Daytripping for March will take us on an eagle watch trip. First a little background: Bald eagle nests abound along the Susquehanna River. There are over 300 active nests in Pennsylvania. Nest building and repairs on old nests has been happening since November or December. Eggs are laid in mid to late February and then hatch in mid to late March. Fledging happens in June but they continue to stop back at the nest.

The upper Delaware River and the Delaware Water Gap provide a chance of seeing the largest concentration of wintering bald eagles. As many as 200 birds winter here. Even though the migrants tend to leave the river by mid to late March, the river has a large population of year round resident birds.

The first place that is great to view the eagles is in Lackawaxen at the junction of the Lackawaxen and Delaware Rivers. Lackawaxen can by reached in 1 1/2 hours. Follow your GPS. If you need written directions, see me. The Lackawaxen area is situated on the Delaware River. It is a prime destination for kayaking, tubing, and rafting. There is a great picnic area with put in areas for the various water crafts.

Besides viewing eagles, the Zane Grey museum is located here. Zane Grey, famous author of Western novels of the early 1900's, lived in Lackawaxen from 1905 - 1918 in a farmhouse overlooking the rivers. In 1989, the National Park Service took over the museum that is in Grey's farmhouse. It is an interesting small museum that allows you to see the diverse life and character of one the popular and widely-read western writers. Last year the museum was open every Wednesday - Sunday from 10:00am - 4:00pm from Saturday of Memorial Day weekend to the end of September. Check the website for more information. https://www.nps.gov/upde/learn/historyculture/zanegrey.htm

Also in Lacawaxen is the Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct. It is the oldest existing wire suspension bride in the US. It runs 535 feet over the Delaware River from Pa to NY. It was built under the supervision of John A. Roebling, future engineer of the Brooklyn Bridge. It served as one of four suspension aqueducts on the Delaware and Hudson Canal. The Canal and Gravity RR was used to transport coal form the fields of NEPA to markets on the Hudson River. You can read more about the bridge at the National Park Service website: https://www.nps.gov/upde/learn/historyculture/roeblingbridge.htm/index.htm

If you have time, cross the Roebling Bridge into NY and turn left onto Route 97. Travel up the road a bit to Ten Mile River Road on your left. Turn left onto Ten Mile River Road and follow it along the river and then continue onto Hankins Road. This is a beautiful drive along the river. When you reach the end of Hankins Road, turn around and then bear right onto Crawford Road to return to Rt. 97.

Promised Land State Park has an active eagle nest viewing station. It is located on Lower Lake, Bear Wallow Road. The active bald eagle nest sits in a tree at the edge of Lower Lake. The nest is active by early spring when the lake's surface is not frozen. The nest can easily be seen in May before the leaves come out. After that, it is more difficult to see. To locate the nest, use the turtle-basking platform in the lake as a guide, then look between the second and third buoys and about halfway up the trees.(spotting is taken from PA Game Commission brochure - https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/BaldEagles/BaldEagleWatching/NortheasternPA/Pages/PromiseLandStatePark.aspx

The other place for eagle and other raptor viewing is south of here at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. It is located in Kempton, Pa a little over an hour drive from here. You can go down

through Weatherly or use the turnpike and get off at the Lehighton exit. It is southwest of that. Check your GPS.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary offers gorgeous views and great looks at many different raptors. They offer year-round hiking, birding, and hawk watching. They hike is pretty easy, somewhat uphill. There are several different lookout points. The 1st lookout is even handicap assessable. Then there are 3 other lookouts that are fairly easy to reach. Several of the other lookouts require climbing over boulders. The Trail System is found at https://www.hawkmountain.org/visit/hiking/trail-descriptions

The Center is open daily 9am - 5pm, with some days closed. See visitors guide: https://www.hawkmountain.org/visit/visiting-info/admission-hours You do pay for admission to the trails. You can tour the visitor's center for no cost and there is a Native Habitat Garden that you can tour. They do have Native Plant Sales in May and also September. See guide: https://www.hawkmountain.org/about/locations/native-habitat-garden

If you want to watch any of the eagle nests from the comfort of your home, PA offers 2 web cams on line. They are:

https://hdontap.com/index.php/video/stream/pa-farm-country-bald-eagle-live-cam

https://hdontap.com/index.php/video/stream/hanover-bald-eagle-nest-live-cam

Enjoy your bald eagle watching either on a road trip or in the comfortable chair.