



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2014 ISSUE 14:05

*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

Nemesis bird: I think it's safe to say we've all had one (at least) or, as in my case, still have one. A nemesis bird is a bird that has escaped your glass, more than just once. One time is a simple dip; twice, maybe a little flooky; three times and we're starting to get into nemesis territory. Of course, these aren't just random misses, these are you intentionally pursuing a bird. Perhaps you're feeling a little ill and maybe you have to leave work a couple hours early because THAT bird has just been spotted at a local pond or field. You arrive there after speeding through town without stopping, despite an empty stomach and full bladder, only to be told by not one but a dozen people that, "You JUST MISSED IT! It was sitting right there, like 5 feet from where you are standing." Aargh!! So, a nemesis bird can be a cause of great frustration and, for some dyed in the wool competitive birding types, a true thorn in the side. At the same time, however, it can be a great joy because it gives you will and drive and a reason to get out there and...oh, who am I kidding?! Nemesis birds are a pain in the glass!

The following is an excerpt from one of those career-long "listers" who had the same nemesis bird for over 3 decades! Now that's dedication...or really bad birding. My nemesis—my arch-nemesis, actually—fell just a few weeks ago when I saw a Ross' Gull in Colorado. That bird had vexed me for 32 years. Now I have to decide which lesser nemesis will rise to the #1 position. This fall also saw one of my lesser nemeses, Rufous Hummingbird,

removed from the roster. The Ross' Gull was special. Except for that species, all of my nemesis birds are most wanted in my home state of Illinois, where I try to stay competitive. So even though I have seen dozens of Rufous Hummers out west, it was still on my nemesis list, because I hadn't seen one in Illinois. If you're not a lister, you're probably wondering what the hell I'm babbling on about. Sorry about that. From North American Birding: Voices, Opinion, News and More, a blog written by Gary Niese from Illinois. As you can see, some people actually have a hierarchy of nemeses. (Cont. on Page 2)

## AUGUST THINGS TO DO!



- August 12, Tuesday** – Erie Gives Day from 8:00AM to 8:00PM. Make your donations at [ErieGives.org](http://ErieGives.org)
- August 20, Wednesday** – Weed Warrior Work Session: Meet at the Stull Center at 10:00AM
- August 30, Saturday** – Weed Warrior Work Session: Meet at the Stull Center at 9:30AM

## 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 Intrieri
Nominating	TBA
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Susan A. Smith
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Sales & Marketing	Jeanne Kern
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.

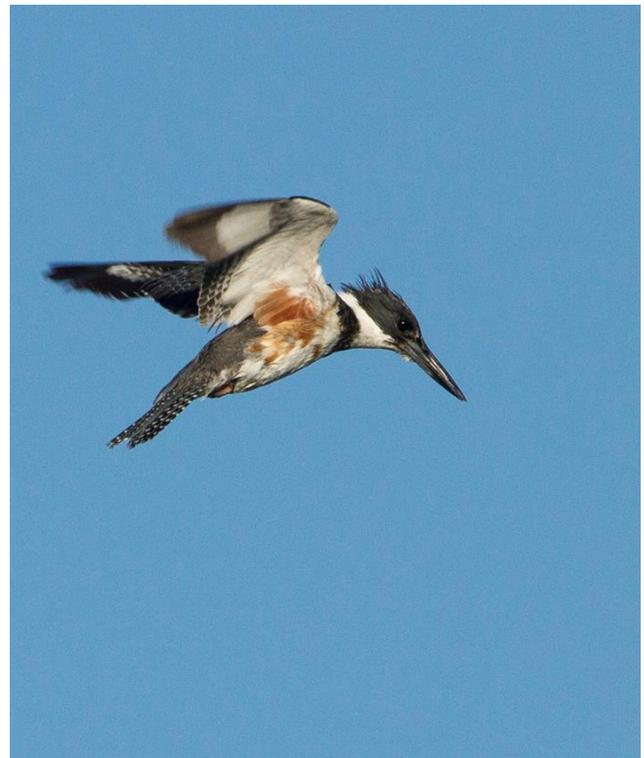
**Address:** 301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 8  
Erie, PA 16505

**Website:** [www.presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org)

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

When the birder finally “gets” one of his/her sought after birds it can be added to their life list and taken off their sh...ucks list! At that point, subordinate nemeses are moved up the ranks accordingly. Some people even have categorical nemesis birds.

I know that I am not the only birder who has a list of birds that they've seen quite well but of which they have never gotten a decent photograph! Let me tell ya, that can be one l-o-o-ng list! For a long time, especially when I first started photographing birds, I could never get a decent shot of a belted kingfisher, even though they are regulars on the creek on which I live. I swear they'd hear me coming out my front door when I was going to the creek to try and get a few shots and take off up or down the creek. Even at Presque Isle, I waited years before I got a decent shot. The shot here is from FL where just about all birds are easier to photograph. So, sometimes you have to go out of your way. (Cont. on Page 3)



**BELTED KINGFISHER**

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Just seeing (or photographing) a bird in another local, however, does not necessarily qualify the bird from being taken off the nemesis list. As Gary Niese posted in his blog, someone might have seen a dozen or more [insert nemesis bird here] in a different state or region, they might keep them on the nemesis list because they haven't seen the bird in their own state. That's really a matter of personal choice though. I'm not a competitive lister and if I see (or photograph) a bird in another state, I'll probably take them off my nemesis list.

I decided to write this perch about nemesis birds as a follow up to May's Perch about "spark birds". As I see it, your spark bird is the bird that gets you hooked on birds and birding and your nemesis bird(s) is the bird that keeps you involved, on your toes and excited for the "hunt". Because in the end, once you get your bins on that glorious prize the exhilaration and fulfillment is ample reward for all those dips, all those miles, all those miles, all that gasoline. If you don't have a nemesis bird, get one! It's painfully fun. As for my nemesis bird, right now it's a Piping Plover. (Below)



As I write this I see there was a Piping Plover at Conneaut Harbor today (honest). I could be there in 45 minutes, I might see it, I might dip. I'm not going because one thing that I'm more fearful of than dipping is incurring the wrath of the TOE Editor. So, what's your nemesis bird? Drop us a line and let us know or go to the PIAS Facebook page and post about it!

~Michle Rundquist-Franz, PIAS President



Please consider a donation to your Presque Isle Audubon Society this year on Erie Gives Day which is August 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. This year, as in years past, the Erie Community Foundation will enhance each donor's gift by providing a prorated match to each gift made to a nonprofit. The Foundation will divide a total of \$200,000 (\$100,000 provided by The Erie Community Foundation, \$50,000 provided by GE Transportation, \$25,000 provided by Erie Insurance and \$25,000 provided by Presque Isle Downs & Casino) among the participating nonprofits. The more a nonprofit raises, the more of the \$200,000 the nonprofit will receive! Last year our generous donors contributed over \$1100.00 to the PIAS. These donations will be used to forward our mission of education, conservation and restoration.

The minimum gift is \$25. There is no upper limit to the amount of money you may give 😊. When you donate to PIAS through Erie Gives, you will receive an email receipt of your gift; please retain it for tax purposes. Each nonprofit, including PIAS, will receive a notification of your gift unless you choose to remain anonymous. Per the Erie Gives website only Visa, MasterCard and Discover will be accepted. The credit card processor charges a nominal fee per transaction. To make your gift to PIAS or any other nonprofit of your choice, please go to [ErieGives.org](http://ErieGives.org) on August 12<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Afraid you might forget? You can go there now and register for a "reminder"!

Thank you in advance for your generosity to PIAS.

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

All birds of note were recorded from June through July 20, 2014 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Red-breasted Merganser**—1; July 1; Gull Point; J.M.

**Pied-billed Grebe**—1 adult with young; June 25; SGL #191; M.W. (See below)



**Least Bittern**—1 calling; June 5; Long Pond; G.L. (ebird)

**Snowy Egret**—1; June 10; across from Thompson Circle; B.B.

**Snowy Plover**—1; July 1-4; Gull Point; R.D.

**American Avocet**—total of 17; July 1 to July 20; Gull Point; R.D., S.T., et al (See below)



**Ruddy Turnstone**—2; June 30; Gull Point; J.F.  
(See below)



**Short-billed Dowitcher**—1; June 21 early/late; Gull Point; R.D.

**Willet**— 1; June 30; Gull Point; J.F.,23; July 1; Gull Point; R.D. total of 9; July 2 to 19; m.ob.

**Whimbrel**—1; June 8; Gull Point; S.T., R.D. total of 4; July 16; Gull Point; D.D., R.W., R.D.

**Marbled Godwit**—total of 9; July 1 to 19; Gull Point; R.D., M.B.

**Red Knot**—1; June 7; Gull Point; R.D. (Below)



**Least Tern**—1 imm.; July 19; Gull Point; R.S.

**Black Tern**—3; June 10; Waterford; J.H. 1; July 2; Gull Point; J.F.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—1; June 12; Gull Point; R.D. 1; July 9; Gull Point; M.S.

