

Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip - Sunday, 4 February 2018

The third 2017-18 Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 4, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 26 degrees and at the finish 30 degrees. It was a cold overcast day that began with watching feeder birds including Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Tree Sparrow, among others. The two participants logged 138 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 35 species of birds including 42 Bald Eagles (BE), 8 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Common Ravens.

The first raptor of the day was a Red-tailed Hawk(RT) perched on a wire east of Route 209 near the turn to PEEC at Briscoe Mountain Road where a flock of 50 Dark-eyed Juncos were feeding at roadside. North of Tom's Creek we spotted a nest high on the ridge with two adult BE perched proximal to it. This nest is a new find. As we watched the BEs at the nest a juvenile BE flew across the river from New Jersey toward us. The Bushkill Access was open and we added two Red-tailed Hawks, House Wren, and Northern Flicker. We scanned upriver and saw two juvenile BEs chasing each other in flight.

Traveling north on 209 we spotted another RT at Hornbeck's Trailhead.

No eagles at the Dingmans Ferry Access, closed for the winter.

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 nest and I was able to capture an image of it. Two BEs were perched at the Metz Road nest. None were at Milford Beach.

At the Callahan House, headquarters of the Brandwein Institute we watched feeder birds and added Red-bellied Woodpecker and White-throated Sparrow. As we were leaving one BE flew to the north at treetop level and was immediately followed by a second BE. My best guess is that these were the birds that were perched at the Metz Road nest.

Traveling along the river road we spotted two adult BEs perched on the same branch in a tree close to the condominiums at the base of Bennett Street, probably those same 2 Metz Road BEs.

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 see BEs in the area.



We continued to the Best Western where we located an adult BE perched on the Jersey side of the river. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge, a BE was perched. During our last search a local resident told us about two nearby BE nests.

We enjoyed a rest stop at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center.

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

By 11:00 we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Great vista however no birds.

Just upriver from where the Mongaup enters the Delaware an adult BE was perched. AT the Pond Eddy nest sight, a White Pine on the PA side of the river, no BEs; however, when we returned after visiting Mongaup, two BEs were at the nest.

We continued to the Mongaup Observation Blind. Just before we crossed the bridge approaching the Observation Blind we spotted an adult BE perched on the right above the road. I was able to capture an image of it to include with this report. We entered the parking area and were treated to an abundance of 14 BEs, 4 perched, 7 on the ice, and 3 in flight.

There were 6 eagles along Plank Road, a perched adult, a juvenile crossing low over the road, and another high above in flight. On the ridge top we spotted 3 BEs, two circled a tree and perched. We discovered that they perched near a nest. The third bird flew off over the ridge. Two BEs were at the Rio Reservoir Dam on the same branch in the same tree where we've seen them before.



We returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver.

Two adult BEs were perched above and nest at Pond Eddy.

A juvenile BE was on the ice in the vicinity of Berm-Church Road.

Two adults BEs were perched on the PA side upriver from the Miniisink 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.

At the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware rivers is the Zane Gray the parking area and boat launch where Eagle Institute volunteers monitor eagle activity, we added an adult.

By the time we had reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 38 Bald Eagles. The river, loaded with ice, was high. Four BEs along the Lackawaxen, all adults, were added to the count. The first near the pipeline cut, second at Engelvalder Road, third and fourth at Appert Road.

We concluded our field trip at 3:30 p.m.

Future Search for Eagles:: Sunday, March 4, 2018

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 570.296.6752 AND INDICATE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

Or, eMail: 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 February 4, 2018 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose

American Black Duck

Mallard

Common Goldeneye

Common Merganser

Wild Turkey

Bald Eagle

Red-tailed Hawk

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
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