



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2013 ISSUE 13:06

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

Mentor: (V) to impart wisdom and share knowledge with a less experienced colleague; (N) a trusted guide, counselor or coach.

This Perch is devoted to all those who have taken their time and generously shared their knowledge of birds and birding to me since I began this marvelous adventure some 9 or 10 years ago.



Welcome Sign

Fresh back from my trip to the Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine, I am still reeling with all that I experienced and learned during my time there. I was at Hog Island to attend the Field Ornithology camp which was under the direction of noted ornithologist, author and naturalist, Scott Weidensaul. I was familiar with Scott through several of his books, only one of which, I am sad to admit, I have read.

(Cont. on Page 2)

August 13, 2013 is Erie Gives Day!



Please consider making a donation to the Presque Isle Audubon Society so that we may continue our mission of the protection and conservation of the habitats and inhabitants of Presque Isle. A percentage of every

dollar you give during the Erie Gives event will be matched by the Erie Community Foundation with additional support from GE Transportation. Go to ErieGives.org on August 13th between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and make your donation. Thank you!!



ORANGE PEEL MUSHROOM

AUGUST THINGS TO DO!

- August 9, Friday - Complete Member Survey**
- August 10, Saturday - Let's Look at Bugs at Land O' Lakes (SGL 277) 11:00 AM (See Page 5)**
- August 13, Tuesday - Erie Gives Day!**

SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!

- September 20, Friday - 57th PIAS Banquet at Elk's Lodge (See Page 6)**

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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

PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

The book, *Of a Feather: A brief history of birding*, was an interesting and entertaining read that I can't recommend highly enough. Trust me, I look forward to reading all of his books. I was also familiar with Scott through his thoughtful and generous posts on the PABIRDS listserv. Scott met the boat that carried us from the mainland to the island and had a kind and warm welcome for everyone. I had brought a message to him from my friend, Julie Leonard, who wanted me to let him know that his piece on Why Birds Matter in the Spring Audubon magazine had brought her to tears. He appreciated the message and shared with me the story of how he came to write the piece and the passion with which he wrote it. Throughout the entire five days at Hog Island, Scott not only carried out his directorship seamlessly, but gave several workshops and presentations including a bird banding workshop during which he banded a female ruby-throated hummingbird and a presentation entailing some of his great searches for birds such as the cone-billed tanager and Semper's warbler. Despite not locating either bird (the tanager was found some time later by another ornithologist), Scott is still the eternal optimist and thinks that somewhere out there, there may be species once thought lost that may be rediscovered or just live on quietly in their place in the world.



Scott Wiedensaul with Participant

I knew even before I arrived at the Hog Island Audubon Camp dock that I was in for a fun and great learning experience when my chauffeurs/escorts from the mainland were none other than Kim and Kenn Kaufman. (Cont. on P. 3)

Both Kenn and Kim were instructors during the Field Ornithology session, something they've been doing for many years. It was great interacting with Kim during the bird banding workshop. Her passion and enthusiasm during the week was a wonderful to experience and it is no surprise that as the director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory she has had great success developing the Young Birders of Ohio group. It was equally rewarding learning from Kenn about migration and witnessing first hand his passion and admiration for birds and bird conservation. His enthusiasm was especially evident when he was asked not once, but twice to demonstrate the courtship ritual of the male mourning dove. (Want to see it for yourself? Attend the membership meeting (date TBA) during which I may play a little clip of Kenn strutting his stuff!

Although less familiar with Sara Morris and John Kricher, I will certainly be searching out any workshops or presentations they might be giving because both were outstanding instructors. Sara is a professor in the Biology Department at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY and John is a professor in the Biology Department at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. Sara and John, aside from leading field trips and workshops, conducted the Ornithology I and II sessions in which they compressed a college course into 5 hours *and* made it fun!!



Sara Morris Sitting on Rocks

As someone who tends to lean more than many towards the auditory side of birding, I was

excited to meet and participate in field trips and workshops with Benjamin Clock of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library. Ever go to the Cornell site and listen to bird songs/calls? They could very well have been recorded by Ben. Ben conducted a song recording workshop during which participants were able to go out in the field and use some of the equipment Ben uses to do such recordings. It was definitely worth getting up at 4:00 a.m. to hear the dawn chorus.

All of the instructors during my experience at Hog Island were knowledgeable and generous but I would be remiss if I did not give credit to the person who was my first mentor and remains my primary source for all information avian. You all know him, the pundit of passerines, the guru of gaviformes, the sultan of suliformes, the grand pooba of podicipediformes, and certainly the king of cuculiformes. Yes, folks you know I'm talking about none other than...Paul Burroughs, oops I mean, of course, Jerry McWilliams! (Although Paul is certainly quite generous in sharing his knowledge of American robin identification). My foray into birding, I mean, semi-serious birding, beyond the daily look out the window to check out the feeder birds, began when my friend, Julie, introduced me to Jerry and his spring bird ID classes. I think I started taking his class in 2004 but Jerry probably knows for sure. Jerry can tell you the earliest record for every bird species ever to grace the shores of Presque Isle, Erie County and probably the state! OK, he might have to refer to his records for a few of them. The classes started in mid-April and believe you me; it wasn't unusual to spend a morning in the sleet and snow, peering through Jerry's scope at some far off duck or swan. Being a novice, each class brought new birds which I later learned were referred to as "Lifers". Aaah, those were the days, "lifers" practically each and every class. Through all the questions, bad photos, worse descriptions, Jerry kindly shared and continues to share his knowledge with me and anyone who asks. So, thank you Jerry and all those mentors who patiently and skillfully share their knowledge with those of us who still have so much to learn about these magnificent and, yes, sometimes frustrating creatures.

~Michele Franz, President of PIAS

BIRD SIGHTINGS

The following birds of note were reported for June and July 2013 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Tundra Swan—3; July 19 to 27; Gull Point; R.D.

Western Grebe—1; June 21-25; Gull Point; Mark Vass, et al. First confirmed Erie County record.



WESTERN GREBE

Least Bittern—2; June 15; head of bay; Mark Vass

Merlin—pair on a nest; to at least July 12;

Edinboro; fide S.W., T.S., confirmed by D.S..

First confirmed nesting of Merlin in Erie County.

Peregrine Falcon—pair with fledgling confirmed on June 24 nesting inside Ron Jons Ship Builders building. Reported, with photos, on the local news stations.

Piping Plover—1 with leg bands; June 8; Gull Point; R.D. 1 unbanded; June 9 & 10; R.D., M.B..

1 unbanded; July 26 to 28; Gull Point; R.D.

American Avocet—total of 7; June 17 to July 26; Gull Point & Beach 7; R.D., V.K. First June record in Erie County.

Ruddy Turnstone—50 (high count); June 6; Gull Point; R.D.

Hudsonian Godwit—1; June 29; Gull Point; R.D.

Willet—total of 16; June 26 to July 27; Gull Point; R.D.

Whimbrel—total of 10; July 7 to 28; Gull Point; R.D.

Red Knot—30; June 6; Gull Point; R.D. 1; July 28; Gull Point; R.D.

White-rumped Sandpiper—total of 20; June 6 to 18; Gull Point; R.D.

Stilt Sandpiper—total of 6; July 20 to 24; Gull Point; R.D.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—1; July 28; Gull Point; record early in Erie County by about three weeks; R.D., D.M.

Wilson's Phalarope—3; June 4; Gull Point; R.D.

Prairie Warbler—1 singing; June 1; Erie Bluffs S.P.; J.M. 1 singing; end of June; Union City; D.P.

Pine Siskin—1 juv.; July 11; Greene Twp.; B.P.Z.; confirmed breeding in Erie County

Contributors: M.B.-Mary Birdsong, R.D.-Roger Donn, V.K.-Vicki Kensinger, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.M.-Drew Mortensen, D.P.-Donna Peters, T.S.-Terry Smith, D.S.-Don Snyder, M.V.-Mark Vass, S.W.-Suzanne Winterberger, B.P.Z.-Bob & Pam Zelenak

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Sightings Chair
jerrymcw@aol.com 814-240-8594

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope everyone is having a good summer. We have a few new members who have joined us, as well as some renewals.

Erie: Nancy Sturtevant, T.A. Elliot, Mark Lewis, Nancy Robinson

Edinboro: Beth Beaumont, Patricia Hametz

Lake City: Jan Kidder

Meadville: Shirley Morris

Wattsburg: Joseph Susi

W. Springfield: C. Humphrey

Our Chapter Only members, both new and renewals, are Carolyn Tellers, Judy Lipsitz, Lois Wiley, Ronald Vicander, Robin Cuneo, Peter Bol and Dallas Dileo.

If you want to know when your membership will expire, check the mailing label on your newsletter. Above your name is the expiration date or you can email me for that information. Also, you can pay your membership dues online at our website, www.presqueisleaudubon.org/member.html.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chair
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

WELCOME TO THE NEW TRUSTEES!
Drew Mortensen and Robin Dile Cuneo



Drew

Drew began birding a few years ago after being introduced to the activity by his father, brother, and close family friends. It was during that early phase that he moved to Erie with his wife and three children and subsequently became passionate about spending time at Presque Isle. Whether it is hiking out to Gull Point in the winter or walking Pine Tree Trail in the spring, Drew can often be found somewhere in the park in search of a resident, migrant, or vagrant. Beyond the region, Drew and family have traveled out west and as far as Arizona and down south as far as the Dry Tortugas, all for the love of adventure and birds. So far this year he has managed to see over 220 species in Erie County, and 240 in the state. The real joy for him though is getting to spend time outdoors with friends and family.

Robin

I've been a birder ever since I was big enough to hoist my late father's mammoth book of Audubon prints. He repopulated bluebirds near our central PA cabin by crafting and mounting many appropriate houses. He made and gifted many dozens of houses and feeders over the years, always explaining what features would attract which birds. I moved to Erie after graduating from Penn State University in 1974, planning to stay for three weeks. Ahem.

I moved to Findley Lake, N.Y. in 1987 after marrying Patrick J. Cuneo, and we still live in our lakeside house there. Hiking with dogs is high on my list of favorites, including to Presque Isle's Gull Point the minute it opens every year. We feed birds year-round - songbirds at multiple feeders on one side of the house (where I'm often found in a camouflaged "watching chair") -- and an ever-growing flock of wounded Canada geese who can't migrate on the other. Some of my dad's feeders are still in use. Since retirement as a 25-year reporter from the Erie Times-News after four spine surgeries, I've also acquired a pigeon house.

**ERIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
NATURE PHOTO CONTEST**

The Erie National Wildlife Refuge, in cooperation with the Friends of Erie National Wildlife Refuge and the Presque Isle Audubon Society, announces the fourteenth biennial nature photo contest to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. Entries must be in by Friday, September 30, 2013. Judging will occur on Sunday, October 20th. An open reception at the Refuge will be held to present awards at 1:30 PM that day. Refreshments will be served. The photographs will remain on display at the Refuge until the end of October. Entries may be picked up after then. For more information and complete rules go to PIAS homepage (www.presqueisleaudubon.org) and see link to download flyer:

<http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/2013ENWRphotocontestflyer.pdf>

FIELD TRIP

Bugs on Land o' Lakes (SGL 277)

Cambridge Springs - August 10, Saturday

Meet at 11 a.m. in the parking lot on Miller Station Rd.: GoogleMap: <http://goo.gl/maps/vBzRo>. Bring a camera and an insect and/or butterfly field guide and we'll explore as a group and share our discoveries! Please contact me if you plan on attending this event.

Lee Ann Reiners at larch@zoominternet.net or 814-282-1512 (email preferable).

57TH PIAS BANQUET - 2013
Friday, September 20

Help us celebrate our 57th anniversary as we kick off our 2013-2014 Audubon year.

Date: Friday, September 20, 2013

Place: Elks Lodge #67

2409 Peninsula Drive, Erie

Time: 6:00 p.m. Social: Punch (non-alcoholic)

Drinks and soda available for purchase

6:30 p.m. Dinner: Buffet

8:00 p.m. Program: Restoration Project at
Gull Point

Speaker: Ephraim Zimmerman

Dinner Buffet Menu

Roasted Rosemary Chicken

Italian Sausage with Onions and Peppers

Baked Rigatoni with Sauce

Vegetable Lasagna

Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Tossed Garden Salad

Baked Rolls with Butter

Cake and Ice Cream

Coffee, Hot/Iced Tea

Price: \$15.00 (payable at the door) To make the banquet more affordable, PIAS is once again underwriting it.

Reservations are required by Sunday, September 15. When reserving, please give full name and telephone number. No Mr. and Mrs. Please call Ruth Swaney (456-8103) or Ron Intrieri (899-6023). If you are unable to honor your reservation, you must cancel by Sunday, September 15 or you will be billed. Note: The Elks Lodge requires a final reservation count earlier than usual, so I urge you to reserve early. Thank you.

Please remember the Sunday, September 15 reservation deadline.

SPEAKER AND PROGRAM

Our speaker, Ephraim Zimmerman is an Ecologist with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and has conducted inventory, assessment, and restoration projects across Pennsylvania since 2003, including projects at Presque Isle and Erie Bluffs State Parks. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and an M.S. in Forest Ecology from the University of Michigan.

His presentation at the banquet will focus on the work conducted by partners from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Audubon PA, Presque Isle State Park, and Cleveland Museum of Natural History funded by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. That work is to clear invasive exotic and aggressive native plant species from approximately 30 acres of sand plain habitat at Gull Point at the tip of the Presque Isle peninsula to improve conditions for Piping Plovers and other shorebirds.

FUND RAISER

For our 19th annual fund raiser, Jan Lutz, our area's foremost artist, is honoring us with her original watercolor "Stretching". (Cont. on Page 7)



FUND RAISER (Cont.)

This 16x22 framed painting depicting a grizzly bear stretching valued at \$400, will be on display at the Bayfront Gallery, 17 East Dobbins Landing, Erie, during the month of August through September 19. Benefiting our education and conservation programs, tickets (\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00) will be available at the banquet, the Bayfront Gallery and Wild Birds Unlimited in Erie, Kelly Run Gallery and Framing in Cambridge Springs and by mail. To participate by mail, please send your check made payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society, Banquet Fund Raiser, 6704 West Haskell Drive, Fairview, PA 16415 and your tickets will be sent by return mail. One need not be present for the drawing.

Jan has had a life-long interest in art beginning her art studies as a child and continuing them through various workshops and classes in the area including summer study in Italy. She received her BS in Art Education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 1974. Her award-winning paintings (watercolor and oil) have been juried in local, national and international exhibits including the 2000, 2010, 2013 Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, 21st, 31st and 34th International Exhibition and the American Watercolorists of 1998 (juror McStephen Doherty, Editor-in-Chief, American Artist Magazine).

Jan's awards and honors include 2009 Featured Artist, MS Lottery, Erie; third place, "Colors of Music," Erie Art Museum of Erie Philharmonic; 2003 Best of Show Panoramic, Erie Festival of Arts; 1998 American Artist Magazine Award, PA Watercolor Society 19th National Exhibition.

She is a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society and a member of the Northwest Pennsylvania Artists Association and the Meadville Council on the Arts.

Jan's work may be purchased at area galleries and at Kelly Run Gallery and Framing in Cambridge Springs of which she and her husband are the owners.

Following dinner, the annual P.I.A.S. Environmental Award will be given for exceptional work in the conservation/environmental field.

A membership to the National Audubon Society serves as the evening's door prize. There will also be a surprise door prize for attendees only.

Table centerpieces have been donated by Chuck Kern. You may be among those to take one home.

~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chair

MEMBER E-MAIL SURVEY

Those of you who receive the TOE via email notification/link to the PIAS website should have received an email survey from the PIAS Executive Board seeking your input into the various activities of the PIAS. If you did not receive an email of the survey, we have included the survey with this TOE so that you may share your thoughts and opinions with the executive board. We encourage you to complete the survey and forward to the executive board by mail or by bringing it with you to the banquet or next membership meeting. Your opinions matter very much to us!

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 or 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. If you have any questions, call Janet at 814-825-8394.

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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 \$10.00/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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Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to:

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