

## Brandwein Field Trip: Search for Eagles - Sunday, 14 February 2021

The season's third Brandwein Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 19 degrees and at the finish 30 degrees. It was a cloud covered gray day with 31 inches of snow on the ground; however, all roads were clear and navigable. We began by watching feeder birds including two Red-shouldered Hawks at PEEC, Hairy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Pileated Woodpecker among others. Nine participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 141 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 35 species of birds: 21 Bald Eagles, 17 Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Red Shouldered Hawk, 1 Coopers Hawk and a Common Raven. Previous Search for Eagles Reports are on the Brandwein website: [www.brandwein.org](http://www.brandwein.org).



Our first bald eagle sighted was a juvenile bird perched, then took flight in the fields near Tom's Creek. No bald eagle at Bushkill Access. No eagles at the Dingmans Access; however the toll collector said he saw three bald eagles this morning upriver from the bridge, two adult eagles on the ice eating a fish. A light phase Rough-legged Hawk flew northward as we chatted. No eagles were at Dingmans cemetery, or Route 209 mile marker 16 nest. An adult bald eagle was perched on the shale pit nest near mile marker 17 with another eagle in the nest. Photo of the bird on the nest is attached. No luck at Milford Beach. Three juvenile bald eagles were perched on the New Jersey side that we observed from the river road. We checked the nest near the Pierce House and behind the Delaware Valley High School, no eagles present. We added a pit stop at the PA Welcome Center. Driving through Matamoras we spotted a perched Coopers Hawk.



The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we checked an active nest. No eagle present; however we added Common Redpoll and Eastern Bluebirds.

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, no Peregrine Falcon. We watched five bald eagles soaring above, one was a sub-adult the others were four juveniles. From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we located the nest on the PA side of the river. We spotted an adult bald eagles very close to us on the PA side. I was able to capture an image of the perched eagle. At Pond Eddy on the PA side we



spotted a perched adult bald eagle in a white pine. 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. High above in a white pine, one where we frequently see eagles an adult bald eagle was perched.

We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where volunteers pointed us to a perched adult bald eagle. Common Mergansers and a raft of Black Ducks were on the water. We checked the nest along Plank Road, no eagles present. A bald eagle flew above the Rio Reservoir Dam as we crossed it.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled up river to the Barryville-Shahola nest site. No eagles. 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 where an adult bald eagle was perched, we had observed 18 bald eagles. The adult eagle flew from the Lackawaxen and perched in NY near the confluence of the two rivers as we waited.

We added three adult bald eagles along the Lackawaxen. None were at either of the two nests we are monitoring, the first was at Church Road, second at Evangelder Road, and the third at Appert Road.

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

### **Future Searches for Eagles:**

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 February 14, 2021 Search for Eagles

Mallard

Black Duck

Common Merganser

Hooded Merganser

Wild Turkey

Bald Eagle

Coopers Hawk

Red Shouldered Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Rough-legged Hawk

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Belted Kingfisher

Blue Jay

Fish Crow

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Eastern Bluebird

European Starling

Dark-eyed Junco

Northern Cardinal  
Tree Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
American Goldfinch  
Common Redpoll