

Gillespie Creek Journal

Scientific American, 12/24/20 “ Two papers published today in **Science** find birds actually have a brain that is much more similar to our complex primate organ than previously thought. ... The new findings show that birds do, in, fact, have a brain structure that is comparable to the (a mammals) neocortex despite taking a different shape. ...explaining why many birds exhibit advanced behaviors and abilities that have long befuddled scientists.”

These past weeks my photographer friend Buddy Walker and I watched and listened to this Eagle pair admire and tag team feed their latest brood. Parenting Eagles have a tender, soft, bell tone in their song as they go about caring for their young. There is no question of their devotion and diligence. Care of Eaglets is shared 50/50 between parents.

All photos by Buddy Walker

For a look at Sam gathering nesting material for the remodel visit "gillespiecreek.com" Click Newsletters



Courting Eagles



Foreplay to Copulation



Admiring First Hatched Eaglet



Feeding Begins

Bird Brains

Colloquial conversation uses the phrase “Bird Brain” to imply one with little intelligence. From my observations through time, birds and most members of the animal kingdom actually act intentionally with language and emotion. Look closely at this Eagle couple. Passion, patience and intention are clearly visible as they court, mate and raise Eaglets.

Imagine with me the following “pillow talk’ going on between Sam and Loretta, a typical monogamous Eagle couple .

“Honey come fly with me!”
“Sam, it's been a while since we've taken the time to have fun together, I love it.”
“Lou, Lou what do you think about growing our family?”
“Oh Sam I have to think about it awhile. Is our nest strong enough to handle another brood? We've lived in the same place for ten years you know.”
“I'll remodel it for you, Loretta.”
“OK, but you know how stiff my neck gets and all the food I crave when I'm brooding. Thirty-five days on the nest and then another four weeks with those Eaglets.”
“Have I ever failed you, Lou,Lou?”
“Well no.”
“How many Eaglets have we fledged during our marriage Sam?”
“At least twenty the way I figure it. That's two a year in our ten years.”
“Oh Sam but do you remember the years that I've made three eggs. It's terrible to face having to euthanize the last to hatch if we can't find enough food.”
“Don't worry about my Dearest. Together we are invincible.”
“Stay safe Sam, I love you.”