

A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 6 March 2022

The season's fourth and final Dr. S Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, March 6, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 38 degrees and at the finish 68 degrees. It started with rain ending at 11:00 a.m. then clearing for a warm sunny day that began with watching feeder birds including downy woodpecker, dark-eyed junco, blue jays, and black-capped chickadees among others. Seven participants, wearing face covering and social distancing logged 156 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 38 species of birds: 21 bald eagles, 15 adults and 6 juveniles, 7 red-tailed hawks, 1 peregrine falcon, and 8 common ravens.

Our first red-tailed hawk was spotted perched at the entrance to Eshback's Access. Our first pair of bald eagles was seen north of the Tom's Creek shale bank. One was perched high on the ridge and the other was in flight near the first bird. Mixed flocks of hundreds of red-winged blackbirds and common grackles were spotted in the vicinity of Tom's Creek. At the the Dingmans Ferry Access a juvenile bald eagle flew down river over the bridge and an adult was perched 1000 yard downriver from the bridge on the New Jersey side. We checked the nest at mile marker 16 with the spotting scope and watched an adult female bald eagle on the nest, probably incubating eggs. A National Park Service ranger stopped to inquire whether we had any problems. We shared a view through the scope of the eagle in the nest with the ranger. No bald eagles at mile marker 17 nest.



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

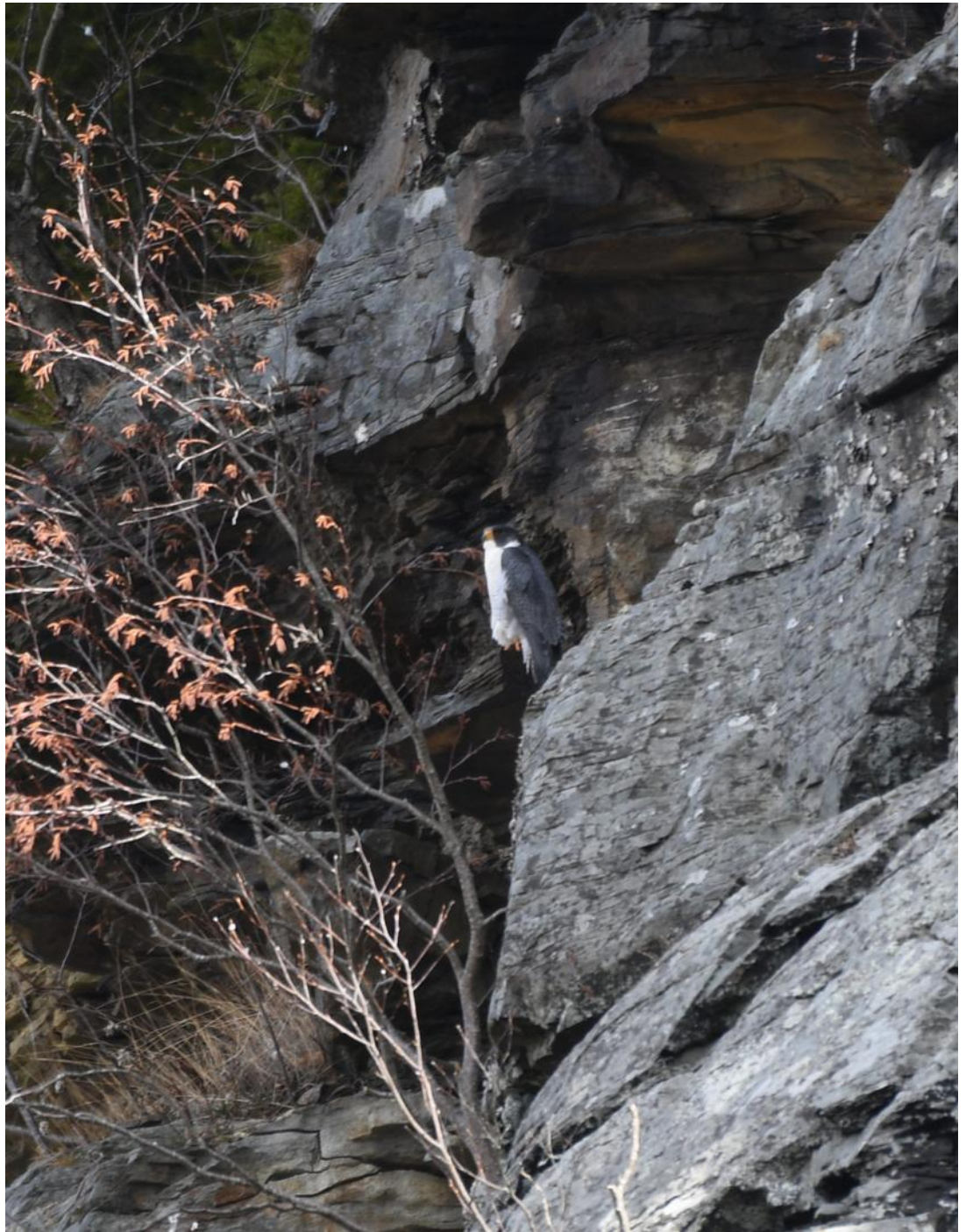
We checked the BE nest near the Pierce House as well as behind the Delaware Valley High School. No eagles present; however, a red-tailed hawk was spotted on the cliffside opposite the school.

We continued past the Best Western, no eagles. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge we spotted hooded mergansers, belted kingfisher, and mallards.

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center.

The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we spotted ring-billed gulls. We checked the cemetery nest. No activity. Two adult eagles were seen flying above the ridge in Port Jervis.

By noon we approached the Hawks Nest historical marker where we spotted peregrine falcons on all five previous searches. I looked into my side view mirror and saw a peregrine flying toward us. We watched the falcon flying about then landing above us on the cliff. We all enjoyed great looks at the perched bird through the spotting scope. An adult eagle was perched on the Pennsylvania side down river from the Indian Head launch area. We pulled off the road across from where the nest is located, put a scope on the nest and



discovered a female eagle on the nest, here again probably incubating. There was an adult eagle perched high on the ridge at Pond Eddy. Across the river was a perched juvenile eagle that we watched take flight. While we were watching an adult flew by. There were also two juvenile eagles soaring above the ridge in New York. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation blind, no eagles. We continued to Plank Road, and Rio Reservoir Dam. Two juvenile eagles soared above as we approached the Rio Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and located two juvenile bald eagles in flight along the road to Mongaup. In the Shohola - Barryville area there were no eagles. We continued north on Route NY 55 to the Roebling Bridge where down river a pair of red-tailed hawks were flying.

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 a bald eagle in flight over the Roebling bridge that later soared above us and the ridge in New York.

No eagles were sighted along the Lackawaxen.

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

Future Search for Eagles:
Sunday, March 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 March 6, 2022 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose	Brown Creeper
Mallard	Black-capped Chickadee
Bufflehead	White-breasted Nuthatch
Hooded Merganser	American Robin
Common Merganser	Chipping Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	White-throated sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Dark-eyed Junco
Bald Eagle	Northern Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-winged Blackbird
Peregrine Falcon	Common Grackle
Rock Pigeon	Purple Finch
Mourning Dove	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	
Ring-billed Gull	
Belted Kingfisher	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	
Downy Woodpecker	
Hairy Woodpecker	
Northern Flicker	
Pileated Woodpecker	
Blue Jay	
American Crow	
Common Raven	
Tufted Titmouse	