

TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE 24:05

To connect people with birds, other wildlife and their habitats; through education, conservation and advocacy.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Happy Summer! I've got lots of news to bring you up to date on PIA.

On June 8, PIA was awarded a \$300 donation from the Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern PA at the opening of their exhibit: "Photographic Tribute to Wings Over Water." Located at TREC, and on display through August 30, the exhibit includes a wide variety of artwork featuring birds that live in or migrate through the Great Lakes region. We highly recommend you take the opportunity to view the photography, which ranges from photorealistic images of birds to artistic, abstract, and impressionistic artwork. Thank you [PASNWPA!](#)

At our annual membership meeting on June 9, Dave Gustafson and Mariam Ohanjanyan were elected for a three-year term as Trustees. The proposed Bylaws changes were accepted unanimously by the members.

Board member Brian Miller, history professor at Allegheny College in Meadville, has arranged for an AC student to digitize and organize all the published writings of PIA benefactor Evelyn Anderson so that they are searchable. Evelyn was one of the original members of PIA, and a prolific writer over the span of her lifetime, with her first article published in a national magazine at age 10. Most of her writing focused on nature, especially at Presque Isle State Park. Researchers will soon be able to access these writings as they will be stored and made

digitally accessible through Allegheny College's archive.

Solar for Schools (HB 1082) passed in the PA legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Shapiro on July 17. Grants can now be issued to school districts, intermediate units, career and technical schools and community colleges to purchase and install solar energy equipment. Big win for birds, which are decreasing in numbers due to climate change caused by burning fossil fuels. Here's how our local legislators in Erie and Crawford Counties voted: (Cont. on Page 2)



Great Crested Flycatcher

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!

- August 3, Saturday** – Graveyard Pond (P 3)
- August 13, Tuesday** – Erie Gives Day
- September 14, Sat.** – Sidewalk Trail (P 3)
- September 18, Wednesday** - PIA Board Meeting at 6:00 at the TREC
- September 20, Friday**, PIA Program at The TREC: Report on Hog Island Trip

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

YES: Reps. Bizarro, Harkins and Merski; Senator Laughlin.

NO: Reps. Banta, James, Rapp, Roae; Senators Brooks and Hutchison.

If your legislator voted YES, send them a thank you note! And contact your local school districts to encourage them to apply for this grant money.

Happily for us, PIA was included in the research project of two graduate students at Slippery Rock University, "Mentor and Mentee Benefits in Environmental Education". Well written and visually engaging, their paper describes how Presque Isle Audubon can benefit from mentoring citizen science participants in bird-watching. Available for your viewing, it's on our website at:

[Benefits in Environmental Education](#)

And lastly, an update from Tamarack Wildlife Center, about the generator PIA helped them purchase recently: "Within a week of installation, our center experienced a power outage. The generator kicked on promptly and our facility and wildlife hospital were able to function without interruption. We have experienced several outages since then. Each time the generator has allowed TWC staff and volunteers to tend our patients and ambassadors, and to continue educational outreach uninterrupted."

Keep in touch!

Sue Murawski, President

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

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



Don't Forget! Tuesday, August 13
Go to Erie Gives Day

PIA PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week



By Melinda Harmle and Emma Mader

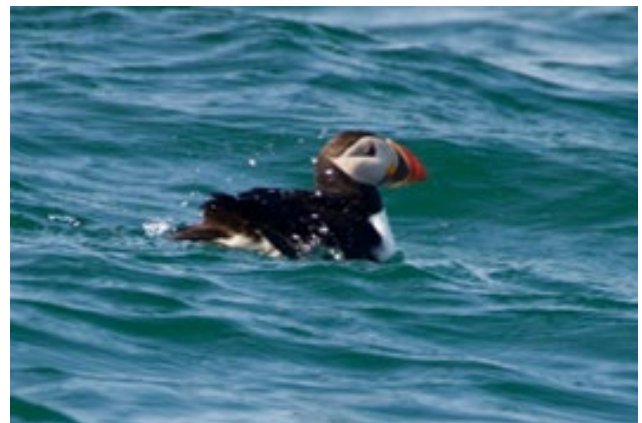
This month's program will be a presentation by two women who were granted scholarships by Presque Isle Audubon to attend a nature camp at Hog Island. Each has submitted a short biography along with a summary of her experiences during that time and you will read those articles in that order starting here.



My name is **Melinda (Mindy) Harmle** and I am a 1st Grade Teacher at Chestnut Hill in Millcreek Township School District. I also serve as the K-5 STEM Chairperson in my district and am excited to be heading into my 20th year in the classroom (after a little more summer vacation, that is)! As a middle and high school student, I volunteered at Asbury Woods Nature Center in Erie. This was the beginning of my love for environmental education and my desire to become an educator.

I had the pleasure of attending "Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week", located in Hog Island, Maine. This wonderful opportunity was made possible by the Presque Isle Audubon, and I can't thank them enough! It was a week surrounded by the beauty of nature and the calls of coastal birds. Topics of participation/study during the week included marine plants and animals, bird study, discussions regarding teaching in the era of climate change, mycology, hiking, breathwork for children, nature journaling, bringing nature to the classroom, culturally responsive teaching practices, photography, and PUFFINS!

This was a once in a lifetime trip that also included nature education, uplifting community building with other educators, and a beautiful outdoor space to learn and grow as an educator and naturalist. My favorite experience from my week at camp was seeing dozens of adorable puffins flying around Eastern Egg Rock Island. It was truly an unforgettable experience.



Atlantic Puffin

As the K-5 STEM Chair and a 1st Grade educator, I have gained a number of lessons and activities that can help support my Millcreek Township curriculum goals within my classroom. I look forward to making a presentation to the Presque Isle Audubon this September that will include trip highlights, educational practices, birding specifics, and a 1st Grade lesson plan centered on birds and their habitats. Thank you again to the Presque Isle Audubon for making this experience possible!

(Cont. on Page 4)

Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week (Cont.)

Hello! My name is **Emma Mader** and I am an Environmental Educator at the Asbury Woods Nature Center. I have been in this role for a little over two years after obtaining my master's degree from Mercyhurst University. My primary role is working with our local schools for field trips to Asbury Woods including outreach to visit students at their school. I also organize our homeschool programs and run our trout in the classroom exhibit at the nature center.

Thanks to an amazing scholarship provided by the Presque Isle Audubon, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the "Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week" camp at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. This camp has been going on for over 60 years and it all began with an educator's week just like this one. The history, beauty, and knowledge at Hog Island were even more than I had dreamt of. Being surrounded by awe-inspiring landscape and marine life including coastal birds and seals while simultaneously learning from educators across the country resulted in truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



There were various workshops with topics like bringing nature into your classroom, building the future of education in the era of climate change, and introducing birding into your community. Some of the trips included a bay cruise to practice identification, a boat ride to Eastern Egg Rock Island to see Puffins, Terns, and other seabirds, and hiking the perimeter of Hog Island.

Any educator attending Educator's Week at Hog Island will gain valuable knowledge and ideas for lessons and activities while getting to know some incredible teachers. After this past week, I have several engaging and educational bird-themed programs I want to implement at Asbury Woods. Additionally, attending this camp as a young professional helped me recognize that despite being new to my role, I still have so much to offer in the field of environmental education.

I can't thank the Presque Isle Audubon enough for the opportunity to attend Educator's Week. What a superb experience!

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FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS - 2025



Have you marked your calendar for Festival of the Birds 2025?! Get out your planner and save the dates of May 16, 17, and 18! Planning is already underway and we are excited to announce that the Bird Diva, Bridget Butler, will be joining us as our Keynote Speaker! Keep watching the T.O.E. for sneak peeks! As always, we will keep you posted on our event schedule.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions you would like to share - feel free to reach out! Have you enjoyed participating so much in the festival that you would like to help on the planning committee? Get a hold of us! Emails can be sent to: jacey78@presqueisleaudubon.org

FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

On August 3, we will get another perspective of Presque Isle's internal waterways by birding along Graveyard Pond Trail which starts across the street from the Perry Monument parking lot. The trail skirts the lagoons and ends up at a beautiful expansive vista where we are likely to see osprey, eagles, wading birds, swallows and many other birds and mammals (including a few kayakers).

As Fall approaches and breeding season is over, we will bird along Sidewalk Trail on September 14th and may encounter some of the confusing Fall warblers who have taken on new and less glamorous plumage, such as Chestnut-sided, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Pine. If we're lucky though, we'll also get to rest our brains with a few of the less challenging warblers such as Black-and-white, Black-throated blue, and/or Black-throated green, whose plumage does not change as much.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Trip Chair



Remember Presque Isle Audubon on Tuesday, August 13, at Erie Gives Day! There are many ways to donate: online, by check, by phone, and in-person. Go to Erie Gives Day for details. Your donation will be used for education, conservation and advocacy for birds. You are what hope looks like to a bird!

#

RESPONSES FROM MEMBER SURVEYS

Many thanks to the 80 people who responded and completed our member survey! Interestingly, about 30% were not even Presque Isle Audubon members. Of those who are members, the majority of respondents have been in PIA for over 10 years. Not too many are going on field trips. Most are reading the Tern of Events newsletter. Friday evening programs have a good number of viewers. About one third follow us on social media. And good news, most are satisfied with their PIA membership. The following comments were interesting, plus helpful to the Board, in pointing out how to improve PIA for members: "We miss the in-person programs."

"Wish I lived closer and could participate more."

"I appreciate all of the work that you do."

"My wife and I love the Presque Isle Birding Festival, and attend as often as we are able. We love the small and intimate nature of the festival, the expert birding guides, bird-banding, and great programming and special guest speakers."

"All the programming and events are very Presque Isle focused. I live in Crawford and per the national Audubon Society, Presque Isle Audubon is my local chapter. I would love to see more effort made to conduct outreach, events, and programming in Crawford County. I would also love to see more projects along the lines of what other area Audubon chapters do, like native plants, chimney swift towers, bluebird boxes, etc."

"Wish we had more individuals to help out."

"Online programs have kept us together when in-person was not available. Bringing in distant speakers and attendees is great. I loved the recent program at TREC that included the online option. In favor of hybrid!"

"The organization should seriously consider changing its name in recognition of the many scientific and racist faults of Audubon."

"I would like to be able to pay for multiple-year memberships."

"Is there a "birding hotline" available?"

"I am very glad that you exist, I am simply not involved with you. #

THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from June 1 to July 29, 2024, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Mute Swan—up to 3; June 2 to 17; Gull Point & Vista 1; J.B., et al.

American Avocet—1; June 4; flying past beach 8; R.D. total of 7; July 4 to 24, & Gull Point; J.K., C.K., S.S.

Whimbrel—up to 3; June 1 to 11; Gull Point; A.M., J.K., et al. a total of at least 18; July 4 to 24; Gull Point; m.ob.

Marbled Godwit—6; June 29; Gull Point; J.M. 1; June 30; Gull Point; J.K. 7; July 3; Gull Point; D.M., T.K., et al. Record single day count for the county. 1; July 4; Gull Point; Y.L.

Ruff—1 (black color form); July 2; Gull Point; R.K., et al.

Stilt Sandpiper—1; July 9 & 11-12; Gull Point; A.F., T.L., resp. 1; July 16; Gull Point; J.B.

Willet—total of 5; through June; Gull Point; A.M., J.M. 70; July 3; Gull Point; D.M., T.K., et al. Record single day count for the county. total of 16; July 2 to 10; Gull Point; m.ob.

Laughing Gull—1; June 14 & 15; Gull Point; R.K., M.B., resp. (Below)



Roseate Tern—1; July 15 to 17; Gull Point; C.E. et al. First county record. (Below)



American White Pelican—8; June 19; south pier; J.D.

Tricolored Heron—1; June 13; Gull Point; R.K. 1; June 30 to July 2; P.I., Gull Point; M.L., J.M. 1; July 11 to 24; Gull Point; m.ob. (Below)



Olive-sided Flycatcher—1 or 2; June 5; Pine Tree Trail; E.H. (Below)



White-eyed Vireo—1; July 16, Pine Tree Trail; T.L.

Contributors: M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, M.D.-Michael David, J.D.-John DePaul, R.D.-Roger Donn, C.E.-Carl Engstrom, A.F.-Adrian Fenton, E.H.-Eric Hall, R.K.-Ripley Kindervater, J.K.-John Kramer, C.K.-Charles Kollar, T.K.-Theresa Konzel, Y.L.-Yianni Laskaris, T.L.-Tim Lenz, M.L.-Michael Lyden, A.M.-Andrew Markel, D.M.-Doug Massey, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, S.S.-Sarah Sargent, m.ob.-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams
jerrymcw@aol.com

THE LEGACY OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON



National Audubon and individual Audubon chapters have wrestled with his (John James Audubon) racist legacy over the past few years. Should his name be dropped from Audubon groups? We all know National Audubon decided not to change; their reasoning is available on their website at:

[National Audubon Name](#)

Detroit, Chicago, Madison, New York city, Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco are some of the chapters that have since dropped Audubon from their name.

From a June 5, 2023 article in The Free Press: "Simply to say he [Audubon] was a man of his time and bore no responsibility on slavery is historically and intellectually a mistake." From the same article: "Audubon's known for birds, for helping and enjoying them. If we change, what are we?" Here's a link to this well-written and thoughtful article, "Flight Club: Is the Movement to Rename the Audubon Society for the Birds?" by Adam Popescu.

[Rename Audubon Society](#)

There is no easy answer to this dilemma. The Board of Presque Isle Audubon wants all interested members to share their thoughts about this issue. To that end, we're scheduling a Zoom meeting to discuss whether or not to keep Audubon in our group's name.

If you'd like to participate in this virtual meeting, send an email BY AUGUST 31 to:

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

Documents about this issue will be shared with the members who want to participate, to read in advance of the meeting if desired. In early

September, an email will be sent to all who have responded, to set a date and time to virtually meet. Again, if you are a member and would like to participate, please send an email to: president@presqueisleaudubon.org
Thank you.

NEEDED: SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BIRDS AND IN WRITING!

Some Presque Isle Audubon members have given their all to our group over many years. A prime example is Janet Price, who has been on the Executive Board since 2001 and has produced our Tern of Events newsletter since 2005!

We've been reaching out to our members for the past few years, seeking someone to take over the TOE production, and we're still hoping one can step in.

Producing this bimonthly newsletter involves planning the content of each issue, contacting and giving a deadline to those who usually provide content, inserting articles into the newsletter template, proofreading, and emailing it to the web editor for distribution. Janet says that each issue takes, on an average, 4-5 hours, and she would provide training. (The present template works with Word.)

If nobody is interested, we'll still get the news out. It wouldn't be in the form of a newsletter, but instead would be posts on Facebook and Instagram, and emails.

If anyone would like to step up to be the new Editor, or if you have questions, send an email to:

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

Presque'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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Presque Isle Audubon welcomes all of our new members as well as those that rejoined. National Audubon members get a free membership in our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. Hope you will check our Tern of Events newsletter, which is online, to see our latest field trips and other activities.

The members are:

Erie: Richard Whitbread, Nancy Madura, Kathleen Bauer, Andrew Hays, Russell Southard, Chris Snedden, Jeanne Szymanowicz. Rose Koehler, Janet Seaman, Emil Skalicky, Jane Kirk, Maurice Rousset-Dupre, Virginia Bush, Steve & Lisa Danko, Rose Marie Renner, Linda Miklinski, Berry Gray, Chris Troutman, Nathaniel Royster, David Leemhuis, James Davis, Carolyn Sturtevant, Beckey Carlson, Rhonda Lewis, Roberta Jones, Grace Widdowson, Carolyn Tellers, Jaimie Miller, Clarence Schaney, Michele Rundquist Franz, Stephen Kroth

Cambridge Sps: Sally Luce

Edinboro: Edward Chen

Fairview: Rebecca Heil, Vicki Grzasko, Robert Dumaire

Girard: Nancy Pallan

Guys Mills: Kyle Brubaker

Linesville: Kathleen Baldwin

Meadville: Richard Smith, Teresa Herrera, Brian Miller, Susan Breckenridge, Kim Boal, Cheryl Hodges

North East: Jean Gillum, Charles Martin, Sue Cyphert, Donald Campbell

Titusville: Janet Zehner

Waterford: P. Polumbo, Ruth Pflueger, Sam Stull, Lisa Scott, Kathleen Gray

Ashtabula, OH: Dr. Nancy Rung

Cherry Creek, NY: Bonnie Bowen

East Springfield: Patti Larson

North Wales, PA: Jerry Flynn

Russell, PA: Lara Larson

Titusville, PA: Robert Thompson

Trafford, PA: Karen Rose Cercone

Wexford: Edward Weller

~Submitted by Ron Intrieri

membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

National Audubon Society Membership Application

Renewal members (\$20) can join as they have in the past, either by sending their membership check directly to National Audubon, or they can join online. New members (\$20) are to send their first membership check to the local chapter. The address is at the bottom of this application.

Membership includes membership in BOTH the National Audubon Society and the local Presque Isle Audubon Society. Please include your e-mail address to receive the online version of the newsletter.

E-mail address _____

Chapter Code U15

Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to **YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER.**

Ronald Intrieri, PIA Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
Erie, PA 16505

Presque Isle Audubon Society 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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please provide your e-mail address if you want the online version of our newsletter.

E-mail address _____

Return this form with your check payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society to:

Ronald Intrieri, PIA Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8

