

Gillespie Creek Journal

The Winter Solstice just passed, this newsletter features Nature's preparation and celebration of new life. New birth is sacred in all of the natural world. I thank Buddy for this magnificent picture of a young, perhaps 4 or 5 year old Raptor beginning what appears to be a first nest. Both male and female Eagles were at work on this nest last week. Eagle nests generally are 4-5" wide and 2-4' deep. New nesting material is added annually.

Nest building will take only about a 7 days. The female will lay up to 2 eggs. Incubation will take 35 days. In 10-12 weeks the Eaglets can be fledged although in cold climates they may stay with their parents for 9 months or more. Eagles can live up to 30 years. It is believed that only 2.5 out of 20 survive to breeding age.

A female Eagle will be fertile all her life. Considering this she can launch as many as 40 progeny.



Bald Eagle Nest Building by Buddy Walker

Quotes to Celebrate the Winter Solstice

"Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers." Khalil Gibran

"When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long,
And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong,

Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow lies
the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose." Bette Midler



Spring in Monet's Garden
photo by Judy Appel

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Percy Bysshe Shelley

Earth gave us 4 minutes and 16 seconds of additional sunshine today

Visit gillespiecreek.com for more Eagle photos and a new essay, "Christmas Bird Count"