

Winter Eagle Viewing Guide

North on Hwy 61

National Eagle Center to Lake Pepin

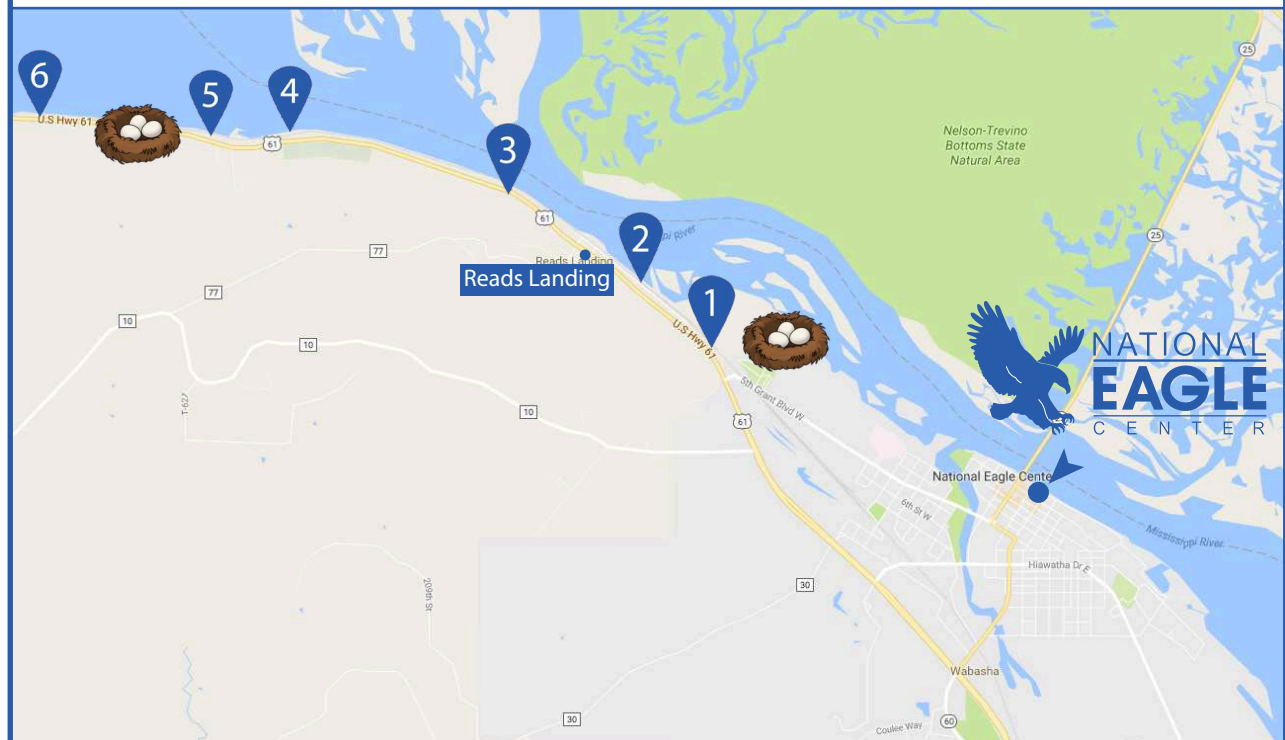
How to Use This Guide

- 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



Nearest Nest to National Eagle Center

The nest closest to the National Eagle Center can be viewed through a scope in the 2nd floor classroom of the National Eagle Center.

START AT NEC - Take Pembroke Ave to Hwy 61 North

1

Reads Landing (3.2 miles)



Heading north on Hwy 61, turn right onto Wabasha CR 77 and head down a small hill. Parking is available at the bottom. To clearly view the nest, walk back up the hill. The nest is located to the northeast in the tallest cottonwood trees in the river bottoms. Until recently, two nests were visible at this location, but one has since fallen. This was significant as these two nests were both within the territory of a single pair of eagles.

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2

Reads Landing (3.7 - 4.0 miles)



Continue north along CR 77. There will be a break in the trees allowing a nice view of the river. Large numbers of wintering waterfowl can be seen here, especially on the sandbars. Parking is available along the side of the road next to the railroad tracks. **PLEASE DO NOT CROSS THE RAILROAD TRACK!**

3

Chippewa River Delta (4.5 miles)



*(**There is a place to pull off the highway at 5.1 miles)*

Turn left on CR 77 and get back onto Hwy 61 North. The Chippewa River enters the Mississippi River and creates a large delta that narrows the Mississippi channel at the base of Lake Pepin. The Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area covers most of the delta and provides habitat for many inhabitants of the river valley, including eagles.

4

Geological Marker (5.6 miles)



Eagles often congregate on the ice shelf at the base of Lake Pepin. Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneye winter here in large numbers. Eagles often try to take fish from these waterfowl.

An eagle nest is visible, but can be difficult to spot. **Field glasses or spotting scope recommended.**

Looking north on Hwy 61, focus on the sign for Camp Lacupolis and then look straight up to the top of the bluff behind it. Looking slightly below and to the right of where the bluff begins to slope you can see the nest (a large brown spot).

5

Camp Lacupolis (5.6 miles)



*(**There is no place to pull off the highway)*

Same nest from spot 4 is visible on the lefthand side of Hwy 61 as you drive north.

6

Bluff Side (7.4 miles)



*(**There is no place to pull off the highway)*

A nest is visible on the lefthand side of Hwy 61 as you drive north. As with the previous nest, this nest is noteworthy because it is located off the valley floor and slightly farther from the water than your typical bald eagle nest.