

**Long-Term Monitoring of Bald Eagles at Besnard Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada 1968-2021**  
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**ABSTRACT:**

Long-term monitoring is crucial for understanding population dynamics and conservation. We report on trends in population size and reproduction of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) at Besnard Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, during 1968-2021. These regional trends in eagle abundance and productivity will be set in the context of continental changes in eagle numbers. Techniques for monitoring eagle populations have involved a variety of techniques varying from aerial (fixed-wing aircraft), boat-based visual observations, climbing of nest trees or adjacent trees, and in the past 5 years we've begun to use drones to assess nest status and productivity (number of young per nest).

In 2021, we investigated the relative accuracy, eagle behavioural response and time required to assess reproductive status of Bald Eagle nests using traditional methods (binoculars / tree climbing) compared to the use of drones to check nests. Various anecdotes and aspects of eagle biology that have been uncovered during this long-term study will be highlighted throughout the presentation.