



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
APRIL/MAY 2016 ISSUE 16:02

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

Waking to the sound of robins. ♪"Spring is here, spring is here." ♪ Isn't it great! Some local birders will tell you that the true harbinger of spring in our region is not the robin but rather, the turkey vulture. While a cool bird, its prehistoric visage is not prone to conjuring up romantic notions about the arrival of spring. Not to mention, it's usually silent and when it does decide to speak up its hisses and grunts are not a sound to which many would enjoy waking.

Other birders might mention the red-winged blackbird as the bird that heralds the arrival of spring in our region. Very true. As they fan their blazing red epaulets and belt out their "kon ka ree" (the birds, not the birders!), it is another beautiful bird that graces our early spring. Again, though a striking bird, it does not nearly possess the song stylings of the American robin. One more bird that I've heard some say is their signal that spring has sprung is the American woodcock. While its appearance and habits have inspired some very interesting nicknames such as (timberdoodle, bogsucker, mudsnipe) and some poetry...

*You've heard there's a bird, Timberdoodle.
His name just gets stuck in your noodle.
Whirring wings as he dives
To attract a few wives,
The woodcock is well-loved by oodles.
(MicheleRF-2016)*

Its reedy "peent" and wing whirrs are a classic example spring birding courtship, but again,

just not up to par with the robin as the quintessential symbol of spring.

And, yes, before you start writing a letter to the editor, I know that robins are here all year round. I tell the hundreds (OK, the few) of my non-birding friends who excitedly approach me each spring to tell me they've seen a robin and "hot dang spring is here!" that very thing. But then, before they get too dejected, I asked if they've heard the robins singing, and singing, and singing because THAT is when you can be sure that spring is here. (Cont. on Page 2)

APRIL/MAY THINGS TO DO!

April 9, Saturday – Raptor Experience at the TREC from 10:00am – 2:00pm (Page 5)

April 15, Friday – PIAS General Meeting and Program.

7:00PM – *Peregrine Falcons, an Environmental Success Story* followed by social (Page 3)

April 19, Tuesday - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00PM

April 21, Thursday – Luther Memorial Birding Project at PISP, 11:30am to 1:00pm

May 6,7,8, Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Festival of The Birds at Presque Isle.

May 17, Tuesday – PIAS Board Meeting in the Board Room at 6:00PM

May 20, Friday – PIAS General Meeting, Election and Program.

7:00PM – *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness* followed by social. (Page 3)

JUNE 3,4,5, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage (Page 7)
www.alleghenyaturepilgrimage.com

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
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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.)

And if they haven't heard it, I implore them to listen, because there's not much sweeter than the robin's whimsical song: persistent and purposeful and paradoxical. A marvelous melody sweetly sung to attract and yet repel.

So, here's to the robin and all the other local yokels who are returning home or are just making themselves better known, to potential mates, to rivals and to us. Welcome back!



AMERICAN ROBIN

P.S. In my last Perch I mentioned that I would be handing over the presidential reins to another, but as fate would have it, I have been re-nominated and have accepted that nomination.

Elections will be held at the membership program in May so it's not too late to throw your hat into the ring (or someone else's). As outlined in the by-laws, we will call for "nominations from the floor, provided that those nominated have given their consent". Voting will then take place. Before that meeting though, we'll have our April meeting with special guest, Kate St. John, who will be talking to us about peregrine falcons including those in Pittsburgh. Mary Birdsong, PIAS Program Chair, has been doing a wonderful job getting us some very interesting and dynamic speakers. Thanks, Mary!!

~Michele Rundquist Franz, PIAS President

PIAS PROGRAMS/EVENTS AT THE TREC

Peregrine Falcons, an Environmental Success Story

Friday, April 15 at 7:00pm, Room 112



Kate St. John

Kate St. John, birder, blogger, and peregrine falcon monitor will present *Peregrine Falcons, an Environmental Success Story*. From their extinction fifty years ago in eastern North America, the falcons have been successfully reintroduced and removal from the Endangered Species List in the U.S. and many eastern states. St. John will describe peregrines' breeding strategy, the history of their crash and recovery, and notable breeding sites and peregrine dynasties in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio.



PEREGRINE FALCON

St. John is fascinated by birds, curious about nature, and addicted to peregrine falcons and she has written about them at her blog *Outside My Window* since 2007.

Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness

Friday, May 20 at 7:00pm, Room 112

Free and Open to the Public



TRAVIS HAMMIL

Travis Hammill, Eastern Grassroots Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, will present *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness*. The multi-media presentation documents citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This journey through redrock splendor invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands and includes narration by Robert Redford.



Hammill will also talk about recent developments in the work to protect this spectacular landscape.

BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa., unless noted otherwise from January 10 to March 15, 2016.

Snow Goose 2; Feb. 2; Gull Point; R. S.2; Feb. 3; Girard; C.S.

Surf Scoter 1 male; March 7; north pier; R.N. 1 pair; March 11; Beach 11; J.M.



SURF SCOTER

Red-necked Grebe 1; Jan 17; north pier; J.M.

Black-crowned Night-Heron 1 adult; Feb. 28; Greene Twp.; P.B.Z.

Sandhill Crane 9; March 7; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC; J.M. 11; March 8; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC; R.S., J.M. 6; March 11; over Dead Pond Trail; J.M.

Thayer's Gull 1; Jan. 25 to Feb. 2; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

Iceland Gull 1; Feb. 9; Lake View Landfill; J.M. 2 Feb. 15; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

Gray Catbird—1; Jan. 23; Gull Point Trail; T.L., et al.



GRAY CATBIRD

Lesser Black-backed Gull total of 6; Jan. 17 to March 11; Presque Isle and Lake View Landfill; J.M.

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler—1; Jan. 23; Gull Point Trail; T.L. et al. First Erie County winter record.



YELLOW- RUMPED WARBLER

Glaucous Gull total of 10; Jan. 22 to March 5; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

Snowy Owl total of 7; Jan. 20 through March 10; throughout the northern portion of the county; m.ob.

Short-eared Owl 1; March 8; Gull Point; R.S. 1; March 15; Gull Point; R.D.

Rusty Blackbird 1; Feb. 8 & 9 (early); Waterford; J.H.



RUSTY BLACKBIRD

Contributors: R.D.-Roger Donn, J.H.-Jamie Hill, T.L.-Tim Lenz, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, R.N.-Richard Nugent, C.S.-Chris Swan, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, P.B.Z.-Pam & Bob Zelenak, m.ob.-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Report Chairman
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to all of our new members. We can send you our chapter newsletter either in the mail or one line, whichever you prefer. The new members and those that rejoined are:

Erie: Jim Pitetti, Lawrence Jobes, Christine Rheam, Meta Gebhardt, David Skellie, Kathryn Snider, Doris McFarland, Janet Fox, Tim Welsh, Terry Pierce, MaryAnn Luke, Mary Wierzbicki, David Rinehardt, Paul Burroughs, Marueen Gulnac, Beverly Jones, Jane Boyd

Cambridge Sps: Sandra Pietrzak

Conneautville: David Glenn, Clemence Mershon, Anne Hall

Corry: Mary Rublee, Pat Dougherty, Bill Lallman

Cranesville: Paula Fetterolf

Edinboro: Sally Scarlett, Alfred Riccomini

Fairview: Lauren Covatto, Christine Kalicky

Girard: Anita Murray

Harborcreek: Carol Wood

Linesville: Mary Crom, Mary Morningstar

Meadville: Melissa Clayton, Jane Lloyd

Union City: Cathy Anthony

Waterford: Judith Dormann, Mark Metzler, Delores Pasiecznik, Amy Hovis

Chapter only members are:

Richard Markiewicz, Bob & Marion Gallivan, Pat & Bob Hersch, Caroline Reichel, Linda Kierstein

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

RAPTOR EXPERIENCE Saturday, April 9 at the TREC

Visit the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on Saturday, April 9, 2016 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm for a raptor experience. Live birds from Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center will be present.



SAW WHET OWL

Educational table displays and children's activities will be presented by DCNR and the Audubon Society. There is no fee or registration for this event and all ages are welcome. Program is subject to cancellation or modification at discretion of park staff.

You are welcome to visit Jerry McWilliams in the southern most parking lot of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center as he and some of his assistants spot and identify the many kinds of raptors on their migratory route to summer habitats. A kestrel is one of the smaller raptors that he might see passing by. (See below)



KESTREL



Pennsylvania Amphibian & Reptile Survey

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Amphibians and reptiles (collectively called herps) are ecologically important organisms throughout Pennsylvania's landscape. Very little information about Pennsylvania's herpetofauna exists when compared to other groups of organisms. This is unfortunate, as herps are important indicators of the health of our natural places and the very presence of certain species can tell us a lot about an ecosystem.

The Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS) is a state-sponsored atlas project. PARS will determine the distribution and status of all amphibians and reptiles throughout Pennsylvania, combining modern technology with an army of citizen scientists. The project is a joint venture between the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) and the Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation (MACHAC). PARS needs volunteers to help tell us about the status and distribution of Pennsylvania's herps.

Even if you don't make and report herp observations, you can help by allowing access to your property to PARS surveyors. There will be a PARS presentation and frog call field trip on April 23rd at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters at 6:30 pm.

Visit www.paherpsurvey.org for more information and to join the project.

You may also contact the northwest regional coordinator, Mark Lethaby, at (814) 833-7215 or nw@paherpsurvey.org.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2016-2017 Presque Isle Audubon Society

Elections will be held at the May meeting after the floor has been opened for nominations other than those listed below.

President – Michele Rundquist Franz
Vice President – Paul Burroughs
Secretary – Lisa Danko
Treasurer – Kel McDonald
Trustee – Kathy Lutton
Trustee - Janet Price

EAT THE INVASIVE!

Garlic mustard, with its scalloped leaves and four-petaled white flowers, is easy to spot. These invasive plants are popping up all over the Northeast and are overtaking forest floors and smothering native plants. We can help wage war against this invader by including it in our daily menus.

Use garlic mustard's peppery leaves to add a mild kick to salads and pesto, or boil them for a few minutes to make them taste like broccoli rabe. Its stems – raw or cooked – are like a pungent version of asparagus, and its roots can substitute for horseradish.



Use these tender, young leaves for your recipes

The season for this tasty plant is here, so take advantage of the free greens and eat the invasive.

The Cornell Lab
GLOBAL BIG DAY
MAY 14, 2016



Global Big Day is a single day, uniting birdwatchers worldwide across political boundaries and language barriers, all brought together by our shared passion for birds. In 2015, 14,000 people from 135 countries took part. In 2016, will you join us?

Global Big Day has something for everyone: camaraderie with friends, the challenge of finding unusual species in your area, or the simple enjoyment of a day in the field that is part of this larger global celebration of birds. Regardless of motivation, people have been inspired worldwide by the simple idea of joining together in a one-day, global effort to find birds. Sharing your findings with others is what makes this day so much fun and fascinating to follow.

It's simple to contribute: talk two friends into taking part in counting and reporting birds with you and then go birding. To have your sightings included in the GBD, they have to be entered in eBird as one or more checklists.

Go to <http://eBird.org/globalbigday>. You'll need to know the location where you made your observations, your start time, and the duration of the time you counted. You don't need to do a full day of birding; even an hour or 10 minutes makes a difference. Don't forget, EVERY BIRD COUNTS FOR THE GLOBAL BIG DAY! Most importantly, get outside, see some birds, have fun, and contribute your sightings to global bird conservation! Thanks for being a part of a truly GLOBAL BIG DAY!

ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE
~ hosted by Allegany State Park ~
Friday - Sunday, June 3-5, 2016

You can pre-register up to one week before the Pilgrimage. After that date, plan on checking in and paying at the Registration table when you arrive at Camp Allegany. For people who can't commit to the whole weekend, we offer a day rate. Go to: www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org for a lot of information.

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S BIRD QUIZ

1. Sharp-shinned hawk, immature
2. Bald Eagle
3. American Kestrel
4. Northern Harrier
5. [American Kestrel](#)
6. [Turkey Vulture](#)
7. [Sharp-shinned Hawk](#), adult
8. Broad winged hawk, immature
9. Red-shouldered hawk, adult
10. Red-shouldered hawk, immature
11. Northern Harrier
12. Merlin, adult
13. Northern Harrier, immature
14. Red-tailed Hawk
15. Cooper's Hawk, immature
16. Cooper's Hawk, immature
17. Peregrine Falcon, adult
18. Osprey
19. Sharp-shinned Hawk, adult

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 jrplkm@aol.com or 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. If you have any questions, call Janet at 814-825-8394 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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 _____

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.**

E-mail address _____

Do you require a paper copy? _____

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

**Presque Isle Audubon Society
Ronald Intrieri, Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Chapter Code C6ZU150Z

Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to:

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