



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8

ERIE, PA 16505

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE 23:05

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.

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Have you heard about the Solar for Schools bill that passed the PA House of Representatives in late June? And how it applies to birds?

PA House Bill 1032, introduced by Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler of Philadelphia, would issue grants to public schools and community colleges so they could construct solar energy arrays on their properties. The Pennsylvania Audubon Council fully supports this proposed legislation, recognizing that it offers a path toward reducing our reliance on the fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and adversely affect birds.

The program would fund 50% of the cost of project construction. Federal money from the Inflation Reduction Act would cover 30-50% of installation costs, with school districts responsible for the remaining 0-20% plus operation and maintenance costs. School districts and taxpayers would save money, jobs would be created, and the amount of clean energy coming onto the grid would be increased. Districts that already have solar installations report substantial savings from reduced electrical bills. For a real-life example, check out this article about a small PA school district's positive experience with solar power: [solar in Steelton-Highspire School District](#)

The PA Audubon Council is keeping in touch with Rep. Fiedler's staff about the progress of this legislation, as the bill must also be passed by the PA Senate to become law. The Council

will keep us informed about the progress of this bill in the Senate, and let us know when we need to contact our PA Senators to encourage them to vote in favor of it. As President of Presque Isle Audubon, I'll be sending a letter of encouragement to all the PA Senators in Erie and Crawford Counties, where our members reside.

Keep in touch!

~Sue Murawski, President
president@presqueisleaudubon.org

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!



Eastern Kingbird

August 8, Tuesday – Erie Gives Day

September 15, Friday – PIA Program
September 20, Wednesday - PIA Executive Board Meeting at 6:00 at the TREC



2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President	Sue Murawski
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Susan Stush
Treasurer	Julie Dell
Retiring President	Drew Mortenson

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2022-2025	Jaimie Miller

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Field Trips	Michele Rundquist Franz
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Programs	Brian Miller
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

PI AUDUBON NEEDS YOU!

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 Board chair positions. Two spots are open now, and the chairs of the other two committees would like a replacement before they leave the Board.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR: promotes awareness of Presque Isle Audubon by participating with local school groups, environmental groups and the general public, through lectures and activities on birds and nature.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE CHAIR: publicizes through newspapers, PIAS website, radio, and television, the purpose and activities of PIA.

LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT

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, the webmaster, 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, you would 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 are 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 PROGRAMS – SEPTEMBER and OTHERS

SHARING NATURE: AN EDUCATOR'S WEEK
Friday, September 15, 7:00pm



Locals Taylor Hinton and Tina Fuhrman, this year's Presque Isle Audubon scholarship winners, will be sharing their experiences from their time on coastal Maine's Hog Island Audubon Camp on September 15, 2023, at 7pm in the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Theatre. Taylor and Tina participated in "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" in which participants "learn practical approaches and add inspiration to your environmental education curriculum during this action-packed program. Our experienced and enthusiastic instructors share their favorite approaches, methods, and activities for engaging both children and adults with nature" ([Hog Island Audubon website](#)).

PIA OCTOBER PROGRAM

Birds of Costa Rica
Friday, October 20

7:00pm in person at the TREC

Michael Fialkovich will share his knowledge and experience with the birds of Costa Rica.

PIA NOVEMBER PROGRAM
SEABIRDS OF THE ATLANTIC

Friday, November 17
7:00 pm via Zoom

Kate Sutherland will explore the Atlantic seabirds with a special focus on the Bermuda Petrel.

NEW PRESQUE ISLE BOARD MEMBER



Brian and his daughter, Olive

Our incoming Program Director, Brian Miller, absolutely loves birds and cares about the conservation of the earth's biodiversity. Brian is a history professor at Allegheny College where he focuses on the history of less commonly heard voices to expand and enrich our understanding of the past. Brian plans to bring this same focus to his work as program director and to expand the community of birders in northwest Pennsylvania. Brian loves chasing rare birds with his daughter Olive although, for Brian, it is not about the destination of a rare bird find but rather the journey of searching and experiencing the wondrous flora and fauna of the natural world. We welcome Brian to Presque Isle Audubon!



SAVE THE DATE!

Thank YOU! for supporting the one day of community-wide spirit. Your generosity is inspiring! Thousands of donors, just like you, from all over the country and globe...GIVE. Be one of them!

REFLECTIONS OF A VISITOR

Submission for the *Presque Isle Audubon Society Newsletter* by Stephanie Kane
stkane@indiana.edu
June 14, 2023

On a one-night stop-over last summer, a friend took my husband and I to a beach in Presque Isle to watch the sunset over Lake Erie. I fell in love, and like migrating birds heading north, we returned this spring for a longer stay. On the morning of May 27, the tail end of spring migration, I forced myself to get up early so as to join a small group of experienced birders on Presque Isle at 8 AM. I had emailed Michele the night before to introduce myself as a first-timer and double-check that the Saturday morning field trip on the website was proceeding as planned. And there she was when I got to the Stull Interpretive Center, smiling as she handed me a pair of Nikon binoculars and introducing me to everyone one-by-one as they arrived. Then we car-pooled to our destination, Dead Pond Trail, where we happened upon another small group from the Erie Bird Observatory.

Everyone was so friendly and helpful, including the multi-species birds flying, perching and calling within observable range. It didn't take me long to be able to see the shape or movement of a bird someone would point out, and as instructed, hold my head in position (using my nose as a sight line) and lift the binoculars to my face. Boom! A bird, seemingly as close as if it were sitting on my finger, the colors vibrant, the expression, so alive! A few minutes later, another, and another kind. Simply marvelous.

Back home in Bloomington, Indiana, birds sometimes perch right near me as I sit on my deck. So I was unprepared for the unique thrill of seeing them for the first time through binoculars. The Observatory leader called out, "A Life Bird! You get to eat a piece of pie!" Well, I would have had to eat at least a whole pie on this day if I followed this rule. I started writing down and sketching each new species I saw

(which surprised me because I never did get the fascination with list-making). Helpfully, Julie accompanied our encounters with an open field guild providing names, behavioral details and pictures to supplement the group's deep familiarity with the birds we were seeing and hearing, some nesting, some just passing through. Looking back at my notebook, I can confidently say that I saw up close and personal a "Common Yellow Throat," a warbler with a black mask Michele calls "Bandit" (my first Life Bird); Killdeer; Plovers; a Baltimore Oriole; an Eastern Wood Peewee; a Great Crested Flycatcher; among others.

I've been searching for a way to capture the unique thrill of seeing birds through binoculars for the first time. The closest I can come is this: I've talked to artists, painters, who grew up looking at art only in books. When they eventually had the opportunity to visit museums to see the paintings themselves, new worlds opened up. Wow. That's how I feel about learning to bird with the PIAS group—happy! Thank you ever so much!



FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS
MAY 17, 18, 19, 2024
SAVE THE DATE

Our 2024 Festival of Birds planning is underway! May 17, 18, and 19th will feature workshops, guided field trips as well as great food and friends! Mark your calendar today and be on the lookout for further information!

MEMBER REPORT

Thanks to all of our new members and to all those that rejoined. Hopefully in the future we can all get together at the Tom Ridge Center for our membership meetings. In the meantime, see you at one of our field trips which are listed in our chapter newsletter. We are trying to get our members to get the Tern of Events on their email. If any of the new members did not list their email address, and want the email version, let me know.

Erie: Michele Rundquist Franz, Lucie Devries, Ron Vicander, Shayne & Patricia Hoachlander, Sonna Miaczynski, Jaimie Miller, Roy Voshall, Maggie Gleason, Martin Kelly, Stephanie Wood, Liz Carlson, Mary May, Patricia Wigham, John Presogna, Sheryl McIntosh, Darl Copen, Phyllis Kitchen, Bob Arnone, Sheila McLaughlin, Herbert Armes, John Vanco, Lyman Cohen, Sandra Wiest, Carol Runser, Barbara Hauck, Margaret Solomon, Bernard O'Connor, Darlene Rzodkiewicz, Daniel Barber, Dorothy Hodapp, Katherine Beaver, Roy Voshall

North East: Sue Cyphert, Katie Hazen, Kim Gaydos

Beaver Falls, PA: Leo Meier

Cherry Creek, NY: Bonnie Bowen

Conneautville, PA: Tomas Nonnenmacher

Edinboro: Jennifer Ferrick, Betty Deforce, Debbie Zahler, Candice Kemp

Elkridge, MD: Michael & Tammy Griffith & family

Fairview: Richard Hunter

Harborcreek: William Joslin

Jamestown, PA: George Summers, Andrea Hutton

McKean: Jack Braun

Meadville: Kimberly Boal, Diana Brautigam, Kathleen Lascola

New Wilmington, PA: Mandy Medvin

Titusville: Emily Pollard

Trafford, PA: Karen Rose Cercone

Union City: Cynthia Dingle

Venango, PA: Robert Craft

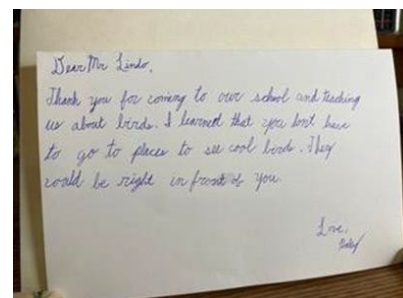
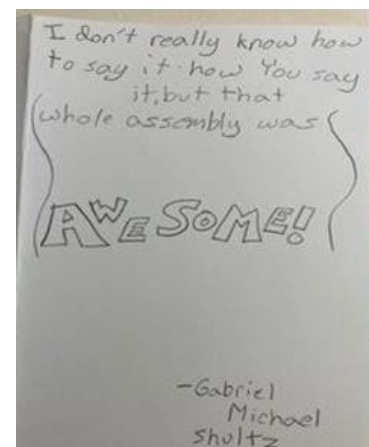
Waterford: Linda Bruno

Wexford, PA: Ed Weller

Any questions, just email me.
~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

RESPONSE FROM STUDENTS AT ST. JAMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RE DAVID LINDO'S PRESENTATION

Hard to read but make the effort. It's worth it!



THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from June 1 to July 27, 2023, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Northern Shoveler—1; June 26 to the second week of July; Gull Point; J.M. (Below)



American Avocet—4; July 1; Gull Point; M.B. 4; July 11; Gull Point; D.S.B. Up to 3; July 14 to 17; Gull Point; A.L., et al.

Whimbrel—total of 8; June 12; Gull Point

Marbled Godwit—2; June 30; Gull Point; R.K. 1; July 8; Gull Point; Y.L. 1; July 14; Gull Point; A.L. 1; July 27; Gull Point; J.M.

Red Knot—1; July 27; Gull Point; J.M.

Stilt Sandpiper—2; July 19; Gull Point; R.K. Up to two; July 26 & 27; Gull Point; J.M.

White-rumped Sandpiper—total of 16; June 10 to 25; Gull Point; R.D., et al.

Willet—total of 11; June 28 to July 27; Gull Point; J.M., et al.

Snowy Egret—1; June 7 & 8; Gull Point; S.S. (fide J.F.), J.M. resp.



SNOWY EGRET

Black-crowned Night-Heron—1; June 14; P.I.; J.B.



BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON

(Continued on Page 7)

THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Osprey—13 or 14 nest sites in the county, with at least a dozen active ones; July; Erie County; J.H.

Black Tern—1; June 8; Howard Eaton Reservoir; R.K. 2; June 24; Waterford; J.H.



BLACK TERN

Grasshopper Sparrow—2; June 29; Girard (Battle Museums of Rural Life); J.C.

Lincoln's Sparrow—1; June 6; Dead Pond Trail J.B.; record late in the county by 6 days, first June record.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—1 or 2; June 30; Gull Point; J.B., J.M., B.M.

Prothonotary Warbler—10 boxes placed on Presque Isle, 10 eggs laid, 10 young hatched and six young fledged. Summer 2023; J.H.



PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Olive-sided Flycatcher—2; June 5; P.I.; J.B. 1; June 14; SGL #109; J.B., J.F.

Cape May Warbler—1; June 5; Presque Isle; J.B. Record late in the county by five days.



CAPE MAY WARBLER

Contributors: M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, D.S.B.-Doris & Scott Brookens, J.C.-John Campbell, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, J.H.-Jamie Hill, R.K.-Ripley Kindervater, A.L.-Annette Lambert, Y.L. - Yianni Laskaris, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, B.M.-Brian Miller, S.S.-Sarah Sargent, m.ob. many Observers

~Jerry McWilliams jerrymcw@aol.com

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.

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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.

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Erie, PA 16505