for Wildlife Studies  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Monterey County Parks Department  
 U.S. Corps of Engineers  
 Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History  
 San Bernardino Audubon Chapter  
 Big Bear Valley Preserve  
 Morro Coast Audubon Chapter  
 National Park Service  
 Jackson Street School Science Club, Yreka  
 Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center  
 Tulare County Agricultural Commission

The 1986 survey was not as complete as those in 1979-82. The number of observers in 1986 was only 55% of the average number of participants in prior years. Also, there was no coordinated count of Klamath Basin eagle roosts, except in eastern Siskiyou County. Many of the southern Sierra Nevada foothill reservoirs and San Joaquin Valley wetlands were not adequately surveyed because dense fog limited visibility of observers throughout the survey period, and some aircraft surveys could not be flown as had been planned. Additionally, many surveys that could not be conducted within a few days of the target dates were excluded from the survey summary because of the possibility that birds sighted might have been tallied in other counts.

Table 1. California Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey Summary, January 1986

Zone	Ad.	Im.	Unk.	Total	% of Known-age Birds	
					Ad.	Im.
21	15	2	0	17	88	12
22	84	48	3	135	64	36
23	43	29	0	72	60	40
24	21	20	1	42	51	49
25	29	7	0	36	81	19
26	30	19	2	51	61	39
27	23	14	0	37	62	38
28	36	28	2	66	56	44
29	(no reports)					
30	37	22	0	59	63	37
31*	5	6	0	11	45	55
32	19	25	0	44	43	57
33	2	2	0	4	50	50
35	4	2	0	6	67	33
37	7	11	0	18	39	61
	<u>355</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>598</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>40</u>

\*Introduced population

Table 2. California Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey Area Results, January 1986

Except as indicated in parentheses, only those counts on January 8 to 12, 1986 are included in this summary. Many sightings of Bald Eagles reported on some survey forms were excluded from this tally because of possible duplicate sightings of some individuals in a given area.

Recovery Plan Management Zone	Area	Adult	Imm.	Unkn.	Total
21	Surprise Valley	4	0	0	4
	Southern Modoc Co.	11	2	0	13
22	Goose Lake	5	0	0	5
	Klamath Basin Refuges	66	40	3	109
	Siskiyou Co. roosts (not included in total)	(24)	(12)	(14)	(50)
	Klamath River area	9	8	0	17
	Caldwell-Mt. Dome area	4	0	0	4
23	Lake Berryessa area	4	5	0	9
	Cache Creek area	20	20	0	40
	L. Pillsbury	2	0	0	2
	Eel River system (Lake Co.)	3	0	0	3
	Eel River system (Mendocino Co.)	14	4	0	18
24	Lake Shasta	11	1	0	12
	Clair Engle Lake (1/14/86)	5	19	0	24
	Whiskeytown Res.	5	0	1	6
25	McCloud Res.	2	0	0	2
	Pit River (L. Shasta to Big Lake)	20	6	0	26
	Lava Lake	1	0	0	1
	Big Valley area	6	1	0	7
26	Eagle Lake	20	11	2	33
	Lake Almanor	3	4	0	7
	Butt Valley Res.	2	3	0	5
	Snake Lake	1	0	0	1
	Lake Davis	2	0	0	2
	Little Grass Valley Res.	2	1	0	3

Recovery Plan Management Zone	Area	Adult	Imm.	Unkn.	Total
27	Lake Oroville area	9	6	0	15
	Marysville (Dist. 10) area	4	3	0	7
	Sacramento River and tributaries	8	5	0	13
	Black Butte Res.	1	0	0	1
	Sacramento N.W.R.	1	0	0	1
28	New Bullard's Bar Res.	2	1	0	3
	Collins Res.	1	0	0	1
	Lake Tahoe (Calif.)	2	0	0	2
	Tahoe N.F., Sierra Co.	3	1	0	4
	Folsom Res.	1	0	0	1
	Camanche Res.	1	0	0	1
	Pardee Res.	2	0	0	2
	Salt Springs Valley Res. area	3	8	0	11
	L. McClure area	2	2	0	4
	Millerton Lake	7	8	0	15
	Pine Flat Res.	3	4	0	7
	Kings River	3	2	0	5
	Kaweah Lake	2	0	1	3
	Lake Success area	2	0	0	2
	Lake Isabella (1/4/86)	2	2	1	5
30	San Antonio Res. (Alameda Co.)	2	4	0	6
	San Luis Res. (1/2/86)	2	0	0	2
	San Antonio/Nacimiento Res. (Monterey-San Luis Obispo Co.) (1/4/86)	29	15	0	44
	Santa Margarita area	1	0	0	1
	Lopez Lake	2	0	0	2
	Lake Cachuma	1	3	0	4
	Santa Catalina Island	5	6	0	11
31	Big Bear L./Baldwin L.	10	14	0	24
	Lake Mathews	4	5	0	9
	San Jacinto Valley	2	1	0	3
	Lake Hemet	1	3	0	4
	Lake Henshaw (1/7/86)	2	2	0	4
32	Colorado River (1/16/86)	2	2	0	4
33	Honey Lake	4	2	0	6
	Mono Lake area	2	0	0	2
35	Crowley Lake (1/15/86)	2	3	0	5
	Haiwee Res. (1/16/86)	3	8	0	11

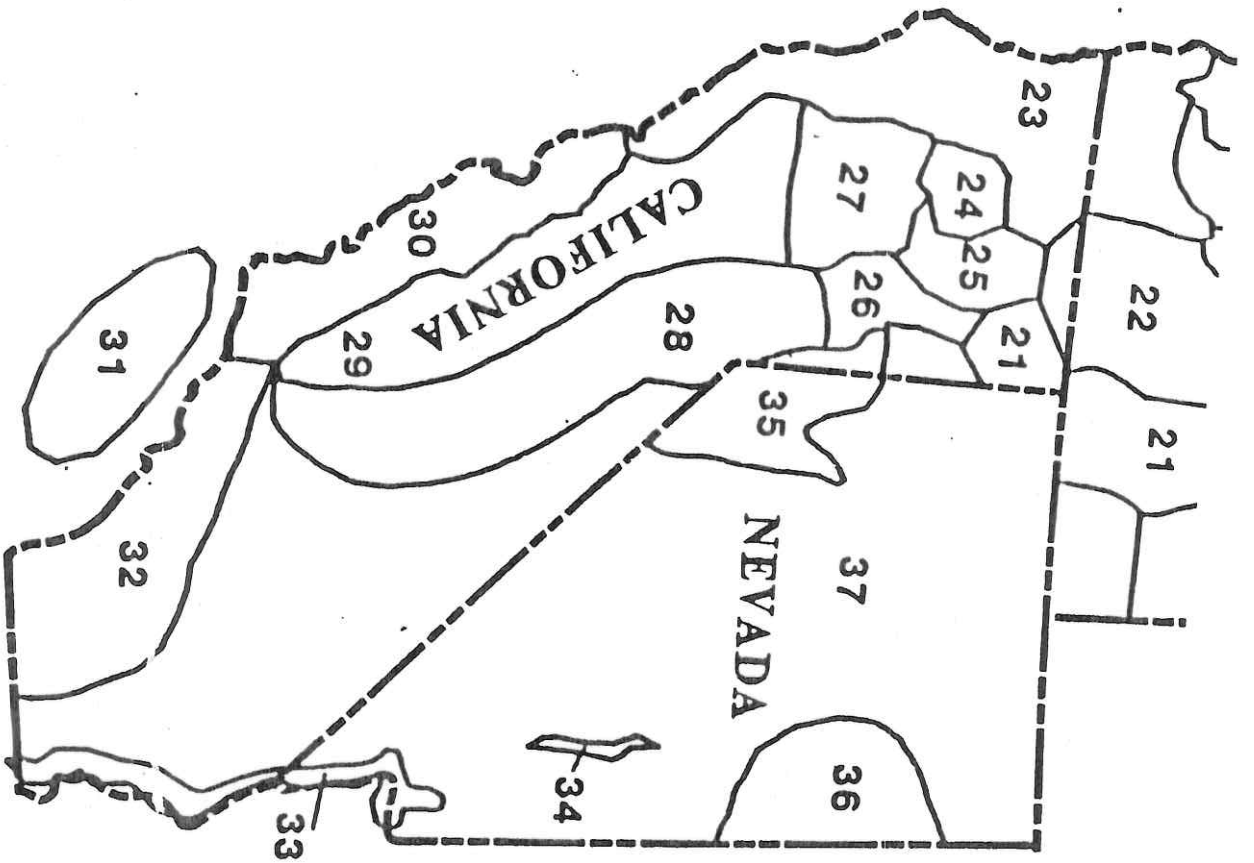


FIGURE 1

LOCATION OF MANAGEMENT  
ZONES IN THE  
PACIFIC RECOVERY AREA

- STATE BOUNDARY
- ZONE BOUNDARY