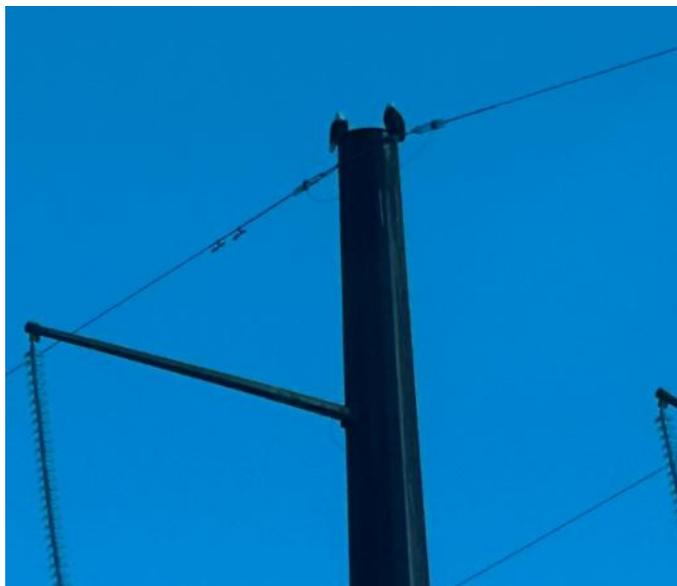


## Search for Eagles, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen - Memorial Field Trip Series, 15 February 2026

The third 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 15, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Temperature at the start 21 degrees and finish was 40 degrees.

The day which was partly cloudy to overcast began with watching feeder birds at home adding the usual feeder bird suspects. 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 30 species of birds including 25 Bald Eagles, 9 juveniles and 16 adults, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, and a Red-shouldered Hawk. New to the search was a Mute Swan.

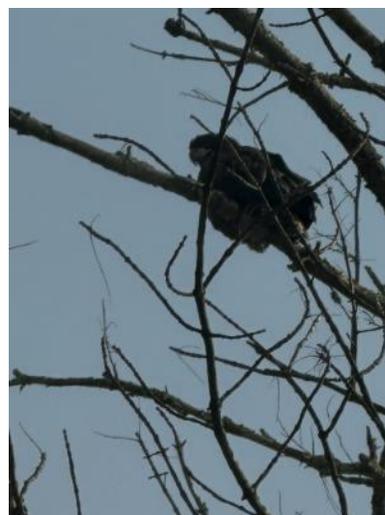
Our first pair of adult Bald Eagles were perched atop a high wire stanchion at Fernwood, now a Buddhist shrine. Bushkill Access yielded a female Common Merganser. Our first Red-tailed Hawk was perched near Chestnut Ridge Road. Near the Dingmans campground on the Route 209 shoulder was a dead deer.

Perched above the deer were three juvenile Bald Eagles, one of whom took flight while the other two remained perched. My guess is that the birds were feasting on the deer.

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. The mile marker 17 nest site is no longer; however, a Red-tailed Hawk was perched nearby. No luck at Milford Beach. We checked the nest near the Pierce House no eagles. An adult eagle was perched atop the ridge near the Kittatinny Campground. A juvenile eagle was in flight at the DV High School. An adult eagle was perched on the Jersey side behind the Shop Rite.

The Red-shouldered Hawk was spotted on a perch near Home Depot. 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 Mute Swan.

No luck at the Hawks Nest where on occasion we find a Peregrine Falcon. After we crossed the Mongaup River, spotted a perched adult and another in flight. Checked the Indian Head nest, no bird present. Proximal to the cliffs we spotted an adult eagle perched in a favorite tree at the Delaware. We





did not see any eagles on the way to the Mongaup Observation Blind where we saw two juvenile eagles in flight. Here's where we added the Red-breasted Nuthatch. No eagles on Plank Road or the Rio Reservoir Dam.

We returned to the Delaware and traveled upstream and spotted an adult eagle in flight near Pond Eddy, probably the bird we spotted perched earlier. We crossed the Roebling Bridge into PA and parked in the observation area at the Zane Gray Museum where two adult eagles flew above us at the confluence of the Lackawaxen and Delaware and we were treated to two Pileated Woodpeckers. We listed 15 eagles by the time we reached the Lackawaxen.

We traveled upstream and saw a juvenile in flight near Church Road. The next eagle was seen perched near Engvaldsen Road and another adult perched atop a dead tree. Further along was a perched adult and another in flight. Here's where we added Wild Turkeys. In the White Pine nest at Appert Road were two adult eagles, image attached. At the triple decker eagle nest on Field Bend Road were two adult eagles. Both took flight and one landed near us at the shore. The final eagle of the day was an adult perched in a tree over Route 739 next to Hemlock Farms Lake.



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

Sunday - February 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 25 Bald Eagles observed:

Mute Swan  
Canada Goose  
Black Duck  
Common Merganser  
Wild Turkey  
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  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
American Tree Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal