



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2014 ISSUE 14:07

*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

I took my Mom for a little ride around the park yesterday. Man, was it quiet; birdwise, that is. We ran into Bonnie Ginader and we both commented on how very little was around. Of course, it was mid-afternoon in the middle of a relatively long stretch of beautiful weather. No reason really for the birds to drop in and hang out when they can take advantage of the calm and make their way more quickly to their northern wintering grounds. I imagine more than a few do stop in to "fill up", but then they're quickly on their way. Despite the dearth of birds and other wildlife (We saw one turtle, one fox squirrel, a chipmunk and a small, but uncooperative flock of chipping sparrows in the Beach 10 Parking Lot, Mom and I enjoyed our drive.

Rides around "the peninsula" were a common pastime as I grew up, usually on late Sunday afternoons in the summer. I can't recall ever being at Presque Isle in the spring, fall or winter growing up. Every once in a great while, we'd actually get out of the car and walk over to the Perry Monument! Besides our rides, my sisters, Mom and I spent many a weekday during the summer at "the beach" with aunts and cousins. Never did we venture off the beaten path or sand to the "interior", however. It was not until I was in my...well, an adult, let's say...when I experienced the "wilder" parts of the park. Amazingly, I still talk to people about the trails on the park and they look at me dumbfounded.

I can't tell you how many people look at my bird photographs and are incredulous that I

took the photo at Presque Isle. "Really? You're kidding. I think you were on an exotic island somewhere and took that."

Most of the time, I wish I had experienced the joys of the wilder parts of the park and birding much earlier in my life. I feel like I missed a lot during the days when there were so many more birds that migrated through, not necessarily in species, but in numbers.

(Cont. on Page 2)



## OCTOBER THINGS TO DO!

**October 4, Saturday** – Tamarack Wildlife Center  
Open House, 2:00pm – 4:00pm (Page 6)

**October 7, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds  
Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00PM

**October 17, Friday** – PIAS General Meeting and  
Program: Room 112 at the TREC

7:00PM – Social

7:30PM - Program: Bob Hines: National Wildlife  
Artist (Page 5)

**October 18, Saturday** – PA Audubon of NW PA's  
**OctoBIRDfest**, 4:00 PM to 9:30 PM at Sprague's  
Farm and Brew Works (Page 3)

**October 25, Saturday** - TREC or Treat at the TREC.  
Open to the public from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

## 2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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)

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

At other times, however, I'm okay that I got into it a little later in life. For instance, I imagine I don't feel the loss of the declining bird population on the park and long for the "old days" in quite the same way as those who had experienced it first hand, seeing fewer and fewer birds each decade. Also, being a relative novice, I feel like I'm a little more enthusiastic about seeing new birds than those who are my age and have been at it for much longer. That is certainly not to say that my more experienced counterparts aren't excited about "lifers".



**EASTERN KINGBIRD**

Finally, I'm glad I still have so much to learn because I love learning and am one of those sickos who would stay in school my entire life if it weren't for the need of food and shelter. I guess I see the park as my school now, as is all of the outdoors and my teachers are those birders, naturalists, ecologists, etc...

(Cont. on Page 3)

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

who so generously share their knowledge. I've always thought that the best way to learn anything is to have to teach it, so while I am still definitely a student, I'm happy to share what I know with those who are interested in learning. As president of the PIAS, a chapter who serves the community of one of the best birding/natural areas in the state, let alone the country, I think that it is imperative that we share our knowledge and engage people and... not so young people, so that they can experience ALL that Presque Isle has to offer.



**SHARING KNOWLEDGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

To that end, we are in need of more people to help us spread the word and interact with the community. "How?" you might ask, "I'm not a good birder." Well, you don't necessarily have to be. I'm certain, that everyone who is reading this has some talent to offer. Going back to the school analogy, a school needs many different people to run efficiently, secretaries, lunch ladies, maintenance crews, etc...So, I guess that makes me a student, a teacher and now...the principal! And as such, I must ask that you consider volunteering some time and talent to your PIAS. Enclosed is a Volunteer Pool Sign Up sheet. Check it out and see where your talent and interest can best be utilized.

Once you've completed the form you can send it back to us via mail to: Michele Franz, Presque Isle Audubon Society, 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8, Erie, PA 16505, send me an email at [president@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:president@presqueisleaudubon.org), or you can drop it off at TREC or send us a message via the website: [presqueisleaudubon.org](http://presqueisleaudubon.org). On behalf of the board, who are all volunteers, and all other volunteers, I think it's safe to say that you will get just as much out of volunteering for PIAS as you put in. Thanks and I hope to hear from you soon.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, PIAS President

## AUDUBON PENNSYLVANIA OF NORTHWESTERN PA



**Saturday, October 18**  
**Sprague's Farm and Brew Works**  
**4:00 PM – 9:30 PM**  
**\$20.00 at the door**

Fun, music by the Salmon Frank Trio. Meet live raptors from Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center; play bird trivia and learn about our programs.

Order tickets via  
Eventbrite: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/octobirdfest-tickets-3360974033?aff=efbevent>

## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Aug. 22, 2014 to Sept. 22 from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise:

**American Golden Plover**—total of 14; Aug. 22 to

Sept. 21; Gull Point; R.D.

**Red Phalarope**—2; Sept. 14; Gull Point; D.R., M.W. Second September record.



RED PHALAROPE

**American Avocet**—6; Aug. 20; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Aug. 31; Gull Point; D.M. 2; Sept. 7; Gull Point; R.D.

**Willet**—2; Aug. 12; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Aug. 20; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Aug. 31; Gull Point; D.M.

**Whimbrel**—2; Aug. 31; Gull Point; D.M. 1; Sept. 2; Gull Point; R.D.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will**—1 heard calling: Sept. 1; Sept. 7; Gull Point; R.D.



EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL

**Prairie Warbler**—1; third week of August; Union City; D.P.. The bird was heard singing



PRAIRIE WARBLER

**Hudsonian Godwit**—1; Sept. 2; Gull Point; D.K., R.S.

**Marbled Godwit**—1; Aug. 31; Gull Point; R.D.

**Red Knot**—1; Sept. 7; Gull Point; D.G.R.

**Connecticut Warbler**—1; Sept. 9; State Game Lands #191; M.W.



CONNECTICUT WARBLER

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—2; Aug. 31; Gull Point; D.M. 2; Sept. 11; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Sept. 22; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M.

**Stilt Sandpiper**—4; Aug. 12; Gull Point; S.T. Up to 2; Aug. 20-22; Gull Point; S.T.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**—1; Sept. 7; Gull Point; D.G.R. 1; Sept. 11; Gull Point; R.D.

(Cont. on Page 5)

## BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—1; Aug. 20; Gull Point; S.T.

**Black Tern**—1; Aug. 16; Gull Point; R.S. 8; Presque Isle; L.G.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**—1; Aug. 9; State Game Lands #155; M.W.

**White-eyed Vireo**—1; Sept. 15; Pine Tree Trail; D.R.

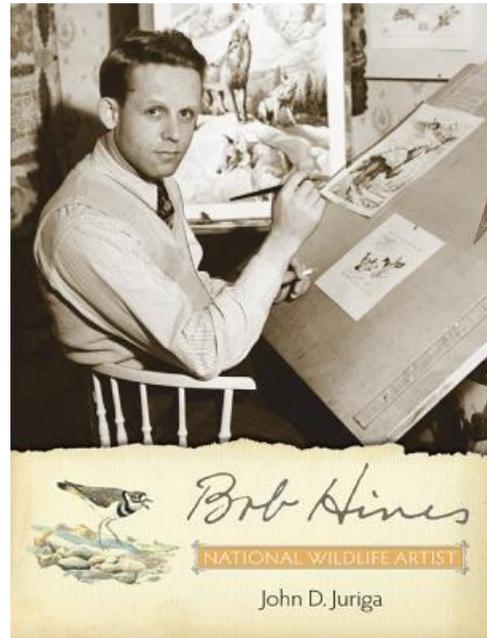
**Contributors:** R.D.-Roger Donn, L.G.-Linda Greble, D.K.-Diane Kallor, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.M.-Drew Mortensen, D.P.-Donna Peters, D.R.-Dan Richards, D.G.R.-Dan & Gina Rubino, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, M.W.-Mike Weible

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chairperson  
3508 Allegheny Rd.,  
Erie, Pa. 16508-2129  
814-240-8594  
[jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)

### PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY OCTOBER PROGRAM Friday, October 17, 2014

#### BOB HINES: NATIONAL WILDLIFE ARTIST

Dr. John Jurgia will be the PIAS October speaker and he will talk about his book *Bob Hines: National Wildlife Artist* which tells the story of Bob Hines, a gifted self-taught artist, whose career brought him from designing the 1946 Federal Duck Stamp to joining the US Fish and Wildlife Service where he managed the competition for over thirty years, earning him the nickname of “Mr. Duck Stamp Contest.” Bob Hines was the only person to hold the title of National Wildlife Artist. His collaboration with Rachel Carson and other luminaries placed him on the cusp of the environmental movement in the United States. The presentation will appeal to wildlife enthusiasts and Duck Stamp collectors alike, as well as those interested in the history of conservation in the United States.



Dr. John D. Jurgia is a practicing pediatrician in Upstate New York. A native of western Pennsylvania, he graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, where he studied under PIAS member Dr. Donald Snyder. Jurgia completed his medical education and pediatrics residency at West Virginia University. While residing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, he was guest curator for two major exhibits at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury—“Witness for Nature, The World of Rachel Carson” (1999) and “Bob Hines: National Wildlife Artist” (2003). The Heritage Committee of the US Fish and Wildlife Service presented its Heritage Award to Dr. Jurgia for his scholarship on Bob Hines in 2009. Beaver’s Pond Press released Jurgia’s biography *Bob Hines: National Wildlife Artist* in 2012 to coincide with the centennial of Hines’s birth. The book served as a basis for a Hines centennial exhibit at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio, Hines’s boyhood hometown. The Hines biography was one of three finalists in the nature category for the 2013 MIPA Book Awards. After a 2013 Hines exhibit at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in Millersburg, PA, Jurgia assisted the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, NY, with a Hines exhibit held there in 2014.

~Mary Birdsong, Program Chairperson

## TAMARACK WILDLIFE CENTER OPEN HOUSE



**Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, Inc.  
21601 Stull Road  
Saegertown, PA 16443  
(814) 763-2574**

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center invites public of all ages to meet live raptors at its free annual Open House on Sunday October 5, 1-3 pm. Non-releasable “education” hawks, owls and falcons will be presented “on the glove” by handlers for the public to view up close. Children’s crafts, tours of the rehab facilities, and refreshments will be provided. There will be a silent auction, t-shirts, wildlife photos and center memberships available for purchase. The center’s licensed rehabilitators, educators and volunteers will be onsite to answer questions and discuss exciting successes of the past year. Visitors will also be able to meet the Center’s newest education raptor, a stunning white Red-tailed Hawk named Kiakiak.

Located at 21601 Stull Rd. Saegertown, PA, Tamarack Wildlife Center is a non-profit 501 ©3 organization dedicated to care of injured wildlife in order to return them to the wild, and to promoting appreciation and understanding of wildlife through education. For more information about the Open House, go to [www.tamarackwildlife.org](http://www.tamarackwildlife.org) or call the center at 814-763-2574.

## JERRY MCWILLIAMS RECEIVES THE JOHN C. OLIVER AWARD!

Congratulations to Jerry McWilliams, the 2014 recipient of the John C. Oliver Award!! The award is given annually by the Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) to recognize environmental leaders who influence policy and programming at the center, at Presque Isle State Park, on Presque Isle Bay, or along Pennsylvania’s Lake Erie shoreline.

One of Jerry’s most significant contributions is the 2000 publication of *The Birds of Pennsylvania* which he coauthored with Dan Brauning. Other publication credits for Jerry include co-author of the *Birds of Erie County, Pennsylvania*, co-author of the book *Birding the Great Lakes Seaway Trail*, and co-author of the *Checklist of Birds Recorded in Erie County, Pennsylvania, Including Presque Isle State Park*. It is impossible to think of Presque Isle without thinking of Jerry, as we all read his postings on the PA birds list serve of the fall Waterbird Count and his frequent notices of Erie County rarities. Jerry has made countless contributions to bird conservation; he serves as the Coordinator for the Special Management Area Shorebird Survey on Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park and as the Bird Records Chairman for the Presque Isle Audubon Society. In addition since 1978 he has been a cooperater for the International Shorebird Survey. As a recent addition to his effort, in 2008 Jerry established a spring hawk watch site on the south shore of Lake Erie at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

The John C. Oliver Environmental Leadership Award is named to honor the first Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), former president of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the first board chair of the Friends of TREC and a lifelong environmental leader. Thanks, Jerry, for all you do and congratulations! It couldn’t have gone to a more deserving person.

## TIPS AND REMINDERS FOR A HEALTHY YARD

- Stock up on birdseed and suet for the winter months.
- Keep your hummingbird feeders full until two weeks after the last migrant has left
- Rake fallen leaves under shrubs and into garden beds as a protective mulch layer and as foraging areas for birds. Or, shred fallen leaves with a mower and let them remain on the lawn as mulch.



- Leave certain garden cleanup chores for the spring. Remove rotted debris to prevent the harboring of pests and diseases, but allow spent grasses and other seed bearing plants to remain standing throughout the winter as a food source for the birds.
- Set up roosting boxes to provide shelter for birds during the winter.
- Sign up for [Project Feeder Watch](#) and become a citizen scientist by counting the birds that come to your feeding station(s) from November to April.

## BIRD QUIZ – FAKE NAMES

Eight of these 15 bird names are fakes. Can you pick out all the imposters?

Real		Fake
_____	Black-whiskered vireo	_____
_____	Five-striped sparrow	_____
_____	Gull-winged delorean	_____
_____	Sharp-shinned hawk	_____
_____	Olive-sided flycatcher	_____
_____	Flat-footed booby	_____
_____	Nose-ringed parakeet	_____
_____	Long-haired catbird	_____
_____	Yellow-rumped warbler	_____
_____	Pot-bellied plover	_____
_____	Double-dipped scaup	_____
_____	Yellow-nosed albatross	_____
_____	Brown-throated wren	_____
_____	Pipe-billed grebe	_____
_____	Swallow-tailed kite	_____

Answers in next month's newsletter!

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.

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

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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

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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  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center  
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**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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