



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2019 ISSUE 19:01

*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

It never ceases to amaze me how many different interests, hobbies, experiences, and disciplines are brought together in birding. Biology, engineering, ecology, rehabilitation, medicine, data analysis, computer science, predictive analytics, and so many more fascinating skillsets are employed in the love and study of birds. This fact has been on my mind for the past few years, but even more so lately as I have explored one of those connected disciplines in depth.

Tracking animals with the use of radio frequency tags has been around for decades. (Below a bird with a green radio frequency tag.)



It wasn't until a few years ago though that we saw this technology miniaturized in scale, and magnified in majesty, with the application through Project Snowstorm. If you aren't already familiar, Project Snowstorm tracks Snowy Owls and is extremely impressive.

Likewise, in the summer of 2017, I had the good fortune of seeing a tagging and tracking system that Sarah Sargent was using for migratory songbirds. These technologies, combined with the dedication of avid scientists and enthusiasts, are advancing our understanding of birds.

For myself, over the past several months I have been actively studying the world of radio frequency reception and transmission and attained my Amateur Radio (Ham) license.

(Cont. on P. 2)

## DECEMBER/JANUARY THINGS TO DO!



**December 11, Tuesday** – PIA Board Meeting in the TREC Conference Room at 6:00p

**December 15, Saturday** – Christmas Bird Count at Presque Isle at 7:00a. Ranger Station (Page 3)

**December 21, Friday**, - First Day of Winter

**December 25, Tuesday** – Christmas Day

**January 1, Tuesday** – New Year's Day

**January 15, Tuesday** – PIA Board Meeting in the TREC Conference Room at 6:00p

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

### 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers

President	Drew Mortensen
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Sue Murawski
Treasurer	Julie Dell
Retiring President	Michele Rundquist-Franz

#### Board of Trustees

2016-2019	Jason Lymangrover
2016-2019	Kathy Lutton
2017-2020	Issy Lawrie
2017-2020	Michele Rundquist-Franz
2018-2021	Dave Gustafson
2018-2021	Tony Keck

#### Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Lisa Danko
Field Trips	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & JoaoTaveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	TBA
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Jennifer Ferrick
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Sales & Marketing	Issy Lawrie
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

This has been a wonderful journey of learning about frequencies, antenna design, power dissipation, and other physics and engineering fundamentals, but what has captured my attention most is the NEED for a diverse pool of community members to explore and learn in depth the connected fields of study. You do not need to be an engineer or scientist in order to make substantial contributions. Citizens everywhere have contributed to eBird, and as a result we have extraordinary information to utilize.

We, as bird lovers, must continue to educate ourselves in connected fields and share our expertise to help advance the various missions and visions that guide bird studies, habitat restoration, bird rehabilitation, etc...

Presque Isle Audubon is a volunteer organization, made up of nearly 800 members. With such a large group of people, there is certainly a wide assortment of backgrounds and talents, and yet it often seems like the same group of 20-30 people are the ones present and helping with projects and leading the group. Perhaps that is because we don't often know of a need, or maybe it is because we don't recognize our talents as being what are needed. To help create a more involved membership, please fill out the form at <http://tiny.cc/PIAStalents> so that we can tap into your expertise and get you involved in projects that benefit the birds.

-M (Call sign AC3DS - ready to help the birds!)

### EDITOR'S NOTE

The form listed above is named Presque Isle Audubon Membership Skills Inventory and provides you with a space for you to share your skills, interests, hobbies, professional abilities, and other talents so that we might connect with you regarding these and tap into your expertise. The information will be sent to the President of Presque Isle Audubon.

We need and welcome new members, both young and older, in order to achieve our mission. Attend our free monthly Friday evening programs and talk with our members to get acquainted with the work we do.

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)

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



The PIAS Annual Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 15th this year.

Participants will meet at the Ranger Station on Presque Isle between 7:00 & 7:30 AM, form teams and head out to bird designated areas of the park creating a tally as you go.

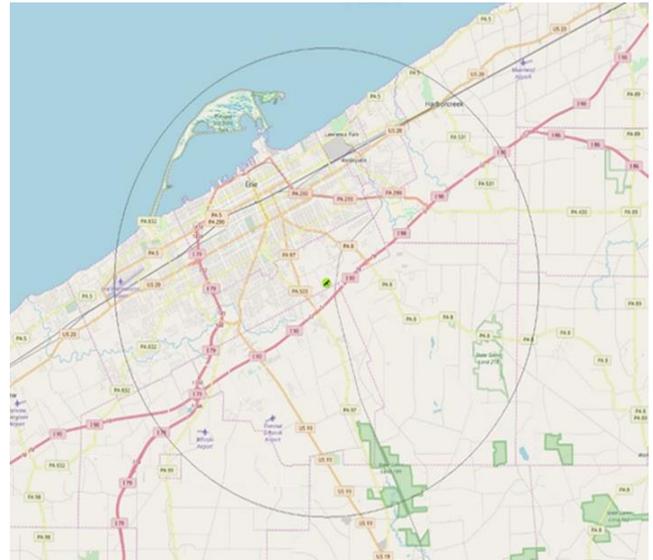
We welcome all birders, no matter your level of experience, to participate in this fun-filled day. We re-assemble back at the Ranger Station for lunch (bring a bag lunch) at noon to discuss preliminary counts. After lunch some participants choose to continue to bird/count areas that might've been missed in the morning.

At 5:00 p.m. we will reconvene at Hoss's Steak House on 26th Street and compile the final tally which will be sent to Cornell and added to the totals from all over the country and many parts of the world.

The dinner is not mandatory, but if you are not attending, please make sure your tally sheet gets to someone who is.

Also, if you cannot attend the event and wish to count in your yard you may do so if you are within the PAER count circle which appears at the end of this article. I will also post a map on our Face Book page and website. If you have any questions, please inquire on our Face Book

page as that is usually our fastest means of getting information back to people.



~Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Trip Chair

## A BIRDER'S CHRISTMAS LIST

What would you get a birder who is a family member or friend for Christmas? You're not a birder yourself and you're at a loss as to ideas. One of our Audubon members suggested that I publish a list of possible gifts that would be appealing and appropriate for that special person. Here is my (The Editor) attempt at carrying out her suggestion with no particular order to the list.

- ✓ Quality Bird Seed from Wild Birds
- ✓ A Bird Feeder
- ✓ A Suet Feeder
- ✓ Suet Cakes
- ✓ Decals for Your Window to Prevent Bird Strikes
- ✓ Natural Parks Pass
- ✓ A Field Guide to Birds or Trees, etc.
- ✓ Organic Fairly Traded Smithsonian Bird Friendly Coffee (Wild Birds)
- ✓ Kitchen Compost Container
- ✓ Maple Syrup
- ✓ Registration to the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle at [presqueisleaudubon.org](http://presqueisleaudubon.org)

## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise from October 1 through November 20, 2018.

**Snow Goose**—3 (1 white, 2 blue); Nov. 16; Sunset Point (WC=Waterbird count); J.M.

**Cackling Goose**—1; Nov. 19; Fairview Industrial Park; D.S.

**Short-eared Owl**—1; Nov. 11; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. (See Below)



**Scaup species**—25,000; Oct. 26. Walnut Creek access (WC); J.M. Record one day high for unidentified scaup.

**Pacific Loon**—1 immature; Nov. 6; Walnut Creek access (WC); J.M. Fifth county record.



Pacific Loon

**Common Loon**—1300 (high count); Nov. 13; east end of Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

**Red-necked Grebe**—2; Oct. 14; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Oct. 21 to 24; channel & Gull Point; J.M., S.T., J.F.

**Eared Grebe**—1; Nov. 11; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. (See Below)



**Sandhill Crane**—5; Oct 14 to 18; Waterford; J.M., J.H. 2; Oct. 16; Siegel Marsh; fide R.D.



Sandhill Crane

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—1; Oct. 19; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

**Parasitic Jaeger**—1; Nov. 8; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—1; Nov. 3; B-trail; R.D. 1; Nov. 18; Erie Ravine, Erie; K.A.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**—1; to at least Oct. 12; Erie; C.T.

(Cont. on Page 5)

## BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

**Eastern Phoebe** 1; Nov. 17 (late); Edinboro Lake; J.H.

**Rufous/Allen's hummingbird**—1; early November to at least Nov. 10; Harborcreek; S.B. (fide K.A.) (See Below)



**White-eyed Vireo**—1; Oct. 18; Perry Monument; J.D.



**White-eyed Vireo**

**Northern Shrike**—1; Nov. 19; Fairview Business Park; D.S.

**Lapland Longspur**—3; Nov. 4; Gull Point; R.D.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—total of 5; Oct. 20 to 22; several sites on P.I.; S.T., J.F.

**Red Crossbill**—2; Oct 9; Fairview; C.K.

**Common Redpoll**—1; Nov. 18; ranger station; B.G.

**Evening Grosbeak**—singles and pairs; Nov. 5 to At least Nov. 15; Greene Twp., McKean, Edinboro, Millcreek Twp., and Waterford; Bob and Pam Zelenak, Diane Oberlander, Carolyn Sturtevant, Craig Van Bell

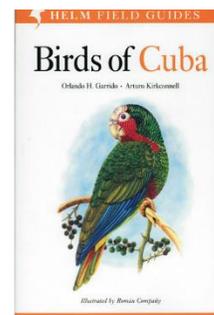


**Evening Grosbeak**

**Contributors:** K.A.-Katie Andersen, S.B.-Sharon Brandt, J.D.-John DePaul, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jim Flynn, B.G.-Bonnie Ginader, J.H.-Jamie Hill, C.K.-Chuck Kern, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.O.-Diane Oberlander, D.S.-Don Snyder, C.S.-Carolyn Sturtevant, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, C.V.B.-Craig Van Bell, B.P.Z.-Bob and Pam Zelenak

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Report Chairman  
814-240-8594 jerrymcw@aol.com

### INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO CUBA?



A birdwatching tour of Cuba is being planned by PIAS members. It will be from March 16 to 26, 2019. If anybody is interested, please contact João Tavares at 474 - 3118 or by email at [jotdyt@verizon.net](mailto:jotdyt@verizon.net) for information.



**MAY 10, 11, 12 - 2019**

If you haven't participated in one of our Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle yet, you've missed a good time, good birding, good food and good friends. There are many reasons why we have achieved maximum attendance over the years a few of which are that we keep the group small, we are very well organized and that many good birds are observed. Our registrants have made friends over the years and look forward to seeing them and birding with them again in successive festivals. Some registrants have even volunteered during the festival so there is a real spirit of camaraderie during the weekend.

There are three times when everyone can get together to compare notes and catch up. The first time is during the welcome reception held Friday evening when finger food and beverages are offered while listening to music by a local musician. The second is during dinner on Saturday evening followed by the keynote address. Yve Morrrell is our keynote speaker this year and will highlight the role and significance of Alaska and Hawaii in Big Year efforts. Yve completed and ABA Big Year in 2017 and ended the year having seen 817 species. The third occasion is on Sunday around noon when lunch is provided and the final bird tally occurs.



The activities during the three days of the festival consist mainly of birding field trips and there is an afternoon of workshops related to birds. There is no need to register for most of the workshops or the walking field trips. There is one workshop that will require registration as well as all pontoon boat field trips. Signing up for these can be done at the registration desk.



Registration will be held in the lobby of the TREC beginning at 12:00 noon on Friday, May 10 and continuing through Saturday afternoon. People who have registered early can sign in and get their welcome bag and those who want to register can do so then, if there is still room. A program with detailed information will be provided to each birder in the welcome bag so plans can be made for each day.

Prior and early registration is recommended until April 10 since the limit is 150 people. If you register after April 10 the rates increase. A new event added this year is Kayak Birding for which you must register early since participation is limited. Registration forms and fees can be found at our website: [presqueisleaudubon.org](http://presqueisleaudubon.org). You will also find tentative information about the field trips and workshops there. If you have questions or want to talk with someone you can call 814-860-4091.

**Come and enjoy the best little festival in the East!**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. We have some new members and some renewals to our Chapter. Keep in mind that when you join National Audubon, you are automatically a member of the local Erie chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. We hope you sign up for our newsletter, the *Tern of Events*. It keeps the members updated on upcoming events and meetings. All of our meetings are held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on the third Fridays of most months.

The new members are:

**Erie:** Deborah Diplacido, Gene DeAngelo, Jane Eakin, Richard Kubiak, Priscilla Hamilton, Tony Keck, Nancy Lamanna, Eva Maloney, Margaret Solomon, Linda Kierstein, John DePaul

**Centerville:** Gloria & Michael Kelly

**Conneaut Lake:** Francis Skripac

**Jamestown, Pa:** Andrea Hutton, Lorna Hodgson

**Meadville:** Augusta Kosco, Mary Tuggle, Marsha Pedone, Linda Bennett

**Mill Village:** Nannette Crawford

**Townville:** Holly Boyer

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman  
[membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)

## REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PLAN FOR THE ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE



At the last Allegany Nature Pilgrimage I spent considerable time in discussions on how to open up this fabulous nature weekend to those less fortunate. I have some ideas but would love to have help creating and implementing this idea. Our natural world is under assault and we must work harder at educating people through exposure to the beauty of the natural world. Being able to share the 61st Allegany Nature Pilgrimage is a start! Contact me at [Lsdanko@hotmail.com](mailto:Lsdanko@hotmail.com) THANK YOU!

~Lisa Danko - Education Chair

### FOR THE BIRDS!

- ✚ Participate in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count.
- ✚ Decorate trees and shrubs in your yard with holiday treats for the birds.
- ✚ Make an edible garland by stringing popcorn, cranberries and raisins.
- ✚ Hang dried pinecones slathered in peanut butter and rolled in seeds.
- ✚ Cut apples into chunks and skewer onto twigs.

The 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  
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8  
ERIE, PA 16505

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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.**

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a paper copy? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Code C8ZU150Z**

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  
Erie, PA 16505**