



NATIONAL  
**EAGLE**  
CENTER

# Winter Eagle Viewing Guide

## South on Hwy 35

### National Eagle Center to Alma, WI

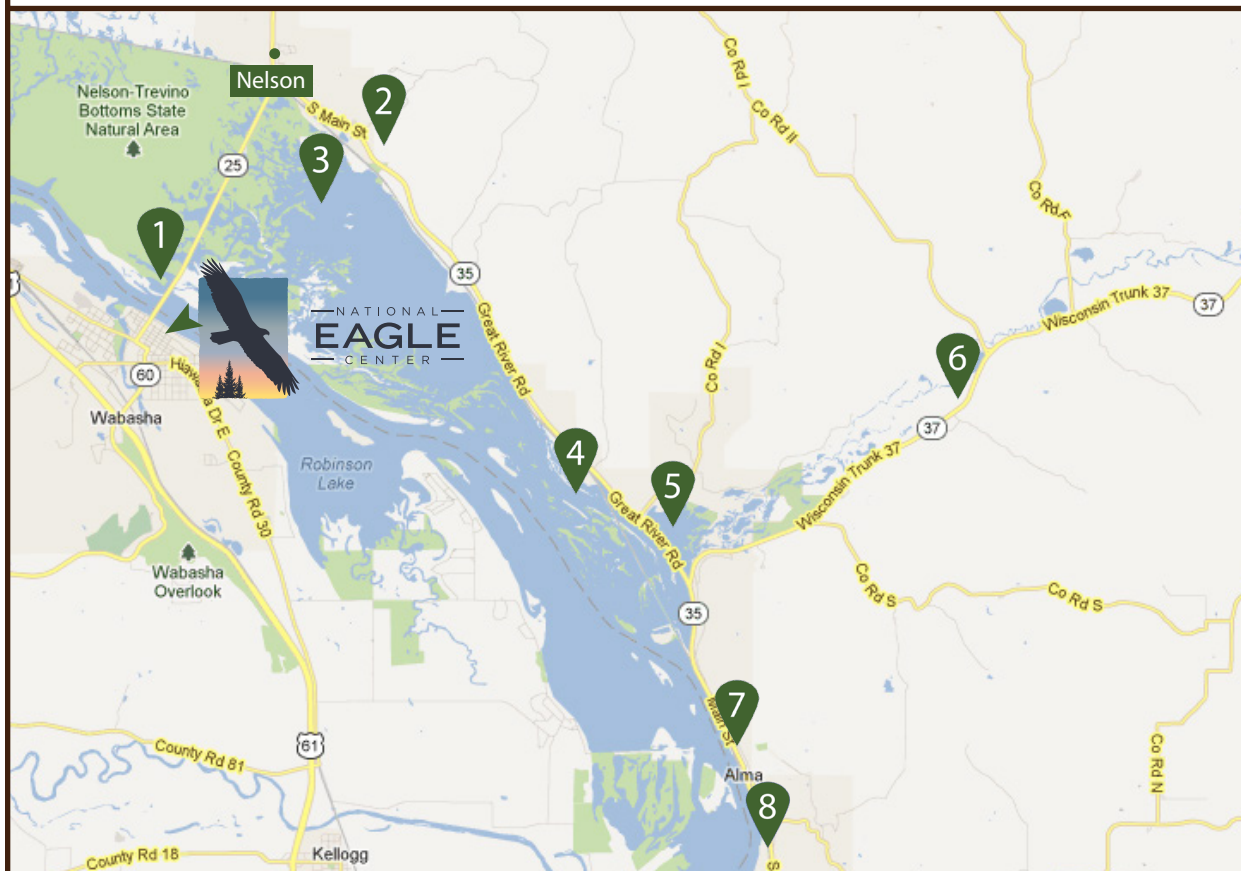
#### How to Use This Guide

- Reset your trip mileage to zero at the NEC
- Each location point on the map is described, and given a mileage from the National Eagle Center Eagle viewing locations will be noted as:

**VIEWABLE NEST**



**WINTER EAGLE / MIGRATION VIEWING**



#### START AT NEC

1

#### **Nearest nest to National Eagle Center (.9 miles)**



This nest can actually be viewed as you drive over the interstate bridge from Wabasha to Nelson. As you cross the bridge going east, look to your left as soon as you cross the main channel (clearing the blue frame of the bridge). The nest is clearly visible in trees just out from the bridge.

2

#### **Nelson Cemetery (4.4 miles)**



Heading south of Hwy 35, Nelson cemetery is on the left side of the road. From the parking area, an eagle's nest is visible to the right of the power line that crosses the marsh.



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3

#### **Big Lake (4.9 -6.3 miles)**

This is a great area to view rafts of waterfowl; coots, tundra swans and geese, all of which attract bald eagles. There is a nest at the end of the wooded spit, which can be seen more easily coming from the south on WI Hwy 35. Peregrine falcons nest on the sheer, rocky limestone bluff. (Not present in winter months)

4

#### **Beef Slough Historical Marker (8.3 miles)**

A nest is located in the backwaters toward the main channel of the Mississippi River. Look past the railroad tracks and near the end of the line of trees.

5

#### **Rieck's Lake (9.5 miles)**

A viewing platform with spotting scope is available for use. A nest is visible on the bluff to the north of the marsh. This area offers good viewing of migrating waterfowl. Swans were once common here, but numbers have diminished due to increased sedimentation and they have moved to other areas.

6

#### **Junction Hwy 37** **(\*\*THIS IS A SIDE TRIP OFF THE MAIN ROUTE)**

**Tell** – A few miles off Hwy 35, northeast on Hwy 37. You can view two eagles nests in the marsh habitat from the Tell Church parking lot.

7

#### **Alma Lock and Dam (11.8 miles)**

View eagles feeding near the lock and dam from an observation platform above the river or from the parking lot. Inside viewing is available at Wings Over Alma, a nature and arts center. (110 N. Main St.)

8

#### **Oak and Hwy 35 (12.4 miles)** **(\*\*There is no place to pull off the highway heading south)**

Heading south through Alma, there is a nest visible on the right-hand (river) side of the road. The nest is located fairly high in a tree. For best viewing, drive past and turn around to park on the northbound side of the road.