

BALD EAGLES ON THE NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS



2006 BREEDING PAIR

During a boat survey conducted February 20-21, 2006, biologists found two bald eagles displaying breeding behavior. The two birds, K-10 and K-26, were originally part of the Institute for Wildlife Studies' bald eagle restoration project on Santa Catalina Island, but have spent the past year on Santa Cruz Island, perhaps attracted by the young bald eagles that have been released on the northern Channel Islands over the past four years. The nest was confirmed on 23 February, and an egg was confirmed on March 5. This marks the first bald eagle breeding activity on the northern Channel Islands in nearly 50 years. Below is a brief history of each of the birds.

MALE K-10

The male hatched on March 8, 2001 from an egg laid by captive bald eagles at the Avian Conservation Center (ACC) at the San Francisco Zoo. Biologists transported him to Santa Catalina Island and fostered him into the Twin Rocks nest in March of the same year. At about eight weeks old, biologists attached leg bands and orange wingmarkers officially designating him "K-10". K-10 fledged from the nest in late May, and left Santa Catalina Island just two months later. After leaving the island, K-10 was spotted across the western U.S., including:

January, 2003	Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Oregon
March, 2003	Cachuma Lake, Santa Barbara County, California
August, 2003	Santa Cruz Island, Ventura County, California
January, 2004	Cachuma Lake, Santa Barbara County, California
February, 2004	Santa Cruz Island, Ventura County, California
October, 2004	Wasco County, Oregon

K-10 returned to Santa Cruz Island in late 2004 or early 2005 and has been seen repeatedly on the island since then, often in the presence of K-26, his mate.

FEMALE K-26

The female hatched on March 22, 2002, from an egg laid by captive bald eagles at the ACC. In March, biologists transported her to Santa Catalina and fostered her into the West End nest, tended by a trio of birds (one male and two females). She was banded "K-26" in May, and fledged shortly after in June. K-26 remained on the Santa Catalina until August. She was then seen at the following times and locations:

August, 2002	Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles County, California.
September, 2002	City of Marina, Monterey County, California
October, 2002	Santa Catalina Island, Los Angeles County, California
November, 2004	Whale Rock Reservoir, San Luis Obispo County, California
January, 2005	Santa Margarita Lake, San Luis Obispo County, California

K-26 was first seen on Santa Cruz Island in February, 2005 and has remained there since.