

A Spectacular Search for Eagles - Sunday, 3 January 2021

The year's 2021 Dr. S Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, January 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 28 degrees and at the finish 30 degrees. A day with a threatening forecast, sleet and snow. It was an overcast day that began with watching feeder birds including Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Pileated Woodpecker among others. Two participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 149 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, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that included seeing 37 species of birds: 53 Bald Eagles (BE), 1 Golden Eagle, 4 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Peregrine Falcon, and 2 Common Ravens.

Our first BE sighting was at the Bushkill Access. The bird was perched in a tree on the New

Jersey side down river the access. From Eshbacks we spotted two adult BEs, a large female perched on a Sycamore upriver and a male on a Pine across from us as we heard the rattle of a Belted Kingfisher. At 9:00 am it started snowing. Our first Red-tailed Hawk was spotted perching near Route 209 mile marker 11. We were on our way to the Dingmans Ferry



Access, no BE present. The next BE was perched on the nest above the shale bank near mile marker 17. I was able to capture an image through

the snow of the bird on the nest.

We checked the BE nest near the Pierce House - no BE present.

We continued past the Best Western, no eagles; however, a Red-tailed Hawk was perched beside the westbound lane of I 84. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge, Mallards and Canada Geese but no BE.

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center.



The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we checked an active BE nest. No BE present.

Down river from the Eddy Farm Resort overlook an adult BE was perched on the Pennsylvania side of the river.

By noon we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Checked the whitewash on the cliff, one Peregrine Falcon was tucked in on a ledge. We enjoyed seeing the perched Peregrine through a spotting scope.

From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we spotted two BEs perched on the same



branch in a White Pine. We added another perched adult BE at Pond Eddy. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. Two BEs were perched up stream from the blind. Common and Hooded Mergansers, and Common Goldeneyes were on the water. An adult BE was perched, then flew along Plank Road. No BEs at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and spotted our first juvenile BE near Pond Eddy. By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had observed a dozen BEs. Our first BE along the Lackawaxen was a juvenile. Our search along the Lackawaxen was spectacular! We spotted an additional 41 BEs and a Golden Eagle.

In the tree where we discovered a new nest during our last search, there were eleven perched BEs, 3 adults and 8 juveniles. In the vicinity of Appert Road there was an additional 20 BEs both perched and in flight.



A special treat along the Lackawaxen was watching an adult BE leave its perch, fly to the river with its talons extended, plunge its talons into the water, swoop upward and fly upriver to another perch. The BE did not catch a fish.

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

Future Searches for Eagles:

Sundays, January 10, 2021

Sundays, February 7 & 14, 2021

Sundays, March 7 & 14, 2021

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES
FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 845.325.0536 AND INDICATE WHICH
SEARCH YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

Or eMail: jackpeec@aol.com and
leave a message.

Meet 8:00 a.m. at the PEEC
parking lot or Meet 10:00 a.m. at
the DWGNRA North Entrance
Parking Area, Route 209 South @
mile marker 20, Milford, PA - just
south of the Milford Bridge

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 January 3, 2021 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose

Mallard

Common Goldeneye

Common Merganser

Hooded Merganser

Ring-billed Gull

Bald Eagle

Golden Eagle

Red-tailed Hawk

Peregrine Falcon

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee

Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren

American Robin

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Dark-eyed Junco

Northern Cardinal

Tree Sparrow

Song Sparrow

White-throated sparrow

Purple Finch

American Goldfinch