



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018 ISSUE 18:05

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

Young Birders

If you've been on a bird walk lately, you were probably more likely to run into young birds than young birders. (For the purpose of this article, I'm going to define young birders as teenagers, however all of what you are about to read parallels perfectly across the age spectrum.) While there are certainly many reasons for the notable absence, one reason stood out to me as addressable and necessary: teens do not see other teens at our events.

All PIAS programs, field trips, and events are open to all ages, however for teens and other young birders that do rarely show up, the fact that there is rarely (never) anyone else there of a similar age creates the view that PIAS isn't a place for them, and consequently they don't come back. Many organizations experience this vicious self-fulfilling cycle, and over time, without meaningful change or interventions, the age diversity of the member pool begins to shallow - leading to a myriad of potential problems.

For PIAS, the prospect of losing a generation or two brings with it the potential to lose the massive gains that have been made over the past 50 years in protecting birds and habitat. The hobby and experience of birdwatching has gained traction in those years, but the work done by researchers, naturalists, scientists, and concerned citizens needs to be transferred to others in order to continue the progress. With our world facing complex and extreme

problems, we must adapt and create an inclusive environment in order to fulfill our goals for the next 50 years.

Easier said than done, right? Well, maybe not... In July, knowing that I wanted to start to address this issue, I posted a relatively simple message on Facebook saying that we would be holding a "Young Birders Workshop" and that kids ages 8+ were welcome. When all was said and done, we had 21 students registered from ages 8 to 16. The event was held on a Wednesday, at 6:30 at night, during the summer, parents had to stay, and we still had 21 kids register! To me, that is a HUGE win and an incredible expression of the interest that exists in our community just waiting to be served. (Cont. on Page 2)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!



Piping Plover Chick and Adult

August 14, Tuesday - Erie Gives. (Page 6)

August 18, Saturday - Field Trip (Page 3)

September 1, 15, 29 - Field Trips (Page 3)

September 18, Tuesday - PIA Board Meeting
At 6:00p in the Conference Room at the
Tom Ridge Environmental Center

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

2018-2019 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

2016-2019	Jason Lymangrover
2016-2019	Kathy Lutton
2017-2020	Issy Lawrie
2017-2020	Michele Rundquist-Franz
2018-2021	Dave Gustafson
2018-2021	Tony Keck

Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Lisa Danko
Field Trips	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & JoaoTaveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	TBA
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Megan Blackwell
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Sales & Marketing	Issy Lawrie
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

On the night of the event we had a few no shows and a few surprise additions, but the group of 17 students was perfect! The kids, along with their parents, signed in and immediately were fitted with a pair of PIAS purchased binoculars. The kids and parents then participated in a brief "Birding Safety" (don't look at the sun, watch where you are going, be mindful of ticks, bird attacks, etc...) discussion which led right into 45 minutes of hands-on bird identification. The kids formed groups and attempted to identify bird photos placed around the area. After reviewing the birds in a GISS (general impression shape and size) rapid fire quiz, we spent a few minutes listening to bird calls and talking about birding by ear. The conclusion of the event was a short walk where we racked up more than a dozen species.



DREW AND KIDS

Since that event I have personally reached out to every family to make sure that they know that there is a place for them at PIAS. While I believe that to be true, I also know that it is a truth that has to be created one program, field trip, and event at a time.

Check out our Facebook page for information on upcoming Young Birders Workshops, or email me at president@presqueisleaudobon.org.

-DM

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

PIA SUMMER/FALL FIELD TRIPS
 Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Trip Chair



Our PIA field trips will resume on August 18, 2018 and continue through to October 27. Directions to our meeting places will follow the schedule below. Everyone welcome!

August 18th @ 7:30 AM - Conneaut Mud Flats

We will meet at the Burger King on Peach and I-90 at 7:30 AM for a drive to the Conneaut Mud Flats to look for shore birds laying over there as they are flying back to their wintering grounds. We may also see American bald eagles and waterfowl which frequent the area.

September 1st @ 8AM - Dead Pond Trail

We will meet at the Stull Interpretive Center at 8:00 AM and head to Dead Pond Trail in search of our local feathered friends and possibly some early migrants.



September 15th @ 8AM - McClelland Park

We will take a walk around McClelland Park, a beautiful oasis in the city of Erie, and enjoy the wildlife and scenery. We will meet in the parking area which is off East 26th east of McClelland Avenue at 8:00 AM.



September 29th @ 8AM - Pine Tree

We'll head back to PISP and meet at The Stull Center at 8:00 AM. From there we will drive to Pine Tree Trail to try and find some Fall warblers sure to delight and perplex.

October 13th @ 8AM - Bull Dam/Eaton Reservoir

In October we'll take in the turning leaves at Bull Dam/Eaton Reservoir in North East, PA We will meet at the parking area off Ashton Road at 8:00 AM.

October 27th @ 8AM - Thompson Bay On the 27th we'll again meet at the Stull Interpretive Center at 8:00 AM and proceed to Thompson Bay from there for a nice scan of the bay and the surrounding area.

Please check out our Facebook page and website for further details or with questions. You can also contact us at info@presqueisleaudubon.org with questions.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

The following birds of note were reported from May 27 to July 26, 2018 from Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co., Pa. unless noted otherwise.

Snowy Egret: 1- June 15 to 19 – Gull Point – M.B., R.D. (See below)



Cattle Egret: 1 - June 12 - Gull Point - M.B.;
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 1 -
June 3 - Long Pond - B.B. (See below)



Sandhill Crane: 2 - periodically from June 22 to late July - West Springfield - N.T.

American Golden Plover: 1 - June 3 – Fairview -T.H.

Piping Plover: up to 3 adults - through the period with four chicks born on June 12. All four chicks were successfully Fledged - Gull Point - M.B.

American Avocet : up to 7- June 24 to July 21 with a high of 32 birds on July 15 – Gull Point - M.B.

Willet: up to 4 - June 23 to July 21 – Gull Point - m.ob.

Whimbrel: up to 5 - July 3 to 21 - Gull Point – S.S. et al; with a high of 15 on July 22 - M.B.

Marbled Godwit: 1 - July 7 - Gull Point - M.B.

Red Knot: up to 10 - July 22-25 - Gull Point – S.Sc. and M.B.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 - May 28 - Gull Point - M.B.

Stilt Sandpiper: up to 2 - July 21 & 22 - Gull Point - T.R. and S.Sc. resp.

Ring-billed Gull: dozens of nests with incubating adults - Erie industrial rooftops in the vicinity of Greengarden and West 12th Street - J.M.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 adults and 1 chick - June 12 through the period - Erie Bayfront – M.P. and J.M. (See below)



Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 - June 6 – Six Mile Creek Park - J.C.; 1 - June 11 – Erie – K.K. (fide D.S.)

Contributors: B.B.-Brian Berchtold, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.C.-John Campbell, R.D.-Roger Donn, T.H.-Tom Hitt, K.K.-Karen Keil, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, M.P.-Mike Plyler, T.R.-Tessa Rhinhart, S.S.-Sara Sargent, S.Sc.-Steve Schmit, D.S.-Don Snyder, N.T.-Nancy Taylor, m.ob.-many observers

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

THE PANDEMIC OF PLASTIC

The problem of plastic pollution is an issue that has been reported often in the media lately which means that it must be quite critical to have attracted this much attention.

I'm sure each of you reading this has seen plastic bags caught in trees and plastic bottles "decorating" the beaches and the sides of roads. Although these are some common examples of plastic pollution, there is a more serious category that needs our attention, namely, the plastic that permeates the earth's waters. And that's the issue that I want to focus on in this short article.

We are constantly dumping huge amounts of plastic waste into the ocean which falls into two major groups: single-use plastic and microplastic. Single-use plastic includes plastic bottles, straws, shopping bags, toothbrushes, six pack rings, and fishing line to name a few. Microplastics are pieces of plastic less than 5 millimeters in size, that is any piece smaller than the width of a pencil eraser. These small pieces can be manufactured at that size, such as the microbeads found in cosmetics, toothpaste, and face scrubs. Microplastics can also be broken down from larger pieces of plastic, fragmenting from plastic water bottles, plastic containers or plastic wrappings.



A lot of the waste that we use winds up in five huge masses of debris in the oceans called gyres, created by the ocean's currents. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the largest of these gyres, twice the size of Texas which lies between California and Hawaii.

Another almost as large gyre lies in the Atlantic Ocean between Virginia and Cuba. These two gyres along with three other gyres cover as much as 40% of the earth's ocean surface as shown in the photo below.



Studies have indicated that the oceans are not the only bodies of water that are polluted with plastic. Fresh water lakes and rivers are also subjected to this pollution.

