

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

The season's fourth and final Dr. S Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, March 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 22 degrees and at the finish 34 degrees. It was a cold partly cloudy sunny day with lots of snow on the ground. All roads were clear and navigable. We began by watching feeder birds including Hairy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Pileated Woodpecker among others. Six participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 144 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 33 species of birds: 15 Bald Eagles -10 adults and five juveniles, 12 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 Coopers Hawk, 2 Common Ravens, and a Common Loon.

Previous Search for Eagles Reports are on the Brandwein website:
www.brandwein.org.

Our first bald eagles sighted were two juvenile birds perched up river from the Bushkill Access. Returning to Toms Creek where on the way south we had no eagle we had an adult eagle fly above our vehicles. At the Dingmans Access we watch two juvenile eagles 100 yards up river from the bridge attack 30 Common Mergansers. No eagles were at Dingmans cemetery. At the Route 209 mile marker 16 nest we observed a female adult bald eagle feeding eaglets. She was tearing pieces of a fish and feeding it to the youngsters. No eagles at the shale pit nest near mile marker 17. A Common Raven flew over the Raymondskill. No luck at Milford Beach or the river road. We spotted a perched adult Bald eagle as we entered Gassman Lane on the way to checking the nest near the Pierce House. Earlier during the week I spotted an eagle on the nest. 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-states monument is where we checked an active nest. No eagle present; however we added Common Loon.



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

By noon we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. We checked the whitewash on the cliff and found a Peregrine Falcon in the sunlight hugging the cliff above it. From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we located the nest on the PA side of the river. We spotted a female adult bald eagle in the nest apparently feeding young. Another adult

eagle flew above very close to us from the PA side.

We continued to the Mongaup Falls observation blind, Plank Road, and the Rio Reservoir Dam, no eagles present. This is the first time this year we did not have an eagle on this loop.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled to the Mill Rift Bridge where we spotted an adult bald eagle flying into a huge nest located in Pennsylvania about 200 yards up river from the bridge. This is the first time we found this nest and is now the tenth nest in the search area that we have under observation. At Berm-Church road we chatted with a fellow-birder who told us about eagles recently on the ice eating a large sucker. A flock of 25 Eastern Bluebirds flew from feeding on Staghorn Sumac fruits as we chatted.



We proceeded to the Barryville-Shohola nest site. No eagles. Our twelfth bald eagle of the day was an adult in flight in the vicinity of Jerry's Canoe Livery.

We added three adult bald eagles along the Lackawaxen. As we were crossing the Lackawaxen bridge we spotted an eagle perched in a White Pine in front



of us. At the Appert Road nest in the tree where we previously observed eleven eagles we watched a bird nestled deep in the nest. Our final eagle of the search was a juvenile perched at eye-level in a tree at Field Bend Road. We concluded our field trip at 3:30 p.m.

Future Search for Eagles:
Sunday, March 14, 2021

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP AND WHERE YOU WILL JOIN US.

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 March 7, 2021 Search for Eagles

Common Loon
Mallard
Black Duck
Common Merganser
Hooded Merganser
Bald Eagle
Coopers Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ring-billed Gull
Peregrine Falcon
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
European Starling
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
White-throated Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
American Goldfinch