



TERN OF EVENTS



Presque Isle Audubon Society Membership Newsletter

May 2009

Issue 09:04

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've been roosting on my perch for a while now, waiting for some inspiration as to how to write this message. Time has run out and no miraculous words have appeared so I'm going to do my best to get my points across in my own ordinary way.

I am so impressed by the cooperation and dedication shown by our PIAS members during my years as President, and I am grateful for all the effort put forth by all officers, trustees and committee chairs who serve on the Board. But, as Chair of the Birding Festival Committee, I want to especially focus on the work done by the members of that committee.

I was amazed, first of all, by the number of men and women who expressed an interest in the festival and who volunteered their expertise in so many areas to get things done. New faces brought new ideas to add to the successful ones proposed by last year's committee members, many of whom continued to work on this year's festival. We've worked a lot and played a little over the last eight months and old friendships were strengthened and new ones made. Our preparation work culminates on Tuesday, May 5 when we stuff the welcome bags that each registrant will receive. After that, what will be will be. In the meantime, thanks to these people for all they have done!

Chuck Benson, Holly Best, Mary Birdsong, Lisa Danko, Anne DeSarro, Linda Donati, Marion Gallivan, Tracy Graziano, Pat Howell, Toni Kelly, Ben Koncewicz, Kel McDonald, Ruth Swaney, Joao Tavares, Karen Torney, and Michelle Franz.

I also want to thank all those who have volunteered to bring food for our Saturday dinner and those who will be working at various other tasks during the Festival. Thank You All!

~Janet Price, President



MAY THINGS TO DO!

May 5, Tuesday - Birding Festival

Committee Meeting at 5:00 pm at the TREC

May 8,9,10 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday -

Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle.

Registration necessary. See article on P. 3

May 10, Sunday - 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Kids

and Community: free and open to the public

as part of the Festival of the Birds.

5:00 pm, Film Screening: "Wings, Sand, and

Song: Presque Isle's Habitat" See P 3.

May 12, Tuesday - Presque Isle Audubon

Board Meeting at 7:00 pm at the TREC.

May 13, Wednesday - Conservation

Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm at Quinn Firm

May 17, Sunday - PA Lake Erie Watershed

Association Public Meeting and Wildflower

Walk, Elk Creek Sportsman's Club at 1:00 pm.

See page 5 for details.

May 29-31, Friday, Saturday, Sunday -

Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage. For more

information check [www.allegheny-nature-](http://www.allegheny-nature-pilgrimage.org)

[pilgrimage.org](http://www.allegheny-nature-pilgrimage.org)

JUNE 4-7, 2009

Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival

Jamestown, NY

See Page 7

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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

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES JUNE 19, 2009

Our chapter has, in the past, conducted the annual election of officers and trustees at the May General Meeting. As you know by now, we have established the Festival of the Birds as our "May General Meeting". Therefore, the election will take place at the June meeting which will be held on the third Friday of that month, specifically, June 19. The program for that evening is described in the following article.

Members' Night - June 19, 2009

Now is the time to be thinking about your Members' Night presentation. This is the evening when you comprise the program and share your nature-related interests with your fellow Auduboners. Tell us about an interesting trip that you have taken, show us your slides and photographs, read your poetry and let us enjoy your musical talents. We welcome your nature-related slides, photographs, poetry, music, art, adventures, hobbies and more. Remember, anything shared is doubly enjoyed.

You adherence to the five (5) minute time limit will be appreciated by your fellow presenters and by the audience thereby assuring a pleasant experience for all.

To participate in this entertaining and informative evening, please call me at 474-3395 before Tuesday, June 16. If I am not available, please leave your name and telephone 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 welcome new members and those who have never participated. Let me hear from you. I await your call.

~Jeanne Kern, Coordinator of Members' Night

Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle

If you haven't registered for the second Festival of the Birds and want to attend, there is still room for more birders. You can register at the Tom Ridge Center on Friday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and on Saturday morning from 6:30 am on. For your information, the registration fees at the door are listed below:

Full Weekend	One day w/ Meal
Adults - \$100.	Adults - \$55
Students w/ ID - \$70	Students w/ID - \$35
Children under 12 - \$30	Children under 12- \$10

This year we have three workshops that are designated for three (3) Act 48 credits:
"Purple Martins" Room 112A at 1:30pm on Saturday.
"Bats" in Room 112B at 3:00pm on Saturday.
"Dooryard Gardens and the Neotropical Avian Connection" in Room 110 at 4:00pm on Saturday.

As you can see in the next column, we have a lot of activities planned for children and families on Sunday afternoon that are free and open to the public.

But we have also included some specific **children and family** activities in the regular festival schedule. These and any of the other offerings can be attended by those who have registered for the weekend or for just one day.

WORKSHOP

Saturday, 3:00 pm Discovery Room **"The Story of Joe Root: Presque Isle's Hermit"** by Brian Gula.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, 10:00 - 11:00 am A walk to *Leo's Landing* will begin at the **Stull Center** and return there. A DCNR naturalist and Audubon member will accompany the group while those who wish to stay at the Stull Center can view birds from the window.

Sunday, 10:00 - 11:00 am Birders will meet at the Rotary Pavilion and an Audubon member will guide them through the Rotary Pavilion Trail. The group will return to the pavilion before heading to lunch.

Free To Children And Families



LIVE RAPTORS—UP CLOSE!

Session 1: 2:00 - 2:40 pm

Session 2: 2:50 - 3:30 pm

Sue DeArment from Tamarack Rehabilitation and Education Center will introduce you to several live raptors and explain their lives and behaviors.

FLEDGLING ARTIST WORKSHOP

3:30 - 4:40 pm - Three guest artists—Jan Lutz, Toni Kelly and Kel McDonald—will guide children in creation of a piece of artwork to take home.

(No registration is needed; all materials will be provided).

4:40 pm - Recognition of Erie Art House Students who have artwork on display

4:45 pm - Drawing for children's door prizes

5:00 - 6:15 pm - Showing of the film, *Wings, Sand, and Song: Presque Isle's Habitat on the Big Green*

Screen

Besides the specific activities above, enjoy:

- Nature IQ Display
- Bird Coloring Sheets
- Bird Puzzles
- Bird Scavenger Hunt

Don't miss ART by children of Erie's Neighborhood Art House in the TREC Lobby!



**BIRD SIGHTINGS FROM APRIL 13
TO APRIL 19, 2009,**

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

Chimney Swift--at least 1 (early); April 5; over Presque Isle



CHIMNEY SWIFTS IN FLIGHT

Red-necked Grebe--1; April 6, off Niagara boat Launch

Peregrine Falcon--1; April 6; Gull Point

Sandhill Crane--2; April 9; over Tom Ridge Environmental Center 1; April 12; over the east end of the park

Little Gull--1 adult; April 7; off the east pier

Shrike (species not confirmed)--1; April 12; Gull Point

Approximately 50,000 ducks were in Presque Isle Bay during a storm from the northwest on April 7. Most were Red-breasted Merganser.

American Bittern--1; April 16; standing along the road next to Niagara Pond

Great Egret--up to 8; several areas of the park



GREAT EGRET

Pine Siskins -continue to be reported in small numbers along Pine Tree Trail and at feeding stations.

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

NEW PIAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

Presque Isle Audubon welcomes the following new members into our chapter.

Erie: Sandra Ebert, Denise Sheehan, Elizabeth Sesler, Daniel Ganzer, Thomas Paterniti, Darlene Melchitsky, Louis Douche, Jane Woods

Cambridge Springs: Artha Monzo

Conneautville: Becky Walls

Cranesville: John Levis

Edinboro: Sandy Moraski **Linesville:** Sandra Croner

Meadville: Miriam Bowman, Thomas Giovannelli, Cynthia Stone

North Springfield: Emarae Dunn

North East: Cheryl Coburn

Warren: Margaret Harlan, Diana Tootell, Ester Hanson, Linda Wingard

Waterford: Pauline Black

And thanks to the following Chapter members, both renewals and new members: Chuck & Jean Kern, Carol Thompson, Peter Bol, Donna Nicholas, and Kate Manzella.

We have a meeting coming up on June 19th at the TREC. Hope to see you there.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chair

SPRING ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Presque Isle Audubon had its Spring Adopt A Highway clean up on Sunday, April 5th. The weather cooperated and we picked up 14 bags of trash. Thanks to Tom Wasielewski and Ruth Swaney for making it a success. We plan another highway cleanup for September, but the date has not yet been set. I will give details in an upcoming Tern of Events.

~Ron Intrieri, Adopt A Highway Coordinator

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AUDUBON MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES ITS PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS CONTEST!

Bird-loving photographers from across America will soon submit entries for the newly-announced *Audubon* Magazine Photography Awards: Birds in Focus.

The awards are presented in association with Nature's Best Photography Magazine and sponsored by Nikon. Entries will be accepted online, May 15- July 15 in Professional, Amateur, and Youth categories. Award recipients, selected by a panel of distinguished judges, will be announced in December and will have their work displayed by *Audubon* and *Nature's Best Photography*, both in print and online.

Prizes include:

- 1) Journey to Peru 's Tambopata National Reserve (Inkaterra Amazonica Lodge)
- 2) An ultimate birding safari to Australia 's "Top End," the Northern Territory
- 3) 14-day Tropical Rivers and Rainforest cruise through South America (Travel Dynamics International)



South American Rain Forest

- 4) Opportunity to travel to Honduras with *Audubon* wildlife photographer Roy Toft as your photographer/guide (Roy Toft Photo Safaris and Pico Bonito Lodge)



Cerro Cusuco Cloud Forest, Honduras

- 5) A Nikon D80 digital SLR camera, 18-55mm NIKKOR VR lens, and a set of Nikon EDG 8x32 binoculars



Submissions: Accepted May 15 - July 15, 2009. Up to 10 images per entrant. For details, visit www.AudubonMagazinePhotoAwards.com (note, the microsite will be up and running shortly)

PA LAKE ERIE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (PLEWA) PUBLIC MEETING AND WILDFLOWER WALK

When: May 17, 2009

Where: Elk Creek Sportsman's Club

On Elk Creek Rad, Lake City

(Turn N' off Rt. 5 onto elk Creek Road at the sports Store)

Agenda: 1:00 Elk Creek Watershed Update

1:30 PLEWA Update

2:00 Wildflower Walk

Dr. Mike Campbell from the Mercyhurst College Biology Department will guide you through a leisurely stroll along elk Creek while teaching you techniques for identifying spring wildflowers. Mud boots, old tennis shoes and light jackets are suggested.

\$10 individual membership \$25 organization

For more information write to:

PLEWA@ERIEWATERSHED.ORG

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5th ANNUAL HAWK WATCH AT THE TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



BROAD WINGED HAWK

Presque Isle Audubon Society and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources planned that this year their annual Hawk Watch would be held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center instead of Erie Bluffs State Park. The site at the TREC has been established as an official hawk watch site by Jerry McWilliams, who is the official observer on any given day there as he was on Saturday, April 18 during our 5th Annual Hawk Watch. He was joined by a few other experienced observers, specifically Jennifer Brumsfield assisted by Tom Wasilewski and Nancy Baker. These individuals not only did official counts but also helped over 50 people who attended the event to learn more about raptors and raptor identification



WATCHING THE RAPTORS

Jerry commented that the hawk migration was light to moderate, but steady most of the day. There was a fair number of American Kestrels that moved by the watch. A couple early Chimney Swifts passed by and Northern Flickers continue to push through.

The migrant raptors that were observed throughout the day are listed below.

Turkey Vulture--68
Osprey--4
Northern Harrier--7
Sharp-shinned Hawk--94
Cooper's Hawk--6
Broad-winged hawk--14
Red-tailed Hawk--23
Rough-legged Hawk--1 (light morph)
American Kestrel--61
Merlin--1
Unidentified accipiter--5
Unidentified buteo--1
Unidentified falcon--2

The migrant non-raptors that passed by included:

Double-crested Cormorant--46
Great Blue Heron--4
Chimney Swift--2
Northern Flicker--95
American Crow--8
swallow (mostly Barn and Tree)--20+

Local bird rehabilitator Sue DeArment had live birds of prey on hand for birders to see up close. These birds had been severely injured and were not able to be sent back into the wild so Sue has permission to use them for education purposes. There were four beautiful birds that everyone oohed and aaahed about including a saw-whet owl, a barred owl, a sharp-shinned hawk and a red-tailed hawk. All in all a very successful day!



SUE DEARMENT WITH HER BIRDS AND VISITORS

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

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 10th.

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.

Thanks,

~Joao Tavares, jotdyt@verizon.net.

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.

Roger Tory Peterson Birding Festival
June 4-7, 2009
Jamestown, New York

This festival will provide an entertaining and educational experience through activities including the showing of re-mastered Peterson films, keynote speakers Kenn Kaufman and Pete Dunne, workshops with Kaufman, Dunne, Lang Elliott and John Rappole, and field trips to area birding hotspots led by knowledgeable local birders.

For more information go to www.rtpi.org/

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.

Printed on recycled paper.

**IN LOVING MEMORY
OF**

VIRGINIA E. "GINNY" WHEELER



RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Patti and David Wheeler and Kristin and Julie Maguire have made donations to Presque Isle Audubon Society in memory of their grandmother, "Ginny" Wheeler. "Ginny" was a lover of birds and passed on that appreciation to her children. Some of her favorite birds were the Chickadees, Cardinals, Red Breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, Goldfinches, and Woodpeckers, but her absolute favorites were the Hummingbirds.



If you're a land manager who is developing a backyard habitat plan — you need a map that will lead you to your goals. Audubon At Home is your map. Your mission is to create a healthy outdoor space for the benefit of wildlife, you and your family, and the environment at large. Log into the following site for all the information you need for the Audubon at Home program.

www.audubonathome.org/

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Individual membership \$10.00/year

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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

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