

## A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 5 February 2023

The season's second Brandwein Institute's Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 18 degrees and reached a high of 43. It was an overcast cloudy day that began with watching feeder birds including the usual suspects. Two participants logged 158 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from PEEC to Poxono island and the trip's Lacakawaxen conclusion.

Jack Padalino, president emeritus of PEEC, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that included seeing 35 species of birds: 25 Bald Eagles (BE) 22 adults and 3 juveniles, 1 Red-shoulder Hawk, 8 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Peregrine Falcon, and 6 Common Ravens.



A Red-shouldered Hawk watched us as we exited the PEEC parking area. Our first adult Bald Eagle (ABE) was perched in a tree that once held a nest at the north end of the shale bank near Tom's Creek. On the way to Poxono Island we saw our first Red-tailed Hawk and an ABE perched atop a metal utility pole. No eagle at Poxono. we added an adult BE perched on the northwest side of the island. At the Bushkill Access we added a juvenile eagle that was perched opposite RT 209 mile marker 3 on the NJ side of the river. Two Common Ravens were at Hornbeck's trail head. We checked the Dingmans Bridge area, no BE present but added a Bufflehead and 20 Common Mergansers. We checked the nest at mile marker 16, a ABE was rearranging sticks in it. At the mile marker 17 nest an ABE was in flight toward the river. Milford Beach was not productive. We drew a blank on River Road other than a Red-tailed Hawk perched in a Sycamore along side the river in PA.

We checked the BE nest near the Pierce House and discovered an ABE at the nest. Image included. As we were leaving an ABE flew over us and landed in the nest. We returned to watch the eagles at the nest who then flew off. Our next stop was at the pull off by the camp round. On the ridge two ABEs in flight were being harassed by two Common Ravens. One of the eagles perched above a crevice where the ravens nest. One raven flew in and out of the crevice while the other continued to harass the perched BE. We watched this spectacle for ten minutes until the BE departed. Behind the Delaware Valley High School, no eagles present; however, a pair of Common Ravens were flying around in the High School parking lot. Passing the Shop-Rite we noted 16 Ring-Billed Gulls. We continued behind the Best Western where an ABE was in NJ. 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, House Sparrows, House Finch, Canada Geese, a dozen Mallards, as well as Common Mergansers.



We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center where a Red-tailed Hawk was perched on a lamp post. Probably the same bird we saw on the last search.

The Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument is where we checked an active BE nest. No BE present. From West End beach we spotted an ABE soaring over PA.



At the Hawks Nest historical marker 12:30 pm a Peregrine Falcon was perched in a tree below the marker devouring its prey while a raven flew above. Peregrines probably nest here. The Indian Head Canoe nest has an ABE above it. Between Indian Head and Pond Eddy we added two ABEs perched in NJ. At Pond Eddy on the PA side of the river another ABE was perched on the same branch in the tree where a few years ago there was an active nest. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where we added a Red-breasted Nuthatch. No luck at Plank Road or the Rio Dam. We returned to the Delaware and an ABE atop a dead tree near Pond Eddy. An ABE flew down river. An eagle was perched in PA opposite the Barryville Eagle Observation Area.





Passing the Roebling Bridge from the NY side we spotted an ABE perched on the PA side about 20 yards upriver from the bridge. While crossing the bridge an ABE flew above us and joined the other bird. By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had seen 20 BEs.

The next five ABEs were added along the Lackawaxen two soaring above Route 590, one perched at RT 590 stop, and two perched at dual nests by Field Bend Road. We concluded our field trip at 4:00 p.m.

**Future  
SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIPS**

Sunday, February 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 February 12 2023 Search for Eagles.**

Canada Goose  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Bufflehead  
Common Merganser  
Wild Turkey  
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  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
European Starling  
House Sparrow  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle