



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016 ISSUE 16:04

*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

A Case for Donald Trump-As proposed by the birds in my backyard. Trust me, I was just as surprised when I heard it as you'll be when reading about what the birds at my feeder had to say this morning about the presidential election! First of all, none of them have said anything about politics at all until this very day as I was filling the feeders, not one single peep. I can only guess that they've been watching and listening to the conventions through my neighbor's window. I know it can't have been here because we haven't watched any of either convention, preferring to consume only information that has been thoroughly vetted and run through the sieve of public opinion. Yes, I mean through Facebook memes. Don't judge!



So, back to the story. I'm filling the feeders this morning, providing the birds with some sustenance like black oil sunflower seeds and peanuts when to my surprise the chickadee excitedly chimes up. "Hey, you're voting for

Trump aren't you?" I was more than a little taken aback, not because the bird talked to me, that happens all the time, but because of the question. You'd think he'd know I was a liberal Democrat because I'm providing this food getting nothing in return except for the pleasure of knowing it was a good thing to do for my fellow inhabitants. So, I made a face like I'd just bitten a lemon and replied between gritted teeth, "Not on your life!" "Well, why not?!" scolded the chickadee. "Because he's a narcissistic hate monger with the temperament of a twelve-year-old who doesn't know the first thing about foreign policy among other things.", I shot back.

(Cont. on Page 2)

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!



**MERLIN**

- August 9, Tuesday** – Erie Gives: Erie Community Foundation, 8 am – 8 pm. (Page 6)
- September 13, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00PM
- September 16, Friday** – PIA Program: Larry Barth at 7:00 pm followed by a social (P 6)
- September 20, Tuesday** – PIA Board Meeting at 6:00p in the Board Room at the TREC

## 2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Michele Rundquist Franz
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2016-2019	Kathy Lutton

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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.)

“Well, yeah, maybe but at least he’ll get a rein on the illegal immigrants who are eating up all of this seed you’re putting out for US every day.”



Right about then a tufted titmouse flies in and loudly chirps, “Yeah, there were two house sparrows here the other day and they ate like they actually deserved the food.” “And what do you guys do that they don’t to deserve the food?” I inquired. To which the titmouse replied, “Well, Hillary used a personal server for TOP SECRET e-mails!” The chickadee nodded enthusiastically and angrily added “AND, besides, when those illegals aren’t stealing our nests and killing our young they are laying their eggs in our nests and making US raise their kids!”



Before they could get too far into their arguments, I interjected, “Wait a minute you two, there are plenty of native birds who steal nests and kill other birds.”

(Cont. on Page 3)

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Have you not had run-ins with the house wrens? And, as for laying eggs in the nests of others, you are describing a brown-headed cowbird and they are also native avian citizens protected by the migratory bird treaty act." The chickadee paused for a moment, "Yeah, well...whatever! Donald will put a kibosh to that, too! He IS the Law and Order candidate!" The titmouse agreed heartily stating, "Yeah, he'll nuke those wrens and cowbirds!" The chickadee and titmouse then high-fived. I just shook my head. I was getting more than a little exasperated with these two when a great horned owl addressed us from his perch on high. "Will you all kindly pipe down. You are keeping me awake with all this nonsense. Even though I, too, support a Donald Trump presidency." The chickadee and titmouse high-fived again and returned to eating while I did a double take and asked, "Why on Earth would you support Donald Trump, owl?" He looked at the chickadee and then to the titmouse, licked his beak and quietly declared, "Well, being near the pinnacle of the avian food chain I speculate that a Trump presidency would weaken those two and all those at their station since they likely would no longer be provided for in a way in which they are now accustomed. People like you may not be able to afford them the protections and sustenance you kindly share." The dignified owl licked his beak again while the chickadee and titmouse sat at the feeder and continued their rants to each other about emails and infidelity...oblivious to the declarations of the owl. Let me apologize for all these "cheep" shots, aimed mostly at the right, and a little at the left, wing. While I do take the upcoming election VERY seriously, sometimes you just have to laugh. P.S. Please do not blame the birds for their viewpoints. I just learned that they've been getting their info from the neighbor's house across the creek and they always have their TV tuned to Fox News.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, PIA President

## BILL WELCH, the GOOD SAMARITAN



We all lost a good friend in Bill Welch, known primarily as a local environmental activist. Bill died recently at 75 years of age. What I learned at the celebration was Bill was much more than I knew and in his quiet, humble way did not seek applause. Many of us knew Bill to be at every meeting on things Food or Green, to inform government officials, individuals, groups about things very few of us were aware of (as one called him our canary in the coal mine) or out to advocate for the disadvantaged. But the remembrances of Bill as the Good Samaritan were stunning in their simplicity yet awesome in their effect, as the recipients well attested. Driving people to other towns because he could and they couldn't, seeking out medical specialists for others, driving children to school for long periods of time when the parent couldn't, even visiting a dog in a kennel when the owner was out of town so the dog would be loved. How powerful.

Be well, Bill, wherever you may be and don't give the authority too much trouble.

~Paul F. Burroughs, Esquire  
Quinn Law Firm

## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported for June through July 19, 2016 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Least Bittern;** at least 2; June 23; Leo's Landing; D.S. ; July 5; Leo's landing; J.F.  
**White Ibis;** (adult) 1; July 7; Gull Point; R.S.; First county record.



WHITE IBIS

**Osprey;** 4 nearly fledged young in a nest; July 17; Waterford; fide J.H. 3; young in a nest; July 17; Union City; J.H.



NEWLY FLEDGED OSPREY

**Piping Plover;** 1 banded; June 9 to at least July 15; Gull Point; M.B. Probably the same bird that was last seen on May 18.  
**Willet;** total of at least 5; July 5 to 18; Gull Point; M.B., et al.  
**Whimbrel;** 2; July 7; Gull Point; M.B. 1; July 18; Gull Point; A.B., M.H.

**Marbled Godwit;** 1; July 13; Gull Point; D.A.



MARbled GODWIT

**White-rumped Sandpiper;** 1 adult; July 1 (early); G.M.  
**Wilson's Snipe;** 2; June 27-30; Gull Point; M.B., M.V.



WILSON'S SNIPE

**Wilson's Phalarope;** 1; July 18; Gull Point; A.B., M.H.  
**Merlin;** 5 local birds together; July 17; Fairview Township; D.S. 1 with two young in a nest; July 18; Edinboro; D.H. (fide J.H.)

**Contributors:** D.A. David Amamoto, A.B. Anthony Bruno, J.F. Jim Flynn, M.H. Margaret Higbee, J.H. Jamie Hill, B.H. Bruce Hoover, D.H. Dale Hunter, G.M. Geoff Malosh, D.S. Don Snyder, R.S. Ruth Swaney, M. V. Mark Vass

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

## MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

Each year our organization elects two new trustees to replace two who have served a four year term. The two persons who completed their service this year are Lisa Danko and Drew Mortensen and I'd like to thank them for their dedication and expertise in helping to make PIA a more effective group.

On behalf of Presque Isle Audubon, I welcome the two incoming trustees: Kathy Lutton and Jason Lymangrover. I asked them to send me a paragraph about themselves along with a picture. Following are their submissions.



**KATHY LUTTON**

My name is Kathy (Katherine) Lutton and I live in Erie Pa. I attended Cambridge Springs School until graduation. I am 56 years old with a wonderful husband, Richard (Rick) Lutton, three sons and one daughter, and seven grandchildren. My husband shares my interest in birds, nature and the challenge of taking a photo of it all.

I became a member of the Audubon when I saw Birds and Blooms magazine changing from people and weddings to friendlier more interesting nature and bird photography.

My spark bird was the goldfinch. I remember them from the farm I grew up on in the Cambridge Springs area. When we planted bird friendly plants, the goldfinch came to our yard in the city. I attended the Bird Fest @ Presque Isle and met some great teachers there: Michele Franz , Mary Birdsong and a few others. I always asked

questions about everything and they always answered. And, wow, I never knew of the warblers that came thru, let alone the fact that some stay. So Audubon has changed how I view things. I'm grateful to have met such an informed group to learn from and how to share what I learn with others to make a better world, even if it's just in our own backyard.

I enjoy my grandchildren, birding, hiking, photography and star gazing. I hope to leave an impression on my grandchildren and to keep their interest in nature active so they can pass it on to their children.

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**JASON LYMANGROVER**

Jason is a Mechanical Engineer and long-time outdoor enthusiast. He found his interest in birding though hunting and photography, and now spends most of his free time outdoors birding.

### REQUEST FROM LISA DANKO

Please consider taking over my position as Education Chair for 2017.

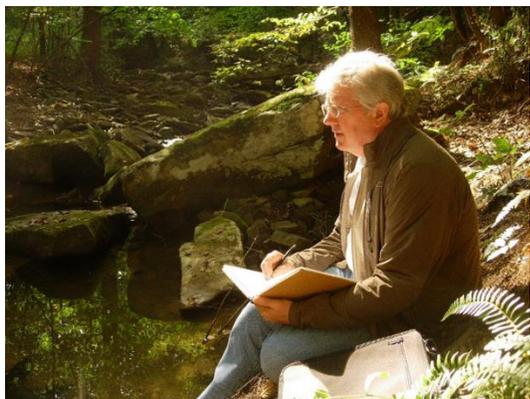
**Duties:** Throughout the year we receive request for activities and/ or speakers with garden clubs, school groups and nature groups. As chair you mostly find people to fill the request. Activities have already been created for use so your involvement can be minimal.

Contact [lsdanko@hotmail.com](mailto:lsdanko@hotmail.com) if you have questions or need more information.

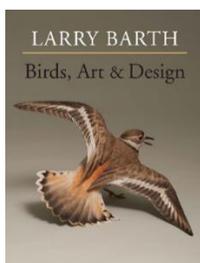
**PIAS SEPTEMBER PROGRAM**  
**September 16, 2016**  
**LARRY BARTH**

Presque Isle Audubon presents Larry Barth, considered to be one of the finest bird carvers in the world today, at their program on Friday, September 16.

Barth's work is a magical blend of art, science, and craftsmanship. Combining his obsession with the beauty of birds, his consummate mastery of technical skills, and his exquisite sense of composition and design, Barth has created a body of work that is nothing short of astounding. He has won the title of Best in World a remarkable 16 times at the Ward World Championship of Wildfowl Carving and was the youngest ever to receive the Leigh Yawkey Woodson's coveted Master Wildlife Artist Medallion. He visited Presque Isle years ago (1983) with Bob Leberman to get onsite inspiration for habitat and composition before creating his book, *Winter Lakeshore*.



Fresh from a solo show at the Ward Museum of Waterfowl Art, he will talk about his career and work, and discuss his most recent book, *Larry Barth: Birds, Art & Design*.



~Mary Birdsong, Program Chair

**ERIE GIVES DAY**

Erie Gives Day is August 9 from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm. That day you have the chance to help our Presque Isle Audubon chapter continue its mission.

Your gift will help Presque Isle Audubon:

- Protect habitat in our three sanctuaries
- Work toward improving habitat in other locations throughout our region
- Educate children in school programs
- Conduct outreach at nature-based events

The reason Erie Gives Day is a great time to donate is that every gift received generates an extra donation from the pool of money earmarked by the Erie Community Foundation as matching funds for the event.

Your gift can be made online at <http://www.eriegives.org> or by calling the Erie Gives phone bank at 814-454-0843.

If you are in the area, you can also stop by the Erie Community Foundation at 459 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Erie. The minimum gift is \$25. You can also visit the Erie Gives site right now to sign up for an email to remind you to make a donation to PIAS on that day.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**HOW TO SUCCEED IN BIRDING WITHOUT REALLY TRYING**

By being lucky...

I am not known by my birding friends for being an avid birder. Although I love watching birds, these days I rarely travel far to find them. Nonetheless, on occasion I manage to have a good birding experience. On June 13 I was meeting an acquaintance at my home.

As I walked outside of my northwest Millcreek home an adult bald eagle flew down to within 50 feet of my acquaintance and me. The eagle was being harassed by 6 - 7 crows. It took refuge in a large silver maple across the street and perched so that we were able to watch it for two minutes before the eagle took refuge elsewhere. This is the second adult bald eagle to visit my home in the past year. Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good.

Kel McDonald

## NEW MEMBERS

Summer will be gone before we know it. I, for one, won't miss the hot weather. Anyway, we are happy to welcome our new members into the Presque Isle Audubon Society. When you join National Audubon, you are automatically a member of the local Chapter. Join us at one of our monthly membership meetings which will be starting in September. The members, both new and renewals are:

**Erie:** Jeanette Reynolds, MaryAnn Frew, John Polo, Lois Baker, Mark Kwitowski, Cathy Beeman, Susan Smith, Mike Swartwood, Christine Troutman, Rebecca Humphrey, Carol Tipton, Renita McBride, Rhonda Lesh  
**Cambridge Sps:** Denise Hudson  
**Corry:** Colleen Amy-Rambish  
**Edinboro:** Gayle Yonkin, Tom Parker, Patience Sharp  
**Fairview:** Pam Laskowski  
**Girard:** Diana Boone, R. Miller  
**McKean:** Crystal Birkmire  
**Meadville:** Bobbie Grasinger, Elli Leveto  
**North East:** Laura Riedel  
**Spartansburg:** Brude Shipley  
**Springboro:** Tom Nicolls  
**Union City:** Charlene Morvay

If anyone would like to receive our monthly newsletter via email, you can email me at [membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman

## WESTERN HUMMINGBIRDS in FALL

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are the only hummingbirds to breed in our area and the only species we typically see in spring and summer. However, once October hits, an interesting phenomenon occurs. A growing number of western hummingbirds are being seen in the East each autumn with October and early November the prime time for this to happen in Pennsylvania.

The past decade has seen anywhere from a dozen to over 90 western hummingbirds documented each fall and winter in Pennsylvania. Rufous Hummingbirds dominate the count, but several other species have been recorded, including Allen's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. Most of these birds visited in October and November before moving on to different southern wintering grounds in December.



**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**

Pennsylvania's hummingbird banders are asking people to report any non-Rubythroat hummingbird seen this fall or winter, or any hummingbird seen after October 10. In northwest PA, contact Bob Mulvihill at [Robert.mulvihill@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.mulvihill@gmail.com). For banders in other parts of the state, contact Scott Weidensaul at [scottweidensaul@verizon.net](mailto:scottweidensaul@verizon.net).

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 [jrpikm@aol.com](mailto:jrpikm@aol.com) or 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. If you have any questions, call Janet at 814-825-8394 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

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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**

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

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

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