



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2010 ISSUE 10:03

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

I just ordered my seeds (can you feel my grin from there?). If you're a gardener, you know what this means: great anticipation and many pleasant outdoor chores ahead. And, indeed, this time of year offers so many things to do. Besides those seeds to start and warblers to chase and spring cleaning to accomplish, Audubon has cooked up a wealth of opportunities, just take your pick:

On Friday, April 16, our monthly meeting will feature master falconer and eagle educator Michael W. Kuriga, who will be bringing a live eagle and talking about falconry and all things raptors. The very next day, Saturday April 17, we are hosting, in conjunction with DCNR, our 6th Annual Hawk Watch at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center from 9 am to 1 pm. Tamarack Wildlife Rehab and Education Center will be on hand with more live raptors. (See more info page 3)

Of course, the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle is May 7 through the 9. The festival offers many opportunities to have fun of one sort or another. You can come for the whole weekend if you so desire or sign up for one day or half day or just one meal. Whatever you do, consider coming to hear keynote speaker Bridget Stutchbury. She spoke at our annual banquet a few years ago, right after her book, *Silence of the Songbirds* was released. Now, her latest, *The Bird Detective*, is being released. Her address on Saturday night of the festival will be exploring "the secret lives of birds." Hmm...I wonder what they have to hide?

Another fun event—one that I am really looking forward to, is a field trip to Laura Olsen

Sanctuary on May 15. This 51 acre property was purchased by our chapter in the 1960s. It includes a small wetland area and forested ravines. I visited it for the first time last August (see the PIAS blog for an account and photos) and the wetland area was thick with jewelweed, goldenrod and joe-pye weed. We saw a barred owl, which was pretty exciting. Now, it promises spring woodland flowers and other emerging plant life as well as migratory songbirds.

A little farther afield, but worth the journey is the 52nd Annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage June 4-6. This venerable weekend offers a host of activities, including (but not limited to!) nature and bird walks, programs and demonstrations, family fun, music and good food. The weekend is the result of a lot of dedication by a great crew of volunteers from the Buffalo and Jamestown Audubon Society, the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and Steve and Lisa Danko from our own Presque Isle Audubon. Thank you for your many years of service to this event! (Cont. on Page 2)

APRIL THINGS TO DO!

April 10, Saturday - Piping Plover Monitoring Training Session for Volunteers: 9:30 - 3:00 at the TREC (See Page 3)

April 14, Wednesday - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM at Quinn Firm

April 16, Friday - PIAS Monthly Meeting and Program: Live Eagle Program (See Page 3)

April 17, Saturday - 6th Annual Hawk Watch: 9am - 1 pm. at the TREC. (See Page 3)

April 20, Tuesday - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting: 6:00pm at the TREC.

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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

Phone: 814-860-4091

Website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Last but not least, mark your calendar for June 13, when Audubon, with a little help from the French Creek Valley Conservancy, will take you down French Creek (hopefully with a paddle). Plans are still in the works, but the day will probably start around 10 am and end around 2 pm and the trip will traverse parts of French Creek in Crawford County. You just need to bring a lunch, and a canoe or kayak if you have one. If you don't have one and want to go, don't despair—we're hoping people have an extra spot in theirs or those who can't make it will lend theirs to those of us (including me) lacking one. Stay tuned for more info. Many thanks to John Tautin for his coordination efforts. If everything works out, we may be joined by someone from The Nature Conservancy to help us understand the unique biodiversity surrounding us that day.

And before I run off to start planning my garden and try to figure out how I am going to have time for all these fabulous outings, I want to take a few minutes more here to congratulate member, and board trustee, Tracy Graziano. Her film "Wings, Sand & Song" (the DVD that PI Audubon commissioned for the first Festival of the Birds in 2008) won an honorable mention for natural sound at the International Wildlife Film Festival. This is the country's oldest and most prestigious wildlife film festival. This is big news and we're so proud! Our heartiest congratulations, Tracy!

Now, with calendar in one hand, rake in the other and binoculars hanging around my neck, I stand poised and ready to rush headlong into spring. Let's get the most out of it together, shall we?

~Mary Birdsong, President of PIAS

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER!

May 7-9, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle. Get information at our festival website:

<http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/festival>

May 15, Saturday - Field Trip to Laura Olson Sanctuary. Details in the May Tern of Events.

May 18, Tuesday - PIAS Board Meeting

May 21, Friday - Members' Night at PIAS Monthly Meeting (See page 5)

MASTER FALCONER PRESENTS LIVE EAGLE PROGRAM
PIAS MONTHLY PROGRAM
Friday, April 16
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Michael W. Kuriga, Master Falconer and Eagle Educator will present "The Eagle" on Friday, April 16th at 7:30pm at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. For close to thirty years, Kuriga, from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, has been training and hunting with a variety of raptors. Practicing the ancient art of falconry has been his passion and has taken him all over the world in pursuit of this noble art form.



During the presentation, Kuriga will share some of his many adventures with eagles and discuss their ecology and physiology. He will bring a live bald eagle he is handling, relating stories about it and other birds of prey he has flown, and stories of the many interesting individuals that share his love of raptors. Cameras with flash are allowed. For more information:

<http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org>



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SIXTH ANNUAL HAWK WATCH
Saturday, April 17
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Hawk Watch is a free family event sponsored by the Presque Isle Audubon Society and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on Saturday, April 17 anytime between 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. We will be counting and viewing hawks, eagles and other birds of prey as they migrate along the Lake Erie shoreline, participate in fun family birding activities occurring throughout the grounds, and discover all that the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) has to offer.

Experts with binoculars and spotting scopes will be on hand to identify the hawks and other migrating birds. Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center will be at the event with live educational raptors: Barred Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Red Tailed Hawk, Saw Whet Owl, Merlin and Cooper's Hawk. No registration is required. Meet at the TREC. For more information contact Susan A. Smith, 860-4091 or ssbirding@gmail.com.

WANT TO JOIN THE PLOVER PATROL?



Training Session for Volunteer Monitors for Piping Plovers will be held on Saturday, April 10th, 2010, at the TREC from 9:30 to 3 PM. Lunch will be provided. In the morning we will be indoors and learn about the Federally Endangered Great Lakes Population of Piping Plovers. In the afternoon we will walk the designated critical habitat area and practice reading color bands. Volunteer monitors are asked to make a commitment of continuing to help with the monitoring on a regular basis through the end of June. Space is limited, so please respond as soon as possible to Sarah Sargent, 814-232-3300, ssargent@audubon.org.

**BIRD REPORT FROM MID-FEBRUARY TO
MARCH 20, 2010**

Northern Shoveler—1 male; Feb. 23 (early); channel; J.M. (See Below)



Harlequin Duck—1 adult male; Feb. 20 to at least March 14; channel & Presque Isle Bay; M.V., et al.

White-winged Scoter—up to 2; to at least Feb. 23; channel; J.M.

Turkey Vulture—1; Feb. 19 (early); Old Waterford Rd.; E.C.

Peregrine Falcon—1 adult; March 10; DEP building, Meadville, Crawford Co. (very rare in Crawford Co.); B.V.

Sandhill Crane—4; March 7; Presque Isle Hawkwatch, Tom Ridge Environmental Center; J.M.

Iceland Gull—total of 5; to March 6; Lake View Landfill & Presque Isle Bay; B.C., J.M.

Glaucous Gull—total of 4; to March 6; Lake View Landfill & Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

Probable Great Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull—1; Feb. 16; Lake View landfill; J.M.

Snowy Owl—1; to March 6; Springboro; m.ob.

Northern Shrike—2; Feb. 15; Roderick Wildlife Reserve (SGL # 314); T.W. 1; Feb. 24; Siegel Marsh; R.H.

Eastern Towhee—1; Feb. 13; near cabins at Presque Isle; M.F.

Fox Sparrow—1; at least Feb. 15 & 16; near Edinboro; G.N. (See Below)



Black Vulture—1; March 18; Presque Isle Hawkwatch; J.M.

Sandhill Crane--2; March 17; Presque Isle Hawkwatch; J.M.

Pine Siskin--2; March 17; Fairview; P.H.

Snow Goose--3 intermediate morph; March 19; Presque Isle Hawkwatch; J.M.

Contributors: E.C.-Ellie Cullen, M.F.-Mike Fialkovich, R.H.-Ross Hollenbeck, P.H.- Pat Howell, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, G.N.-Gail Neelys, M.V.-Mark Vass, B.V.-Bob Voegelé, T.W.-Tom Wasilewski, m.ob.-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chairman
814-868-3059 jerrymcw@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hello everyone. I hope everyone gets a chance to do some birding with the migrants passing thru. We want to mention all the new members and the Chapter only members who rejoined. When you join National Audubon, you are also a member of our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon.

Erie: Dolly Abbott-Traut, Marion Armstrong, Lorin Blakeslee, Joy Borreli, Alfred Brosig, Marilyn Cain, Jack Gold, Jeffery Hancock, Paula Hannah, Bambi Palloto, Jane Schaaf, Leslaw Strazek, Alice White, and Susan Zill.

Chapter members who joined or rejoined: Kenneth and Nancy Andersen, Marion and Bob Gallivan, Helen Molder, and Don Nixon

Centerville: Sonja Hartsell

Edinboro: Stephanie Tsepelis

Fairview: Lee Farley, Michael Morrison, Candy Tompkins

Lake City: Thelma Mitchell

Meadville: Darlene Adams

North East: Godfrey Oertel

Sherman, NY: Rita Carden

Warren: Richard Allen

NOTE: All National Audubon members who rejoin please put our chapter code on your membership application, which is COZU150Z.

~Ronald Intriери, Membership Chair
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

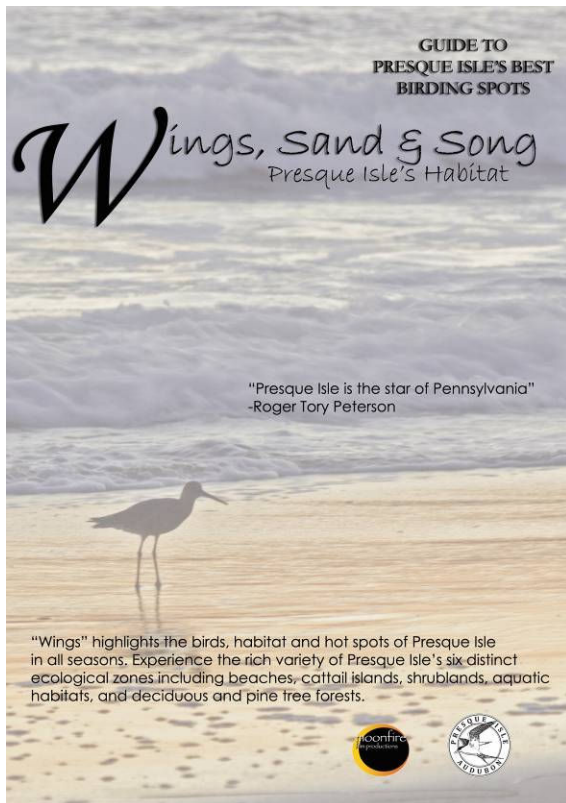
"WINGS, SAND & SONG: PRESQUE ISLE'S HABITAT" WINS at FILM FESTIVAL!



All of the members of Presque Isle Audubon congratulate Tracy Graziano for producing such a fanatastic film. We are proud of you and hope that this is the first of many more awards!

From: International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula, Montana

"Wings, Sand & Song: Presque Isle's Habitat" wins Honorable Mention in Natural Sound. The International Wildlife Film Festival is celebrating its 33rd year, and is the oldest wildlife film festival in the United States.



"Wings, Sand & Song" was produced in 2007-2009 for the Presque Isle Audubon Society. The film is a celebration of the diversity of bird life at Presque Isle State Park—one of the nations top ten birding sites. This 70-minute documentary

covers all four seasons, and takes the viewer through six distinct ecological zones. Four habitats are unique to Presque Isle and are found nowhere else in the state.

"Wings" is a guide to the birding hotspots at Presque Isle—essentially a field guide in the form of a film. It premiered at Presque Isle Audubon Society's Festival of the Birds, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. The film is narrated by Erie's own Wally Faas of WQLN radio and produced by Erie natives Tracy Graziano and Benjamin Koncewicz of Moonfire Film Productions. This film took one year, 80 shooting days, and well over 700 editing hours to complete.

"Wings, Sand & Song: Presque Isle's Habitat" is presently for sale at the Big Green Screen Theatre's concession. Also, an order form for the film can be found on Presque Isle Audubon's website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org

For more information about the film and the festival, check these websites:

Moonfire Film Productions:

<http://www.moonfirefilms.com>

International Wildlife Film Festival:

<http://www.wildlifefilms.org/festivals>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS AT PRESQUE ISLE

The planning of the 3rd Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle is progressing at full speed. The event will take place on **May 7, 8, and 9**.

As hospitality chair I'm asking for volunteers to bring side dishes and desserts **for just one meal**. It will be for the May 8th dinner on Saturday.

Previous years' 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.

MEMBERS' NIGHT
FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

Now is the time to begin thinking about your Members' Night presentation which is scheduled for our May PIAS meeting. This is the night when you, our members, comprise the program. Our membership boasts an embarrassment of riches -- photographers, artists, story tellers, poets, musicians, tree, flower, fish and bat enthusiasts, amateur and expert birders, ornithologists, herpetologists, entomologists, world and domestic travelers, art & crafters, master gardeners and so many more. Let us enjoy your talents and activities. Remember, anything shared is doubly enjoyed. We welcome all nature-related interests.

Your adherence to the five (5) minute time limit will ensure a pleasant experience for your fellow presenters and the audience.

To participate in this entertaining and informative evening, please call me at 474-3395. If I am not available, please leave your name and number on Caroline Reichel's answering machine, 868-4423, and I will get back to you.

As always, we appreciate the continued participation of our veteran presenters and are eager to welcome new ones. Don't be shy. You will enjoy the experience. Let's make this a great Members' Night! Please let me hear from you.

