

Bald Eagle Watch

January 14, 2017

Submitted by Lynn Moseley, Trip Leader

Eleven eager eagle enthusiasts gathered to look for “our” eagles in the northwest section of Lake Brandt, where the pair has nested since 2001. This year, however, we found no sign of an active nest. Some remains of the old nest, which had been in use since 2003 in the same pine tree, were visible. Assuming a nest is successful, eagles re-use the same nest for years, adding new branches and sticks each year. Thus it is certainly possible that the structure collapsed under its own weight.

We noted that Great Blue Herons have expanded their rookery to the pine trees just southwest of the former eagle nest. Combined with the nests that are regularly found in the bald cypress trees in that part of the lake, there should be about 20 pairs of herons in the rookery this spring.

Additional note: on February 22, I searched the margins of Lake Brandt by boat with the help of Neil Thompson, one of the lake wardens there. We found no trace of a nest in that section of the lake, although we observed two adult eagles perched in the vicinity of the old nest site. However, since both adults were seen simultaneously in the same area, if they are indeed a pair, they are not nesting since one of them would be incubating eggs or brooding chicks at that time of year.