



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
APRIL, 2014 ISSUE 14:03

*To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the enjoyment and benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity in northwestern Pennsylvania.*

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

*...it is not merely those who can go to see for themselves I would tell of my walks; it is above all the careworn indoor workers to whom I would bring a breath of the woods, pictures of sunlit fields, and a hint of the simple, childlike gladness, the peace and comfort that is offered us each day by these blessed winged messengers of nature.*

*~Florence Merriam*

I may have mentioned in Perch's past that I enjoy antique books and you have also probably gathered that I enjoy birding. So, you're probably not surprised to hear that it's a happy day when I can enjoy them simultaneously. No, not birding while reading an old book; but reading an old book about birding, now that's a delight. On a trip to the antique malls near Volant, PA this past summer I came across

Florence Merriam's, Birds Through an Opera Glass. Naturally, I had to have it. I've been reading it in my spare time which is pretty much the 15 minutes each night before I fall asleep. The book was created from a collection of articles Merriam had written for Audubon Magazine and it was published in 1889. One thing I've noticed about the female pioneers in birding is that they were no milquetoasts (I think the same can be said about contemporary female birders). Despite being described as sickly as a teen and likely suffering from tuberculosis, Florence Merriam was a pioneer in birding and bird conservation. Besides writing many articles and a couple of field guides, she became the first woman associate member of the

American Ornithologist's Union, its first woman fellow in 1929 and first woman to be awarded the AOU's Brewster Medal in 1931.

(Cont. on Page 3)



## APRIL THINGS TO DO!

**Thursday, April 10** - Strategic Planning

Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at the TREC

**Saturday, April 12** - The Raptor Experience:

9:00am -noon in Room 112 at the TREC

**Friday, April 18** - PIAS Program and Meeting in Room 112 at the TREC

7:00 Social

7:30 Program: Pennsylvania Bald Eagles:

*Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration (P. 6)*

**Thursday, April 24** - Weed Warriors Public Meeting at 6:30pm at the TREC

**Saturday, April 26** - Weed Warrior First Event to attack Invasive Species. Meet at 9:30 at the Shelters parking lot

## 2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Carol Allen
Treasurer	Kel McDonald
Retiring President	Janet Price

### Board of Trustees

2011-2014	Janet Price
2011-2014	Brian Berchtold
2012-2015	Dave Gustafson
2012-2015	Sam Stull
2012-2016	Lisa Danko
2012-2016	Drew Mortensen

### Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Field Trips	Drew Mortensen
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & Joao Taveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	Janet Price
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
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Publicity	Susan A. Smith
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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)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee, comprised of Mike Plyler, Marion Gallivan, Carol Allen and chaired by Janet Price, is presenting the following nominees for PIAS offices and trustee positions for 2014-2015:

**President:** Michele Rundquist-Franz - is currently PIAS President, chair of the Education Committee and member of the Strategic Planning Committee

**Vice-President:** Paul Burroughs - is a long time member who has served as President and Vice President of PIAS as well as chaired the Conservation Committee for many years.

**Treasurer:** Kel McDonald - is currently PIAS Treasurer and has been a long time PIAS member and artist who has served as Treasurer in the past. He is also a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Secretary:** Lisa Danko - has degrees in Biology and Entomology and has taught for 20 years at Mercyhurst University. She is currently adjunct at Gannon University in Microbiology. She has served PIAS as President and Education Chair in past years.

**Trustee:** Don Snyder - is retired from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania where, as a Biology Professor, he taught ornithology, ecology, and other wildlife-related courses. As a member of PIAS for 45 years, he's been active in a variety of ways including Christmas Count Compiler, Bird Records Committee Chairman, and Vice President. He has been Field Trip Leader at various times including for the Festival of Birds and is serving on the Strategic Planning Committee of the PIAS.

**Trustee:** Marion Gallivan - has served on the Birding Festival Committee and is the chair of the Grants Committee. She is a retired librarian and enjoys traveling to exotic places!

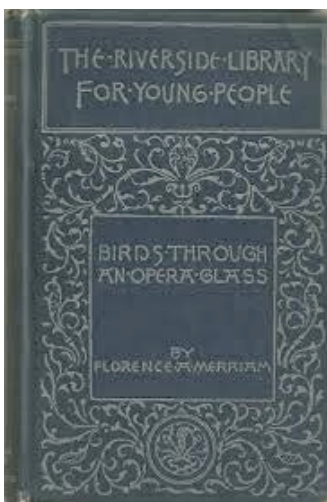
~Janet Price, Nominating Committee Chair

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)



Florence Merriam

Birds through an Opera Glass was written 125 years ago and starts out with "Hints to Observers". Tell me how much you think birding has changed over these 125 years. First: Avoid light or bright colored clothing; Second: Walk slowly and noiselessly; Third: avoid all quick, jerky motions; Fourth: avoid all talking or speak in an undertone; Fifth: if the bird was singing and stops when you approach stand still a moment and encourage him by answering his call; Sixth: Make a practice of stopping often and standing perfectly still; Seventh: Conceal yourself by leaning against a tree or pulling a branch down in front of yourself. Hmmm, any of this sound familiar?



So it seems that birding hasn't changed that much in all these years but something I've found particularly interesting while reading this book are some of the different nicknames given birds back then. Here are a few of the nicknames and I'd like you to try and figure out the bird that each represents. Don't worry. The answers are in the back of the TOE. 1.) Chimney Swallow (OK, that's pretty much a gimme!), 2.) Keel-Tailed Blackbird or Crow Blackbird, 3.) Firebird or Golden Robin or Hang Nest, 4.) Reed Bird or Rice Bird, 5.) Yellow Hammer, 6.) Devil Down Head, 7.) Chewink, 8.) Bull Bat, 9.) Bay-winged bunting, and, last but not least, 10.) Summer Yellow-bird.

So, did you get them all?

**The answers to the bird nicknames from the President's Perch are as follows:**

- 1.) Chimney Swallow=Chimney Swift
- 2.) Keel-Tailed Blackbird or Crow Blackbird = Common Grackle
- 3.) Firebird or Golden Robin or Hang Nest- Baltimore Oriole
- 4.) Reed Bird or Rice Bird=Bobolink
- 5.) Yellow Hammer=Flicker
- 6.) Devil Down Head=White-breasted nuthatch
- 7.) Chewink=Eastern Towhee
- 8.) Bull Bat=Nighthawk
- 9.) Bay-winged bunting=Vesper Sparrow
- 10.) Summer Yellow-bird=Yellow Warbler

~Michele Rundquist-Franz, PIAS President



## BIRD SIGHTINGS

The following birds of note were reported for Feb. 20 through March 18, 2014 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise:

**Red-throated Loon**—1; Feb. 21 to 28; channel; J.F.. First Feb. record for Erie Co.

**Red-necked Grebe**—1 or 2; through the period; channel ; m.ob. high of 7; March 11 to 18; m.ob.

**Tundra Swan**—2300 (high count); March 12; Edinboro Lake; S.W., J.H.

**Surf Scoter**—up to 3; through the period; channel; m.ob.

**White-winged Scoter**—up to 48; through the period; channel; J.M.

**Long-tailed Duck**—up to 12; through the period; channel; m.ob.

**Sandhill Crane**—2; March 9; Erie; R.S. 2; March 18; junct. west 12<sup>th</sup> and Peninsula Drive (hawk watch); J.M.

**Thayer's Gull**—1; March 8; channel; M.W. 1; March 16; Leo's; J.M.

**Iceland Gull**—total of 10; through the period; Lake View Landfill and channel; J.M.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**--total of 3; through the period; Lake View Landfill & Presque Isle Bay; J.F., J.M.,E.K.

**Glaucous Gull**—total of 10; through the period; Lake View Landfill & channel; J.M. 10; March 16; off Leo's; J.M.

**Snowy Owl**—1; March 1 & 2; Fairview Business Park; J.M. 1; to at least March 5; Rt. 89 & Townline Rd. junct.; S.L. 1; March 12; near junct. of Rts. 6 and 86 east of Edinboro; S.W., J.H.

**Redhead**—3000+ (high count); March 16; channel; J.M. (See below)



**Long-eared Owl**—1; March 8 to 11; pines; R.D.

**Short-eared Owl**—1 found injured; March 3; west of Waterford along Old State Rd.; R.K.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—1; March 9; pines; R.D.

**Northern Shrike**—1; March 1 & 2; McKean; S.S.

1 or 2; to March 18; Gull Point Trail and near pines; R.D. 1; March 14; Waterford; J.H.

1; March 15; south of Franklin Center; D.D.

(ebird)

(See below)



**Common Raven**—2; March 9; Union City; D.P.

**Black Vulture**—1; March 18; Lawrence Park, M.W.

(See below)



**Contributors:** D.D.-Dwayne DelGrande, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jason Fidorra, J.H.-James Hill III, R.K.-Richard Kreider, E.K.-Ed Kwater S.L.-Sue Lyons, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.P.-Donna Peters, R.S.-Randy Stringer, S.S.-Sam Stull, M.W.-Mike Weible, S.W.-Suzanne Winterberger, m.ob.-many observers.

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chairman  
jerrymcw@aol.com 814-240-8594

**PIAS APRIL MEETING AND PROGRAM**  
**Friday, April 18, 2014**

**Pennsylvania Bald Eagles**  
**Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration**

Presque Isle Audubon's program for April 18, 2014 will be the documentary film, **Pennsylvania Bald Eagles, Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration.**



This documentary film tells the remarkable story of how our nation's symbol was nearly eradicated from the state and the dedicated team who worked to bring them back from the brink. In 1983 only three bald eagle nests remained in the state, all of them just south in Crawford County. Today, Pennsylvania boasts 268 nests.

The documentary features commentary from a host of experts. Game Commission endangered bird biologist Patti Barber, wildlife diversity section chief Dan Brauning, and wildlife conservation officer Ronda Bimber talk about the eagle's past, present and future.

In addition wildlife rehabilitators Carol Holmgren, Sue DeArment and Maryjane Angelo are featured as they work to bring back to health injured bald eagles - one of them a 25-year-old bird that as an eaglet was plucked from a Canadian nest and brought to Pennsylvania as part of the Game Commission's seven-year restoration program.

Running 22 minutes "Pennsylvania Bald Eagles, Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration" was filmed and edited by Game Commission videographers Hal Korber and Erie native and former Presque Isle Audubon board member, Tracy Graziano.

On hand will be a representative of the PA Game Commission to talk about the bald eagle and take any questions after the film.

~Mary Birdsong, Program Chair

**RAPTOR EXPERIENCE - 2014**

The Raptor Experience is another fun-filled and educational program brought to you through collaboration between PIAS and DCNR. The event will take place at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the upstairs display area. Once again, Tamarack will bring their education birds for an up close experience with these magnificent creatures. The expert volunteers from Tamarack will also teach us about raptor behavior and about the great work that Tamarack does to rehabilitate injured and sick birds in the area.



As an added bonus this year, we will be showing the PA Game Commission film, "Pennsylvania Bald Eagles, Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration" at noon. Tim Hoppe from the PA Game Commission will be on hand to discuss the current status of bald eagles in PA and answer questions after the film.

~Michele Rundquist-Franz, Education Chair

**JUNE EVENTS**  
**55<sup>th</sup> Annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage**  
**and**  
**Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Annual**  
**Meeting**



**ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE**

**MAY 31 THROUGH JUNE 2**

The **early bird deadline** for early registration is  
April 26th.

This year's festival is the 55th in it's history and it's sure to be an even bigger hit than previous years. The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage is a collaboration between the Jamestown Audubon, Buffalo Audubon, Presque Isle Audubon, and the Burroughs Nature Club. Nature enthusiasts come from all over to enjoy hiking, birding, good food and good company.

For more information go to:  
[www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org)



**THE PSO ANNUAL MEETING** will be at the  
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, McKean  
County from **June 6 through June 8, 2014**

**Friday, June 6** - Registration

**Saturday, June 7** - Field Trips, Talks, Banquet

**Sunday, June 8** - Field Trips

**See schedule and register at**  
**[www.pabirds.org/AnnualMeeting/](http://www.pabirds.org/AnnualMeeting/)**

**FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS!!1**

**NOTICE TO BIRDER FEEDERS!**

Dear PIAS members.

The Executive Committee for the 6<sup>th</sup> Festival of Birds at Presque Isle is working hard to assure that the event is a resounding success. It will take place on May 9,10,11. We hope to attract 150 participants for lectures, workshops and field trips at the height of the spring migration.

There will be a dinner on May 10 (Sat) at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and a pizza luncheon on May 11 (Sun) at the Rotary Pavilion in the Park. The food service at the Center will provide the main entrees for the Sat dinner.

As in previous years, to keep the costs down and to obtain an interesting variety of foodstuffs we are asking for help from our hosting Audubon Society members. We'll need volunteers to bring a side dish or dessert for the Sat dinner at the TREC. We hope to have an enthusiastic response to our request. Those who join will be considered BIRDER FEEDER sponsors and as such their names will be acknowledged in the program. Please expect a call from me so we may coordinate our activities.

~Joao Tavares, Hospitality Chair  
474-3118 [jotdyt@verizon.net](mailto:jotdyt@verizon.net)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH**  
**REGISTRATION!**

We need some volunteers to help check in and welcome our guests to the 6<sup>th</sup> Festival of the Birds. If you can help for a few hours either on Friday afternoon, Friday evening or Saturday morning, please call Pat Howell at 470-3044. All volunteers are welcome to attend the Friday evening reception which will be held at the TREC from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Birders who have attended past festivals have remarked how welcome they were made to feel by the volunteers. Please help us to continue making this year's birders feel the same.

~Pat Howell, Registration Chair



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome all new members to our chapter. The following people have joined National Audubon, and are automatically a member of our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. Join us at one of our monthly membership meetings at the Tom ridge Center on the 3rd Friday of each month. Meetings start at 7:30PM. Bring a friend.

**Erie:** David Minnis, Barbara Stevenson, Delores Settino, Nancy Klein, Lois Baker, Jamie Wagner, Craig Kern and Marilyn Binney

**Conneaut Lake:** Robert Gero

**Corry:** Diane Cowles

**Edinboro:** Susan Vidas, Kenneth Foy

**Fairview:** Barbara Malinowski, Joyce Getz

**Meadville:** Sara Pineo, Fred Johns

**North Warren:** Bonnie Miller

**Titusville:** Joyce Stanley

**Wattsburg:** June Carley

**Waterford:** Donald Burlingame

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chair  
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

## WEED WARRIORS TRAINING MEETING

Thursday, April 24

We are going to have our public training meeting on Thursday **April 24th from 6:00-7:00**. At this meeting we will talk about the procedures that go along with being a Weed Warrior, attending the events, safety issues, and our 2014 goals. Everyone is invited to attend.

~Matthew Pluta, Weed Warrior Organizer

## HELP LOCATE PENNSYLVANIA'S "HERPS"

By Mark Lethaby

Amphibians and reptiles (collectively known as 'herps') are important components of Pennsylvania's landscape. Very little information about Pennsylvania's herps has been collected through the years when compared to other groups of organisms. This is unfortunate, since herps are important indicators of the health of our natural places and the very presence of certain species can tell us a lot about an area. The Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS) is a joint citizen science atlas project between the Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, with additional funding from the Wild Resource Conservation Fund of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



PARS needs volunteers to create an army of citizen scientists to help tell us about the status and locations of Pennsylvania's herps. You can learn more about PARS and sign up for the project at our website ([paherpsurvey.org](http://paherpsurvey.org)). If you don't want to survey for herps, you can still aid the effort by granting access to your land. There will be an introductory program about PARS on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Room 110.

~Mark Lethaby, PARS Regional Coordinator  
mlethaby@verizon.net

The Presque Isle Audubon Society's newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, is published monthly, except in January and July. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. All published material is 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  
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Presque Isle Audubon Society Chapter Only Membership Application</b></p> <p>Chapter only membership includes membership in the Presque Isle Audubon Society ONLY and the chapter newsletter, <i>Tern of Events</i>. Individual membership     \$15.00/year</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Chapter only members, both new and renewal, will receive the online version of the <i>Tern of Events</i> unless they specifically request the paper copy. <b>Please provide your e-mail address for the online version of our newsletter.</b> E-mail address _____ Do you require a paper copy? _____</p> <p>Return this form with your check payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society to: <b>Presque Isle Audubon Society Ronald Intrieri, Membership Tom Ridge Environmental Center 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8 Erie, PA 16505</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Audubon Society Membership Application</b></p> <p>Please enroll me as a new member in the National Audubon Society which includes membership in BOTH the National Audubon Society and the local Presque Isle Audubon Society. National members receive <i>Audubon Magazine</i> (6 issues per year) and the local chapter newsletter. <b>Please include your e-mail address to receive the online version of the newsletter.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introductory membership     \$20.00</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail address _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chapter Code C3ZU150Z</b></p> <p>Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to: <b>National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Data Center P.O. Box 422250 Palm Coast, Fl. 32142-2250</b></p> <p>Renewal members will receive a coupon mailed to them by National. Please write the code number <b>C4ZU150Z</b> on your renewal application.</p>
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