

## **A Spectacular Search for Eagles - Sunday, 18 December 2022**

The season's first Dr. S Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, December 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The temperature at the start was 25 degrees and at the finish 30 degrees. It was a clear partly cloudy day that began with watching feeder birds including Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees among others. Three participants 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 PEEC, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that included seeing 35 species of birds: 38 Bald Eagles (BE) 30 Adults and 8 juveniles, 9 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Northern Harriers, and Wild Turkeys.

Our first BE sighting was north of Toms Creek. The bird was perched in a tree high above us on the ridge. A Northern Harrier was coursing in there farm fields across from Toms Creek. A pair of Northern Harriers, which probably included the first one we saw was flying high above the Escbacks access. Our first Red-tailed Hawk was spotted perching near Route 209 and Route 739 intersection. We checked the Dingmans Bridge area, no BE present. We checked the nest at mile marker 16 and discovered an adult female in the nest and an adult male perched nearby who took flight as we watched. At the nest above the shale bank near mile marker 17 we spotted an adult BE.

At the north entrance to the DWGNRA we found a flock of Cedar Waxwings. At 10:15 while traveling along river road we saw two BEs soaring over New Jersey. Two Common Ravens were flying along the ridge in the vicinity of the Kittatinny Camp ground. We checked the BE nest near the Pierce House - no BE present as well as behind the Delaware Valley High School.

We continued past the Best Western and watched a BE soar. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge were Canada Geese, Gray Catbird, and a Belted Kingfisher but no BE.

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center where we spotted two perched adult BEs on the same branch, a juvenile, and adult BE soaring

The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we checked an active BE nest. No BE present but added Common and Hooded Mergansers. As we drove through Port Jervis we saw a juvenile BE, Black Vultures, a Turkey Vulture and Common Ravens.

By noon as we approached the Hawks Nest historical marker a BE was soaring in the distance. This is where we have been fortunate to find Peregrine Falcons on previous searches. From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we spotted a BE perched on a branch in a White Pine and another above the nest. We added another perched adult BE at Pond Eddy on the PA side of the river. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind, Plank Road, and Rio Reservoir Dam. Two perched adult eagles on

the same branch were upstream from the blind and a juvenile soared nearby. No luck on Plank Road or the Rio Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and added three more BEs one of whom was perched at Minisink Ford. Passing the Roebling Bridge on the NY side we spotted two adult BE, One was perched on the NY side then flew to a perch in PA where the other bird was.

By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had observed 28 BEs.

From the Zane Gray Museum parking area we spotted an adult BE that flew from the Lackawaxen crossed over the Delaware then landed on a log at the Lackawaxen shore. We watched soaring eagles as we traveled along the Lackawaxen by Lock House 1110, Evangelder Road, and Appert Road. Our final adult BE was perched along Kimble Road

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

### **Future SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIPS**

Sundays, January 8, 15, & 29 2023

Sundays, February 5, 12, & 19 2023

Sunday, March 5 2023

### **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](mailto: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 - the symbol of our nation.

Birds seen on the December 18, 2022 Search for Eagles.

Canada Goose  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Hooded Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Wild Turkey  
Ring-billed Gull  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Gray Catbird  
European Starling  
House Sparrow  
Purple Finch  
Cedar Waxwing  
American Tree Sparrow  
White-throated sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal