



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020 ISSUE 20:05

*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

Your Board has been trying to figure out a way to connect with PIAS members during this time of limited social interaction. It's hard, not being able to meet at a field trip or Friday night program. And it looks like social distancing is with us for quite a while. At our July Board meeting we decided to look into having virtual programs on your computer using Zoom. Instead of going to TREC to attend a program, you'd click a Zoom link and be connected to the presentation. We want this to be live, so you can send in comments or question via the Chat Box. We'd like them to be taped, so you could still listen to the presentation afterwards if you couldn't make it to the live event. It's not ideal, in that not all members have a computer or a reliable internet connection. But it looks like this type of event is going to have to do for now, until it's safe to meet in groups again. We're thinking that interviewing some of our most knowledgeable and experienced members about their birding experiences would interest you. If you can set up and help run Zoom meetings, and want to get involved with this project, let me know.

I visited our Laura Olsen Memorial Sanctuary in Crawford County recently to check it out after it was lightly logged by Foundation for Sustainable Forests. I was pleasantly surprised to find the area continues to look inviting. The

interior is definitely brighter in spots, and there are stumps here and there, but the wood thrush and scarlet tanager still sounded chipper. I was more disturbed by the sight of a very large pile of trash trailing down a stream; it had been tossed into the ravine close to the road. It's been removed. The fear of finding trash or ATV tracks is always present when I visit our Sanctuaries.

If you haven't already done so, let the PA Dept. of Natural Resources have your opinion about how our state forests should be managed. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOFplan>. Their survey is available for completion until August 31. (Cont. on Page 2)

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!



**August 11, Tuesday** – Erie Gives Day  
**September 22, Tuesday** – PIA Board Meeting  
at 6:00p at the TREC

## 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### Officers

President	Sue Murawski
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Mary Ann Daniels
Treasurer	Julie Dell
Retiring President	Drew Mortenson

### Board of Trustees

2018-2021	Dave Gustafson
2018-2021	Tony Keck
2019-2022	Thomas Frank
2019-2022	Bill Ferguson
2020-2121	TBD
2020-2121	TBD

### Chairs of Standing Committees

Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Andrew Sipple
Field Trips	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	TBA
Sales & Marketing	TBA
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.)

You'll be reading further in this newsletter about the Festival of the Birds. Now's my chance to give a great big thanks to Janet Price and her committee for running the show since 2008. What a tremendous job they've cheerfully done over the years! Let's plan restarting the FOB after the pandemic is over.

I'll end with some surprising (to me) birding info from Jerry McWilliams: Of the 360 or so birds recorded in Erie County, only about 17% of those actually winter south of the United States, from Mexico all the way to Argentina. Most of these are flycatchers and warblers. The remaining 83% of birds recorded in the county either winter in our area or in the southern United States.

~Sue Murawski, PIA President

### SOME TIPS AND REMINDERS FOR THE BIRDS

- ✓ After the last broods of the season have fledged, clean out all your birdhouses, removing old nests.
- ✓ Prepare your birdfeeders for the migration season. Clean them using a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water. Rinse well.
- ✓ Fill your birdfeeders. Summer residents need to fatten up before they head south, other migrants will be passing through, and winter residents will recognize the welcome mat and stick around.
- ✓ Set up roosting boxes to provide shelter for birds during the winter.

## UPDATE: FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS



By this time most people realize that life as we knew it will not continue. Some things will continue but according to very different protocols. Other things will be discontinued, maybe forever or maybe temporarily. Audubon meetings continue in a quite different pattern. We meet outside, sitting at least six feet apart while wearing face coverings. Field trips and monthly programs are on hold and the Festival of the Birds has been discontinued for now.

This year, 2020, unexpectedly due to Covid-19, the Festival of the Birds had to be cancelled but with the expectation that we would have the event next year, 2021, after the virus had been dealt with. By the time July 2020 arrived, the pandemic was still going full steam ahead in the U.S. and it seems that it was getting worse actually. July is the time when plans for the upcoming festival begin to become solidified. When this July arrived a decision had to be made. Should we go ahead and plan for 2021 or should we cancel. The festivals in the past have been a big success and were thoroughly enjoyed by so many people from so many U.S. locations, many who had attended all ten previous festivals. This was not going to be an easy decision so I proceeded to talk to people, study available data and get feedback from the committee members. Knowledge of how Covid-19 would progress or be stopped was nebulous at best. Little is known regarding this virus so its future was unknown. Since Covid-19 might still be with us in May, 2021, and considering the regulations deemed necessary to protect humans from contracting and spreading the virus, conducting a three day event with at least 175 people who participated in group activities inside and out,

only one conclusion could be drawn. The Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle for 2021 as we have experienced it could not be conducted. Also, the water levels at the park are continuing to rise and present problems for field trips into the interior. Therefore I discontinued the event and resigned my position as chair of the committee responsible for its planning.

During my discussions with a number of knowledgeable people, I heard suggestions to have a virtual type of festival and there was much enthusiasm for this approach. I could see this type of approach happening but not within the structure of the existing festival format. The virtual protocol did not fulfill the mission that guided the previous plans. Since I do not have the skills or knowledge to lead in the development of a virtual program, I am suggesting that this approach be initiated and planned by a chairperson who has that know-how and can plan and see such an event to completion.

If anyone is interested in pursuing a virtual program, contact President Sue Murawski as a first step in getting started. Once ideas and plans are formulated, they can be shared with other members of the organization from which others can be recruited to form a committee if necessary.

I loved and appreciated the involvement with my exceptional committee members each year in planning our events and thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with all the enthusiastic birders who attended each year. Some even got involved in the planning over the years.

I would love to list all committee members who served since 2008 but space is limited so I will simply say thank you from my whole being for your hard work, expertise and camaraderie throughout those years.

~Janet (Queen Bee) Price, Chair of the Festival of the Birds Committee

## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from June and July, 2020 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Mute Swan**—1; through July; Misery Bay; fide R.D.

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck**—4; June 29 to about July 22; West Springfield; R.M.W. First county record. (See Below)



**Wilson's Plover**—1; July 7 & 8; Gull Point; M.B.

**Piping Plover**—nesting pair: through June & July; Gull Point; Pennsylvania Game Commission (See Below)



**American Avocet**—5; July 11; Gull Point; J.M. 1 or 2; July 18 to 20; Gull Point; M.B., J.M. 8; July 29; Gull Point; M.B.

**Willet**—1; June 13-15; Gull Point; M.B. 1; July 8; Gull Point; S.T. 1; July 15; Gull Point; S.S. (See Below)



**Whimbrel**—15; July 11; Lighthouse; C.K. 1; July 28; Gull Point; M.B. (See Below)



**Wilson's Phalarope**—1; June 11; Gull Point; M.B. (See Below)



(Cont. on Page 5)

## BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

**Barn Owl**—1 juvenile; mid-July; Girard Twp.;  
fide S.S.; taken to rehab at Tamarack.

(See Below)



**Sedge Wren**—at least 4; July 17 to end of  
month; Erie Bluffs S.P.; J.C. (See Below)



**Prothonotary Warbler**—continuing from May to  
at least mid-July; entrance to Presque Isle;  
J.H. (See Below)



**Painted Bunting**—1; June 1, continuing from  
May, near Mercyhurst College; E.S. 1; June  
18; Waterford Twp.; J.F. (See Below)



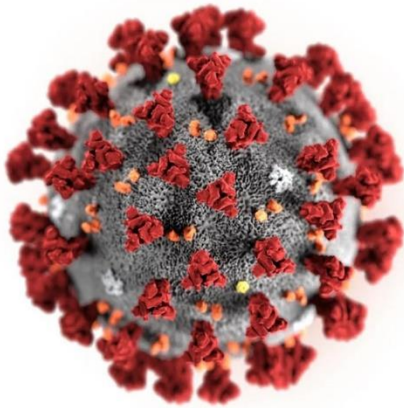
**Contributors:** M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.C.-John  
Campbell, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jon Fetzner,  
J.H.-Jamie Hill, C.K.-Chad Kauffman, J.M.-Jerry  
McWilliams, S.S.-Sarah Sargent, E.S.-Eric  
Smylko, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, R.M.W.-  
Richard & Michele Wurst  
~Jerry McWilliams 814-240-8594  
jerrymcw@aol.com

### POP-UP BIRDING

I was talking with one of our new board members, Mary Ann Daniels, after the July board meeting about how we can keep birding real instead of doing things virtually. Below is her idea. (Editor)

With the absence of this years and ongoing Festival of Bird gatherings, the board is looking for creative, small group venues that might still satisfy our local birders! Our gardeners in the area have been doing "pop-up" garden shows. With that thought in mind, if there are local birders who have space on their own property or ideas about public property we might be able to explore during our birding season, we would welcome both location ideas and volunteer leaders. With COVID-19 precautions in mind, groups would be limited to 5 to 7 individuals who agree to mask and maintain appropriate distances. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and creative ideas at [president@presqueisleaubon.org](mailto:president@presqueisleaubon.org).

## BIRDING IN 2020 DURING COVID-19



I've talked to a number of people who have not been able to get involved in actual field trips for birding and I've been informed that those same people have been back yard birding at least. I'm one of those who have participated in that activity as well. The feedback is that it's been fun and fulfilling to keep track of the variety of feathered friends who visit the feeders or simply enjoy habitats that provide food, water and shelter whether naturally or provided by us humans. Since Covid-19 was announced in March, I have observed a total of 27 different species that visited my backyard. That in itself was a fun activity but watching the behavior of those species was uplifting as well.

Most recently I've chuckled a lot watching different species of fledglings getting used to their natural habitats outside the nest. Others I've talked to have had the thrill of observing young birds adapting to their environment. Since Covid-19 will continue for who knows how long, it might be a good idea to take advantage of your environment and look for birds and behaviors that you might not otherwise notice. I guess I'm preaching to the choir but I wanted to share my joy and positivity during this time of confusion.

Good birding to all of you, real or virtual!

~Janet Price, Editor



Save the Date!  
August 11, 2020 is Erie Gives

Thanks to you Erie Gives has been a wonderful source of support for Presque Isle Audubon. On Tuesday August 11 between 8 am and 8 pm, supporters can visit [www.eriegives.org](http://www.eriegives.org) to make a donation to Presque Isle Audubon. The minimum gift is \$25. Only Visa, MasterCard and Discover will be accepted.

You will receive an email receipt of your gift, which you should retain for tax purposes. Unless you choose to remain anonymous, your donor information will be sent to the appropriate organizations.

This year checks to support Presque Isle Audubon can also be mailed to Erie Community Foundation with the check form found on their website. Checks must be received at the Erie Community Foundation no later than August 10.

~Julie Dell, PIA Treasurer

"When you see one bird you have not seen them all." E. O. Wilson

## MEMBER REPORT

We welcome the new members and the renewals into our Chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. When you join National Audubon, you are also a member of our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon.

**Erie:** Jim & Rosemarie Pitetti, Jeanette Girosky, Ed Nientimp, Deborah Daniels, Veronica Fisher, Nancy Shea, Patricia Wigham, Larry Dunlap, Susan MacDonald, Clarence Schaney, Ken Anderson

**Cochranon:** Curtis Oakes

**Conneautville:** Barbara Novak

**Edinboro:** Janice Castro

**Fairview:** Brooke Daeschner, Delores Tavares, Blossom McBrier

**Girard:** Lloyd Weidler

**Linesville:** Katherine Wickert

**McKean:** Elaine Smith, Edward Blenner,

**North East:** Daryl Kidder, Richard Robinson, Sue Murawski

**Meadville:** Anthony Dividio, Ron Mumme, Mary Michaels, Leroy Bennett, C. Reed Trimble

**Trafford, PA.:** Karen Rose Cercone

**Wattsburg:** June Carley

Hope I didn't miss anyone. Keep safe

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

### WHAT IS PROJECT FEEDER WATCH?

Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. It is a winter-long (November-April) survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, and other locales in North America. Participants periodically count the birds they see at their feeders and send their counts to Project FeederWatch.

Your bird counts help you keep track of what is happening in your own backyard and help scientists track long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Anyone interested in birds can participate. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath or plantings that attract birds.

This is a great opportunity to be a citizen scientist and to fight the Covid-19 blues.

To join go to: <https://feederwatch.org/join-or-renew/>

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.

Printed on recycled paper.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
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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 issue 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 U15**

Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to **YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER.**

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