



# TERN OF EVENTS



Presque Isle Audubon Society Membership Newsletter

April 2009

Issue 09:03

Our mission is to promote the conservation and protection of wildlife, plants, soil, and water in relation to human activity, to initiate and carry out plans and activities which would contribute to the conservation and protection of these natural resources; and to provide opportunities to become more aware and appreciative of our physical and biological environment.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Well, this is one of my last messages to all of you as there will be a new president at the beginning of our new Audubon year. I feel that another person should lend their expertise to continuing to grow the organization. A growth change that has just occurred is that we have our own website now. Joan Howlett has made the transition for us so notice the new website address at the top of the next column. I have also included the slate of nominees for offices to be filled at the next election. The by-laws call for a May election but, because the festival is our May program, we will have elections at the June meeting. At that time the new officers will take their positions. I thank all those who have agreed to be a nominee.

In the meantime, I'm again all excited about our second Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle! Our committee has been working hard on making this year's festival at least as good as last year if not better. We've taken into consideration some of the suggestions made by last year's participants, the major one being, "Have it again next year!" Other suggestions included using dishes and utensils that were environmentally friendly and that we did. Our Sunday afternoon free event for children was so successful that we are repeating that. As a result of the interest shown by the children and the families, we also included more field trips and a workshop during the festival as such just for the younger ones although children can attend any event on the schedule with parents.

If you need a festival brochure go to our website or pick one up at the TREC or at various locations in town. I wish a Happy Spring to everyone. Get out and enjoy Nature! It's the best medicine in the world!

**ATTENTION ALL PIAS MEMBERS-  
OUR CHAPTER HAS A NEW WEB ADDRESS.  
LOGON TO  
<http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org>**

## APRIL THINGS TO DO!



- April 7, Tuesday** - Birding Festival Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM at the TREC
- April 8, Wednesday** - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM at Quinn Firm
- April 9, Thursday** - Regional Science Consortium Speaker, David Frew, "Mysterious Long Point: Pirates, Shipwrecks, and Rich Guys" 7:30 PM at the TREC
- April 14, Tuesday** - Regional Science Consortium Speaker, Dr. Hazel Barton, "Search for Potential New Medicines in Cave Habitats" 7:00 PM at the TREC.
- April 17, Friday** - PIAS Monthly Meeting/ Program in Room 112 at the TREC. 7:00 PM Social/Meeting, 7:30 - "Audubon" at Home" by Steve Saffier from PA Audubon.
- April 18, Saturday** -Annual Hawk Watch sponsored by PIAS and DCNR at the TREC parking lot from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (P 3)
- April 21, Tuesday** - Birding Festival Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM at the TREC

## 2008-09 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Janet Price
Vice-President	Mary Birdsong
Secretary	Bonnie Ginader
Treasurer	Kel McDonald
Immediate Past President	Paul Burroughs

### Board of Trustees

2006-2009	Marion Gallivan
2006-2009	Terry Lobdell
2007-2010	Toby Cunningham
2007-2010	Ruth Swaney
2009-2011	Linda Donati
2009-2011	Tracy Graziano

### Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Pat Howell
Field Trips	Mary Birdsong
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & JoaoTaveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	Marian Gallivan
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Susan A. Smith
Programs	Tracy Graziano
Sales & Marketing	Jeanne Kern
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

The *Tern of Events* is published by the Presque Isle Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society and a member of Audubon Pennsylvania serving northwestern Pennsylvania including Erie and Crawford counties.

**Address:** 301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 8  
Erie, PA 16505

**Website:** [www.presqueisleaudubon.org/](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/)

## SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

Please note the following nominees for positions that need to be filled this year.

**President:** Mary Birdsong has served for the last two years as Vice President of PIAS, is an avid birder, and owns her own business.

**Vice President:** Paul Burroughs, an attorney who specializes in environmental issues, is a former President of PIAS and current chair of the PIAS Conservation Committee.

**Secretary:** Michele Franz is a Speech Language Pathologist and rehabilitation department coordinator. Michele is a very talented photographer of birds and nature.

**Treasurer:** Kel MacDonald currently serves as treasurer and is doing an excellent job. Kel is a retired Educator and well-known local artist.

**Trustee:** Kathy Kitchen is an insurance agent and active PIAS member.

**Trustee:** David Gustafson is Chair of the Biology Department of Gannon University and long-time PIAS member.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL

The planning of the 2nd Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle is progressing at full speed. The event will take place on May 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>.

As hospitality chair I'm asking for volunteers to bring side dishes and desserts **for just one meal**. It will be for the May 9th dinner on Sat.

Last year's evaluation comments from the participants of the Festival were very appreciative of the food donated by the members of our hosting Audubon Society. It gave variety and a homey feeling to the meals.

The name of contributors will be recognized in the Festival program. If you want to enlist in this undertaking please email me. State which food item (side dish or dessert) you would like to bring. Also a sign up sheet will be available at the PIAS monthly meeting. Thanks.

~Joao Tavares [jotdyt@verizon.net](mailto:jotdyt@verizon.net).



**BIRD SIGHTINGS FROM FEBRUARY 18  
TO MARCH 16, 2009**

The following birds of note were reported for Erie and northern Crawford counties:

**Snow Goose**—50+ (white); March 9; North East; J.L. 125+; March 15; Pymatuning, Crawford Co.; T.W.

**Mute Swan**—2; March 11; Misery Bay, Presque Isle State Park (PI SP); J.M.

**Merlin**—1; Feb. 18; Fairview Twp.; B.G. 1; March 4; junct. of 38<sup>th</sup> and Washington Streets, Erie; J.M. 1; March 11; near Duck Pond, PI SP; J.M.

**Sandhill Crane**—several; March 7 to at least March 14; near Crossingville, Crawford County; T.W., B.G. 1; March 14 or 15; Erie Natl. Wildlife Refuge, Crawford Co.; D.S. 7; March 14; over Long Pond, PI SP; S.G.

**Glaucous Gull**—total of 7; to at least March 10; Lake View Landfill & PI SP; J.M.

**Franklin's Gull**—1; Feb. 21; Lake View Landfill, near junct. of Robison Rd. and Rt. 97; J.M.

**California Gull**—1; Feb. 23 & 25; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

**Herring Gull** (dark-mantled)—1; Feb. 24 & 25; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

**Thayer's Gull**—up to 2; Feb. 20 to 25; Lake View Landfill and off Niagara boat launch, PI SP; J.M.

**Iceland Gull**—total of 7 or 8; to at least March 10; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—1; Feb. 20; Lake View Landfill; J.M. ;2; Feb. 24 to March 10; Lake View Landfill: J.M.



**Red-necked Grebe**—up to 2; March 5 to 12; Horseshoe Pond, Misery Bay, and off east pier, PI SP; J.M. & J.S. 1; March 11; Gull Point, PI SP; J.M.

**Northern Shrike**—1; Feb. 25; Waterford Twp.; T.W.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—1 male; Feb. 22 to at least March 2; Harborcreek; M.F.



**Northern Saw-whet Owl** —2; March 15; pines, PI SP; D.D.

**Northern Mockingbird**—1; March 15; Harborcreek; M.L.

**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco**—1 male; to at least March 14; Harborcreek; M.F.

**Common Redpoll**—19; Feb. 25; Washington Twp.; T.W.

Contributors: D.D.-Dave Darney, M.F.-Michele Franz, B.G.-Bonnie Ginader, S.G.-Steve Gosser, B.G.-Bob Grubbs, J.L.-Julie Leonard, M.L.-Mark Lethaby, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.S.-Don Snyder, J.S.-Jerry Stanley, T.W.-Tom Wasilewski

~Jerry McWilliams (Bird Records Chairman)  
814-868-3059 [jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL  
WEEKEND, MAY 8, 9, 10**

Lisa Danko needs volunteers for registration, coffee set-up at Rotary Pavilion, guides at the TREC, help with children's activities to name a few. You can get more information from Lisa at [lsdanko@hotmail.com](mailto:lsdanko@hotmail.com) or come to the April 17 PIAS meeting and sign up there.

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## HOW TO DRAW A BIRD

Our subdivision has produced its share of youngsters and I've always taken pride in my ability to know them through nature. I'd show them the "life" in my old dead tree or then numerous colorful wild flowers that suddenly burst out of my semi-manicured front lawn. Timmy, one of my youthful visitors, came over one day with a slightly worn sketch book and eagerly showed me sketches of some familiar garden flowers and backyard fallen leaves. "Not bad," I thought but his bird drawings were a different story.

With a frown he exclaimed "birds, they just don't stand still long enough to draw." "Ever hear about John James Audubon?" I asked. He was an American bird artist years ago -- best one we ever had and he had the same problem. No cameras then. But, he figured out a way to draw them. He rigged up a board with some nails and positioned a bird on them -- after he shot him. See, he figured out a way. Shooting song birds was okay back then. No rules - no laws - no understanding about conservation. Now, it's illegal. Later on, even Audubon reversed his thinking on killing birds. Lesson over and a satisfied feeling came over me.

A month later, while walking around the subdivision, I heard someone calling my name. I turned to see Timmy running pell-mell towards me. "Mr. Kern, Mr. Kern," he shouted. "We've got an albino pileated woodpecker in our backyard. Come on over and see him."