The effects of plastic pollution should be a concern to all of us, especially Audubon members, who value the earth and all the living creatures that inhabit it. Here are a few examples of the ill effects of plastic on animals.

A young sperm whale washed up dead on a beach and scientists wondered why it had died. When they did a necropsy, they found 64 pounds of plastic in the stomach and intestines which caused a severe infection that ended in death.

A baby dolphin was discovered dead after drinking her own mother's milk which was contaminated with microplastics, the cause of her death.

Birds frequently get their beaks wrapped or wings tangled in discarded fishing line.

Animals can get tangled/engulfed in the plastic six-pack rings.

Plastics pollution will not only kill animals; they'll decimate coral reefs and damage human health. (Cont. on Page 7)

PIA MONTHLY PROGRAM
Friday, September 21, 2018
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Room 112
Program: 7:00 pm

**“Hope for Eagles: Preventing Lead Poisoning
in PA Eagles”**



Carol Holmgren, Executive Director and head Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator for Tamarack Wildlife Center, will be the speaker. Her presentation will explain what lead poisoning is, how eagles are getting it, if it endangers the species and what we can do to help. You will learn to identify signs that an eagle may need help, and see inspiring photos of eagles successfully rehabilitated and released.



Holmgren volunteers at Tamarack and has treated over 100 Bald Eagles. She began working at Tamarack in 2006 and became the executive director in 2012. She finds it a privilege to work with the wildlife and is inspired daily by all who contribute to make the center possible.

REMEMBERING LEE ANN REINERS



Lee Ann Reiners was a member of Presque Isle Audubon and the Botanical Society. She was an excellent birder and shared her love of birds and plants by leading many field trips in northwestern Pennsylvania. She will be missed by the many members of PIA who knew her.



Erie Gives began in 2011 in honor of The Erie Community Foundation's 75th Anniversary. Erie Gives 2018 will take place on August 14, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

During this 12-hour period of online giving, a portion of the prorated match pool will be added to each donation you make to your favorite nonprofit(s) when you donate through this website. www.eriegives.org

The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give. There is no limit to the number of organizations you can donate to in a transaction.

Consider a gift to Presque Isle Audubon, your organization!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome new members. Hope you had a good summer. Fall is not far away and the migration season will be starting. Join us in some birdwatching.

Our new members as well as those that rejoined are:

Erie: Lorin Blakeslee, Michael Koncewicz, William Kay, Marion Gallivan, John Campbell, Rena Wierbinski, Dyan Jones, Mark Eastman, Edward Post, Dottie Hodapp, Kathleen Pae, Pat Sexauer, Ashley Stewart, Ron Vicander, Lorin Blakeslee, Lizabeth Dilla, Ron & Linda McElderry, Virginia Brocki

Adamsville: John Scullin

Butler: Doris Hall

Cambridge Sps: Robert Nolan,

Centerville: Daniel Long

Corry: Susan Vinca

Fairview: David Hyland

Jamestown, Pa: James Jewart

North East: Judith Schenker, Jeraldine Luke, Dann Olin

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

THE PANDEMIC OF PLASTIC (Cont.)

The sources of this plastic pollution are many. Five of the key groupings are listed below.

1. Inefficient waste management systems
2. Fishing gear that is made of plastic. Scientists estimate that 46 percent of the mass of the garbage patch comes from fishing nets alone. Other types of fishing gear account for much of the remaining weight.
3. Light weight plastic litter that is blown from various sources or dumped into rivers. This includes single-use plastics such as bags, straws, and other pieces of litter
4. Deodorant, toothpaste and sunscreen: microbeads are contained in these items when they are manufactured.
5. Clothing made with synthetic fibers - once a synthetic item is placed in the washing machine, it releases tiny plastic bits called microfibers.

We can all do our part in reducing the amount of plastic, in whatever form, that ends up in our oceans, lakes and rivers. At this point, we may not be able to reverse the trend completely but we can have an impact on the overall effects that plastic pollution has on humans, wildlife and our planet. We can refuse plastic straws and carry a refillable water bottle. We can use reusable shopping bags and throw garbage away in designated areas. We can purchase one container of product instead of many small containers.

Take the pledge to use less plastic and throw away less of it!

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 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
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 chapter newsletter, *Tern of Events*. Please include your e-mail address to receive the online version of the newsletter.

Introductory membership \$20.00

Renewals \$20.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Chapter Code C8ZU150Z

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**