



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
APRIL MAY 2022 ISSUE 22:03

*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

Spring is technically here, but in northwest PA it may be a while until it actually feels so. But let's still plan on warmer weather and getting outdoors.

Join us for a nature walk on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday, 1PM at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Crawford County at Guy's Mills. We'll not only look at birds, but check out other critters and plants. We can choose one (or both!) of two easy hiking trails there. Tsuga Trail is 1.5 miles long; Deer Run Trail is 3.3 miles. Both are mostly flat and suitable for youngsters, with a variety of habitats to explore. Here's a link to info about both trails: [ENWR Trails](#) This Refuge is east of Meadville in Crawford County, so for those traveling from Erie County we can arrange a carpool. We'll meet at the Refuge Headquarters parking lot.

Asbury Woods is hosting the City Nature Challenge 2022 for Greater Erie, April 29 – May 2. From their website: "This international community science event challenges us to explore the biodiversity around us. Everyone is welcome, all you need to do is download the free iNaturalist app from either the App or Play store on your phone or tablet, create an account, go outside and start exploring!" They are offering training about using iNaturalist to prepare for this Challenge on April 21. See their website for details [Asbury Woods, City Nature Challenge](#). What does this have to do with Presque Isle Audubon? To participate in

the Challenge, we'll be exploring Shade's Beach Park in Harborcreek for a few hours on Friday, April 29. We'll meet at the parking lot there at 10AM. Wear boots if you want to check out Eight Mile Creek, which empties into Lake Erie at this Park. Bring any kids not in school; there's a wonderful playground at this Park [Shade's Beach](#). (Cont. on P.2)

## APRIL MAY JUNE THINGS TO DO!



CEDAR WAXWING

**April 14, Thursday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Zoom Meeting at 7:00p  
**April 15, Friday** – PIA Program at 7:00p via Zoom. [East Meets West](#) (See P. 3)

**May 17, Tuesday** - PIA Board Meeting at 6:00 via Zoom or at the TREC  
**May 20, Friday** – PIA Program at 7:00p Via Zoom. [Build It and They Will Come](#) (See P. 3)

**June 3, Friday** – PIA Meeting at 6:00 at the Rotary Pavilion (See P. 2)

## 2020-2021 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.)

Picnic time is approaching also, yeah! We're having our annual membership meeting in conjunction with a picnic and potluck dinner at the Rotary Pavilion on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We'll supply the subs, wraps and beverages (and door prizes) and you bring a dish to share and a place setting for yourself. Dinner will be at 6PM, but the Pavilion will be opened at 4PM, as we're having outdoor games like cornhole and badminton, plus there's that great playground for kids adjacent to the Pavilion. This get-together is open to all PIA members and their guests, so bring a friend.

**Look for email and Facebook reminders a week before all of these events.**

We've just about wrapped up a cool project with the Erie County library system, by supplying them with 6 "birding backpacks"; one for the main library, one for the Bookmobile, and 4 for library branches. Each backpack will contain two sets of binoculars, one for adults and a smaller pair for children. Also included in each backpack will be two books; both are Peterson Field Guides (Birds of Eastern & Central North America, and Young Naturalists, Backyard Birds). Kowa Optics was so generous, they donated 6 pairs of binoculars! Vortex Optics joined in by offering a 50% discount. The backpacks should be available for borrowing by library patrons in mid-May, hopefully in time for spring migration. We're hoping these backpacks entice kids and adults to become interested in bird-watching, and by extension the environment.

Applications for the Hog Island, Maine scholarship for educators in Erie and Crawford Counties are still being accepted through April 14. Encourage the teachers in your life to apply for this all-expenses paid trip. Here's the link for more info: [Educator's Week at Hog Island.](#)

(Cont. on P. 3)

## PIA APRIL AND MAY PROGRAMS

### East Meets West

April 15, 2022  
7:00 pm via Zoom



Ann Nightingale, volunteer and board member with Rocky Point Bird Observatory in Victoria, British Columbia will discuss several similar, but different birds that live parallel lives on opposite sides of the continent. From Winter and Pacific Wrens to Blue and Steller's Jays, she'll compare and contrast some of these odd couples, and take closer looks at the geographic differences between a few shared species as well.

Ann Nightingale is a volunteer and board member with Rocky Point Bird Observatory in Victoria, BC and loves to share what she's learned about birds with others. She also coordinates the Victoria Christmas Bird Count and hosts Birders' Night for the Victoria Natural History Society. Ann is a recipient of the American Birding Association's Betty Petersen Award for Conservation and Community.

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### Build it and They Will Come: A Habitat Restoration for Beach Nesting Birds in Barnegat Light, New Jersey

May 20, 2022  
7:00 pm via Zoom

Todd Pover, Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey will describe the work done in a major coastal habitat restoration project in New Jersey that

targeted piping plovers and other beach nesting birds. Learn what they did, the successes and challenges, as well as lessons learned that may apply to other potential plover restorations. Not just a story of bulldozers and sand, you'll be entertained by the stories of individual birds that populated the site since its completion several years ago.



Tod Pover

Todd Pover is a Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. He has been involved in the research and management of beach nesting birds, in particular Piping Plover, in New Jersey and other portions of the flyway for almost 30 years. He is a graduate of Rutgers University.

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### THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Presque Isle Audubon has been invited to participate in tabling at several outdoor events this Spring and Summer: Erie Earth Day on April 23, Arbor Day on April 30, Onion Festival at Pymatuning State Park on July 9, Discover Presque Isle on July 31, Erie's Blues and Jazz Festival on August 5, 6 and 7. We need volunteers! All of these events are lots of fun, we'll set up a table with handouts and giveaways and talk to people about Presque Isle Audubon and birds.

If you're interested or have questions about any of the above topics, send me an email.

~Sue Murawski, President

[President@PresqueIsleAudubon.org](mailto:President@PresqueIsleAudubon.org)

## THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from February 1 to March 25, 2022 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Snow Goose**—21 (white & dark morphs); Feb. 17; Summit Twp.; fide J.C., 18; (8 white, 10 blue); Feb. 21; Lake City; A.Ma. 1 or 2 white; March 3 to 24; Millcreek Twp., and at Presque Isle S.P.; A.M., J.B.

**Cackling Goose**—up to 6; March 3 to 5; Beach 11 parking lot; S.M. 1; March 6; Presque Isle Hawk Watch (TREC); J.M.

**Trumpeter Swan**—2; March 20; SGL #191; continuing pair from last year; M.C.

**Redhead X Ring-necked Duck**—1; March 2; Leo's; M.S.

**Eurasian Wigeon**—1; March 14; Thompson Bay; S.M. (fide D.S.) (See Below)



**California Gull**—1; March 25; off Vista 3; J.M.

**American Bittern**—1; March 24; pines; R.D.

**Black Vulture**—1; Feb. 27; 12<sup>th</sup> & Peninsula; D.M.

**Long-eared Owl**—2; March 20; pines; R.D.

**Snowy Owl**—1; Feb. 5; Edinboro; J.F.

**Long-eared Owl** —1; Feb. 17; Dead Pond Trail; R.D.

**Short-eared Owl**—1; March 6; Gull Point; R.D.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—singles; Feb. 1 to March 20 with up to 3 on March 24; pines; R.D.

**Northern Goshawk**—1; March 14; Presque Isle Hawk Watch (TREC); J.M., D.S. (See Below)



**Northern Shrike**—1; Feb. 13 to March 5; SGL 109; B.S.

**Common Raven**—1; Feb. 23; Leo's landing; N.H., J.M. 1; March 1; Presque Isle Hawk Watch (TREC); R.S. 2; March 19; Beach 10; S.M.

**Contributors:** J.B.-Jim Baxter, M.C.-Mike Campbell, J.C.-Jay Cooney, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, N.H.-Nathan Hall, D.M.-Doug Massey, A.Ma.-Amelia Matthers, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, S.M.-Sam Meigs, A.M.-Andrew M., B.S.-Bob Scribner, D.S.-Don Snyder, R.S.-Russ States, M.S.-Mark Suckow

~Jerry McWilliams  
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## **PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS WILL RESUME IN APRIL 2022**

Yes! It's been a long time coming, but our bi-weekly birding field trips will resume in late April 2022. As always, Presque Isle Audubon hosted field trips are open to the public for people of all ages and skill levels and are free of charge. Unless otherwise specified, any field trips on Presque Isle will meet at the Stull Center parking lot at 7:45AM where we will then carpool to our designated trail. All trips are subject to change depending on trail conditions. We will bird in almost any weather unless there is a torrential downpour or a forecast for dangerous conditions. Warm and waterproof clothing and shoes are recommended, especially for trips earlier in the schedule. Slip on waterproof boots can come in handy. Bring your binoculars of course, but we will have a few pairs of binoculars available for use if you or someone you bring doesn't have them. If you have a spotting scope, you are welcome to bring it. Please contact us at [info@presqueisleaudubon.com](mailto:info@presqueisleaudubon.com) with any questions or comments related to these field trips.

### **FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

Unless otherwise stated trips will be 8AM-11AM but participants are welcome to join or leave at their leisure. These trips are scheduled for Saturday mornings.

**April 23rd:** Dead Pond Trail, Thompson Circle, Thompson Bay, marshy area across from Thompson Circle for local songbirds, woodpeckers, waterfowl, gulls, terns

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** Fry's Landing and banding station for spring migrants including warblers, flycatchers as well as local breeding birds returning from wintering grounds.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Pine Tree Trail for later migrating warblers, other songbirds

~Michele Rendquist Franz, Field Trip Chair

## **ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE**

It's time to register for the 64th annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage at Allegany State Park from June 3-5, 2022.

Go to [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com) for information or call registrar Marcia Nixon at 716-998-1417.

Reservations for Cabins or campsites go to [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com).

~Lisa Danko, ANP Representative

### **FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS 2022 UPDATE**

After two years of hiatus, we are excited to revive the acclaimed Festival of the Birds this spring! It will take place Friday, May 13th; Saturday, May 14th; and Sunday, May 15th. The festival will feature numerous field trips and workshops, as well as our keynote speaker, Katie Fallon, who will be giving a presentation on vultures. This event will create an opportunity for people from various places to connect with each other and the exceptional natural resources at Presque Isle State Park.

Unfortunately, the 2022 festival will not be as large as it was in previous years. Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 throughout the planning process, as well as restrictions on indoor capacity limits at the state park, we had to cap the number of registrants at approximately 75 people, and we are unable to add any more participants at this time. However, we are hoping to resume the festival at full capacity next year. In the meantime, we remain committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants and of our colleagues.

~Andrew Sipple, Chair of the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle Committee

## EVERYONE LOVES ZINNIAS

by Linda Wagner

On a warm late July afternoon, iced tea in hand, I parked myself on the porch to enjoy a summer afternoon and watch the traffic in the backyard. This summer the garden is a profusion of zinnias in full bloom all standing three to four feet tall. The flowers are all sizes and a riot of color, and they are attracting a wide variety of "zinnia lovers."

The hummingbirds are loving them along with the hummingbird clearwing moth, various butterflies, and a variety of other pollinators.

In competition for the flowers is the local American Goldfinch crew. They seem to love the zinnia seeds. Some of the flowers have been reduced to nubs as a result of the finches methodically picking off the petals one at a time and chowing down the attached seed.



The finches were enjoying an afternoon snack, and I was loving the show. One male goldfinch landed on a particularly slim flower stem. Every time he tried to reach the flower and seeds, the stem would arch down putting the flower out of his reach. Now keep in mind that there are PLENTY of other zinnias to munch, but he seemed intent on this one small flower.

