



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2015 ISSUE 15:10

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

Getting Back to Our Roots

In this Perch I'll talk a little bit about how under the leadership of David Yarnold, CEO of the National Audubon Society since 2010, the Audubon mission has figuratively returned to its roots and how a new strategy for creating bird-friendly communities asks us to literally get back to our roots.

On Saturday November 14th, Lisa Danko, Mary Birdsong and I represented the Presque Isle Audubon at the Western Pennsylvania Audubon Chapters and Partner Gathering at the lovely Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. Beechwood serves as home to the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) who served as great hosts of the event. Sarah Sargent was also there on behalf of Audubon PA and Audubon's Important Bird Area program. There were representatives from several Audubon chapters in western PA and southern NY there as well. In addition to chapter representatives, there were officers and staff from Audubon PA, including Executive Director, Phil Wallis and from the National Audubon Society, including Leigh Altadonna, regional director of National Audubon Society's Atlantic-North Region. This meeting was a great way to connect those of us in the vast Audubon network who serve at the chapter level to those who develop the policies and set the goals for the future of Audubon.

Under Yarnold's leadership, Audubon's distributed network is becoming a coordinated, collaborative force for hemispheric conservation. With 463 local Chapters, 22 state offices and 44 Audubon Centers across the country, Audubon connects nearly four million people using science, advocacy and education. "We are all Audubon," Yarnold says.

This small gathering is something new that National Audubon Society is trying in an effort to bring chapters within a region together to share with each other their successes and challenges, ideas and aspirations.

(Cont. on Page 2)

DECEMBER/JANUARY THINGS TO DO!



December 19, Saturday - Christmas Bird Count, Presque Isle State Park. Meet at The Ranger Station at 7:00am

January 19, Tuesday - Executive Board Meeting at 6:00pm in the Board Room

January 26, Tuesday - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00pm in the Board Room

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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.)

It is also an opportunity to share this information with representatives of state and national Audubon as well as for them to share with us, the chapters, the boots on the ground so to speak, the goals of Audubon at large. NAS is currently developing a revised strategic plan that is in many ways an update to the strategic plan developed and adopted in 2012, which has been guiding Audubon for the past five years. The 2012-2015 NAS Strategic Plan is comprised of 5 basic Conservation Strategies:

1. Putting Working Lands to Work for Birds and People,
2. Sharing Our Seas and Shores,
3. Saving Important Bird Areas,
4. Shaping a Healthy Climate and Clean Energy Future and
5. Creating Bird-Friendly Communities.

This comprehensive strategic plan was the first that NAS had developed in over 20 years. It was part of the turnaround in the organization spearheaded by Yarnold after he took over the reins at NAS.

The organization had wandered away from its core mission, which is large-scale conservation through birds, and most of the organization wanted to get back to that mission and so did the board. I wasn't introducing a new idea – it was about coming home. People like coming back to a mission that is close to their hearts.
~David Yarnold.

Figuratively, **getting back to our roots!**

David O'Neill, National Audubon Society's VP of Conservation Strategies and Special Provider to the CEO, provided us an overview of the proposed 5 year strategic plan, but because this meeting was only a few hours long with much information to cover, he focused primarily on one of the strategies, Creating Bird-Friendly Communities.

(Cont. on Page 3)

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

One of the main approaches within the Creating Bird-Friendly Communities strategy is the use of native plants and control of invasive species. Literally, **getting back to our roots!**

David spoke of a goal of creating the largest wildlife sanctuary in the world, one yard at a time, by educating our members and communities about the importance of planting native plants. The NAS calls this vision a "native plant movement" with a goal of transforming 20 million acres into bird-friendly habitat. The five year goal is 1,000,000 people, planting 1,000,000 acres of native plants. Among the methods for achieving this goal is converting lawns to native plant gardens. This could include school yards, public parks, corporate and educational campuses. Other strategies include recognizing habitats that are and are likely to remain suitable for birds and focusing on protecting and conserving them into the future. Other habitats that may not be suitable now can be restored through the removal of invasive species and the planting of native beneficial species. Additionally, the plan involves strategies for creating more nesting and roosting structures for birds including chimney swift towers.

