



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
MAY, 2014 ISSUE 14:04

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

Finally, the dawn chorus; I've been enjoying waking to it for a few weeks now. Each day it seems to get a little longer, a little more emphatic and with a crescendo that's a little louder. So far, **and by far, the most boisterous birds have been the robins with their driving but sweet and mellifluous song.** The robins, however, are usually not the first to start. My chorus is started by the cardinals and their ringing "sweet, sweet, bir-dy, bir-dy, bir-dy". Nearly drowned out by the din of the robins and cardinals, the Louisiana Waterthrush can sometimes be heard when he chooses to sing high in a tree. He usually does this for a week or two, I think advertising for a lady love. Once in a while the rhythm of the chorus is broken up by the raspy interjections of the "jay, jay, jay, jays". While blue jays possess a hearty repertoire of vocalizations (I especially like their flute-like whistles) these mornings all I've been treated to is "jay" and a few mimics of a red-shouldered hawk. We do have a good number of song sparrows in the area though I seldom hear them at the peak of the chorus. I read somewhere that the chorus is often sung by different birds at different times depending upon where they perch to sing. Higher perchers sing the earliest so perhaps the song sparrows are waiting their turn in the dawn chorus round. Just today the song sparrow was joined by the silvery slurs of "Oh, Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody" as sung by, yes, the white-throated sparrow.

Do you ne'er think what wondrous beings these?
Do you ne'er think who made them, and who
taught
The dialect they speak, where melodies
Alone are the interpreters of thought?

Whose household words are songs in many keys,
Sweeter than instrument of man e'er caught!

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW, *Tales of a
Wayside Inn*

(Cont. on Page 2)



RED TRILLIUM

MAY THINGS TO DO!

- May 6, Tuesday** - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00 at the TREC
- May 9, 10, 11, Friday - Sunday** - Festival of the Birds at Presque at the TREC (Page 5)
- May 16, Friday** - PIAS General Meeting and Program: Snowy Owls, Room 112 at the TREC
7:00 pm - Social
7:30 pm - Election of Officers/Program (P. 5)
- May 20, Tuesday** - PIAS Board Meeting at 7:00 pm at the TREC
- May 21, Wednesday** - Weed Warrior Work Session, 10:00 to 11:30am. Meet at the Stull Center (Page 7)
- May 31, Saturday** - Weed Warrior Work Session, 9:30 - 11:00am. Meet at the Stull Center.

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Michele Rundquist-Franz
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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.)

So, each morning I listen, practicing my birding by ear and trying to pick out new arrivals. I can't wait to hear who is up next on the hit parade.

The house wrens should be coming in soon; their shrill chatter rivals the robin in endurance and fortitude. The Baltimore Orioles should also be arriving in force in a couple of weeks, although a few have gotten here ahead of schedule, being spotted as early as the beginning of April. I really enjoy their musical clean whistle.



BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Soon after the orioles, my very favorite singer should be joining the chorus adding the *piece de resistance* to the dawn chorus, the beautiful and life-affirming (to me) song of the wood thrush.



SINGING WOOD THRUSH

~Michele Rundquist Franz, PIAS President

BIRD TRIVIA CONTEST

Submitted by Michael Dohanic

Each bird name below fits a clue in the opposite column. Match them up by writing in the numbers in the blank spaces.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| A. _____ Albatross | 1. Speedy |
| B. _____ Bunting | 2. Complain |
| C. _____ Cardinal | 3. Imitate |
| D. _____ Crane | 4. Wearisome Burden |
| E. _____ Crow | 5. Shrink back in fear |
| F. _____ Duck | 6. Two on a par four hole |
| G. _____ Eagle | 7. Patriotic drapery |
| H. _____ Goose | 8. Peddle your wares |
| I. _____ Grouse | 9. Child's toy |
| J. _____ Hawk | 10. Believe, Naively |
| K. _____ Kite | 11. Swindle |
| L. _____ Nutcracker | 12. Paramount |
| M. _____ Parrot | 13. Brag |
| N. _____ Pigeon | 14. One who is easily fooled |
| O. _____ Quail | 15. Dodge one's duties |
| P. _____ Rook | 16. Silly one |
| Q. _____ Snipe | 17. Hoisting Machine |
| R. _____ Swallow | 18. Shell breaking tool |
| S. _____ Swift | 19. Failure |
| T. _____ Turkey | 20. Criticize sneakily |

Mike was good enough to send in this little quiz but didn't send in the answers (THANKS, MIKE) so I challenge you to match the correct description with the appropriate bird. Then send your results to me,

Janet Price, PIAS Editor
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite #8
Erie, PA 16505

You can either make a copy of the quiz or just send in the letters with numbers along with your name and phone number or email address. If I deem your answers to be the correct ones, your name will be placed in a container with all the others who submitted correct results.

From those submissions two names will be drawn and those individuals will receive a DVD titled "Wings, Sand and Song: Presque Isle's Habitats" filmed for Presque Isle Audubon Society by Tracy Graziano. Tracy is an Erie native who is now filming for the PA Game Commission. This sixty minute plus DVD was filmed on Presque Isle State Park and includes many of the birds and animals that live on or pass through the park over a year's time.

Submissions must be received no later than Wednesday, May 14. Names will be drawn at our PIAS general meeting which will be held on Friday, May 16.

Good Luck and Happy "Birding".

~Janet Price, Editor, Tern of Events

BIRDING TIPS AND REMINDERS FOR MAY

Prepare for spring warbler migration: Listen to audio recordings of the birds to brush up on their calls. Review a field guide to remember what to look for and when.

Fill your hummingbird feeders. The jewels will soon arrive. Dissolve one part sugar into four parts boiling water. Cool the mixture before setting it out for the birds.

Install a water drip or fountain mist to attract birds to your birdbath.

BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR APRIL

Jerry McWilliams has been in Panama during the month of April so the birds listed here do not comprise the official bird sighting list that usually appears. This list consists of some of the birds that our local birders have spotted while out on their own personal bird walks this month.

Great Egret
American Bittern



BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

Tree Swallow
Common Loon
Flicker



EASTERN MEADOWLARK

House Wren
Black-throated Green Warbler
Pine Warbler

Palm Warbler
Brown Thrasher



BROWN CREEPER

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Field Sparrow



BONAPARTE GULL

Caspian Tern
Wood Duck
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Pileated Woodpecker
Horned Grebe
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Black and White Warbler
Bald Eagle
Kingfisher
Fox Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker

THE 6TH FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS AT PRESQUE ISLE - 2014

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 9, 10 and 11
The Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Hosted by Presque Isle Audubon Society and
PA DCNR

Come and join us for one of the most exciting birding weekends of the year at Presque Isle! We open the weekend on Friday evening by hosting a fun festival reception with good food and friends and music by Frank Singer.

We have excellent leaders doing field trips each day, knowledgeable speakers presenting relevant workshops on Saturday afternoon, and a dynamic keynote speaker on Saturday evening following a delicious dinner.

Some special offerings include visits to the bird banding station, a herpetology field trip, special birds of the night field trip on Friday, and lagoon birding from a pontoon boat.

A continental breakfast will be offered on Saturday and Sunday and a casual pizza party lunch and final bird tally on Sunday.

At our last festival in 2012, birders sighted 146 species with 25 species of warblers! Some of the new species we added that year were osprey, golden eagle, sora, spotted sandpiper, both species of cuckoo, pileated woodpecker, Northern mockingbird, Tennessee warbler, blackpoll warbler, mourning warbler, Canada warbler, and clay-colored sparrow. Perhaps the most exciting bird that we had was a beautiful summer tanager which showed up overhead by the Fry's Landing banding station.

One last reason to attend our festival is to hear our keynote speaker, Sharon Stiteler, also known as "birdchick". She will talk about adventures from her "office", which might be in the middle of a cornfield watching eagles or flying 100 feet above the Mississippi River counting ducks.

Get more detailed information about the schedule and costs at presqueisleaudubon.org. Registration is still open but you should act quickly as time is running out.
~Janet Price, Festival of the Birds Chair

PIAS MAY 2014 MONTHLY PROGRAM SNOWY OWLS

Friday, May 16 at the TREC



Susan A. Smith was the first to find Snowy Owls hanging out at the Erie International Airport in early December. She kept the Project SNOWstorm researchers up-to-date and was on hand during the processing of two captured snowies from the airport in January 2014.

It was an exciting winter for birders & nature photographers & an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about the mysterious winter habits of the Snowy Owl. Learn about the influx of Snowy Owls in Erie and the US this past winter. Why were they here? What are we learning? What was it like being with two live snowies? Will they return?



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NEW MEMBERS

The Presque Isle Audubon Society welcomes all of our new members as well as renewals. As a member of National Audubon you are also a member of our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. See you at one of our monthly meetings, held the third Friday of the month at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at 7:30.

