



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE 22:05

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.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

The six birding backpacks we put together are now at the Erie County Public library system. Each library branch and the Bookmobile have one to loan out. Each contains two sets of binoculars and two birding guides, one each for adults and children. Now you can go to the library's website and put in your backpack reservation, then take a young friend out birding. One comment about this project on the Library's Facebook Page caught my attention: "What a great idea. Now I just need a guide!" I guess we need to advertise our field trips more widely. I'm so grateful to Kowa for donating 6 pairs of bins outright, and to Vortex for their 50% discount.



(Jennifer, Julie, Jaimie, Marion and Sue)

Here's a good reason to go soon to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and head up to the second floor.

Check out the first-rate display about the history and activities of Presque Isle Audubon over the years. (Cont. on Page 2)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THINGS TO DO!



- August 6, Saturday** – Field Trip at Six Mile Creek Park (Page 3)
- August 9, Tuesday** – Erie Gives Day – Donations are Welcome (Page 5)
- August 20, Saturday** – Field Trip at Gull Point Trail (Page 3)
- September 16, Friday** – PIA Program: Hog Island Educators' Week: Reflections on Stewardship and Eco-Justice. Room 112 At the TREC (Page 3)
- September 17, Saturday** – Field Trip at Pine Tree Trail (Page 3)
- September 20, Tuesday** - PIA Board Meeting at 6:00 at the TREC

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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.)

Put together by Board members Jaimie Miller and Jennifer Ferrick, the exhibit will be up until the end of October, along with the displays of other Presque Isle Partners (DCNR, Purple Martin Association, Friends of TREC, PA Game Commission, Presque Isle Partnership and Sea Grant).



Your Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to fund window treatments at TREC to prevent bird window collisions that stun and kill birds. Per Holly Best, Assistant Park Manager, DCNR conducted a daily, year-long study of the grounds around TREC to look for dead or injured birds. They found several, which wasn't surprising. Give them a few months then look for CollidEscape dots on the windows around the café patio and theater area, although they're designed to be inconspicuous to people. Thanks to long-time member Ken Andersen for agreeing to serve as Board Trustee, and new member Jaimie Miller for also signing on as Trustee. It helps to have more people on the Board when it comes to making decisions involving money.

Anybody interested in taking over production of this bimonthly newsletter? Janet Price, who has done the job for decades, says each issue takes 4-5 hours to construct. Qualifications include familiarity with Presque Isle Audubon and Microsoft Word. We've got an official job description with details about how to generate this newsletter; let me know if you'd like to read it.

Keep in touch! Sue Murawski
president@presqueisleaudubon.org

FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Our bi-weekly birding field trips will resume this month. 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. Waterproof clothing and shoes are recommended. 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.



August 6th: Six Mile Creek Park on Clark Road, Harborcreek Township for local songbirds, woodpeckers, kingfishers. Meet in the parking area at the end of the driveway.

August 20th: Gull Point Trail and observation tower for shorebirds, local songbirds

September 3rd: NO FIELD TRIP

September 17th: Pine Tree Trail for warblers and other migrants returning to their wintering grounds

October 1st: Fry's Landing for warblers and other migrants returning to their wintering grounds

~Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Trip Chair

PIA SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Hog Island Educators' Week: Reflections on Stewardship and Eco-Justice

September 16, 2022

TREC Room 112



Jill Hyatt will share an overview of her experience at the Hog Island Audubon Camp, including the Puffin restoration project and exploration of intertidal zones. She will also cover how she will integrate lessons learned about stewardship and social justice within the environmental science field and their application to teaching.



Jill Hyatt is a veteran educator who specializes in helping students find and explore their passions. She just started her 19th year as a gifted enrichment teacher at Crawford Central school district. She also spent more than 15 years teaching science and creative movement at Creating Landscapes summer program at Allegheny College. She has a Master's in Education from Smith College and a B.A. from Allegheny College. She resides in Meadville, with her husband and two daughters. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, hiking, paddle boarding, yoga, and modern dance choreography.

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THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from May 21 to July 23, 2022 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

American Avocet—up to 2; July 11 & 12; Gull Point; M.B. 1; July 21; Gull Point; D.M.

White-rumped Sandpiper—total of 9; May 22 to July 2; Gull Point; M.B., R.D., resp. 10; May 16; Gull Point; M.B., R.D., resp. (Below)



Whimbrel—1; May 26; Gull Point; M.B. 1; May 30; Gull Point; J.F. (See Below)



Whimbrel—4; June 9; Gull Point; M.B.
Marbled Godwit—1; June 4; Gull Point; R.D., et al.

Willet—1 or 2; June 22 & 25; Gull Point; M.G., M.B., resp. 1; July 2; Gull Point; M.B.

Black Vulture—1; May 21; Erie Bluffs S.P.; S.M.

Least Tern—up to 2; June 15 & 20; Gull Point; J.H., M.B., resp. (See Below)



Olive-sided Flycatcher—1; June 3; Gull Point; D.G. 1; June 13, Dead Pond Trail; K.A.



Olive Sided Flycatcher

Stilt Sandpiper—1; July 15; Gull Point; M.B.



Stilt Sandpiper
(Cont. on Page 5)

THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Lesser Black-backed Gull—1; June 17; Gull Point; J.D.

Western Meadowlark—1 singing bird on territory; May 24 to June 10; Howard Eaton Reservoir; J.F., S.M., and T.L. (See Below)



Second county record Bullock's Oriole X Baltimore Oriole—1; May 15; Erie feeder; R.S.

Prothonotary Warbler—Several nests with young using artificial nest boxes; from early June through at least mid-July; from the entrance of the park to Vista 1; J.Hi.



Prothonotary Warbler

Contributors: K.A.-Katie Andersen, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.D.-Jonathan Debalco, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jim Flynn, M.G.-Maddy Glinski, D.G.-Doug Graham, J.H.-Joshua Heiser, J.Hi.-Jamie Hill, S.M.-Sam Meigs, T.L.-Tim Lyons, D.M.-Doug Massey, S.M.-Sue Murowski, R.S.-Ruth Swaney,

~Jerry McWilliams jerrymcw@aol.com
3508 Allegheny Rd.,
Erie, Pa. 16508-2129

FEEDING THE BIRDS AT PRESQUE ISLE

Carrie Robinson, a DCNR staffer at Presque Isle Park's Ranger Station, is happy to accept donations of bird food to keep the birdfeeders full outside of the Station. She says, "I seem to do best at Valu Home Center. I get almost everything there, it's a fair price, and one stop for everything. The birds like Morning Song products: the Cardinal wild bird seed, and the Trail Mix wild bird food, which is mostly peanuts. Woodpeckers especially love the Morning Song Year-Round suet. I also get a lot of success with the Audubon Park Wild Finch and Small Songbird mix. I have found a similar product called Better Bird Finch food at Buzz-N-B's pet store. Tractor Supply Company's Royal Wing Fruit & Nut mix is good. I don't have much storage space and I wouldn't want the food to go bad or get eaten by mice, so I need to be notified before you bring in any donations."

If you'd like to donate, first call the Ranger Station at 814-833-1495.

Or email Carrie at: carisnew2k@aol.com



Erie Gives is a powerful source of funding for Presque Isle Audubon. We are so appreciative of all our donors!

- **Day and Time:** Tuesday, Aug. 9, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EDT
- **Gift Amount:** The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give.
- **Credit Cards:** Only Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted.
- **Prorated Match:** The Erie Community Foundation and their sponsors enhance all gifts by providing a prorated percentage match to each gift made.

BARN SWALLOWS on PRESQUE ISLE, 2022

By Issie Lawrie, PIA Member



This year I had the pleasure of watching Barn Swallows nest and rear their young on Presque Isle State Park. Observing these birds is one of the most unique and exciting ways to see nature up close. I counted 23 nests at various locations on Presque Isle; there could have been more. When I pointed out the nesting activity to family groups at the Rotary Pavilion, or to youngsters at the floating Fishing Pavilion or to beach goers at the Beach 10 Bathhouse, they were all as thrilled as I to watch these special birds.



Photo by Brian Berchtold

Around 25 years ago, my teacher buddies met weekly at the Cookhouse Pavilion for brunch. The Barn Swallows dove in and out of the pavilion, feeding their young. What a spectacle to watch what David Sibley calls our most graceful swallow. But now that pavilion has the ceiling area enclosed so, sadly, there are no Barn Swallows to see there.

The covered picnic area behind the Rotary Pavilion is another favored, sheltered location for the Barn Swallows to nest. Each spring, at the Festival of the Birds, it is a pleasure and a delight for Festival guests to watch the Barn

Swallows build their nests. It is an incredible experience to see these beautiful birds raise their young. Why watch nature shows on TV when you can see the spectacle of life renewing with your own eyes?

Barn Swallows also caught Jamie's Hill's attention in 1982. Jamie titled his masters thesis "Reproductive Success in the Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*): Effects of Nest Reuse and Age". It is well worth the read. In his research Jamie found that a significant number of Barn Swallows reused the nests that had been made in a previous year. The birds that reused a nest raised more young than those who had to start from scratch and were more likely to raise a second brood. The birds who had to build a new nest made more than a thousand mud-hauling trips, laboring from 8 to 12 days.



Photo by Jamie Hill III

(FYI - The Amish make nest ledges out of corn cobs, either with or without corn kernels still on.)

It is illegal to destroy or disturb nests with birds or eggs in them. After reading Jamie's research I would go one step further and propose that the Barn Swallows' nests be allowed to stay in position all year. Returning birds would have the advantage of reusing their nest and thus improve their reproductive chances.

With bird populations showing a drastic decline overall, this one simple caring action would go a long way to help our feathered friends.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Presque Isle Audubon welcomes the following new members as well as those who rejoined. Any questions, just email me.

Erie: Richard Randolth, Casey Main, Martin Sargent, Mary Schlaudecker, L.M. McLellan, Karen Merlino, Patricia Pora, Dahte Homan, Patricia Borgia, Marti Pastore, Pam Beamish, James Warren, Bertha Ames, Peggy Jones, Patrick Leighton, Kate Schroeck, Roy Walker, E.M. Dail, Thomas Golab, Carolyn Sturtevant, Janice Etchison, Stephen Kroth, Michele Rundquist Franz, Lucie Devries, Jaimie Miller, Carol Allen, Judy Lipsitz

Albion: Elizabeth Rees, Harold Adams

Beaver Falls: Leo Meier

Cambridge Springs: Denise Mielnik

Cherry Creek, NY: Bonnie Bowen

Conneaut Lake: Eileen Bertera

Corry: Tom McCafferty

Edinboro: Tom Parker, Karl Nordberg

Fairview: Debra Wehr

Linesville: Myrna Young

McKean: Heather Kosinski

Meadville: Tom Giovannelli, Ron Mumme

Titusville: Vivian Coxe

Trafford, Pa: Karen Rose Cercone

Waterford: Heather Strohmeier, Kathleen Gray

West Springfield: Diane Lanoue

~Ron Intrieri

membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST PIA TRUSTEE



My name is Jaimie Miller. I am new to Erie and I love spending time with my family and friends. We like to stay active by attending local events, going camping and hiking - but are just as content with a game night with friends!

Me and my family were volunteers and involved with many nonprofit organizations before our move to Erie. PIAS was something I wanted to personally get involved with and expand my knowledge of birds. Therefore, my decision to serve as a PIA Trustee.

Editor's Note:

Jaimie has already been active on PIA activities having worked on the TREC second floor display about the history and activities of the Presque Isle Audubon over the years.

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 jrpikm@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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TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
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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 _____

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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:

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

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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
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