



TERN OF EVENTS



Presque Isle Audubon Society Membership Newsletter

December 2008

Issue 08:10

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

Something that has impressed me as I've been reading emails, newspapers and magazines lately is the number of articles dealing with the "greening" of America and of the world in general. I think back to a year ago when this issue was in its infancy and when it was rare that the media covered "green" issues. Now you can find one articles just about every day and I believe that the efforts of those in the conservation and environmental groups have begun to make their desired impact. I realize that there is much for all of us to do before we can begin to see our planet regain its health but education and awareness are the first steps. Next, we can further this positive change by our actions. Those of us who understand the importance of conservation and know some of the steps to take to achieve this can become an influence to others to follow suit but each of us has to put that knowledge into action and to encourage others to do the same. Some practical suggestions to consider during this holiday season come to mind.

- Minimize the amount of wrapping paper you use by replacing the paper with and saving gift bags.
- Recycle the wrapping paper that you do use as well as the cardboard boxes and accompanying plastic.
- Purchase energy saving Christmas lights or limit the amount of lights you use as well as the amount of time the lights are lit.
- Plan your shopping trips so that gas use and mileage are at the lowest level.

Finally, take the time to share what you have and to promote peace and love among all with whom you come in contact this season.

~Janet Price, President of PIAS

DVD SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER FROM PIAS - SEE PAGE 7



THINGS TO DO!

- December 9, Tuesday** - "Pigs at Sea: the Sinking of the James B. Colgate" by David Frew at 7:00pm at the TREC (P 7)
- December 9, Tuesday** - Birding Festival Committee Meeting, 6:00pm at the TREC
- December 10, Wednesday** - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00pm at Quinn Firm
- December 16, Tuesday** - Christmas Party, Noon at the TREC (Cost: \$5.00)
- December 20, Saturday** - Christmas Bird Count, 7:00am at the Ranger's Station (P 5)
- December 25, Thursday** - Christmas all day.
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!
- January 6, Tuesday** - Birding Festival Committee Meeting at 6:00pm at the TREC
- January 15, Thursday** - Bluebird Trail Committee Meeting, 11:00am at the TREC
- January 20, Tuesday** - Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 pm at the TREC
- January 27, Tuesday** - Birding Festival Committee Meeting, 6:00pm 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

Phone: 814-860-4091

Website: www.presqueisle.org/audubon

NOVEMBER RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

Sightings are from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Snow Goose (white)—10; Nov. 21; Sunset Pont; waterbird count (WC); J.M. (See below)



Rough-legged Hawk—1; Nov. 17; Union City; R.S.

Merlin—1; Nov. 22; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Glaucous Gull—1; Nov. 23; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Common Raven—1; Nov. 8 or 9; Union City; D.P.

Northern Shrike—1; Nov. 13; Franklin Center; J.D.



NORTHERN SHRIKE

"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco —1 male; Nov. 17 to at least Nov. 23; Harborcreek ; M.F.

Pine Siskin—4 or 5; Nov. 17; Union City; D.P.
40+-; Nov. 23; Pine Tree Trail; L.M.

Contributors: J.D.-Julie Dell, M.F.-Michele Franz, L.M.-Larry Massey, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.P.-Donna Peters, R.S.-Russ States

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chairman

jerrymcw@aol.com

814-868-3059

ADVOCACY CORNER

By Toby Cunningham

In one of my previous columns I wrote about the downside of wind energy farms: bird collisions. It had to do primarily with their siting. The problem is to get the wind companies to acknowledge this and make accommodations. There is another matter that needs attention dealing with bird collisions. This time with glass. Window glass.

Picture a bird flying at full speed trying to get to a tree it sees ahead. It gets closer and closer and then—Blam! It crashes into the window reflection it had seen. Perhaps the last thing it would ever see. Varying estimates by Dr. Daniel Klem of Muhlenberg College who has studied bird and window impacts for more than twenty years, put the numbers between ninety million and one billion bird mortalities a year in the United States.

Consider the construction of office buildings and other commercial buildings in cities. They seem to include more and more glass in their designs. It looks nice, it lets more warming rays in during winter and allows the growth of green plants inside. But unless constructed so that the glass is slanted downward it provides a perfect recipe for bird disasters. When you know of new building construction in your area, try to persuade the governing body to instruct the contractor to do the right thing for birds.

But the most damage done by window glass can be laid at the doorstep of homeowners. There are several ways one can make windows more bird-friendly. The most effective thing is to apply netting outside windows. At first this sounds as though it would be unsightly, but it really isn't if done right. Go to a garden supply store or a store like Lowe's or Home Depot and ask for garden netting. It is plastic, has a mesh size of about an inch and is very strong. The simplest way of installing is to put small nails around the perimeter of the window in the frame and stretch the netting between the nails. The key word here is **stretch**, as that will make the netting taut like a trampoline. If a bird collides with it, there should be no injury because the bird will have been bounced back.

One important thing to remember is that the netting when stretched should be at least an inch or two away from the window. **If your house has screens that attach to the outside of the windows there is no need for the netting since the screen will serve the same purpose.** If you wish to be more elaborate you can make a frame that exactly fits the outside of your windows, nail the netting to that, then put the whole frame in place. It would make for a little neater appearance. We have netting stretched across our windows which don't have outside screens and I can attest to their working extremely well.

If a bird should collide with a window hard enough to stun it and you can see that it is still living, place the bird in a small box, or paper bag, or under an overturned box, colander or other vessel to keep cats and other predators away. Keep in a cool place. Do not try to feed or force water into its beak. If the bird becomes alert in an hour or less, release it. If it does not recover in more than an hour or is obviously seriously injured call the wildlife rehabilitator in your area. In our area it would be Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, 21601 Stull Rd., Saegertown, PA. 814-763-2574. The rehabilitator is Sue DeArment.

Here are some websites that will give you additional suggestions on how to make your premises bird-friendly:

<http://www.sialis.org/windowstrikes.htm>

<http://www.abcbirds.org/conservationissues/threats/buildings.html>

http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/backyard_birds/top_ten/current.aspx





Presque Isle Audubon Society
 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Ste. 8
 Erie, PA 16505

"Wings, Sand & Song: Presque Isle's Habitat" 70 minutes
 DVD ORDER FORM

QTY	Item	Total								
	"Wings" DVD \$15 each									
checks can be made out to "Presque Isle Audubon Society"										
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Ship to:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Name</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Street Address</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City, State Zip</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>			Ship to:		Name	_____	Street Address	_____	City, State Zip	_____
Ship to:										
Name	_____									
Street Address	_____									
City, State Zip	_____									
	To Pick Up (check this box)									
	Shipping	\$5.95								
	Grand Total									

Have it signed by the filmmakers!!!	Please fill out the following information
Addressed to (for example To Mary:...)	
Any particular message you would like:	

RECEIPT

DVD Order "Wings, Sand & Song: Presque Isle's Habitats"
 from the Presque Isle Audubon Society, www.presqueisle.org/audubon
 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Ste. 8
 301 Peninsula Drive
 Erie, PA 16505

QTY Ordered	
-------------	--

Shipping?	Y / N
-----------	-------

TOTAL	
-------	--

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008**

It's time again for the Christmas Bird Count. This year marks the 109th count and the Presque Isle count has been held for nearly 50 years. In 1901 when Dr. Chapman started the first Christmas Bird Count, he was presenting an alternative to a holiday tradition called the 'side hunt'. That first count had 27 participants and 25 separate counts which recorded a total of 90 species. Their original list can be seen by going to www.birdscope.com. Click on 'Christmas Bird Count' and then click on 'history' to read more.

Today the data we collect is used in scientific studies like the ones taking place in Mississippi and Louisiana. Their CBC data is being used to determine how bird species were affected by the hurricane and how they are recovering. There are also other studies based on CBC data, examples being studying irruptive boreal species or more general studies like keeping track of bird populations and their distribution in the western hemisphere.

I mentioned last month that the Christmas Count was a great way to get introduced to birding on the next level. If you are a new birder and would like to add to your life list, we could use your help. If you are an experienced birder, we need your knowledge and trained eyes.

On Saturday, December 20th, we will meet at the Ranger's Station (Old Administration Building) between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. for sign in and to determine who will cover which areas. We will then break up into groups, survey our areas and then meet back at the Administration Building for

lunch. We will continue the count until 5:00 p.m. and then meet at Hoss's for dinner and to tally our count.

It would be great if we could add some feeder watchers this year. If you are within the circle and would like to count feeder birds for us, please

contact me and I will give you details. Also, I have included the count circle map. (See below)

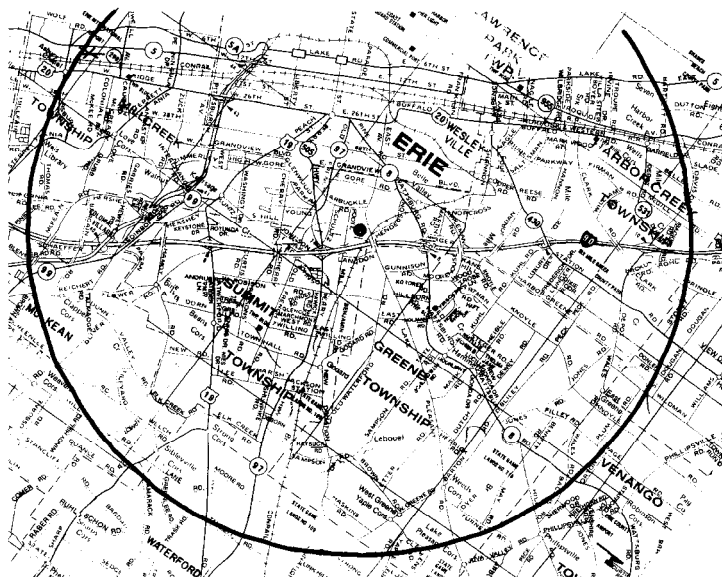
**DATA FROM THE PRESQUE ISLE
AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 2007 CHRISTMAS
BIRD COUNT**

Count Date:	December 15
Number of Participants	27
Number of Party Hours	43.5
Number of Species Reported	82

Participants:

Henry Chupp	Jacob Miller
Ben Coulter	Steven Miller
Toby Cunningham	Barb Mitchell
John DePaul	Harold Otto
Adam Erb	Karen Otto
Emmanuel Erb	Malcolm Pollard
Stephen Erb	Janet Price
Richard Farver	Susan Smith
Chuck Gehringer	Don Snyder
Bonnie Ginader	Ruth Swaney
Janice Grindle	Joao Tavares
Pat Howell	Andrew Troyer
Albert Massey	Marcus Troyer
Jerry Mc Williams	Tom Wasilewski

~ Chuck Gehringer, Count Compiler,
Chuckg58@hotmail.com
814.490.4748



AUDUBON COMMITTEES

SALES AND MARKETING

It's not too late for P.I.A.S. calendars! If you were not able to purchase our 2009 P.I.A.S. "Birds" calendars at our meetings, there's still time to do so at our vendors. Our beautifully photographed full-color calendar with thumbnail sketch of each bird is available at the Asbury Woods Nature Center, Borders Book Store, Chestnut Place Hallmark in Fairview, Nature Shop at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and Yorktown Giant Eagle. The calendar benefits our education and conservation programs.

Happy Holidays! Please don't forget our feathered friends during the coming cold months. Suet will be available at our February meeting.

~Jeanne Kern, Chair

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Committee has met since the last Board meeting is advocating that the upcoming Audubon-at-Home program scheduled for April, 2009 include a companion presentation on local watersheds to emphasize the things we do at home with our lawns and foliage can affect the waters downstream.

Since the last Board meeting, the Great Lakes Compact was signed into law by President Bush and many Great Lakes initiatives are underway.

Pa Audubon was recently in town and has made contact with several local people and entities, including our new U.S. Representative, Kathy Dahlkemper and the Erie Community Foundation. Paul Burroughs, Susan Smith and Toby and Jean Cunningham also met with the Pa Audubon representatives.

P.I.A.S. is expecting to meet shortly with Kathy Dahlkemper to discuss Audubon's initiatives and policies, primarily dealing with global warming and climate change legislation.

~Paul F Burroughs, Conservation Chair

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Sunday Oct. 5th: went to Fernwood Sanctuary on my own to try to get rid of some of the invasive species in the small wetland at the east end of the property. After 1.5 hours of trimming the tops off of cattail plants, I gave up (the seeds in the "tail" stay viable for 100 years!). I didn't even make a dent in the number of cattails, let alone address the phragmites, loosestrife and European buckthorns. I will look into other possible ways to deal with these four invasive plants, and in the meantime will concentrate on keeping them out of the smaller wetlands in the wooded area at the western section of Fernwood Sanctuary.

Sunday Oct. 12th: Tim Lyons, Tom Wasilewski and I went to the Laura Olson Memorial Sanctuary. We met and talked with the neighbor to the east. He stated that during hunting season there are lots of hunters who frequently use the sanctuary.

We saw a beaver lodge in the wetland area on the western edge of the property. Saw woodpeckers: red-bellied, downy and hairy.

~Sue Murawski, Sanctuary Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A "TREC or Treat" event was organized by DCNR at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on the afternoon of Oct. 25. Several hundred children came in costume to the event. From 1:00-3:00 they could visit Investigation Stations to learn about bats, coyotes, spiders, skulls, and much more. In addition there were two special movies and a costume contest. Presque Isle Audubon had a display of owl pictures. Children and their parents studied the photos and then tried their hand at putting the correct names on some other pictures. All children, no matter what age, enjoyed pressing the buttons on the Identifier gadgets to hear the sounds made by the different species. Their treat was a small coloring booklet showing owls in our area.

On Nov. 21 and Nov. 25 I'll be leading one of the workshops (on bats) for the Earth Force Youth Training Days. All of the workshop themes are connected to the Amazing Caves movie which the students will be seeing.

~Pat Howell, Education Chair

The Regional Science Consortium
Visiting Scientist Speaker Series
Presents...

DAVID FREW

Professor Emeritus, Gannon University
Director Emeritus, Erie County Historical Society

"Pigs at Sea: The Sinking of the James B. Colgate"

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
7:00 PM

Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Big Green Screen Theatre

For more information about the lecture, please contact the Regional Science Consortium at 814-835-6975. Available for Act 48 Credit. Lecture is free and open to the public. Reservations and tickets required due to limited seating. Tickets available at the Big Green Screen Theatre Ticket Counter - until sold out.

"Pigs at Sea is the stuff of legend. Frew's story-telling skills and command of maritime history bring two of the Great Lakes' most compelling characters (Captain Grawshaw & Captain McDougall) to life. Technology, economic boom and bust, heroics and tragedy, it's all there..."

Susan Anderson, Executive Director
The Meteor Museum: Superior, Wisconsin

DVD CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!



"WIND, SAND AND SONG: PRESQUE ISLE'S HABITATS"

Here is a Christmas gift offer that you can't refuse, I hope.....For this Christmas season, we are offering to MAIL TO YOU "Wind, Sand and Song: Presque Isles' Habitats", our own DVD produced by Tracy Graziano, a member of our Executive Board, with no shipping charge. Just complete the order form on page 4 and include the cost of the DVD's ordered (\$15.00 per copy) and send it to Janet Price, 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. Offer ends December 31, 2008.

Our DVD is also for sale at the concession stand of the Big Green Screen Theatre. Look for the sign in the lobby for details. Copies are also sold at Wild Birds Unlimited and at Asbury Woods Nature Shop as well as at our monthly meetings.



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 or 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. If you have any questions, call Janet at 814.825.8394.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8
ERIE, PA 16505

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 238

**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.