

Tracking Bald Eagles in Movebank

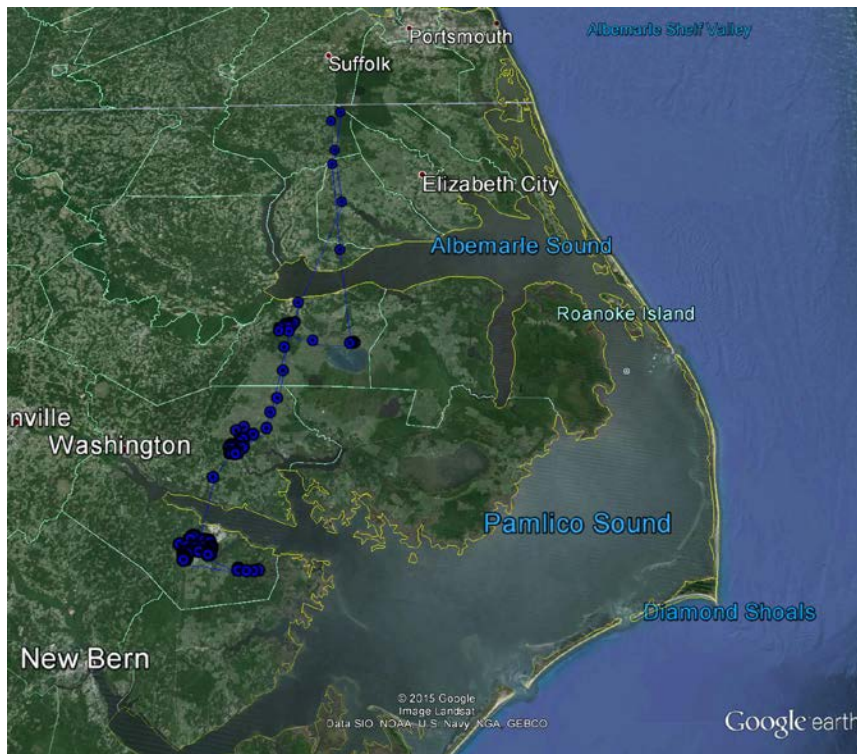
Department of Applied Ecology professor, Ted Simons, of the NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and Dr. Roland Kays, professor in the NCSU Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program and scientist at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences are using state-of-the-art GPS transmitters and the [Movebank](#) animal tracking database to study Bald Eagle movements in North Carolina. An immature Bald Eagle rescued by Dr. Joni Gnyp of the [Cape Fear Raptor Center](#) in 2014 was fitted with a 48 gram solar powered GPS transmitter and released early January 2015. The two year old female, nicknamed “Yangchen” was weak and emaciated when recovered. Subsequent analyses by Dr. Shea Tuberty at Appalachian State University indicated relatively high levels of zinc and lead in the bird’s blood. Over the past two months Yangchen has moved between Wilmington and Albemarle Sound, focusing its activity near Bath and Aurora, NC where it is making extensive use of reclaimed phosphate pits and catfish ponds in the area. Recent maps of the bird’s [movements](#) are available to the public and updated four times a day by Movebank. The scientists are hoping to track the immature bird to follow migratory movements, pair formation, and nesting behavior over the next several years.



Left to right; Dr. Joni Gnyp, Roland Kays, Lindsay Addison of [Audubon North Carolina](#), and Ted Simons attach a solar GPS telemetry tag to an immature Bald Eagle (photo by [Untamed Science](#)).



The GPS transmitter, attached with a Teflon “backpack” harness, can provide high-resolution movement data for up to six years (photo by [Untamed Science](#)).



January – February movements of Yangchen. Daily [movement updates](#) are available through Movebank.