

A Search for Eagles - Sunday, 19 February 2023

The season's fourth and final Paul F-Brandwein Search for Eagles took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The temperature at the start was 27 degrees and at the finish 46 degrees. It was an overcast day at the start that began with watching feeder birds including Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Blue Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees among others. Four participants logged 157 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from PEEC to Poxono Island 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 30 species of birds: 17 Bald Eagles, 14 adults and 3 juveniles, 8 Red-tailed Hawks, 5 Common Ravens and a Peregrine Falcon.



Our first two Red-tailed Hawks were seen perched south of the, turn off to PEEC from Route 209 at Heller's farm. Our first eagle sighting was north of Toms Creek. Two birds were perched on the same branch in a tree that once held a nest at the north end of the shale bank. We drew a blank at Poxono; however, an active nest on the island has been reported. At the Bushkill Access we added a female Belted Kingfisher, no eagles. At Chestnut Ridge Road we added a Red-tailed Hawk and flock of 50 American Robins eating staghorn sumac fruits while two Common Ravens were on the ground. Our third adult eagle was flying south over what once was the town of Dingmans Ferry. No luck at the Dingmans bridge; however, Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds were busy at the feeders. We checked the nest at mile marker 16 no eagles but added our fourth Red-tail. Nothing at the mile marker 17 shale bank. We drew a blank at Milford Beach and the River Road. While we checked the nest near the Pierce House an adult eagle flew over the nest and crossed the ridge. An eagle was in the nest. A Common Raven flew by as we watched the bird in the nest. From the Kittatinny Camp Ground pullout we spotted an eagle flying toward the ridge. We drove a few hundred yards and found the perching bird and viewed it through the spotting scope. Behind the Delaware Valley High School, no eagles present, but added two more Red-tails. Another was perched over the westbound lane of I 84 opposite Walmart. The Shop-Rite parking area presented us with Ring-Billed Gulls.

We continued past the Best Western where we had no success. At the River View Restaurant Inn near where PA, NJ, and NY converge were Song Sparrow, Common Mergansers, and Mallards.

We made a pit stop at the Pennsylvania welcome center after which two Common Ravens were seen flying over Matamoras. At the Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook above the tri-state monument we looked downriver and saw an abundance of Canada Geese. We checked the active nest. No eagle present. We returned to the Delaware where a juvenile eagle was perched at the Matamoras Bridge near the Riverside Creamery. (Image included) At West End Beach, nothing. By 11:30 am as we approached the Hawks Nest historical marker and we noticed white wash on the cliff. Twenty feet above the wash was a Peregrine Falcon. Peregrines probably nest here. An eagle was perched in PA a quarter of a mile down river from Indian Head livery. Another eagle flew above the livery. From the livery station we viewed the nest on the Pennsylvania side of the river, an eagle was perched 10 feet above the active nest. We added two adult eagles at Pond Eddy perched on the same branch beneath their favored tree on the ridge. One of the birds flew while we watched. We continued to the Mongaup Falls Observation Blind where volunteer observers shared a juvenile eagle they had in a spotting scope. On Plank Road no luck nor at Rio Dam. We returned to the Delaware. No additional eagle sightings along the route. By the time we reached the Lackawaxen we had observed 14 eagles



We parked at the Zane Gray observation area for lunch; however, no eagles were seen. The next three eagles we added along the Lackawaxen were perched. An adult eagle was near the nest down river from Engvaldsen Road. Two eagles were in the same tree high on the ridge where on previous searches we saw them roosting. We watched one of the birds take flight.



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

**Future SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP
Sunday, March 5 2023**

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 845.325.0536 AND INDICATE IF 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 February 19, 2023 Search for Eagles

Canada Goose
Mallard
Common Merganser
Ring-billed Gull
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Belted Kingfisher
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch

American Robin
European Starling
House Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
American Goldfinch
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle