



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
APRIL/MAY 2021 ISSUE 21:03

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

What's new with Presque Isle Audubon? More on that later, let's start with what's old! Below is a picture of some of PIA's leaders from around 1960.



Anyone recognize the woman in the center of the photo? Of course, it's Jean Stull. She and her husband Jim helped organize a group of local conservationists and birders in 1956. Begun as a bird study group, its first name was Presque Isle Nature Group. In 1960, the name was changed to PI Nature Club. In March 1961, when the group affiliated with National Audubon, it officially became the Presque Isle Audubon Society.

In the picture, from left to right: Olga Thisland, Field Trip chair; Elizabeth Brown, Secretary/Treasurer; Jean Stull; Robert Anderson, Vice-President; Mary Marshall Foulke, Publicity chair.

This photo is courtesy of Evelyn Anderson, one of the earliest leaders of PIAS.

So what's new at PIA? The biggest, and the best, is that there WILL be a 2022 Festival of the Birds! Janet Price agreed to head the committee again, one last time, while she teaches Board member Andrew Sipple how to organize future Festivals. Janet and Andrew, we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This is such good news.

(Cont. on Page 2)

APRIL/MAY THINGS TO DO!



FOX SPARROW

April 16, Friday – PIA Program at 7:00p
Via Zoom (Page 6)

April 17, Saturday - Field Trips Begin
(Page 4)

April 21, Wednesday – PIA Pickup PA Day
from 9a to 7p. (See Pages 2 and 7)

May 18, Tuesday – PIA Board Meeting at
6:00p via Zoom

May 21, Friday – PIA Program at 7:00p
Via Zoom (Page 6)

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Officers

President	Sue Murawski
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Mary Ann Daniels
Treasurer	Julie Dell
Retiring President	Drew Mortenson

Board of Trustees

2018-2021	Dave Gustafson
2018-2021	Tony Keck
2019-2022	Thomas Frank
2019-2022	Bill Ferguson
2020-2023	TBA
2020-2023	TBA

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Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Andrew Sipple
Field Trips	Michele Rundquist Franz
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	TBA
Sales & Marketing	Jennifer Ferrick
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

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.)

We're now using our YouTube Channel to store the videos of our monthly membership programs for further viewing. Check it out by clicking on the link below, then click on Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCznNf6X8MTmDHGKQaiCCOFw/videos>.

There won't be the usual annual beach cleanup at Presque Isle this year. So PIA has registered with Pickup PA to sponsor a clean-up day on Wednesday, April 21 (pre-Earth Day) for Fry's Landing and Horseshoe Pond. Starting at 9AM and ending at 7PM, you can join the PIA team at a time that suits you best. It's my understanding that this area of the Park has never been serviced at any official cleanup; who knows what we'll find? You must pre-register! Send an email to president@presqueisleaudubon.org if interested, or if you have questions. There shouldn't be any walking more than 1 mile, but it will be wet as you'll be picking up litter right along the shoreline. We'll meet at Fry's Landing; I'll be there at 9AM with homemade cookies. Bring water, extra clothing, as well as a mask; we may still be using them. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

At our most recent Board meeting, all of our current Officers and committee chairs agreed to stay on for another year. But one Trustee is finishing his term in May, which will leave the Board with four openings. We need three more Trustees, and are still looking for someone to chair the Publicity committee. Hopefully in June we can hold the yearly membership meeting in person. At that meeting we'll have a vote on a few bylaw changes recommended by the Board. Also, if members step forward to serve as Trustees, the membership will then need to approve them by vote.

Moving on to other organizations, the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage at nearby Allegany State Park will be virtual this year. For over 60 years, PIA has been a "sponsor" for this annual outdoor learning experience.

(Cont. on Page 3)

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

In past years, members of PIA have been presenters at this event. This year's organizers are again asking if anyone from PIA would like to present a program. Here's a link to past presentations that will give you an idea of what has been offered.

<http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com/programs.html>.

Anyone interested in presenting this year should contact Lon Myers at lonmyers0907@gmail.com

Happy Spring!

~Sue Murawski,

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE – BEYOND THE PARK

Sadly, the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage Committee must cancel the 2021 Allegany Nature Pilgrimage slated for June 4, 5, and 6. Due to Covid-19 regulations and restrictions, Allegany State Park is not issuing permits for large-group organizational events inside the park. If you have secured cabin or campsite reservations for that weekend and will not be keeping them, please remember to cancel through Reserveamerica.com

The nature pilgrimage committee is currently working on an alternative event at other sites for that weekend of June 4th, 5th, and 6th. This will be in cooperation with ANP's sponsoring organizations.... Audubon Community Nature Center (Jamestown), Buffalo Audubon Society, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club (Rochester), and Presque Isle Audubon (Erie, PA). We'd like to call it: Allegany Nature Pilgrimage – Beyond The Park. Please continue to check the website www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com and our Allegany Nature Pilgrimage Facebook page for updates of this offering as the committee works out the scheduling and details. We look forward to and are already planning the 2022 event and having you join us for our Welcome Back Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, June 3rd – 5th, 2022!

#

LOCAL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT STEM FROM A BIRD'S EYE-VIEW

Presque Isle Audubon Society Partners with Feeding Minds and Families to Educate Local Students

By Andrew Sipple



This past winter, Erie youth had the opportunity to help local wildlife while gaining important skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Eighty middle school students in the Erie School District received STEM kits from the Feeding Minds and Families Program. Founded and directed by Dr. Quyen Aoh, and part of the Erie GAINS program at Gannon University, this initiative seeks to boost STEM capital by connecting Erie youth to local STEM professionals and providing informal learning opportunities.

The signature offering of the Feeding Minds project is a multi-session after-school program that originally started at Strong Vincent Middle School. Throughout this school year, however, the pandemic has created the challenge of reaching students who are learning from home. The solution was to offer portable STEM kits that are delivered right to the students' doorsteps. Each kit has a unique theme, and features an illustrated booklet with instructions for all the activities along with information about a local STEM expert and their career path.

(Cont. on Page 4)

LOCAL STUDENTS LEARN (Cont.)

The most recent kit, *Go Green!*, featured five activities centered on the theme of environmental sustainability. One of the activities challenged students to build bird feeders using upcycled materials, such as water bottles, milk cartons, metal cans, and glass jars. Materials and bird seed were provided, and students were challenged to engineer an effective hanging feeder. Thanks to a generous donation from the Presque Isle Audubon Society, youth also received pocket field guides for learning the birds that visit their backyard feeders. This will allow local youth to develop an appreciation for the diversity of bird species in our region.

To extend their learning, students also had the opportunity to meet two renowned ornithologists, Sarah Sargent of the Erie Bird Observatory, and Keith Russell from Audubon Pennsylvania. Approximately eight students attended a live Zoom event to learn about careers in conservation science and the challenges that migratory birds face in towns and cities.

Several students completed an online survey, and all of them provided a very positive rating for the STEM kit. The bird feeder activity was one of the most popular activities. Overall, this was a successful and gratifying project that has helped local songbirds, provided hands-on STEM enrichment, and given urban students with limited access to nature an opportunity to appreciate the wonderful world of birds.

Andrew Sipple is the Chair of the Education Committee for the Presque Isle Audubon Society. He is dedicated to bringing the joy of birdwatching to youth. He can be reached at education@presqueisleaudubon.org.

FIELD TRIPS RESUME: JUST IN TIME FOR SPRING MIGRATION

We are excited to get back on the trails at Presque Isle and hope that you will join us as we resume our bi-weekly field trips!! As prior, all field trips participants will meet up in the Stull Center parking lot by 8:00 AM; from the Stull Center we will carpool/drive to our designated trail. These trips are **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** so bring a friend. We have binoculars to lend for the trip for those that do not have them or if you are looking to purchase a new pair of binoculars and would like to try out some different strengths. The park continues to experience wet conditions and high water, so boots are recommended.

Our first trip will be on April 17th and we will explore Sidewalk Trail to look for early arriving Spring migrants and local birds. The spring/summer schedule is subject to change depending on weather, trail conditions (we'll just find another trail) or unforeseen circumstances. In the case of heavy rain and wind, field trips will be cancelled. Light rain, however, can make for good birding and the show will go on! Please check our Facebook page and website frequently for any changes or updates because we may add a trip or two or do a special offsite trip if a species of interest shows up on the park or in the area. Have any questions, concerns, suggestions about field trips? **Contact Michele Franz at info@presqueisleaudubon.org!**

April 17: Sidewalk Trail
May 1: Pine Tree Trail
May 15: Fry's Landing
May 29: Dead Pond Trail

We will expect participants to follow CDC guidelines for Covid precautions including masking and social distancing. All binoculars will be cleaned in accordance with these guidelines as well.

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THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from January 12, 2021 to March 26, 2021 from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise.

Snow Goose—1 white; second week of March; Edinboro Lake; J.F., et al. (See Below)



Cackling Goose—2; March 11; Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M.

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser—1 male; March 5; off east pier; J.H.

Eared Grebe—1; March 1 to 22; Leo's; J.M., et al. (See below)



Black-headed Gull—1; Jan. 22; west pier; J.M., J.F

Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull—1 adult; Jan. 20 & 23; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

Red-throated Loon—1; Jan. 16, 21, and Feb. 1 (late); Sunset Point; J.M.

Black Vulture—2; March 8; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC; J.M., et al; March 21; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at TREC; J.M.

Northern Shrike—1; continuing from December 2020 through March 6; SGL #109; mob.

Long-billed Dowitcher—2; March 21; Gull Point; J.Bo.; Earliest spring record in the county. (See Below)



Snowy Owl—1; March 2; Edinboro; J.H.

Long-eared Owl—1; March 21 to 25; pines; R.D.

Short-eared Owl—1; Feb. 27 & 28; Gull Point; J.B., R.D., resp. 1; March 23; TREC; J.Bo. 1; March 24; Gull Point; R.S.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1; March 24; pines; J.M.

Common Redpoll—singles and small groups; to at least March 24; throughout the county; mob.

Indigo Bunting—1 male; March 24 (record early by about two weeks); Erie; Erie resident photo ID by J.Bo. (See Below)



Contributors: J.B.-Justin Berkheimer, J.Bo.-Jason Bojczyk, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, J.H.-Jamie Hill, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, mob.-many observers

Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd.,
Erie, Pa. 16508-2129

PIA PROGRAMS – APRIL AND MAY 2021



MONTY AND ROSE: THE STORY OF CHICAGO'S PIPING PLOVERS– April 16, 2021

"Monty and Rose" is a 2019 documentary written and directed by Bob Dolgan. The film tells the story of a pair of endangered piping plovers that nested at Chicago's Montrose Beach, becoming the first of the species to nest in the city since 1955. The endangered birds took up residence on one of the busiest stretches of one of the busiest beaches in Chicago. Those interviewed for the film include volunteers, biologists and other advocates who spoke out when a music festival was scheduled within feet of the plovers' nest site. "Monty and Rose" was an official selection of the One Earth Film Festival.



Bob Dolgan created his first film, "Monty and Rose," as a volunteer plover monitor in Chicago in 2019. He is a Board Member of Chicago Ornithological Society. He writes the This Week in Birding newsletter, which is published twice each week. Bob earned his BA from Kenyon College and his MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

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CRANES: AMBASSADORS FOR CONSERVATION - May 21, 2021

Cranes, with their deep cultural connections, high visibility, extraordinary beauty, dramatic migrations, and striking behaviors, are among the most loved and revered birds on earth. Yet cranes are also among the most endangered families of birds in the world, with eleven of 15 species threatened and many populations in peril. Over the next 20 years, emerging challenges will further jeopardize cranes and the places where they dance. Tom Leiden will share his first-hand experiences with the International Crane Foundation's field team, and the wondrous work being done to understand and save cranes so they continue to brighten our skies.



Tom's passion for nature and adventure started over 30-years ago when he became interested in birding. Tom retired from the family business, Leiden Cabinet Company, which allows him more time to spend on his conservation activities. Recently they have had the opportunity to be involved in several crane conservation projects with the International Crane Foundation. He serves on the Board of Directors of the following organizations:

- International Crane Foundation
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- North American Crane Working Group

Tom was the recipient Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Conservation Award in 2011.

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BIRD GLASS FOR BEHREND

Hi! My name is Greg Yahn and I am also closely involved with Penn State Behrend. I live in Fairview, PA and I am a huge supporter of the Presque Isle Partnership and I am also a bird enthusiast. I want to inform you, other bird enthusiasts, about an opportunity to protect birds and greatly reduce window collisions for the many species in our area.

The entire 850 acre Behrend campus has been designated as an arboretum and if you have ever walked the campus, you will know that there is abundant wildlife there including many bird species.

Behrend will begin construction on a new student recreation center on campus starting next summer. The new rec center has many windows around the entire building which would lead to multiple bird collisions. Penn State Behrend leadership is concerned with this and wants to protect as many birds as possible. There is a proposal in the budget for "Bird Glass" to help reduce the many bird strikes that are likely to occur.



I am sharing this with you in the hopes of raising funds, perhaps from folks like you, who are genuinely concerned with overall bird safety. Funds would be used to purchase the upgraded glass to be included in the construction process. But we have to move quickly as construction bids are in process.

I am trying to raise a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 to support this option. The amount raised will determine the

quality and amount of windows we can have installed. This could be a possible naming opportunity for a generous donor who might appreciate such recognition. If interested, please contact me. My contact information is listed below.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Gregory M. Yahn, President AFUSA
7401 Klier Drive
Fairview PA 16415-2462

PIA PICKUP PA DAY

There won't be the usual annual beach cleanup at Presque Isle this year. So PIA has registered with Pickup PA to sponsor a clean-up day on Wednesday, April 21 (pre-Earth Day) for Fry's Landing and Horseshoe Pond. Starting at 9AM and ending at 7PM, you can join the PIA team at a time that suits you best. You must pre-register! Send an email to president@presqueisleaudubon.org if interested, or if you have questions. There shouldn't be any walking more than 1 mile, but it will be wet. We'll meet at Fry's Landing; I'll be there at 9AM with homemade cookies. Bring water, extra clothing, as well as a mask; we may still be using them. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

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 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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PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8
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 _____

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**

Renewal members 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 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. National members receive *Audubon Magazine* (4 issue per year) and the chapter newsletter, *Tern of Events*. Please include your e-mail address to receive the online version of the newsletter.

Introductory membership \$20.00
Renewals \$20.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Chapter Code U15

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

Presque Isle Audubon Society
Ronald Intrieri, Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
Erie, PA 16505