

Department of Natural Resources launches mid-winter eagle survey

A deserted beach along a narrow stretch of U.S.-2 on the northern shore of Lake Michigan is where the chance encounter occurred.

Mesmerized by the seemingly endless white-capped waters stretching out below me, I was day-dreaming about battling a fall-run steelhead at the mouth of one of the many creeks bisecting the coast when out of nowhere it appeared.

I realized immediately it was a majestic bald eagle by its tell-tale snow-white head and tail feathers. What surprised me was that it was flying low, about 40

feet off the water, but just above eye-level to me. He seemed to want to race as we both sped toward a moment. Then he turned seaward, made a wide circle and came right back toward shore. He landed at a dead fish washed up on shore 100 yards ahead of me.

Visions of my mini-van tumbling into the sandy culvert rolled through my head as I pulled off the road as quickly and quietly as I could.

Using a couple small sand dunes for cover, I snuck up to within 40 yards before slowly peaking over the dune.

With the bird's dark brown body-feathers contrasting against the snowy-white head, the bright mid-day sunshine set a breathtaking backdrop as it glistened off the white-capped water. Holding the camera in its long talons, the eagle snatched up a chunk of fish with its curved, yellow beak.

I only watched him dine for a few fleeting seconds before his keen eyes detected an intruder and his survival instincts urged him to fly back out over the lake. I've seen a few other eagles, mostly in the past six or seven years and most of them soaring high in the sky. That was the closest and by far the most exciting eagle encounter I've ever experienced.

Each winter DNR biologists ask for public assistance during a two-week winter eagle survey. Survey information is valuable for biologists and researchers as they continue to monitor winter locations and movements of bald eagles throughout Michigan.

This year's survey runs through Jan. 15. Sponsored by the DNR Wildlife Division's Natural Heritage Program, the survey represents an important partnership between the DNR and

the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Only bald eagles sighted during this time period will be accepted as part of the national survey. Eagle observations can be reported through the phone, fax or the Internet. Participants can fill out a mid-winter bald eagle survey form on the DNR's Web site:

www.michigan.gov/dnr, fax a report to (517) 373-6705, or mail a report to: 2003 Winter Bald Eagle Survey, Natural Heritage Program, Wildlife Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 20180, Lansing, MI 48909-7680. Forms are also available at DNR field offices and Operation Service Centers.

Wintering eagles can be found in all 83 Michigan counties. In the winter, bald eagles forage for near ice-free areas on lakes, rivers, reservoirs and cooling

ponds at power plants, and can also be found feeding on road kill. Ice anglers frequently see eagles.

Another tip to remember is that adult eagles have light-colored heads and tails, and hooked, heavy, yellow beaks.

Their bright yellow feet are easily noticed along with their long wingspans, up to seven feet.

Immature eagles have blotchy brown-and-white feathers and black beaks. Bald eagles fly with a flat wing pattern.

Reports should include the following information:

- Participant's name, address and telephone number
- The date and time of the sighting
- The county, township, range and section, or a location near a town, lake, river, highway or other land feature
- The number of eagles observed and their maturity

level (adult or immature).

■ The eagle's behavior and any other pertinent information.

Last year the DNR received 990 reports from 69 counties for its mid-winter eagle survey.

ELK HUNT A SUCCESS

State wildlife officials are deeming the 2002 limited elk hunt a success with 142 hunters combining to tag 122 elk.

Hunter took 36 bull elk, nearly meeting the DNR goal of 38. Hunters also fell just short of the harvest goal of 88 cows and calves, taking 86.

The heaviest bull was 680 pounds.

Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: billparker@outdoors.com, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Outdoor Insights

Bill Parker

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OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES

FISH BUDDIES FISHING CLUB

The Fish Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester. Meetings are open to all anglers, boaters and non-boaters. Call Harold Leider at (248) 656-0556 for more information.

SPORTSFISHING ASSOCIATION

The Oakland County Sportsfishing Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at the Drayton Plains Nature Center, 2125 Drayton Plains. Call (248) 693-4357 or visit the club's web site at http://oakcountysportsfishing.org for more information.

DOWNRIVER BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every

month at the Gander Mountain (14100 Pardee Road) in Taylor. For more information, call Ron Fodor at (734) 676-2863 or send an e-mail to rffodor@att.net.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School, Call Dominic Liparolo at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Visit www.mff.org on the Internet for more information.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. Visitors are welcome. For more information, please call Jim Kudej at (734) 991-0843 or send him an e-mail at judej@bol.com.

KIRON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Kiron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

CLINTON RIVER BASS 'N' RATS

The recently organized Clinton River Bass 'n' Rats meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gander Mountain Lodge. Call (810) 247-9900 for direction and additional

information. The club is an affiliated club of the B.A.S.S. National Federation.

METROPLACES

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS

Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3932; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (248) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park

motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (248) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (248) 693-6167. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (248) 685-2197. For programs at Island Lake call (248) 229-7067.

(To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax information to 248-644-1314.)

FLYERS

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switch in their favor."

McKeon saved the insurance goal with 6:51 remaining in the game. He skated up the left side and fired an opposite-hand - he's a right-handed shooter - slapshot that hit Birmingham goalie Sean Harvey's leg and rolled into the net.

Following a five-minute delay while the officials determined if the goal should count, the Flyers had a 2-0 lead. Adam Chornoboy and Phil Scott assisted on the play.

"That kinda killed their momentum," Vellucci said of the Birmingham players. "I think they knew by then they couldn't come back."

Birmingham pulled Harvey with two minutes left, but Farmington held on. Goalie LeeFol Levan earned the shutout for the Flyers, who outshot Birmingham, 35-17 overall.

In the last five games, Farmington has outscored the opposition, 37-4, and has done that with two forwards out by injuries, Marc Rauth and Chris Clark.

"We have a couple defensemen who've played on the fourth line and have actually contributed," Vellucci said. "I'm glad I kept extra guys."

The Flyers will have another player available when Catholic Central transfer Markus Burleson becomes eligible with the start of the second semester.

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JAMES W. WILLIAMS, Attorney, 840 West Long Lake Road, Suite 300, Troy, MI 48068

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust Estate
TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The decedent, THOMAS V. HARVEY, who lived at 3741 E. Livingston, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and died on January 8, 1993, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Mark J. Chalk, Successor Trustee, 6413 N. Van Halbe Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236, within 60 days after the date of publication of this notice.

Trustee: Mark J. Chalk, 6413 N. Van Halbe Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236
Attorney: James W. Williams, 840 West Long Lake Road, Suite 300, Troy, MI 48068
Publish January 23, 2003

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