



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017 ISSUE 17:02

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

Sometimes you just want to smack people in the head to help them wake up to the realities of climate change. Other times you just shake your head and walk away because despite your best efforts there is no convincing some people. Yet other times, you just sulk and crawl into yourself to avoid confrontation and all that it entails. I'll admit that I've been in this last stage lately and have been avoiding the topic altogether. Part of my reasoning, so I tell myself, is that I don't want to just be involved in a confrontation or even a discussion until I have a decent working knowledge of the facts. I am not a climate scientist. I really want to be respectful of the opinions of others. Unlike some people on both sides of this and many other debates of late, I don't want to let emotion blur the facts; I don't want to employ blanket generalizations to cover every aspect of such an important topic and I don't want to rely on and repeat what one or two sources report as gospel. I don't even want to point out that when it comes to climate change, even Fox news and Scott Pruitt, President Trump's controversial pick for the head of the EPA, admit that climate change is a reality and that human activity has some impact on it. And, really, I don't want to smack people in the head, except maybe with facts. The debate over whether human activity contributes to climate change is a very narrow one. Almost everyone, including a clear majority of climate scientists, agree that human factors contribute at least somewhat to climate change. The much broader and contentious debate is the question of how much of an impact human

activity has on climate change and, based on that opinion, what should be done about it. I have not found one source that denies that non-human factors (methane from livestock*, decay of terrestrial and ocean-based organic materials) contribute to climate change.

(Cont. on Page 2)

FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



HARBINGERS OF SPRING

February 17-20 - Great Backyard Bird Count

February 17, Friday - PIA General Meeting

7:00p - Program* followed by Social

*Sarah Sargent, PA Wilds Forest Bird Study(P 6)

February 21, Tuesday - Festival of the Birds

Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00p

March 14, Tuesday - PIA Board Meeting at

6:00p in the TREC Board Room

March 17, Friday - PIA General Meeting

7:00p - Program* followed by Social

*Mary Birdsong, Seasonal Shorebird Monitor(P 6)

March 21, Tuesday - Festival of the Birds

Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00p

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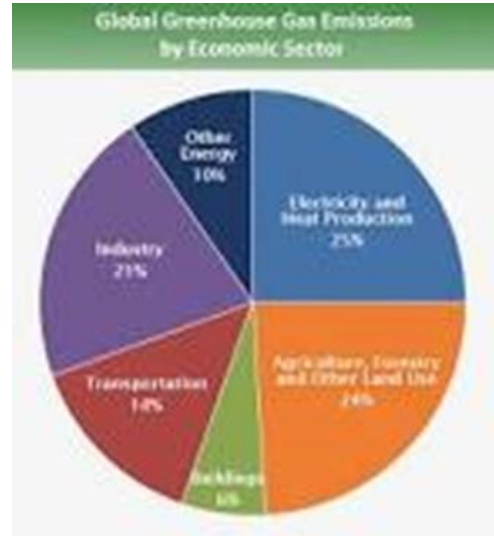
The *Tern of Events* is published by the **Presque Isle Audubon Society**, a chapter of the National Audubon Society and a member of Audubon Pennsylvania serving northwestern Pennsylvania including Erie and Crawford counties.

Address: 301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 8
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THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

So, there is really no question that climate change would be occurring as part of Earth's natural evolution.



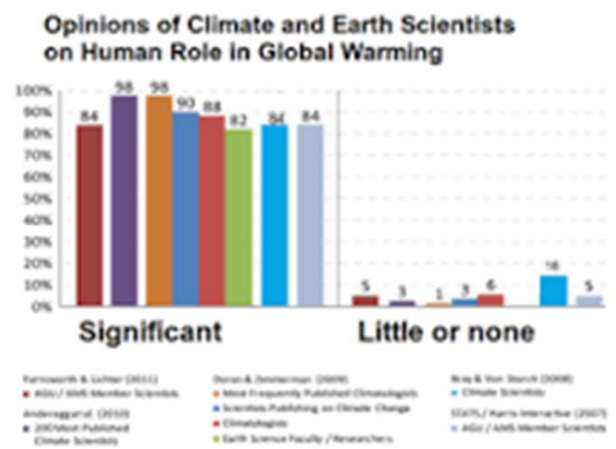
I like to use analogies to help put things in perspective, mostly for myself, and this is what I have come up with. Yes, the world is evolving, as it must, and, yes, it would evolve even if humans weren't inhabiting it, but using that argument to limit the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, perpetuate our dependence on fossil fuels and stifle the development of sustainable energy is akin to saying "Well, aging (evolving) causes death, it's inevitable, why not just eat whatever and as much you want, drink whatever and as much you want, smoke whatever and as much you want..." Obviously, if it is your body, you have that right and might choose that course, but I think if we apply that to say, your grandchildren, you might be more willing to rethink your philosophy.

Let's say, for the sake of argument, that human activity has only a "minor" impact on global warming: weather events might get a little worse, the sea level might rise just a tad, polar bears might have less ice to hunt and live upon...Should we not do what we can to curtail these effects no matter how slim the chance of a negative impact? (Cont. on Page 3)

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Going back to my analogy above, should we not choose a healthier life-style (or want one for our loved ones) even if the outcome is inevitable. While there is no perfect form of energy, our dependence on fossil fuels will continue to contribute a significant negative impact on our environment now and in the future. That is not just me talking; that is based on years of climate science including scientists who were once skeptical about the effect of human activity on climate change.

There still exist very knowledgeable and even well-intentioned scientists who remain skeptical about the human effect on climate change and, even if they are right, which I do not think they are, is it not still incumbent on us to make this world a healthier, safer one? Sustainable forms of energy have come a long way but are in their infancy when compared with fossil fuels. Humans can make energy, including that from fossil fuels, cleaner and more efficient, of that I have no doubt. We have just one planet and we all must live here together. Let's do it well, and civilly, and carry on the debate using knowledge and facts and let's not forget, the science.



*Although listed as non-human, I would consider Livestock part of farming/agriculture.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, PIA President

IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR A CUP OF COFFEE

By Janet Price, Editor

"It's a good day for a cup of coffee" announced Mark as he came into the house to do some work for me. "Yes", I said, "but any day is a good day for a cup of coffee". I thought about my response for a few seconds and then said to him, "Any day is a good day for a cup of GOOD coffee." I was thinking about the mug of Birds and Beans coffee I had enjoyed earlier in the morning and I remembered the important differences between "coffee" and "GOOD coffee". I am a firm believer in the value of those differences and, because I think that every coffee drinker (or not) should know about them, I am going to elaborate. "GOOD coffee" includes being shade grown, having robust flavor, labeled bird friendly and organic, and promoting fair trade.

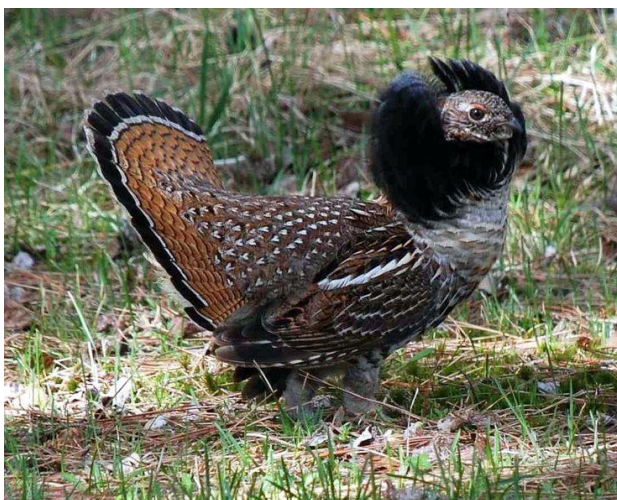
"GOOD coffee" is **shade** grown which is a result of the shrubs having been cultivated among other plants in a natural environment. Coffee growers who value the ecosystem over wealth and a fast buck utilize the shade grown method. Coffee shrubs thrive in the protective canopy of the neotropical forest producing high quality beans which yield quality **flavor**. These beans cannot be harvested by machines but are gently picked and sorted by hand.



(Cont. on Page 7)

BIRD REPORT

Snow Goose —4 (3 white, 1 blue); Dec. 5; Sunset Point (Waterbird count, WC); J.M.
Black Scoter 1; Jan. 1; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.
Red-necked Grebe 1; Dec. 31 to Jan. 2; north pier; S.T.
Eared Grebe—1; Dec. 23; Gull Point; J.F.
Ruffed Grouse—1; Dec. 17; Thompson Circle on trail (CBC); rare for the park; E.E.



RUFFED GROUSE – PENNSYLVANIA STATE BIRD

Iceland Gull 1; Dec. 31; south pier; S.T. 1; Jan. 9; foot of east Ave.; J.M.
Lesser Black-backed Gull up to 3; Dec. 23 to Jan. 2; Gull Point; J.F., S.T.
Glaucous Gull 1; Jan. 1; off Leo's; S.T. 1; Jan. 21; marina; J.M.
Purple Sandpiper 1; Dec. 4; breakwater #54; R.N.

Northern Goshawk - 1 imm.; Dec. 3; Thompson Circle; J.M. 1 imm.; Dec. 15; Waterford; J.H.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1; Jan. 8; Girard; S.D. (Below)



Dunlin 1; Dec. 16 (late); Sunset Point (WC); J.M.
Snowy Owl 1; Nov. 30 to Dec. 4; Gull Point; J.M. ; Dec. 12: Presque Isle; fide R.D. 1; Jan. 5; Erie International Airport; fide S.S. 1; Jan. 21; Gull Point; R.D.
Forster's Tern 1; Dec. 7 (late); mouth of Walnut Creek; J.M. (Below)



Long-eared Owl 1; Dec. 18; Pines; R.D.
Gray Catbird 1; Dec. 23 (late); Gull Point Trail; J.F.
Lapland Longspur—2; Dec. 23; Gull Point; J.F.
Pine Siskin 45; early January; Fairview Twp.; D.Sn. (Cont. on Page 5)

BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1 imm male; Dec. 18 to at least Jan. 2; Harborcreek at a feeder; D.S. (Below)



Chipping Sparrow—1; Jan. 20 (late); Millcreek Twp.; R.S. (Below)



Contributors: S.D. Stephenie DiLuzio, R.D. Roger Donn, E.E. Emanuel Erb, J.F. Jim Flynn, J.H. Jamie Hill, J.M. Jerry McWilliams, R.N. Richard Nugent, R.S. Robert Scribner, D.S. Debbie Smith, S.S. Susan Smith, D.Sn. Don Snyder

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Record Chair

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Well, the days are getting longer by a minute a day, and that means Spring is slowly coming. We want to welcome the new members to our chapter, as well as those who rejoined. Hope to see you at the next meeting. The members are:

Erie: Lauren Schweiger, H. Daniel Hill, Daniel Ganzer, Vikki Minadeo, Pete Repoff, Mark Crawford, Lani Harmon, Linda & Ron McElderry, Rick Rumball, Lawrence Lonyo, Mary Bell

Ephrata: Frank Galaskewicz

Albion: Florence Hellyer

Conneautville: Jodi Maxfield

Fairview: Gerald Rhone

Harborcreek: Beverly Bell

Meadville: M.D. Mason, Sharon Wesoky, Mary Radnich, William Briggeman

Spartansburg: Carolyn Root

Springboro: Carol Stewart

Townville: Bonnie Boyer

Waterford: Tina Wasiela

~Ronald Intrieri, Membership Chair

membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



Thanks to all the intrepid birders who came out on December 17th to participate in the Christmas Bird Count!! We had a great time despite the inclement weather and were happy to welcome some new participants including CJ, Mike, Monica, Norm and Al. It was also great to see some familiar faces! Our bird feeder watchers, the Dankos and Andersens, helped boost our tally with a brown-headed cowbird and fox sparrow. Our species count for the day was 75 total species and close to 20,000 total birds!! #

PIA PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

Friday, February 17

**Pennsylvania's Forest Breeding Birds:
Research from "The Wilds"**



Sarah Sargent will present results from an intensive effort to determine the densities of breeding forest birds far from roads in the 12 county region in north central Pennsylvania known as "The Wilds." The fieldwork was conducted in 2015 by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy scientists in partnership with Audubon PA. Understanding how birds respond to forest types and structural characteristics will aid in developing bird friendly recommendations for forest managers of public lands.

Dr. Sarah Sargent has worked for Audubon Pennsylvania, the state office of National Audubon Society, since 2006. She received her undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, then went on to complete Master's and PhD degrees at Cornell University studying birds and their ecological role as seed dispersers for plants in both temperate and tropical ecosystems. She has lived in Meadville since 1996 where she taught at Allegheny College for about 10 years prior to her work with Audubon.

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PIA PROGRAM FOR MARCH

Friday, March 17

The 2016 International Piping Plover Census

Mary Birdsong will present information and statistics as well as pictures from the winter portion of the International census that is conducted every five years. She will share the experience of participating in a small part of the census in early 2016 in the Berry Islands, Bahamas. Data from the census allows scientists and others to track this endangered species on both their breeding and wintering grounds, giving them a fuller picture of the birds' lives and the threats they face.

Mary Birdsong is a Seasonal Shorebird Monitor for Audubon PA. Other times she is a freelance writer and artist. She holds a BA in History from the Penn State University and an MA in Art History from the University of Delaware. She learned about birds on her own.

#



**59TH ANNUAL ALLEGANY NATURE
PILGRIMAGE**

June 2, 3, 4, 2017

Don't you deserve a weekend in the woods?

Go to www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com for information and registration materials.

IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR A CUP OF COFFEE" (Cont.)

The earthy, smoky and chocolaty **flavors** of the "GOOD coffee" that excite your taste buds depend on the type of coffee plant used but the **flavor** of any coffee bean is also enhanced when it is grown in a diverse habitat or is **shade grown**. Roasting can additionally affect the flavor of the beverage as well. Obviously a variety of flavors is available depending upon the variables listed above.

Neotropical forests that house coffee plantations which produce "GOOD coffee" are considered **bird friendly**. These plantations are the type of habitat where birds overwinter. Here they are able to maintain and improve their body condition which empowers them to be fit to survive their migration back to their northern breeding grounds. I've been in a shade grown coffee plantation that produces "GOOD coffee" and really appreciated its unaffectedness. I was so excited when I saw my first blue morph and my first acorn woodpecker there. The trails made by army ants caught my eye as well. You wouldn't find these wildlife creatures in deforested or clear cut areas. These farms are definitely not bird friendly. To put it bluntly, if there is no neotropical forest, there will be no songbirds.



Organic coffee cannot be produced by using synthetic substances such as most pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. The smaller coffee shrubs are fertilized by all the decaying leaf litter on the ground when they're grown under the neotropical canopy. This natural fertilizer also gives the beans a better **flavor**. If coffee is labeled "organic", at least 95% of the beans must have been grown under organic conditions.

Coffee sold with **fair trade** on the label ensures that the producers or farmers are paid a fair price. The standard of living and decent living conditions of the growers and the workers, many of whom are family farmers living in impoverished areas, are considered when establishing the cost of the coffee. "GOOD coffee" will obviously cost more than "good coffee".

Bird Friendly, the only 100% organic and shade grown coffee certification available, is a certification created by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center whose standards are the strictest of the third-party environmental standards. Look for the seal below when choosing your brand of coffee. It guarantees that every bean is produced organically and under high-quality shade.



All those who drink coffee, as well as those who don't, but love this earth and the birds that inhabit it, can help promote neotropical forest conservation by pledging to buy and drink the "GOOD coffee". . Look for the Bird Friendly label in the stores or on the web.

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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.

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Individual membership \$15.00/year

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