

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

The season's fourth and final Brandwein Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday March 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 20 degrees and at the finish 28 degrees. It started out as a clear cold morning and ended a cloudy overcast afternoon with six to eight inches of snow on the ground. We began by watching feeder birds at PEEC. Two 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 the Brandwein Institute and PEEC a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that included seeing 41 species of birds: 11 bald eagles (8 adults and 3 juveniles,) 16 red-tailed hawks, 1 red-shouldered hawk, and 4 common ravens. Three of the eagles were on the nest. Previous Search for Eagles Reports are on the Brandwein Institute's website: www.brandwein.org.

While we were parked at the Bushkill Access we spotted two bald eagles perched high on the ridge above the Access. There were four red-tailed hawks at and near the Access. There were no eagles at the Dingmans Access or at Dingmans cemetery; however, an adult eagle flew toward Adam's Creek then headed toward the river. An eagle was in the Route 209 mile marker 16 nest probably incubating. No eagle at the shale pit nest near mile marker 17. No luck at Milford Beach. From river road we spotted an adult 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. No eagles behind the Delaware Valley High School.

An adult eagle was perched across from the Riverview Camp Ground overlook.

We added a pit stop at the PA Welcome Center where an eagle soared high above us..

From the Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-states monument is where we spotted a perched adult eagle on the Jersey side. We checked the nest - no activity.

By noon we were at the Hawks Nest historical marker. Checked the whitewash on the cliff for the peregrine falcon. It was not there. We've seen the peregrines on six of our searches.

From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we located the nest on the PA side of the river. An adult bald eagle was in the nest.

We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind. We checked the nest along Plank Road. No eagles at the Rio Reservoir Dam. It is rare that we do not 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 and another eagle in the nest. No eagles at the Barryville-Shohola nest.

By the time we reached the confluence of the Lackawaxen and the Delaware we had observed 11 bald eagles. No eagles along the Lackawaxen; however, we added a fourth nest near Engvaldsen Road to those at the pipeline crossing, Appert Road and Field Bend Road.

We concluded our field trip at 4:00 p.m. Join us to Search For Eagles

Future Searches for Eagles:

Sundays December 4 & 11, 2022
Sundays January 8 & 15, 2023
Sundays February 5, 12, & 19, 2023
Sundays March 5 & 12, 2023

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 whether 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 March 13, 2022 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose
American Black Duck
Mallard
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Wild Turkey
Bald Eagle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Ring-billed Gull
Red-bellied Woodpecker
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
European Starling
American Tree Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
House Finch
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Sparrow