

Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip: Search for Eagles - Sunday, 7 February 2021



The season's third Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 22 degrees and at the finish 34 degrees. It was a cloud covered gray day with 1 to 3 inches of snow forecast. We began by watching feeder birds including Hairy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Pileated

Woodpecker among others. Three participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 146 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 27 species of birds: 22 Bald Eagles, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 Red Shouldered Hawk, and 3 Common Ravens.

Previous Search for Eagles Reports are on the Brandwein website:
<https://brandwein.org/searchforeagles>.

Our first bald eagle sighted was perched above the shale bank at Tom's Creek. No bald eagle at Bushkill Access. About 100 yards north of the turn to PEEC on the Route 209 road side shoulder a bald eagle was feeding on road kill. As we approached it took flight and flew in front of my vehicle for about 20 yards. No eagles at the Dingmans Access, Dingmans cemetery, or Route 209 mile marker 16 nest. An adult bald eagle was perched on the shale pit nest near mile marker 17. No luck at Milford Beach or the river road. We were to be joined by additional participants at the parking area of the north entrance to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, mile marker 20; however, inclement weather caused cancellations.

We checked the nest near the Pierce House and watched a large female bald eagle feeding while she was in the nest.

We checked behind the Delaware Valley High School, no eagles present.

We added a pit stop at the PA Welcome Center.

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



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

By 11:00 AM we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Checked the whitewash on the cliff, no Peregrine Falcon. From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we located the nest on the PA side of the river. We turned and spotted two perched adult bald eagles very close to us on the NY side. I was able to capture an image of the perched pair. At Pond Eddy on the PA side we spotted a perched adult bald eagle in a Pine Tree. This location is where in past there was an active bald eagle's nest. The nest is no longer there; however, this is an area that bald eagles frequent. When we looped back through this area two juvenile bald eagles were present, one in flight and the other perched next to the river.

We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. Four juvenile bald eagles were perched upstream. We spotted them as we crossed the bridge and approached the blind. Common Mergansers and a raft of Black Ducks were on the water. An adult bald eagle was perched on a tree limb above Plank Road. Two bald eagles were perched along the water, they took flight as we approached. A large juvenile bald eagle was the eighth eagle we saw on the Mongaup - Plank Road section of the trip. I was able to capture an image of this regal bird. We checked the nest along Plank Road, no eagles present.

No bald eagles at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled up river to the Barryville-Shahola nest site. No eagles; however, we watched two eastern bluebirds feeding on staghorn sumac fruits. We spotted an eagle in flight above the ridge as we approached the Upper Delaware National Park Headquarters. An adult eagle was perched near the river access just north of Barryville. By the time we reached the confluence of the Lackawaxen and the Delaware we had observed 19 bald eagles. An adult eagle flew from the Lackawaxen and perched near the confluence of the two rivers as we waited.

We added two bald eagles along the Lackawaxen. None were at either of the two nests we are monitoring, one near the pipeline crossing and the other at Appert Road. An adult bird was perched, then flew near the second bridge. The 22nd bald eagle of the day was a screaming perched adult near swinging bridge.

We concluded our field trip at 3:00 p.m.

Future Searches for Eagles:

Sundays, February 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 7, 2021 Search for Eagles

Mallard

Black Duck

Common Merganser

Bald Eagle

Red-tailed Hawk

Red Shoulderd 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



White-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin
Eastern Bluebird
European Starling
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Tree Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
American Goldfinch