



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017 ISSUE 17:01

*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

It was still baseball season when I conceived of this topic for the Perch. It started when I heard that the Baltimore Orioles were playing the Toronto Blue Jays in the Wild Card race to make it into the American League play offs in baseball.

While I enjoy a diamond as much as the next lady, I'm much more of a gridiron girl! I do, however, know enough about baseball to know that these two teams, being in the same league, could never meet in the World Series. This avian matchup led me to wonder, though, if there ever could be or ever has been a World Series that featured a *Battle of the Birds*. Since there is currently only one team with a bird name in the National League, the St. Louis Cardinals, the only possible battle of the birds could be between the St. Louis Cardinals and either the Toronto Blue Jays or the Baltimore Orioles. Has it ever happened? No, it has not! Could it happen? It could and I sure hope it does. By the way, in the battle of the Blue Jays vs the Orioles in the wild card game this year, the Blue Jays topped the Orioles. This is usually how it goes with the orioles and blue jays in my yard as well.

Being the gridiron girl that I am, you know that I had to investigate further and see if there has even been a battle of the birds in football. Off the top of my head I could think of several franchises named for birds (Philadelphia Eagles, Baltimore Ravens, Arizona Cardinals, Seattle Seahawks, Atlanta Falcons) so off to Google I went to see if any of them ever have

or ever could meet in the Super Bowl. As it turns out, there has not been but could be a *Battle of the Birds* in the Super Bowl. As in baseball, any *Battle of the Birds* in the Super Bowl would have to involve the only team in the AFC with a bird name which is the Baltimore Ravens. The remaining four bird-named teams in the National Football League (NFL) are all in the NFC. The Ravens have been to the Super Bowl twice and won each time, but their opponents were the NY Giants in 2000 and the San Francisco 49ers in 2012, no birds! ! So, we must wait and see on this one, too. (Cont. on Page 2)

## DECEMBER/JANUARY THINGS TO DO!



**December 17, Saturday** – Presque Isle Christmas Bird Count, 7:00a at the Ranger Station, Presque Isle State Park (Page )  
**December 21, Wednesday** – First Day of Winter  
**January 24, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at the TREC, 6:00p in The Board Room

## 2016-2017 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

2014-2017	Don Snyder
2014-2017	Marion Gallivan
2015-2018	Dave Gustafson
2015-2018	Katie Andersen
2016-2019	Jason Lymangrover
2016-2019	Katie Lutton

### Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Lisa Danko
Field Trips	TBA
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & JoaoTaveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	Marion Gallivan
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Susan A. Smith
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Sales & Marketing	Mary Birdsong
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.)

Full disclosure: as a Steelers fan there is almost no circumstance under which I'd root for our rival the Ravens, but if it came down to a potential for a bird-on-bird Super Bowl, I'd make an exception.



Right now, the Ravens and Steelers are tied for first in the AFC North so there is some potential for a Ravens Super Bowl appearance this season. In the NFC, the Seahawks are in the lead in the NFC West, with the Cardinals in 2<sup>nd</sup> while the Falcons are leading the NFC South. So...there is a chance...

OK, hockey fans, there are only two NHL teams with legit bird names including the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Anaheim Ducks. I'm sure most of you are familiar with the Penguins who have won the Stanley Cup 4 times, most recently in 2016. The Anaheim Ducks have won the coveted cup once, but were they playing the Penguins? No! The Penguins did vie for the Stanley Cup playing teams who had seemingly bird-related names including the Detroit Redwings (whose name was reportedly borrowed from a cycling club in Montreal) and the Chicago Blackhawks (named for a Native American chief prominent in Illinois history), but no true *Battle of the Birds*.

While there has never been a *Battle of the Birds* in basketball there is a chance that the Hawks, which are in the Eastern Conference could meet the Pelicans, who are in the Western Conference. That would be one interesting confrontation. (Cont. On Page 3)



## **YOU CAN DO THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FROM YOUR BACKYARD**

Audubon's 117<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count will take place between the inclusive dates of Wednesday, December 14, 2016 through Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. **Presque Isle Audubon will conduct its count on Saturday, December 17, 2016 and will begin at 7:00am from the Ranger Station at Presque Isle State Park.**

Since the Christmas Bird count began over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteers like you. Birders interested in participating in the CBC can sign up on Saturday, December 17 to brave snow, wind, or rain, and take part in the effort to count the birds.

There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to coordinate within an established circle, but anyone can participate. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler who happens to be Michele Rundquist Franz for PIAS. Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

Birders of all levels are encouraged to join a group that will include at least one experienced birdwatcher but that is not the only way you

can join the CBC effort. **If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you report the count to the count compiler at [isomorphun@roadrunner.com](mailto:isomorphun@roadrunner.com).**

To find the circle for PIAS go to [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this long-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. The data collected by observers over the last century allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years. The long term perspective is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

### **THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)**

And, for those of you who say, what about the Toronto Raptors? Which brings me finally to basketball. Has there been a *Battle of the Birds* in professional basketball? I know so little about basketball that I wasn't even sure if there were any teams with bird names. So, to the internet I went once more. Here's what I found out; up until this year there was only one team named for a bird, the Atlanta Hawks. This year, however the new owner of the New Orleans basketball team changed the name from the Hornets to the Pelicans. While I don't particularly enjoy basketball I LOVE pelicans! So, the team was named as the result of a contest and the team logo was a dinosaur dribbling a basketball. Sure, an ancestor of the modern bird, but with an obvious unfair advantage!

~Michele Rundquist Franz, President of PIAS

## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported in October and November, 2016, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Snow Goose**—1; Nov. 28; Fairview; D.M.

**Brant** - 1; Oct. 24; Gull Point; S.G.

**Cackling Goose**—1; Oct. 4; Fairview Industrial Park; M.V.

**Red-necked Grebe**—total of 3; Oct. 24, 26, & 28; Sunset Point (Waterbird count, WC); J.M

**American White Pelican**—1; Oct. 11; around Harborcreek/ I 90 junction; found moribund, apparent eye injury and taken to Tamarack rehab. (fide G.K.). First fall record in Erie County.

**Rough-legged Hawk** 1; Nov. 1; Gull Point; J.M. 1; Nov. 28; Fairview; D.M.

**Hudsonian Godwit**—1; Oct. 11; Gull Point; R.D.



HUDSONIAN GODWIT

**Purple Sandpiper**- 1; Nov. 6; Sunset Point; Steve D. 2; Nov. 20; Sunset Point; A.P., S.A.



PURPLE SANDPIPER

**Little Gull**—1; Oct. 19; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Oct. 23; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

**Jaeger sp. (Parasitic?)**—1; Oct. 13; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Oct. 25; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

**Snowy Owl**- 1; Nov. 22; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Nov. 27 to 30; Gull Point; R.S., R.D.

**Short-eared Owl** -1; Nov. 15; Gull Point; L.S. **Northern Saw-whet Owl**—1; Oct. 23; Presque Isle in the pines; R.N.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - 1; to Oct. 27; Albion; M.W.L.

**Northern Shrike** - 1; Nov. 12; Franklin Center; J.D.

**Blue-headed Vireo**—2; Oct. 23; Presque Isle; M.D.; Latest county record by about one week.



BLUE HEADED VIREO

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—1; Oct. 14; Gull Point; T.L.

**Lapland Longspur**—total of 23; Oct 14 to Nov. 1; Gull Point; T.L., G.M., J.M.

**Contributors:** S.A.-Sammer Apte, M.D.-Michael David, J.D.-Julie Dell, R.D.-Roger Donn, S.G.-Steve Gosser, G.K.-Gina Kron, T.L.-Tim Lenz, M.W.L.-Mile & Wendy Lipinski, G.M.-Geoff Malosh, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.M.-Drew Mortensen, R.N.-Richard Nugent, A.P.-Aiden Place, L.S.-Larry Slomski, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, M.V.-Mark Vass

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

## URBAN TREES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

We all are aware of the big news stories about trees in the modern era, painfully so: deforestation for palm oil, grazing, housing, what have you. We feel badly but powerless over these big picture tree issues. But what about what we can do locally. We appreciate trees in our local environs, in our yards, parks – big and small. They make us smile, unless we're raking, but we can take them for granted.

A recent article by Matt Hickman published in the Mother Nature Network, reminds us of the benefits of trees and reports on a study released by the Nature Conservancy. Titled "Planting Healthy Air", the study focuses on the urban trees and public health. We already know urban trees cause us to smile, mitigate storm water runoff, sequester carbon and provide habitat to animals of many species. The study emphasizes the benefit of trees to curb urban air pollution reduce the heat island effect caused by buildings and the man-made road surfaces found in cities. Each year thousands die from heat waves and many die from the air pollution-related illnesses caused from inhaling fine particulate matter caused by man's activities.

The authors of the study report that a cost of just \$4 per capita in tree planting efforts can drastically impact respiratory health and provide a canopy to reduce the impact of a heat wave.

The study examines 245 cities around the globe to assess the benefits that trees have or could have. The authors use a Return on Investment metric to measure the benefits from tree planting by capturing pollutants and reducing heat on the population.

These are the tasks of the urban planners and government but educating them is a task anyone can take on. Locally we have Dianne Esser and Sarah Galloway as knowledgeable educators. Mr. Hickman's article can be found

on the internet: "Don't underestimate the life-saving power of urban trees".

We can achieve improvement in our indoor air just by a small investment on our own. While there are several plants to achieve improvement there are a core group. The NASA (yes that NASA) Clean Air Study (easily found on the internet) lists several plants and the benefits provided. Be careful to select those that address your needs, will thrive in the conditions in your home and, if relevant, those that are toxic to your pets. The list includes the ficus plant, dracaena, spider plant, English Ivy, Boston fern and rubber plant.

~Submitted by Paul Burroughs, VP of PIAS

### From the Editor:

Paul states that placement of urban trees is the task of urban planners and government. I have observed the planting of a number of trees in the city of Erie due to the efforts of both parties and they are to be congratulated for that. They have additionally worked to preserve wooded areas within the city that also provide the benefits listed in the article. I would like to reiterate those benefits by expressing them in list form.

- ✓ Trees absorb small particulate matter from the air which can have a lasting impact on respiratory health.
- ✓ Trees provide shade which cools localized areas and prevent pavement and concrete from heating up.
- ✓ Trees cool the air by transpiring water.
- ✓ Trees mitigate storm water runoff.
- ✓ Trees cause us to smile.
- ✓ Trees provide habitat to animals of many species.

Promote the addition of trees in any urban area whenever you have the opportunity. You can also enhance the benefits of trees by planting them on your own property. Every tree counts!

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF STOPOVER HABITAT NEAR LAKE ERIE FOR MIGRATING LAND BIRDS**

By Sarah Sargent

The annual migration of millions of birds between tropical wintering areas and high latitude breeding grounds is truly an amazing phenomenon of the natural world. Through the decades researchers have devised various techniques for studying this complex behavior that hundreds of bird species exhibit, and have learned quite a lot through methods such as banding, radar, and acoustic monitoring. Many of you are aware of the long-term bird banding work that has occurred at Presque Isle State Park since the early 1960s through the Leberman and Stull families originally, and continued by myself plus seasonal assistants since 2007. You can follow “Presque Isle Bird Banding” on facebook for daily updates during the season, and check out our blog at <http://pispbirdbanding.blogspot.com/> for location, schedule, etc.

In the spring of 2016 I tried out a new technology for learning more about the movements of individual birds during migration. I attached miniature transmitters (nanotags) to 13 birds that we banded. The three Swainson’s Thrushes sped north across the lake, where their signals were detected at receiver stations at Long Point and various sites in Ontario, via a network of stations in the Motus Wildlife Tracking collaboration (see <http://motus.org/> for more information).



**A NANOLocator ON A SWAINSON’S THRUSH**

The five Magnolia Warblers did not cross Lake Erie, but two were detected as they moved northeastward along the southern shore after leaving Presque Isle at two stations, one in North East and the other in Westfield, NY. Of the five Blackpoll Warblers that were tagged, three crossed Lake Erie while the other two followed the coastline towards Buffalo.

For 2017 I am beginning a new phase of this research, where I will be trying to better understand how these migrant birds use patches of habitat near the Lake Erie shoreline but off the peninsula. Are the patches nearest the shore used more heavily? Does it matter if the patches are bigger? If they have a lot of invasive plants? If a patch is surrounded with urban/suburban development or by agriculture? We will continue to do banding at Presque Isle, but this year I plan to also capture some birds at habitat patches between Erie and the New York line to put nanotags on them. How long will they stay in their original patches? Will the ones in small patches move to nearby larger patches? Will the ones close to the shore move back away from the lake to less crowded patches (if those ones are in fact more crowded)? Ultimately, the goal of this project is to promote more understanding among landowners and municipalities about the value of these habitat patches for migratory land birds.

I am looking for help from PIAS members!

1) Volunteers to survey patches for migrants during spring and fall. This will be a 300 meter-long transect that you revisit multiple times, and each survey will included a playback of a screech owl or a mobbing call to attract birds so you can see them. 2) Suggestions of patches to include in the study. I will select about 30 based on size and location, but also on landowner permission and interest. I would like all the patches to be between downtown Erie and the New York line, and north of I-90. Please contact me at [ssargent@audubon.org](mailto:ssargent@audubon.org) if you have ideas for me or are interested in being part of the project. Thanks!

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Presque Isle Audubon Society welcomes the following members into our chapter. When you join National Audubon, you are automatically a member of the local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. The members are:

**Erie:** Thomas Brocki, Robert Benim, Mary Moser, Bernard OConnor, Joan Collins, Sandy Soucy, Becky Frank, Vicki Humphrey and Roberta Rey

**Conneautville:** Paula Tautin

**Corry:** Corinne Weldon

**East Springfield:** John Schriefer

**Fairview:** Blossom McBrier, Tom Wingerter

**Meadville:** Anthony Dividio, Mary Michel

**Ridgway:** Lou Leidwinger

**Saegertown:** Bernard Fuller

**Spartansburg:** William Scouten

**Springboro:** Charles Brown

**Titusville:** Tamalyn Stocker

**Union City:** Harry Nye

**Waterford:** David Anderson, Jason & Megan Pitetti

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman



## THE 59th ANNUAL ALLEGANY PILIGLRIMAGE WILL BE HELD

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY  
JUNE 2-4, 2017

The pilgrimage has been made possible through the efforts of these organizations;

- [Jamestown Audubon Society](#)
- [Buffalo Audubon Society](#)
- [Presque Isle Audubon Society](#)
- [Burroughs Audubon Nature Club](#)
- [Allegany State Park](#)

Adult members of these organizations enjoy a discount on the registration fee.

For more information and to register go to

<http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com/>

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](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* ( 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 C6ZU150Z**

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 **C6ZU150Z** on your renewal application.