

## **Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip - Sunday, December 30, 2018**

The second 2018-2019 Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, December 30, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 32 degrees and at the finish 37 degrees. It was a cloudy, snow-flurry day that began with watching feeder birds including Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, Pileated Woodpeckers, among others. This was a solo trip and I logged 176 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 that included seeing 28 species of birds including 36 Bald Eagles (BE), four Red-tailed Hawks, a Common Raven, and a Common Loon.

The first raptor of the day was an adult BE at the shale bank north of Tom's Creek. The Bushkill Access was open and I added Common Crow. Returning to Route 209 North and passing the Tom's Creek shale bank, I spotted a second adult BE perched at the north end of the shale bank.

Traveling north on 209 I spotted my first perched RT near mile marker 7. A second RT was perched east of 209 about a half mile north of Briscoe Mountain Road.

No eagles at the Dingmans Ferry Access. I saw a pair of BEs earlier this week perched on the ridge in the vicinity of the Dingmans Cemetery. They were not there this morning. I have been seeing BEs this week at the mile marker 17 nest, today none were there.

10:00 AM at the Callahan House a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was added. No eagles at the Metz Road nest nor were they at Milford Beach.

Traveling along the river road I spotted an adult BE perched close to the condominiums at the end of Bennett Avenue. I took a second look at the bird by traveling to Bennett Avenue where I observed the large adult female BE for a few minutes.

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

Last search we added a stop behind the Delaware Valley School complex and flushed two BEs from their perch along the river. I revisited the site; however, no BEs were present.

I continued to the Best Western, no luck other than 1,000 European Starlings and 50 Rock Pigeons.

At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge I need to request permission at the office for each search, a BE was perched in NJ. The BE left its perch and was very vocal as it flew upriver. A Common Loon was feeding beneath

the Interstate 84 bridge. As I was enjoying a sandwich and some tea in the parking area, an adult BE flew to a perch above me. It was harassed by a Common Crow and left its perch. The bird followed another adult BE carrying a 3 foot long stick as it flew upriver toward the Port Jervis Cemetery where a BE nest has been reported. I added White-throated Sparrow on the way out.

By 12:00 I was at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Great vista however no birds present. Just upriver from where the Mongaup enters the Delaware an adult BE was perched. The Pond Eddy nest sight, a White Pine on the PA side of the river is no more. No eagles present.

I continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. Crossing the bridge approaching the Observation Blind I spotted six very active BEs upriver, three were adults and three were juveniles. I entered the parking area and was treated to three perched BEs. As I watched from the car an adult BE flew over me. There were eleven eagles along Plank Road, eight adults and three juveniles. Birds were perched, in flight, fishing, and I saw a juvenile make an attempt to displace an adult, without success from its perch. There was so much activity at along Plank Road I doubled back to enjoy the spectacle.

Three BEs, two adults and a juvenile were below the Rio Reservoir dam fishing in the water. I returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver. No eagles at Shohola nest or in the vicinity of the Miniisink Observation Blind. An adult BE was flying downriver at the Highland River Access.

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 I reached the Lackawaxen I had seen 35 Bald Eagles, the most recent perched near the Roebling Bridge. The river, without ice, was high.

One BE along the Lackawaxen,

I concluded the field trip at 4:00 p.m.

Future Search for Eagles:

Half-day: February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>

Meet 12:00 p.m. NOON at the Historic Callahan House,

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 570.296.6752 AND INDICATE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

Or, eMail: [jack@brandwein.org](mailto:jack@brandwein.org) and leave a message.

Full Day: February 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 December 30, 2018 Search for Eagles  
Canada Goose

Hooded Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Common Loon  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Blue Jay  
Fish Crow  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Tufted Titmouse  
Black-capped Chickadee  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
European Starling  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Purple Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow