



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
APRIL/MAY 2023 ISSUE 23:03

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

This spring, do you really want to make your yard more friendly to birds while using native plants? Then definitely visit [the Ornithology Center](#) for some eye-opening advice. Here's a teaser from that website: "Most bird-friendly yard websites only urge homeowners to add native plants to increase songbird survival. Of course, we do also. But the other sites do not show homeowners how to make their yard safe for birds. This website does. Bird window strikes at residences kill hundreds of millions of birds every year. On average, there are two to ten deaths per year at every home. Once you introduce native plants into your yard and start attracting more birds, you also need to put up window strike protection. If you do not, birds will die hitting your windows and undercut the very purpose of your native plantings." When you visit the Ornithology Center, you'll see links; for native plant plans, for protecting birds from deadly bird collisions, and for other helpful information.

Are you having trouble figuring out if you're due to renew your membership in National Audubon or our local Chapter, Presque Isle Audubon? Membership chair, Ron Intrieri, has been diligently poring through membership lists for the last few months, and sending out renewal reminders to those who are overdue. If you're not sure that you're up to date on your membership, contact Ron at membership@presqueisleaudubon.org.

Last but definitely not least, at the upcoming May meeting of the PIA Board the Directors will

be discussing the decision of National Audubon to keep Audubon in its name. What's your opinion about keeping or removing Audubon from our group's name? The Board wants to know! Please email your thoughts about this issue to the address below, and put "Audubon Name" in the subject line. Thank you.

~SueMurawski

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

APRIL/MAY THINGS TO DO!



Blackburnian Warbler

April 11, Tuesday - 6:00p - PIA Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

April 21, Friday - PIA Program: Defense of the Unholy Trio: 7:00 via Zoom (See P 3)

May 12, 13, 14 - Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle (See P 3)

May 19, Friday - PIA Program: Birdtown Pennsylvania: :00pm via Zoom (See P 3)

2022-2023 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

A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW



Mary Birdsong is retiring from the PIA Board of Directors after 18 years of service! Hard to imagine Presque Isle Audubon without her. Secretary, President, Program Chair, Festival of the Birds, Strategic Planning committee – she’s done it all, conscientiously and thoughtfully.

She’ll still be at Gull Point this summer, monitoring the activities of piping plovers. She’ll still be on the Festival of the Birds committee. I imagine she’ll still participate in the Christmas Bird Counts. But her words of wisdom will be missed at meetings of the PIA Board of Directors.

Lucky for us, Mary has graciously offered to provide guidance to whoever takes over as Chair of the Program committee. Cheers to Mary for her many, many years of service to Presque Isle Audubon! We really can’t thank her enough for all the work she did in the name of birds.

YOUR FEEDBACK, PLEASE, ABOUT THE TOE

The Board would like to stop mailing out paper copies of the *Tern of Events*.

If you need a printed copy of the *Tern of Events* because you don’t have an electronic device on which to view it? If so, please call us at 814-480-0963 and leave your name and address. We will cheerfully make paper copies as needed to send out to those without electronic access to the TOE.

PIA PROGRAMS FOR APRIL AND MAY

A DEFENSE OF THE UNHOLY TRIO

April 21 at 7:00 PM VIA Zoom.

Check out the PIA website on the morning of the program for the Zoom link.

Pigeons, starlings, and house sparrows are the most abundant and easily observed birds in urban settings. They can be entertaining to watch and to listen to. Give them a chance, and you might even appreciate their beauty. Nature writer Billy Brown discusses their history, their place in the urban food web, and why he recommends that beginning birders start with the most disrespected birds in the urban landscape.



Bernard S. Brown ("Billy") is a nature writer for [Grid magazine](#), author of [Exploring Philly Nature: A Guide for All Four Seasons](#), co-host of the [Urban Wildlife Podcast](#), and cofounder of the local nature hub [PhillyNature.org](#). He is a herper who has, against all plans and intentions, picked up birding as well. He blogs at [Where the Brown Snakes Roam](#).

BIRD TOWN PENNSYLVANIA: CREATING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE LIVES OF BIRDS

May 19 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Check out the PIA website the morning of the program for the Zoom link.

Heidi Shiver, president of the state-wide grassroots conservation program, *Bird Town Pennsylvania*, will explain how it works with municipalities to engage, educate and empower their residents, schools, and businesses to make more positive social,

economic, and ecologically friendly decisions. Tools and resources available to engage homeowners from Backyard Habitat Programs to Community Science Programs will be shared as well as impactful municipal and community projects including creating Native Plant Pop-up Gardens to Native Plant Garden Tours to Demonstration Gardens and more.

After teaching German for 30 years and working as a teacher naturalist for Peace Valley Nature Center for over 10 years, Heidi Shiver has focused more than ever on advocating for the environment and is especially passionate about native plants and habitat restoration for our birds and wildlife and the overall ecosystem. As a member of Bucks County Audubon's Board and also Board President, she helped recreate their Advocacy committee, reinvigorate the board and establish renewable energy as a focus. She has remained active with Audubon by serving at the committee level as well as continuing to lead their book club. She also serves on Doylestown Township's EAC and coordinates their Bird Town Program, is a Bucks County Penn State Master Gardener and serves as the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council. For the past 2 years, she's been working intensely to reinvigorate, to strengthen and to grow the state-wide Bird Town Program and to ensure that it's sustainable for years to come.

#

THE FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS

is quickly approaching, it's May 12-14. There are still some openings to attend, although the "early bird" registration discount ended on April 1. The Festival committee asks all PIA members and friends to consider becoming a sponsor, or donating a bird-related item to be used in the ticket auction for Festival attendees. No item is too small! Last year we had bird books, bird games, bird socks, bird houses, bird painting, and bird bags. You get the idea! Contact me at the address below if you'd like to contribute something or have questions about sponsorship, and put "Festival" in the subject line.

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from January 28 to March 23, 2023, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Snow Goose—singles and small flocks, mostly white, from Feb. 11 to March 6; along the lake especially from the Tom Ridge Environmental Center tower (TREC); m.ob.

Greater White-fronted Goose—6; Feb. 19; TREC tower; J.B. 2; March 5 & 6; Waterford; R.S., J.M. resp.

Cackling Goose—1; Feb. 1; off Beach 11; J.M. 2; Feb. 16; TREC tower and P.I.; J.B. 2; March 6; TREC tower; J.B.

Tundra Swan—3,000+; March 6; flying over east end of Presque Isle and TREC tower; J.M., J.B.

Red-necked Grebe—1 (continuing from January); Feb. 9; channel; J.M. (Below)



Herring X Glaucous Gull (hybrid)—1; Jan. 31 to Feb. 6; off the west pier; J.M.

Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid)—1; Feb. 7; off Perry Monument; J.M.

Iceland Gull—total of about 11; Feb. 1 to March 125; throughout Presque Isle Bay; J.M., et al.

Glaucous Gull—total of 5; Feb. 9 to March 14; throughout Presque Isle Bay; J.M., J.B.

Eared Grebe—1; Feb. 15 & 16; Cranch Park, east Erie and north pier; J.B., J.M.; First record for February. (Below)



Purple Sandpiper—1 continuing; to March 17; Gull Point; R.D., et al.

Northern Goshawk—1; March 16; Presque Isle Hawk Watch (TREC); J.M., D.S., K.F. (Below)



Long-eared Owl—1; March 20; pines; J.M.

Short-eared Owl—1; March 5; Gull Point; R.D.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—total of 3 or 4; Feb. 6 to March 19; pines; R.D., D.M.—1; Feb. 7; Edinboro; R.S. 1; Feb. 12; SGL 109; R.S.

Contributors: J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, R.D.-Roger Donn, K.F.-Ken Felix, D.M.-Douglas Massey, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, R.S.-Robert Scribner, D.S.-Don Snyder, m.ob.-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams
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FIELD TRIPS

Hello Spring!! How many of you are keeping your windows open, even just a little bit, to listen to the dawn chorus!? I delight in the song of the Robins, song sparrows and cardinals who are in full voice when I wake up for work; the chickadees and tufted titmice join in a bit later. I anticipate that the Eastern phoebe will arrive any day now and add his two cents. With the arrival of Spring and the increase in bird activity, we are excited to start our Saturday morning birding field trips again at Presque Isle. As in years past, we will meet in the parking lot at the Stull Interpretive Center and leave from there at 8:00 a.m. to the designated trail (see schedule below for April, May and June). Each field trip is FREE and open to the public. All ages and skill levels are welcome. We will have a few pair of binoculars available to borrow for the trip. It's best to dress in layers with waterproof shoes, because, hey, it's Erie. Insect repellent is also recommended.

April 8th Graveyard Pond Trail
April 29th Sidewalk Trail
May 6th Pine Tree Trail
May 20th Fry's Landing
May 27th Dead Pond Trail
June 10th Gull Point Trail
June 24th Graveyard Pond Trail

Trails are subject to change depending on conditions. Trips are rain or shine, within reason! Trips will be cancelled if high winds and/or thunder and lightning are predicted. We will make every attempt to keep the PI Audubon Facebook page updated with details for each trip including any cancellations or changes to the schedule.

If you have any questions about the field trips, contact Michele Franz at info@presqueisleaudubon.org or call and leave a message at (814)480-0963.

BINOCULARS AT THE LIBRARY?

By Ken Andersen

Would you like to go birding but lack binoculars and an identification guide? Well, now Presque Isle Audubon (PIA) and the Erie County library system can provide you with everything you need to have a day of fun in nature by yourself, with a friend, or a child.

Presently, you can go to Blasco library or a branch and check out a backpack containing two binoculars, illustrated field guides to birds, and detailed instructions on how to use the binoculars properly. These aids were purchased by (PIA) and donated to the library.

Six of the backpacks are available now but we expect to add several more yet this spring. One binocular (Vortex) in each backpack is better used by an adult while the other (Kiowa) being lighter in weight is appropriate for either an adult or child. Take the borrowed binos to a nearby park with trees or choose your own backyard to begin enjoying the birds that are living near you. Maybe this will enhance your interest in birds to the point you wish to learn more. If so, there are many sources on the internet where information can be found; two great local sources are the web sites for Presque Isle Audubon Society (www.presqueisleaudubon.org) and Erie Bird Observatory (www.eriebirdobservatory.org).

ERIE COUNTY RAPTOR SURVEY SUMMARY 2023

By Greg Grove, Editor of PA Birds

Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey routes have been run since 2001, however, through most of that time Erie County has had little coverage, usually just one route being monitored. Beginning in 2019, two new routes were added to the earlier route, and those three routes have been run each year since, allowing comparisons. (Cont. on Page 6)

**ERIE COUNTY RAPTOR SURVEY SUMMARY
(Cont.)**

The Erie City and NE County Shoreline is covered by Mary Birdsong and Mike Plyler. Scott Stoleson and Don Watts monitored SE Erie County and Janet Price and Pat Howell reported on SW Erie County.

Below are the summed counts from all three routes for eight species usually seen each year on the Erie routes, with the 2023 total and average since 2019.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Average</u>
Red Tails	19	26
Rough Legs	1	1.8
Kestrels	1	1.6
Coopers Hawk	1	1.6
Bald Eagle	1	6.8
Red Shoulders	2	3.2
Merlin	1	1
Peregrine	0	0.8

All eight species were a bit below average in Erie in 2023. Statewide, Red-tails and Kestrels were above average, probably because of the mostly mild weather. Northwestern counties, including Erie, have relatively few wintering Kestrels (most are the Susquehanna valley farmlands) – most years the Erie weather and snow cover are not favorable for the little falcons.

Also likely due to the mild weather, not many Rough-legged Hawks came south to PA. Erie had one of only 25 for the entire state (fewest since 2002, when coverage statewide was still low), most of which were in the northwestern counties.

The biggest deviation from average was Bald Eagle. Only one was recorded compared to the 5-year average of nearly 7. Previous years have had 7-10. One year's numbers, low or high, don't mean much – numbers on these types of surveys can go up and down quite a bit from one year to the next; it's the long term trend that matters. #

PIA BOARD OPENINGS

Do you care about birds and the environment, and are you a member of Presque Isle Audubon? You may be interested in deepening your commitment to PIA by volunteering for one of the following three Board positions which are opening up in the near future. The current chairs of these 3 committees have been on the Board for a total of 54 years! They are ready for a break; can you blame them?

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE CHAIR:

plans, organizes and arranges field trips for members of PIA and its friends. Distributes Information about each field trip to the Publication Chair and the Publicity Chair so they can spread the word.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR:

makes arrangements for programs of PIA to promote interest in birds and PIA. Distributes Information about each program to the Publication Chair and the Publicity Chair so they can spread the word.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR:

compiles the Society's newsletter as Editor of the *Tern of Events*.

What else is involved in being on the Board? In addition to fulfilling the duties of a chairperson, attend bimonthly Board meetings, and in between meetings read Board correspondence about upcoming agenda items.

Committee chairs are appointed to the Board by the President upon recommendation of the rest of the Board, for a one-year term. New chairs will be mentored by the current chairs, and given an orientation to the Board.

Not sure you're right for the job, or have questions? Come join us at one of our bi-monthly Board meetings to meet other Directors and get a feel for how things work. Or contact

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

PIA MEMBERSHIP

Presque Isle Audubon welcomes the new members and also those that rejoined. Glad to see you back. The members that join National Audubon get a free one-year membership in our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. Our newsletter is also available online.

The members are:

Erie: Rosemarie Pitetti, Mary Zebrowski, Jane Schwab, Amy Durie, Catherine Parthenakis, John Maleno, Dennis Tipton, Mariana Mathewson, Cynthia Kastner, Catherine Chmielewski, Lew Vespoli, Berry Gray, Thomas Frank, Jennifer Ferrick, Shannon Thompson, AnnaMarie Senita, Katherine Lutton, Richard Lutton, Lon & Rebecca Myers, Laura Koitsch, Katie Smyklo, William Cohen, Julie Leonard, Rynda McCray, Emily Briglia, Nancy Shea, Thomas Hansen, Judy Kissman, Darrell Stull, Robert Anderson, Peg Trichel, Maurice Roussel-Dupre

Albion: Kathi Swann

Cambridge Sps: Lon Allen, Sally Luce

Cochran: Ron Oswald

Conneautville: C. Kent Persinger

Corry: Dirk Simonsen

Edinboro: Tim Banks, John Yonko

Fairview: Julie Dell

Girard: Susan Stush, Nancy Pallan, Thomas Bauer, Diana Boone

Jamestown, Pa: Susan Avril

Linesville: Kathleen Baldwin, Kathleen Baldwin

Meadville: LuAnn Schroeder, Gloria Seeley

North East: Colleen Bahm, Barbara Conner

Titusville: Sarah Graham, Janet Zehner

Venango: Missy Lawrence

Waterford: Delores Pasiecznik, Jason & Megan Pitetti, Christina Burns

Allison Park, Pa: Teri & Larry Flatley

Forestville, NY: Gale VerHague

Hamburg, NY: Ashley Stewart

Traverse City, Mi: Kirk Waterstripe

~Ron Intriери, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

INJURED WILDLIFE IN SPRING

Spring means new wildlife babies and very active adults which also means a greater need for emergency responses. If you happen to have an emergency and need to contact someone who can help, here are a couple of organizations who can do just that. I suggest that you first go to their websites so that you know what each group is able to do.

Tamarack Wildlife Center
tamarackwildlife.org
814-763-2574

Wildlife In Need
<https://winemergencyresponse.com>
814-414-4224

Presque Isle Audubon Society's newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, is published every other month: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submission deadline is one week before the end of the month preceding publication. All published material is subject to editing. Send submissions to editor@presqueisleaudubon.org
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TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
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ERIE, PA 16505

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**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
Erie, PA 16505

**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
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Erie, PA 16505