



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
JUNE/JULY, 2018 ISSUE 18:04

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

May 19th was a glorious day for birding. If you have ever been to Fort Zachary Taylor in Key West during migration, then you will understand what it was like to be on Presque Isle on May 19th. The warblers were simply dripping from the trees. Every time I took my binoculars off of one Bay-breasted Warbler, ten more were ready for easy viewing! All at eye level. No warbler neck for me that day. Nothing but sheer joy. The diversity of species was truly remarkable. Never have I had such amazing views at PISP, and that is saying something since it is such a great place to observe the many migrants which pass through our area.

While enraptured in the sheer joy of the birding moments that did not cease throughout the day, I recognized that my euphoria was riddled with levels of complexity. While observing a Chestnut-sided Warbler I partially internalized the journey from Central America that this little bird had just made. As I relished in the chance to watch Blackburnian Warblers at eye-level, I considered the beauty of their coloration and how that striking visage captured me many years prior. It was the Canada Warbler though that, by its very name, gave me pause to consider the diverse nature of the species which we see. So many birds, from so many places, all with their own story to tell and their own journey to pursue. Birding can be a simple and fun activity, however there are also levels of introspection and lessons ready to be learned for anyone willing to step back and be reflective. (Cont. On Page 2)

JUNE/JULY THINGS TO DO!



Red-headed Woodpecker

- June 9, Saturday** – PI Audubon Field Trip to Geneva/Conneaut Marsh near Meadville
Meet at 7:30a at Country Fair at Zuck and Interchange Roads (Page 6)
- June 15, Friday** – PIAS Monthly Meeting at the Runners Club Pavilion, 7:00 (Page 7)
- June 19, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00 at the TREC
- June 23, Saturday** – Field Trip at Presque Isle
Meet at the Stull Center at 8:00a (Page 6)

- July 17, Tuesday** – Presque Isle Audubon Board Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC
- July 10, Tuesday** - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at Lawrence Park Golf Club at 5:00p

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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.

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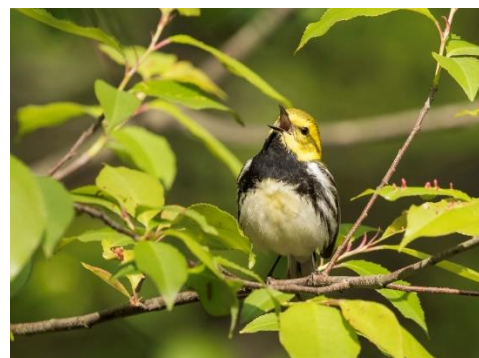
THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Looking around during the remainder of the day, I saw an abundance of happy people. I was glad for their excitement and joy. I saw many volunteers devoted to their tasks and giving of their time. The Festival of the Birds wouldn't happen if it wasn't for the volunteers and leaders. As the birds made their journey northward, our volunteers were tirelessly and generously preparing for the arrival of their human counterparts – the festival attendees. Together, the attendees and the volunteers, came together to share in their mutual admiration and passion for birds. Again, something seemingly simple, yet riddled with layers of complexity.

The day was brought to a wonderful conclusion by the keynote speaker, Dr. Drew Lanham. His passion and perspective left me wanting to get back into the field so that I could zen into enjoying the nuances of each individual bird. His presentation was by far the best that I have heard in years, and if you missed it, find out where he is speaking next and start booking for your trip.

Birding doesn't need to be complicated, but behind the scenes it isn't simple either. This summer, I'm going to be spending as much time as I can pondering and absorbing the wonderful juxtapositions that are birding. Every day has the potential to be May 19th. I hope to see you on the trails.

~DM



BLACK-THROATED GREEN

REFLECTIONS: THE 2018 FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS AT PRESQUE ISLE

Ten fabulous festivals have happened with each one improving upon the previous one. That progression is due to the outstanding work of all the committee members who have served during those years to make the events successful. I have had the “privilege” of chairing the committee each year and want to thank all those dedicated Audubon members who carried out the necessary functions that go into making an event that continues to appeal to the many birders who come from near and far. Many of those birders have become good friends and many have attended every festival since the beginning. That says a lot about what the committee decides to include in each year’s schedule of events.

