

## Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, 11 February 2024

The sixth in a series of eight Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trips, Search for Eagles, sponsored by the Brandwein Institute, took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 11, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Temperature at the start was 33 degrees and finish 40 degrees. The day which was overcast began with watching feeder birds at home and the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) that included, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown Creeper, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and Blue Jays. We logged 152 miles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic River from the Bushkill Access. The trip concluded along the headwaters of the Lackawaxen.

Jack Padalino, president emeritus of PEEC and Brandwein Institute, led the search that recorded 34 species of birds including 13 Bald Eagles, 8 Red-tailed Hawks, and 9 Common Ravens. Notable throughout the search were the large mixed flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles.

The first eagle we saw was in flight at Eshbacks. Next each of a pair of adult Bald Eagles was seen above two sides of the shale bank north of Tom's Creek. We relocated an eagle nest a few hundred yards north of Tom's Creek. At the Bushkill Access we added a juvenile eagle perched in a dead tree, American Crows, and hundreds of American Robins. No eagles at Eshbacks; however, it was here we saw our first mixed cloud of blackbirds. A Red-tail was at Heller's farm and an additional two were at Briscoe Mountain Road near PEEC. No eagles at the Dingmans Ferry Bridge. We searched the Dingmans Cemetery where previously we observed adult eagles perched and in flight. None were present; however, as we crossed Adam's Creek we spotted an adult Bald Eagle in flight. Our sixth Bald Eagle was spotted hunkered down in the nest near the river from RT 209 mile marker 16. Probably the same bird we saw there last search. At Milford Beach an adult eagle soared above as we added Eastern Bluebirds and Pileated Woodpeckers. No eagles along River Road. We checked the nest near the Pierce House but no eagles were present.



From the Kittatinny Camp Ground pull over we located a perched adult eagle north of us west of I 84 . No eagles the DV High School or behind the Best Western. Our next stop was the Riverview Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge, a gaggle of Canada Geese were there. We enjoyed a rest stop at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center and spotted two Red-tailed Hawks and a pair of Common Ravens. We checked the nest at the Port Jervis Laurel Grove Cemetery no eagles were seen there or from the Eddy Pond Resort overlook.

No luck at the Hawks Nest where on occasion we find a Peregrine Falcon; however, two Common Ravens flew above the ridge..



After we crossed the Mongaup River and checked the Indian Head PA nest, no luck, nor did we see any eagles on the way to the Mongaup Observation Blind. One eagle was perched in a tree then took flight above Plank Road. No sightings at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled upstream, crossed the Roebling Bridge into PA and parked in the observation area at the Zane Gray Museum. We added Red-tails, Ravens, and an adult eagle that soared high above. We traveled upstream and added our 11th eagle after we crossed the bridge over the Lackawaxen. The next eagle was not seen, but heard near Engvaldsen Road. The final eagle of the day was perched atop a metal utility near the intersection of Routes 6 and 402.

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

Sunday - February 18, 2024

Sunday - March 3 2024

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

In addition to the 13 Bald Eagles observed

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Common Merganser  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Morning Dove  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Blue Jay

American Crow  
Common Raven  
Carolina Wren  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
European Starling  
American Tree Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
White-throated Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow