



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018 ISSUE 18:02

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

If you are reading this, then it is highly probable that you have a bird feeder somewhere around your home. That feeder was purchased and placed because you or someone you know enjoys watching birds, and perhaps also out of a desire to help these wonderful animals. The thought that forms each time the feeder is filled echoes that you are doing something good for the bird. Creating a bird friendly yard is just one of the many ways in which we as individuals can do our part in creating opportunities for birds to thrive. Acting together as a group, we have the capacity to create bird friendly communities.

Our Strategic Plan recognizes the need for us to work together to make a positive change in our communities, and there are many ways that each of us can contribute. Below is the text from our plan that outlines our philosophy and goals for **creating bird friendly communities**. As you read, consider the talents, skills, and expertise that you could bring to help the people and birds.

(Philosophy)

The Erie region is made up of many diverse locales-from urban to rural, and people can play a critical role in fostering healthy wildlife populations and communities. As the leading voice for birds in the Erie region, PIA can inspire the one in five adults who watch birds to make daily lifestyle choices that add up to real conservation impact. We can also foster bird-friendly communities by developing a membership that can actively participate in

PIA activities, education, and citizen science projects.

(Goals)

1. Use the PIA sanctuaries to inform and educate our community.
2. Inform and educate our community regarding birds, birding, habitats, and conservation. (Cont. on Page 2)

FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



WHY THE WOOD DUCK? SEE PAGE 6

February 16, Friday – PIA Program at the TREC in Room 112

7:00p Program: The Messenger (a film)
Followed by a social (See Page 3)

February 27, Tuesday – Festival of the Bird Committee Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC

March 16, Friday – PIA Program at the TREC in Room 112

7:00p Program: Piping Plover Success at Gull Point and an Introduction to the PA Game Wildlife Plan

Followed by a social (See Page 3)

March 17, Saturday – Field Trip – In Search of Birds and Leprechauns (See Page 7)

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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

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

- Increase the number of field trips.
- Create and publicize a PIA speakers' bureau.
- Improve communication via social media.
- Increase participation in citizen science Projects and PIA sponsored activities.
- Continue and expand existing educational and outreach events (e.g., Festival of the Birds, Raptor Experience)
- Increase programming for children.
- Collaborate with like-minded organizations.
- Promote activities for people from urban environments who have limited exposure to nature.

If you have a passion for birds, take the next step and volunteer your time to lead a field-trip, help out at an event, organize an educational opportunity, work on a citizen science project, or otherwise help fulfill any of our strategic goals.

Audubon's Bird-Friendly Communities Initiative

Vision:

"Where birds thrive, people prosper. From urban centers to rural towns, each community can provide important habitat for native birds. In turn, birds offer us a richer, more beautiful, and healthful place to live. Building on the strength of our grassroots network of Audubon chapters and centers, we will help transform the places where people live into habitats where birds flourish."



Are you ready to help create a more bird friendly community? If so, please email president@presqueisleaudubon.org or talk to any board member to share your willingness to help. Together we can make a difference for the birds and everyone who will enjoy them in the future!

-DM

PIA PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

THE MESSENGER Friday, February 16, 2018

The documentary film investigates the threats facing songbirds, taking viewers on a moving journey and revealing how the issues facing birds also pose daunting implications for our planet. It also introduces us to the scientists on the forefront of studying why songbirds are in decline. Learn about the film here: <http://songbirdsos.com/>



Wildlife First Responders Course Saturday, February 24, 2018

Would you know what to do if you find a hawk that's been hit by a car? Or ducklings without their mother? Or if you disturb a nest of baby rabbits with the lawn mower?

PIPING PLOVER SUCCESS AT GULL POINT AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PA GAME COMMISSION WILDLIFE PLAN Friday, March 16, 2018



Cathy Haffner, Wildlife Biologist, PA Game Commission

Cathy Haffner is the lead for the Piping Plover/Common Tern Recovery Team. She trained and worked with plovers at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore that hosts the largest concentration of nesting plovers in the Great Lakes region.

Learn about the success of Piping Plovers at Gull Point in the 2017 season and discover how the PA Game Commission plans to protect state wildlife with its recently completed 10-year plan.

Tamarack Wildlife Center will offer a Wildlife First Responders course on Saturday Feb. 24 to answer those and other questions. The course will be taught by licensed rehabilitators Carol Holmgren and Gina Kron, and others from the Tamarack team. The course will include information that will enable participants to know when a wild creature needs help, how to help, and when to leave wildlife alone. They will also learn how to capture and transport wildlife, where to take creatures for help and the laws concerning wildlife assistance.

WHERE: Allegheny College's Quigley Hall (Room 101) at Allegheny St. in Meadville

WHEN: Feb. 24 from 9:00a to 5:00p

COST: \$40, including lunch and handouts.

Previous students returning for a review pay just \$10 for lunch.

TO REGISTER: print a registration form from the center's website and mail it to the center with a check. www.tamarackwildlife.org
Or call [814-763-2574](tel:814-763-2574) to request a form.

Preregistration must be received by Friday, Feb. 16. Registering early is recommended as the class may fill.

Participants will also learn about other volunteer opportunities available at Tamarack Wildlife Center. Past students now assist as phone helpline volunteers, transporters and board members.

~Carol Holmgren, Executive Director

BIRD SIGHTINGS

The following birds of note were reported from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise:

Greater White-fronted Goose—1; to Nov. 25; Fairview Business Park & Automated Devices pond; B.S., et al.

Ross's Goose—1; to Dec. 3; Fairview Business Park; J.S., et al.

Brant—1; Nov. 22 to 30; foot of State St.; M.B. Cackling Goose—up to 9; to Nov. 30; Fairview Business Park; m.ob. 1; Nov. 23; Edinboro Lake; J.H., A.S. 1; Dec. 16; Presque Isle S.P.; D.S.

King/Common eider -1 female; Dec. 13; Sunset Point (waterbird count, WC); J.M.

Harlequin Duck—1 female; Nov. 29; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1 female; Dec. 17; Sunset Point; A.K.



FEMALE AND MALE HARLEQUIN DUCKS

White-winged Scoter—110 (high count); Jan. 15; Sunset Point; J.M.

Sandhill Crane—20; Dec. 25; Northeast; T.L.

Snowy Owl—up to 9; Nov. 24, 2017 to Jan. 16, 2018; Presque Isle S.P.; m.ob.

1; Dec. 5; Erie International Airport; fide S.S.

1; Dec. 6; Manchester Beach, Fairview Twp.; m.ob.

1; Dec. 23; near McKean; fide C.W.

1; Dec. 22; Summit Twp.; Times News

Short-eared Owl -1; Millcreek twp.; first week of Jan.; fide S.S.

Red-necked Phalarope—1; to Nov. 22 (Late); Niagara boat launch; J.B., et al.



RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

Red-necked Grebe—2; Nov. 28; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Eared Grebe—1; to Nov. 26; Niagara boat launch; J.B., et al.

Virginia Rail -1; Dec. 16

(late); east pier; E.E., H.C., N.T.



VIRGINIA RAIL

Purple Sandpiper—1; Nov. 22; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Little Gull -1 adult; Dec. 20; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Northern Shrike—1; Nov. 25, 2017 to Dec. 7, 2018; Fairview Business Park; .T. 1; Dec. 26; Erie; C.S.

Gray Catbird—up to 2; Pine tree Trail Dec. 16 to 24; m.ob.

(Cont. on Page 5)

BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Lapland Longspur –1; Dec. 14; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.



LAPLAND LONGSPUR

Red Crossbill—1 ; Dec. 29; Erie; J.D.



RED CROSSBILL

Common Redpoll—26; Dec. 24; Dead Pond Trail; J.F.

Contributors: M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.B.- Jeffrey Bojc, H.C.- Henry Chupp, J.D.- John DePaul, E.E.- Emmanuel Erb, J.F.- Jim Flynn, J.H.- Jamie Hill, A.K.- Andy Keister, T.L.- Tim Lyons, J.M.- Jerry McWilliams, B.S.- Bob Scribner, A.S.- Annette Smith, S.S.- Susan Smith, D.S.- Don Snyder, C.S.- Carolyn Sturtevant, J.S.- Joe Susi, S.T.- Shannon Thompson, N.T.- Neil Troyer, C.W.- Carol Winslow, m.ob.- many observers

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

WILDLIFE COURIERS NEEDED

Wildlife In Need (WIN) Emergency Response of Pennsylvania, Inc. has been established to respond to wildlife situations on a timely basis. Because most Pa. licensed wildlife rehabilitation centers do not have the staff to answer phone calls on a timely basis and respond to wildlife emergencies, WIN Emergency Response has been created to provide a specialized service that will solve that problem. Our goal is to have a group of volunteers from each county in the state responding to wildlife that are in need of rescue, containment and transportation to a Pennsylvania licensed wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinarian clinic for evaluation and treatment. Currently we are in need of volunteers from the Erie County area and surrounding Pennsylvania counties.

Each volunteer that does not have wildlife handling experience begins as a wildlife courier. As a wildlife courier you are under the supervision of a permitted Capture and Transport (C & T) volunteer. You may be asked to do the following:

- Transport an animal to a rehabilitation center, veterinarian hospital or meet with another wildlife courier.
- Ride along and/or assist with capture and transport personnel.
- Travel to the site of the animal, and keep an eye on it until a C & T permittee arrives, or gives further direction.
- Assist with a coordinated group rescue.
- Help doing various tasks with C&T personnel.

Learn how you can help by becoming a volunteer for Wildlife In Need Emergency Response of Pennsylvania, Inc. and attending a training session at:

The Tom Ridge Environmental Center
March 17, 2018 in Room 110
10:00A.M. – 12Noon

Preregistration is requested by 03/15/2018
(814)-425-7731 or

e-mail: sdearment@windstream.net

2017 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Bird Count this year on December 16th. We had 32 intrepid birders who scoured Presque Isle and other areas within the count circle to count a total of 11, 343 birds from 78 different species on our official count day.



Carolyn Hammers, Julie Leonard, Toni Kelly

This year marked Audubon's 118th Christmas Bird Count which started in 1900. I have not been able to identify exactly when our count circle was formed (Yet!) but based on the CBC records, we have submitted data for 52 bird counts. Some of this year's highlights include a record number of snowy owls, of which we counted 4!



Going back in our count summary records, snowy owls have been recorded in 10 of our previous counts. Our most abundant bird for this year's count was not surprisingly, the ubiquitous ring-billed gull, at 2857. This number pales in comparison to the high count for this species of 102,000 during the 1995 count!! That is nearly 10 times the total number of **all** the birds counted this CBC!! Interestingly, that year we also had a record number of Herring gulls, 67,000 (902 this year) and Bonaparte's gulls, 29,000 (6 this year). I'm just guessing here, but I bet the lake was not frozen over in December 1995. Of the 52 counts for which we've submitted data, several species of birds were counted during each and every one! They include the American black duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, Common merganser, Herring gull, Great black-backed gull, American tree sparrow and European starling.

WINGED HARBINGERS OF SPRING: THE WOOD DUCK

What is your winged harbinger of spring?...the robin?...the red-winged blackbird? These are valid picks but there are other species of birds that are also reliable signals that winter is waning. The resplendent **male wood duck** whose image is featured on the first page of this newsletter is also one of the forerunners of spring.

The difference between observing the wood duck when it arrives early in March as opposed to observing the robin or the red-winged blackbird is that it won't be flying into your backyard or nearby field. A wood duck will choose local lakes or ponds and their shoreline trees to feed and nest. This means that you will have to get your binoculars and scope and hike to Presque Isle or nearby waters to search for this rather elusive indicator of longer days and warmer temperatures. Once you see the actual magnificent colors and patterns that characterize the wood duck, you will realize that it was worth all your effort to include a different species in your list of surefire winged harbingers of spring!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It's been a cold winter. I was finally able to get to my bird feeder so I could fill it. My nesting box is also getting use on these cold nights. Anyway we have some new members as well as renewals to our local chapter. When you join National Audubon, you are automatically a member of the local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon.

Erie: Karen Ellis, Linda Amsterdam, Carolyn Sturtevant, Judy Lipsitz, Katie Smyklo, John & Lisa DePaul, Janet Price, Larry Burlingame, Lucy John, Sheila Brugger, Linda Kierstein, Richard Markiewicz, Pat Hersch, Georgie Walker, G.A. Bollinger, Robert Allen, Judith Bien, Jenna Mulrooney-White, Leah Ball, Jim & Rosemarie Pitetti, Lisa Balsan, Maggie Gleason, Jane Boyd

Asthabula, OH: Nancy Rung

Centerville, PA: Michael & Gloria Kelly

Cleveland, OH: Jenny Orloff

Cherry Creek, NY: Bonnie Bowen

E.Springfield: Patti Larson

Edinboro: Annette Smith, Suzanne Winterberger

Elkridge, MD: Griffith Family

Fairview: Terry Pfeffer, Krista Jeffries, Patricia Raydo, Ed & Nancy Group

Kapolei, HI: Amanda Kimball

Lake City: Walter Thompson

Leesburg, FL: Lee Ann Reiners & Charlie Hout

McKean: Karl Frankovitch

North East: Martha Campbell

N. Springfield, PA: Barb Olin

Philadelphia, PA: Pam Moore

Pittsburgh, PA: Victoria Dziadosz

Syracuse, NY: Paris Horan

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

IN SEARCH OF BIRDS AND LEPRECHAUNS!

Field Trip on Presque Isle
Saturday March 17, 2018

Where: We will meet at the Parking Lot of the Stull Center on Presque Isle State Park

Time: 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

This is the first in a series of regularly scheduled PIA field trips that will take place every other Saturday at Presque Isle SP. The first few trips will be designed to introduce people to some of the trails on Presque Isle. The plan for this trip is to bird Old Gas Well Trail, Canoe Portage Trail, finishing up at Duck Pond Trail, if time permits. Keeping in mind that March in Erie can bring just about anything weather-wise, trails may change depending on conditions. This, as with all the trips in this series, is for birders of all ages and skill levels, is free and open to the public. Please share this information with your friends and family who may not get the *Tern of Events*.

P.S. The lucky birder who finds the Leprechaun will win a special prize compliments of PIAS!
~Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Trip Chair

FOOD ON THE WAY

Thirty to forty pounds of beef suet will be available at our **February Audubon meeting**, courtesy of Percy McDonald Meats on Route 20, one mile west of Girard. Percy is not new to Audubon. He has helped us out in the past. To avoid winter stocking, a charge of 50 cents per "heavy" pound will be made and then turned over to Audubon.

As an added bonus, Cheryl and Frank Zalik, members of Audubon and owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Erie, have donated 50 bags of netting for suet hangers.

Thank you Percy, Cheryl and Frank!

~Chuck Kern, Long Time Audubon Member

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

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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

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:

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Fl. 32142-2250**

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