

A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 2 January 2022

The season's second Dr. S Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, January 2, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 47 degrees and at the finish 34 degrees. It was a foggy, cloudy day that began with watching feeder birds including Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees among others. Four 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 PEEC, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that included seeing 28 species of birds: 16 Bald Eagles (BE) 13 Adults and 3 juveniles, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 4 Red-tailed Hawks, and 1 Peregrine Falcon.

Our first Red-tailed Hawk was spotted perching near Route 209 mile marker 9. Our first BE sighting was north of Toms Creek. The bird flew above on its way to the river. At the the Dingmans Ferry Access, no BE present. We checked the nest at mile marker 16 and the nest above the shale bank near mile marker 17. No eagles were present. The fog lifted at 10:00 a.m.

There were no eagles along River Road.

We checked the BE nest near the Pierce House - no BE present as well as behind the Delaware Valley High School.

We continued past the Best Western, no eagles. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge we spotted a Bald Eagle down river on the Jersey side.

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center.

The Red-shouldered Hawk was perched in a tree across from Turkey Hill in Matamoras, then took flight in front of us.

The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we checked an active BE nest. No BE present; however, two Common Mergansers appeared..

By noon as we approached the Hawks Nest historical marker we spotted a Peregrine Falcon perched on the cliff above us. As we checked the whitewash on the cliff the falcon took flight and treated us to an aerial display, then perched in a different

location on the cliff. We enjoyed seeing the perched Peregrine through a spotting scope.

Before the Indian Head Canoe livery station we spotted a BE perched on a branch in a White Pine. There were no eagles at Pond Eddy. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind, Plank Road, and Rio Reservoir Dam. We spotted two Bald Eagles, an adult and juvenile in flight from the observation blind.

We returned to the Delaware and located a perch Bald Eagle about 100 yards up river from the Mill Rift Bridge on the Pennsylvania sided of the river. Our next adult Bald Eagle was a seen in the Shohola - Barryville area. We continued north on Route NY 55 past the Roebling Bridge. After we passed the water falls we spotted an adult Bald Eagle perched in a Gray Birch on the Pennsylvania side.

By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had observed twelve Bald Eagles. From the Zane Gray Museum parking area we waited and watch for a short while but no Bald Eagles appeared..

A special treat along the Lackawaxen was watching an adult Bald Eagle soaring above the Rowland Bridge. In the vicinity of the Appert road nest we spotted two distant Bald Eagles soaring, high above. The last Bald Eagle we saw was perched near the nest at Field Bend Road.

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

Future Searches for Eagles:

Sundays, January 9, 2022

Sundays, February 6 & 13, 2022

Sundays, March 6 & 13, 2022

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 845.325.0536 AND INDICATE WHICH SEARCH(S) 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 December 5, 2021 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose

Common Merganser

Ring-billed Gull

Bald Eagle

Red-tailed Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk

Peregrine Falcon

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Northern Flicker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee

White-breasted Nuthatch

American Robin

Eastern Bluebird

European Starling

Cedar Waxwing

Dark-eyed Junco

White-throated sparrow

Northern Cardinal

House Sparrow