

## INTRASPECIFIC INTRUSIONS AT BALD EAGLE NESTS

2008-2018

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Nests observed on camera and from the ground.

Reports from [JudyB](#), the [Hancock Wildlife Foundation Forum](#), the [Channel Islands EagleCAM Forum](#),  
the [Hornby Eagle Group](#), nest cam web sites, and my own observations.

Key to abbreviations is at the end of the chart.

### 1992-2004

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA cWE	rural (island)	adult F (helper)	cooperative breeding (2 Fs and 1 M) <i>eggs artificially incubated</i> <i>many eggs unhatched because of DDE contamination</i> intruder F was helper with nest building, incubation, brooding, food, nest defense	<i>24 eggs laid</i> <i>7 eggs hatched</i> <i>4 chicks fledged</i>

### 2005

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA cWE	rural (island)	adult F (helper)	cooperative breeding (2 Fs and 1 M) 4 eggs laid, artificially incubated, 3 unhatched 1 chick fledged helper F probably laid at least 1 egg	1 chick fledged

### 2006

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA cWE	rural (island)	adult F (helper)	cooperative breeding (2 Fs and 1 M) pre-season, resident M replaced by new M 2 eggs laid, both infertile	resident M disappeared

### 2007

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA cWE	rural (island)	adult F (helper)	cooperative breeding (2 Fs and 1 M) 5 eggs laid, 2 unhatched helper F laid at least 1 egg helper F disappeared post-season	3 chicks fledged

**2008**

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA zCP	rural (island)	BAEAs in area	2 eggs laid and hatched parents abandoned nest after apparent intrusions 1 chick died, 1 chick disappeared and presumed dead resident F found dead, likely intruder fight	2 chicks lost resident F and M disappeared resident F killed
CA zPH	rural (island)	juvenile	2 eggs laid and hatched both chicks injured by juvenile, rehabbed and fledged from hack tower	2 chicks fledged
OR des	rural (woodlands)	likely BAEA?	1 egg laid parents driven off egg abandoned	1 egg lost resident F and M disappeared
VA nbg	rural (woodlands)	adult F	1 <sup>st</sup> clutch: intruder at nest during incubation 2 eggs laid and abandoned resident F disappeared, intruder F departed	2 eggs lost
			2 <sup>nd</sup> clutch: resident F returned, laid 2 eggs eggs broken by mother agitated, possibly by intruder 3 <sup>rd</sup> egg laid, which hatched <i>chick contracted avian pox, unreleasable</i>	2 eggs lost <i>1 chick contracted illness</i>

**2009**

no reported intrusions

**2010**

no reported intrusions

**2011**

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
WV shp	rural (woodlands)	adult M	2 eggs laid resident M disappeared, probably injured or killed by intruder intruder M guarded nest, resident F unable to hunt for food 1 egg unhatched 1 chick lost to starvation	1 egg lost 1 chick lost resident M killed

**2012**

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA zFP	rural (island)	juvenile	1 egg laid and hatched chick knocked off nest by juvenile, rescued, fledged from hack tower	1 chick fledged
MD blk	rural (woodlands)	adult	2 eggs laid intruder in nest, killed 1 chick, injured 1 chick which later died	2 chicks lost

**2013**

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA trt	rural (river)	at least 1 adult M	3 eggs laid 1 egg lost before intruder appeared resident M disappeared, later killed by intruder post-season 2 eggs incubated by resident F, often irregularly 1 egg hatched, resident F left nest, chick eaten by intruder intruder briefly incubated remaining egg egg hatched, chick killed and eaten by intruder	1 egg lost before intruder 2 chicks lost resident M killed
BC wht	rural (bay)	at least 2 adults 1 subadult 1 juvenile	pre-season, new F and M fought resident F and M, took over nest 2 eggs laid 1 egg broken and partially eaten by subadult 1 egg abandoned, later broken and partially eaten by juvenile juvenile chased from nest by parent post-season, fights continued for nest	2 eggs lost resident F and M replaced
CA zSC	rural (island)	2 adult Fs ravens	2 eggs laid resident F disappeared after alert at nest resident M incubated irregularly 2 eggs predated by ravens during M's absence 1 <sup>st</sup> intruder F visited nest after predation 2 <sup>nd</sup> intruder F visited nest later resident F seen in another island territory	2 eggs lost resident F disappeared
IL umr	rural (river)	adult M	possible cooperative breeding (1 F and 2 Ms) intruder M replaced original resident M possibly original M in nest tree frequently, apparently never landed in nest 2 eggs laid, hatched and fledged	2 chicks fledged resident M replaced
OK seq	rural (woodlands)	BAEAs in area  GHOW	2 eggs laid frequent nest intrusions resident adults incubated irregularly, disappeared 2 eggs abandoned and unhatched <i>Great Horned Owl female visited nest, laid 2 eggs</i> <i>GHOW incubated eagle egg and 2 owl eggs, none hatched</i> <i>GHOWs and Ospreys visited nest after egg failures</i>	2 eggs lost resident F and M disappeared

**2014**

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
WI e4k	rural (farmland)	adults, subadults, juveniles in area	pre-season, resident F and M disappeared before laying eggs new F and M appeared and claimed nest resident M may have reappeared, intruder M disappeared new F and resident M appeared to be bonding other BAEAs continued to challenge for nest resident M disappeared post-season	no nesting resident F disappeared
WI riv	rural (river)	BAEAs in area	pre-season, intruder(s) challenged resident pair	no nesting
BC dl2	urban	BAEAs in area	pre-season, resident F appeared with left leg injury, possibly caused by intruder 2 eggs laid	2 chicks fledged
GA ber	urban (college)	adult F?	pre-season, resident F appeared with left leg injury, possibly caused by intruder 2 eggs laid, 1 unhatched	1 egg lost 1 chick fledged
CA trt	rural (river)	subadult F	3 eggs laid intruder attacked nest, resident M defended 1 egg disappeared, 2 eggs broke	3 eggs lost
IA dav	rural (river)	BAEAs in area	2 eggs laid resident adult defended the nest 1 egg may have broken in the struggle	1 egg lost 1 chick fledged
IL umr	rural (river)	adult M (helper)	possible cooperative breeding (1 F and 2 Ms) 3 adults seen around nest	

**2015**

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
BC hrn	river (island)	BAEAs in area, some Fs	pre-season, resident F appeared with injuries, later disappeared	no nesting resident F injured
CA cWE	rural (island)	adult F	pre-season, new F replaced previous F 2 eggs laid 1 egg fertile but nonviable <i>1 egg hatched but chick died of acute septicemia</i>	1 egg lost <i>1 chick died of infection</i> resident F replaced
WI e4k	rural (farmland)	at least 2 adult Ms	pre-season, new M replaced original M intruder M attacked new M, who disappeared for a while, possibly injured 2 eggs laid, intruder M did not incubate new M reappeared and displaced intruder M new M eventually began incubating eggs, which did not hatch	2 eggs lost resident M replaced new M injured
FL swf	urban	2 adult Ms	2 eggs laid and hatched, 1 died before intruders appeared resident M injured shortly before chick fledged new M courted resident F resident M rescued, rehabbed and released	<i>1 chick died of unknown cause</i> 1 chick fledged resident M injured
IA dav	rural (river)	BAEAs in area	1 <sup>st</sup> clutch: 1 egg laid, broke intruder adult ate broken egg	1 egg lost
			2 <sup>nd</sup> clutch: 1 egg laid parents incubated irregularly, abandoned egg	1 egg lost
IL umr	rural (river)	adult M (helper)	possible cooperative breeding (1 F and 2 Ms) 3 adults seen around nest	3 chicks fledged

2016				
NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
CA zCV	rural (island)	adult F	pre-season, resident F replaced by new F	no nesting resident F replaced
CA cTR	rural (island)	likely BAEA	resident F died of injuries probably received in fight	no nesting resident F killed
FL swf	urban	adult M	pre-season, new M replaced resident M original M returned, new M successfully defended nest original M injured and later died 2 eggs laid and hatched fledglings attacked by owl, 1 injured, rescued, rehabbed, and released	2 chicks fledged resident M replaced
WI e4k	rural (farmland)	BAEAs in area	2 eggs laid resident M attacked by intruder several times, injured, disappeared eggs not incubated regularly intruder adult M destroyed both eggs	2 eggs lost resident M disappeared
IL umr	rural (river)	adult M (helper)	cooperative breeding (1 F and 2 Ms) resident M returned, intruder M stayed 3 eggs laid, hatched, and fledged	3 chicks fledged

2017				
NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
TN har	urban (golf course)	adult F	pre-season, new F replaced resident F	no nesting resident F replaced
NJ duk	rural (woodlands)	adult F	pre-season, intruder F challenged resident F before eggs laid intruder disappeared	no nesting
BC sid	urban (bay)	adult BAEAs	pre-season, resident F and M defended territory against several intruders	no nesting
WI e4k	rural (farmland)	BAEAs in area	pre-season, raccoon disrupted nesting activities BAEA intruders may have inhibited resident F and M from nesting	no nesting
VA nbg	rural (woodlands)	adult F and M	pre-season, new F and M appear to have replaced resident F and M 3 eggs laid, hatched and fledged resident M still in area	3 chicks fledged resident F and M replaced
BC har	urban (golf course)	adult M?	2 eggs laid, hatched and fledged resident M disappeared during nestling period possible fight between resident M and intruder resident M did not return to nest resident F successfully raised chicks to fledge	2 chicks fledged resident M disappeared
IL umr	rural (river)	BAEAs in area adult M (helper)	cooperative breeding (1 F and 2 Ms) 3 eggs laid, 1 unhatched resident F fought with intruder and disappeared 2 resident Ms successfully raised 2 chicks to fledge	1 egg lost 2 chicks fledged resident F disappeared

