

Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip: 14 January 2024

The fourth in the series of eight Searches for Eagles, took place in the Delaware Valley Saturday, January 14 from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 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, February 4, 11, & 18, and March 3, 2024.

Temperatures at the start and finish were 23 and 25 degrees with a severe wind chill. The day which was overcast, partly cloudy, and with snow squalls at 1:00 p.m. between Glen Spey and the Mongaup observation blind. The two observers began with watching feeder birds at home and the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) that included, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco, Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Blue Jays. A total of 34 species were observed and 151 miles was logged in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from Fernwood to the headwaters of the Lackawaxen. The level of the Delaware was the highest ever for our eagle searches.

Our first two eagles at 8:15 a.m. were spotted on the ridge above the shale bank north of Tom's Creek. No eagles at Fernwood.

At the Bushkill Access we spotted two Red-tailed Hawks a cluster of Red-winged Blackbirds, and a Northern Mockingbird. Two Red-tails were at Hellers. No eagles at Eshbacks; however, we encountered a substantial museum of Cedar Waxwings near the turn to PEEC. No eagles were at the Dingmans Ferry Access, Dingmans Cemetery, mile marker 16 nest, but we added Eastern Bluebird and a Red-tail, or at mile marker 17 shale bank where another Red-tail was perched. A Red-tailed Hawk was at the north entrance to DWGNRA. No eagles at Milford Beach. Along River Road we added five eagles. An adult eagle soared, an adult and juvenile were perched on the Jersey side, and both an adult and juvenile were in flight. We checked the huge nest near the Pierce House but no eagle was there.

Two eagles were along the ridge over the I-84 westbound lane across from the Kittatinny Camp Ground. DV High School boat ramp yielded a pair of Common Mergansers. The tenth eagle was spotted above the ridge as we exited the DV school parking area. Another was seen flying south as we passed Shop Rite. Two Red-tails were soaring above the Best Western. Exiting Edgewood Ridge Estates we spotted a Common Raven jousting an adult eagle above the ridge.

Next stop was the Riverview Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge. Activity there included 10 Ring-billed Gulls, 20 Mallards, and 200 plus Canada Geese. The area where we usually bird along the river was flooded.

The Pennsylvania Welcome Center was next where we spotted two eagles in flight.

At the nest in the Port Jervis Laurel Grove Cemetery, no eagles were seen. The Peregrine Falcon was not at the Hawks Nest. No eagles at Indian Head Canoe nest or Pond Eddy locations.

The Mougau - Rio loop is where we drove into a snow squall that lasted 20 minutes. Visibility was impossible. At Mongaup 4 eagles were perched upriver from the blind, another flew over us. No eagles along Plank Road or at the Rio Reservoir Dam. The Red-shouldered Hawk was in a tree at Knight Road.

Returning to the Delaware 100 yards upriver from the Pond Eddy Bridge a juvenile eagle was pursuing a brace of Black Ducks. An adult was in flight, landed on the shore the returned to a perch near Berm Church Rad At Ten Hill Road we located a juvenile on the ground that flew to a perch and was joined by another juvenile. An image of the eagles in the same tree is attached. No sightings at the Shohola nest site. Adult eagles were seen from the Barryville observation area as well as Minisink Ford.

Upriver from and near the Roebling Bridge in PA an eagle was perched in the same tree where it was during the last search. While we ate lunch an adult flew above the Roebling Bridge. As we traveled upstream along the Lackawaxen we saw a perched juvenile eagle near the pipe line cut. We added our thirty-first eagle flying downstream in the vicinity of Appert Road.

The eagles' nests will be monitored on our future research dates:
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 31 Bald Eagles the following species were observed:

Canada Goose
American Black Duck
Mallard
Hooded Merganser



Common Merganser
Bald Eagle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Ring-billed Gull
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Northern Mockingbird
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
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
House Finch
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow