



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WESTERN REGION  
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September 30, 1983

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## Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Arizona, California, and Nevada Areas

From: Associate Regional Director, Resource Management and Planning,  
Western Region

Subject: Final Results of 1983 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey

Enclosed for your information is a self-explanatory memorandum from National Wildlife Federation (NWF). It includes a table summarizing results of bald eagle counts for States that participated from 1979 through 1983. Some of you have voluntarily participated in those surveys and have received past summaries. As noted in the NWF memorandum, the future course of this survey program will be determined in early October. We will pass on this information to you when it arrives here.

Enclosure



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
MEMORANDUM

Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey Participants

August 5, 1983

Jay D. Hair, Executive Vice President, NWF

WJH

From:

Final results of the 1983 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey

Subject:

The final results of the 1983 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, conducted from 2-17 January, are enclosed. As the attached table shows, 12,098 Bald Eagles were counted in the 46 states that participated. Although more eagles have been counted in past years, previous counts included all of the lower 48 states. If the reduced coverage is taken into account, the difference between years becomes inconsequential (see the Adjusted Grand Totals).

Weather during the count period was unusually mild over much of the eastern half of the country. As an apparent result, many northern states had higher than usual Bald Eagle counts and many southern states had low counts. During mild winters, Bald Eagles seem to overwinter farther north and remain more dispersed than during cold winters. As a result, there are probably fewer birds available for counting in southern parts of the range, and those that are there are more difficult to survey because they are widely dispersed.

The National Wildlife Federation would again like to thank all the survey coordinators and participants for an outstanding job. I would like to reiterate that without your support a survey of this magnitude would not be possible. Plans are now being developed to implement changes in the survey so that information gathered is of even greater value to agencies and organizations with Bald Eagle management responsibilities. A final decision on the future course of the survey is expected in early October. We hope we can count on your continued support in carrying out this new phase of the project. Should you have any questions concerning the 1983 survey or the future changes, please contact Brian Millsap at the Raptor Information Center (703/790-4268).

Attachment

FINAL 1983 MIDWINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY RESULTS

| Region         | 1983      |      |     |       | 1982             | 1981             | 1980  | 1979  |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----|-------|------------------|------------------|-------|-------|
|                | Ad.       | Imm. | Un. | Total | Total            | Total            | Total | Total |
| Alabama        | 19        | 10   | 0   | 29    | 41               | 39               | 35    | 21    |
| Arizona        | 104       | 53   | 1   | 158   | 208              | 185              | 127   | 56    |
| Arkansas       | 307       | 213  | 7   | 527   | 569              | 505              | 471   | 381   |
| California     | NO SURVEY |      |     |       | 872              | 711              | 772   | 830   |
| Colorado       | 310       | 155  | 3   | 468   | 628              | 538              | 595   | 316   |
| Connecticut    | 17        | 16   | 2   | 35    | 31               | 26               | 11    | 20    |
| Delaware       | 7         | 0    | 0   | 7     | 6                | 7                | 7     | 6     |
| Florida        | 652       | 32   | 0   | 684   | 920              | 920              | 733   | 675   |
| Georgia        | 13        | 5    | 0   | 18    | 20               | 12               | 10    | 9     |
| Idaho          | 459       | 179  | 6   | 644   | 668 <sup>a</sup> | 735 <sup>a</sup> | 433   | 404   |
| Illinois       | 134       | 75   | 0   | 209   | 355              | 405              | 599   | 149   |
| Indiana        | 7         | 2    | 0   | 9     | 12               | 6                | 5     | 3     |
| Iowa           | 185       | 59   | 0   | 244   | 127              | 202              | 128   | 41    |
| Kansas         | 283       | 142  | 11  | 436   | 453              | 308              | 324   | 165   |
| Kentucky       | 73        | 45   | 2   | 120   | 125              | 95               | 64    | 74    |
| Louisiana      | 38        | 7    | 1   | 46    | 38               | 44               | 32    | 28    |
| Maine          | NO REPORT |      |     |       | 110              | 107              | 107   | 109   |
| Maryland       | 65        | 43   | 1   | 109   | 109              | 85               | 66    | 44    |
| Massachusetts  | 11        | 12   | 0   | 23    | 13               | 33               | 25    | 8     |
| Michigan       | 97        | 21   | 4   | 122   | 39               | 44               | 37    | 30    |
| Minnesota      | 16        | 11   | 3   | 30    | 21               | 8                | 16    | 3     |
| Mississippi    | 10        | 17   | 0   | 27    | 26               | 14               | 13    | 19    |
| Missouri       | 601       | 301  | 6   | 908   | 779              | 955              | 948   | 178   |
| Montana        | 355       | 140  | 0   | 495   | 470              | 421              | 427   | 257   |
| Nebraska       | 286       | 147  | 13  | 446   | 348 <sup>a</sup> | 440              | 442   | 204   |
| Nevada         | 83        | 31   | 0   | 114   | 74               | 91               | 53    | 52    |
| New Hampshire  | 1         | 0    | 0   | 1     | 2                | 8                | 3     | 0     |
| New Jersey     | 6         | 1    | 0   | 7     | 12               | 9                | 13    | 6     |
| New Mexico     | 200       | 140  | 1   | 341   | 357              | 237              | 135   | 221   |
| New York       | 32        | 17   | 0   | 49    | 40               | 35               | 36    | 41    |
| North Carolina | 7         | 8    | 1   | 16    | 1                | 3                | 5     | 6     |
| North Dakota   | 41        | 9    | 0   | 50    | 40               | 54               | 40    | 30    |
| Ohio           | 10        | 1    | 0   | 11    | 7                | 10               | 7     | 6     |
| Oklahoma       | 321       | 194  | 1   | 516   | 706 <sup>a</sup> | 544              | 569   | 581   |

