

Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, 10 December 2023

The second in a series of eight Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trips, Search for Eagles, took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. through 4:10 p.m. Temperatures at the start and finish were 49 and 50 degrees. The day which was foggy, rainy, and drizzly began with watching feeder birds at home and the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) that included, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped Chickadee, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, and Blue Jays. We logged 150 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from Poxono Island. The trip concluded along the headwaters of the Lackawaxen.

Jack Padalino, president emeritus of PEEC and Brandwein Institute, a partner with the National Park Service, led the search that recorded 23 species of birds including 17 Bald Eagles most of whom were perched adults and a juvenile eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shoulder Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon.

The Red-tail Hawk was seen just south of the Briscoe Mountain Road near PEEC.

Our first eagle was a spotted atop a metal utility pole off Route 209 near the Buddhist facility. No eagles at Pocono Island.

At the Bushkill Access we saw an eagle perched on top of a tree near the boat launch. No eagles at Toms Creek, or at Eshbacks.

Two adult eagles were at the Dingmans Ferry Access down river on the Jersey side.

No eagles were at Dingmans Cemetery, mile marker 17 nest, or at mile marker 16 shale bank.

Milford Beach down river from the bridge is where we added our fifth eagle. None were along River Road. We checked the huge nest near the Pierce House but no eagle was there.

No eagles at the old nest site over the I-84 westbound lane across from the Kittatinny Camp Ground or the DV High School.

Our next stop was the Riverview Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge. Very little activity there. We enjoyed a rest stop at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center.

We checked the nest at the Port Jervis Laurel Grove Cemetery, no eagles were seen.





Eagle number six was seen perched across the river in PA as we drove north along Sleepy Hollow Road.

Fog was thick at the Hawks Nest; however, we were able to spot a perched Peregrine Falcon sheltering from the rain under an outcrop near white wash.

Visibility was hampered by dense fog throughout the Mougau - Rio loop; however, we added a juvenile eagle flying downriver at the Indian Head Canoe station. Visibility was poor throughout the loop, but we added Black Ducks from the Mougau Blind.

No eagles along Plank Road or at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware where the fog had since lifted thus improving visibility, checked the Indian Head PA nest and discovered an eagle perched above us in the parking area as we were looking at the nest.

There were two eagles perched at Cowen Farm near the NPS Upper Delaware Headquarters. They are probably the two we

saw last week. (Similar image attached) No luck at the Shohola nest site nor at the Barryville observation pullover.



Upriver from the Roebling Bridge in PA two eagles were perched in the same tree. Probably the same two we spotted last search.

As soon as we traveled upstream along the Lackawaxen we saw a perched eagle. We added another, our fifteenth fifty yards downstream from the Rawlings Road Bridge. Next was a perched eagle upstream from Church Road. Our seventeenth eagle sighting was near Engvaldsen Road.

The eagles' nests will be monitored on our future Searches for Eagles:

- Sundays - January 7 & 14, 2024
- Sundays - February 4, 11, & 18, 2024
- Sunday - March 3 2024

TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEARCH FOR EAGLES FIELD TRIP

PHONE: 845.325.0536 or email jackpeec@aol.com

AND INDICATE WHICH FIELD TRIP(S) YOU WILL BE ATTENDING

Meet 8:00 a.m. at the PEEC parking lot OR 10:00 a.m. in the parking area at the north entrance to the DWGNRA, Route 209 South @ mile marker 21, Milford, PA .

WEATHER PERMITTING.

Dress warmly, bring binoculars, field guides, and a lunch.

THERE IS NO CHARGE

Eagle observation data that we collect is shared with the National Park Service, members of the Sussex County Bird Club, Eagle Institute, and Hawk Migration Association of North America HMANA.

An Eagle identification field guide and a "Search for Eagles" hand-out is provided for participants by the Paul F-Brandwein Institute.

Join us to Search For Eagles, the symbol of our nation!

In addition to the 17 Bald Eagles observed were:

Mallard

Black Duck

Hooded Merganser

Red-tailed Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk

Peregrine Falcon

Rock Pigeon

Morning Dove

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Carolina Wren

Blue Jay

American Crow

Tufted Titmouse

Black-capped Chickadee

American Robin

European Starling

Song Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

American Goldfinch

Northern Cardinal