

Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip - Sunday, 11 March 2018

The fourth and final 2017-18 Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, March 11, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 28 degrees and at the finish 37 degrees. It was a clear sunny day that began with watching feeder birds including Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Tree Sparrow, among others. The five participants logged 196 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from Delaware Township Park & Ride 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 that included seeing 36 species of birds including 28 Bald Eagles (BE), 2 Peregrine Falcons, 17 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 12 Common Ravens.

The first raptor of the day was a Red-tailed Hawk(RT) perched atop a White Pine tree west of Route 209 near the turn to PEEC at Briscoe Mountain

Road. Proximal to mile marker 7 we spotted two perched mature BEs and another circling above them. At 9:10 AM we saw our fourth BE, a juvenile bird in flight. We relocated a nest high on the ridge with two adult BE perched proximal to it. This nest was a new find for us during the last search. As we watched the BEs at the nest a juvenile BE flew across the river from New Jersey toward us. The Bushkill Access was closed and we added two Red-tailed Hawks, and Northern Flicker. Traveling north on 209 we spotted another adult BE perched near the nest high the ridge near Eshback's there was also a BE in flight. There was an adult RT soaring above the Eshback's access entrance. There's a dead White Pine which is a favorite RT perch west of 209 near the Dingmans Camp Ground.

No eagles at the Dingmans Ferry Access, which was open. A Common Raven was spotted in flight above Zimmerman Flats.

I have been seeing BEs this week at the mile marker 17 nest and today an adult was perched on the ridge nearby. Additional participants joined us at the Callahan House, satellite office of the Brandwein Institute, where we watched feeder birds and added Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, and White-throated Sparrow. A BE visible from route 209, was perched near the Metz Road nest. We backtracked to the Milford Cliffs to search for Peregrine Falcons that have been reported in the area. No Peregrines; however, 3 Common Ravens and two RTs flew above. We returned to the mile marker 17 nest site and were treated to a BE leaving the nest and pairing with the BE on the ridge. We watched as the birds circled above and one returned to the nest. There are probably eggs in the nest and the eagle is incubating. We returned to the Metz Road nest site and watched an adult BE bring a stick to the nest where there was a female BE. As we watched an adult BE flew by heading toward the Delaware River. No BEs were at Milford Beach.

Traveling along the river road we searched for BEs perched in a tree close to the condominiums at the base of Bennett Street, none were there; however, a RT was present.



North of Cummings Road is where in past there was an active nest opposite the Kittatinny Camp Ground above the westbound lane along Interstate 80. The nest is no longer there; however, we still occasionally spot BEs and Common Ravens in the area.

We continued to the Best Western, no eagles. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge, a BE was perched on the Jersey side of the river, then took flight. During a former search a local resident at the River View told us about two nearby BE nests.

We enjoyed a rest stop at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center.

We traveled to the Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve where a juvenile BE soared above the entrance to the preserve. We added 4 RTs en route.

The Eddy Farm Resort overlook was quite, one RT added.

By 12:45 we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Great vista and scoped two Peregrine Fallons perched on the Pennsylvania side of the river. Just upriver from where the Mongaup enters the Delaware an adult BE was sitting in



the nest we discovered last search. The nest is on the Pennsylvania side of the river across from the Indian Head Canoe livery access. While we watched the BE on the nest an adult male flew past us and headed upriver. AT the Pond Eddy nest sight, a White Pine on the PA side of the river, no BEs were seen; however, an adult BE soared above the ridge close to the White Pine where they frequently perch. As we approached the construction at he Pond Eddy Bridge we watched a BE fly downriver.

We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind by 2:30 PM. We entered the parking area and were treated to a perched juvenile BE perched and an adult in flight.

There were 2 juvenile eagles along Plank Road, both were perched and hunting for fish. A third bird flew off over the ridge. No BEs at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We added a Red-shoulder Hawk and Hooded Mergansers near the intersection of Rio Dam Road and Knight Road. We returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver.

A juvenile BE flying in the vicinity of Berm-Church Road.

An adult BEs was perched on the PA side near the Shohola nest. No eagles were at the Minisink Observation Blind.

On the Pennsylvania side proximal to the Roebling Bridge is the National Park Service Visitor Center where brochures, newsletters, and information about eagles is made available to visitors.

By the time we had reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 25 Bald Eagles. The river, without ice, was high. Three BEs were added along the Lackawaxen, one sub-adult, and two juveniles. All were in flight, the first as we began our drive along the Lackawaxen, second above Engelvalder Road, and third as we approached the conclusion of our search at the headwater.

We concluded our field trip at 5:00 p.m.

Future Search for Eagles:

Full Day: First Sunday of the month December 2018, January, February, and March 2019

Half-day: Second Sunday of the month from the Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: [570.296.6752](tel:570.296.6752) AND INDICATE WHICH SEARCH(es) YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

Or, eMail: <mailto:jack@brandwein.org> and 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.

Birds seen on the March 11, 2018 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose

American Black Duck

Mallard

Hooded Merganser

Common Merganser
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Peregrine Falcon
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Tufted Titmouse
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin
European Starling
American Tree Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
House Finch
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow