

## **Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, 14 January 2025**

The first in a series of five Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trips, Search for Eagles, sponsored by the Brandwein Institute, took place in the Delaware Valley Tuesday, January 14, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Temperature at the start and finish was 23 degrees.

The day which was from sunny to partly cloudy began with watching feeder birds at home adding the usual feeder bird suspects. Brown Creeper was notable. We logged 148 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 emerita of Brandwein Institute, led the search that recorded 26 species of birds including 17 Bald Eagles, 6 Red-tailed Hawks, and 5 Common Ravens.

Our first Bald Eagle was an adult perched above the shale bank north of Tom's Creek. Two more adults were spotted soaring over the ridge at the Bushkill Access where a flock of 50 American Robins were feeding. The first Red-tailed Hawk we saw was perched on a wire at Eshbacks. Two additional Red-tails were on RT. 209 near the access to PEEC. Next each of a pair of juvenile Bald Eagles was seen soaring above the fields proximal to Chestnut Ridge Road. As we traveled northward on 209 a Red-tail sprang from the shoulder with road kill in its talons. An adult Eagle was perched across the road on the ridge at the Dingmans Ferry Camp Ground.

The show of the day occurred at the Dingmans Ferry Bridge. Less than 50 yards upriver from the bridge on the ice near the Jersey shore was a dead deer. Three Common Ravens were feeding on it. They were soon displaced by an adult Bald Eagle. Perched in a Sycamore above the feeding eagle were two juvenile eagles who displaced the adult and began to feed on the deer. The adult took flight, was joined by an addition juvenile, both soared above the bridge.

No eagles were at the Dingmans Cemetery. We checked the mile marker 16 nest site a discovered that a second nest had been constructed above the previous one. No eagles were present. We spotted a raft of 20 Common Mergansers on the river. The mile marker 17 nest site is no longer, the nest is in shambles. No luck at Milford Beach. We checked the nest near the Pierce House no eagles. From the Kittatinny Camp Ground pull-over we located two Common Ravens above the ridge. 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 and where an adult Bald Eagle soared above.

We checked the nest at the Port Jervis Laurel Grove Cemetery no eagle there or at 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 an adult was perched a few hundred yards upriver. At Pond Eddy we spotted a juvenile eagle on the ice, then watched it fly upriver. We did not

see any eagles on the way to the Mongaup Observation Blind, on Plank Road or 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 where an adult eagle was perched at the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware.

We traveled upstream and added our 15th eagle, a juvenile soaring in the vicinity of Swinging Bridge. The next eagle was seen perched near Engvaldsen Road. The final eagle of the day was perched in a White Pine at Appert Road.

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

Sundays - February 2, 9, 16, 2025

Sunday - March 2, 2025

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 17 Bald Eagles observed

Canada Goose

Black Duck

Bufflehead

Hooded Merganser

Common Merganser

Wild Turkey

Black Vulture

Red-tailed Hawk

Morning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Brown Creeper

Black-capped Chickadee  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
European Starling  
Dark-eyed Junco  
White-throated Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
American Goldfinch