

Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip: 6 January 2024

The third in a series of eight Searches for Eagles, took place in the Delaware Valley Saturday, January 6 from 8:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. The searches are sponsored by the Brandwein Institute. Jack Padalino, AAAS Fellow, president emeritus of the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) and Paul F-Brandwein Institute will conduct eagle research Sundays, January 14, February 4, 11, & 18, and March 3, 2024.

Temperatures at the start and finish were 20 and 24 degrees. The day which was overcast and it started snowing at 2:00 p.m. It began with watching feeder birds at home and the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) that included, Dark-eyed Junco, Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Blue Jays. A total of 35 species were observed and 153 miles was logged in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from Poxono Island to the headwaters of the Lackawaxen.

A Red-tailed Hawk was seen just south of the Briscoe Mountain Road near Heller's farm.

Our first eagle at 8:15 a.m. was a spotted above the shale bank north of Tom's Creek. No eagles at Poxono Island.

At the Bushkill Access we spotted Common Mergansers from the boat launch. No eagles at Eshbacks; however, an eagle was perched near the community garden. No eagles were at the Dingmans Ferry Access, Dingmans Cemetery, mile marker 16 nest, or at mile marker 17 shale bank.

A Red-tailed Hawk was at the north entrance to DWGNRA. No eagles at Milford Beach or along River Road where 15 mergansers were feeding. 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. The third eagle was spotted opposite Walmart west of I 84 and a fourth was perched proximal to I 84 west mile marker 51.9. An adult eagle was perched on the Jersey side of the river near the Westfall waste water treatment plant where also flying above were 12 Black and 2 Turkey Vultures.



Next stop was the Riverview Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge. One eagle in flight going south was spotted. Activity there included 3 Ring-billed Gulls, Hooded Mergansers and 200 Canada Geese. A rest stop at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center was next.

Checked the nest at the Port Jervis Laurel Grove Cemetery, no eagles were seen; however, one was heard cackling above near the nest.

The Peregrine Falcon was not at there Hawks Nest.

Eagle number eight was seen perched across the river in PA as we drove north past the Indian Head Canoe office. A juvenile eagle was spotted perched above the Pond Eddy road marker.

Through the Mougau - Rio loop an eagle was perched upriver from the blind. Black Ducks, Hooded, Common Mergansers, Buffleheads, and Belted Kingfisher were spotted from the Mougau Blind.

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

Returning to the Delaware two eagles were spotted one in flight and the other perched in its usual tree high above Pond Eddy. Another eagle was perched 100 yards upriver from the Pond Eddy Bridge. No luck at the Shohola nest site nor at the Barryville observation pullover.

Upriver from and next to the Roebling Bridge in PA an eagle was perched in the same tree where it was seen the 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 Engvaldsen Road. The seventeenth eagle sighted was near swinging bridge. Digital images of Eagles from this search are attached.

The eagles' nests will be monitored on our future research:

Sunday- January 14, 2024

Sundays - February 4, 11, & 18, 2024

Sunday - March 3 2024

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

In addition to the 17 Bald Eagles the following species were observed:

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

American Black Duck

Mallard

Bufflehead

Hooded Merganser

Common Merganser

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Bald Eagle
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
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
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
White-throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow