

Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip - Sunday, 3 March 2019

The final 2019 Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, March 3, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 32 degrees and at the finish 37 degrees. It was a partly cloudy to sunny day that began with watching feeder birds; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and American Tree Sparrow, among others. Four participants logged 143 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from the Pocono Environmental Education Center (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 30 species of birds, 22 Bald Eagles (BE), 2 Peregrine Falcons, 13 Red-tailed Hawks (RT), 2 Common Ravens and 4 Pileated Woodpeckers.







The beginning raptors of the day were an adult BE perched at Tom's Creek and 2 Red-tailed Hawks(RT) perched atop a tree east of Route 209 north of where we spotted the BE. We located two perched mature BEs high above us on the ridge. We found a BE nest nearby high on the ridge, it was a new find for us during the last search.

Near Briscoe Mountain road we found another pair of RTs, our 4th.

Traveling north on 209 we spotted a perched juvenile BE east of RT 209 near Hornbeck's Trailhead and Chestnut Ridge Road. We enjoyed looking at it through the spotting scope.

No eagles at the Dingmans Ferry Access, closed for the winter; however, adult BE, our 5th soared above the Dingmans Cemetery. At mile marker 16 RT 209 north, east of the highway is an active BE nest. We watched it for a few minutes without success, no BE.

I have been seeing BEs this week at the mile marker 17, none were present. No BEs were at the Metz Road nest, nor were any at Milford Beach.

At the Callahan House, satellite headquarters of the Brandwein Institute we watched feeder birds and added White-throated Sparrow.

Traveling along the river road we looked for BEs perched close to the condominiums at the base of Bennett Street, none were there. Leaving River Road we were greeted by a RT perched above over the road in downtown Milford. We traveled Old Milford Road to look at a BE nest near the Pierce House. We located the nest, no BE present.

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 spot BEs and Common Ravens in the area. BE #6 was soaring above the ridge.

We enjoyed a rest stop at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center and were able through the spotting scope, to enjoy a cooperative RT perched on a lamp post.

Our next stop was the Port Jervis, Laurel Grove Cemetery where we enjoyed a look at the rivers and the tri-states monument where NJ, NY, and PA meet. The cemetery also has an active BE nest. We found it; however, no BE present.

By 11:45 we were at the Hawks Nest and spotted two Peregrine Falcons, one flying and one perched above us on the cliff. We watched the falcons for about ten minutes and saw 2 common Ravens to the north. At the Pond Eddy nest sight which is no longer, a White Pine on the PA side of the river, no BEs were seen; however, when we returned after visiting Mongaup, two BEs were soaring above the ridge.

We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where we watched 2 BEs fly off over the ridge. No luck along Plank Road.

Two juvenile BEs were soaring above the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver. Two adult BEs were soaring above the ridge at Pond Eddy.

We added a RT on a perch near Burchard's Realty where we usually see a BE. Further along, approaching Highland we spotted 2 adult BEs perched high in a dead tree near the top of the ridge. We've seen BEs perched in this tree quite often.

We checked the nest at Shohola from Barryville, no luck, nor were there any BEs at the Minisink 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 to visitors.

By the time we had reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 15 Bald Eagles. The river, without ice, was lower than on our last search. Seven BEs along the Lackawaxen, one adult was carrying a stick to a newly discovered nest for us near the pipeline cut. I was able to capture an image of this BE. Our 17th BE was perched near Engelvalder Road with another adult nearby. At Swing Bridge we added a juvenile BE. Appert Road area brought us three additional BEs, an adult and two juveniles. There was quite a contrast in plumage on the juveniles which I was able to photograph. Images are included

We concluded our field trip at 3:30 p.m. in hopes of preceding the forecasted storm.j

Future Search for Eagles: Final Half-day trip Sunday March 10, 2019.

Full Day: First Sunday of the month December 2019, January, February, and March 2020

Half-day: Second Sunday of the month, meet at the North Entrance to DWGNRA RT 209 mile marker 20

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 845.325.0536 AND INDICATE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

Or, eMail: jack@brandwein.org and leave a message.

Meet 8:00 am at PEEC OR 10:00 am the north entrance to DWGNRA RT 209 mile marker 20.

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 Brandwein Institute. Join us to Search For Eagles.

Birds seen on the March 3, 2019 Search for Eagles field trip:

Canada Goose
Mallard
Common Merganser
Wild Turkey
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Ring-billed Gull
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
American Goldfinch
American Tree Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal