

A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 6 February 2022

The season's third Dr. S Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 6, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 7 degrees and at the finish 24 degrees. It was a crisp cold sunny day that began with watching feeder birds including downy woodpecker, dark-eyed junco, blue jays, and black-capped chickadees 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 PEEC, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that included seeing 33 species of birds: 27 bald eagles (BE) adults and juveniles, 17 red-tailed hawks, and 4 common ravens.

Our first red-tailed hawk was spotted perched at Heller's farm. Our first BE was a juvenile seen perched high on the ridge at the Bushkill access. A bluebird was spotted in the vicinity of Tom's Creek. Four additional red-tailed hawks were observed between the Bushkill Access and Heller's Farm. At the the Dingmans Ferry Access, no eagles present. We checked the nest at mile marker 16 and viewed an abundance of American robins and cedar waxwings; however no eagles were present. An adult bald eagle was perched high on the ridge at mile marker 17.

There were no eagles at Milford Beach nor along River Road.

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

We continued past the Best Western, no eagles. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge we spotted raft of Hooded mergansers

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center.

The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we spotted and adult bald eagle down river on the Jersey side and two common mergansers appeared. We checked the active BE nest.

By noon we approached the Hawks Nest historical marker where we spotted Peregrine Falcons on all five previous searches. None were there today. There was an adult eagle high on the ridge at Pond Eddy. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where we spotted a juvenile bald eagle in flight from the observation blind. We continued to Plank Road, and Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and located two bald eagles in flight about 100 yards up river from the Mill Rift Bridge on the Pennsylvania sided of the river. Our next stop at Landers Canoe Lanch yielded four eagles in flight, two adults and two juveniles. Our next two adult bald eagles were seen perched on the same branch high on the ridge east of the highway. In the Shohola - Barryville area we spotted three adult bald eagles and one juvenile. We watched an eagle eat a fish while standing on the ice. It was approached by another eagle who tried to displace it from the fish, but without success. The juvenile bird was perched a few hundred yards up river. We continued north on Route NY 55 to the Roebling Bridge where down river from it an adult bird was perched. After we passed the frozen water falls on the New York side we spotted an adult bald eagle perched in a White Pine on the Pennsylvania side as well as another near the confluence of the two rivers..

By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had observed twenty-one bald eagles. From the Zane Gray Museum parking area we waited and watched two bald eagles in flight and one perched.

Our first eagle along the Lackawaxen was an adult bird perched high above up river from Engvaldsen Road. An adult eagle was perched near Swing Bridge. In the vicinity of the Appert road nest we spotted two perched Bald Eagles. The last two bald eagles we saw were a juvenile and adult perched in the same tree near the nest at Field Bend Road.

We concluded our field trip at 4:30 p.m.

Future Searches for Eagles:

Sundays February 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 February 6, 2022 Search for Eagles

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