



TERN OF EVENTS

RESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2013 ISSUE 13:10

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

Well, it's been a very busy Fall for the PIAS and since it 'tis the season for thanks, let's do just that. The Brews for Birds event was a great success and as something we'd not done before it took a great deal of planning and hard work. Mary Birdsong deserves kudos for leading the charge as does Carol Allen for all of her hard work as we raised over \$2000.00 for bird banding. Many thanks also to Janet Price, Marion Gallivan and Pat Howell for womaning the PIAS booth at TREC or Treat, a Halloween event that attracted over 1000 children to TREC. Thanks also to those who helped out at the PIAS table at the Regional Science Consortium Symposium. The Strategic Planning Committee has been hard at work developing a comprehensive plan that will guide the society forward into a productive future of stewardship and educational outreach. Many thanks are due those members who have been meeting monthly towards that goal, offering their expertise, historical perspectives, new ideas and varied insights as we meld the best of these into a cohesive framework upon which to build and grow. Thanks to those who have contributed to the committee: Chair-Drew Mortensen, Ruth Swaney, Don Snyder, Bonnie Ginader, Janet Price, Kel McDonald, Mary Birdsong, Sam Stull, Carolyn Sturtevant and yours truly.

For those of you who missed the November Membership Meeting/Program, we were pleased to honor two longtime members of the society, Jeanne and Chuck Kern. They've been stalwarts of the society for over forty years, devoting much

time, effort and undeniable talent. I hope to learn from the examples they've set and will strive to make even a percentage of the positive impact they've made. (Cont. on Page 2)



DECEMBER THINGS TO DO!

December 3, Tuesday - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at the TREC

December 11, Wednesday - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at the TREC

December 14, Saturday - Christmas Bird Count 7:00 am - Meet at the Ranger Station at

Presque Isle State Park to register

7:30 am - Disperse to designated areas

5:00 pm - Meet at Hoss's to complete tally

JANUARY THINGS TO DO!

January 8, Tuesday - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at the TREC

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Carol Allen
Treasurer	Kel McDonald
Retiring President	Janet Price

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2011-2014	Suzanne Loss
2011-2014	Brian Berchtold
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Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
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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: 814-520-9456

Website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Many thanks also go out to Jerry McWilliams for updating the Erie County Bird Checklist (available on the PIAS website) as well as to Don Snyder and Ben Coulter for proofing it and Jamie Hill and Patrick Kramer for the layout and design. Jerry is still busy counting birds as he conducts the Waterbird Count at Sunset Beach every morning. Jerry has also updated the Butterfly Checklist, which is also available as a printable PDF on the PIAS website.



Jerry and Helpers

Thanks also to our executive board and committee chairs and members, many of whom have been involved in the PIAS for more years than they probably care to admit. Thank you also to all of our PIAS members old and new, young and old for being involved in this fine organization made up of fine individuals!

Last but certainly not least, I must thank my wonderful husband, Jimmy, for allowing me to spend the considerable time it takes to conduct the business of the PIAS (as well as a few days of birding here and there.) He deserves more thanks than I can express as he picks up the slack, I believe I hear him in the laundry room now...

I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy the wonderful holiday season ahead!

~Michele Rundquist-Franz, President of PUAS

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The future is always a moment away, but planning for it takes time. Four meetings of the SPC have taken place and the committee has been formally accepted as being comprised of the following voting members: Michele Franz, Mary Birdsong, Janet Price, Don Snyder, Sam Stull, Kel McDonald, Bonnie Ginader and Drew Mortensen. Over the next several months we will continue to analyze the current state of PIAS, make recommendations to the Executive Board, and develop a specific three to five year strategic plan for the operational development of the society.

On November 13th the Strategic Planning Committee wrestled with two of the most fundamental topics necessary for moving forward with a strategic plan: mission and finances. After a very productive meeting with all unanimous votes, we advanced several recommendations to the Executive Board on the evening of November 19th.

A pointed and purposeful mission statement is critical to giving an organization a focal point for all endeavors. With that in mind, several potential mission statements were considered, and one was presented to the membership in the October TOE. After incorporating some helpful and constructive feedback, the SPC rephrased the proposed statement and came to unanimous agreement after a healthy debate. The Executive Board also unanimously agreed with our recommendation, and consequently our new Mission Statement is:

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, their habitats and association to other wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Finance and budgeting is always a hot topic as there are many different philosophies. To assist us in understanding some options and best practices for non-profits, we invited Bob Woolner of the Non-Profit Partnership to speak to the committee and illuminate our process. His

presentation on October 16th helped the SPC to recommend the creation of a specific account that would be dedicated as a reserve fund only to be used in the event of significant financial distress. While we have never had such an event happen, the committee agreed that to identify monies towards such an end would give us a better financial picture of the organization and help to ensure a prosperous future. The recommendation was voted on by the Executive Board and passed with overwhelming support.

The Strategic Planning Committee has a lot of work yet to do, but the group is up to the task and are working diligently to help keep the society focused. If you would like to participate in a SPC meeting, please feel free to join us on December 11th at 6pm or January 8th at 6pm at the TREC. As always, you are welcome to submit comments, suggestions, concerns, and other feedback by contacting a member of the committee, or by emailing presqueisleaudubon@gmail.com.

~Drew Mortensen, Strategic Planning Committee
Chair.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Everyone is thinking about the holiday season coming up, but lets welcome our new members to the Presque Isle Audubon. Any one who is a member of National Audubon is also a member on our local chapter.

Erie: Pat Wigham, Shirley Sedam, Shivani Reade,
Laura Martin

Centerville: Gregory Geer

Girard: Alice Hermanson, Eugene & Elizabeth
Sorrentino

Waterford: William Sitter

Renewal Chapter memberships: Dennis Lutz, Sue
Murawski, Lizabeth Dilla, Frances Rosiak

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

BIRD SIGHTINGS

The following birds were recorded at Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise from Oct. 26 to Nov. 20, 2013.

Brant—1; Nov. 3; Sunset Point (waterbird count, WC); J.M.



BRANT

Cackling Goose—1; Oct. 27; Waterford; J.H.

Red-necked Grebe—total of 15; Oct. 27 to Nov. 20; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Hudsonian Godwit—1; Nov. 12; Gull Point; J.F.

White-rumped Sandpiper—1; Oct. 25; Gull Point; J.M.

Purple Sandpiper—1; Nov. 10; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., G.M., S.S., R.D.

Long-billed Dowitcher—2; Nov. 12; Gull Point; R.D.,
Record late in Erie County by 12 days.

Red Phalarope—1; Oct. 28; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., R.D.



RED PHALAROPE - adult female in breeding plumage

Black-legged Kittiwake—1; Nov. 7; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Nov. 19; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.
Little Gull—1; Nov. 7; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., et al. 1; Oct. 28; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Parasitic Jaeger—2; Oct. 28; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., R.D. 1; Nov. 11; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., R.D. 1; Nov. 19; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., R.D.

Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger—2; Nov. 19; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., R.D.

Short-eared Owl—total of 6; Oct. 31 to Nov. 17; Gull Point; R.D.

Rufous Hummingbird—1 adult female; to at least Nov. 20; Edinboro; S.W.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1; Nov. 3; B-trail; R.D.



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

Contributors: R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jason Fidorra, J.H.-Jamie Hill, G.M.-Geoff Malosh, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, S.S.-Sam Stull, S.W.-Suzanne Winterberger

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



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UPDATE TO HOUSE BILL 1576

By Michele Rundquist Franz

Phone: 814-897-2080 Fax: 814-897-2083

E-mail: csonney@pahousegop.com

In my last President's Perch I wrote to tell you about HB 1576 and its ramifications for wildlife and trout streams in Pennsylvania. I included a letter I had written to my own representative, Curt Sonney, who is a co-sponsor of the bill. Since then I have received a cordial letter from Representative Sonney who defends the bill as being a balanced approach to listing endangered species and species of concern in Pennsylvania but stated that he would consider my opposition to the bill when voting. Hmm.

On November 13, 2013 the following amendment to HB 1576 was proposed and approved by the Game and Fisheries Committee:

Amends the definition of "acceptable data", "person" and "centralized database", removes the 2 year requirement for redesignation of currently listed species, amends public dissemination requirement, increases civil penalty for unlawful use of information, clarifies that licensing money may not be transferred to another agency for implementation of the act and makes additional changes.

The committee also voted on the bill and it passed within the committee as amended by a margin of 16/8 with one member not voting. The bill will now be brought to the full house for a vote in the future. It was my hope and the hope of many conservation and environmental organizations that the bill would die in office but it did not so our work is not yet done. I respectfully ask that you contact your representative either by phone, letter or email and ask that they vote "No" on this bill.

If you are in the 4th legislative district, which includes: Harborcreek, North East, Greene, Greenfield, Venango, Amity, Wayne, LeBoeuf, Union and Concord Townships as well as the Boroughs of Wesleyville, North East, Wattsburg, Mill Village, Union City, Elgin and Corry, please contact Curt Sonney at:

Representative Curtis G. Sonney, 4457 Buffalo Rd, Erie, Pa. 16510

Feel free to use the following talking points which I just now received on the PABirds Listserv:

- This legislation fixes a problem that does not exist. Regulatory action to list a species as threatened or endangered is already an infrequent and deliberative process and requires scientific data from agency biologists demonstrating that a species is in imminent danger of extinction throughout their range in the state.

- Currently the listing and delisting a species by the PGC is a process that is already transparent, takes approximately six months to complete and includes two periods of public comment and two separate votes by the Board of Commissioners.

- Requiring the listing of a species to go through the IRRRC approval process will add months - and potentially years - onto the process and result in added layers of inefficient bureaucracy.

- This legislation will have the opposite effect of its intended goal. State endangered species programs serve as a first line of defense in protecting species not yet federally listed. One of the criteria the FWS evaluates when determining whether to list a species as federally threatened or endangered is the "adequacy of existing [state] regulatory protections." Slowing down the process whereby state resource agencies can list species will force the FWS to take a more active role in designating species. Thus, instead of having minor, temporal restrictions placed on the state level, entities will have to deal with more onerous restrictions imposed by the federal government which will exist for a longer period of time.

- The natural resource agencies already maintain a database on the location of threatened and endangered species in the Commonwealth. Information on that database is shared with outside entities when needed in order to protect and preserve those species. Increasing access to that database will increase the risk of unlawful

(Cont. on Page 6)

taking of threatened and endangered species as many of those species have substantial value on the black market. This legislation would require the natural resource agencies to provide a virtual roadmap to the location of species that are often targeted for illegal sale and trade.

Since there will be no Tern of Events in January, this may be my last chance to ask for your assistance with this very important matter. We are making a difference, as evidenced by the amendment, but ideally this bill will go away all together. You can receive updates on the progress of the bill by going to the Pennsylvania General Assembly site and clicking the "Subscribe" button: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2013&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1576> Thanks!

HEARTFELT THANKS



CHUCK AND JEANNE

Chuck joins me in thanking you for the lovely tribute which you paid to us at the November meeting. It was a total surprise. We really appreciate it and are humbled by this thoughtful gesture. It is our pleasure to be members of PIAS. It has been and continues to be a big and important part of our lives. We have been enriched by the experience.

Thanks also for the large basket of apple goodies and the delicious apple pie from Sue Murawski. Again thank you. We are honored.

Most sincerely,
Jeanne Kern

ANNOUNCEMENT BY JOAO TAVARES

I'm planning a birdwatching trip to the north of Portugal in the spring. The cost for a group of 6-7 people is 1280 Euros/person (app. \$1735). The price decreases according to the number of people participating. Following is some information from the program.

Week-long Birdwatching Program in Portugal

Tentative Dates: May 31 - June 7, 2014



EURASIAN HOOPOE

Birds & Nature Tours Portugal

Overview

Portugal possesses a fantastic diversity of habitats and consequently of birds in a relatively small area, so the birding programs designed by Birds & Nature Tours enable you to visit several species rich areas without needing to travel long distances.

In practical terms, you will find within half an hour's drive from Lisbon city center and its International Airport, the Tagus Estuary and the Sado Estuary Nature Reserves. These two remarkable protected wetland areas have extensive bird lists that include Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Squacco and Purple Herons, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Black-winged Kite, Iberian Grey Shrike and Spotless Starling, and an excellent selection of ducks, waders, gulls and terns. (Cont. on Page 7)

Week-long Birdwatching Program in Portugal

A further two hour's drive takes you to other complementary biotopes and consequently new bird species in both the International Tagus and International Douro Nature Parks. Here, you will visit excellent protected areas for rock loving species (the home of species like Iberian Imperial, Golden and Bonelli's Eagles, Eurasian Black, Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Black Stork, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Eurasian Hoopoe, European Bee-eater, Alpine and White-rumped Swifts, Eurasian Crag Martin, Red-rumped Swallow, Golden Oriole, Azure-winged Magpie, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Sparrow and Rock Bunting).



AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE

Our prices include guide fees, transfer from/to the airport, ground transport (in vehicles with air-conditioning), boat trip on the river Tagus, accommodation (including breakfast), free use of optical equipment (quality binoculars and

and telescopes) and field guides, entrance fees to the petroglyphs and the icnofósseis parks, as well as in private or protected areas, participant's accident insurance and VAT.

Not included are flights, meals and items of a personal nature. Meals in selected restaurants can be included if you wish.

NOTE: If interested, please contact Joao Tavares at jotdyt@verizon.net or call 474-3118.

SUGGESTED CHRISTMAS GIFT

"WINGS, SAND AND SONG PRESQUE ISLE'S HABITAT"

The DVD "Wings, Sand and Song: Presque Isle's Habitat" highlights the birds, habitat and hot spots of Presque Isle in all seasons. You can experience the rich variety of Presque Isle's six distinct ecological zones including beaches, cattail isles, shrublands, aquatic habitats, and deciduous and pine tree forests as you view over 60 minutes of expert filming by Tracy Graziano, of Moonfire Productions. Anyone who enjoys nature will be excited as they view the up close pictures of birds building nests and feeding young and turtles laying eggs.

We are now offering this DVD's at a cost of \$10.00. They are on sale at the Big Green Screen concession stand and Wild Birds Unlimited and you can order them by using the order form on our website: <http://presqueisleaudubon.org>

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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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.**

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