Eagle Roost

The pair of American Bald Eagles has endured this seemingly mild winter by building up the nest and preparing it for eggs. After the beginning of 2015, all nest building preparations transitioned over to foraging for nourishment... mainly by the female for the incubation ahead. On or around Monday, January 26th the male watched guard over the female as she laid egg(s). Numerous ground observations indicate that the pair of Eagles are currently in the incubation period shared by both adults. This period will last 35-40 days before the eaglet(s) hatch the end of February or the beginning of March. This positive sign of taking to the new tower location is encouraging to all partners involved and the interested public. Many efforts were made to observe this detailed action with the web camera that was installed above the nest. We worked through many hardware and software glitches but were unable to reestablish the live feed before the incubation period began. After the eaglet(s) fledge in late spring we will be able to approach the tower again to work on the web camera. Our focus for the next four months will be observing and documenting the progress of the Eagle Family with ground observations. This amazing sequence of photographs by Bill Nance, Wetland Steward, shows the male and female switching out incubation duties.

Changing of the Guard by Bill Nance

A: Early morning, the male returns to the nest tower, landing on the top arm
B: A few minutes later, the male flies down to nest on the lower arm
   Female is barely visible in the nest, probably has been on the nest all night
C: Male flies down to the nest and approaches the female
D: Female is getting up off the nest and the switch begins
E: Female gets a chance to stretch her wings a little, male has taken watch
F: Moments later she's in the air
G: She heads up to the top arm of the nest tower (note web cam below arm)
H: She perches on the top arm of the tower
I: Pelican does a fly-by of the tower - female doesn't appear to be worried
J: Eventually the female flies away to look for some nourishment.