BALD EAGLE - OSPREY STATUS REPORT, 1967
CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST, MINNESOTA

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Bald eagle and osprey populations of the Chippewa National Forest have been evaluated for the fifth consecutive year. The inventory of nest sites has continued with the cooperation of Ranger District personnel and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. An attempt was made to observe as many nests as possible in early spring to determine occupancy. Occupied nests were again checked in midsummer to determine nesting success. A nest was considered active if adults were present, or if droppings indicated substantial use of the nest tree. If young were present in late June or July, the nesting attempt was considered successful.

New Nests and Nest Losses. Another effort was made to locate eagle and osprey nests from aircraft in cooperation with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife during the week of March 13 through 17, 1967. The northern half of the Forest was given special attention. Approximately 13 hours flying time were utilized in the search. The survey was very successful with 46 additional nests being located (26 eagle nests, 20 osprey nests). The find rate was 3 1/2 nests per hour of flying time.

A total of 39 eagle nests and 29 osprey nests was added to the records in 1967. Nine eagle nests had blown down, and two were considered abandoned, which brings the total number on the Forest to 135. We now have a total of 59 osprey nests on the records, with many more yet to be located.

Nesting Success. Sixty-seven of the eagle nests were observed at least once during the 1967 breeding period. Forty-nine, or 73% were considered to be active (occupied by adults at time of observation). Thirty-eight were checked for young, indicating a nesting success of 55%. This was somewhat less than nesting success for 1966, but still well above average for the five-year period. The outcome of the other 68 nests is not known, but an estimate can be calculated by projecting data for known outcome nests. The following table summarizes results of the 1967 breeding season.

District	Known Nests	Observed Nests	Active Nests	Successful Nests	Number of Young
Bena	35	20	17 (3)*	5	8
Blackduck	11	5	6 (5)	1	2
Walker	12	6	2 (2)	1	1
Remer	8	3	2 (0)	0	0
Marcell	10	5	4 (3)	3	4
Cass Lake	32	15	8 (7)	5	7
Cut Foot Sioux	27	13	10 (8)	6	8
FOREST TOTAL	135	67	49 (38)	21	30
Percent		50%	73%	55%	1.4/nest
PROJECTED FOREST TOTAL			99	54	76

*() indicates number of active nests observed in summer, used for calculating % of successful nests.

The following table compares eagle nesting data on the Chippewa for the past five years.

Year	Known Nests	Observed Nests	Active Nests* No.	Active Nests* %	Successful Nests No.	Successful Nests %	Young per Nest
1963	48	31	20	64	6	30	1.7
1964	55	46	30	65	12	40	1.2
1965	76	58	39	67	22	56	1.3
1966	107	70	52	74	19	61	1.5
1967	135	67	49	73	21	55	1.4

* Only active nests with known outcome were used for calculating nesting success.

Other Observations. An analysis of nesting success data from 1963-1966 clearly showed that eagle nests located in extremely isolated areas were no more successful than those in areas of frequent human presence. This material was accepted for publication and will soon appear in the Journal of Wildlife Management.

Of special interest this year was the frequent observation of sub-adult eagles prior to fledging. In previous years it was considered rare to observe a sub-adult eagle on the Chippewa, 2 or 3 observations being usual. Nineteen sub-adults were observed this year by the Forest Biologist.

Eight nestlings were banded by Dr. Al Grewe and a student assistant (this brought the total nestlings banded to 10). Three and possibly four adult mortalities were reported, two by shooting, the others by unknown causes.

Osprey Nests. Twenty of the fifty-nine osprey nests were observed for occupancy. Seventeen, or 85% were considered active. Nine of the active nests were checked for success, and all but two contained advanced young. This indicates that ospreys on the Chippewa are not suffering from reproductive failure. More effort should be placed on evaluating osprey nesting activity.