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### Bald Eagles Nesting in Baja California

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Published records of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nesting in Baja California during the last 50 years are nonexistent to our knowledge, and few records exist prior to that time. Friedmann et al. (1950:61, *Pac. Coast Avifauna* 29) describe the distribution of Bald Eagles in Baja California as "a scattering of pairs on both the Pacific and Gulf Sides." Nesting Bald Eagles were first reported by Bryant (1889, *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 2: 237-320), who found a pair on Isla Santa Margarita (24°25'N, 111°50'W; hereafter abbreviated as 2425-11150) and saw an adult on the "estero" north from Magdalena Bay (the region where one pair was seen in 1977). Other records were reviewed by Grinnell (1928, *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.* 32).

In January 1971, C.E.K. observed one flying immature Bald Eagle near Las Tinajas (2540-11204) and two adult and one flying immature eagle in the vicinity of Medano Amarillo (2445-11159) (Magdalena Bay region on the west coast of Baja California), and suspected that the species was nesting nearby. Three adult Bald Eagles were also seen during two other Magdalena Bay surveys in January and July of 1972, one adult near Isla Creciente (2422-11135) and the other two near Medano Amarillo. M. N. Kirven (pers. comm.) observed a pair of adults on a nest in a large cactus on Isla Santa Margarita in December of 1962, but the nest was not checked for contents. C.J.H. and D.W.A. definitely confirmed nesting in Baja California in March of 1977: a pair with two large young in a nest near San Jorge (2534-11206), north of Santo Domingo on 26 March, and a pair with one large young in a nest on Isla Creciente (2422-11139) near Almejas Bay on 27 March. The two pairs were nesting in mangroves, and were approximately 150 km apart. Two of the three young flew from their nests (one from each nest) when approached. Additionally, on 12 June 1977, an adult and a flying young-of-the-year were observed on Isla Santa Margarita; and on 10 June, a subadult Bald Eagle was observed near Puerto Algodin (2437-11149) (D.W.A.).

The eaglets found in 1977 were fledged or nearly ready to fledge, which indicates an early breeding season in the Magdalena Bay region. Assuming the eaglets we observed were fledging, and that the incubation period is 35 days and the period from hatching to fledging around 75 days (Herrick 1924, *Auk* 41: 213-231), the eggs were probably laid in late November or early December. These dates are similar to those from southern Florida (approximately the same latitude) (Brown and Amadon 1968, *Eagles, hawks, and falcons of the world*, pt. 1, McGraw-Hill).

All of coastal Baja California, plus the mainland coast of Mexico as far south as Mazatlan, and the adjacent islands were surveyed for nesting Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) between 23 March and 1 April 1977 by C.J.H. and D.W.A.; 84 h of flying time were logged. It is doubtful that many additional nesting Bald Eagles are present in the coastal region surveyed.—Received 6 July 1977, accepted 22 September 1977.