



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
APRIL/MAY 2018 ISSUE 18:03

*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

**Editor's Note:** This President's Perch is a copy (edited) of the Welcome that Presque Isle Audubon's President composed to be included in this year's Festival of the Birds program. It not only serves as a welcome to those who have registered for the 2018 festival, but as a welcome to the trails and birding at Presque Isle for all of you reading this newsletter



**Registering for the Festival of the Birds**

Birds and people alike annually migrate to the Presque Isle peninsula for what is undoubtedly the finest habitat that juts out into Lake Erie from the southern shoreline. The peak of this pilgrimage happens right now as you are reading this welcome letter. Yes, right now, whether it is day or night, birds and people are most certainly visiting. I strongly encourage you to put this paper down and start looking around. Do it. Quickly. If you insist on continuing to read, there are a few notes of welcome that are certainly worthy of sharing.

(Cont. on Page 2)



## APRIL/MAY THINGS TO DO!

**April 15, Sunday** – Raptor Experience, Room 112 at the TREC 12:00p – 3:00p (Page 5)

**April 20, Friday** – PIA Program at the TREC in Room 112

7:00p Program: “Dinos to Birds”

Followed by a Social (Page 3)

**April 24, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting, 6:00p at the TREC

**May 18-20, Fri, Sat, Sun.** – Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle

**May 22, Tuesday** – PIA Board Meeting at the TREC, 6:00 in the Conference Room

**May 25, Friday** – PIA Program at the TREC in Room 112

7:00 Program - “More Chimneys for Swifts”

Followed by a social (Page 3)

## 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Drew Mortensen
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Sue Murawski
Treasurer	Julie Dell
Retiring President	Michele Rundquist-Franz

### Board of Trustees

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2015-2018	Katie Andersen
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2016-2019	Kathy Lutton
2017-2018	Issy Lawrie
2017-2018	Michele Rundquist-Franz

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Programs	Mary Birdsong
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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.presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org)

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Erie County is a wonderful place to bird. Presque Isle is a treasure. Enjoy as much of it as you can. Take full advantage of the diversity of habitat and expand your enjoyment. While it is tempting to stay on just a few trails (Sidewalk, Fry's Landing, Pine Tree), there are so many others that are far less travelled that are ready to be explored. Venture off the well worn paths and explore. You won't be disappointed... unless a Cerulean shows up at the trail you skipped over.



**LOOKING FOR THAT CERULEAN WARBLER**

The Presque Isle Audubon Festival of the Birds is the best birding event in Pennsylvania, hosted by the best group of volunteers. Every member of the team works hard to create an opportunity that is excellent in all regards. We want you to see as many birds as possible and will do absolutely anything to make that happen. If you ask a volunteer for a bird, they won't get it for you. We won't do that. Why would you ask for a bird? Just wrong. Mostly anything else though. When you see a volunteer on the trail or at a workshop, please tip your oversized wide-brimmed sun shade hat (I have one too, it's gorgeous and I love it) and say thanks.

Welcome to the Festival of the Birds.

~DM

## PROGRAMS FOR APRIL AND MAY

### DINOS TO BIRDS

Friday, April 20, 2018

Georgia Feild



On Earth Day weekend discover the natural history of our extant dinosaurs: Birds. Over a period of nearly 200 million years birds have adapted and survived through geological tectonic plate shifts causing environmental climate changes that caused mass extinctions of dinosaurs and mammals. There is significant scientific fossil evidence and analysis that explains how Archaeopteryx was in fact the first bird fossil discovered in the 19th Century. Understand how anatomy plays a crucial role in an animal's adaptation to environment. Learn what birds we see every day have evolutionary links to Celeophysis, Allosaurus, Confucisornis and Tyrannosaurus rex.

Feild is an artist, scientist and educator whose work is inspired by nature. She is a docent at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, teaching evolution of dinosaurs to birds, and the migration patterns of wildlife during the Ice Age and Ancient Cultures. She is also compiling a book based on avian science and her remarkable relationship with a Raven and completing a massive art exhibition concerning plastic debris and its effect on shore and sea birds.

## MORE CHIMNEYS FOR SWIFTS

Friday, May 25, 2018

Jim Bonner

Learn more about this fascinating project to conserve Chimney Swifts, voracious hunters, each consuming thousands of flying bugs every evening – the perfect urban insecticide! These neotropical migrant birds adapted to using man-made structures when their original nesting and roosting sites (old hollow trees) became scarce. Now, older homes and buildings are having their chimneys removed or capped, while new construction utilizes smaller and less habitable techniques to vent exhaust. The result has been a dramatic decline in populations throughout the northern latitudes.

Since 2013, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania has installed approximately 150 towers Chimney Swift towers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. These unique structures mimic an actual chimney, serving as roosting and nesting habitat for the birds.



Jim Bonner, Executive Director of Audubon Society of Western PA will share information on the fascinating life history of Chimney Swifts, the challenges they now face, and ASWP's work in creating the largest concentration of swift habitats in the country.

## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported for Jan. 16 through March 17, 2018 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Snow Goose** 2 white; March 2; Wattsburg; E.S  
2 blue; March 5; Leo's; S.W.

**Eurasian Wigeon** 1; Feb. 24 to 26; Presque Isle Bay west of ranger's station; J.M.

**White-winged Scoter** up to 110; Jan. 16 through the period; Sunset Point, beach 11, channel, and Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

**Surf Scoter** 3; Feb. 3 & 24; Channel; S.T.

**Sandhill Crane** 2; Feb. 27; B-trail; D.Z.  
1; Feb. 27; Waterford: fide J.H.

**Iceland Gull** 1; March 6; Erie in Presque Isle Bay; M.B. ; March 8; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** 1; March 7; channel; J.M.

**Glaucous Gull** 1; March 8; channel; J.M.  
2; March 13; off Leo's; J.M.4; March 16; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

**Snowy Owl** up to 4; through Jan. 27; Presque Isle Bay ice; m.ob. 1; Jan. 19; North East; J.F. 1; Jan. 22; Millcreek Twp. (Ollie's rooftop); M.F. 1; Jan. 28 to Feb. 2; Summit Twp. (landfill); J.C., et al. 1; Jan. 30 to at least Feb. 14; Eaton Reservoir; T.L. 1; March 4; Gull Point; R.D.

**Long-eared Owl** 1; Feb. 28; pines; R.D.

**Short-eared Owl** 1; Jan. 26; Gull Point; K.F.

**Northern Shrike** 1; Feb. 3 to March 3; Rt. 97, Summit Twp. south of Samson Station Rd.; J.M.



**Northern Shrike**

**Gray Catbird** 1; March 17; Leo's; M.F.

**Brown Thrasher** 1; March 17 (early); Leo's; M.F.



**Brown Thrasher**

**Northern Cardinal** 1 bilateral gynandromorph (half male and half female); March 9 to at least 16; Millcreek Twp. ; P.W.

**Common Redpoll** 30; Feb. 14; Pine Tree Trail; D.S.

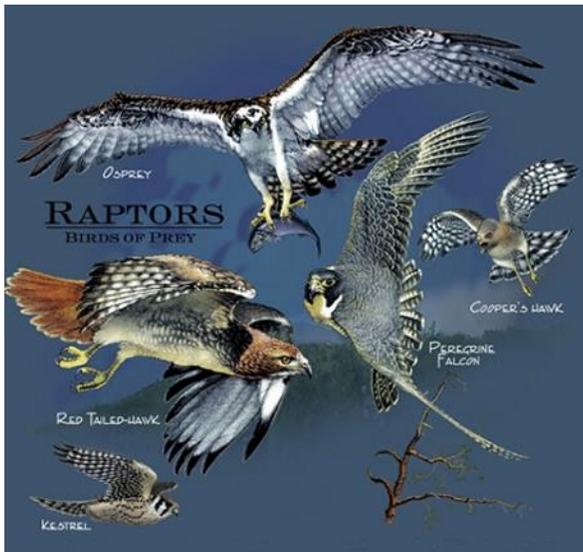


**Common Redpoll**

**Contributors:** M.B. Mary Birdsong, J.C. John Campbell, R.D. Roger Donn, K.F. Kyle Filicky, J.F. Jean Fletcher, M.F. Michele Franz, J.H. Jamie Hill, T.L. Tim Lyons, J.M. Jerry McWilliams, E.S. Emily Smith, D.S. Don Snyder, S.T. Shannon Thompson, P.W. Pat Wenzel, S.W. Suzanne Winterberger, D.Z. Dean Zeller, m.ob. many observers

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

**A RAPTOR EXPERIENCE  
Sunday, April 15, 2018**



Presque Isle Audubon would like to invite you to visit the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on Sunday, April 15, 2018 anytime between 12-3p for a raptor experience.

Live birds from Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center will be present. Educational table displays and children's activities will be presented by DCNR and the Presque Isle Audubon Society.



Jasper, the Screech Owl from Tamarack

There is no fee or registration for this event and all ages are welcome.

**2018 PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK "BIG MONTH" Birding Competition**



**The competition will begin at 5:00 am on May 1<sup>st</sup> and go through 5:00 pm on May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

The cost will be **\$20.00 per participant**, limited to 50 birders. The fee will include a bird checklist, participation certificate, a discount for Presque Isle Gallery and Gifts, a button and a chance at various prizes in both categories. You can register in one of two categories: the **Novice level** which is 0 to 10 years of birding experience and the **Professional level** which is 11 plus years of birding experience.

The birds seen, heard and/or photographed can be recorded on your checklist using the honor system.

Checklist booklets can be picked up at the TREC front desk. All birds identified must be within the park boundary.

Registration ends April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. Your checklist must be turned into the front desk at the TREC before 5:00 PM on Friday June 8, 2018.

To register please call **814-833-7424** or go to [http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/presque\\_isle\\_state\\_park\\_](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/presque_isle_state_park_)

## **ERIE BIRD OBSERVATORY NEED VOLUNTEERS**

The recently formed Erie Bird Observatory (EBO) needs your help! At EBO, we believe in connecting people with nature through birds. Therefore, our bird banding station at Fry's Landing also serves as an outdoor classroom where the public can see birds close up and learn more about them. Last year we saw anywhere from 50 to 100 human visitors a day on the weekends and, as you can imagine, that can quickly become too much for the bird bander to handle, especially when that person is primarily responsible for the welfare of the 100-200 birds also visiting the banding station at the same time.



We are therefore looking for volunteers to act in the role of an educator or, interpreter, on weekends in May. Your job would consist of engaging the public by answering their questions about birds and also by explaining the banding process. We're asking for a commitment of 2-3 hours (usually mid to late mornings) and of at least two scheduled shifts. Any necessary training will be provided for those individuals chosen for this important task. For the right people, it's a fun way to spend your mornings as you get to share your passion for birds while also potentially seeing a wide diversity of birds up close.

For more information on this exciting new volunteer opportunity with Erie Bird Observatory, please contact us at [info@eriebirdobservatory.org](mailto:info@eriebirdobservatory.org).

## **MEET OUR TRUSTEES FOR 2018 - 2020**



**TONY KECK**

I have always been fascinated by birds. The variety, the colors, the ability to adapt to almost any environment is a source of wonder for me. Until my retirement from the Erie County Public Library, I did not have the time to pursue my interest further. If elected to the Presque Isle Audubon board, I shall bring experience of working with boards, public officials, and consensus building.



**DAVID J. GUSTAFSON**

David J. Gustafson, Professor Emeritus has been a member of PIAS for over 35 years. An avid birder and wildlife photographer, he has traveled to many African and European countries to view the wildlife. Professor Gustafson served as treasurer of PIAS for eleven years and recently completed another three year appointment to the Board of Trustees. He is the recipient of the PIAS service award for dedication to the mission of the Society.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We want to welcome the following members in our chapter. When you join National Audubon, you automatically are a member of our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon.

**Erie:** Dyan Jones, E.M. Dall, Joan Menosky, Shirley Dudenhoefer, Karen Euliano, Deborah Cable, Jerry Vogt, Charleen Sertz, Bob & Toni Griffith, JL Ferrick, Rosemarie Pitetti

**Cochranon:** Jo Potvin

**Conneautville:** Clem Ravacon Mershon, Charles Gilbert, C. Kent Persinger

**Corry:** Shayne Hoachlander

**Edinboro:** Suzanne Winterberger, Julie Gould, Tim Banks

**Fairview:** Jan Warburton, Lee Farley, Gilbert Jacobs

**Harborcreek:** Mary Fetchik, Becki Burton

**Guys Mills:** Alelia Koontz

**Saegertown:** D.K. Boyd

**Titusville:** William Karns, Kit Sopher

**Townville:** Terry Lobdell

**Union City:** Ashley Ethridge

**Waterford:** Shirlee, Rich Lewis

Sign up for our Chapter newsletter. It keeps you updated on our events and field trips. Hope to see you at one of our monthly membership meetings, or at a field trip.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman  
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

## REPORT: ST. PATRICK'S DAY FIELD TRIP "Finding Birds and Leprechauns"

All of two birders were present for this search for birds and leprechauns. Michele Rundquist-Franz, the field trip leader, didn't balk at the low number of loyal birders present, but gave her all in taking them off the beaten path and having them trekking along various trails located in the interior of Presque Isle State Park. This was the first of many field trips that will introduce birders to the inland paths of the park, Michele announced.

The Portage Trail was the location where the leprechaun was hiding but he could not escape the sharp eyes of Pat Howell who nabbed him. Pat's reward for her apprehension was a leprechaun style bird feeder that was sure to attract a variety of birds due to its unusual structure.



**NORTHERN PINTAIL**

The quest for birds was very successful as well. A total of 40 different species was located throughout the park, the most gratifying being these: Northern pintails, American wigeons, common mergansers, redheads, wood ducks and ring necked ducks. Watch the Audubon website for the next scheduled field trip.

The Presque Isle Audubon Society's newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, is published every other month: February, April, June, August, October and December. 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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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**

Renewal members can join as they have in the past, either by sending their membership check directly to National Audubon, or they can join online. New members are to send their first membership check to the local chapter. The address is at the bottom of this application.

Membership includes membership in BOTH the National Audubon Society and the local Presque Isle Audubon Society. National members receive *Audubon Magazine* (4 issues per year) and the monthly newsletter *Tern of Events*. **Please include your e-mail address to receive the on line version of our chapter's newsletter.**

Introductory membership	\$20.00
Renewals	\$20.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Chapter Code C8ZU150Z**

Please mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to **YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER:**

**Presque Isle Audubon  
Ron Intrieri, Membership  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center  
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite #8  
Erie, Pa 16505**