

A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 15 January 2023

The season's second Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, January 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. The temperature at the start was 21 degrees, reached a high of 38 degrees and at the finish 30 degrees. It was a clear sunny day that began with watching feeder birds including the usual suspects. Three participants logged 150 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: 28 Bald Eagles (BE) 25 adults and 3 juveniles, 2 Red-shoulder Hawks, 14 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Northern Harrier, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 3 Common Ravens, and a Wild Turkey.



Our first Red-tailed Hawk was seen perched south of the turn off to PEEC from Route 209. Our first BEs sighting was north of Toms Creek. The birds were perched on the same tree limb high above us on the ridge. From the Bushkill Access we found a perched adult BE on the Jersey side, another perched on the PA side, another two adults in flight up river, as well as juvenile. We also added Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-tailed Hawks, Belted Kingfisher, and Northern Flicker among others. This was among the better trip starts at Bushkill.

At the Eshback access we added a flock of 50 Eastern Bluebirds, a Northern Harrier, and a Peregrine Falcon. We checked the Dingmans Bridge area, no BE present but added a Common Raven. We checked the nest at mile marker 16, no luck. At mile marker 17 an adult BE was perched on the ridge and another was soaring nearby. Milford Beach was not productive. From the River Road we spotted an adult BE flying up river and added Common Mergansers and another Belted Kingfisher.

We checked the BE nest near the Pierce House as well as behind the Delaware Valley High School, no eagles present; however, an adult BE was in flight above Route 209. We continued past the Best Western and Home Depot where we added a number of perched and soaring Red-tailed Hawks. At the River View Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge were Rock Pigeons, European Starlings, and House Sparrows.

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center where a Red-tailed Hawk was perched on a lamp post.

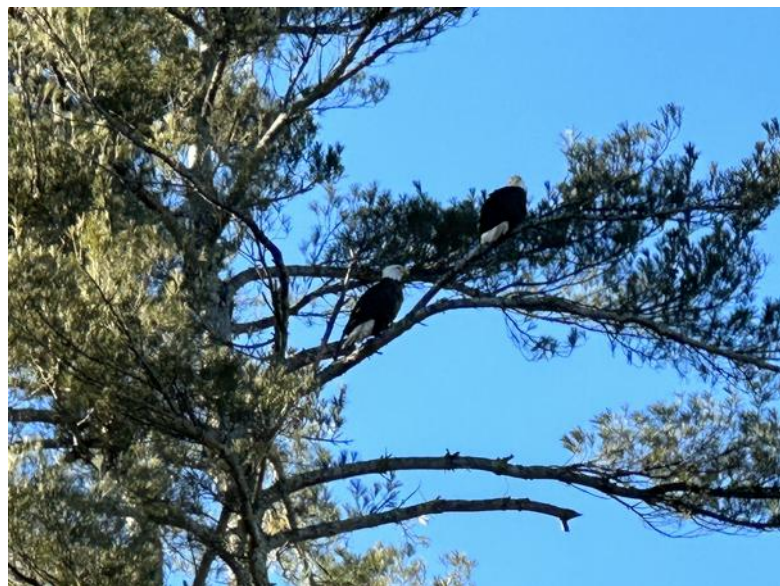
The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we checked an active BE nest. No BE present.

At the Hawks Nest historical marker 12:30 pm two Common Raven soared above us. No



Peregrine Falcon was present near the white wash on the cliff. Peregrines probably nest here. As we approached the Indian Head Canoe livery station we saw a BE perched behind the nest on the Pennsylvania side of the river. We added an adult BE at Pond Eddy flying below the favored perch on the ridge. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where we added an adult BE flying above the Watch For Eagles road sign. We found a raft of American Black Ducks on the water. No luck on Plank road or the Rio Dam. We returned to the Delaware and found two adult BEs at

Pond Eddy, one high in a tree and the other just above the water.



Passing the Roebling Bridge from the NY side we spotted two adult BE perched on the PA side and further north two more were perched on the NY side. We parked at the Zane Gray observation area where the two adult BEs who left their perch on the Delaware were joined by three other BEs. We had five BEs in the air simultaneously. Two of these BEs perched high in a White Pine at the Zane Gray parking lot began calling and cackling for quite a while. What a treat! By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 24 BEs.



The next four BEs we added along the Lackawaxen were an adult at the Route 590 intersection, a juvenile in flight at Engvaldsen Road, a perched juvenile near Swinging Bridge, an an adult in flight near Appert Road. We also discovered a fifth eagle nest on the Lackawaxen. We concluded our field trip at 4:20 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 15 2023 Search for Eagles.

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