~Jeanne Kern, Coordinator, Members' Night

BIRDERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH POINT COUNTS AT RODERICK WILDLIFE PRESERVE, PIAS'S IMPORTANT BIRD AREA

During the month of June we will make 3 or 4 visits to Roderick which is located near the Ohio state border. We meet at Roderick at 6:00 AM to form teams and then disperse to do counts in 20 designated spots. It's a fun way to hone your skills while collecting data about the birds using the various habitats at Roderick.

Interested? Send an email stating your phone number, what mornings of the week are best for you, and also dates you would not be available during June.

~Pat Howell, IBA Chair
pah20@verizon.net

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011

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

Vice President: Paul Burroughs, an attorney who specializes in environmental issues, is a former President of PIAS and current Vice President and 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 and served last year as our chapter secretary.

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

Trustee: Mathew Phillips has over ten years experience working for the US Forest Service and USGS and various universities across the United States. He was responsible for conducting point counts, banding breeding and migratory birds as well as conducting nest searches and gathering other breeding bird information. As a member of PIAS he looks forward to getting involved with the conservation of our local avian population. He is currently a State Farm insurance agent in Erie.

Trustee: Michael Plylor is an avid birder and outdoorsman and an active member of PIAS. He has conducted IBA bird counts at Roderick Wildlife Preserve and has volunteered for various duties during our two birding festivals.

BE A BIRDING FESTIVAL SPONSOR

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - \$1000

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - \$500

BLACK-THROATED BLUE - \$250

YELLOW WARBLER - \$125

Note: A registration is included in the sponsor donation.

Choose your sponsor level, write a check for that amount and send it to:

Kel McDonald, PIAS Treasurer
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite #8
Erie, PA 16505

**PIAS BALD EAGLE WATCH PROGRAM
RESULTS FOR 2009
By Tom Wasilewski**

The fourth year (2009) of our program of monitoring bald eagle nests was the best year we have seen for eaglets fledging the nests. For the year, six of eight nests monitored were successful and eleven eaglets fledged those nests. Two nests in Erie County failed just at or after the critical hatch date and possible reasons for the failures were: disturbance by hunters; an attacking eagle; raccoon intrusion; lead or chemical poisoning etc. We want to thank Susan Smith for coordinating our contact with a landowner to confirm a new nest in the Albion area. It is located beside a beautiful and almost inaccessible swamp and in its first year of 2009 the nest was reported to the PA Game Commission (PGC).

One of several good stories for the year was when the PGC stepped in to cite a man for cutting firewood next to a tree with an active nest during the critical period of the incubation of the eggs. The man was fined by the District Magistrate. The nesting effort of the eagles, thanks to the PGC, was successful and three eaglets fledged the nest. This nest also fledged three eaglets in 2008-a real rarity for bald eagles to fledge three young two years in a row.

Also deserving thanks for their efforts in reporting eagle sightings, sharing photos of nests (taken at safe distances so as not to disturb the eagles), and helping us explore areas were PIAS members: Paul Burroughs, Michele Franz, Tim Lyons, Sue Murawski, Wendy Campbell, Marcia Carone and students from Seton School in Meadville.

Two active nests in eastern Erie County-the Harborcreek and North East nests- could not be monitored because the landowners would not allow it and the nests are in difficult terrain and cannot

be seen from roads. Michele Franz did hear that the Harborcreek nest fledged two eaglets (unconfirmed). These nests are the most important to monitor for research purposes because these eagles are dependent on fish from Lake Erie waters. We know fish from these waters may be affected by avian botulism, lead and mercury pollution etc. If you would like to join our team; wish to report significant eagle sightings; or just like to talk about eagles-please phone Bob (Eagle Bob) Gross at 814.868.7499.
~PIAS Bald Eagle Watch Team

**FIELD CLASSES IN BIRD IDENTIFICATION
INSTRUCTOR: JERRY McWILLIAMS
April and May, 2010**

Something new: If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or friends who are in grade school, high school, or college, they are welcome to attend the classes with you for **FREE**.

Class schedule:

Saturday, April 3-----7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday, April 10-----7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday, April 17-----7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday, April 24-----7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday, May 1 ----- 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday, May 8-----7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday, May 15-----7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday, May 22-----7:30 AM to 11:30 AM

These classes are informative and fun. They are paced to suit everyone's learning skills.

Meeting place for all classes will be at the second parking lot on the right after you enter the park.

Sign-up cost for all eight classes is \$185.00.

Sign-up cost for each class attended is \$30.00 per person.

Payment should be paid in advance by sending a check to Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd, Erie, PA 16508-2129, 814-868-3059

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 editor@presqueisleaudubon.org 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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Individual membership \$10.00/year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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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 C9ZU150Z

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

National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2250

Renewal members will receive a coupon mailed to them by National. Please write the code number C9ZU150Z on your renewal application.