I want to acknowledge each person who has served on the committee since the beginning, then point out a few facts that were rather outstanding regarding this year’s festival, tempt you with that the committee will consider when planning for 2019 and , finally, share some of the reactions of our attendees regarding the weekend.

Everyone who assisted on the ten Festival of the Birds Committees are: Chuck Benson, Holly Best, Mary Birdsong, Miranda Crotsley, Lisa Danko, Sue DeArment, Anne DeSarro, Linda Donati, Michele Franz, Marion Gallivan, Mike Gildea, Tracy Graziano, Pat Howell, Ron Intrieri, Diane Kallor, Toni Kelly, Benjamin Koncewicz, Issy Lawrie, Julie Leonard, Mark Lethaby, Archie Loss, Suzanne Loss, Kathy Lutton, Kel McDonald, Barb Sebring, Susan Smith, Ruth Swaney, Joao Tavares, and Karen Torney.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU PAST AND PRESENT for your enthusiastic work. I hope we can recruit individuals who will continue to promote the festival with new and exciting events to include in our schedule.

One of the remarkable consequences regarding this year’s festival is the 94% registration figure that included birders from California, North Carolina, Virginia, Ontario, Kentucky, South Carolina and Michigan as well as the many enthusiasts that come from surrounding states.

Birders with the help of proficient field trip leaders spotted about the same overall number of species as other years but were able to top the total number of warblers in a given year by 2 with 28.



Tim, Jerry, Julie and Shannon Doing the Bird Tally

Birders were in awe of the keynote speaker, Dr. Drew Lanham, who presented a philosophy of birding rather than techniques for spotting and identifying birds.

All pontoon boat trip signups were filled with waiting lists attached because people were so eager to get into the lagoons to see what was there.

Field trips on Friday were overloaded with birders eager to get started monitoring the migrating birds.

Many were pleased with the offering of wine for the first time to accompany a tasty and plentiful dinner.

(Cont. on Page 5)

BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from March 18 to May 26, 2018 from Presque Isle S.P., unless noted otherwise.

Snow Goose—1; March 24 & 25; Fairview Business Park; J.T. 24 (21 white, 3 blue); March 28; Fairview Business Park; J.T.
Cackling Goose—1; April 14; over TREC, Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M.
Surf Scoter—up to 12; April 18 to May 1; off Leo's; J.M. 8; May 4; Edinboro Lake; J.H., S.W.
White-winged Scoter—1; May 20 (late); Gull Point; J.M.
Red-throated Loon—1; March 31; off Leo's; A.E., et al. 1; April 7; Edinboro Lake; J.H.
Red-necked Grebe—1; April 21; over TREC Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M. 1; May 1; head of Presque Isle Bay; B.B.
Cattle Egret—1; May 26; Gull Point; D.M., M.B., S.Sa.
Northern Goshawk—1; March 26; TREC Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M.
Piping Plover—1 nesting pair; April 21 to present; Gull Point; M.B.
Willet—up to 40; May 2; Beach 11; D.Z., J.M., L.M., et al. 1; May 7; Gull Point; M.B.
Whimbrel—24+; May 20; over Sidewalk Trail; S.S. 8; May 20; over Sheetz at Peninsula and West 8th St.; K.A. 3; May 25; Gull Point; M.B.
Dunlin—50 (high count this early in the season); April 15; Gull Point; R.D.
Glaucous Gull—1; April 20; Gull Point; M.B.
Barn Owl—1; April 19 and again the next few days; Summit Twp.; D.S.
Snowy Owl—1 or 2; April 14 & 27 to 30; Gull Point; R.D., M.B., resp. 1; to May 2; Gull Point; M.B.
Long-eared Owl—total of 3; April 7 to 19; pines; R.D.
Short-eared Owl—1; April 14 & 15; Gull Point; R.D.
Northern Saw-whet Owl—total of 3; March 20 to April 19; pines; RD.
Brewster's Warbler—1; May 4; Fry's landing; R.S. 1; May 15; Girard; J.B.

Golden-winged Warbler (hybrid closest to Female Lawrence's)—1; May 9; Fry's landing; banding station
Lawrence's Warbler—1; May 10; Thompson Circle; K.S.
Orange-crowned Warbler—several; May 6 to 19; mostly Fry's landing; m.ob.
Golden-winged Warbler—1 male; May 11; Fry's landing; banding station female; May 14; Fry's landing; C.K. (See Below)



Prothonotary Warbler—1; May 10; near marina road; J.H., S.W. (See Below)



Summer Tanager—1 imm. Male; May 5; east Erie (Harborcreek area); fide B.P.Z. 1 adult male; May 5; Erie; N.A. (See Below)



(Cont. on Page 5)

BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Dickcissel—1 male; May 5; ranger's station and Thompson Circle; B.G., A.L.

Connecticut Warbler—1; May 20; Pine Tree Trail; S.M., et al. (See Below)



American Tree Sparrow—1; May 21; P.I.; F.Y. Record late in the county by a few days.

Clay-colored Sparrow—total of up to 6; May 5 to 22; mostly Fry's landing & Thompson Circle; m.ob.

Grasshopper Sparrow—1; April 24; Fry's landing; Banding station

Henslow's Sparrow—1; May 5; Thompson Circle; A.L.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—1 adult male; May 4; East Erie (Lawrence Park); T.D., C.H.

Common Redpoll—1; May 15; maintenance building; R.D. Record late for the county by a few days.

Contributors: K.A.-Katie Andersen, N.A.-Nancy Andersen, J.B.-Jim Baxter, B.B.-Brian Berchtold, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, T.D.-Tez Darnell, R.D.-Roger Donn, A.E.-Adam Erb, B.G.-Bonnie Ginader, C.H.-Chris Hannel, J.H.-Jamie Hill, C.K.-Charity Kheshgi, A.L.-Amanda Lovely, D.M.-Doug Massey, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, L.M.-Linda McWilliams, S.M.-Sean Minnick, S.Sa.-Sara Sargent, K.S.-Kyler Sonney, D.S., Don Snyder, S.S.-Sam Stull, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, J.T.-Joao Taveres, S.W.-Suzanne Winterberger, F.Y.-Frank Young, B.P.Z.-Bob and Pam Zelenak, D.Z.-Dean Zeller, m.ob.-many observers.

REFLECTIONS: THE 2018 FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS AT PRESQUE ISLE (Cont.)

Workshops were given an average of 9 out of 10 ranking and field trips were listed as excellent, great, good, very good and a lot of 10s out of 10. It could be concluded that the majority of attendees were happy with their experiences during this festival weekend.

There were some suggestions for making things better in the future and we will surely consider implementing what we can to please our birders. We will make our decisions based on our mission and on what is realistic.

A few things that we will take a look at for next year are adding more pontoon boat rides, making sure that field trips stay small, recruiting new committee members and adding some new workshops and expanding on existing ones. Already two birders have expressed a desire to serve on the committee for next year and I am very surprised and pleased at the addition.

I'll conclude this rambling article with quotes from birders who attended the Festival of Birds at Presque Isle in 2018 when asked what aspect did you enjoy most.

"Everything from walks to workshops. This is the best festival – cost is so inexpensive/affordable given you get a book, dinner and expert guides for three days."

"The speaker was inspirational. Outstanding. His flow of language is just amazing. Can't wait to read his book."

"Everything – especially being with fellow birders."

"The (field trip) leaders were as helpful and as personable as could be."

~Janet Price, Chair of the Festival of the Birds

JUNE FIELD TRIPS
Saturdays, June 9 and June 23



We're going to go off the park for the June 9th trip to McMichael Road and other parts of Geneva/Conneaut Marsh in Crawford County to look for some of the species we've seen at earlier field trips at Presque Isle on their breeding grounds. We should also see nesting prothonotary warblers and several other varieties of warblers and sparrows that might not be found on PI. We will meet at the Country Fair on the corner of Zuck and Interchange Roads at 7:30 a.m. for the approximately 1 hour drive. Some carpooling may be available.



On June 23rd we'll be back at Presque Isle and hit Sidewalk Trail. Meet at Stull Interpretive Center at 8:00 am. We will be wrapping up at 11:00 am. Check the PIAS Facebook page and website for details.
www.presqueisleaudubon.org

GREAT AUDUBON HIKE AT PRESQUE ISLE
By Issy Lawrie

Saturday, May 26, 2018, was a perfect morning for the latest in the series of Birding Hikes With Michele on PI Trails. Seven eager birders hit Pine Tree Trail shortly after 8am. Joining the regular members Michele, Janet, Pat, Issy and Chris, were Jennifer from Buffalo for her annual trip to PI (she follows us on Facebook) and Chrissy from Lake City, another Facebook follower!

Peering high and low we discovered many species. All totaled, we tallied 46 species including 10 warbler species.

A visit to the Banding Station around 11am found the nets empty except for an (already banded) House Wren. But he was a handsome little fellow, and it may be a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of us to view a House Wren close up. Lucky us!



Another human visitor had rescued a TINY baby turtle from the road which was duly admired by all and released again to the wild.

Three of our hiking group were very happy to receive a copy of Gene Ware's book A Walk on the Park. Gene's book provides delightful descriptions of all the trails on PI, along with his nature sketches and pages left for personal notes.

All in all an excellent morning for birding with friends on PI. Many thanks to Michele for leading.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Bird festival is over, and I hope everyone had a good time. To all of our new members, keep this festival in mind for next year. It's something you wouldn't want to miss. The new members and rejoins are:

Erle: Virginia Marino, Valerie Kinlan, Carolyn Tellers, Gert Simmons, Erie Insurance Group(Karen Phillips), Thorp Andrews, Donelle Davey, Eileen Ednie, Jeff Peterson, Norma Harrington, Patricia Murphy, Gregg Rabenold, Edward Engel, Jennifer Ferrick

Albion: Joni Shetler

Cambridge Sps: William Tobin, Harry White

Centerville: James Murphy

Conneautville: Nina Thumser

Cochranon: Herta Henderson,

Corry: Bonnie Shevock, Shayne Hoachlander

Fairview: Steven Habusta

Lake City: Thelma Mitchell

Linesville: Mary K. Crom

Meadville: Karlin Marsh, Nancy Hauck, Harry Klein, Rick Tautin, Shanna Hodgson, Richard Metzger, C.Reed Trimble, Fred Johns

North East: Byran Toy, Kathleen Maloney, Jack Airhart

Titusville: Roger Gordon

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

PIA MONTHLY MEETING FOR JUNE IS A PICNIC Friday, June 15 Runners Club Pavilion

Members and friends are invited to the Presque Isle Audubon annual picnic at the Erie Runners Club pavilion on Friday, June 15. The pavilion is located near Beach 1 on Presque Isle State Park.

Note: This is a NEW location. The picnic will not be at the AAUW pavilion by TREC

Gathering starts at 7 pm. We'll provide a variety of subs and beverages. You can bring a side or dessert (or not). If you have a lawn game, it would be welcome!

There will be no program, just some birdy talk and maybe some bird trivia. Bring binoculars if you have them, you never know what might show up!

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Dear Audubon members and fellow Bird Lovers, We have a t-shirt for you! It's deep navy blue with our logo Royal Tern in a lighter blue and the words Presque Isle Audubon. It's 100% cotton and made in Canada. Show off your Audubon membership! This fabulous T-shirt can be yours at the next Audubon meeting for just a \$20 donation. Get yours soon.

Also an Assistant Sales Person will be needed for occasional Audubon meetings to help with T-shirt sales. Contact Issy Lawrie at a meeting if interested.

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 jrpikm@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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Membership includes membership in BOTH the National Audubon Society and the local Presque Isle Audubon Society. National members receive *Audubon Magazine* (4 issues per year) and the monthly newsletter *Tern of Events*. Please include your email address to receive the on line version of our chapter's newsletter.

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