

**Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip**  
**Sunday, 6 December 2020**

The first 2020-21 Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, December 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 26 degrees and at the finish 34 degrees. It was a cold 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 168 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 29 species of birds including 11 Bald Eagles (BE), 4 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Coopers Hawk, and 7 Common Ravens.



Our first BE was an adult perched west of RT 209 a mile south from the Eshback Access. No eagles at the Dingmans Ferry Access; however, as we left Route 739 and traveled north on Route 209 we spotted two adult BE high on the ridge north of the Dingmans Cemetery. At mile marker 16 we stopped to check out the BE nest near the river. We turned and scoped the ridge and discovered two adult BEs perched in a White Pine high above. I have been seeing BEs this week at the mile marker 17 nest and two adults were present today, one perched on the rim of the nest and the other high above on the ridge. No eagles were present at Milford Beach.

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

North of Cummings Road two Common Ravens were 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 frequent the area.

We enjoyed a rest stop at the Turkey Hill in Matamoras where a Coopers Hawk flew in front of us, crossed the highway and landed in an oak tree. We were able to find the hawk in our spotting scopes and were delighted to confirm it was a juvenile based on its yellow iris.

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, no BE; however, we spotted a Red-Tailed Hawk on the Jersey side of the river.

The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-states monument is where we saw two additional juvenile BEs in flight.

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

By 11:30 we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Checked the whitewash on the cliff, great vista with a Peregrine Falcon soaring above the ridge.

At the Pond Eddy-Glen Spey turn we spotted a juvenile BE soaring above. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. A flock of Common Mergansers was on the water and as we departed a juvenile BE flew upstream over the blind. No BEs at the Rio Reservoir Dam. We returned to the Delaware and traveled upriver to the Lackawaxen headwaters, no additional eagles were sighted.

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

Future Searches for Eagles:  
Sunday, December 13, 2020  
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 6, 2020 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Common Merganser  
Ring-billed Gull  
Turkey Vulture  
Coopers Hawk  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Tufted Titmouse  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Eastern Bluebird  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
House Finch  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch