



Breeding pair enjoy time together. Tom Fleming, February 2020.

## John Bunker Sands Wetland Center American Bald Eagles Timeline

Updated February 1, 2024

This summary tracks the history of American bald eagles at the East Fork Wetland Project and their relationship with the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center.

Since close monitoring began in 2012, 21 eaglets have hatched and 17 have been confirmed as successfully fledging. The wetland breeding pair and their offspring are contributing to the comeback of one of our nation's most revered symbols.

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Breeding season runs from fall to early summer.

### 2008

Adults are observed in the wetland.

### 2009

No nesting activity is observed.

### 2010

Juvenile eagles are observed with adults.

### 2011-2012 Breeding Season

#### Fall

- Nesting activity is observed on the existing Oncor energized 345-kV transmission tower.

#### Spring

- Juveniles are observed with adults.

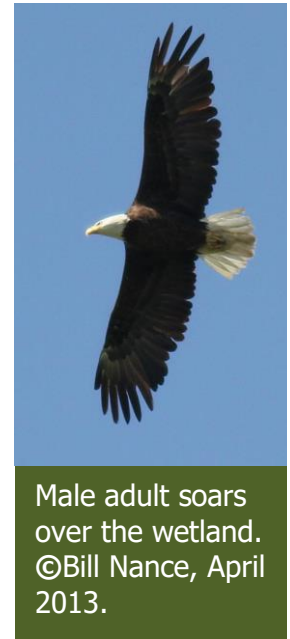
#### Summer

- Adults and juveniles leave the wetland.

### 2012-2013 Breeding Season

#### Fall

- Adult pair arrive back at the wetland.
- Courtship and nest building are observed on the existing Oncor tower.



Male adult soars over the wetland. ©Bill Nance, April 2013.

## Winter

- JBS 1 and JBS 2 eaglets are observed on the original nest location.

## Spring

- Adults are seen hunting and feeding their young.
- JBS 1 and JBS 2 grow and strengthen.
- Partnership forms in May between Oncor, Falcon Steel and the Wetland Center for continued monitoring and eventual safe relocation of the eagle nest.



JBS 1 and JBS 2 perch together on a snag. John DeFillipo, June 2013.

## Summer

- JBS 1 and JBS 2 fledge the nest in June and flourish in the wetland.
- Adults and JBS 1 and JBS 2 leave the wetland.
- Plans move forward for relocating the eagle nest.
- Our first [eagle album](#) documents the 2012-2013 breeding season.

## 2013-2014 Breeding Season

### Fall

- Adults return in early September, postponing nest relocation efforts until summer 2014.
- Adults are observed in nesting behavior on the original nest location.
- Oncor installs bird deterrents on adjacent tower structures.
- New tower is erected on wetland property in advance of relocation.

### Winter

- JBS 3 and JBS 4 are spotted on the original nest location.

### Spring

- Adults and JBS 3 and JBS 4 gain attention from local media and are monitored to ensure their safety on the energized transmission line tower.
- JBS 3 fledges approximately May 15, and JBS 4 fledges May 17.



Nest is prepared for relocation to a safe new tower structure. July 2014.

### Summer

- Monitoring continues with Oncor biologists for eventual relocation of the nest to the new tower.
- Eagle nest is relocated on July 12-13 to a safe new tower structure 1,200 feet from the original location, garnering [news media](#) stories.
- High-definition camera is also installed above the nest for monitoring.

- Director John DeFillipo provides [more information](#) on our eagles, including background on the eagle tower relocation.
- This [photo album](#) documents the eagle tower relocation.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2013-2014 breeding season.

## 2014-2015 Breeding Season

### Fall

- Adults return to the wetland but try to rebuild the nest on the original tower location.
- Every few days, Oncor removes the sticks to deter the adults from rebuilding.
- Adults finally locate the new tower in October and quickly move in to reclaim their original nest.
- The [Dallas Morning News](#) and [NBCDFW \(Ch. 5\)](#) help spread the news and celebrate the relocation success.



Courtship and nest building. Webcam, October 2014.

### Winter

- Eagles continue preparing the nest and breeding.
- Adults' behavior suggests an eaglet has hatched.
- Monitoring camera has many issues with the live feed, transmitting images intermittently.

### Spring

- JBS 5 is finally confirmed on March 21 by ground observation.

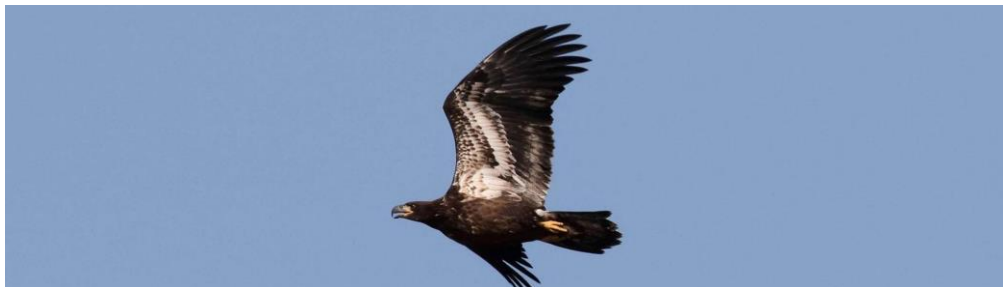
### Summer

- JBS 5 fledges and thrives in the wetland.
- Adults and JBS 5 leave the wetland in June.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2014-2015 breeding season.

## 2015-2016 Breeding Season

### Fall

- Adults return to the new nest location in September.
- Nesting behavior observed up close for first time via the monitoring camera.
- Lightning and tornadoes are near the eagle tower on Dec. 26. Lightning strikes the tower and short circuits the camera system. Eagles are uninjured.



Young eagle practices flying skills. Tom Fleming, June 2016.

### Winter

- Ground observation confirms eggs have been laid.

### Spring

- Ground observations catch JBS 6 and JBS 7 peeking over the rim of the nest.

### Summer

- JBS 6 and JBS 7 fledge the nest.
- In June, they leave the property along with adults.
- New camera system is installed in August ahead of the 2016-2017 breeding season.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2015-2016 breeding season.

## 2016-2017 Breeding Season

### Fall

- Adults return in September and begin courtship and rebuilding the nest.
- Excellent images come from the new camera.

### Winter

- For the first time, egg laying is observed on the monitoring camera.
- The [first egg is laid](#) Jan. 25. The [second egg is laid](#) Jan. 28.

### Spring

- JBS 8 hatches March 2, and JBS 9 hatches March 5.
- JBS 8 fledges May 15, and JBS 9 fledges May 27.

### Summer

- JBS 8 and JBS 9 leave the property along with the adults.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2016-2017 breeding season.





## 2017-2018 Breeding Season

### Fall

- Adults return Oct. 7 and begin courtship and rebuilding the nest.

### Winter

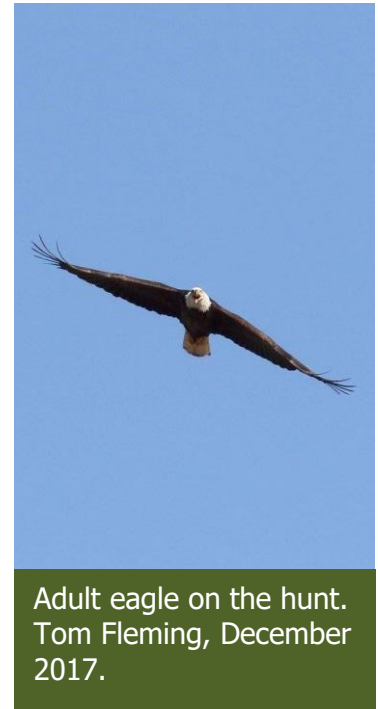
- One egg is laid Jan. 30.

### Spring

- JBS 10 hatches March 6.
- JBS 10 fledges in late May.

### Summer

- Eagles leave the property in June.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2017-2018 breeding season.



Adult eagle on the hunt.  
Tom Fleming, December 2017.

## 2018-2019 Breeding Season

### Fall

- Eagle pair return separately Oct. 3 and Oct. 6 and begin courtship and rebuilding the nest.

