

## Brandwein Institute Search for Eagles - Sunday, 13 December 2020

The year's first Brandwein Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, December 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 36 degrees and at the finish 50 degrees. It was foggy with low visibility at the start until the fog lifted at 10:00 am. It was a pleasant partly sunny day that began with watching feeder birds including Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Pileated Woodpecker among others. Four participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 150 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 the Brandwein Institute and PEEC a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that included seeing 34 species of birds: 11 Bald Eagles (BE), 4 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Peregrine Falcon, and 3 Common Ravens.



Fog initially prevented us from seeing distant perching birds. We did manage to see a flock of Cedar Waxwings and a Red-tailed Hawk before 10:00 am after the fog lifted. We drew blanks at the usual Bald Eagle sites: Bushkill Access, Tom's Creek, Eshbacks, Dingmans Access, Dingmans Cemetery, the nests at mile markers 16 and 17, Milford Beach and River Road.

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

North of Cummings Road a Common Raven was soaring above the ridge. This location is near where in past there was an active BE nest opposite the Kittatinny Camp Ground above the westbound lane along Interstate 80. The nest is no longer there; however, BE still frequent the area.

We continued past the Best Western, no eagles; however, a Red-tailed Hawk was perched aside 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.

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

The Eddy Farm Resort overlook was quiet, no new species added.

By noon we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Checked the whitewash on the cliff, one Peregrine Falcon was soaring above the ridge and another perched on a ledge. We were able to enjoy the perched Peregrine through a spotting scope.

From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we spotted our first BE perched in a White Pine. We added a juvenile BE soaring high above the ridge at Pond Eddy. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. Two Common Mergansers were on the water and as we departed a we heard a BE calling. An adult BE was perched near the nest high on the ridge along Plank Road. No BEs at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver to the Lackawaxen. We saw four BEs flying above the confluence of the Lackawaxen and the Delaware.

We added four more perched BEs along the Lackawaxen. We are monitoring two BE nests along the river now that we discovered a second nest today. Our last BE was a juvenile bird perched high on the ridge in the tree that a number of years ago I saw eleven BEs roosting.

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



Future Searches for Eagles:

Sundays, January 3 & 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](mailto: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 December 13, 2020 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Common Goldeneye  
Common Merganser  
Ring-billed Gull  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Peregrine Falcon  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Tufted Titmouse  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated sparrow  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch