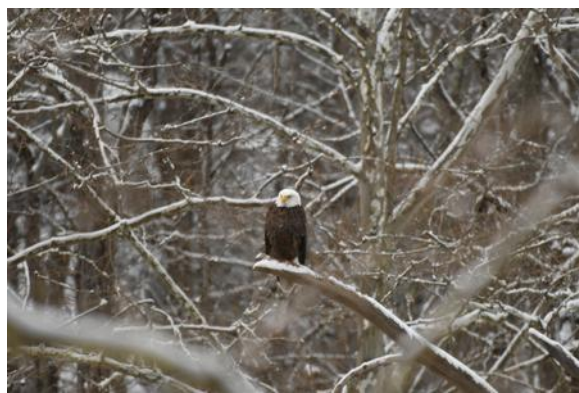


Brandwein Field Trip: Search for Eagles - Sunday February 13, 2022

The season's third Brandwein Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday February 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 28 degrees and at the finish 23 degrees. It was a cloudy overcast day with three inches of snow on the ground and intermittent snow flurries throughout the search. We began by watching feeder birds at PEEC. Two participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 145 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 38 species of birds: 29 bald eagles (24 adults and 5 juveniles,) 5 red-tailed hawks, 1 red-shouldered hawk, and 4 common ravens. Previous Search for Eagles Reports are on the Brandwein website: www.brandwein.org.

As we pulled into the parking lot at Heller's Farm our first adult bald eagle was sighted perched high on the ridge. A juvenile eagle flew from the river to south of the shale bank near Tom's Creek. We watched as it perch. Our first red-tailed hawk was seen flying over Little Egypt Road. While we were parked at the Bushkill Access we spotted three bald eagles flying down river. Two adult bald eagles perched along the river on the Jersey side opposite the Access. An additional bald eagle was sighted on a perch further down river in the distance. Our sixth and seventh bald eagles were spotted flying above the Delaware. We saw the next perched adult bald eagle as we traveled north on route 209. There were no eagles at the Dingmans Access or at Dingmans cemetery;



however an adult eagle was perched at Adam's Creek then took flight toward the river. No eagle at the Route 209 mile marker 16 nest. At the shale pit nest near mile marker 17 an eagle was perched high on the ridge. No luck at Milford Beach; however, as we crossed the Sawkill we spotted a perched adult eagle in a pine tree above the Callahan House, the former Brandwein Institute office. It was joined by another eagle that flew by. From river road we spotted an subadult bald eagle perched on the Jersey side of river across from us.

We checked the nest near the Pierce House and noted that the nest was enlarged. Two adult eagles were in flight behind the Delaware Valley High School.

No luck at the Riverview Camp Ground overlook.

We added a pit stop at the PA Welcome Center.

From the Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-states monument is where we spotted two perched adult eagles on the Jersey side as well as two flying up river. We checked the nest - no activity.

Back at the Delaware north of Port Jervis opposite the Kolmar facility two adult eagles were perched in the same tree on the PA side.

By noon we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Checked the whitewash on the cliff for the peregrine falcon. It was not there.

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 in flight at Pond Eddy.

We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. We checked the nest along Plank Road. No eagles at the Rio Reservoir Dam. We added red-shouldered hawk at Knight Road. It is rare that we do no see eagles on the Mongaup-Rio loop.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled up river to the nest site 200 yards from the Mill Rift Bridge. We were able to relocate the nest and find a perched eagle near it. No eagles at the Barryville-Shohola nest.

By the time we reached the confluence of the Lackawaxen and the Delaware we had observed 23 bald eagles. While at the Zane Grey observation area four additional eagles presented themselves.

We added three adult bald eagles along the Lackawaxen after we crossed the bridge. An adult was perched near Church Road, another in the vicinity of Appert Road and the third near the nest at Field Bend Road.

We concluded our field trip at 3:30 p.m.

Join us to Search For Eagles

Future Searches for Eagles:

Sunday February 13 and March 6 & 13, 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 January 11, 2022 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose
American Black Duck
Mallard
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Bald Eagle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Ring-billed Gull
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Tufted Titmouse
Black-capped Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
House Sparrow