



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2015 ISSUE 15:05

*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

Wow! What a wonderful May it has been! The festival was fabulous with three days of terrific weather squeezed in between some rather wet days before and after the festival. I hope that you've all been able to get out and enjoy the birds and their beautiful songs this spring. I've been fortunate to enjoy some new species in the yard this year including a Swainson's thrush that's been singing in the evenings for a couple of weeks now. I know that soon he'll be heading north to his boreal nesting grounds but secretly I hope that he takes a liking to the habitat (and a nice female Swainson's thrush) and settles in for the summer. His cousin, the wood thrush, whose magical song is my favorite sound on Earth, is a regular in the gully in which we live, right along Six Mile Creek in Harborcreek. Last month I offered a little synopsis of National Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report and indicated that I'd address predictions made in the report about specific birds and range losses/changes starting with the wood thrush. (Below)



As mentioned in my previous article, the Audubon report finds that of the 588 species included in the report 314 of them are at risk of losing substantial suitable range. Of those 314 species, 126 are classified as climate endangered meaning that over half of their current range may be unsuitable due to changes in climate by 2050. The remaining 188 species are classified as climate threatened meaning that over half of their current range may become unsuitable due to climate change by 2080. Our staple of the eastern woodlands, the wood thrush falls into the latter category. Looking at North America, the NAS models predict an 82% loss of suitable summer range for the wood thrush by 2080. (Cont. on page 3)

## JUNE THINGS TO DO!



**Jack-in-the-Pulpit**

**June 6, Saturday** – Weed Warrior Work Session; Meet at the Stull Center at 9:30AM  
**June 19, Friday** – June Membership Picnic Meeting, Social at 7:00PM

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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](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org)

**THANK YOU TO OUR MANY FAITHFUL  
DONORS FOR THE 2015 FESTIVAL OF  
THE BIRDS !!**

### GREAT BLUE HERON

Kel McDonald

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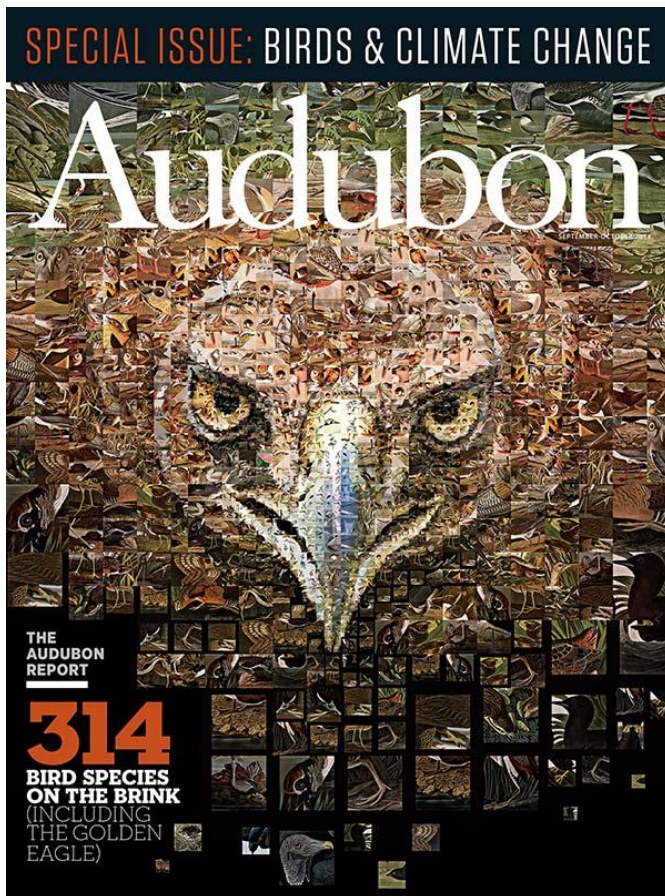
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Wild Birds Unlimited

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

While, it appears that our portion of PA will be suitable for wood thrush through 2050, looking at the predictive maps for 2080 there is a significant shift to the north and somewhat to the eastern part of the country and continent. The 2080 climate map for PA has minimally suitable climate with an especially poor outlook for areas along the lake. This substantial shift in climate suitability seems to indicate new range potentially becoming available across much of what is today the boreal forest. While it is highly unlikely that I will be around to experience this loss, I still feel it and must say it makes me quite sad. So, is there anything that we can do to stop this shift from happening, or is it a forgone conclusion?



Undoubtedly, the National Audubon Society has put a great deal of effort and money into the research needed to develop this report and some question their focus on climate change, favoring emphasis on efforts that might be more immediately apparent and effective.

What, after all, can we do about climate change? Gary Langham, Chief Scientist at National Audubon, suggests that the report tells us two things that we must do right now to help abate climate change. The first is to reduce the carbon pollution that causes global warming and the second is to protect those areas that the birds need today and will need in the future. In an effort to get people started thinking about what they, as individuals, can do to make a difference the NAS has come up with a list of things people can do to get started. [Here](#) is a link to five things that details what each of us can do right now to help birds. In summary, they include: 1.) signing up at the National Audubon website to receive Audubon's findings, explore climate related volunteer opportunities, and get information about how to enlist in Audubon's forthcoming citizen science projects, 2.) creating a bird-friendly yard by using fewer pesticides, installing bird baths and letting dead trees stand among other things, 3.) getting involved in your local important birds areas by volunteering for such activities as invasive species control with the Weed Warriors, leading field trips and helping with clean-up efforts, 4. ) putting birds on your community agenda by talking with your neighbors, colleagues and local leaders about the importance of birds to your community, 5.) Support policies that lower greenhouse gas emissions including urging leaders at the local, state, and national levels to enact policies that lower greenhouse gas emissions and support clean energy. There is much more information available about what each of us can do on an individual level at the National Audubon website. Thanks in advance for all that each of you are doing to help the birds be it by reducing your own carbon footprint or by creating a little sanctuary in your yard. If you have any more questions about what you can do to help the birds and the planet or suggestions for what PIAS can do to help, please feel free to contact me at [president@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:president@presqueisleaudubon.org).

~Michele Rundquist Franz, PIAS President



## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from April 17, 2015 to May 18, 2015 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Red-throated Loon**—1; May 2 through at least May 8; off outer beaches; m.ob.  
**American White Pelican**—1; May 9; Leo's; G.A.



AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

**American Bittern**—1; May 6 & 7; Gull Point Trail; M.B. 1; May 9 & 10; Leo's; S.T.  
**Least Bittern**—1; May 18, Niagara Pond; R.S.  
**Black Vulture**—1; May 11; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC; R.D., J.M., P.H., D.S.. Second May record for Erie County.  
**Swallow-tailed Kite**—1; May 9; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC; J.M.  
**Sandhill Crane**—total of 18; April 30 to May 18; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC and Presque Isle S.P.; m.ob.  
**Little Gull**—1; April 23; off Vista 1; J.M. 1; May 8; Gull Point; G.A.  
**Iceland Gull**—2; April 23; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—1; April 23; Presque Isle Bay; J.M. 1; April 27; Horseshoe Pond; J.M. 1; to May 2; Misery Bay; R.St.  
**Glaucous Gull**—Up to 4; April 23 to 27; Presque Isle Bay; J.M. 1; to May 2; Misery Bay; R.St.  
**Black Tern**—2; May 3; Niagara Pond; J.M. 2; May 6; Edinboro Lake; D.S.  
**American Golden Plover**—1; May 9 & 12; Beach 7 on breakwater & Gull Point; S.T., M.B.

**Piping Plover**—1 banded adult; May 4, 5, 7, & 12 to 14; Gull Point; M.B.  
**Willet**—1; May 5; Gull Point; M.B.  
**Kentucky Warbler**—1; May 15; Fry's landing; E.M. (Below)



**Clay-colored Sparrow**—1; May 9; east pier; D.J. 1; May 14; behind Ranger's station; K.K.P. (Below)



**Summer Tanager**—1 imm. Male; May 10; Niagara boat launch; G.M.

**Contributors:** G.A.-George Armistead, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, R.D.-Roger Donn, P.H.-Pat Howell, D.J.-Dave Janetski, G.M.-Geoff Malosh, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, E.M.-Ellwood Meyers, K.K.P.-Kevin and Kelly Parsons, D.S.-Don Snyder, R.S.-Russ States, R.St.-Randy Stringer, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, m.ob.-many observers.

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

## **SMASHING RECORDS: THE SEVENTH FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS**

You couldn't have hoped for a better weekend! This year's Festival of the Birds sponsored by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Presque Isle Audubon was our seventh and it was all good – no, more than all good, it was the best. Three days of excellent weather and a record intake of revenue were the icing on the cake. So many records were broken and what a thrill that was!

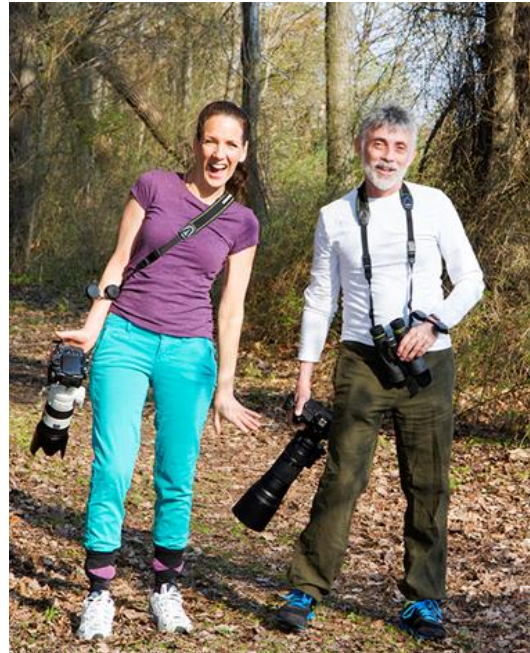
Registrations were up from previous years. Our faithful volunteers welcomed birders with a smile and a welcome bag as they checked in. The birders loved the contents of their recyclable bags which held more treasures than ever before: Ted Floy's *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, an updated bird checklist by Jerry McWilliams and free tickets for auction items displayed in the lobby. Items donated by numerous individuals who believe in Presque Isle Audubon's mission appealed to registrants who purchased tickets for items they wanted while contributing to record funds collected.

Friday night's reception at the TREC was "great fun" and the mood was one of camaraderie as attendees enjoyed entertaining guitar music by Frank Singer. Everyone munched the mouth-watering food provided by Kal Darres of the Sunset Café. Pulled pork sliders; juicy, succulent meatballs and fresh veggies and dip were satisfying and accompanied by beverages that quenched the thirst and were generously provided by Mazza Wineries, Blue Iris Wineries and Brewerie. The reception ended at the TREC but continued on Presque Isle State Park where birders hoped to see and hear woodcock and whip-poor-wills.

After enjoying some coffee and snacks at the Rotary Pavilion on Saturday and Sunday mornings, birders who ranked leaders as expert, knowledgeable, friendly and helpful were led to the trails of their choice. The fact that there were small groups on the field trips was noted and appreciated. The Pontoon Boat

was filled with birders each day during the trips as the pilot steered silently through the lagoons and an Audubon member pointed out the birds along the way.

It was during these field trips on trails and in the lagoon on Saturday and Sunday that a record number of bird species was spotted, 169. The number of warblers on their way to their breeding grounds was 26, the most recorded during a festival.



**JANICE AND ISSY**

The scheduled workshops were attended in record numbers and those who participated were quite impressed and learned a lot, so they said. Our presenters, experts in their fields, shared information on subjects such as Intro to Beginning Birding, Bird Photography, Attracting Birds to Your Yard, Jeopbirdy and Shorebird ID.

The bird banders at Fry's Landing during the weekend welcomed festival participants who visited their station. Sarah Sargent and Laura-Marie Koitsch were great at explaining the bird banding process. They showed how they captured birds in the mist nets, recorded data and fastened bands on the birds' legs. Each birder had a close-up look at species they usually see only at a distance and some even had a chance to hold and release a bird.

(Cont. on Page 6)

## SMASHING RECORDS: THE SEVENTH FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS (Cont.)

Late Saturday afternoon, classrooms were reorganized and a dining room was created. Hungry birders whose appetites were fueled by a long day of birding, hiking, fresh air and sunshine responded to a call for dinner and lines queued past the scrumptious looking buffet that appealed to the senses of sight and smell. Slices of pork tenderloin with apple salsa, fresh green asparagus strewn with sliced red peppers and colorful carrot salad made everyone's mouth water. The garlic mashed potatoes were irresistible. Each one's palate was satisfied as they sat down to share the meal with fellow birders, now friends. Small fruit tarts, cream puffs and decadent chocolate were enjoyed before trekking over to the Big Green Screen Theater to hear George Armistead present Ornithology: the Birds and the Bees.

The festival committee members included Janet Price, Chuck Benson, Holly Best, Mary Birdsong, Anne DeSarro, Michele Franz, Marion Gallivan, Pat Howell, Ron Intrieri, Kel McDonald and Susan A. Smith. They had carried out their duties impeccably and met to discuss feedback from all sources. Comments from birders and committee members were heard and considered. Notes were taken about issues of concern and about matters that could be improved. Everyone was enthusiastic about the results of the 2015 festival and that same emotion was carried into the planning for next year's event. Committee chair positions were filled. The keynote speaker for 2016 had already been contracted and the theme bird is on the keynote's book, *The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition*, which will be in next year's welcome bag. The bird is the Magnolia Warbler and the keynote speaker and author is DAVID SIBLEY! Will we expect to see you there to experience this better than ever Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle in 2016? Please come. You'll have a smashing good time!

~Janet Price, Festival of the Birds Chair

## JUNE MEMBERSHIP PICNIC MEETING



It's just about summer so time to relax. So instead of a program inside, we'll be meeting at the AAUW pavilion (adjacent to the parking lot of the Tom Ridge Center) on Friday, June 19, for a social and picnic. The Program Committee is providing pizza and soft drinks, but bring something else to share (nothing fancy, keep it simple and easy). As always, we don't have any set agenda except maybe some fun and games, laughs and some casual birding! Bring your sense of humor and a favorite bird joke, if you have one.  
~Mary Birdsong, Program Chair

## IN MEMORY



JEANNE KERN

Jeanne Kern was a long-time active member of Presque Isle Audubon and the Executive Board. She devoted many hours and much energy to the organization and its mission while chairing the Marketing and Sales Committee, meticulously planning the annual banquet and coordinating the Members' Night Program. When an Audubon activity was taking place, and that was many, you can be sure that Jeanne would know someone who would donate their time or goods that would add to the success of the activity. We all appreciated Jeanne's efforts and her expertise during her tenure with Presque Isle Audubon and will miss her presence among us.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to all the new and renewal members of the Presque Isle Audubon.

Our new members are:

**Erie:** Mary Schloss, Jennifer Pasternack, Rynda McCray, Helen Singer, Carol Gettinger, P. Vybrial, Mary Hammer, Barbara Edwards, Pat Sexauer, Evelyn Anderson

**Albion:** Ed Zajic, Margaret Witheron

**Corry:** Betty Little

**Edinboro:** John Yonko

**Fairview:** Tom Tillman, Gay Kilmer, Patricia Raydo

**Girard:** Eugene & Elizabeth Sorrentino

**Harborcreek:** Christine Avery, Martin Kokus

**Meadville:** Kathleean Roos, Mary Radnich, Sharon Armstrong, Karlin Marsh

**North East:** Cheryl Coburn

**Union City :** Harry Nye

**Waterford:** Marilyn Stubbe

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman  
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

## FIELD TRIP WITH SUE MURAWSKI

A small group enjoyed perfect weather as they strolled the Ralph C. Sheldon Nature Trail near Sherman, NY for three hours on May 2nd. Along the way we identified 43 birds and a Pickerel Frog.

Highlights included a Sandhill Crane flying by and a kettle that included three Turkey Vultures, an Osprey and a Red-tailed Hawk circling overhead together.

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](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.

## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS



The Friends of Erie National Wildlife Refuge and the Presque Isle Audubon Society invite all amateur photographers to enter their 15th biennial Nature Photo Contest for 2015. Here's your chance to submit photos in any or all of three categories: plant life, wildlife and landscape. Prizes are awarded for each category-both cash prizes and honorable mentions. A \$75 cash prize is awarded for best photo taken at the Refuge. But photos don't have to be taken there to be submitted for entry.

Erie National Wildlife Refuge is over 5,000 acres of diverse habitat in and around Guys Mills, Pennsylvania, which is 10 miles east of Meadville. The Refuge was established in 1959 to provide migratory birds with nesting, feeding and resting sites. The Refuge is designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Birding Area. Over 230 species of birds can be seen there.

Deadline for entry of photos is September 25<sup>th</sup>. Official contest rules can be found on the web at [www.friendsofenwr.org](http://www.friendsofenwr.org) or call the Refuge office at 814-789-3585.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8  
ERIE, PA 16505

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Chapter only membership includes membership in the Presque Isle Audubon Society ONLY and the chapter newsletter, *Tern of Events*.

Individual membership \$15.00/year

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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.**

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**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

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