2018				
NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
BC sid	urban (bay)	adult F	pre-season, new F replaced previous resident F	no nesting resident F replaced
BC hrn	river (island)	adults, subadults, and juveniles in area	previous resident M injured in 2015, reappeared this season intruders visited nest area frequently	no nesting
BC wht	rural (bay)	adults, subadults, and juveniles in area	intruder F fought resident F, both injured resident F drove off intruder intruders continued to visit nest, esp. new young F (4 <sup>th</sup> yr?)	no nesting resident F injured
BC har	urban (golf course)	adult M	pre-season, new M replaced previous resident M 1 egg laid and hatched <i>chick died at 6 days of unknown cause</i>	<i>1 chick died of unknown cause</i>
CA cTH	rural (island)	adult F	resident F injured, possibly by intruder F resident F recovered and laid 1 egg, which broke	1 egg lost resident F injured
IA dav	rural (river)	BAEAs in area	intruder attacked and injured resident F 1 egg laid egg possibly damaged, disappeared and abandoned	1 egg lost resident F injured
IA dec	rural (hatchery)	adult M	3 eggs laid, hatched and fledged resident M disappeared after chicks hatched, possibly challenged by intruder intruder M frequented the area but resident F did not allow him on the nest resident F successfully raised chicks to fledge	3 chicks fledged resident M disappeared
IA dnn	rural	BAEAs in area	1 <sup>st</sup> clutch: intruders harassed resident F and M and landed in nest 1 egg laid, broke, probably infertile	1 egg lost
			2 <sup>nd</sup> clutch: 2 eggs laid and hatched <i>both chicks died probably of ectoparasites</i>	<i>2 chicks lost</i>
MN dnr	urban	adults, subadults, and juveniles in area	courtship stage, new M replaced previous M intruders may have disrupted fertilization 3 eggs laid eggs not protected in nest cup and frequently unattended 1 egg broke, possibly by intruder 1 egg disappeared 1 egg unhatched, eaten by intruder subadult	3 eggs lost resident M replaced
NJ duk	rural (woodlands)	subadult	2 eggs laid intruder may have disrupted incubation or damaged eggs 1 egg broke, probably infertile 1 egg appeared to begin hatching but unsuccessful; perhaps damaged by intruder	2 eggs lost
OH snd		adult F	2 eggs laid, 1 unhatched intruder F attacked and injured resident F, who later died 1 chick killed and eaten by intruder	1 egg lost 1 chick lost resident F killed

**2018**

NEST	HABITAT	INTRUDER	EVENTS	OUTCOME
PA han	rural (park lake)	BAEAs in area	intruder attacked and injured resident F 2 eggs laid resident F and M incubated irregularly intruder visited nest, forced off by resident M resident F disappeared resident M left eggs exposed, intruder ate both eggs	2 eggs lost resident F disappeared
WV shp	rural (forest)	BAEAs in area	resident F and M harassed by several intruders resident F disappeared 1 egg, abandoned resident M courted by more than one intruder F	1 egg lost resident F disappeared
IL umr	rural (river)	adult F adult M (helper)	cooperative breeding (1 F and 2 Ms) pre-season, new F replaced resident F 2 eggs laid and hatched <i>younger chick died of unknown cause</i> older chick fledged early at 60 days, later seen healthy	<i>1 chick lost of unknown cause</i> 1 chick fledged resident F replaced
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**ABBREVIATIONS**

BAEA	Bald Eagle	CA zSC	California, Santa Cruz Island, Sauces Canyon
GHOW	Great Horned Owl	FL swf	Florida, North Fort Myers
F	Female	GA ber	Georgia, Berry, Berry College
M	Male	IA dav	Iowa, Davenport, Alcoa/Arconic
<b>NESTS</b>		IA dec	Iowa, Decorah hatchery
BC dl2	British Columbia, Vancouver, Delta 2	IA dnn	Iowa, Decorah North
BC har	British Columbia, Harrison Mills	IL umr	Illinois, Lock & Dam 13, Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge
BC hrn	British Columbia, Hornby Island	MD blk	Maryland, Cambridge, Blackwater National Wildlife REfuge
BC sid	British Columbia, Vancouver Island, Sidney	MN dnr	Minnesota, Minneapolis-St. Paul, DNR
BC wht	British Columbia, White Rock, Boundary Bay	NJ duk	New Jersey, Hillsborough, Duke Farms
CA cTH	California, Catalina Island, Two Harbors	OH snd	Ohio, North Ridgeville, Sandy Ridge Reservation
CA cTR	California, Catalina Island, Twin Rocks	OK seq	Oklahoma, Vian, Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge
CA cWE	California, Catalina Island, West End	OR des	Oregon, Willamette Pass, Deschutes National Forest
CA trt	California, Redding, Turtle Bay	PA han	Pennsylvania, Hanover, Codorus State Park
CA zCP	California, Santa Cruz Island, Carl Peak/Grasslands; Marva Real	TN har	Tennessee, Harrison, Harrison Bay State Park
CA zCV	California, Santa Cruz Island, Cueva Valdez	VA nbg	Virginia, Norfolk Botanical Gardens
CA zFP	California, Santa Cruz Island, Fraser Point	WI e4k	Wisconsin, Blair, Eagles4kKids
CA zPH	California, Santa Cruz Island, Pelican Harbor	WI riv	Wisconsin, Wolf River
		WV shp	West Virginia, Shepherdstown, National Conservation Training Center