

A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 8 January 2023

The season's first Paul F-Brandwein Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, January 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. The temperature at the start was 25 degrees and at the finish 30 degrees. It was a clear sunny day that began with watching feeder birds including Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees among others. Two participants logged 148 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 34 species of birds: 22 Bald Eagles (BE) 16 Adults and 6 juveniles, 1 Red-shoulder Hawk, 12 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 2 Common Ravens, and Wild Turkeys.

Our first Red-tailed Hawk was seen perched south of the turn off to PEEC from Route 209. Our first BE sighting was north of Toms Creek. The bird was perched in a tree high above us on the ridge. At the Eshback access we added a flock of Eastern Bluebirds. We spotted three Bald Eagles in flight over the Delaware in the vicinity of Chestnut Ridge Road. We checked the Dingmans Bridge area, no BE present. A juvenile BE flew by us north of the Dingmans Cemetery. We checked the nest at mile marker 16 and discovered an adult BE low in it. No eagles at the mile marker 17 shale bank.

A Black Vulture was perched on the roof of Prime Time Meats store. We checked the BE nest near the Pierce House as well as behind the Delaware Valley High School, no eagles present. The Shop-Rite parking area presented us with six Ring-Billed Gulls.

We continued past the Best Western and Home Depot where we added Red-tailed Hawks. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge were Common Mergansers but no BE.

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center. No birds were added.



The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we checked an active BE nest. No BE present, but added Mallards.



By 12:30 pm as we approached the Hawks Nest historical marker a Common Raven was soaring in the distance. Perched above us on the cliff near white wash was a Peregrine Falcon. Peregrines probably nest here. From the Indian Head Canoe livery station we viewed the nest on the Pennsylvania side of the river, no eagles present even though the nest was active in December. We added two adult BEs at Pond Eddy flying beneath their favored perch on the ridge. En route to the Mongaup we spotted a perched Red-tailed Hawk in the vicinity of the Ukrainian Wooden Church. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where we added four BEs, a juvenile on a fly over and three adults perched in trees upstream from the bridge. No luck on Plank Road or the Rio

Dam; however a first for us was a perched adult BE at Knight Road.

We returned to the Delaware and found two adult BEs perched on the same White Pine tree branch at Pond Eddy. These probably were the BEs we observed in flight in the area earlier. Another adult BE perched at Minisink Ford. Passing the Roebling Bridge on the NY side we spotted three adult BEs, One was perched on the PA side south of the bridge, two were perched near the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware, where we added Hooded Mergansers, and another eagle further up river where we spotted a juvenile. While we parked at the observation area the two adult BEs left their perches at the Delaware and flew up the Lackawaxen. By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had observed 18 BEs.



As we crossed the bridge over the Lackawaxen we spotted a perched adult BE, probably one of the two that took flight earlier. The next four BEs we spotted along the Lackawaxen were high above us on the ridges; a juvenile BE at Rowland Road and another proximal to Church Road. The two adult BEs were at the roost near Engvaldsen Road and at Swinging Bridge.

We concluded our field trip at 4:10 p.m.

Future SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIPS

Sundays, January 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 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 January 8, 2023 Search for Eagles:

Canada Goose
Mallard
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Wild Turkey
Ring-billed Gull
Black Vulture
Bald Eagle
Red Shoulder Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Peregrine Falcon
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Eastern Bluebird
European Starling
House Sparrow
House Finch
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
American Tree Sparrow
Song Sparrow
White-throated sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal