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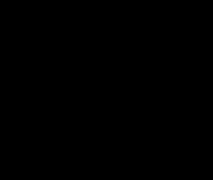
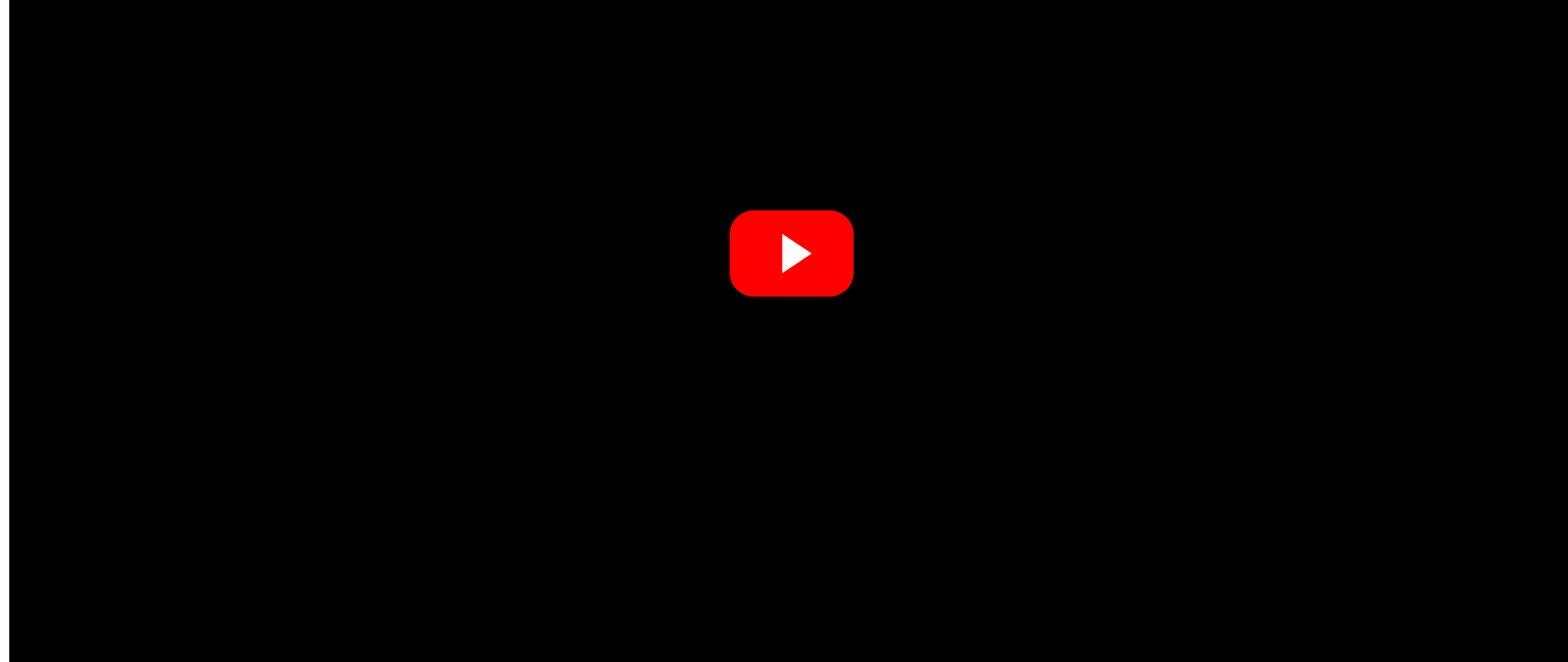
Decorah Eagles: DH3 and DH4 Climb Higher Before First Flights

June 12, 2026 HNF [Leave a comment](#)

At the Decorah Eagles nest in Iowa, the nest bowl is starting to feel smaller by the day. On June 12, 2026, DH3 and DH4 were moving higher through the nest tree, testing new perches above the bowl and giving watchers a clear sense that these young Decorah Eagles first flights are getting closer.

The scene had that unmistakable pre-fledge feeling. The eaglets were still close to home, but the world around them had expanded. Branches that once framed the nest were now part of the action, and the tree itself was becoming a training ground.

For DH3 and DH4, every careful climb now feels like a preview of what is coming. The nest raised them, but the branches are beginning to ask for more.



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The Climb Shows How Much the Nest Tree Has Changed

The June 12 video offered several different views of DH3 and DH4 in the nest tree, and those angles helped show just how high the eaglets are moving now. From one view, they appeared tucked among the branches. From another, the height above the nest became much clearer.

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That visual shift is one of the biggest signs of this stage. The nest is no longer the only place where the story is happening. The rails, limbs, and higher perches have become part of the eaglets' daily world.

Instead of simply standing in the nest bowl, DH3 and DH4 are using the tree itself. They are stepping onto uneven surfaces, gripping bark, pausing to balance, and adjusting their wings as the branches move beneath them.

Those higher views make the moment feel bigger. The eaglets are still in the nest tree, but they are no longer acting like birds whose world ends at the edge of the bowl.

A Tail-Feather Tug Adds Sibling Drama

Of course, no young eagle milestone would be complete without a little sibling drama.

During the branching practice, one eaglet perched higher in the tree while the other remained lower and reached up to nip at its tail feathers. It looked like a playful little challenge, with one eaglet claiming the higher spot and the other making sure it was still part of the action.

The moment was funny because it felt so familiar. Even as DH3 and DH4 grow stronger and more independent, they are still nest siblings sharing space, reacting to each other, and turning ordinary practice into a feathered contest.

The nest tree has become their playground, practice course, and launch pad all at once.

That small tail-feather tug gave the scene personality. It was not just a technical milestone. It was DH3 and DH4 being young eagles together, testing height, space, balance, and each other.

Why Branching Matters Before The Decorah Eagles First Flights

Branching is the stage when a young eagle leaves the nest bowl and begins moving onto nearby branches before fledging. It is one of the most important steps between being nest-bound and taking a first true flight.

For an eaglet, climbing higher is not just exploring. It is training. A branch is narrower and less forgiving than the nest bowl. It moves, tilts, and challenges the eaglet to grip harder, balance better, and use its wings with more control.

Each move builds a different skill. A careful step strengthens the feet. A hop teaches lift and landing. A wobble teaches recovery. A higher perch gives the eaglet a new sense of space, distance, and confidence.

Branching is the bridge between the safety of the nest bowl and the freedom of first flight.

That is why this stage matters so much for DH3 and DH4. Before the sky becomes their classroom, the branches do the teaching.

First Flights Are Getting Closer

DH3 and DH4 are still close to the nest, but the direction of the season is clear. The nest bowl is no longer the center of everything. The branches are pulling the eaglets upward, one careful move at a time.

Soon, the highest branch may not be the highest place they go.

For now, the Decorah Eagles nest tree is holding them a little longer. It is giving them room to climb, compete, tug feathers, spread their wings, and learn the language of wind before the Decorah Eagles DH3 and DH4's first flights arrive.

The nest raised them. The branches are training them and the sky is waiting.

Video recorded and shared by earlybird on YouTube. The live cam experience has been provided by the [Raptor Resource Project](#).

FAQ About DH3 and DH4 Climbing Higher

What happened at the Decorah Eagles nest on June 12, 2026?

DH3 and DH4 were seen climbing higher in the nest tree while practicing branching. One eaglet perched higher while the other nipped at its tail feathers from below.

Why are DH3 and DH4 climbing higher in the nest tree?

DH3 and DH4 are climbing higher because they are in the branching stage before fledging. This helps them build balance, grip strength, wing control, and confidence before their first true flights.

What does branching mean for an eaglet?

Branching means a young eagle leaves the nest bowl and moves onto nearby branches. It is an important pre-fledge stage that helps eaglets practice moving, balancing, gripping, and landing.

Are DH3 and DH4 ready to fledge?

DH3 and DH4 are getting closer, but branching does not always mean fledging will happen immediately. Their higher climbs show that they are building the skills they need for their first flights.

Where is the Decorah Eagles nest located?

The Decorah Eagles nest is located in Decorah, Iowa. DH3 and DH4 are the young eaglets being watched during the 2026 nesting season.

[Decorah Eagles: DH3 and DH4 Climb Higher Before First Flights](#)
June 12, 2026

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


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