Erie: Michael Koncewicz, Lyman Cohen, CA Pratt, Jack Malovich, Robin Benson, Beverly Jones, Carol Tipton, Craig Hinchman, Alice Allen, Marcella Rubinosky, Donna Wright, Julie Leonard

Conneaut Lake: Ginny Criss

Edinboro: Barbara Wellman

Fairview: Elizabeth & Michael Morrison, Janet Gulnac

Guys Mills: Janet Smith

Meadville: Amelia Carr, Ken Unice, Carol Powell, Susan Lundell

North East: Mary Kieffer, Emma Cherico, Charlene Young,

Titusville: Abigail Watson-Popescu

Union City: Carol Proper

Warren: Beatrice Whyte

Cambridge Springs: Lisa Gabriel

Conneautville: Christine Jernigan

Ashtabula, Oh: Nancy Rung

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman

membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Elections to be Held on May 16 at the Monthly Meeting

President – Michele Rundquist Franz

Vice-President – Paul Burroughs

Treasurer – Kel McDonald

Secretary – Lisa Danko

Trustee – Don Snyder

Trustee – Marion Gallivan

THE RAPTOR EXPERIENCE

Many thanks to Martha, Bob and all the Tamarack Wildlife Rehab and Education volunteers who helped out at the 2014 Raptor Experience, co-sponsored by PIAS and the DCNR. With the help of Tamarack's volunteers and education birds we were able to allow families to get up close and personal with the education raptors including Lady Hawk (red-tailed hawk), Pierre (peregrine falcon),



Willow (gray-phase eastern screech owl),

Jasper (red-phase eastern screech owl), and Sophia (barred owl). Affording children and adults this proximity to the birds helps provide an intimacy not capable in the wild and gives people a different sense of how special these majestic birds are. By providing this education and experience Tamarack, PIAS and DCNR hope to engage people, opening them up to the importance of bird and environmental conservation and respect for birds of prey and all wildlife.

This year we had approximately 450 people visit the education birds of prey and ask many great questions including how the birds behave in the wild, how they were injured and how they were rehabbed by the great team at Tamarack. As always, Bob, Martha and crew did a great job as always answering questions and providing information about raptors. (Cont. on page 7)

THE RAPTOR EXPERIENCE (Cont.)

As an added bonus this year, we had the special honor of showing Pennsylvania Bald Eagles: Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration, a film produced by the PA Game Commission (with cinematography editing by our own Tracy Graziano) on the Big Green Screen at TREC. The film is a great documentary that includes information about the reintroduction of the bald eagle into PA in the 1970s when only about 3 nests were known to exist and the success that the eagle has had in PA since then.



ADULT BALD EAGLE WITH EAGLETS

The film also features wildlife rehabbers from Tamarack and Skye's Spirit discussing their experiences over the years rehabbing and releasing injured or sickened eagles. On hand to explain a little about the movie and to field questions after the screening was Tim Hoppe of the PA Game Commission who did a great job answering some pretty thoughtful and intriguing questions.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, Education Chair

WEED WARRIOR UPDATE

The weed warriors under the direction of Matthew Pluta opened the 2014 work season with an orientation meeting for new volunteers on Thursday, April 24 at the TREC. A visual recap of what was accomplished last year along with plans for this year were presented.

In 2013, 516 volunteers spent a total of 798 hours treating 108 acres at Presque Isle State Park. Most of the effort was focused on Oriental Bittersweet, but significant time was spent getting rid of garlic mustard and purple loosestrife as well.

This year will see volunteers again spending most of the time cutting Oriental Bittersweet vines. This effort will last all through the summer months. There is a small window of time when garlic mustard and purple loosestrife can be "harvested" so effort to eradicate those invasives will occur during those "windows".

Presque Isle Audubon has a special volunteer force working as Weed Warriors and that group is scheduled for work sessions three times a month, twice on Wednesdays and once on a Saturday. Our first work session occurred on Saturday, April 26 at Fry's Landing.

Bob Gallivan, Pat Howell, Ron Intrieri, Janet Price (Lead Steward), Barb Shannon, and Dolores and Joao Tavares worked 1 ½ hours cleaning out garlic mustard plants and clearing paths of fallen branches. A big thanks to them for time well spent.

For more information:

www.paseagrant.org/projects/weed-warriors

~Janet Price, Lead Steward

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 jrp1km@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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ERIE, PA 16505

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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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Ronald Intrieri, Membership
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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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