As I watched, he slid sideways on the stem until it started to bend. Then he pinched the thin stem in his beak, not breaking it but crimping it. Next he grabbed the stem just beyond the crimped spot and worked at bending it back and folding it against the

stronger end of the stem. With his little goldfinch "feet" clenched firmly around both stems, he held them together and inched his way back to where the flower was and enjoyed his snack! With both stems together to make a stronger perch, he didn't have any trouble getting the seeds.

I was amazed! This particular goldfinch must be an Einstein among goldfinches! How did he figure the puzzle out? Where did he learn to bend a stem for his benefit? It almost seemed like rudimentary tool usage. Where there's a will there's a way as the saying goes. Will wonders never cease!?

Reprinted with permission from: "The PSO Pileated" newsletter, December 2021.

### PENNSYLVANIA WINTER RAPTOR SURVEY

The twenty second PAWRS Project is now on the books. Thanks to all who continue to contribute to the project. It really was a WINTER survey this year. More snow cover than in recent years, but raptor numbers were seemingly not negatively affected by "real" winter. Hours spent doing the survey are **908**, topping last year's record of 890.

Harriers - a good year at **131**, up over 65%

Red-tails - **3259**, up from 2994 last year.

Rough-legs - low at **55**, up from 41 last year.

Kestrels - **635** up from 626 last year

Turkey Vultures - **2975** Black Vultures - **972**

Bald Eagle - **704**, record high.

Sharp-shins - **45** - about average

Cooper's Hawks - **144**, record high.

Red-shoulders - **219** record high.

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## PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP



Presque Isle Audubon wants to welcome all new and renewal members in our chapter. When you join National Audubon, you get a free membership for a year in our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. Hope to see you at one of our field trips or programs. Because of Covid, our programs have been on Zoom, but we should be able to have them in person in the near future. Hope to see all of you there. Programs will be held on the 3rd Friday each month at the Tom Ridge Center or via Zoom.

Erie: David Wooledge, Cate Kager, Mary Hembrow Snyder, Meg Kessler, Mary May, James Kinney, Carol Thomas, Carolyn Skobodzinski, James & Rosemarie Pitetti, William Dzuricky, Sean Lynch, Ray Skelton, Lori Foster, Rena Wiebinski, Emille Engel, David Leemhuis, Louise Petroff, Joan Loesel, Thomas Hansen, Paul & Theresa Podbielski, Donald Stefanski, Janet Price, Valerie Link, Diane Rutkowski, Deborah Bernardini, D. Bashline, James Menzel, Alex Vinesky, Roberta Morrison, Lorin Blakeslee, Patricia Wigham, Deborah Knapp, Jennifer Ferrick, Doris Allen, Emily Briglia, Josh Larsen, Paul Burroughs, Shannon Thompson, Richard Lutton, Kathi Lutton. Anna Marie Senita,

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Centerville: Cheryl Harvey

Cochranon: Mary Richards

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Conneautville: Phyllis Terrill

Edinboro: Ihor Bemko, Michael Dent, Suzanne Winterberger, Jerry Covert, Tim Banks, Elizabeth Dilla

Fairview: Greg Gorniak, Patricia Howell

Linesville: Celestine Pilarcik, Kathleen Balwin

Guys Mills: Jane Byham

Meadville: Donald Vrabel, Kathryn Wolfe, Paul & Deb Dickey

North East: William Lawry, John Ion

North Springfield: Susan Barton

West Springfield: C. Humphrey

Titusville: Judy Stevenson

Waterford: Lois Wiley

Traverse City, Mi: Kirk Waterstripe

Sarasota, Fl: Laura Koitsch

~Ron Intriери, Membership Chairman  
Any problems or questions, email me at [membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)

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](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  
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.

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

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Ronald Intrieri, Membership  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center  
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**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

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