

## Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, 4 February 2024

The fifth in a series of eight Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trips, Search for Eagles, took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, February 4, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Temperature at the start was 21 degrees and finish 40 degrees. The day which was crystal clear and sunny 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, Pileated Woodpecker, and Blue Jays. We logged 151 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 22 Bald Eagles many of whom were perched adults near or in the nests as well as three juveniles.

Our first pair of adult Bald Eagles was sighted high on the ridge above the shale bank north of Tom's Creek. The next pair of adult eagles was seen atop a metal utility pole at Fernwood. At the Bushkill Access we added Belted Kingfisher and American Crows. Two Common Ravens flew by as we passed the Valley Group Campground. No eagles at the access or at Eshbacks; however, we spotted Cedar Waxwings there.

The first Red-tail was seen just south of the Briscoe Mountain Road near PEEC. We searched the Dingmans Cemetery where previously we observed adult eagles perched and in flight. None were present. Our third pair of adult Bald Eagles was spotted from RT 209 mile marker 16, one was hunkered down in the nest near the river and the other perched on the ridge west of the highway. We added a perched Red-tailed Hawk at RT 209 mile marker 19.

No eagles at Milford Beach; however, it was here we located a Merlin at the top of a Norway Spruce. No eagles along River Road. We checked the nest near the Pierce House, it is huge, two eagles were present one in the nest and the other above it.

At the old nest site over the I-84 westbound lane across from the Kittatinny Camp Ground two eagles were soaring in a tight circle high above us. 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 juvenile eagle flew upriver from where we parked and landed on the Jersey side.



We enjoyed a rest stop at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center and spotted a Red-tailed Hawk perched on a lamp post. As we were leaving the center we spotted three eagles, two adults and a juvenile north of us over the river.

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. After we crossed the Mongaup River and checked the Indian Head PA nest we discovered an adult eagle perched above it.

As we were leaving the Mongaup Observation Blind we spotted two juvenile eagles in flight. A pair of eagles was perched in the same tree along Plank Road. No sightings at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled upstream. As we crossed the Roebling Bridge into PA two adult eagles flew above us and we watched them perch in the same tree. We traveled upstream along the Lackawaxen and added our 22nd eagle in the nest near Engvaldsen Road.



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

Sundays - February 11 & 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 22 Bald Eagles observed were:

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Common Merganser  
Pheasant  
Black Vulture  
Northern Harrier  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Ring-billed Gull  
Rock Pigeon  
Morning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Merlin  
Belted Kingfisher  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Carolina Wren  
Tufted Titmouse  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
American Tree Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
White-throated Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch