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

John Bunker Sands Wetland Center American Bald Eagles Timeline

Updated September 12, 2026

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 recordkeeping began in 2012, 25 eaglets have hatched and 21 juveniles have been confirmed as successfully fledging. The wetlands are contributing to the comeback of one of our nation's most revered symbols.

Follow Facebook for commentary, photos and videos.

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.

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

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 at the wetland.
- Courtship and nest building are observed on the existing Oncor tower.

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.

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.

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

2013-2014 Breeding Season

Fall

- Adults arrive 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.

- This informational site has even 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

Courtship and nest building. Webcam, October 2014.

Fall

- Adults arrive in 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.

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.

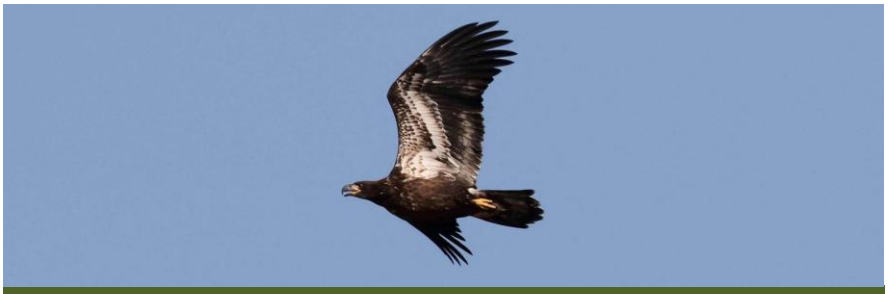
Summer

- 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 arrive and focus on 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 arrive 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 17.

Female keeping watch. Tom Fleming, May 2017.

Summer

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

Wetland eaglet enjoys a room with a view. Webcam, June 2017.

2017-2018 Breeding Season

Fall

- Adults arrive 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 arrive 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 arrive 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.

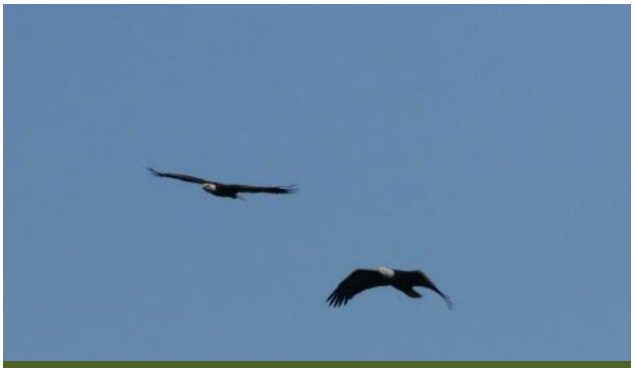
Summer

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

2021-2022 Breeding Season

Fall

- 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 arrive 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.

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

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

- Adults 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 arrive 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 tousle 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 receives its first feeding after hatching. Webcam, Jan. 26, 2024.

JBS 20 and JBS 21 await feeding. Though just days old, they are gaining mobility and balance. Webcam, Jan. 29, 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 apparently healthy chick – likely JBS 21 -- may have just ventured too far from the nest before it was mature and mobile enough.
- The remaining chick appears robust and thriving, and the parents continue to care for it.

The apparently heathy 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.

Spring

- The young eaglet grows routinely, quickly gaining in size and strength.
- The juvenile branches – hops out of the nest onto the support platform – on April 8. Branching is an important milestone in preparation for fledging.
- The youngster fledges at 8:09 a.m. on April 14. It continues to use the nest for rest and parental feedings through late May.
- By late May, the juvenile and parents are no longer using the tower nest.

Mom watches as the eaglet stretches its wings. "Wingercising" is an important step in strengthening the wings for flight. Webcam, Feb. 16, 2024.

The juvenile branches on April 8, venturing farther out as the day progresses. Webcam, April 8, 2024.

At 8:09 a.m. on April 14, the young eaglet takes its first flight away from the nest. Webcam, April 14, 2024.

Summer

- The eagle family leaves for the summer.

2024-2025 Breeding Season

Fall

- The eagle pair arrive separately on Sept. 24 and 25.
- They immediately focus on their tower nest, evicting a pair of great horned owls as their first course of action.
- Throughout October and November, they spend time on the tower nest and bring in and arrange sticks and bedding.

The eagles sighted together on Sept. 26. Webcam, Sept. 26, 2024

Winter

- The first egg is laid on Dec. 15 and the second on Dec. 18. Incubation begins.
- On Jan. 1, Dad brings in a plastic balloon with string, promoting concern for the safety of the adults and the soon-to-hatch eaglets. Experts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determine that the balloon causes no immediate

danger or emergency. By Jan. 3, wind had carried the balloon and string away.

- JBS 22 hatches the morning of Jan. 22 with the first sighting around 7 a.m. JBS 23 hatches 24 hours later on the morning of Jan. 23.
- Both nestlings appear vigorous and healthy.

Mom feeds 2-day-old JBS 22 and 1-day-old JBS 23 on Jan. 24. Webcam, Jan. 24, 2025

- Both nestlings appear vigorous and healthy.
- The eaglets grow quickly through the winter, hitting all their developmental milestones.

Spring

- By mid-March, both eaglets are vigorously wingercising in preparation for branching.

JBS 22 (right) and JBS 23 "wingercise" – flap their wings to exercise and develop them for flight. Webcam, March 26, 2025

Mom incubating with a balloon hazard behind her brought in by Dad on Jan. 1. Webcam, Jan. 2, 2025

Three-week-old JBS 22 (right) and JBS 23 are thriving. Webcam, Feb. 11, 2025

In just a month after hatching, the chicks are markedly larger and developing their permanent feathers. Webcam, Feb. 24, 2025

- JBS 22 branches on April 6, and JBS 23 fledges on April 7.
- JBS 22 fledges on April 10, and JBS 23 fledges on April 12
- The juveniles continue to visit the nest for rest, food from Mom and Dad and companionship.
- Around May 24, the juveniles leave to begin nomadic life on their own for the next 4-5 years.

JBS 22 (right), who branched the day before, shows JBS 23 the way. Webcam, April 6, 2025

The siblings enjoy time together just days before they separate for independent living. Webcam, May 20, 2025

A new Axis 4K PTZ camera is installed on the upper arm of the tower nest. Martin Gaston, Aug. 9, 2025.

Summer

- Mom and Dad leave by early June for the summer.
- A second camera is installed on Aug. 9 ahead of the eagles' expected return in the fall. The partnership that installed the first camera in 2020 returns to mount the new Axis 4K PTZ camera.

2025-2026 Breeding Season

Fall

- Dad arrives on Sept. 25.
- A few days later, an eagle who appears to be a young subadult, likely a female, appears.
- Speculation arises about whether she has replaced Mom as Dad's new mate.
- A week or so later, Mom arrives and takes her place with Dad. The young visiting eagle apparently leaves the area.

A young visiting eagle (left) arrives, and speculation arises about whether she has replaced Mom as Dad's new mate. Webcam, late Sept. 2025

- Cooler weather in late October seems to encourage the eagles to become more serious about nest restorations.
- Mating is observed in early November and nest work continues.

The eagles spend increasing time in the nest working to refurbish it. Webcam, Oct. 24, 2025

Winter

- Mating and nest restoration gears up.
- The first egg is laid on Dec. 18 at 3:51 p.m. and the second one 72-1/2 hours later on Dec. 21 at 4:25 p.m.

Mom shows Dad the first egg shortly after she lays it. Webcam, Dec. 18, 2025

Both eggs are in view as Mom moves off for a break. Webcam, Dec. 22, 2025

- A fierce winter storm enters North Texas on Jan. 23, bringing sleet, snow and bitter cold.
- Days of cloudy skies and sleet and ice covering the eagle cameras' solar panels cause service disruptions until the sun consistently returns, allowing the batteries to fully recharge.
- JBS 24 hatches on Jan. 25, with the first sighting at 1:17 p.m. JBS 25 hatches on Jan. 26, with the first sighting at 8:56 a.m.

JBS 24 hatches on Jan. 25, and JBS 25's hatch is in progress. Webcam, Jan. 25, 2026

JBS 25 (below) hatches on Jan. 26, and both chicks receive their first feeding. Webcam, Jan. 26, 2026

- Both chicks appear to be thriving, but JBS 25 dies the morning of Feb. 9 of unknown causes, two weeks after hatching.

JBS 24 (upper) and JBS 25 approach two weeks old. Webcam, Feb. 7, 2026

Spring

- JBS 24 is active and robust.
- By early March, JBS 24 is standing and wingercising to strengthen its wings and chest muscles.
- The eaglet is not seen branching on camera but fledges early on the morning of April 16 at 11-1/2 weeks old.

JBS 24 prepares to fledge. Webcam, April 16, 2026

JBS 24 is a blur as the juvenile flies out of the nest for the first time. Webcam, April 16, 2026

- JBS 24 spends several days in vegetation near the tower nest after fledging. The parents are observed carrying food to the juvenile.
- A few days later, JBS returns to the nest for meals, companionship and rest.
- Dad delivers prey to the nest on May 12. After consuming it, JBS 24 is not seen again. Presumably, the juvenile leaves to begin a nomadic life for the next 4 or 5 years.
- Mom and Dad leave the area a week or so later.

JBS 24 days before leaving the area. Webcam, May 10, 2026

Summer

- While the eagles are gone, camera maintenance is done in July and August.
- Work includes installing a replacement for Camera 1, changing out the solar batteries and upgrading the electronics.

2026-2027 Breeding Season

Fall

- A visiting eagle arrives on Sept. 2. She still shows some dark feathers on her head but appears to be close to adulthood and sexual maturity.
- Dad arrives on Sept. 7.
- The two eagles begin roosting together.
- Near the end of their first week together, they appear to begin courtship and bonding.
- They spend time together in the nest for the first time on Sept. 11.

Dad (in front) and the visiting female move sticks and fluff on their first visit together to the nest. Webcam, Sept. 11, 2026