

Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip 1 February 2026.

The second 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 February 1, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Temperature at the start was 3 degrees and at the finish was 16 degrees.

The day which was cold, clear and sunny began with watching feeder birds at home adding the usual feeder bird suspects. Red-shouldered Hawk at the bird bath was notable. We logged 150 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 23 Bald Eagles, 4 Red-tailed Hawks, and a Red-shouldered Hawk.

At Eshbacks we spotted a flock off 50 American Robins feeding on Stag Horn Sumac fruits. Our first pair of Bald Eagles were adults perched in the same tree at the ridge above the Bushkill Access. Further along the ridge was a perched Red-tailed Hawk. Near the access to PEEC we discovered a perched juvenile Bald Eagle.



Both the Bushkill and Dingmans Ferry accesses were closed. We decided to cross the Delaware on the Bridge to New Jersey and return. The show of the day occurred proximal and down river from the Dingmans Ferry Bridge. Two adults were perched on the Pennsylvania side with two additional eagles feeding on the ice beneath them.

No eagles were at the Dingmans Cemetery. We checked the mile marker 16 nest site a discovered where a second nest had been constructed above the previous one. No eagles were present. The mile marker 17 nest site is no longer. No luck at Milford Beach. We checked the nest near the Pierce House, an adult eagle flew above us toward the ridge.

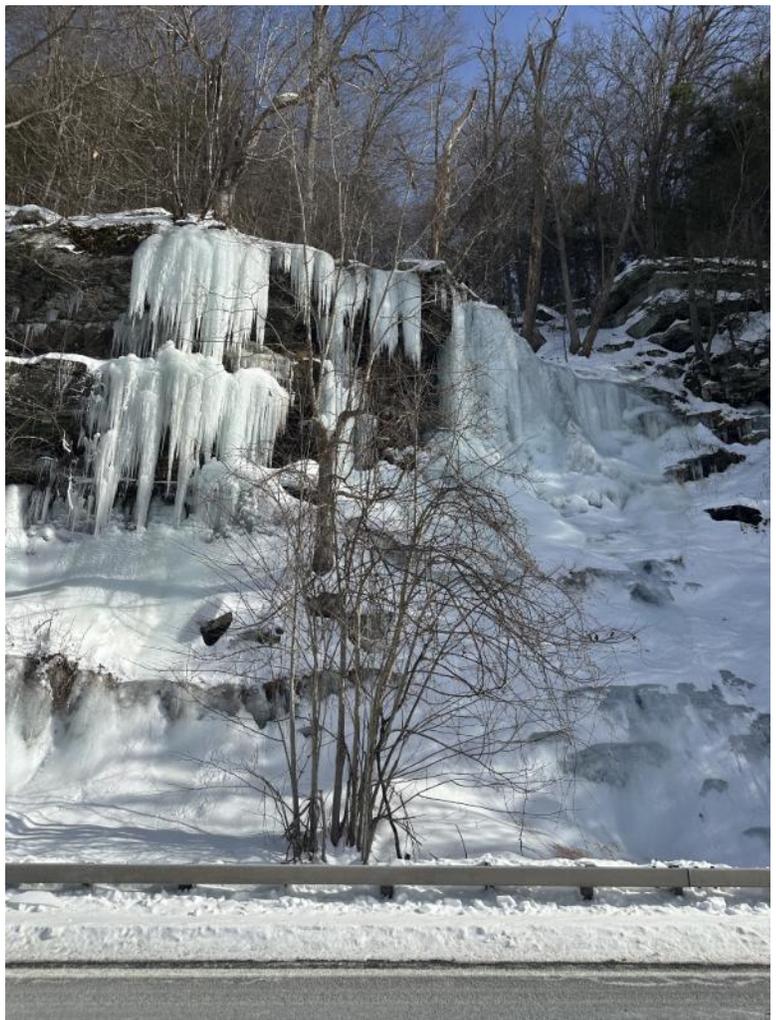
The DV High School yielded a perched Red-tailed Hawk that took flight. As we were leaving we spotted a juvenile eagle in flight. We watched it for about five minutes until it perched below the ridge. Walmart area, west of I 80 was where our fourth Red-tailed Hawk was perched. No luck behind the Best Western or at the Riverview Resort.

At the Port Jervis Laurel Grove Cemetery overlook where NJ, NY, & PA converge new spotted an adult eagle flying down river As we were leaving a juvenile eagle flew above us.

An adult eagle was flying near at the Eddy Pond Resort overlook.

No luck at the Hawks Nest where on occasion we find a Peregrine Falcon. After crossing the Mongaup River we checked the Indian Head PA nest. We did not see any eagles on the way to the Mongaup Observation Blind. On Plank Road we spotted two perched adult Bald Eagles. None were at the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled upstream at the Pond Eddy cliffs was an adult eagle in flight. North of the Roebling Bridge we passed a frozen waterfall. We crossed the bridge into PA and parked in the observation area at the Zane Gray Museum, had lunch, and two adult eagles flew above at the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware.





We traveled upstream and added our next perched eagle near the Rowland Bridge. Next eagle was in a nest in White Pine at Appert Road. Nearby we spotted a perched adult that took flight. An adult was perched above the three tiered nests at Field Bend Road, while two additional adults soared above.

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

Sundays - February 15 & 22, 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 23 Bald Eagles observed were:

Canada Goose
Black Duck
Bufflehead
Common Merganser
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Crow
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Black-capped Chickadee
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
European Starling
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
House Finch
American Goldfinch