

2006

**An assessment of the Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron breeding populations along High Rock Reservoir, Tuckertown Reservoir, Badin Lake, and Falls Lake in North Carolina: 2006 breeding season**

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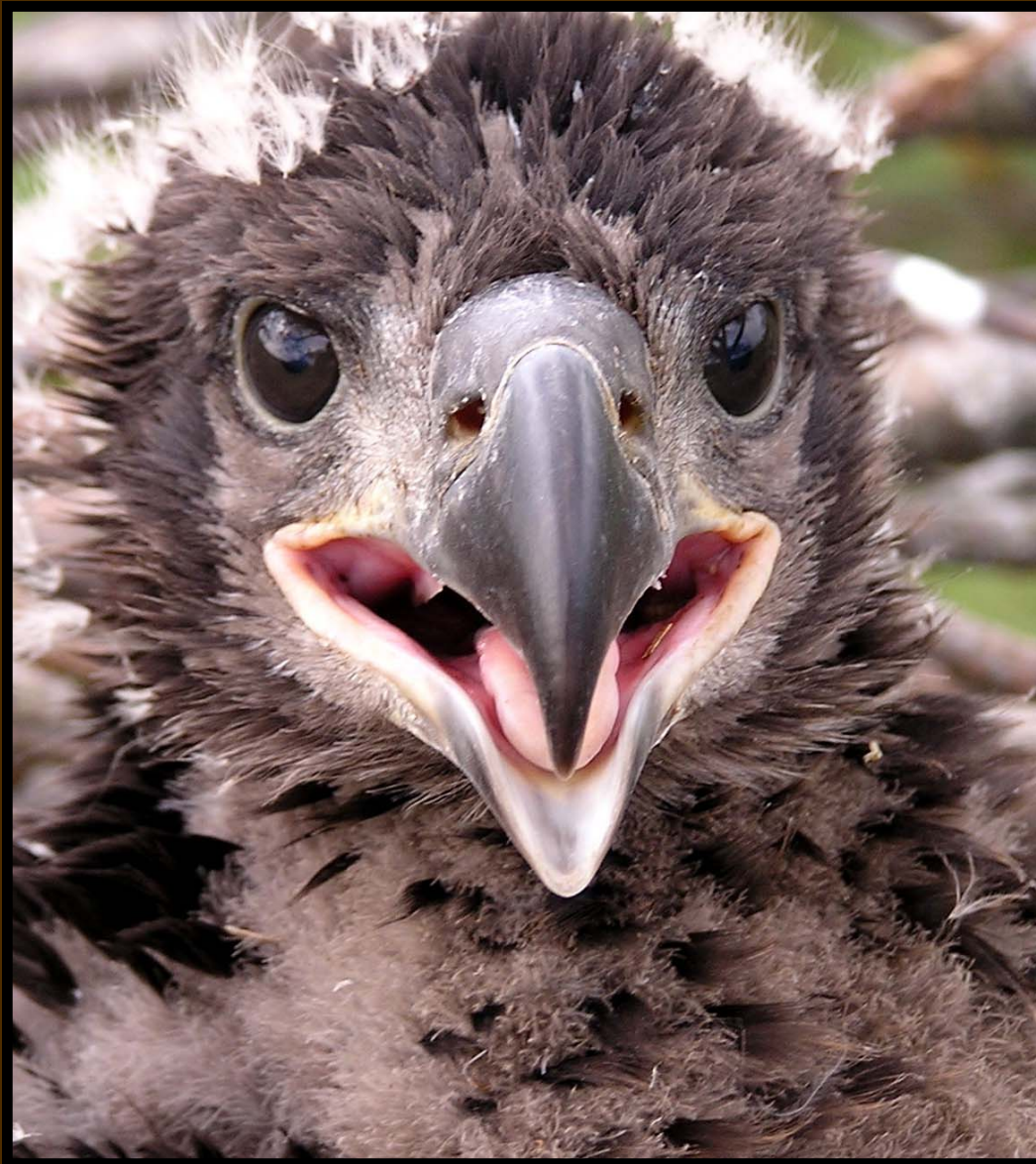
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**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE BALD EAGLE AND GREAT BLUE  
HERON BREEDING POPULATIONS ALONG HIGH ROCK,  
TUCKERTOWN, NARROWS, AND FALLS RESERVOIRS  
IN CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA: 2006 BREEDING SEASON**



A COOPERATIVE PROJECT BY:  
**ALCOA POWER GENERATING INC.**  
&  
**CENTER FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**  
**COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY**

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**Final Report**

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**Cover Photo:** Bald Eagle nestling. Photo by Bryan Watts

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **Context**

Historically, the Bald Eagle was a common breeding species along major river systems, lakes and coastal areas throughout much of North America. The widespread use of persistent pesticides for crop management in the region resulted in dramatic declines over a 30-40 year period. By the late 1960's, most breeding populations had been decimated by eggshell thinning and associated low productivity. Concern for these populations prompted the elevation of the Bald Eagle to endangered status and led to a national effort to restore historic populations. Since the nationwide ban on many persistent pesticides in 1972, many populations have experienced gradual recoveries in both productivity and total numbers. The state of North Carolina has seen an increase from no breeding pairs in the late 1960's to approximately 60 pairs as of 2003.

Work conducted by The Center for Conservation Biology in 1995 and 1996 at Alcoa Power Generating Inc.'s (APGI) Yadkin Project (FERC #2197) identified areas of consistent use by eagles in inland areas of North Carolina and suggested that nesting activity should be anticipated in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin. A survey of this system in 2001 provided confirmation of these suggestions. Since that survey annual efforts to monitor this population have continued. Results of the 2006 survey follow (a summary of all eagle nesting activity since 2001 is provided at the end of this report).

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the eagle survey on Yadkin Project reservoirs were 1) to document the status, distribution and productivity of nesting pairs in association with the Yadkin reservoirs and associated river corridors and 2) to increase our understanding of Bald Eagle natural history in interior regions of North Carolina. A third objective was to determine the status and distribution of breeding Great Blue Herons along the system of reservoirs.

## **METHODS**

### **Waterways**

Waterways covered by the Bald Eagle survey of 2006 included the four Yadkin Project reservoirs: 1) High Rock Reservoir, 2) Tuckertown Reservoir, 3) Narrows Reservoir, and 4) Falls Reservoir. The survey of High Rock Reservoir included the waterways between, and the mouth of, Grants Creek above I85 and the High Rock Reservoir Dam. The survey of Tuckertown Reservoir included waterways between the High Rock Reservoir Dam and the Tuckertown Dam. The survey of Narrows Reservoir included the waterways between Tuckertown Dam and Narrows Dam. The survey of Falls Reservoir included the waterway between Narrows Dam and Falls Dam.

## **Bald Eagle**

Nest Survey - All major waterways and tributaries associated with the study system were surveyed for breeding Bald Eagles. A high-wing Cessna 172 aircraft was used to systematically overfly the land surface at an altitude of approximately 100 m to detect eagle nests. Flights were flown to systematically move between the shoreline and a distance of approximately 1 km to cover the most probable breeding locations for Bald Eagles. All nests detected were plotted on 7.5 min topographic maps and given a unique alpha-numeric code. Each nest was examined to determine its structural condition, the type and condition of nest tree, and the condition of the surrounding landscape. In addition to recording all nests detected, the area was searched for Bald Eagles. All eagles detected within the survey area were recorded. The survey was conducted on 23 March 2006.

Productivity Survey - All active Bald Eagle nests were rechecked to determine productivity. A Cessna 172 aircraft was used to fly low over nests to allow observers to examine nest contents. The number of eaglets present was recorded along with their approximate ages. Each nest was also examined to determine its structural condition. Observations of all Bald Eagles detected were recorded. The survey was conducted on 6 May 2006.

## **Great Blue Herons**

All breeding colonies of Great Blue Herons detected during survey flights were mapped and recorded. Colony locations were plotted on 7.5 min topographic quadrangles. Colonies were examined for size, substrate use, and breeding stage. Colony size estimates were rounded off using a graded scale as follows. A total count was made for colonies < 20 pairs. Estimates for colonies > 20 pairs were rounded off using a graded scale: nearest 5 for < 50, nearest 10 for 50 – 200, nearest 25 for 200 – 450.

## **SURVEY FINDINGS**

### **High Rock Reservoir**

#### **Bald Eagles**

Only one Bald Eagle territory was observed to be active on High Rock Reservoir during 2006 surveys. This territory contained a single nest. Nest DA-01-01 was absent during the first flight. This nest was first located in 2001 and was located on a bluff between the mouths of North Potts Creek and Swearing Creek. This nest was in good structural condition in 2005 but was last used in 2003. The active nest (RO-04-01) in this territory is located directly across the reservoir from DA-01-01 and has been used since 2004. The second territory on High Rock Reservoir containing nest RO-02-01 discovered in 2002 along the south shoreline between Panther Point and Camp Sapona was not determined to be active in 2005. The single nest was blown out of the tree during the spring of 2002 and has not been rebuilt.

No replacement nest has been located for that pair to date. The nest appeared to have been used in 2002 but no direct evidence of a breeding attempt was ever documented. Despite no evidence of re-nesting by that pair, it still seems likely that the territory will be re-occupied or another formed in the southern portion of the reservoir.

### NEST: DA-01-01

Nest Code	County	Topo Quad	Active Territory	Active Nest	Chicks Produced
DA-01-01	Davidson	Southmont	Y	N	-----

#### Nest Location

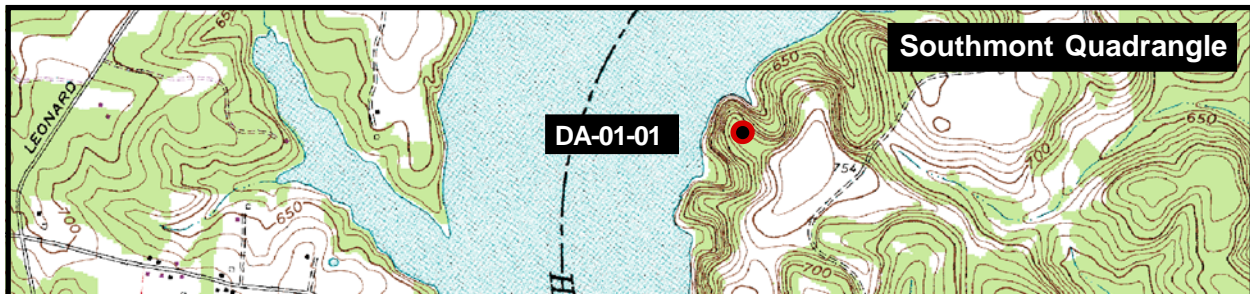
This nest was located along the shoreline almost due east of the intersection of Leonard Road and Long Ferry Road. The nest tree was positioned on a bluff above the reservoir in a live white oak tree. The nest tree was recessed within the tree cluster such that it was difficult to observe the nest except from directly above. Nest was likely visible from the water within adjacent cove.

#### Nesting Activity

*Bird Activity* – On 23 March, 2006 inspection of the nest tree revealed that the nest had been blown out some time during the fall or winter. Although a single adult was perched in the tree, the pair continues to use nest RO-04-01.

*Nest Condition* – Nest Absent with no remnant remaining in supporting crotch.

#### *Map location of Bald Eagle nest DA-01-01*



#### Nest Substrate

*Substrate Type* – Nest was built in a live white oak tree.

*Nest Position* – Nest was positioned in a deep stable crotch. Nest tree is on a knoll and in a supercanopy position above surrounding trees. Nest has large deciduous crown above such that sky exposure was <20%.

*Substrate Condition* – No visible change in tree condition. Nest tree appears to be in good health with no significant crown damage.

### Potential Disturbance

No apparent change in potential for nest disturbance. Nest tree is set back from shoreline such that disturbance from water should not be significant. Nest tree is in a fairly remote location with a considerable buffer on upland side. Disturbance potential appears to be limited.

### **NEST: RO-04-01**

<b>Nest Code</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Topo Quad</b>	<b>Active Territory</b>	<b>Active Nest</b>	<b>Chicks Produced</b>
RO-04-01	Rowan	Southmont	Y	Y	0

### Nest Location

This nest is located along a creek feeding into a small embayment almost due east of the intersection of Goodman Lake Road and Long Ferry Road. The nest is on the west side of the reservoir and southwest of the nest DA-01-01. The nest tree is positioned on the outer edge of a streamside forest buffer adjacent to a young regenerating pine stand. The tree does not appear to be visible from the water.

### Nesting Activity

*Bird Activity* – On 23 March, 2006 an adult was observed in incubation posture. On 6 May 2006 the nest was empty indicating that the breeding attempt had failed. No adult was present. This nest was clearly the active nest within the territory during the 2006 breeding season.

*Nest Condition* – The nest structure was larger than when observed during the 2004 breeding season by approximately the same as observed in 2005. On 23 March, 2006 the nest was in good structural condition, had a well-formed cup and fresh lining. The nest is of moderate size consistent with the age of the nest and the nest tree.

### Nest Substrate

*Substrate Type* – Nest was built in a live loblolly pine tree. The tree was in a supercanopy position at the edge of a regenerating pine stand.

*Nest Position* – Nest is built in a stable, triple-prong top crotch. Nest has a moderate crown above but sky exposure is more than 50%.

*Substrate Condition* – Nest tree appears to be in good health with no significant crown damage.

### Potential Disturbance

Nest site appears to be protected by a visual buffer from the reservoir and is isolated across a regenerating stand from road access. Potential for disturbance is limited at this site.





## Great Blue Herons/Great Egrets

Seven breeding colonies of Great Blue Herons were detected on High Rock Reservoir. All but 2 of these colonies were located on small, forested islands isolated from the shoreline. Colony size ranged from 5 to 320 pairs. Total population estimate for this reservoir was 515 breeding pairs. For the third year in a row, Great Egrets were found nesting on the reservoir. Pairs were mixed in with the largest colony of Great Blue Herons on the settling pond north of the intersection of Leonard Road and Long Ferry Road. Total population estimate for Great Egrets was 2 breeding pairs.

### GBH-01

Code	County	Topo Quad	Prs
GBH-01	Davidson	Southmont	48

### Description

This colony was located on a small island near the Route 8 bridge in the mouth of Abbotts Creek. The island supports a mixed stand of loblolly pines and hardwoods. Nests were built in both pines and hardwoods. On 23 March, 2006 80% of the pairs were incubating and the remaining 20% were building nests.

*Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-01*



*Aerial view of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-01 (Photo 2006; B. Watts).*



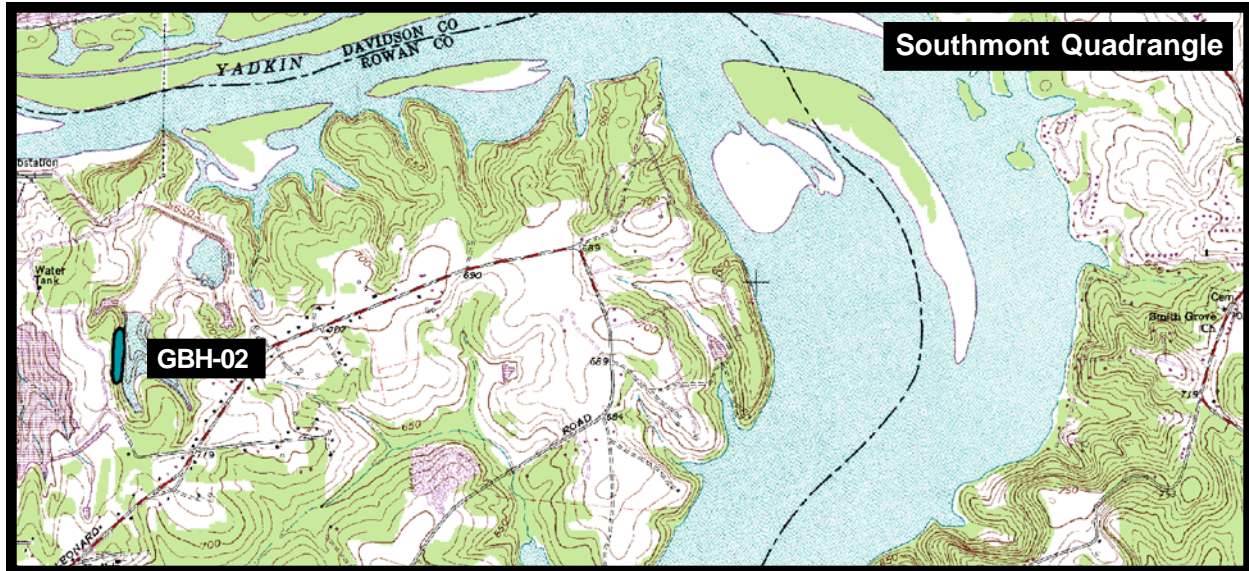
## GBH-02

Code	County	Topo Quad	Pairs
GBH-02	Rowan	Southmont	320-GBHE, 2-GREG

### Description

This colony was located along the western edge of one of Duke Power's settling ponds just north of the intersection of Leonard Road and Long Ferry Road. The pond was lined with a mixed stand of hardwoods and pines. A larger stand of pure loblollies was positioned further from the pond edge. Nests were built along the pond margin in both hardwoods and pines and throughout the pure pine stand. Nest distribution continued to be more restricted as in 2003 due to partial harvest of pine stand in 2002. On 23 March 2006 80% of Great Blue Herons were incubating and the remaining 20% were building nests. Great Egrets were nesting in the core of the subcolony occupying the pure pine stand. On 23 March 2006 no Great Egrets were present. On 6 May 2006 2 pairs of Great Egrets were incubating.

Map location of Great Blue Heron Colony GBH-02



Aerial view of the western portion of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-02 (Photo 2006; B. Watts)

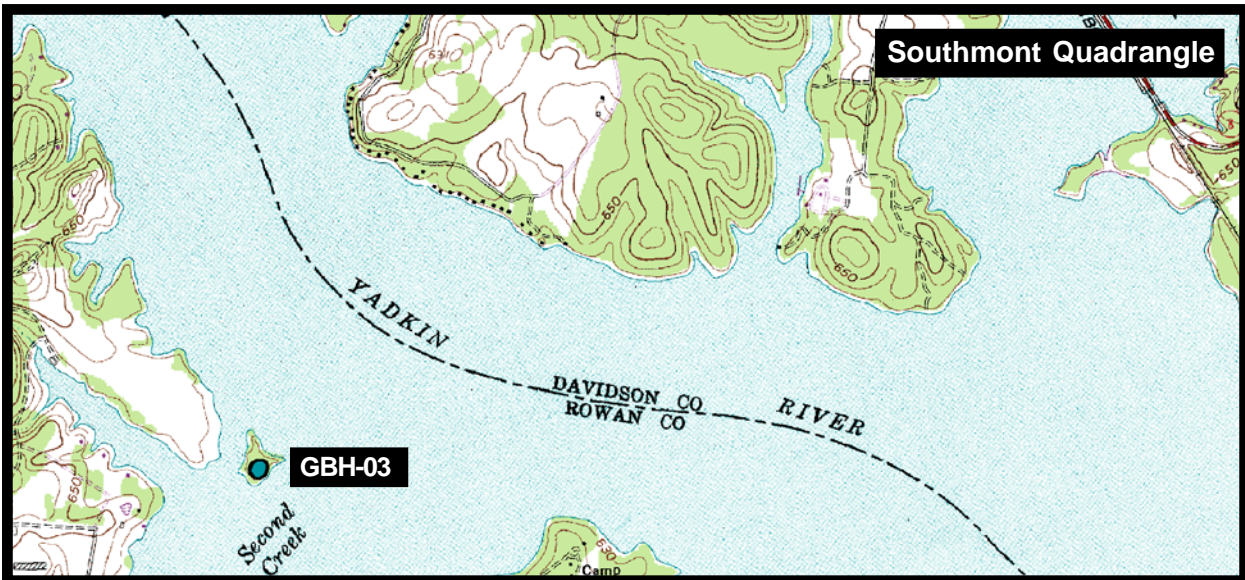


**GBH-03**

Code	County	Topo Quad	Pairs
GBH-03	Rowan	Southmont	55

Description

This colony was located on a small, forested island in the mouth of Second Creek. The island was forested with a middle-aged loblolly pine stand. This colony changed from 21 nests in 2002 to 38 nests in 2003 to 33 nests in 2004 to 52 nests in 2005 to 55 nests in 2006. During 2006, all nests were built in pine trees. On 6 April 2005, approximately 80% of pairs were incubating and the remaining 20% were building nests.

*Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-03*

*Aerial view of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-03 (Photo 2006; B. Watts)*



*Aerial view of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-03 (Photo 2006; B. Watts)*



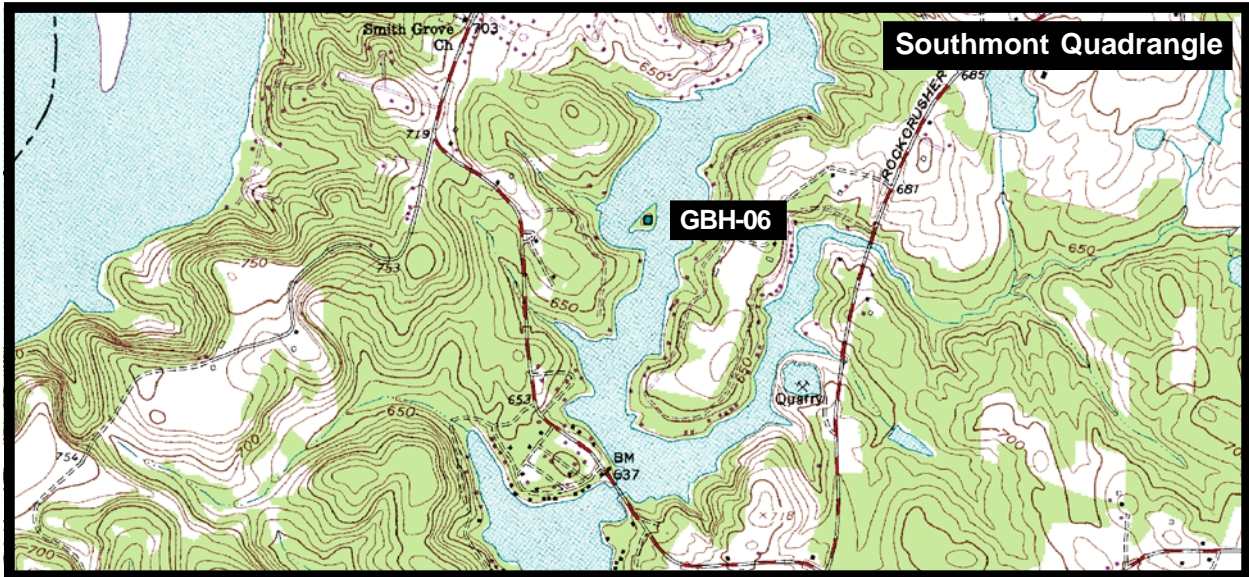
### **GBH-06**

<b>Code</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Topo Quad</b>	<b>Pairs</b>
GBH-06	Rowan	Southmont	73

#### Description

This colony is located on a small forested island within Swearing Creek just above the Linwood Southmont Road bridge. The island is forested with a middle-aged pine stand. On 23 March 2006 there were 73 nesting pairs present compared to 52 pairs in 2005. An estimated 60% were incubating and 40% were building nests.

Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-06



Aerial view of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-06 (Photo 2006; B. Watts)

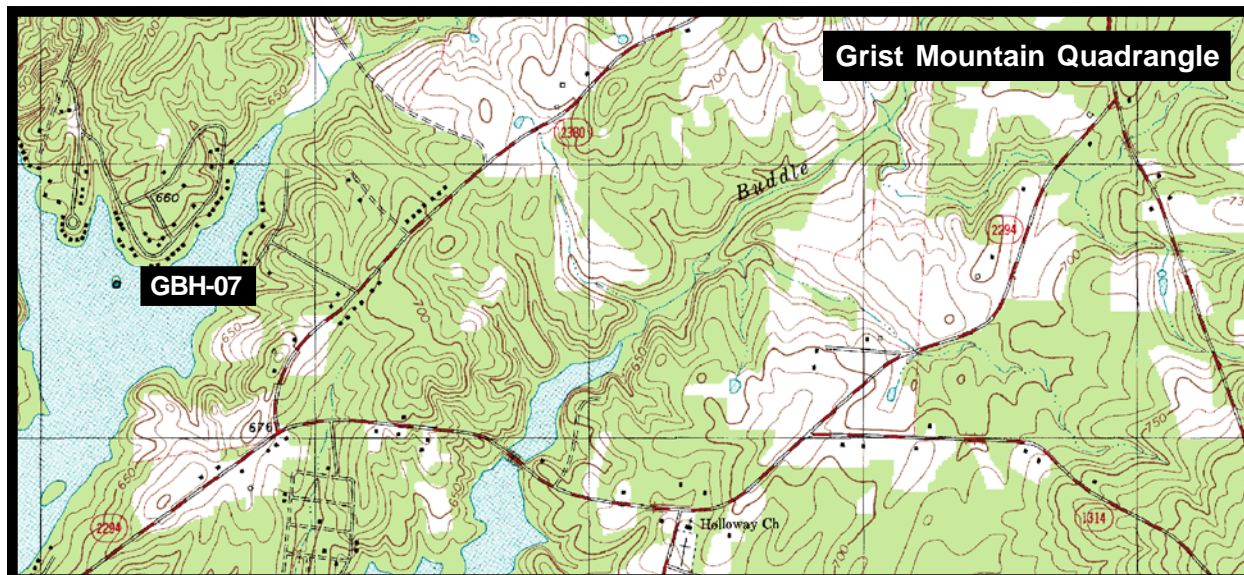


**GBH-07**

Code	County	Topo Quad	Pairs
GBH-07	Rowan	Grist Mountain	8

Description

This colony was located on a small forested island within Abbotts Creek off shore of a small development at the end of Route 2373. The island was forested with a mix of pine and hardwood. On 23 March 2006 there were 8 pairs nesting on the island. Six of these pairs were incubating and 2 pairs were building nests.

*Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-07*

*Aerial view of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-07* (Photo 2006; B. Watts)





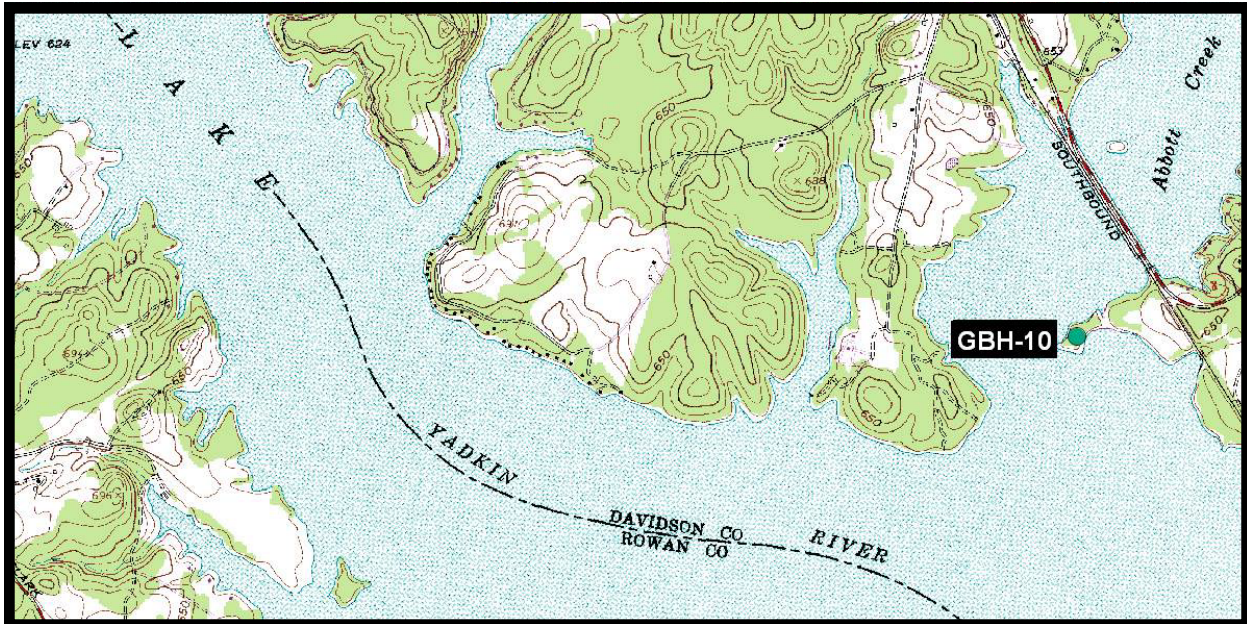
**GBH-10**

Code	County	Topo Quad	Prs
GBH-10	Davidson	Southmont	6

Description

This colony was located on a small forested peninsula that forms the southeastern mouth of Abbotts Creek. The site was forested with a mix of pine and hardwood. On 23 March 2006 there were 6 pairs nesting on the peninsula. Three of these pairs were incubating and three were building nests.

*Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-10.*



*Aerial view of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-10 (Photo 2006; B. Watts)*



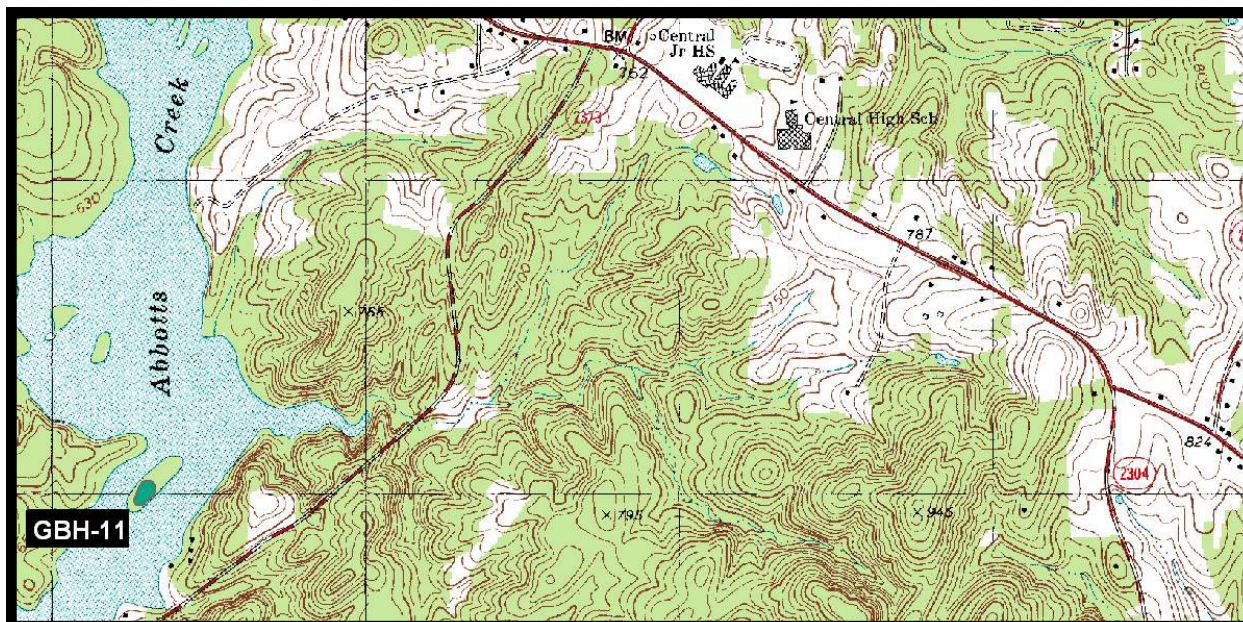
**GBH-11**

Code	County	Topo Quad	Prs
GBH-11	Davidson	Grist Mountain	5

Description

This colony was located on a small forested peninsula that forms the southeastern mouth of Abbotts Creek. The site was forested with a mix of pine and hardwood. On 23 March 2006 there were 5 pairs nesting on the island. All of these pairs were incubating.

*Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-11.*



*Aerial view of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-11 (Photo 2006; B. Watts)*



## Tuckertown Reservoir

### Bald Eagles

A single Bald Eagle nest was observed within the Tuckertown Reservoir system for the fifth year. The nest was located within the upper section just downstream of the High Rock Dam.

#### NEST: RO-02-02

Nest Code	County	Topo Quad	Active Territory	Active Nest	Chicks Produced
RO-02-02	Rowan	High Rock	Y	Y	2

#### Nest Location

This nest was located along the south shoreline just down from Cedar Creek. The nest tree is isolated within a recently clearcut area of private land above a farm. The tree is set back from the shoreline with a buffer strip of trees between the nest tree and the shoreline. The nest is not likely visible from the water due to tree buffer. The nest is likely visible from route 2152.

#### Nesting Activity

*Bird Activity* – On 23 March, 2006 a single adult was standing on the nest with 2 chicks approximately 14 days old. On 6 May 2006 both chicks were standing in the nest and fully feathered. No adult was present.

*Nest Condition* – Nest structure was of moderate size and appeared to be the same size as when observed over the past few years. On 23 March, 2006 the nest was in good condition with a well-formed cup and complete lining.

#### Nest Substrate

*Substrate Type* – Nest was built in an isolated loblolly pine. Nest tree was a specimen loblolly in an ideal condition to be used for a nest tree.

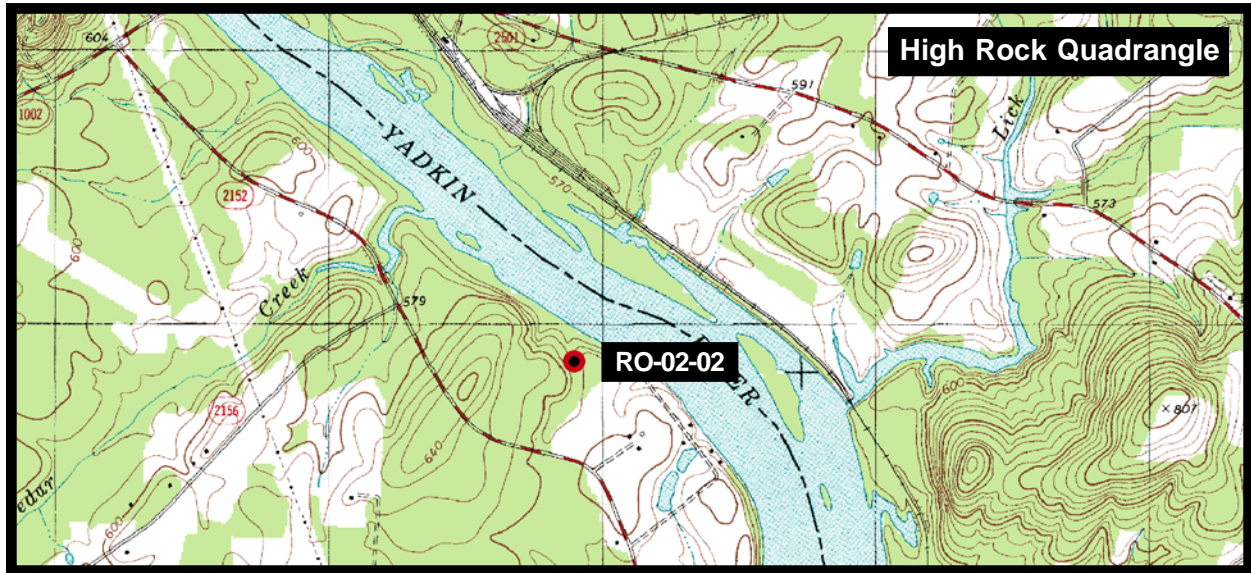
*Nest Position* – Nest was positioned in a top crotch deep below the crown. This configuration is the most common and apparently most stable position for eagle nests. Nest was under large crown with less than 20% sky exposure.

*Substrate Condition* – Nest tree appeared to be in good condition with no evidence of crown damage.

#### Potential Disturbance

Nest tree is in a fairly remote location with a considerable buffer on upland side and tree buffer on water side. Disturbance potential appears to be limited.

Map location of Bald Eagle nest RO-02-02



Aerial view of location of Bald Eagle nest RO-02-02 (Photo 2006: B. Watts)



## Great Blue Herons

A single colony of breeding Great Blue Herons was detected on Tuckertown Reservoir on an island just below the High Rock Dam. Total population estimate for this reservoir is 83 pairs.

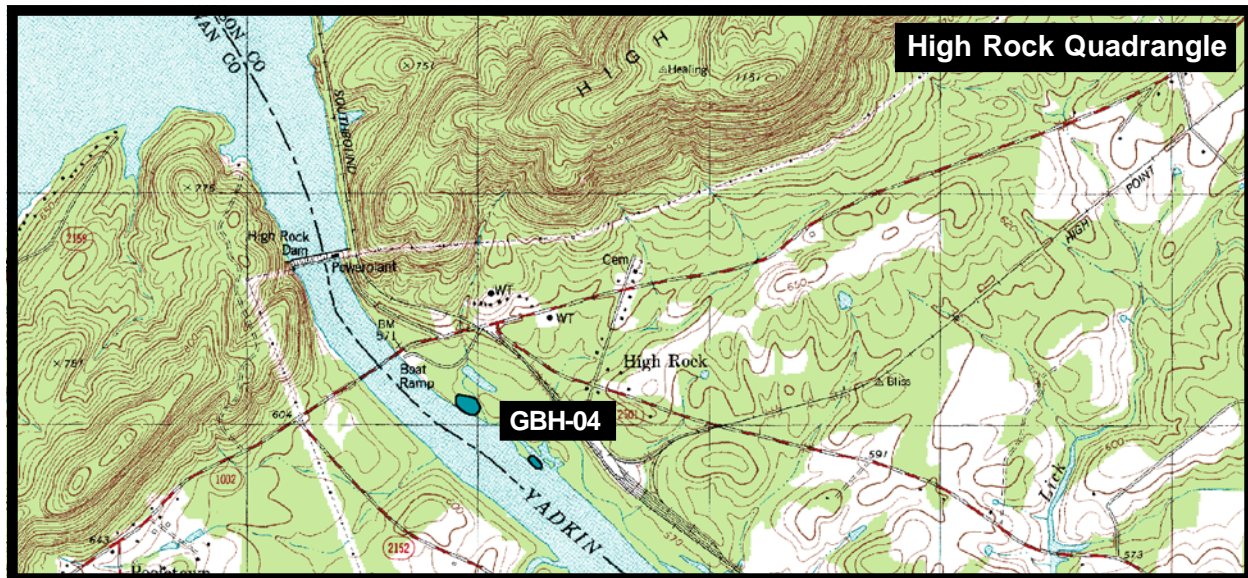
### GBH-04

Code	County	Topo Quad	Pairs
GBH-04	Davidson	High Rock	83

### Description

This colony was located on a small forested island and the adjacent forested shoreline just below the High Rock Dam. This island is long and linear and contains a mixed stand of hardwoods and pines. The adjacent shoreline is pine-dominated. There were 2 sub-colonies within this location. The larger sub-colony contained 65 pairs and was within the pines along the shoreline. The second sub-colony was on the island and contained 18 pairs. On 23 March 2006 approximately 90% of pairs were incubating and 10% were incubating.

### *Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-04*



*Aerial view of location of Great Blue heron colony GBH-04* (Photo 2006: B. Watts)



## **Narrows Reservoir**

### **Bald Eagles**

Two Bald Eagle nests were located along the shoreline of Narrows Reservoir. The older nest (ST-01-01) located along the edge of a canal behind Graveyard Island from 2001-2004 was absent. The newer nest (MO-03-01) located across the river on Uwharrie National Forest was present but not used. A new nest (MO-06-01) was located within 50 m of MO-03-01.

#### **NEST: ST-01-01**

<b>Nest Code</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Topo Quad</b>	<b>Active Territory</b>	<b>Active Nest</b>	<b>Chicks Produced</b>
ST-01-01	Stanly	Badin	N	N	-----

#### Nest Location

This nest was located along the edge of a canal just behind Graveyard Island. The nest was positioned within the first row of trees along the shoreline. Surrounding trees were of similar age and height. However, the position of the nest tree on the edge allowed direct access to the nest from the water side. This nest would be visible from the water on the canal or on the main stem of Narrows Reservoir. The nest would also be visible from the railroad tracks on the opposite side of the canal.

#### Nesting Activity

*Bird Activity* – The nest structure was completely gone and appears to have been blown out during the fall of 2004. Newer nest (MO-06-01) in this territory appears to be the focal nest.

*Nest Condition* – On 23 March, 2006 this nest was absent.

### Nest Substrate

*Substrate Type* – The nest was built in a live loblolly pine.

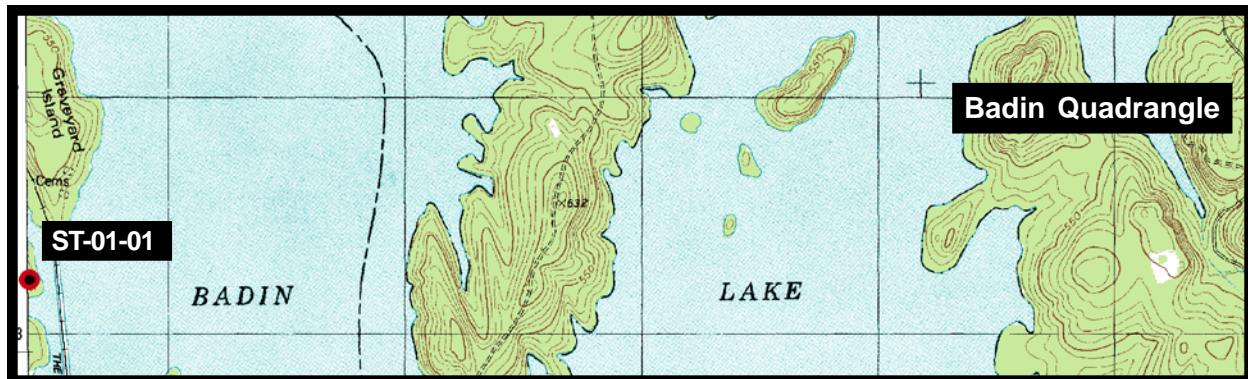
*Nest Position* – Nest was positioned in a shallow crotch very near the top of the crown. Supporting limbs were widely splayed such that sky exposure was approximately 80%.

*Substrate Condition* – Nest tree appeared to be in relatively good condition.

### Potential Disturbance

Nest tree was not protected by a visual buffer and was easily visible from water and railroad tracks. It is not clear if nest is directly visible from residential area near Palmer Island. Nest was protected by extensive forest buffer on upland side and by railroad tracks and canal on the lake side. Access to nest tree would be fairly difficult from both land and water. Disturbance appears to be limited.

*Map location of Bald Eagle nest ST-01-01*



*Aerial view of location of previous Bald Eagle nest ST-01-01* (Photo 2002: B. Watts)



**MO-03-01**

Nest Code	County	Topo Quad	Active Territory	Active Nest	Chicks Produced
MO-03-01	Montgomery	Badin	N	N	-----

Nest Location

This nest was located along a bluff set back from the shoreline on Uwharrie National Forest. The nest tree is within a scattered stand of supercanopy trees. The nest does not appear to be visible from the water along the shoreline but may be visible from logging road 6558.

Nesting Activity

*Bird Activity* – On 23 March, 2006 both adults were detected within the vicinity of the nest and the nest had clearly been worked on recently. However, a second nest was under construction in a nearby tree to the northwest. On 6 May, 2006 the nest was empty. Often times the construction of a new nest after the maintenance of an old nest indicates that the pair may have made a breeding attempt but failed early or may have been disturbed by a Great Horned Owl or events.

*Nest Condition* – Nest structure is of moderate size and similar in appearance to 2005. On 23 March, 2006 the nest was in good structural condition, had a well-formed cup and fresh lining. The nest showed clear signs of recent work.

Nest Substrate

*Substrate Type* – The nest was built in a live loblolly pine.

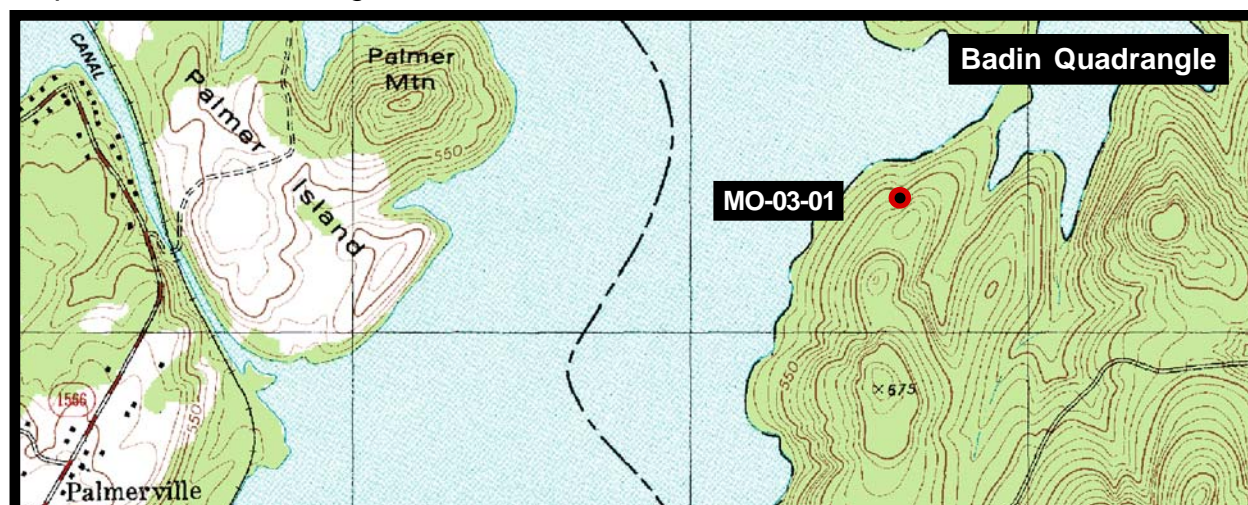
*Nest Position* – Nest is positioned on a lateral limb up against the trunk. Crown limbs are fairly sparse such that sky exposure was 70%.

*Substrate Condition* – Nest tree appeared to be in relatively good condition.

Potential Disturbance

Nest tree was protected by a visual buffer of scattered trees. It does not appear to be visible from shoreline but may be seen and accessed from nearby logging road.

*Map location of Bald Eagle nest MO-03-01.*





Aerial photo showing location of Bald Eagle nests MO-03-01 (l) and MO-06-01 (r). (Photos 2006: B. Watts)



### MO-06-01

Nest Code	County	Topo Quad	Active Territory	Active Nest	Chicks Produced
MO-06-01	Montgomery	Badin	Y	N	-----

#### Nest Location

This nest was located along a bluff set back from the shoreline on Uwharrie National Forest. The nest tree is within a scattered stand of supercanopy trees. The nest does not appear to be visible from the water along the shoreline but may be visible from logging road 6558.

#### Nesting Activity

*Bird Activity* – On 23 March, 2006 both adults were detected within the vicinity of the nest and the nest was under construction. On 6 May, 2006 the nest was completed and lined but empty. No nesting attempt was documented in 2006.

*Nest Condition* – Nest structure is of moderate size when completed and observed in May. The nest was well-structured, lined and in good condition.

### Nest Substrate

*Substrate Type* – The nest was built in a live loblolly pine.

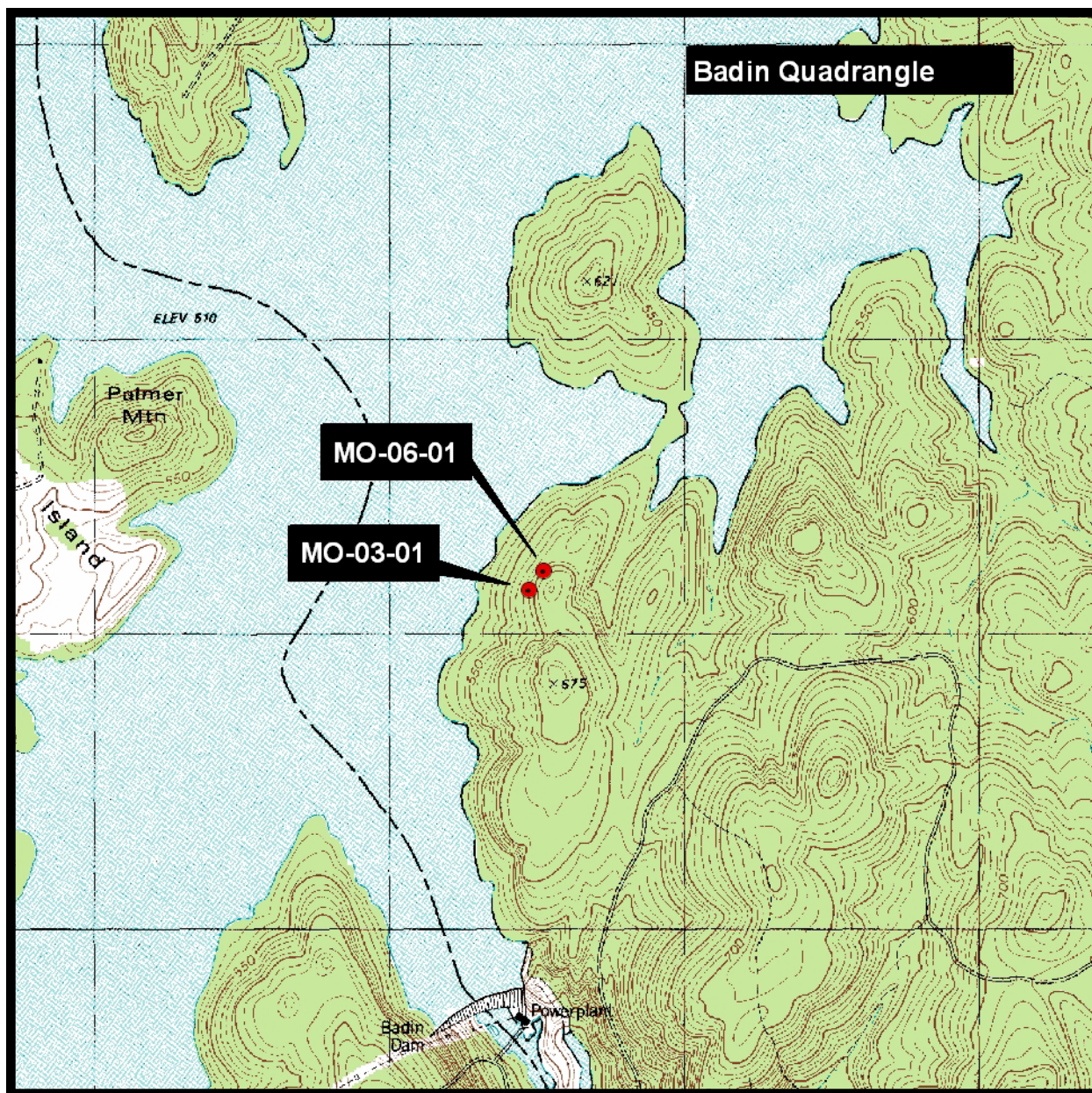
*Nest Position* – Nest is positioned within a terminal top crotch under a broad crown. The nest is positioned under a dense crown such that sky exposure is only about 20%..