### Winter

- First egg is laid Dec. 16 and second Dec. 19.
- Confirmation of a hatchling Jan. 28 via ground observation.

### Spring

- Two eaglets are confirmed on the nest March 1 via ground observation.
- JBS 11 and JBS 12 fledge April 18.

### Summer

- Adults and juveniles leave the property in June.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2018-2019 breeding season.



Majestic eagle flies through the wetland trees.  
Tom Fleming, December 2018.

## 2019-2020 Breeding Season

### Fall

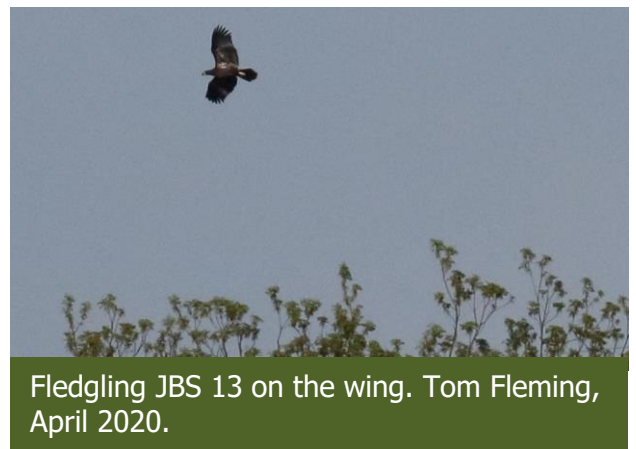
- Eagle pair return together Oct. 3.

### Winter

- One egg is confirmed Jan. 4, likely laid between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- Hatching of JBS 13 is confirmed Feb. 7.

### Spring

- JBS 13 fledges April 22.



Fledgling JBS 13 on the wing.  
Tom Fleming, April 2020.

- JBS 13 is sighted still on the property May 22, but all the eagles leave the property soon after.

### Summer

- Work begins on a new camera system.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2019-2020 breeding season.

### 2020-2021 Breeding Season

#### Fall

- [New camera is installed](#) Sept. 30 and [begins streaming](#) Oct. 6.
- Eagle pair return together Oct. 9.
- Oct. 10 marks the first eagle sighting on the new camera.

#### Winter

- Egg is laid Dec. 14.
- JBS 14 hatches Jan. 21 at 2:34 p.m.
- JBS 14 has first feeding Jan. 22 and appears vigorous.
- JBS 14's death is confirmed at 10:38 a.m. Jan. 23. The cause is unknown.
- The eagle pair disposes of the eaglet's body and leaves the nest but remains in the area.
- The pair is observed on Feb. 2 building a new nest about 1,000 feet from the tower nest. The webcam is not able to capture activity at this nest.
- A [video tribute](#) to JBS 14.
- Our [eagle album](#) documents the 2020-2021 breeding season.



New livestream camera brings stellar images of the eagles. The pair prepare for the imminent hatching of the season's one egg. Webcam, January 2021.



JBS 14 appears vigorous on Jan. 22, one day after hatching. The eaglet was confirmed dead, reason unknown, on Jan. 23. Webcam, January 2021.

## Spring

- Egg or eggs likely laid between March 10-15 and incubation observed in the new tree nest.
- Feeding behavior is observed in the second half of April.
- JBS 15 observed May 14.



A new nest is observed. Tom Fleming, March 12, 2021.



Male eagle flies, while the female incubates the egg. Tom Fleming, March 26, 2021.



Top of JBS 15's head is observed in the upper right part of the nest. Tom Fleming, May 14, 2021.

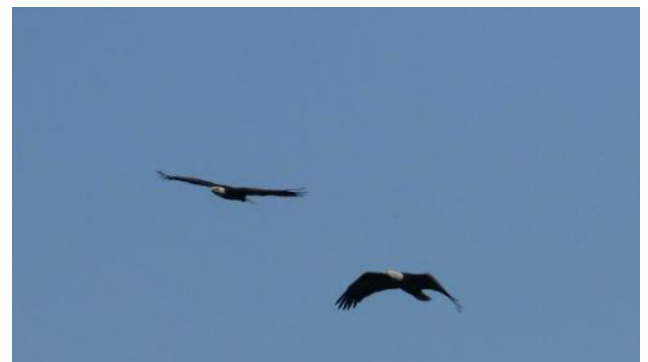
## Summer

- Fledging is not observed, and JBS 15's success is unknown.
- The adults leave for the summer.

