



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024 ISSUE 24:01

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

Season's Greetings to All! Lots of good news to share with you.

\$10,000 grant to Tamarack Wildlife Center

Thanks to generous endowments from past members of Presque Isle Audubon, the Board was able to award a \$10,000 grant to Tamarack Wildlife Center in Saegertown, PA. On November 15, a check was given to Carol Holmgren, CEO of TWC, to be used for the purchase and installation of a generator to provide electricity during power outages. Electricity is key to the functioning of their center, which is vulnerable to an outage given its rural location and more frequent severe storms. They have experienced multiple outages of two hours or more in the last few years. TWC is dependent on electricity to power incubators and freezers, to run their well's pump for water, to run lights in the basement patient treatment areas, and for heat. This project fulfills one of the main missions of PIA, to promote bird-friendly communities. We are so happy to help this partner in conservation!

Scholarship for Watershed Steward Training

Birds need lots of clean, accessible water, right? PIA is happy to fund a scholarship to the Penn State Extension's Master Watershed Steward 2024 training. Since 2021, this program has helped created a robust and thriving community of local stewards striving for better water quality, and provided resources and education in our region. If you are interested in learning more about this training, visit their website:

[Master Watershed Stewards](#)

Funding for Audubon's Bird-Friendly Habitat Recognition program

Have you ever heard of Audubon's Bird-Friendly Habitat Recognition program? It's for folks who want to be acknowledged for providing vital environment for birds. This would include native plants for food, shrub and tree layers to provide shelter and nesting sites, and a water source. PIA will provide funding for Presque Isle Audubon members and others who would like to apply and enroll property in this program! For more information about Bird-Friendly Habitat Recognition, visit: [Bird-Friendly](#) (Cont. on Page 2)

DECEMBER/JANUARY THINGS TO DO!



Dark-Eyed Junco

December 16, Saturday – Christmas Bird Count at Presque Isle, 8:00a (Page 5)

January 17, Wednesday – Board Meeting at 6:00 at the TREC
January 19, Friday - PIA Program (Page 2) Bird Friendly Habitat Recognition by ZOOM

2023-2024 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 Penna. including Erie and Crawford counties.
 Adress: 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
 Erie, PA 16505
 Website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

And plan on attending our virtual Zoom program on Friday, Jan. 19, when Erin Reed Miller from Maryland Audubon will lead a presentation on this project. The Zoom link will be available the morning of the program on the Presque Isle Audubon website.

Online programs from the Audubon Society of Western PA

Now accessible to all! ASWP Zoom programs have recently included Winter Feeder Watch, The Corvids, and Native Plants: Winter Bird Garden. Winter Birds of Western PA is on for Dec. 7, and January will feature programs on the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker and Owls in Winter. A free Zoom account is required to attend. Register for programs at: [ASWP calendar](#)

If you haven't ever registered with ASWP, you will be prompted to create an account, but it's simple and free. Once you're registered, the link will be emailed to you in the confirmation. Keep in touch!

~Sue Murawski, President of PIA

PIA PROGRAM
Audubon Bird-friendly Habitat Recognition Program
January 19, 2024

On January 19, 2024, Erin Reed Miller will lead a zoom presentation on the **Audubon Bird-friendly Habitat Recognition Program**. According to Audubon Pennsylvania, the program "can provide vital habitat and contribute to community conservation. Enrolling your home in the Bird-Friendly Habitat recognition program connects you with a growing community of people across the region who garden with ecology in mind. All contributing to a ripple effect of stewardship that benefits people, birds, and the places we share." Presque Isle Audubon will cover application costs for members. The zoom link will be available the morning of the program on the Presque Isle Audubon website.

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THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Oct. 1 to Nov. 29, 2023, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Snow Goose—2 white; Oct. 11; Fairview; J.Ba.



Snow Goose

Cackling Goose—1; Nov. 18; Edinboro Lake; B.Z.

Brant—up to 70; Oct. 30; Sunset Point (5 birds)(waterbird count), Gull Point (65 birds); J.M., J.B.

Red-necked Grebe—total of 10; Oct. 24 to Nov. 26; Sunset Point (Waterbird count), Gull Point; J.M., et al.

Eared Grebe—1; Nov. 4; near breakwater #14; J.B.

Sandhill Crane—19; Nov. 26; over P.I.; S.T., et al.

Whimbrel 2; Oct. 1; Gull Point; A.M., R.D. 1; Oct. 7; Gull Point; J.B.

Dunlin—610 (high count); Nov. 4; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M.

Purple Sandpiper—total of 4; Oct. 22 (early) to Nov. 29; Gull Point; R.S., J.B., R.D.

White-rumped Sandpiper—1 or 2; Nov. 9 & 12 (late); Gull Point; R.D., J.B. resp. 1; Nov. 20 to 22; P.I.; J.B.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—1; Oct. 1; E end of Pine Tree Trail (flyover); K.A. (See Below)



Red-necked Phalarope—1; Oct. 30; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M.

Jaeger sp. (Parasitic?)—1; Oct. 8; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M. 1; Nov. 28; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M.

Long-tailed/Parasitic jaeger—1; Nov. 11; Presque Isle; J.B.

Parasitic Jaeger—total of 5; Oct. 7 to Nov. 7; Sunset Point; S.S., J.M., J.B. (See Below)



Little Gull—1; Oct. 20; Beach 11; J.B., J.F.

Franklin's Gull—1; Nov. 8; off Leo's; J.B.

Glaucous Gull—1; Nov. 28; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M.

Long-eared Owl 1; Oct. 27; pines; R.D.

Short-eared Owl—total of 13; Oct. 25 to Nov. 29; Gull Point; R.D., et al.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—total of 10; Oct. 31 to Nov. 20; pines & Fry's landing; R.D., L.M.K. (Cont. on Page 4)

THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Rough-legged Hawk—1 or 2; Oct. 19 to 22 (early); Presque Isle; J.F., J.B., R.D.



Rough Legged Hawk

Northern Shrike—1; Oct. 28 & 29; Gull Point; J.B., A.L., resp. 1; Nov. 1 & 2; Gull Point; J.B.

Loggerhead/Northern Shrike—1; Oct 11; Gull Point; J.B.

White-eyed Vireo- 1; Nov 1; Fry's Landing; L.M.K.; 2nd County record for November

Cliff/Cave swallow—1; Oct. 19; Gull Point; J.F.

Blue-gray-Gnatcatcher—1; Oct. 15 to 20; Gull Point; J.B.; First October record. (See Below)



Common Redpoll—1; Nov. 6; Gull Point; J.B. 1; Nov. 15; P.I.; J.B.

Pine Siskin—800+ (high count); Oct. 25; Gull Point; J.F., J.B.

Nelson's Sparrow—1; Oct. 21; Gull Point; J.B., J.F. (See Below)



Orange-crowned Warbler—total of 8; Oct. 9 to 19; Presque Isle; J.B.

Grasshopper Sparrow—1; Oct. 15; N of Pine Tree Trail; J.B.; Second county fall record.

Sedge Wren—1; Oct. 11; Sidewalk Trail; E.H.; County late record by at least a day. 1; Oct. 29 & 30; Gull Point; J.B.: Record late in the county by 19 days. (See Below)



Contributors: K.A. Katie Andersen, J.Ba.-Jim Baxter, J.B.- Jason Bojczyk, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, E.H.-Eric Hall, L.M.K.- Laura Marie Koitsch, A.L.-Alejandra Lewandowski, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, A.M.- Andrew M., S.S.-Steve Schmit, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, B.Z.-Brian Zimmerman

~Jerry McWilliams
jerrymcw@aol.com

**2023 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Saturday, December 16**



Want a fun and meaningful cure for cabin fever!? How about joining PIAS for the 124th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)! The CBC is one of the longest running avian citizen science projects, and began in 1900 when ornithologist, Frank Chapman, proposed counting birds to replace the traditional brutal Christmas side hunt, a competition during which many birds were killed for sport. The CBC is held each year from December 14th through January 5th, with local chapters choosing a date somewhere in that three week span to conduct their official count.

This year, the PIAS CBC will be held on Saturday, December 16th. We will meet on Presque Isle SP at Shelter #2 by 8:00 a.m., form teams, and head out onto designated areas of the park to...count birds! We will reconvene at noon for lunch (bring a bagged lunch and a drink) to do our initial tally and then head back out to cover any uncounted areas as needed.

Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join in on the fun! We will have a few pairs of binoculars available to borrow for the event. Our final tally dinner will be held at 5:30 at Applebee's on West 12th and Peninsula Drive. Participants are welcome and encouraged, but not obligated to attend the final tally dinner. If you have any questions regarding the CBC, please contact us at info@presqueisleaudubon.org. For further details, or please see our website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org and/or our Facebook page.

We do have some teams to cover off-park areas within our count circle and if you are within the circle and wish to participate from home, we welcome your input. Please check out the CBC counting rules on the National Audubon website: www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count and forward your data to info@presqueisleaudubon.org. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you all on December 16th!
~Michele Rundquist Franz, CBC Coordinator

**66th ANNUAL ALLEGANY NATURE
PILGRIMAGE - May 31-June 2, 2024**



Over 100 nature walks and talks in the 65,000 acre Allegany State Park. Birding, Astronomy, Family Nature, Wildflowers, Geology, Owl Prowls, and much, much more. Keynote speakers - Jim McCormac will be presenting "Mysterious Moths: growing the Darker Side of Butterflies." Julie Lundgren from Natural Heritage Program will share all the rare, unique, and unusual plants and animals that are found at ASP making it such a special place. This is a great event with programs for the seasoned naturalist and the beginner.

Reserve your rustic cabin in the Red House Area of Allegany State Park at ReserveAmerica.com or make a hotel reservation at the White Pine Lodge - [716-945-7600](tel:716-945-7600) and mention Allegany Nature Pilgrimage for a discount.

PIAS members receive a discount on registration which begins in early 2024.

For more information, visit www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com

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FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS ANNOUNCEMENT!



May 17th, 18th & 19th, 2024

Full Weekend Registration Now Open!

The weekend is filled with opportunities to learn, to see the birds, to get out on the trails and to simply gather with other bird enthusiasts!

All ages & birding skills welcome.

<https://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/registration.html>



We will be utilizing more of Friday's hours and adding in some field trips and workshops!

We will also have feathered friends joining us from Tamarack Wildlife Center and workshops such as Birding 101, Warblers 101, Song Mnemonics, Native Plants and Herpetology.

Info on our keynote guest speaker, Erro Lehnert can be found here:

<https://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/keynote-speaker.html>

Now is a good time to plan for a registration for yourself, or buy as a gift for friends and family! Our online, weekend registration will open in the beginning of December. Can't wait to see you there!

~Festival Committee

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON WANT ADS!!!



PIA IS looking for people who enjoy working with others and who want to make northwestern PA a bird-friendly region. Two spots are open now, and the chairs of the other two committees would like a replacement before they leave the Board.

OPEN NOW:

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

Publicity Committee chair: publicizes 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.

Publications Committee chair: compiles the Society's newsletter as Editor of the *Tern of Events*.

What else is involved in being on the Board? Attending bimonthly Board meetings, and in between meetings, reading Board correspondence about upcoming agenda items.

The President appoints committee chairs for a one-year term upon recommendation of the rest of the Board. New chairs receive an orientation to the Board.

Not sure you're right for the job, or have questions? Come join us at one of our bimonthly Board meetings to meet other Directors and get a feel for how things work. Or contact president@presqueisleaudubon.org

PIA AWARDS TAMARACK FUNDS TO HELP SAVE WILDLIFE !



Julie Dell, Carol Holmgren, Sue Murawski

Tamarack Wildlife Center (TWC) extends deep gratitude to Presque Isle Audubon Society for helping our region's wildlife by awarding our center a grant for \$10,000 that will be used to help acquire and install a generator. This generator will benefit the wildlife treated at TWC by providing critical resilience for our center by assuring continuous access to electricity. Similar to a hospital, TWC is dependent on electricity for many things: powering incubators for delicate patients, running medical diagnostic equipment like our x-ray machine, keeping large freezers full of food for patients cold, and ensuring we have lights and running water needed to provide care.

Our rural location leaves us vulnerable to power outages, but this grant will ensure our patients never have to worry about outages affecting their life-saving care. Tamarack Wildlife Center has been serving our region since its founding in 1989, as northwest

Pennsylvania's only licensed wildlife rehabilitation center. The center specializes in treating raptors and other birds of prey and treats over 1,100 injured wildlife a year. Nearly half of these are birds. We share education programs reaching over 7,000 people of all ages each year throughout our region.

In alignment with the mission of PIA, the goal of our education programming is to promote appreciation and awareness of wildlife, with the hope of creating a community that supports the health of wildlife and humans alike. In our rehabilitation work, we provide a legal, ethical, and safe way for the public to respond to wildlife emergencies, and in so doing, promote the health of both wildlife and the public.

In 2023, we partnered with Erie Bird Observatory to treat injured migrating birds recovered during BirdSafe, Erie's migrating bird monitoring project. Our wildlife helpline responds to over 2,100 calls a year, providing an opportunity to educate people about how to better coexist with wildlife. We are on the front line of monitoring for avian diseases and other issues, updating our community when there are concerns. When the mystery songbird disease was an issue a few years ago, our center identified the first known case in our region and provided public updates regarding recommendations to reduce potential spread. At present, we collaborate with PGC in monitoring Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, among other diseases, and educating the public about the prevention of lead toxicity.

Electricity is key to the functioning of our center. With more frequent storms, interruptions in electrical power at our site are not uncommon, and this is an issue that is not likely to go away. A generator is vital to increasing resilience for our center to provide care for our patients and non-releasable wildlife educational ambassadors and continuing our educational outreach work uninterrupted. Thank you to PIA for this award.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It's almost Winter, and now is still a good time to go birdwatching. I suspect migration is still going on. Anyway, we want to welcome all of our new members and members that rejoined.



Erie: Conrad Mcnees, Rebecca Frost, Diane Kallor, Marion Fuller, Joe Reese Cynthia Wu, Carrie Kontis, Tom MacDonald, Lisa Romecki, Jeanne Distefano, Bridget Moony, James Bemis, Gary Gehrlein, Nora Oslak, Sheila McLaughlin, Kurt Crays, Nancy Morrison, Bruce Baldwin, Debra Sutkoff, Ronald Fall, Patty Johnson, Cheri Stiles-Baron, Barb Vullo, Mike Lyden, Judy Lipsitz, Karen Bukowski, Toni Abramowski, Gloria & Michael Kelly, Carson Nickolay, Clarence Schaney, Kathryn Cardinal, Freda Tepfer, and Gerald McWilliams

Albion: Carol Kumburis, Russell Bromley

Cambridge Sps: Jeremy Ball, Cecily Woodward

Centerville: James Murphy

Cochranon: Curtis Oakes, Jane Toppo

Fairview: Jule McCormack, Jane Levin

Girard: Dorothy Ebert

Harborcreek: Charlene Dedionisio

Lake City: Dorothy Konyha

Linesville: Edwin Steury

Meadville: Rebecca Crosson, Keith Smith, Marie DeLuca, David Shoup, Diane Domnick, Teresa Smith

North East: Sue Murawski, Jane Sceiford, Katherine Ditrich, Roger Coda, Richard Robinson, Barent Rosskamp

Union City: Lori Cullen

Waterford: Michelle Pasiecznik

Dallas, TX: Doug Nichols

Freedom, Pa.: Georgia Wahl

Mexico, NY: Patrick Crotty

Pittsburgh, Pa: Matthew Falcone, C P Kollar

Powell, OH: Gene Reid

Venetia, Pa.: Gigi Gerben

~Ron Intrieri, Membership chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

Decorate the trees and shrubs in your yard with holiday treats for the birds. Slather pine cones with peanut butter and roll in bird seed.

Presque Ise 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 20th of the month preceding publication. All published material is subject to editing.

**PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8
ERIE, PA 16505**

**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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