

2011

Monitoring Report for Bald Eagles at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, MD

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Recommended Citation

Mojica, E.K. and B.D. Watts. 2011. Monitoring Report for Bald Eagles at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, MD. CCBTR-11-18. Center for Conservation Biology Technical Report Series. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. 3 pp.

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Monitoring Report for Bald Eagles at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, MD

2011 Monitoring Report for Federal Fish and Wildlife Eagle Scientific Collecting Permit MB207511-1

August 31, 2011

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The Center for Conservation Biology is an organization dedicated to discovering innovative solutions to environmental problems that are both scientifically sound and practical within today's social context. Our philosophy has been to use a general systems approach to locate critical information needs and to plot a deliberate course of action to reach what we believe are essential information endpoints.

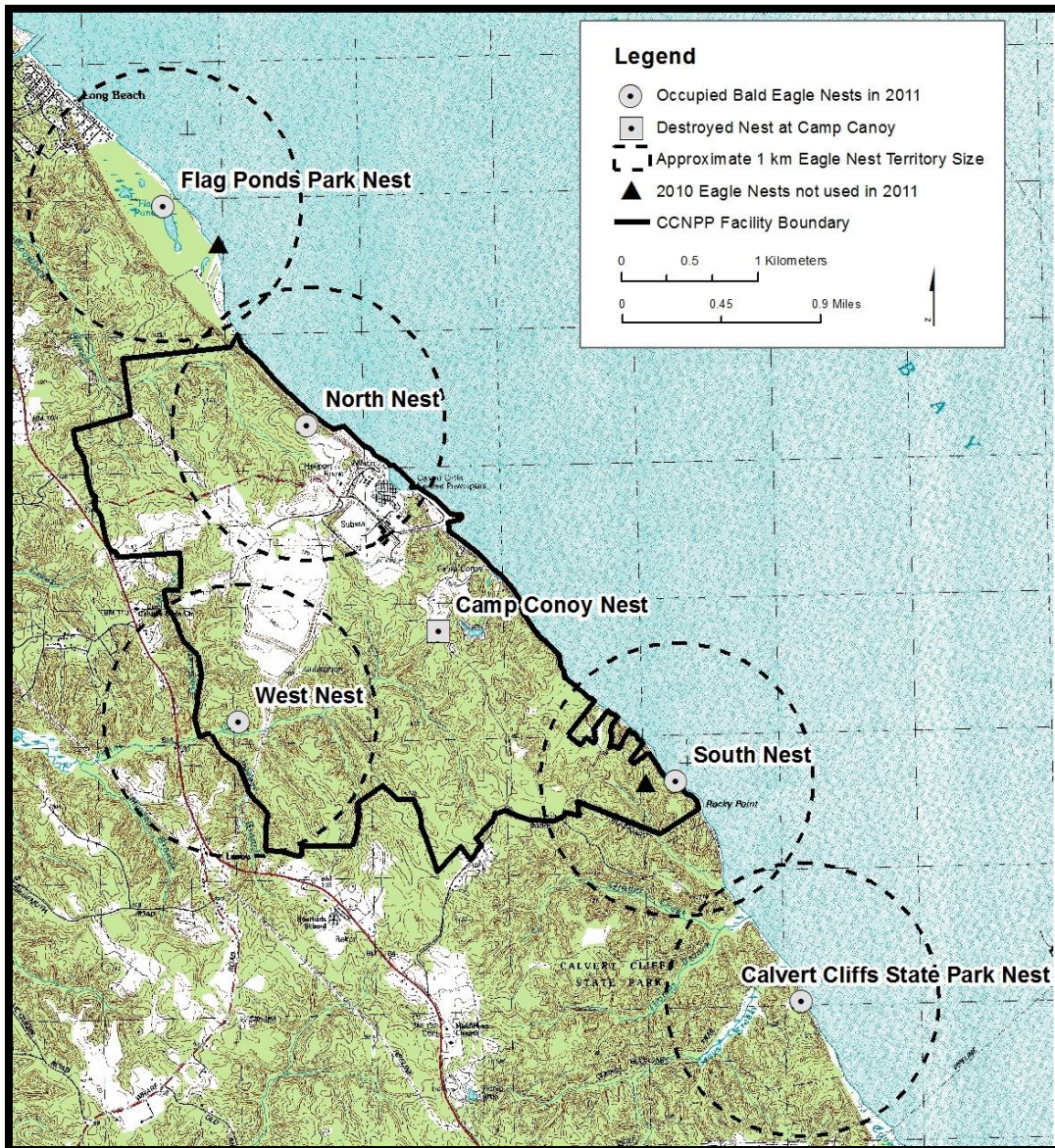
Background

Under Migratory Bird permit MB207511-1, a Bald Eagle nest was removed in the non-breeding season (10/9/2009) from the construction site of a new reactor at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP), in Calvert County, Maryland.

Methods

For the third year in a row, CCNPP and surrounding properties were monitored by two observers in a 172 Cessna plane flying approximately 200-500' above the nest. Presence of adult eagles, nest contents, and condition of each nest structure were recorded.

Figure 1. Bald Eagle nests monitored during the 2011 breeding season.



Results

We monitored 4 eagle nesting territories on CCNPP for breeding attempts (Table 1). Two nesting territories on CCNPP successfully raised young in 2011 (West and North nests). The pair in the South nesting territory built a new nest on the

shoreline and but did not attempt to breed. The territory at Camp Conoy remained empty during the breeding season and no nesting attempts were documented.

Two nests on surrounding public lands were active during the 2011 breeding season. The territory north of CCNPP on Flag Ponds Park had a new nest this year NW of the 2010 nest and raised 2 young. The nest on Calvert Cliffs State Park just south of the CCNPP boundary fledged 1 chick in 2011. Last year, we speculated the eagle pair from Camp Conoy moved to the state park since this territory appeared shortly after the nest at Camp Conoy was destroyed.

Table 1. Aerial flight observations for Bald Eagle nests surveyed on Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and surrounding properties.

Location	12/17/2010	1/22/2011	3/13/2011	4/24/2011
North Nest	snow in nest, no adults	fresh nest lining	adult incubating	adult brooding 1 chick 40 days old
West Nest	fresh nest lining, 1 adult perched on nest	2 adults on nest, nest lining intact	adult with ≥ 1 chick, 2 weeks old	2 chicks 50 days old
South Nest	2 adults perched on shoreline, snow in nest	1 adult on shoreline, fresh nest lining	new nest found, fresh nest lining but nest empty	nest empty
Camp Conoy	no nest found	No activity in territory	No activity in territory	No activity in territory
Flag Ponds Park	fresh lining in nest	fresh nest lining	adult incubating, 2nd adult perched nearby	2 chicks 40 days old, 1 adlt in nest
Calvert Cliffs State Park	fresh sticks in nest, minimal snow in nest	fresh nest lining	adult incubating, 2nd adult perched nearby	1 chick 35 days old, 1 adult in nest

Future Monitoring

Aerial surveys are planned for December 2011 – May 2012 for the next eagle breeding season.