

2021 Annual Mid-Winter Eagle Survey

Date: Monday, January 11, 2021

Time: 10:00 am – 10:30 am

Conducted by: 20 volunteers and FWS employees

Survey results are as follows:

BALD

Immature: 38

Adults: 91

GOLDEN

Immature: 0

Adult: 0

UNKNOWN: 27

Total: 156

Due to COVID-19, participation this year was kept to a minimum to allow for social distancing. It was a clear and cold morning, with almost no cloud cover and temperatures in the 30s. There was almost no wind, and there was a slight haze left over from a fog that had lifted an hour before the survey. Overnight temps have been in the high 20s, so there is some ice present in shallow water areas.

Four sites produced 65% of the total eagles: Maple Dam Road, Wildlife Drive, the Route 335 Bridge and Jarrett West (aka Moneystump – Area M2). No surprises here, these four sites are typically among our busiest.

Our total this year is slightly below our 5-year average of 170.2. This is difficult to interpret because we have had some wild years recently. Our 5-year average contains the highest count ever recorded on Blackwater (232 in 2016) and the lowest count in almost 20 years (98 in 2018).