## 2021-2022 Breeding Season

### Fall

- The adults are first observed on the tower nest at 7:32 a.m. on Oct. 3.
- The pair roost in the tower nest and are attacked by great horned owls, which used the nest to raise their family while the eagles were gone. Caracaras are also seen on the nest but are evicted by the eagles.
- A juvenile eagle is observed accompanying the adults.
- After spending time on the tower nest early in the season, the eagles move to the tree nest.



The breeding pair returns in early October. Tom Fleming, Oct. 5, 2021

### Winter

- Egg or eggs likely laid around Dec. 28. Incubation is observed.



- On Feb. 1, the female's movements confirm a live eaglet. JBS 16 likely hatched Jan. 30 or 31. It is too early to confirm the number of eaglets.
- On Feb. 22, a second eaglet, JBS 17, is confirmed via the spotting scope. Both chicks are active in the nest.



JBS 16 and JBS 17 are robust and exercising in the nest. Tom Fleming, March 19, 2022.



The male flies in with bedding material while the female attends to the eaglet. Tom Fleming, Feb. 15, 2022.

### Spring

- JBS 16 fledges on April 27, with JBS 17 following soon after.
- Both eaglets are observed flying, strengthening and learning hunting skills from their parents.



JBS 16 has fledged, while JBS 17 perches above the nest in preparation for fledging. Tom Fleming, April 28, 2022.

### Summer

- The adults and juveniles leave for the summer.

## 2022-2023 Breeding Season

### Fall

- The breeding pair returns from their summer hiatus in fall of 2022 and begins refurbishing their tower nest and nearby tree nest. Ultimately, they select to use the unmonitored tree nest.

### Winter

- The first egg is laid near Christmas and the second three days later.
- JBS 18 hatches in late January, while JBS 19 hatches around Feb. 2 or 3.



The male babysits JBS 18 and 19. Tom Fleming, Feb. 28, 2023.



## Spring

- JBS 18 fledges on April 21 and JBS 19 on April 26.

## Summer

- The eagle family leaves for the summer.



The female eagle drives a juvenile (perhaps her offspring) away from the nest. Tom Fleming, April 21, 2023.



The eaglets exercise and practice flying in readiness for fledging. Tom Fleming, April 25, 2023.

## 2023-2024 Breeding Season

### Fall

- Eagle monitoring this fall and winter is limited to the eagle camera.
- The eagles return from the summer, with the first sighting on Sept. 19.
- Throughout October and November, they spend time on the tower nest and bring in and arrange sticks and bedding.
- Without visual monitoring, it is unknown if they are also spending time at their tree nest.



The eagle pair cooperate but also tussle over the nest stick arranging, with the female having the last say. Webcam, Oct. 4, 2023.

## Winter

- The eagles choose their tower nest for the first time since January 2021.
- The first egg is laid on Dec. 18 and the second on Dec. 21. Incubation begins.
- JBS 20 hatches about 7:40 a.m. on Jan. 26, and JBS 21 hatches a day later on the afternoon of Jan. 27.



JBS 20 and JBS 21 await feeding. Though just days old, they are gaining mobility and balance. Webcam, Jan. 29, 2024.



JBS 20 receives its first feeding after hatching. Webcam, Jan. 26, 2024.

- One eaglet topples over and cannot regain its upright position at 12:19 p.m. on Jan. 31. The eaglet struggles throughout the afternoon and ceases moving about 5 p.m. The reason for the apparently healthy chick's death is unknown. It is impossible to know whether the deceased chick is JBS 20 or JBS 21.
- The remaining chick appears robust and thriving, and the parents continue to care for it.



The apparently healthy chick topples over a few minutes after this screenshot, cannot regain its balance and dies late in the afternoon. Webcam, Jan. 31, 2024.



Family portrait. The day after its sibling's death, the remaining chick appears to thrive. Webcam, Feb. 1, 2024.