We heard from Bob Petty, Audubon's Director of Bird Friendly Communities (live via Skype) who has been tasked with developing a list of Audubon-approved plants, comprised of the most appropriate and beneficial plants in each climate zone, as well as devising ways chapters can help create bird-friendly communities. We also heard from Brian Shema, the ASWP's Director of Operations, Jim Bonner, Executive Director of ASWP and Roxanne Swann, the ASWP's Plant Center Coordinator about some of their efforts in creating bird-friendly communities and how other chapters may be able to network with them in our own efforts to create bird-friendly communities in our region. Among the suggestions offered by NAS and ASWP are: giving presentations to local community groups, talking to nurseries and garden centers

about carrying Audubon-recommended native plants, distributing brochures about native plants, talking to friends and neighbors (certainly, each of us can do that) and advising property owners about bird-friendly landscaping. The PIA is already involved in much of this, but I'd like to commit us to doing more. I plan on contacting several of the local nurseries in our area and asking them if they would consider carrying more native species and educating them about Audubon's Native Plant Initiative. If they agree to carry more recommended native plants, we will agree to recommend them as a source for native plants to those we educate about the native plant movement/initiative. Lisa, Mary and I also simultaneously came up with ideas to collaborate with the Erie Garden Tour including possibly rewarding the most bird-friendly native flower garden and/or giving an award for a garden that was converted from primarily non-native species to native species. In other words, the meeting got us all thinking about ways we can help our community become more bird-friendly and be a part or the largest bird sanctuary in the world.

While writing letters to our government leaders can be one way of helping the birds, and, thereby, the planet, the native plant movement is definitely something I think we can all get behind and see the difference we can make. Let's do this. If each of us can commit to planting one or two native plants we can start this revolution moving. Tell your family, tell your neighbors and keep setting a good example for your community by getting back to your roots and joining the revolution.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, President

ANSWERS TO FOWL DEFINITIONS PUZZLE

A 4	G 16	M 2	S 5	Y 1
B 9	H 17	N 10	T 26	Z 24
C 15	I 7	O 11	U 14	
D 6	J 20	P 23	V 12	
E 18	K 8	Q 3	W 25	
F 22	L 21	R 19	X 13	

BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Oct. 19, 2015 to Nov. 21, 2015 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Snow Goose - 1 white; Nov. 18; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. (Below)



Common Loon 1400 (high count); Oct. 31; Sunset Point (Waterbird count); J.M.

Red-necked Grebe total of 7; Oct. 23 to Nov. 21; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

American Bittern 1; Oct. 25; Gull Point; M.D.



AMERICAN BITTERN

White-rumped Sandpiper 1; Nov. 9; Leo's Landing; D.S.

Little Gull 1; Oct. 21; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.
1; Oct. 24; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.
1; Oct. 29; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Short-eared Owl 1; Oct. 24; Gull Point; R.D.
1; Nov. 6; Gull Point; R.D.
2; Nov. 19; Gull Point; R.D.

White-eyed Vireo 1; Oct. 22 (late); Erie; N.A.

Franklin's Gull up to 3; Nov. 14; off vista 2; A.P., J.M.

Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Nov. 12; channel; A.L.

Lapland Longspur 2; Oct. 30; Gull Point; G.M.
1; Nov. 15; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. (Below)



Parasitic Jaeger 1; Oct. 29; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Oct. 30; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., G.M.



PARASITIC JAEGER

Tree Swallow 12 (high count); Nov. 18 (late); Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Common Redpoll 1; Nov. 15; Fisher Drive; T.L.

Contributors: N.A.-Nancy Andersen, M.D.-Michael David, R.D.-Roger Donn, A.L.-Alex Lamoreaux, T.L.-Tim Lenz, G.M.-Geoff Malosh, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, A.P.-Aidan Place, D.S.-Don Snyder

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chairman
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Audubon

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

**DECEMBER 19, 2015
ERIE, PA**

Between December 14, 2015 and January 5, 2016, hawk-eyed volunteers across the country will brave various weather conditions to count birds during the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). On **Saturday December 19th**, birders and nature enthusiasts in Erie will take part in this tradition, many rising before dawn to participate in the longest running wildlife census on the planet.

The tradition continues here in Erie with participants meeting at the Presque Isle State Park Ranger Station between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Once gathered, "teams" will form to canvas assigned areas of the park and count the birds that they see. At noon, teams will reconvene at the Ranger Station for lunch (bring a brown bag lunch) to do the initial tally and determine what areas of PI and the surrounding area remain to be counted. If you can't commit to the full day, we welcome participants to join us in the morning and leave before or after lunch as long as count data is turned in. There is also a contingency covering other areas of the circle in the county (our count circle has its epicenter at Presque Isle and comprises a 50 mile radius from there). The final tally and dinner will take place at Hoss's restaurant at 5:00 p.m. which is also optional as long as count data is turned in. If you can't make it to Presque Isle, but would like to participate, we can also accept counts from your yard as long as you are within our count circle. Please feel free to contact us at info@presqueisleaudubon.org to see if you are within the circle and how to count the birds you see.

"The data gathered during the Christmas Bird Count is invaluable to the many dedicated scientists who use it to analyze avian population trends over the long term. Equally important, in my mind, is the gathering of the participants, all devoted to making this planet a safer place for birds, other wildlife and, yes, people!" Michele Franz, President of the Presque Isle Audubon and CBC compiler for the Erie County CBC count circle.



Last year's count in Erie revealed another, but smaller, influx of snowy owls, over the year prior. These annual "irruptions" usually occur once every few years, not back-to-back as occurred in the winters of 2014 and 2015. Interestingly, there are already sightings recorded of snowy owls in Pennsylvania and other northern states. "It looks like we may be looking at yet another "snowy" winter. I'm not sure if this has even happened three years in a row in Erie!

The annual Christmas Bird Count is a Citizen Science project organized by the National Audubon Society. There is no fee to participate and the annual published report, American Birds, is available online. Audubon Christmas Bird Count information is also available on-line in Spanish.

For more information and to find a count near you visit, <http://birds.audubon.org/get-involved-christmas-bird-count-find-count-near-you>

FOWL DEFINITIONS

Each bird below can fit one of the clues in the numbered columns. Match them by writing the numbers in the blank spaces. (Answers on Page 3)

A___Albatross U___Rook
B___Bunting V___Skimmer
C___Cardinal W___Snipe
D___Chat X___Swallow
E___Coot Y___Swift
F___Crane Z___Turkey
G___Crow
H___Darter
I___Dipper
J___Duck
K___Eagle
L___Goose
M___Grouse
N___Hawk
O___Kite
P___Nutcracker
Q___Parrot
R___Pigeon
S___Quail
T___Rail

1 Speedy 24 Failure
2 Complain 25 Criticize sneakily
3 Imitate 26 Rant or scold
4 Wearisome burden
5 Shrink back in fear
6 Talk
7 Ladle-like utensil
8 Two on a par 4
9 Patriotic drapery
10 Peddle wares
11 Child's toy
12 Straw hat
13 Believe, naively
14 Swindle
15 Paramount
16 Brag
17 Quick mover
18 Geezer
19 One easily duped
20 Dodge, as duties
21 Silly one
22 Hoisting machine
23 Shell-breaking tool



Presque Isle Audubon

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The holidays are just around the corner, but don't forget your birding friends this time of year. Thank you to the new members to Audubon and to the members for their renewals.

Erie: Jack & Patricia Sims, William Dzuricky, Rebecca Wellejus, Diane & Jay Kellor, Ken Anderson, Robert Barcio, John Linden, Ron Rodrigues, Jeanette Ginsky, Sandra Cashdollar, Tom Pruzenski, Kathryn Perry, Mary Connerty

Albion: Michael Rastetter

Centerville: Dan Miller

Corry: Kathlee Jaquith

Edinboro: Richard Morley

Fairview: Joyce Getz, Thomas Dzuricky

Guys Mills: Carl Smith

Meadville: Sarah Sargent, Lawrence Mencotti, Leonard Strong, Ruth Craig

North East: Marcia Bonalewicz, Michael Tordoff, Susan Hilbrich, Rose Lee, Sally Lund

Philadelphia: Pamela Moore

Saegertown: Judith Acker, Patrick Sheridan

Spartansburg: Virginia Firth

Waterford: Nancy Daub

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The *Tern of Events* will no longer be published ten month of the year. In the name of efficiency, both regarding news availability and finances, the board members, at the suggestion of the editor, agreed that publication will occur every other month beginning in February of 2016 and will continue in April, June, August, October and December. Articles should still be sent to the editor on the 15th of the month prior to printing. Just a reminder that any activities scheduled in February and March should be submitted on January 15 for inclusion in the February issue. You can also check the PIAS website and Facebook for updates on events.

Our President, Michele Rundquist Franz, asked PIA members to complete the three question survey that was included in the November issue of the *Tern of Events* and was also found on the PIAS website. Your input is important so that decisions can be made that serve the members well. If you haven't already responded you still have time until the deadline, December 31, 2015. Either complete the questionnaire on line or mail your response to: Michele Rundquist Franz, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite #8, Erie, PA 16505.

~Janet Price, Editor

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 submission of articles is the 15th of the month preceding the publication month. All published material is subject to editing. Send submissions to Janet Price, editor, via jrplkm@aol.com or, if you have any questions or concerns, call Janet at 814-825-8394.

The newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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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Do you require a paper copy? _____

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Ronald Intrieri, Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
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**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 _____
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Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to:

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