

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

The season's final Brandwein Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, March 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The temperature at the start was 30 degrees and at the finish 38 degrees. It was a clear sunny day, then partially cloudy, and at the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware Rivers a snow squall. We began by watching feeder birds at PEEC where skeins of canada geese flew high above heading north. We counted a half dozen skeins of geese with a total of over 600 birds during the day. Nine 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 31 species of birds: 16 bald eagles (12 adults and 4 juveniles,) 17 red-tailed hawks, 1 cooper's hawk and 3 common ravens. Previous Search for Eagles Reports are on the Brandwein website: [www.brandwein.org](http://www.brandwein.org).



Our first bald eagles (image included) sighted were two juvenile birds perched upriver from the Bushkill Access. They were across from mile marker 3 and in NJ.

No eagles at the Dingmans Access. No eagles were at Dingmans cemetery. At Route 209 mile marker 16 nest an adult bald eagle was sitting in the nest. This is where on Thursday I watched a golden eagle soar above the ridge. At the shale pit nest near mile marker 17 no eagle was visible; however, yesterday while I was photographing the nest an adult bald eagle emerged and flew from the nest. No luck at Milford Beach or river road.

We checked the nest near the Pierce House and observed an eagle in the nest. Two red-tailed hawks were perched near the ridge across from the Kittatinny Campground. We added a belted kingfisher flying down river behind the Delaware Valley High School.

We added a pit stop at the PA Welcome Center.

The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-states monument is where we added two bald eagles in flight over the Delaware. We checked the inactive nest. A juvenile bald eagle soared high above us almost in the ozone.

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, two peregrine falcons were present. We watched them for a while, they took flight, then returned to the cliff. We also watched a bald eagle flying low above our heads. Two common ravens and a red-tailed hawk also put on a show.



From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we located the nest on the PA side of the river. We spotted an adult bald eagle in the nest very close to us on the PA side. No eagle at Pond Eddy. 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. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation no eagles; however, common mergansers and a raft of black ducks were on the water. We checked the nest along Plank Road, no eagles present.





No eagles at the Rio Reservoir Dam as we crossed it.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled up river to the nest site 200 yards from the Mill Rift Bridge. We located a perched bald eagle before we were able to relocate the nest. We witnessed an altercation between the bald eagle who left its perch and a red-tailed hawk that attacked. We watched the back and forth tussle for a few minutes. No eagles at the Barryville-Shohola nest. An adult eagle flew above our caravan at the Minisink Observation Blind north of Barryville. As we traveled along Route 97 north of the Roebling Bridge the twelfth bald eagle of the day flew above us. By the time we reached the confluence of the Lackawaxen and the Delaware we had observed a dozen bald eagles.



We added three adult bald eagles and a juvenile along the Lackawaxen. The

first was at Church Road, second at Engvaldsen Road, and the third at Appert Road in the nest. It perched, (image) alighted, and flew above us.

We concluded our field trip at 3:45 p.m.

Future Searches for Eagles: Join us to Search For Eagles

The first and second Sundays: December 2021 & January, February, March 2022

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP PHONE: 845.325.0536

Or eMail: [jackpeec@aol.com](mailto:jackpeec@aol.com) and leave a message to indicate on which search you plan to participate and where you will join us: 8:00 a.m. at the PEEC parking lot OR 10:00 a.m. at the DWGNRA North Entrance Parking Area, Route 209 South near 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.

Birds seen on the March 14, 2021 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose

Mallard

Black Duck

Bufflehead

Common Merganser

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Bald Eagle

Coopers Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Ring-billed Gull

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Belted Kingfisher

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

American Robin

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Dark-eyed Junco

Northern Cardinal

Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow