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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Norfolk Botanical Garden Eaglets Are One Week Old !**



Norfolk, VA - After one week of eating every 30-40 minutes, the three eaglets in the Norfolk Botanical Garden nest have almost tripled their birth weight. With all the reaching for food, they are now able to hold their heads up for several minutes at a time.

One parent stays in the nest to keep the eaglets safe and warm by sitting over them or “brooding.” They were born with only thin, fluffy down feathers. “As a second coat of darker, thicker down grows in and their thermal system develops the eaglets will gain more freedom to move about the nest, and less need for their parents to keep them warm,” says Stephen Living, biologist with The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The eaglets are not able to use their feet yet, but scoot a little with the help of their wings.

People in all 50 states and in 27 countries are viewing this eagle family on the eagle cam. The most international visits, by far, come from Canada. The top 5 countries in Europe watching are: The Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, Germany and the Czech Republic. In Asia, there have been visits from Taiwan, China, Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines.

They are watching 24 hours-a-day, since there is an infrared light above the nest. The number of hits per day on the eagle cam has risen since the hatchings:

- ❖ Prior to the hatchings, the typical weekday had 20,000 hits on the eagle cam.
- ❖ The peak day this month was March 11, the first eaglet hatching, with 94,550 views.
- ❖ Since the hatchings, a typical weekday consists of 60,000 hits.

Join the rest of the world, watch the eagle cam to see these eaglets grow and learn to fly.

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#### **About Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)**

It is the mission of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species, while providing opportunities for all Virginians to enjoy the wildlife of the Commonwealth. VDGIF's efforts are guided by Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan. This Plan focuses on the species and habitats of greatest conservation need, but it is also a plan for the conservation of all Virginia's wildlife.

Learn more about Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan

[bewildvirginia.org/wildlifeplan/](http://bewildvirginia.org/wildlifeplan/)

Learn what's happening at the DGIF Blog

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/eaglecam/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/eaglecam/)

#### **About Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG)**

Norfolk Botanical Garden represents an oasis of over 30 theme gardens encompassing 155 beautiful acres. This diverse natural beauty can be explored by tram, boat or walking tours. NBG is accredited by the American Association of Museums, is recognized as a Virginia Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information about the Garden and classes, visit [www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org).

#### **About WVEC.com**

WVEC.com is the award-winning Web site for WVEC Television, the ABC affiliate serving Hampton Roads and surrounding areas of Virginia and North Carolina. WVEC.com has hosted the Eagle Cam images since the camera went online in 2006. The station provides regular updates on the eagles on 13News. To watch the eagle cam visit [www.wvec.com/eaglecam](http://www.wvec.com/eaglecam)