| Region                            | 1983  |       |     |        | 1982                | 1981   | 1980   | 1979  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|--------|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|
|                                   | Ad.   | Imm.  | Un. | Total  | Total               | Total  | Total  | Total |
| Oregon                            | 178   | 67    | 143 | 388    | 480                 | 547    | 610    | 490   |
| Pennsylvania                      | 11    | 5     | 0   | 16     | 13                  | 26     | 11     | 5     |
| Rhode Island                      | 1     | 0     | 0   | 1      | 1                   | 1      | 0      | 1     |
| South Carolina                    | 49    | 8     | 0   | 57     | 55                  | 37     | 37     | 36    |
| South Dakota                      | 387   | 89    | 0   | 476    | 356                 | 372    | 407    | 62    |
| Tennessee                         | 186   | 114   | 4   | 304    | 211                 | 301    | 272    | 186   |
| Texas                             | 145   | 54    | 3   | 202    | 359                 | 418    | 505    | 397   |
| Utah                              | 523   | 305   | 214 | 1,042  | 1,001               | 742    | 661    | 627   |
| Vermont                           | 1     | 1     | 0   | 2      | 0                   | 1      | 0      | 0     |
| Virginia                          | 108   | 63    | 0   | 171    | 159                 | 122    | 165    | 106   |
| Washington                        | 805   | 325   | 28  | 1,158  | 1,378               | 1,611  | 1,619  | 1,129 |
| West Virginia                     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0      | 3                   | 0      | 0      | 0     |
| Wisconsin                         | 85    | 20    | 4   | 109    | 43                  | 88     | 70     | 53    |
| Wyoming                           | 356   | 149   | 1   | 506    | 362                 | 481    | 456    | 400   |
| Mississippi R.                    | 575   | 167   | 25  | 767    | 1,177               | 1,106  | 945    | 1,350 |
| GRAND TOTAL                       | 8,160 | 3,453 | 485 | 12,098 | 13,825 <sup>a</sup> | 13,689 | 13,046 | 9,815 |
| ADJUSTED GRAND TOTAL <sup>b</sup> |       |       |     | 12,098 | 12,843              | 12,871 | 12,167 | 8,876 |

<sup>a</sup> Reflects changes in totals that were made following release of the table of final results in 1982.

<sup>b</sup> Total counts for all years less totals for states that did not supply data for 1983 (California and Maine).