



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
APRIL ISSUE 15:03

*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

This is my final article in a five part series dedicated to bringing you information about the most significant threats to birds and bird populations. Last month my article focused on the significance of habitat destruction in northern breeding grounds and migratory stopovers, particularly on shorebird habitats like Gull Point. Also discussed were some measures being taken to try and ameliorate the particular threats to such habitats including projects at Gull Point designed to control invasive species and restore suitable habitat for shorebirds. This month I will turn my attention southward and share some facts about the threat of habitat destruction on traditional wintering grounds for migratory birds. Perhaps the most recognizable form of habitat destruction both here in northern breeding grounds of migratory birds and in their southern wintering grounds is deforestation. In the south, a number of drivers are responsible for deforestation: the largest driver is agribusiness in which vast swaths of forest are burned and/or mechanically cleared to create farmland for the growth of such cash crops as palm and soy or to create grazing land for cattle. Other drivers are logging for timber, wood pulp and fiber used in the creation of paper products (if you're reading this article online, you are already helping make a difference. If you're reading a paper copy, don't despair, the TOE is printed on recycled paper so you are still reducing your carbon footprint). Another destructive player in habitat destruction is the mining industry which, in their search for metals such as gold, copper

and aluminum, not only clears large lots of forest, but also contaminates land and water via toxic run off. Road building, which is done to reach these mines and farmlands, is, in and of itself, a driver in deforestation as well as fragmentation of forest lands in the southern wintering grounds. The final driver that I will mention briefly here is hydroelectric dams which flood upstream forests, destroying land and driving out wildlife and forest communities. (Cont. on p.3)



PALM OIL PLANTATION

## APRIL THINGS TO DO!

- April 14, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00PM
- April 17, Friday** – PIAS General Meeting and Program:
  - 7:00PM – Social
  - 7:30PM – Program: Blue-footed, Red-billed, and Magnificent: a Galapagos Adventure (P. 6)
- April 18, Saturday** – Raptor Experience at the TREC upstairs from 10:00AM–2:00 PM (P 7)
- April 22, Wednesday** – Earth Day

## 2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Lisa Danko
Treasurer	Kel McDonald
Retiring President	Janet Price

### Board of Trustees

2012-2015	Dave Gustafson
2012-2015	Sam Stull
2013-2016	Steve Danko
2013-2016	Drew Mortensen
2014-2017	Don Snyder
2014-2017	Marion Gallivan

### Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Field Trips	Drew Mortensen
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & JoaoTaveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intriери
Nominating	TBA
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Susan A. Smith
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Sales & Marketing	Jeanne Kern
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

## NOMINEES FOR PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON OFFICES FOR 2015-2016

President – Michele Rundquist Franz is currently serving as President and Education Chair of PI Audubon and has been on the committees for the Festival of the Birds and Strategic Planning.

Vice-President – Paul Burroughs has previously served as President and is currently serving as Vice-President of Presque Isle Audubon.

Treasurer – Kel McDonald is currently serving as Treasurer for the organization and was an active member of the Strategic Planning Committee this past year.

Secretary – Drew Mortensen is chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and has served as an active Trustee for PI Audubon this past year.

Trustee – Dave Gustafson has served as Treasurer and Trustee and has been on the Audit Committee for PI Audubon.

Trustee - Katie Andersen works full time at Wild Birds Unlimited where she serves as the Store Naturalist. She has been involved in the Biggest Week in American Birding for the past several years.

## MARCH AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

Drew Mortensen drew about 8 hardy souls to see the gulls on a cold and rainy Saturday morning in March. We began observing at Vista #1 where a black-backed gull had the viewers puzzled. Was it a greater or lesser? The next significant find was a glaucous gull spotted from the north pier. The glaucous gull is not a common sight at Presque Isle so it was our highlight of the unpleasant morning.

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)



## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Unfortunately, much, but not all, of this destruction is taking place in developing countries and these drivers are viewed as the first steps in economic development. It is, therefore, hard to convince the governments and people (who are often poor and marginalized) of these countries, about the longterm negative effects of their actions, or inaction, as regards conservation and restoration of valuable habitats. While some countries have had success mandating or promoting sustainable agriculture practices, many continue a model of industrial farming that is designed to maximize yield and profit by using chemical pesticides, antibiotics, hormones and petroleum based fertilizers. Additionally, they tend to grow monocrops like the soy and palm mentioned above which not only undermines genetic diversity but degrades soil quality leading to erosion and chemical runoff. According to the World Wildlife Fund, an area the equivalent size of 300 football fields of rainforest is cleared each hour to make way for palm oil production!! One study I read revealed that the conversion of primary forests and logged forests to oil palm plantations decreases the species richness of forest birds by 77%! What can we do to help? Well, one way to get started is to commit to not purchasing products made with palm oil. Unfortunately, that's not very realistic, one reason being, companies are not required to list palm oil as an ingredient and usually opt for the term vegetable oil or any other of a wide array of labelling choices. For a list of items that are known to contain palm oil check out this website: [/http://azanimals.com/palm-oil/products/](http://azanimals.com/palm-oil/products/) (No more Pringles for me!)



Public pressure can make a difference (or, at least it seemed that way until I researched more thoroughly). Take for instance the two

girl scouts who discovered that the girl scout cookies they were selling, made by mega-corporation Kellogg, contained palm oil. They started a letter writing campaign, petitions, and pressed other girl scouts to speak out to force Kellogg to find more sustainable sources of palm oil. Kellogg seemingly relented and has stated a commitment to ensure that the palm oil it uses is sourced from plantations that uphold the company's commitment to protect forest and peat lands, as well as human and community rights. Some see this as a step in the right direction, while others are less enthused and refer to Kellogg's commitment as "greenwashing". The rules about labeling for the presence of palm oil are convoluted and confusing and that's coming from the experts. What we need are clear labeling regulations regarding palm oil. Does the product contain palm oil or not? It's possible that that action alone will guide companies to use more sustainable options for palm oil. When they are no longer allowed to hide behind the current labeling rules, the public backlash may be all it takes. And, as more companies demand palm oil that is grown in a sustainable way, more countries and plantations will improve their farming practices to meet that demand. So, from free roaming cats, to balloons, to windows, to habitat destruction on breeding and wintering grounds, not to mention the effects of global warming and many other threats, birds and other wildlife are really up against the proverbial wall. Again, I ask that you look for ways to make a difference, with your financial support of conservation organizations, through your votes for legislation that supports conservation efforts and more sustainable energy and farming practices, by purchasing items that are animal and habitat friendly (how about a local farmers' market?), writing a letter to your legislator educating him/her about an issue of import to you, recycle and compost... Perhaps anthropologist Margaret Mead said it best, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~Michele Rundquist Franz, President

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE STRAGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF PIA**

The Strategic Planning Committee has completed Presque Isle Audubon's 2015-2010 Strategic Plan and has presented it to the Executive Board. Members of that group are studying the proposal and will vote on it at the May Executive Board meeting. Here is a summary of the major components of the proposal for your perusal.

### **PURPOSE**

The strategic plan was developed over the course of 24 months, beginning in July of 2013 and concluding in June of 2015. The intention of this plan is to set a roadmap for continuing Presque Isle Audubon's long history of doing work which benefits birds, the environment, and the people in our community. While the plan is not meant to be exclusive and limiting the group to only what is contained within, it is meant to help steer decisions through a common and shared vision for a period of five years. In order to develop this plan, the Strategic Planning Committee spent time reviewing plans from numerous Audubon chapter organizations, the National Audubon plan, the National Audubon Climate Change Report, and many other foundational documents. Our chapter is unique however, and so many aspects of the strategies and goals were written or edited to be purposeful to our region. At the heart of the strategies and goals found within this report is the mission statement of Presque Isle Audubon. See Page 1 of this newsletter.

### **STRATEGIES**

There are many ways to achieve goals, however it is valuable to make specific choices in the strategies employed so that the organization can focus efforts and resources. To that end, we have elected to focus our efforts in three strategies:

- A. Saving Important Bird Areas and Significant Habitats
- B. Creating Bird Friendly Communities
- C. PIA Organizational Development

### **GOALS**

Our goals are set to provide specific measurable objectives that can be accomplished between 2015 and 2020. These goals do not represent every activity, event, or need to which we will devote energy and resources, but instead serve as a list of understandable, measurable, and

achievable priorities which should be addressed and prioritized by the organization. All of the goals fall within our three main strategies listed above. The board members have been supplied with all these goals which are too numerous to list here but will be shared with the members as the year goes on. At least once per year the Executive Board, through the leadership of the officers, should release a report, article, or other publication which outlines the work being done towards the goals in this plan.

### **ACHIEVING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

In order for PIA to achieve its mission and objectives, special projects will need to be conducted. These projects will be undertaken by interested individuals or groups and proposals will be presented to the Executive Board. Funding for an activity is the main purpose for presenting it to the board. The Executive Board members have been supplied with the protocols for each type of project listed below and will apply the appropriate protocol to evaluate the proposed activity. Following that, the proposed project will either be approved or denied for funding and initiation. A fair and equitable process has been developed while ensuring that all expenditures of money are properly vetted and justified. All special projects will fall into one of two general categories, based on their fiscal significance: Small (\$300 or less) and Large (more than \$300). The process and guidelines for each category will be different so that smaller projects with merit can be more easily approved and larger projects get a more thorough review.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

A plan requires those in leadership to choose to enact it and stay the course. Much work needs to be done to bring resolution to the many objectives, and it is the responsibility of the PIA leadership and membership to work together to save important bird areas and habitats, create bird friendly communities, and improve the organization for future generations. We hope that our membership will take ownership of the mission, strategies and goals presented in this proposal.

The following members, friends, and leaders of Presque Isle Audubon have assisted in the development of this plan:

Michele Franz, Janet Price, Mary Birdsong, Bonnie Ginader, Ruth Swaney, Kel McDonald, Sam Stull, Dr. Don Snyder, Jerry McWilliams and Drew Mortensen.

~Janet Price, Editor

## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported in the last four weeks from Erie County, Pa.

**Snow Goose**—2 white; March 12; hawk watch at TREC; J.M., R.D.

**White-winged Scoter**—up to 5; Feb. 24 to March 7; north end of the Thunder Bay ship and channel; J.M.



WHITE-WINGED SCOTER

**Surf Scoter**—1 pair; Feb. 22; east of Dobbins landing; J.M.



SURF SCOTER

**Long-tailed Duck**—up to 7; Feb. 20 to March 10; channel; J.M.

**Great Egret**—1; March 13 (early); Fairview Twp.; D.M.

**Sandhill Crane**—1; March 16; hawk watch at TREC; R.S.

**Thayer's Gull**—3; March 15; east of Dobbins landing; J.M.

**Iceland Gull**—total of 14; Feb. 1 to March 15; east of Dobbins Landing & Lake View Landfill; J.M.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—2; March 15; east of Dobbins landing; J.M.

**Glaucous Gull**—total of 10 ; Feb. 24 to March 15; Lake View Landfill and east of Dobbins landing; J.M.

**Snowy Owl**—1; through to at least March 3; Union City; fide D.P. 1; continues to at least Feb. 26; Siegel Marsh; fide S.S.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—1; Feb. 23; Erie; K.A. 1; Feb. 27; Pine Tree Trail; D.S. 1 found dead; last week of February; Edinboro; J.L. (fide S.S.)

**Northern Shrike**—1; Feb. 15; Franklin Twp.; J.D.



NORTHERN SHRIKE

**Common Redpoll**—4; Feb. 22; ranger's station; B.G.

**Contributors:** K.A.-Katie Andersen, J.D.-Julie Dell, R.D.-Roger Donn, B.G.-Bonnie Ginader, J.L.-Jan Lutz, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.M.-Drew Mortensen, D.P.-Donna Peters, D.S.-Don Snyder, R.S.-Russ States, S.S.-Sam Stull

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chair  
814-240-8594  
[jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)

**APRIL AUDUBON PROGRAM**  
**Friday, April 17 at 7:30**

**Blue-footed, Red-billed, and Magnificent: a  
Galapagos Adventure**



**BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY**

Known also as the “Enchanted Islands” at the time of Darwin’s visit in 1835, the Galapagos Islands are still a place of enchantment for the naturalist today. The volcanic archipelago on the equator was settled by a few species of plants and animals. Over the millennia, these took advantage of the many available ecological niches to evolve into the Galapagos inhabitants that can be seen going about their lives, unafraid of humans, each adapted to its unique setting. This presentation will highlight many Galapagos denizens, from blue-footed boobies and Darwin’s finches to Sally Lightfoot crabs and marine iguanas.



