

## GOLDEN EAGLES NEST ON CENTER-PIVOT IRRIGATION SYSTEM

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On 10 June 1990, Ken and Phil Luepke, Keith Merkel, and I observed a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nest on an unused center-pivot irrigation system in central Albany County, approximately 39 km north of Laramie, Wyoming. One adult was at the nest, which was occupied by one unfledged juvenile.

The nest, built primarily of sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), was placed 2.5 m above the ground on a crossarm of the irrigation system. The area surrounding the nest had been cultivated but was later overgrown with foxtail barley (*Hordeum* spp.), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp.), thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), and dandelions (*Taraxacum* spp.). Non-cultivated lands adjacent to the nest site are dominated by sagebrush. The site is level and treeless, at 2180 m elevation, and is 2 km from the nearest public road.

Golden Eagles traditionally nest in trees or on cliffs (Palmer 1988), but have been known to nest on man-made structures as well. Camenzind (1969) noted a nest on an abandoned gunnery tower at an army base, and Bohm (1988) mentioned Golden Eagles nesting on transmission line structures. Menkens (1982) noted several instances of Golden Eagles nesting on windmills. Also, in several cases Golden Eagles have used artificial nesting platforms provided for their use (Fala et al. 1985, Postovit et al. 1982).

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