

Search for Eagles from the Preserve Sunday, 27 January 2019

The Search for Eagles from the Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve (BNLP) took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, 27 January 2019 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The temperature at the start was 31 degrees and at the finish 38 degrees. It was a cold cloudy to sunny day. Tufted Titmouse, Pileated, Downy, Hairy, & Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Brown Creeper and Dark-eyed Junco were among the perching birds we saw. The four of us logged 120 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from BNLP to the trip's conclusion at the headwaters of the Lackawaxen River.

Jack Padalino, president emeritus of the Brandwein Institute, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search with 4 participants that recorded 27 species of birds including 41 Bald Eagles (BE), 3 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Common Ravens.

The first raptors of the day were two Red-Tailed Hawks west of Route 209 perched on the ridge at the north end of the Dingmans Ferry Cemetery. No BE at the shale pit near mile marker 17. This site has had birds around it for the past few weeks and has been active for the past few years. No BE at the Metz road nest site nor on the river road.

We were introduced to a new BE nest site on Old Milford Road proximal to the Pierce House by Maureen, one of our participants.

Adult BE was sighted perched on a branch very high on the ridge west of the Camp Ground just north of Milford. For a number of years there was an active eagle's nest halfway up the cliff in a White Pine twenty yards west of the west bound lane on Interstate 84.

At Laurel Grove Cemetery in Port Jervis we had a great view of the Delaware River from the Tri-States Monument, saw no BEs but discovered an active BE nest in the cemetery.

We continued to Old Plank Road and observed a perched juvenile BE.

Next stop at 2:00 PM was the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. We spoke with volunteer observers in the blind who told us the location of two eagles along Plank Road in the vicinity of the power station.

We returned to Plank Road and spotted a dozen Wild Turkeys as well as an adult BE flying above. We continued to the Rio Dam Road where along the route we stopped at an overlook at utility lines. We returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver.

As we approached the Pond Eddy nest sight we had hopes of seeing eagles near the former nest. None were there. We continued past the Pond Eddy bridge to Berm Church Road and headed upriver. Along the way 2 Common Ravens flew above.

In Barryville along the road that parallels the river we stopped at the yellow house, looked across the river and rediscovered the BE nest, an Eastern Bluebird presented itself.

We traveled north to the Roebling bridge and crossed to Pennsylvania.

Proximal to the Roebling Bridge is The Eagle Institute which provides visitors with a video of area eagles, brochures, newsletters, and other information about eagles. There is a gift shop and the Institute is open weekends December through March.

An adult BE soared overhead at the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware rivers. 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 an amazing 34 additional BEs. Appert Road was the hot spot where we watch BEs that were perched, actively fishing, eating fish on the river bank, flying to and fro, displacing one another on perches, and soaring above us.

We concluded our field trip at 4:00 PM.

Next Eagle Searches from the Preserve: February 10, 2019, and March 10, 2019 .

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEARCH FOR EAGLES FROM THE PRESERVE FIELD TRIP REGISTER ON LINE: [www,brandwein.org](http://www.brandwein.org)

PHONE: 845.325.0536 AND INDICATE WHICH TRIP(S) YOU WILL BE ATTENDING. Or, eMail: jackpeec@aol.com to leave a message.

Meet 12:00 PM at the Callahan House, Brandwein Satellite office, 101 Route 209 South @ mile marker 21, Milford, PA

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

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 41 Bald Eagles, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Common Ravens we saw:

Canada Goose

Mallard

Common Merganser

Wild Turkey - 12

Red-tailed Hawk -3

Ring-billed Gull

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Pileated Woodpecker -2

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven - 2

Tufted Titmouse

Brown Creeper

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

Eastern Bluebird
European Starling
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow