

Wings, sand & song

Presque Isle's Habitat



Publicist:

**Presque Isle Audubon Society
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Filmmakers:

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"Wings" highlights the birds, habitat and hot spots of Presque Isle in all seasons. Experience the rich variety of Presque Isle's six distinct ecological zones including beaches, cattail islands, shrublands, aquatic habitats, and deciduous and pine tree forests.

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About the production:

The idea for "Wings" came from Janet Price, the President of the Presque Isle Audubon Society, in November 2006. She approached us in April of 2007, and both Ben and I were very enthusiastic about the project. By June, we had a contract signed and I began spending most daylight hours at Presque Isle looking for and filming birds.

We've had the help of many individuals in looking for specific species as well as locating nest sites. However, it's a matter of luck to find a bird nest. For the Yellow warbler I just happened to be looking in the right direction at the right moment to see the female coming and going from the same spot in a nearby shrub. Upon careful investigation we were able to witness and film her building a nest.

This project has been particularly challenging due to the many elements that are incorporated into the visuals and narration. The film focuses on not only the Avian life at Presque Isle and all four seasons, but also the numerous birding hot spots and habitats found there. With over 330 bird species documented at the peninsula, just the birds themselves were quite a list of things to do. Overall, we have had well over 60 shooting days, and about 700 hours editing the final film.

At a glance:

camera: Canon XL2, 40x, 16x & 3x lenses, Bogen tripods

sound equipment: Tascam DAP1, & Sennheiser stereo shotgun mic

editing equipment: Power Mac G5 with Final Cut Studio II, & Nuendo 2.1



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Synopses:

Presque Isle State Park has recorded over 330 bird species. Explore the top ten birding spots on the park, and the diverse environments ranging from beach to climax forest.

Presque Isle State Park (PISP) has six distinct ecological zones including: Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay & shoreline; sandplain & new ponds; dunes & ridges, old ponds & marshes; thicket & sub-climax forest; and climax forest. Due to the peninsula's geographic location and habitat diversity, PISP is a bird haven. Migrants feed and rest here, and many species also nest. At least 45 bird species of special concern utilize habitats at PISP. Journey through the unique habitats, during all four seasons, to view some of the most intimate moments of bird life: watch a Yellow Warbler build her nest, a Killdeer clutch hatch and take their first steps, Baltimore Oriole fledglings fed by their parents and a multitude of other species who call PISP their home--either for a brief moment during migration, or all year long.



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Film Credits

Narrator
Wally Faas

Aerial Photographs courtesy of
Aerocon Aerial Photography

Presque Isle vegetation & base map courtesy of
Pennsylvania Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources
Presque Isle State Park

Avian Migratory Route Data courtesy of
Kinard Boone
USGS WRC BBL

North America Relief Map
courtesy of
USGS National Atlas of the United States

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Presque Isle Boat Livery
for the canoe

Script
Mary Birdsong
Tracy Graziano
Linda S. McWilliams
Gerald M. McWilliams
Janet Price
Susan Smith

Tracy A. Graziano
Cinematography & Editing
Moonfire Film Productions

Benjamin M. Koncewicz
Camera Assistant, Grip & Zip Line design
Moonfire Film Productions

Camera & Sound Equipment
Canon XL2 Camera & Lenses
Bogen Tripods
Tascam DAP1
Sennheiser Stereo shotgun microphone

Post Production
Final Cut Studio II--Power Mac G5

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