*Substrate Condition* – Nest tree appeared to be in very good condition.

### Potential Disturbance

Nest tree was protected by a visual buffer of scattered trees. It does not appear to be visible from shoreline but may be seen and accessed from nearby logging road.

*Map location of Bald Eagle nest MO-03-01 and MO-06-01.*



## Great Blue Herons

Two colonies of breeding Great Blue Herons were detected within Narrows Reservoir during 2006. One colony was on an island at the confluence of Beaverdam and Reynolds Creeks and the second was on an island between Graveyard Island and Palmer Island. Total population estimate for this reservoir was 208 pairs.

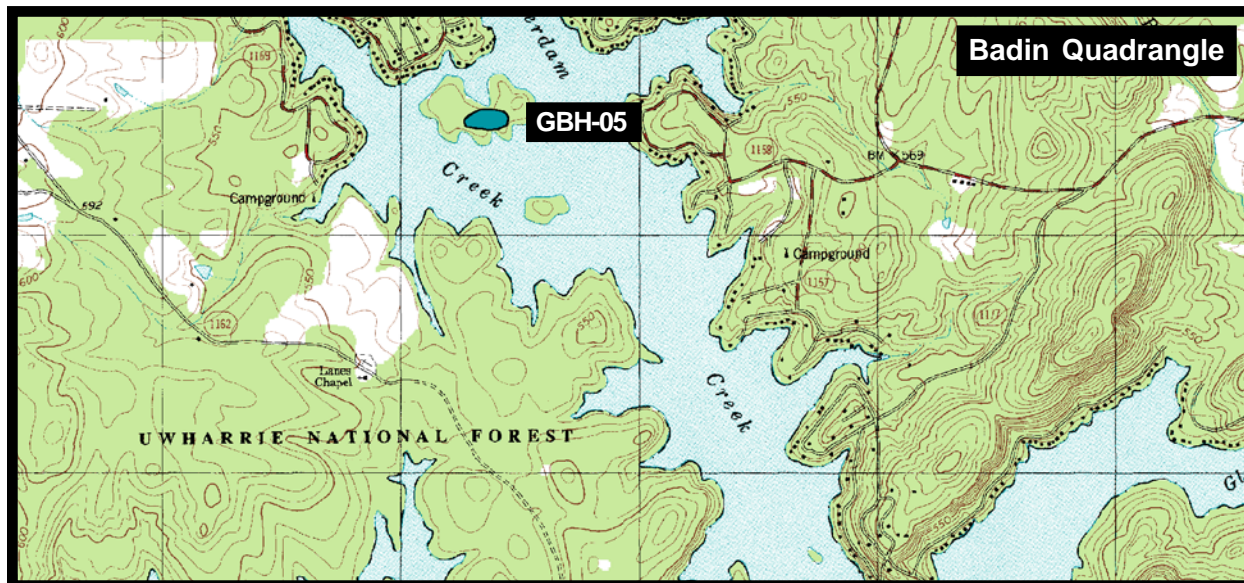
### GBH-05

Code	County	Topo Quad	Pairs
GBH-05	Montgomery	Badin	145

### Description

This colony was located on a small forested island near the Pine Haven residential development at the confluence of Beaverdam and Reynolds Creeks. The drainage is highly developed in this area with considerable boat traffic. The island supports a middle-age stand of loblolly pines that has numerous canopy gaps. Nests were built throughout the stand. The colony was estimated to contain 145 pairs compared to 180 pairs in 2005 and 140, 185, and 110 pairs in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively. An increasing number of pine trees within the stand are now dead. On 23 March, 2006 approximately 80% of pairs were incubating and the remaining pairs were building.

*Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-05*



*Aerial views of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-05 (Photos 2006: B. Watts)*



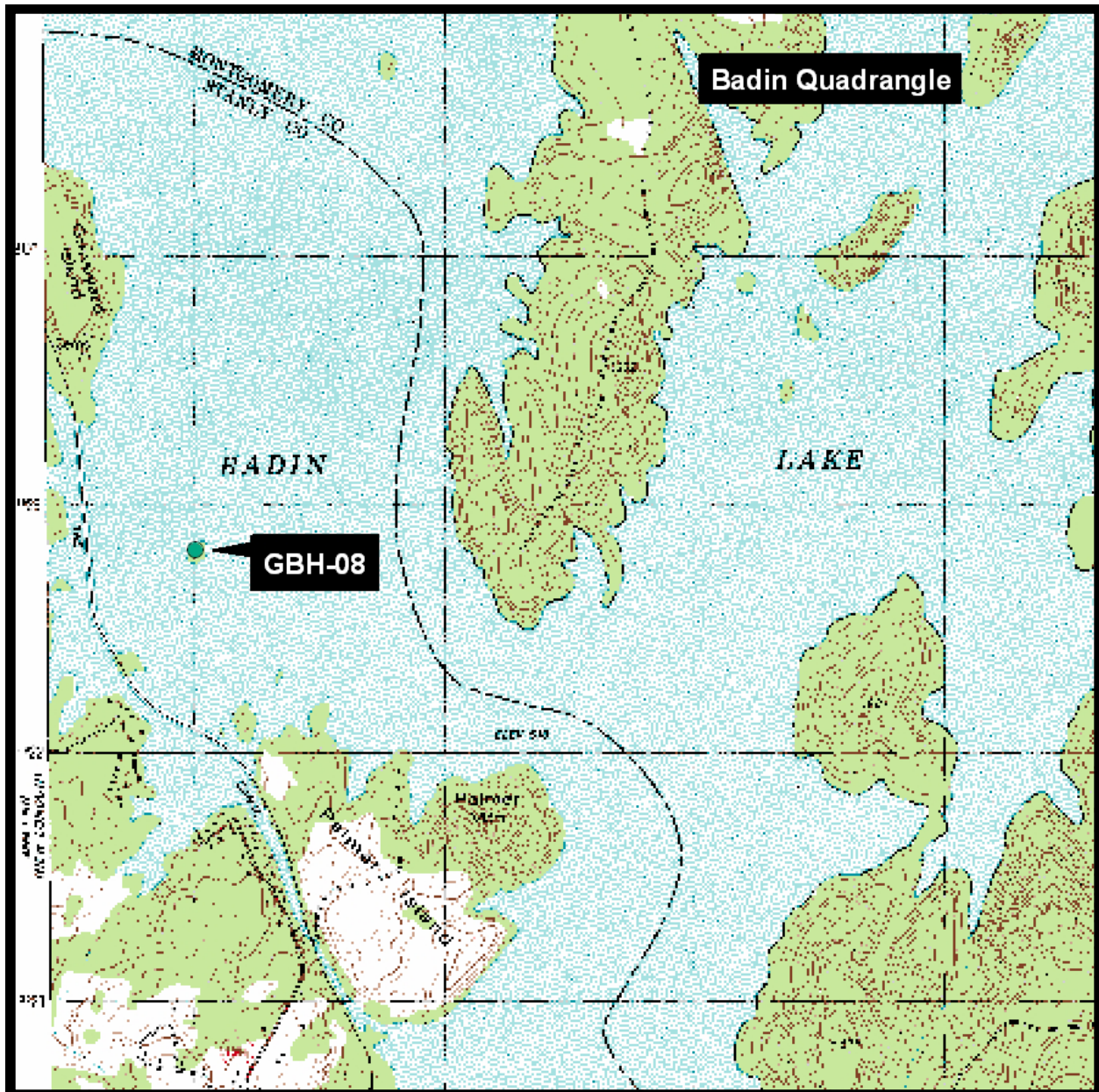
**GBH-08**

Code	County	Topo Quad	Pairs
GBH-08	Stanly	Badin	63

Description

This colony was located on a small forested island along the western shoreline of Badin Lake between Graveyard Island and Palmer Island. The island is well isolated from shoreline but subject to regular boat traffic. Nests were scattered in loblolly pines throughout the center of the island. On 23 March 2006 90% of pairs were incubating and remaining were building.

*Map location of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-08.*



*Aerial views of Great Blue Heron colony GBH-08 (Photos 2006: B. Watts)*



## Falls Reservoir

### Bald Eagles

The single nest that was located along this waterway in 2001 was not present. This nest and the dead tree that supported it blew down. This nest was located along the reservoir shoreline east of the town of Badin. The nest appeared to be in good structural condition but no nesting attempts were documented. The short waterway comprising Falls Reservoir appears to be an ideal breeding location for Bald Eagles. The area is remote with extensive forest cover. Many trees are available that are large enough to support a nest structure. The two dams in close proximity would likely provide good foraging opportunities. Due to the small size of this waterway, it is unlikely that more than one eagle pair could be accommodated. Future work should monitor this territory for breeding activity.

#### NEST: ST-01-02

Nest Code	County	Topo Quad	Active Territory	Active Nest	Chicks Produced
ST-01-02	Stanly	Badin	N	N	-----

#### Nest Location

The Bald Eagle nest within Falls Reservoir was located on a steep embankment along the shoreline just east of the town of Badin. The nest tree was located in a small grove of 8-10 old supercanopy pines surrounded by younger growth. This nest had an extensive forest buffer on all sides and may not be visible from any access points. The nest was accessible from the loop road that comes from route 1704.

#### Nesting Activity

*Bird Activity* – This nest has been abandoned since at least 2002. On 26 March, 2006 the nest tree was detected on the ground within the young pine stand.

*Nest Condition* – Nest absent.

#### Nest Substrate

*Substrate Type* – The nest was built in a dead loblolly pine. The tree was one of several old seed trees left over a regenerating stand. These trees were in a supercanopy position over surrounding forest. On 26 March, 2006 the nest tree had fallen over.

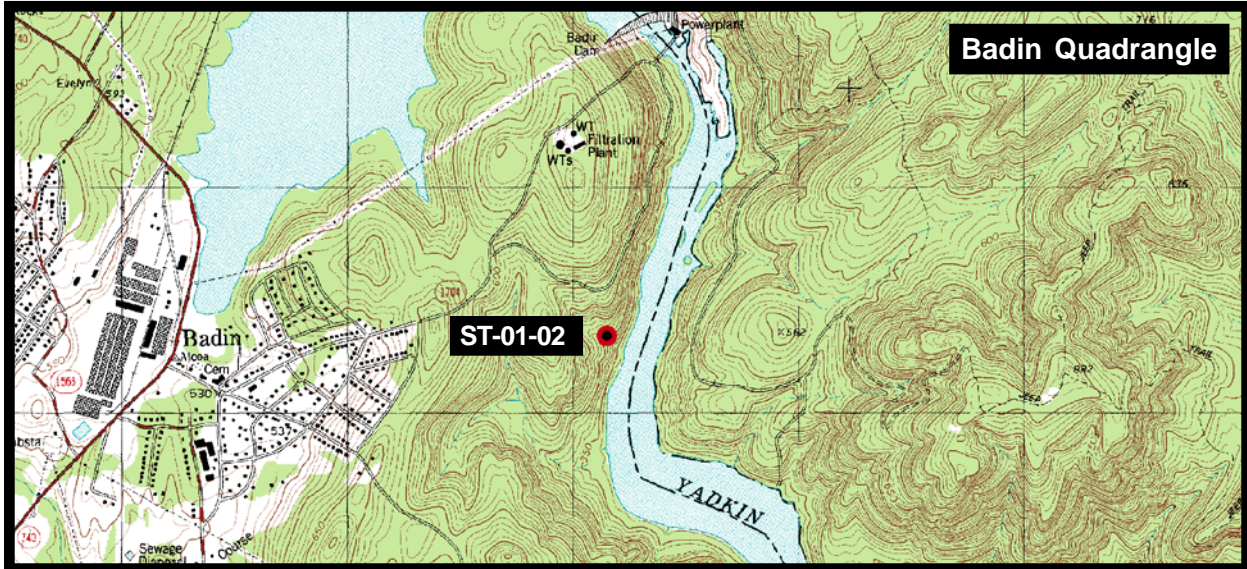
*Nest Position* – Nest was positioned in a deep top crotch but was no longer present.

*Substrate Condition* – Nest tree was dead and in declining condition in recent years. Nest tree had blown down.

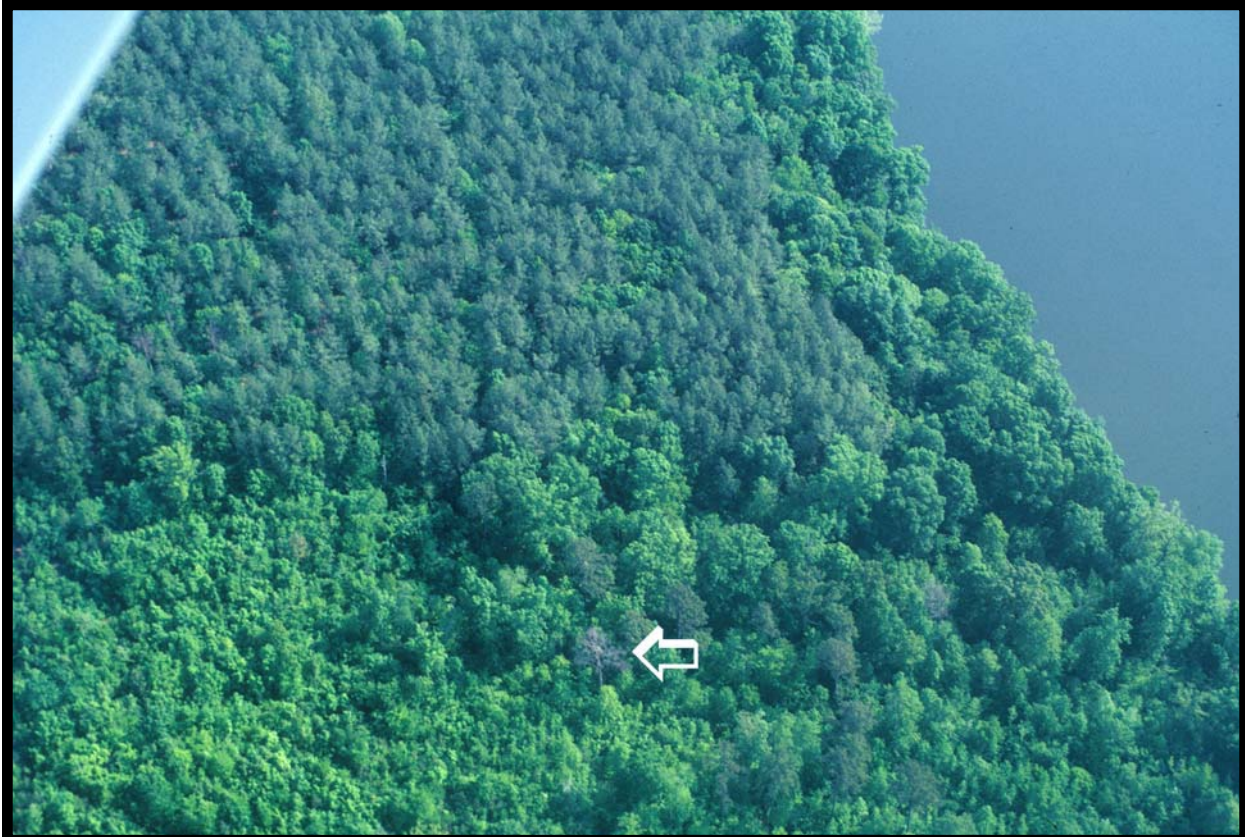
### Potential Disturbance

Nest tree was protected by a visual and structural buffer on all sides. Location is fairly remote and access is somewhat difficult from nearby roadway. Disturbance potential appears to be very limited.

### *Map location of Bald Eagle nest ST-01-02*



### *Aerial view of location of Bald Eagle nest ST-01-02 (Photo 2002: B. Watts)*





## Great Blue Heron

No Great Blue Heron colonies were detected on Falls Reservoir. Nesting habitat is fairly limited on this waterway. The small forested islands located on the upper reach are the most likely location for future breeding. However, potential for colonization appears limited.

## BALD EAGLE NEST SUMMARY

The following table summarizes all Bald Eagle nesting activity at Yadkin Project reservoirs since 2001.

<b>Nest Code</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
DA-01-01	1 chick	2 chicks	1 chick	Not used	Not used	Absent
ST-01-01	2 chicks	Not used	Not used	Not used	Absent	Absent
ST-01-02	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Absent
RO-02-01		Lost in storm	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
RO-02-02		0 chicks	1 chick	1 chick	2 chicks	2 chicks
MO-03-01			1 chick	1 chick	1 chick	Not used
RO-04-01				2 chicks	2 chicks	0 chicks
MO-06-01						Not used