



Eaglet hatches at a U.S. Steel mill in West Mifflin



JOHN HAYES ✓
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
jhayes@post-gazette.com

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When bald eagles began hatching in a city famous for its industrial pollution, the ecological milestone made international news. This year, some 150,000 internet viewers from 18 countries watched live-streaming images as eagles nested at a Pittsburgh steel mill.

On Tuesday, eagle watchers witnessed live images of an eaglet breaking through its shell at U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works-Irvin Plant in West Mifflin. Another egg is expected to hatch this week.

The first sign of pipping – pecking from the inside – was observed at 7:09 a.m. Monday. With a little help from mom, the shell was breached, and the eaglet rolled out at 10:24 a.m. Tuesday.

The father, estimated to be 7 to 8 years old, and the older mother fledged their first chick in 2020. Two fledglings took the leap in 2021.

The live-streaming camera was sanctioned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and installed in December 2021. It was supplied by PixCams, the Westmoreland County company that built the equipment used to peek into the eagle nest in Hays. Most of the wildlife cameras and security units made by PixCams are powered by long-duration solar panels. U.S. Steel routes energy created at the mill to operate the day and night vision camera, its microphone and its livestreaming system.

To watch the nest and chat with other eagle watchers, go to www.ussteel.com/media/video-image-library or PixCams' live feed at www.youtube.com.

U. S. Steel Bald Eagle Camera Live Stream - Two eaglets!!!



“This is the best thing that could happen here,” said Don German, plant manager at the 82-year-old finishing mill on a hill above the Monongahela River. “I have 800 employees. We all live in the community, and we’re honored and blessed that [the eagles] chose our plant to call home. It’s recognition of our stewardship, of being ethical to the environment.”

The eagles catch fish in the waters below the plant and wing them back to the nest high in a sycamore tree on the mill's south side. The nest is not far from stacks that erupt in tall plumes of fire as the plant burns off unused coke oven gas.

“It doesn't bother them. This is their third year raising their young here,” said Mr. German. “Our guys walking between buildings look up and watch them. [Workers] love it.”

Observation is via video only. Trespassing is banned on the Union Railroad tracks along the river and U.S. Steel property. The state Game Commission imposes a 660-foot privacy zone surrounding all known bald eagle nests.

John Hayes: jhayes@post-gazette.com.



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