

A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 29 January 2023

The season's second Paul F-Brandwein Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, January 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 29 degrees and at the finish 44 degrees. It was an overcast day that began with watching feeder birds including Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees among others. Two participants logged 145 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: 20 Bald Eagles (BE) 16 Adults and 4 juveniles, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Common Ravens and Wild Turkeys.



Our first Red-tailed Hawk was seen perched south of the turn off to PEEC from Route 209 at Heller's farm. Our first BE sighting was north of Toms Creek. The bird flew from the ridge toward the river. The next bird was perched in a tree that once held a BE nest on the south end of the shale bank. At the Bushkill Access we added American Crows and a Northern Flicker, no BE. Our fourth adult BE was perched 20 yards south of the Dingmans Ferry Bridge on the PA side. It took flight and headed south. We checked the nest at mile marker 16 no

eagles. At the mile marker 17 shale bank an adult BE was perched above the nest. 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 Ring-Billed Gulls.

We continued past the Best Western where we added a juvenile BE perched riverside, who then flew downriver. At the River View Restaurant Inn near where PA, NJ, and NY converge were Carolina Wren, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, and an adult BE perched on an island in NJ.

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

At the Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument we looked downriver and saw the perched island BE joined by another adult on the same branch. Our third Red-tailed Hawk flew by us and landed at the Riverview Inn. We checked the active BE nest. No



BE present. At West end beach we added 33 Ring-billed Gulls and an adult BE high above the ridge flying toward Port Jervis



By 11:30 am as we approached the Hawks Nest historical marker we noticed lots of white wash on the cliff. Peregrines probably nest here; however, we saw none. 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 one flying beneath their favored perch on the ridge and another perched below it. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where volunteer observers informed us they had seen one eagle. On Plank Road we added an adult BE in flight. No luck at Rio Dam. We returned to the Delaware and found two

adult BEs perched in White Pines at Pond Eddy. These probably were the BEs we observed in in the area earlier. Another adult BE perched at Minisink Ford, another upriver from the Mill Rift Bridge and another near Berm Church Road. Passing the Roebling Bridge on the NY side no eagles were present. By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had observed 17 BEs. While we parked at the Zane Gray observation area an adult BE called above us. We spotted the BE in a White Pine at the Zane Gray parking lot.

The next two BEs we spotted along the Lackawaxen were perched. A Red-tailed Hawk flew in front of us at Rowland Road . Adult BEs were at the roost near Engvaldsen Road and at Gelderman Road..

We concluded our field trip at 3:00 p.m.

Future SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIPS

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 29, 2023 Search for Eagles.

Canada Goose
Mallard
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Wild Turkey
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
American Robin
European Starling
House Sparrow
Common Yellowthroat
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
House Finch
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch