

## Eagles at Forest Lake

In May we were contacted that a research team from Clemson University were going to be in our area. They were doing a check of young eagles as part of their ongoing Michigan Biosentinel Program, a state wide monitoring of nesting eagles. This program started in 1987 and has been on going to date. The results of their testing tracts: PCB, DDT & other chemical concentrations in their systems. All collected eagles were weighted, measured, tissue samples and morphometric data was collected.

During their time here at Forest Lake my wife Kathie & I joined them in their testing of new born eagles. While their testing required one of them to climb the trees to get to the eagle nest.

Once at the nest, the young eagles were removed & lowered to the ground for testing and banding.

While on the ground the eagles have blood drawn, a few feathers removed, measurements taken. After all testing is done the birds are replaced in their nest. We were surprised at how calm the birds were when they were on the ground. For our part of the testing were ask to hold the eagles by their legs, so as not to scratch the researchers while they do their testing. After all the testing was concluded the eaglets were returned to their nest.

We visited two different locations while they were in our area. In all three Eaglets were tested, banded, and returned to their nest. Their parents were not very happy to have us near their young ones. They kept flying over and screeching at us to leave.

We enjoyed the time we spent with the researchers, it was very interesting. The researchers normally return to each site every few years.

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*Kathie & Chack  
Manning*

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