

Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, 4 January 2026.

The first in a series of four Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trips, Search for Eagles, sponsored by the Brandwein Institute, took place in the Delaware Valley Sunday, January 4, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Temperature at the start 17 degrees and finish was 25 degrees.

The day which was from sunny to partly cloudy to overcast began with watching feeder birds at home adding the usual feeder bird suspects. We logged 144 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 24 species of birds including 14 Bald Eagles, two juveniles and 12 adults, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, a Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and a Common Raven.

No eagles were at the Dingmans Bridge or Cemetery. We checked the mile marker 16 nest site and discovered that a second nest had been constructed above the previous one. Our first Bald Eagle was an adult perched near the double nests near RT 209 mile marker 16. 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. Two perched eagles along the river at the DV High School as well as a Red-shouldered Hawk. No eagles behind the Best Western or the Riverview Restaurant near where PA, NJ, and NY converge. We checked the nest at the Port Jervis Laurel Grove Cemetery no eagle there; however, it was here we added the waterfowl.

Our next eagle was a juvenile in flight over Flo and Heather's house at West End. 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 nest, no bird present. We did not see any eagles on the way to the Mongaup Observation Blind, on Plank Road but down stream the Rio Reservoir Dam we spotted a perched adult eagle..

We returned to the Delaware and traveled upstream, spotted a perched adult eagle near Indian Head Canoe livery and another at Pond Eddy. We crossed the Roebling Bridge into PA and parked in the observation area at the Zane Gray Museum where an adult eagle flew above us at the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware.

We traveled upstream and added two eagles perched high on the ridge in the same tree. The next eagle was seen perched near Engvaldsen Road. Another eagle was perched in a White Pine at Appert Road. The final eagle of the day was juvenile bird perched a few hundred yards upstream from Appert Road.

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

Sundays - January 18, February 1 & 15, 2026

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 14 Bald Eagles observed

Canada Goose

Mallard

Common Merganser

Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk

Cooper's Hawk

Rock Pigeon

Morning Dove

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch

Black-capped Chickadee

European Starling

Dark-eyed Junco

White-throated Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

American Goldfinch