

Brandwein Field Trip: Search for Eagles - Sunday, 12 December 2021

The season's first Brandwein Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, December 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 30 degrees and at the finish 43 degrees. It was a clear sunny day. We began by watching feeder birds at PEEC. Two participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 149 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: 9 bald eagles (8 adults and 1 juvenile,) 7 red-tailed hawks, 1 red-shouldered hawk, and 3 common ravens. Previous Search for Eagles Reports are on the Brandwein website: www.brandwein.org.

Our first bald eagle sighted was an adult bird perched high on the ridge near a nest north of the shale bank near Tom's Creek. Our second Bald Eagle was spotted flying above the Delaware south of Eshback's Access. There were no eagles at the Dingmans Access or at Dingmans cemetery. At the Route 209 mile marker 16 nest - no eagle; however, the nest has been recently enlarged. At the shale pit nest near mile marker 17 two adult Bald Eagles were in flight. No luck at Milford Beach or river road.

We checked the nest near the Pierce House and noted that the nest was also enlarged. No eagles were 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 checked the inactive nest. 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, one peregrine falcon flew above us. 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 further up river on the PA side. One adult 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 Blind, no eagles and the water level was low. 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. No eagles at the Barryville-Shohola nest. An adult eagle flew above us at the Minisink Observation Blind north of Barryville. As we traveled along Route 97 north of the Roebling Bridge the sixth bald eagle of the day was perched in Pennsylvania. By the time we reached the confluence of the Lackawaxen and the Delaware we had observed a six bald eagles.

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

Future Searches for Eagles: Join us to Search For Eagles

The first and second Sundays: January, February, and March 2022

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

Or eMail: 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 December 12, 2021 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose

Mallard

Common Merganser

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Bald Eagle

Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Rock Pigeon

Mourning Dove

Ring-billed Gull

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Northern Flicker
Blue Jay
Gray Catbird
American Crow
Common Raven
Tufted Titmouse
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
American Goldfinch