(Cont. on Page 5)

## BIRD SIGHTINGS (Cont.)

**Merlin**—1 pair with two nearly fledged young on a nest; July 4; east Erie; M.B.. First confirmed nest with young in the county. Young successfully fledged on July 9, 2014. (See below)



**Blackpoll Warbler**—1 singing male; June 30 to July 2; Thompson Circle; J.M, S.T.

**Piping Plover**—1 banded adult; June 12; Gull Point; M.B. 1 unbanded adult; June 20; Gull Point; R.D.. 2 adults; July 3 and one on July 4; Gull Point; D.M.(ebird) 1 banded adult; July 8; Gull Point; J.M. Different leg bands than the one reported on July. Possible that this may be the same bird from June 12.

**Rusty Blackbird**—1 female; June 8 (late); Gull Point Trail; S.T.

Contributors: B.B-Brian Berchtold, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, D.D.-Dave DeReamus, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jim Flynn, J.H.-Jamie Hill, G.L.-Greg Lawrence, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.M.-Diane Morton, M.S.-Matt Sabatine, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, S.T.-Shannon Tompson, M.W.-Mike Weible, R.W.-Rick Wiltraut, m.ob.-many observers

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

## PIAS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hope everyone is having a great summer. Fall is around the corner and that will provide a lot of opportunities for bird watching. We want to welcome the following members into our chapter, as well as say "thank you" for the renewals.

**Erie:** Marjorie Carey, Maria Kingston, Barbara Haggerty, Charleen Sertz, Maryann Domowicz, David Barron, Margaret Solomon, Robert Gross, Barbara Wyler, Julie Michalski  
**Cambridge Sps:** Amanda Kimball  
**Conneautville:** Elaine Schmidt, Adam Troyer  
**Edinboro:** Liz Dilla  
**Fairview:** Norman Standwitz  
**Jamestown:** Linda Estes  
**Meadville:** Cheryl Hodges  
**Springboro:** Tom Nicolls  
**Warren:** Lois Johnson

Just a reminder that anyone who joins National Audubon is also a member of our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman  
[membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)

## MEET THE PIAS BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Danko is no stranger to members of Presque Isle Audubon as she has previously been secretary, field trip organizer, chair of the Organic Lawn Conference, and president. This year she will fill the position of Secretary again and becomes our newest board member.

Born in Buffalo, NY, Lisa spent many year in the woods in the family's log cabin where she learned her appreciation of nature. She went to Buffalo State for biology, headed to Penn State for entomology and went to hog island on a scholarship. Lisa has served on the Allegany nature pilgrimage for many, many years. She has two children and four grandchildren. The six year old claims to have a "nature sense " ! Awesome !  
Welcome to the board, again, Lisa!

## ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE - 2014



With 500 attendees and perfect weather, the 56th Allegany Nature Pilgrimage at Allegany State Park on May 30, 31 and June 1 was a tremendous success! Organized by a committee of volunteers from Buffalo Audubon, Jamestown Audubon, Presque Isle Audubon, and Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, 45 leaders presented a variety of programs.

Gregory Turner, Endangered Mammal Specialist with Pennsylvania Game Commission, gave an informative talk on bats on Friday night and also took folks on a night bat walk. Saturday evening's well-received tent program had Julia Ecklar, Avian Specialist at National Aviary explaining why the National Aviary is in Pittsburgh and not Washington, DC as many think. Her humor and wonderful photos delighted all who were in attendance. Julia also led a children's walk during the weekend called Birding 101 for Kids.

Bird banding showed a variety of species, including a Magnolia warbler, and a FIRST for the event, the white-eyed vireo. Program chairs Rob and Kim Thomson (BAS) scheduled some new trips and talks including Nature Tangles, Wildlife Photography Workshop, Warbler Walk, Identifying and Using Wild Herbs, Making Plaster Casts of Tracks, Fairy Houses & Toad Abodes, Surviving in the Woods, and Bear Caves Family Nature Stroll. Longtime owl prowl leader Chuck Rosenburg set up an informative display of bird feeders and foods onsite at Camp Allegany. Great programs as always from our BAS naturalists Mark Carra and Tom

Kerr were on the schedule! Mary Lyn Nutting presented two workshops as memorial tributes to her father, Linc Nutting, past president of Buffalo Audubon, who passed away in March. Many of Linc's wonderful photos were shared as part of the tribute. Linc was also memorialized at the Saturday evening tent program, with many memories shared by friends and colleagues who were fortunate to know and love him.

Thanks to all who attended this event. Their enthusiasm and love of nature is so wonderful to share! And a big thank you goes out to all who worked so hard on the planning of this year's Allegany Nature Pilgrimage! Kudos to Buffalo Audubon ANP committee members Dawn Townsend, Rob and Kim Thomson, Peter Christensen, Rob Reeves, Andy Malicki, Dan and Liz Farrell, and past ANP chairman Jack Skinner.

To join in the fun next year, be sure to mark your calendar for May 29-31, 2015!

The window to make camping or cabin reservations at Allegany State Park opens on August 30 on the park's website.

There is also a link on the ANP website:  
[www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com)

Audubon regards,

~Marcia Nixon, Buffalo Audubon, co-chair of the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage  
~Lisa Danko, Presque Isle Audubon, co-chair of the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage

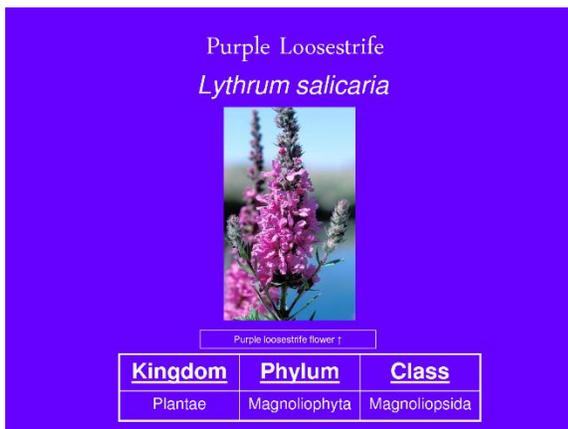
### ANNUAL PIAS BANQUET

The PIAS board members voted to forego the banquet usually held in September although there will be a regular program on that third Friday at the TREC. The program topic will be announced in the next issue of the TOE.

~Jeanne Kern, Banquet Chair

## WEED WARRIORS TAKE ON PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE AT GULL POINT

by Mary Birdsong



There is less purple loosestrife at Gull Point thanks to 10 Weed Warriors and DCNR interns who had a “pulling party” on Wednesday, July 23.

Participating were Walt Kwitowski, Pat Howell, Carolyn Hammers, Ron Intrieri, Libby Lechner, Natalie Waddell-Rutter, Joao Tavares, Janet Price, Mary Birdsong and Ben Gressler.

The trip to the point was made easier as a gator—a four-wheel drive cart—was deployed to ferry volunteers out there. The group worked from about 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Despite it's name, the larger clumps of loosestrife was anything but loose. In fact, it caused quite some strife as folks pulled and grumbled trying to dislodge the very tenacious invasive plant. In all, the group collected 26 large bags of plants before a light rain set in.

The fun wasn't over, however. On the way back the gator got stuck in a particularly thick patch of muck on the notoriously wet trail and our warriors had to walk back the rest of the way. They were really glad to see the trailhead!



Keeping this invasive at bay is vital to retaining the improved habitat at Gull Point. Loosestrife thrives in water and if left to its own devices, it would clog the ponds that are used by a variety of wildlife. The two ponds near the very tip of the point are especially important to shorebirds, including the endangered Great Lakes piping plover.

More work needs to be done out there, so another pulling party is planned. The date and time will be announced soon on the website and the PIAS Facebook page. Plan to come out and help the Weed Warriors take down this determined invasive plant.

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.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8  
ERIE, PA 16505

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Erie, PA  
Permit No. 238

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Chapter Code C3ZU150Z**

Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to:

**National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 422250  
Palm Coast, Fl. 32142-2250**

Renewal members will receive a coupon mailed to them by National. Please write the code number **C4ZU150Z** on your renewal application.