



# TERN OF EVENTS



Presque Isle Audubon Society Membership Newsletter

February 2009

Issue 09:01

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

Happy New Year to everyone! It's been a winter like we've not had in a long time. Our organization has been hibernating, in a sense, over the last two months with no monthly programs or newsletter. There has been some activity going on such as Conservation and Birding Festival Committee meetings and activities conducted by Pat Howell who chairs the Education Committee. It's time now for the membership to get back in the swing. The newsletter and our programs will be back up and running starting in February so I hope everyone is ready to roll. As you can see in the next column, there is plenty to get involved in this month. Plan to at least become knowledgeable about the existing issues by attending one other event besides our monthly meeting.

A topic that is going to be addressed often in the near future is global warming.



THE BUTTON!

- National Audubon has provided a "button" to click on if you want to be involved in helping to solve the global warming problem. The button is found on our website: [www.presqueisle.org/audubon](http://www.presqueisle.org/audubon) in the Conservation section along with a list of the top ten things you can do to help stabilize our climate. Check it out!

- On February 10 Dr. J. Michael Campbell, Ph.D. will present scientific evidence on the causes of global warming and its possible impacts in Northwestern Pennsylvania. (Cont. on Page 2)

### IMPORTANT NOTE TO MEMBERS ON PAGE 6 ABOUT FEBRUARY'S MEETING.

#### FEBRUARY THINGS TO DO!

- February 5, Thursday** - Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Habitat and Species Workshop 9:30am - 4:30pm in Room 112 at TREC (P 7)
- February 6, 13, 20, 27, Fridays** - Wildlife Film Series on the Big Green Screen at 6:30 at the TREC (Donation of \$3.00)
- February 10, Tuesday** - Regional Science Consortium Speaker, J. Michael Campbell, Ph.D. at 7:00PM in Rm 112 at the TREC (P 7)
- February 11, Wednesday** - Conservation Committee Meeting, 5:00pm at Quinn Firm
- February 14, Saturday** - Great Backyard Bird Count Workshop at the Stull Center from 10:00 to 11:30
- February 20, PIAS Monthly Meeting and Program (Vote on Updated By-Laws) Social at 7:00 Meeting and Program at 7:30**
- February 24, Tuesday** - Birding Festival Committee Meeting at 6:00pm at the TREC
- February 28, Saturday** - Clean Air Council Town Hall Meeting, Time/Place TBA (P 7)

**March 13-15**  
**PA Pymatuning Eagle Weekend**

## 2008-09 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Janet Price
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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

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

## PRESIDENTS PERCH (Cont.)

- The National Resource Defense Council along with the Clean Air Council will be conducting a town hall meeting for 100-150 concerned citizens, local business owners, community stakeholders, local Universities and students, city and county officials and green enterprises. The event will take place on February 28, a Saturday, possibly at Mercyhurst College and will be attended by Congresswoman Dahlkemper. Some of the ideas include Climate Change and Green Buildings; Green Buildings and Green Job-creation; and Energy Efficiency in Residential and Commercial Buildings.

Our new government officials have stated that all citizens of the United States need to take personal responsibility for the health of our country, not just economically but in all other ways as well. Here is your chance to tackle the issue of global warming/climate change.

**Let's Make a Difference!**

~Janet Price, President  
Presque Isle Audubon Society

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Janet and PIAS board members,

The certificate for lifetime membership in the Presque Isle Audubon Society along with the "Wind, Sand, and Song" DVD and the checklists arrived this past week. Thank you for such a great honor.

Even though I have moved to Michigan, I plan to continue to edit the PIAS website and stay apprised of PIAS activities and bird sightings. As I watched the DVD, it brought back many fond memories of my own experiences birding on Presque Isle with fellow Auduboners. I'm sure I'll be back for a visit now and then.

Thank you all so much!  
~Joan Howlett

## ADVOCACY CORNER



Recycling is vital to conservation of natural resources. In Erie County the cities of Erie, Corry and Union City and most of the townships have single-stream curbside recycling. Concord, Conneaut and Waterford Townships each have a depot location where residents can drop off recyclable materials.

Single-stream recycling permits the disposal of rinsed food and beverage containers including plastics (1-7), all metals and glass, both clear and colored. It does not allow for the reuse of Styrofoam, plastic toys and metal cookware, clothes hangers or aerosol cans. Almost all paper and cardboard can be recycled and it is suggested that these items be bundled or placed in bags before being placed in Recycle containers. Do not include pizza boxes, waxed boxes or paper, or phone books with recycle items.



City of Erie residents may place recyclables in blue or clear plastic bags for curbside pickup. They may also use their own purchased blue recycle bin. Residents of other townships can contact their supervisors for their requirements. Questions about recycling may be directed to Erie County Recycling Coordinator at 814-451-6019. For general information the website is [eriecountyrecycling.com](http://eriecountyrecycling.com).

Items that are not included in single-stream recycling that can be recycled and the location that accepts them are:

Rechargeable Batteries: Best Buy, Home Depot, Sears, and Radio Shack

Cell Phones: Erie City Hall drop-off box, SafeNet (455-1774), Funding Factory at 380 East Bayfront Parkway

Ink Cartridges: Erie City Hall, Founding Factory (464-0339), Pony Express at 1903 West 8<sup>th</sup> St.

Packing Peanuts: Pony Express at 1903 West 8<sup>th</sup> St.

Phone Books: Erie Energy Products at 1400 Irwin Drive (454-2828)

Pharmaceuticals: Frontier Pharmacy at West 6<sup>th</sup> and Cascade St.; Rite Aid at Summit Plaza, West Erie Plaza and North East

Electronics: Staples (for a fee and no TV's)

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs: Home Depot (also accepts regular unbroken fluorescent lights)

Good news for all of Erie County...**COMING SOON! A PERMANENT SITE FOR THE COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONICS INCLUDING TELEVISIONS.**

Stay tuned to your TV station or newspaper or log onto [www.eriecountyrecycling.com](http://www.eriecountyrecycling.com) for site location, date and times of operation.

~Ruth Swaney, PIAS Trustee

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Hi everyone. National Audubon is back on track with its Membership Reports. Let's welcome the following new members to our chapter.

**Erie:** Lydia Asplund, Sean Hodinko, James Saunders, M.J. Brennan, Andrew Makarowski, June Alexander, Elizabeth Beckman, Dottie Hodapp, Darlene Scholze, and Marion Armstrong

**Cochranon:** James Bock

**Conneaut Lake:** Rebecca Lash

**Edinboro:** Leslie Smith-Lawton, Mary Gall

**Harborcreek:** Chris Youngs

**Linesville:** Suzanne Schillinger

**Meadville:** Sarah Johnson, Donny Jacobs

**Union City:** The O'Sullivans, Scott & Trice Mesick

**Waterford:** Darlene Tustin

**Warren:** Rosemary Taylor

~Ron Intriери, Membership Chair

## BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR DECEMBER THROUGH MID-JANUARY

The following unusual birds were reported from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Northern Pintail**—33 (high count); Dec. 27; Sunset Point (Waterbird Count, WC); J.M.



**NORTHERN PINTAIL**

**King Eider**—1; Dec. 30; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.  
**Common Loon**—1577 (high count); Dec. 4; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.  
**Rough-legged Hawk**—1; Dec. 18; Misery Bay; J.S. 1; Dec. 26; Centerville, Crawford Co., J.M., J.F.  
**Sandhill Crane**—20; Dec. 20; Edinboro; T.W.  
**Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger**—1; Dec. 7; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.  
**Little Gull**—total of 8; Dec. 6 to Jan. 1; Sunset Point (WC), channel, handicap ramp; J.M., B.C.  
**Iceland Gull**—1; Dec. 20; Erie landfill; B.C.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—1; Dec. 20; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.  
**Glaucous Gull**—total of 11; Dec. 18 to Jan. 6; Erie landfill, Presque Isle Bay, north pier; J.M., D.S.  
**Iceland Gull**—1; Jan. 6; north pier; D.S.  
**American Avocet**—1; Dec. 20; mouth of Cascade Creek; J.M, C.G. (See below)



**Purple Sandpiper**—1; Dec. 8; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Dec. 13; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.  
**Northern Shrike**—up to 2; Dec. 20 to at least Jan. 13; Franklin Center; J.D. 1; Dec. 26; Waterford; J.H.  
**Common Raven**—1; Dec. 26; Centerville, Crawford Co., J.F.  
**Northern Mockingbird**—1; Dec. 20; McKean Twp.; R.S.  
**Pine Warbler**—1; Dec. 8 to at least Dec. 20; Conneautville, Crawford Co.; A.Tr.  
**Summer Tanager**—1; to at least Dec. 26; Atlantic, Crawford Co.; fide S.B.  
**Eastern Towhee**—1; to at least Jan. 11; North Springfield; A.Y.  
**Oregon Junco**—2 (one male & one female); Dec. 12; Washington Twp.; T.W.  
**Lapland Longspur**—1; Dec. 20; lighthouse; A.T.



**LAPLAND LONGSPUR**

**White-winged Crossbill**—18-22; Dec. 3; Erie Cemetery; D.E.; 20 to 25; Jan. 3; Pine Tree Trail; J.M.  
**Common Redpoll**—1; Dec. 6; Harborcreek; L.H. up to 12+; Dec. 16 to Jan. 16; beach 11 parking lot; J.S., J.M. with up to 80 on Jan. 6; D.S.

Contributors: S.B.-Suzanne Butcher, B.C.-Ben Coulter, J.D.-Julie Dell, D.E.-Dave English, J.F.-Jim Flynn, C.G.-Chuck Gehringer, L.H.-Lora Haller, J.H.-Jamie Hill, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, J.S.-Jerry Stanley, D.S.-Don Snyder, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, A.T.-Adam Troyer, A.Tr.-Andy Troyer, T.W.-Tom Wasilewski, A.Y.-Ann Young

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

## PIAS BALD EAGLE WATCH PROGRAM RESULTS FOR 2008

During 2008 we monitored five active Bald Eagle (eagle) nests in Erie County (EC) and one in Crawford County. Four of the nests in EC were successful and five eagles fledged those nests. The other two nests failed and we believe that four eaglets perished in those nests. Thus, for the third year in a row for the nests we monitored a sustainability rate (0.83) of less than the desired rate of 1.0 or more occurred. We have been told that for resident eagles to maintain their population for the long term in an area the average of fledging eagles divided by the active nests should be at or above 1.0.



A PAIR OF NESTING BALD EAGLES

PIAS member Michele Franz reported this past summer a new eagle nest in Erie County to the PA Game Commission (PGC) and passed on the news to the PIAS team. Also, there is a seventh active eagle nest in Erie County (a two year nest) which is on private land and inaccessible to the monitoring team. However, the PGC has been monitoring this nest as it does all active eagle nests in PA.

There are unusual animals the team sees on occasion as it watches eagles: foxes, coyote, golden eagles, sandhill cranes, great egrets, northern goshawks, peregrine falcons 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.

~Tom Wasilewski-PIAS Eagle Watch  
Program/Sanctuary Committee

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

Twenty-four of us set out on a snowy December 20th morning to take part in the 109th Christmas Bird Count. For a good part of the morning, the snow persisted long enough to affect visibility. When we met for lunch and compared our totals, it was looking like we were on track with our species numbers to have an above average count.



DON, JOAO AND JULIE SCOPE OUT SOME WATERFOWL

It was the end of this Christmas count that was most memorable for me. At our last two stops Jerry Mc Williams found some of our best birds of the day. Our second to last stop produced a Glaucous Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Our last stop was at the mouth of Cascade creek we were looking at a mixed flock of geese and ducks when Jerry found an American Avocet among them. This turned out to be a first December record for this species in Pennsylvania! Also seen on the count were 5 wing tagged Trumpeter swans. I am not sure how these birds will be recorded as they are part of a reintroduction program. (See below) A complete list of the birds seen is available on the PIAS website.



**FEBRUARY PIAS MONTHLY MEETING  
AND PROGRAM  
VOTING ON REVISED BY-LAWS**



The PIAS by-Laws have been revised and this revision was amended and board approved on July 15, 2008. Our By-Laws in Article XI states that "the By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of members in good standing present at any regular meeting....provided further, that notice of such amendments shall have been mailed or emailed to each member of the Society at his/her last known mailing address at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting."

I will direct that the revised by-Laws, in their entirety, be emailed to those of you whose address we have and hope that you will read them and then attend the February meeting to vote.

~Janet Price, President

**PIPING PLOVER MONITORS NEEDED!**

This is a message from Sarah Sargent, our Important Bird Area Coordinator for Pennsylvania Audubon.

I'm working with Kathleen Ryan at Presque Isle State Park to try to beef up the monitoring for Piping Plovers that she has been doing for several years. The Piping Plover is one of the two federally endangered bird species listed for Pennsylvania, the other one being the Eskimo Curlew! Gull Point was included as one of the 35 critical habitat areas for the inland (Great Lakes) population and regular monitoring is supposed to be done during the months of April, May and June to look for them.

Kathleen is the official, trained Piping Plover monitor for the state park. The last month or so of the school year is a very busy time for her so she has been having trouble getting out to do the minimum twice weekly walks looking for Plovers. We would like to start up a volunteer group that conducts regular monitoring through these months to get more eyes out there more often, perhaps

**NOTICE: THE FEBRUARY PIAS PROGRAM IS NOT FINALIZED AT THIS TIME. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AT A LATER DATE!**

three times a week. However, these volunteers will need to be trained in accordance with the US Fish and Wildlife Service protocols.

We are going to hold a training session in late March and are hoping to find some volunteers who are interested in being part of the potential return of Piping Plovers to Pennsylvania.

To become a Piping Plover Monitor you will need to:

1. Commit to coming to the training session.
2. Commit to doing some minimum number of surveys during the three month period.
3. Be physically able to walk the route while carrying a telescope. It is pretty far and includes walking on loose sand which can be slow going.
4. Be able to identify Piping Plovers. (part of the training)



THE PIPING PLOVER

You would probably go out with a partner after going out with Kathleen once. So, if you're interested, please let me know using the contact information below. Also, indicate if you would prefer that the training session be held on a Saturday (maybe March 21) or if you could make it on a weekday. Thanks!

~Sarah Sargent, IBA Coordinator  
814.232.3300 or [mssargent@audubon.org](mailto:mssargent@audubon.org)

The logo for Wild Birds Unlimited features a stylized black birdhouse with a bird flying above it. To the right of the birdhouse, the text 'Wild Birds Unlimited' is written in a cursive font, with 'Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

**Wild Birds Unlimited**  
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Collaboration Habitat and Species  
Workshop



**From:** Victoria Pebbles & Roger Gauthier,  
Program Directors; and John Hummer, Project  
Manager, Great Lakes Commission

Please join us for the Pennsylvania Great Lakes  
Regional Collaboration Habitat and Species  
Workshop on **Thursday, February 5th.**

Please RSVP for the workshop by Monday, Feb.  
2 at 12:00 noon EST via email to Pat Gable at  
the Great Lakes Commission: [pegable@qlc.org](mailto:pegable@qlc.org).

The workshop will take place from 9:30 a.m. to  
4:00 p.m. at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

Note: There is no registration fee, but attendees  
will be responsible to pay for their own lunch.

In preparation for the upcoming workshop, it may  
be helpful to review the GLRC report on wetlands  
and habitat activities, which was released in June  
2008. It can be viewed or downloaded online at  
[http://glrc.us/documents/CallToAction06-19-  
2008.pdf](http://glrc.us/documents/CallToAction06-19-2008.pdf).

We greatly appreciate your participation in this  
important regional effort and look forward to a  
productive Habitat Workshop on **Thursday,  
February 5th.** Hope to see you there.

The Regional Science Consortium Visiting  
Scientist Lecture Series  
Featuring  
J. Michael Campbell, Ph.D.

**"The Scientific Evidence for Human Induced  
Climate Change and Apparent /Projected  
Impacts in Northwestern Pennsylvania"**



GLOBAL WARMING: FACT OR THEORY

Mike will present a colorful depiction of the  
science debate that occurred recently on the  
causes of global warming and will offer  
suggestions to doubters on the practical  
importance of taking this problem seriously.

For more information please phone the  
Regional Science Consortium at 814-835-6975.

Available for ACT 48 Credit. No reservations  
necessary. Free and open to the public.

A business card for Mathew D Phillips, Agent, at State Farm. The card includes the State Farm logo, contact information, and a photo of the agent. The text on the card reads: "State Farm® Providing Insurance and Financial Services Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710 Mathew D Phillips, Agent 1703 West 26th Street Erie, PA 16508-1233 Bus 814-456-6138 Fax 814-456-3650 www.mathewvphillips.net 24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®".

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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PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8  
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.