PILEATED WOODPECKER (ALBINO, NOT)

Wow, I was now as excited as Timmy. "He's been coming over for suet the last couple of weeks," he said. He got real close too. I'm starting to sketch him. Got him on the very 1st shot -- right in the head," he beamed. A needle-like shiver exploded throughout my body. "OH NO." There in the backyard on an old wooden

picnic table, next to a make-shift piece of pine board studded with nails, lay the stiff outstretched form of a once magnificent albino pileated woodpecker. My body sagged at the sight. I had failed. I was totally devastated and filled with disappointed. Explanations and talk would have to be given at another time. I turned to go and the I saw the last scene of this horrible act.

Attached to one leg was a short length of string ending with an all but too familiar -- white tag. The "collectors death tag," a small document which contained the data of life that the now dead object once owned. The visible side of the tag was blank. Begrudgingly, I picked up the tag and turned it over. It read, "April Fool."

(A bit of fiction by Chuck Kern)

## COUNTY OPENS RECYCLING CONVENIENCE CENTER



The Erie County Recycling Program (ECRP) will open the first centralized collection site "Convenience Center" in Northwestern PA on April 11, 2009. The Center will accept Electronics (e-waste) and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) free of charge from Erie County residents from 9am to 3pm on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month from April thru October in 2009. The Convenience Center is located at 1556 West 12th St., Erie (just off Greengarden between the Bayfront & 12th). The site will be staffed and operated by ECS&R of Cochran, PA that will provide collection, transportation, and recycling services for E-waste and HHW dropped off by county residents. Residents must register by calling 866-815-0016 before bringing items to the Center. The change to a centralized site was necessitated by the increasing demand for recycling of e-waste and HHW materials that could not be met by continuing to hold periodic collection events around the county. Future plans for the Center include the addition of collecting pharmaceuticals, white goods, and tires.

**MCKEEVER ENVIRONMENTAL  
LEARNING CENTER PROGRAMS**

55 McKeever Lane, Sandy Lake, PA 16145  
Phone 724.376.1000 Fax 724.376.8235  
[info@mckeever.org](mailto:info@mckeever.org) [www.mckeever.org](http://www.mckeever.org)

There will be two programs scheduled for the center in May and as a courtesy, we're advertising for them. The basic information is presented here but feel free to use the email address or the website address above if you need more information. The programs are as follows:

**Nature As A Guide for Dooryard Gardens:  
The Neotropical Avian Connection  
May 8 - 9, 2009  
Act 48 - 12 hours**

Dr. Gene Wilhelm, retired Professor of Environmental Sciences at Slippery Rock Univ. The cost is \$95.00 per participant and includes Friday night lodging, meals (supper on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday), instruction and materials. Registration is required for this workshop.

**Spring Birding Program  
May 15-16, 2009  
Act 48 - 8 hours**

Tony Piccolin will be our guide for this program. The cost is \$65.00 per participant and includes Friday night lodging, meals (breakfast, lunch and snacks on Saturday), instruction and materials. Registration is required for this workshop.

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**



Professor David J. Gustafson and Professor Steven J. Ropski from the Biology Department of Gannon University will be conducting their annual biological travel study program this year from June 14 through June 25. Graduate and Undergraduate Credits are available as well as Act 48 Credits. For more information call Dave at 814.871.7636 or Steve at 814.871.7637.



Be a supporter of this year's event. Register or become a sponsor. Go to [presqueisleaudubon.org](http://presqueisleaudubon.org) for information.

The Presque Isle Audubon Society's newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, is published monthly, except in July and January. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. All published material subject to editing.

Send submissions to Janet Price, editor, via [jrplkm@aol.com](mailto:jrplkm@aol.com) or 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. If you have any questions, call Janet at 814.825.8394.

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ERIE, PA 16505

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**Presque Isle Audubon Society  
Chapter Only Membership Application**

Chapter only membership includes membership in the Presque Isle Audubon Society ONLY and the chapter newsletter *Tern of Events*.

Individual membership     \$10.00/year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your preference:

\_\_\_\_\_ Paper copy of *Tern of Events* OR

\_\_\_\_\_ On-line *Tern of Events* with email notification

Please return this form with your check payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society to:

Ronald Intrieri, Membership  
Presque Isle Audubon Society  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center  
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8  
Erie, PA 16505

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

Please enroll me as a New member in the National Audubon Society. Membership includes membership in BOTH the National Audubon Society and the local Presque Isle Audubon Society. National members receive *Audubon Magazine* (6 issues per year) and the monthly newsletter *Tern of Events*.

Introductory membership     \$20.00

Renewals     \$35.00

Students and seniors     \$15.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Code U157XCH

Please mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to:

National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51101  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

Renewal members will receive a coupon mailed to them by National. Please write the code number U157XCH on your renewal application.