**JEFFREY HALL**

Jeffrey Hall is president of Bartramian Audubon Society and is also active in Seneca Rocks Audubon Society. His articles and photographs have appeared in many publications, including *Living Bird*, *NJ Audubon*, and *Underwater Naturalist*. He has given over 100 programs for birding, nature, and photography groups, and is an instructor at the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Slippery Rock University. A retired biology teacher, he lives in Franklin, Pa.

~Mary Birdsong, Program Chair

**NEW MEMBERS**

We would like to welcome the new National Audubon members into the Presque Isle Audubon. When you join National, you are automatically a member of the local chapter. Thanks for joining, and hope to see you at one of our membership meetings.

**Erie:** Miles Kovski, Beatrice Hansen, Joan Koppelman, Ken Andersen, Rich Alward, Patrick O’Connel, Joyce Wheaton, John Domsic, Kim Voltz, Catherine Chmielewski, Voshall, Michael Kencewicz, Beth Sahlmann, William Welch, and Marlene Smith

**Conneaut Lake:** Anne Hall

**Conneautville:** Sheila Lutton

**Edinboro:** William Adair, Anita Sundean

**Fairview:** Jane Woods, Mike Decorte

**Franklin:** Paris Horan

**Girard:** Kathleen Degaris

**Linesville:** Marilyn Bianchi

**Meadville:** Benjamin Haywood, Yumi Taylor, Susan Breckenridge, Betty Bayer

**North East:** Kathleen Maloney, Gina Kron

**Saegertown:** Phyllis Miller

**Spartansburg:** Margaret Kolaja

**Union City:** Esma Bisee

**Waterford:** Linda Hunsberger, Rhonda Maunard, Marilyn Evans(Waterford Garden Club)

~Ron Intriери, Membership Chairman  
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

**THE RAPTOR EXPERIENCE**  
**Saturday, April 18**



MARTHA WITH SOPHIA

Please join us on Saturday, April 18th for The Raptor Experience, a fun-filled and educational program brought to you through collaboration between PIAS, DCNR and Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. The event will take place at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 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. Additionally, we will have crafts and wonderful hands on displays. This event is truly fun and educational for ALL ages and we always draw a great group of interested participants.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, Education Chair

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY**  
**French Creek Tree Planting Project**  
Andrew Zadnik  
Land Stewardship Manager

This spring, we'll be planting trees at a few different sites along French Creek, and we're trying to contact as many potential volunteers as possible. The dates and locations are as follows:

**April 30 and May 1 - WPC Properties**

Erie County (need 20 to 40 volunteers per day)

April 30 - Bowen site, volunteers could arrive at Noon

May 1 - Bowen Site volunteers could arrive at 9:00

May 1 - Howe Site -about 30 school students from Union City High are arriving at 8:30

**Bowen Site** (7.2 acres) - 10928 Wildman Rd, Wattsburg, PA 16442

**Howe site** (2.2 acres) - 9829 North St, Wattsburg, PA 16442

**May 5 and May 6 - WPC Property**

Erie County (need 20 to 40 volunteers per day)

Regensburger Site (6.3 acres) between Mystic Road and French Creek: 14285 Mystic Road, Cambridge Springs, PA

May 5 - volunteers could arrive at Noon

May 6 - volunteers could arrive at 9:00

If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Andrew Zadnick at:

AZadnik@paconserve.org

Or call:

412-586-2318 (office)

412-977-9681(cell)

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.

Printed on recycled paper.

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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 \$15.00/year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter only members, both new and renewal, will receive the online version of the *Tern of Events* unless they specifically request the paper copy. **Please provide your e-mail address for the online version of our newsletter.**

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a paper copy? \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your check payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society to:

**Presque Isle Audubon Society  
Ronald Intrieri, Membership  
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 which 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 local chapter newsletter. **Please include your e-mail address to receive the online version of the newsletter.**

Introductory membership \$20.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**Chapter Code C3ZU150Z**

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