

The 1966 status of 24 nest sites of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in east-central Florida.—This is the seventh in a series of brief publications tracing the history of 24 Bald Eagle nest sites since 1935 based on information secured at about 5-year intervals by searches of each site made on foot or from an airplane. The last paper in this series appeared in *Auk*, 79: 716–718, 1962.

Ground searches of the nest sites on 21 and 23 December and a thorough air search of the sites on 22 December yielded information as complete as that for any of the earlier searches. Table 1 summarizes the status of each site from 1935 through 1966. The three terms for which abbreviations are used in the main section are defined as follows: O—occupied sites with a nest judged to contain eggs or young; A—active sites with at least one adult present but no nest judged to contain eggs or young; and U—unoccupied sites at which no adult was seen.

The six sites occupied in 1966 are one more than were occupied in 1961. Site 14, classified as active in 1961, was occupied in 1966; site 15 was judged unoccupied in 1961 and occupied in 1966; site 23 was occupied in 1961 but unoccupied in 1966. The remaining 18 sites were all classified as unoccupied in both 1961 and 1966. These findings indicate that the level of occupancy has continued about as it was in 1961.

The final column in Table 1 gives a new and more detailed type of assessment of the 1966 status of the 18 unoccupied sites. The abbreviation E (for extinct) is assigned to four sites no longer ecologically suited for nesting. N (for nest) is applied to six unoccupied sites that contain a recognizable nest or nest remnant. Q (for questionable) designates the eight sites that have no nest or eagle present but still appear ecologically suitable.

In my opinion the sites classified as extinct are unlikely to be used by eagles again, and those designated as questionable have a low probability of being occupied in the future. The sites where some evidence of a nest remains are the most likely of the currently unoccupied sites to be used again. Each of these 18 unoccupied nest sites has now remained unoccupied during two consecutive periods. Only twice in this history has a site designated as unoccupied for two consecutive periods been occupied again later.

During the 3 days of the 1961 ground search 8 eagles were observed; during the 2 days of the 1966 ground search 5 eagles were seen.

A change certain to affect the occupancy of these nest sites has been the acquisition by NASA since 1961 of control over many square miles of Merritt Island. Of the 24 nest sites on which this study is based, 15 now lie within the NASA controlled area, access to which by the general public is restricted by NASA policy. This restriction has freed many square miles of human activity, and a number of the nest sites under study lie in this little used area. Hunting is now permitted on only the small part of the controlled area constituting the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The NASA program has established a number of large buildings with attached personnel on the controlled area and a few improved and new highways over which considerable traffic moves at times. NASA personnel are encouraged to take an interest in and to conserve wildlife.

It is too early to assess the effect of NASA on this group of eagle nest sites, but it is worth noting that four of the 15 sites now on the NASA controlled area were occupied in 1966 as against only two in 1961.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks my gratitude to Jack Salmela, Director of the Brevard Mosquito District, for making a plane available to me and also for arranging with the authorities at the John F. Kennedy Space Center for permission to fly over nest sites on the NASA controlled area. John Sullivan piloted the plane with skill

TABLE 1
STATE OF OCCUPANCY OF 24 NEST SITES DURING CERTAIN YEARS FROM 1935 TO 1966

Site numbers	1935	1940	1946	1951	1956	1961	1966	1966
1	O ¹	O	U	U	U	U	U	E
2	O	O	O	O	O	U	U	E
3	O	A	O	O	A	U	U	N
4	O	O	U	U	A	U	U	Q
5	O	A	A	A	U	U	U	N
6	O	U	A	A	U	U	U	Q
7	O	O	O	O	U	U	U	Q
8	O	O	U	O	O	O	O	O
9	A	A	O	O	U	U	U	N
10	U	O	U	O	U	U	U	Q
11	O	U	U	U	U	U	U	E
12	O	A	U	U	U	U	U	N
13	O	U	O	O	U	U	U	N
14	U	U	O	O	U	A	O	O
15	O	A	O	O	O	U	O	O
16	O	O	O	O	A	O	O	O
17	O	O	O	O	O	U	U	Q
18	O	O	U	O	O	O	O	O
19	O	O	O	O	U	U	U	Q
20	A	U	U	O	O	U	U	Q
21	O	U	U	U	U	U	U	E
22	O	A	O	O	U	U	U	Q
23	O	O	O	O	O	O	U	N
24	O	U	O	U	O	O	O	O
Per cent of sites occupied	83	46	54	67	33	21	25	

¹ Abbreviations: A, active; E, extinct; N, nest; O, occupied; Q, questionable; U, unoccupied.

and was most cooperative in making the air search a thorough one. For the interest shown in this study and the assistance given me I am also indebted to the following officers of the John F. Kennedy Space Center: Kurt Debus, Director; Albert F. Siefert, Deputy Director; and John Nelson, Public Affairs Officer.—J. C. HOWELL, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916.*

Encounters between Bald Eagles and other birds in winter.—A substantial population of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) summers on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, but most of them leave in winter. Observations of encounters between the few Bald Eagles remaining and other scavenging birds during winter give some insight into their behavior in response to food shortage.

On 19 April 1961 a subadult Bald Eagle was feeding on a fragmentary carcass, apparently of a gull or similar-sized bird, on the ice edging the Margaree River near East Margaree. Two Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) walked around it at distance of about 10 feet, but neither made any attempt to snatch food from the