

## Search for Eagles for the Preserve Sunday, 25 February 2018

The second Search for Eagles from the Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve (BNLP) took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, 25 February from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM. The temperature at the start was 40 degrees and at the finish 42 degrees. It was a rainy day at the start; however, the rain tapered off early afternoon. Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse and Dark-eyed Junco were among the perching birds we saw. We logged 131 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 2 participants that recorded 34 species of birds including 29 Bald Eagles (BE) 2 Peregrine Falcons, 1 Black Vulture, 6 Turkey Vultures, and 1 Red-tailed Hawk. Twenty three of the Bald Eagles we observed were adults. The waters of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Scenic Delaware were extremely high, the highest I've ever seen on my searches for eagles. Eagles we saw were perched, and in flight.

The first BE of the day was an adult BE west of Route 209 soaring high above on the ridge at the north end of the Dingmans Cemetery. Two more BEs were flying near Zimmerman Road and Zimmerman Flats. The BE nest near mile marker 17 has had birds around it for the past few weeks; however, none were present today. This nest site has been active for the past few years.

Next, an adult BE was seen soaring above the Milford Cliffs where most recently Peregrine Falcons have been spotted at a possible nest site. Peregrines nested at this location during the early 1950's prior to their being extricated.

As I traveled on the way to the BNLP a Black Vulture and Turkey Vultures soared above me. At the Preserve following introductions, distribution of eagle identification guides, and binoculars, a summary of the trip itinerary was reviewed.

Our first stop was at the Eddy Farm Overlook with no BEs. We continued to Hawks Nest where I heard the "kak-kak-kak" of a Peregrine Falcon and witnessed its aerial display with its "ee-chep" call. I watched the Peregrine fly from below me to over the Delaware, circle above me, then approach the cliffs probably to feed its youngster. Sure enough, I was able to capture the image of the young Peregrine in my spotting scope as well as on camera. (image attached) While this was happening an adult BE flew by us at eye level heading up river.

We continued north on RT 97 and discovered a nest on the Pennsylvania side of the river across from the Indian Head Canoe. This is a new nest discovery for us and we observed two adult BEs at the nest (image attached.)

At 1:30 pm we were at the Pond Eddy BE nest site, no birds present; however, we did discover a juvenile BE perched high above us near Pond Eddy.

By 2:00 pm we were approaching the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where from the bridge, upriver we saw 5 BEs 2 adults and 3 juveniles (adult image attached.) From the blind parking area we were treated to an incredible display of at least 8 eagles fishing and courting to and fro.

We continued to the Rio Dam Road where along the route we stopped at an overlook at utility lines and watched a Common Raven flying high above. We returned to the Delaware. As we approached the Pond Eddy nest sight we had hopes of seeing eagles at the nest. None were there; however, high above on the ridge near a favorite perch of theirs we spotted a BE. Moments later another BE flew toward the perch.

In Barryville along the road that parallels the river we stopped at the yellow house, looked across the river and rediscovered the BE nest. No BEs present. At the Minisink Ford Observation Blind we added Golden-crowned Kinglet.

.By 3:00 pm we were at the Landers Canoe Livery where we spotted 2 adult BEs perched on the same branch. (image attached)

We traveled north to the Roebling bridge in NY and crossed to the Pennsylvania side. Proximal to the Roebling Bridge is an National Park Service visitor center which provides a video of area eagles, brochures, newsletters, and other information about eagles. There is a gift shop is open weekends December through March.

An adult BE was perched at the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware rivers. In the parking area we looked at the mature BE perched across the Lackawaxen. By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 28 Bald Eagles.

We traveled upstream along the Lackawaxen which was the highest, deepest I had ever seen and spotted a perched adult BE near Engvaldesen Road. We concluded our field trip at 4:30 pm at the headwater of the Lackawaxen.

Next Eagle Search from the Preserve: March 11, 2018 at 12:30 pm.

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

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

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

Meet 12:30 PM at the Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve, [400 Minisink Turnpike, Greenville, NY](#)

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 29 Bald Eagles, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, Black Vulture and Turkey Vultures we saw:

Canada Goose  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Common Merganser  
Ring-billed Gull  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Peregrine Falcon  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Black-capped Chickadee  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Tufted Titmouse  
European Starling  
Northern Cardinal  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Purple Finch  
Common Grackle  
Red-winged Blackbird  
House Sparrow









