

Eagle released in Petenwell area

FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

On Dec. 15, The Feather, a wildlife rehabilitation group from New London, released an immature bald eagle at the Petenwell Wildlife Area.

The Petenwell Wildlife Area was set aside as a wildlife sanctuary by the Wisconsin River Power Company to provide quality habitat for eagles, osprey and migratory waterfowl. The area is downstream from the Petenwell dam, providing an open water area for winter feeding. Numbers of eagles routinely feed in this area throughout the winter. The power company maintains an observation tower for the public that is near the dam for wildlife viewing.

The eagle — known as Lightning— was injured with its sibling — Thunder — when the tree its nest was in was struck by lightning and started on fire. The young eagles were not yet able to fly. They were injured by the fire and the impact when the nest fell to the ground. Thunder was rehabilitated and released at the same site last year. Lightning's injuries were more severe, and the eagle had to stay in captivity for another year before being healthy enough to survive on its own.

Lightning was set in a leaning tree. He sat there for about 10 minutes surveying his surroundings before flying downstream. He has been seen on several occasions since then. When Lightning was released, there were two other eagles in the area. The rehabilita-

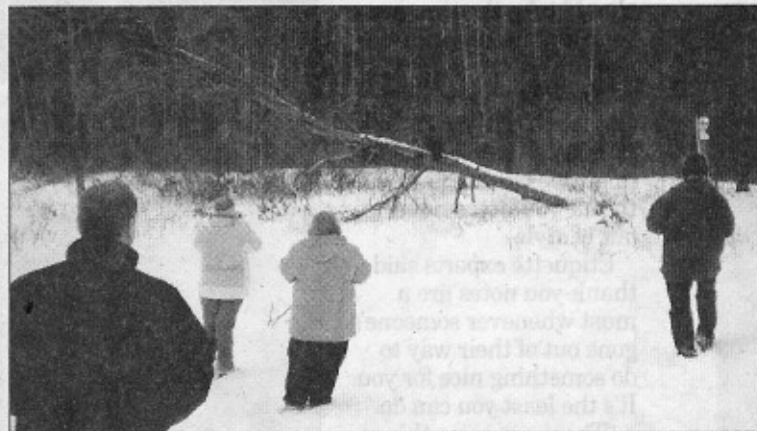


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This eagle was released in December in the Petenwell Wildlife Area.

tors are hoping that Lightning can group with some other young eagles so he can learn the ropes of how to survive on his own.

Contributed by Darrin M. Johnson, environmental consultant, Integrys Business Support LLC, providing support for Wisconsin River Power Company.



The eagle, nicknamed Lightning, sits on a leaning tree after his release.