

Search for EaglesNM , Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, Sunday, 8 February 2015

The hird 2014-15 Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 4, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 PM The temperature at the start was 32 degrees and at the finish 34 degrees. It was a cold overcast day at the start that began with watching feeder birds at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) that included Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse among others. The forecast was for icy rain and sleet later in the day. We logged 147 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from PEEC to the Bushkill Access and the trip's conclusion at the headwaters of the Lackawaxen River.

Jack Padalino, president emeritus of PEEC and the Brandwein Institute, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search with a participant that recorded 25 species of birds including 12 Bald Eagles (BE). This was the first search for eagles in the many years that I have led where I did not see a Red-tailed Hawk. The BE was the only raptor observed. The Delaware River was iced over in many areas. Of the twelve eagles we observed eight were adults and near open water in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Scenic Delaware. The first four BEs seen were in flight the rest perched.

Our first BEs were two immature birds flying over open water at the Bushkill Access. Next in the same area was an adult BE flying north along the ridge and perched briefly then took flight again.

A Common Raven flew south above Route 209 as we passed through Dingmans Ferry.

At the Dingmans Ferry Access an adult BE was flying along the Jersey shoreline. It perched for a few minutes then proceeded to fly down river. The BE nest near mile marker 17 on Route 209 has had birds around it for the past few weeks but there were none at the nest this morning. This nest site has been active for the past seven years. A Northern Flicker flew across the road near the nest site.

No eagles at Milford Beach.

At the Callahan House, satellite office of the Brandwein Institute, we watched feeder birds adding White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Cardinal and White Throated Sparrow.

No BE were

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/;mjnhbgvfcdsaxzSDFGHBVN CVBNM,≥ , ≤on the Milford Mott Street nest. The former nest crashed to the ground and the BEs imm74ed7410ately began constructing a new nest on the north side of the Sawkill. The feeders at the end of Mott Street were very active.

On Ann Street at the park that overlooks the Delaware we drew a blank, no birds.

We continued to the Best Western, no eagles; however, a Field Sparrow hopped into a low bush to our left.

At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge no BE; however Mute Swan, 11 Common Mergansers, 9 drakes and 2 ducks as well as 50 Canada Geese.

Crossing the Matamoras - Port Jervis Bridge we marveled at the abundance of ice.

Eddy Farm Resort overlook was barren, lots of ice but no birds.

By 11:00 AM we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker with a great vista and a Common Raven and Blue Jay above us on the ridge.

At the Pond Eddy nest sight, in a White Pine on the PA side of the river we found the nest but no BE. We also scanned the face of the cliff above us, no BE. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind.

As we crossed the bridge approaching the Observation Blind we searched upstream for BEs, we could see none. From the blind, with help from the Eagle Institute Eagle Watch Volunteers we

were able to see an adult BE perched upstream from the bridge. Plank Road lacked BEs. No BEs were at the Rio Reservoir Dam. We returned to the Delaware and traveled north.

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As we approached the Pond Eddy nest site I spotted a mature BE in a White Pine high on the ridge on the NY side of the river. I have often seen BEs perch in that tree. This location along the cliffs was a favorite of Dr. Kuhnen's for sighting eagles.

In Barryville on the road that parallels the river were a dozen Mallards. We saw BEs along this stretch of the river during our January search.

No BE at Minisink Ford Observation Blind.

North of the Roebling Bridge in the Delaware was solid ice.

On the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware proximal to the Roebling Bridge is The Eagle Institute where a video of area eagles is screened and where brochures, newsletters, and information about eagles is made available to visitors. There is a gift shop and the Institute is open weekends.

At the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware rivers which was solid ice, were a number viewers in the parking area looking for eagles

Above us on the north side of the Lackawaxen river near the confluence with the Delaware is an active BE nest just over the ridge. No BE seen

By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 7 Bald Eagles.

We traveled upstream along the Lackawaxen to the PPL Dam site and saw 4 additional BEs. An adult BE was perched high above the river near the pipeline cut through the woods. A mature BE perched near us on the road side of the Lackawaxen 20 feet above. Next was a posse of 13 Turkey. At Church Road as we watched another adult BE, a Pileated Woodpecker came into view. At Appert Road an immature BE was perched on a branch 30 feet above the water

We concluded our field trip at 2:30 PM; however, on my way home along Route 209 south I passed the mile marker 17 nest site where on the ridge above an adult BE was perched.

Next Search for Eagles: Sunday, March 8, 2015

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 570.296.6752 AND INDICATE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

Or, eMail: jack@brandwein.org to leave a message.

Meet 8:00 a.m. at the PEEC parking lot OR Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Historic Callahan House, 101 Route 209 South @ mile marker 21, Milford, PA -

WEATHER PERMITTING. - Dress warmly, bring binoculars, field guides, and a lunch.

THERE IS NO CHARGE

An Eagle identification field guide and a "Search for Eagles" hand-out will be provided for participants by the Paul F-Brandwein Institute. Join us to Search For Eagles.

In addition to the 12 Bald Eagles we saw:

Mute Swan

Canada Goose

Mallard

Black Duck

Common Merganser

Wild Turkey

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

European Starling
Field Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow