

Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, Sunday, 4 January 2015

The second 2014-15 Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, January 4, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 PM The temperature at the start was 30 degrees and at the finish 42 degrees. It was a cold overcast rainy 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. We logged 152 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 eight participants that recorded 34 species of birds including 22 Bald Eagles (BE) and 6 Red-tailed Hawks. The Delaware River, which was at a high level from previous rains was mostly open water and free from ice. Thirteen of the twentytwo eagles we observed were adults and near open water in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Scenic Delaware. Most of the BEs we saw were perched.

The first raptor of the day was an American Kestrel east of Route 209 near at Eshback Access. Our first BE was an adult perched high on the ridge above the shale pit near Tom's Creek. It was in a dead White Pine tree. We saw a Pileated Woodpecker as well as Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. American Crows flew over and as we left the Access.

At the Dingmans Ferry Access we drew a blank. Returning to RT 209 north we saw another Red-tailed Hawk perched above on the cliff along the highway. 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 today. This nest site has been active for the past seven years.

No eagles at Milford Beach.

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

No BE were on the Milford Mott Street nest. The former nest crashed to the ground and the BEs immediately began constructing a new nest on the north side of the Sawkill.

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 lone Herring Gull flew over.

At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge no luck or BE.

We made a brief visit to the PA Welcome Rest Stop.

Crossing the Matamoras - Port Jervis Bridge we looked down river a saw a flock of Ring-billed Gulls and a lone Great Black-backed Gull.

Eddy Farm Resort overlook presented Mallards, Canada Geese and Common Mergansers and a flock of Bluebirds and a group of Lincoln Sparrows.

By Noon we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker with a great vista and two Red-tailed Hawks soaring above the ridges.

At the Pond Eddy nest sight, a White Pine on the PA side of the river we found the nest and a perched adult BE nearby. 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, there were none. No BE from the blind as well. Plank Road also lacked BEs. No BEs were at the Rio Reservoir Dam. We returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver.

In Barryville at 2:15 PM along the road that parallels the river were three BE a perched adult and two immatures. It has been a while since we saw BEs along this stretch of the river.

One adult BE in flight down river from the Minisink Ford Observation Blind.

As we traveled north of the Roebling bridge in NY an adult BE launched into the air at the

Lackawaxen and flew up river along the Delaware then perched on the PA side. Simultaneously two immature BEs were in the air flying up river.

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 were a number viewers in the parking area looking at a mature BE perched proximal to the Zane Gray Museum parking area. We watched the BE relocate to a perch down river near the bend in the road on the PA side.

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. Two Common Ravens flew over us.

By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 20 Bald Eagles.

We traveled upstream along the Lackawaxen to the PPL Dam site and saw two additional BEs. An immature BE flying low above the river and a mature perched bird near a nest

We concluded our field trip at 4:30 PM.

Next Search for Eagles: Sunday, February 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 22 Bald Eagles we saw:

Canada Goose	Tufted Titmouse
Mallard	Black-capped Chickadee
Black Duck	White-breasted Nuthatch
Common Merganser	Eastern Bluebird
Red-shoulder Hawk	European Starling
Red-tailed Hawk	Song Sparrow
American Kestrel	Tree Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Lincoln’s Sparrow
Herring Gull	White-throated Sparrow
Great Black-backed Gull	Dark-eyed Junco
Rock Pigeon	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Purple Finch
Downy Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Hairy Woodpecker	House Sparrow
Northern Flicker	
Pileated Woodpecker	
Blue Jay	
American Crow	
Common Raven	
Cedar Waxwing	