



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2018 ISSUE 18:01

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

As birds are at the heart of our Audubon mission, it is appropriate that their habitats are the first area which our Strategic Plan identifies as a focal point to achieve our mission. At the November Executive Board meeting, we actively discussed what we have done, are currently doing, and what we hope to do to protect bird habitat. In the section that follows, pulled directly from our five year plan, we outline the basis for how and why we should act.

The Important Bird Areas within the Presque Isle Audubon area (Erie and Crawford Counties) are magnets for birds and people alike. They are designated to protect nesting and migratory bird species that rely on the unique habitats provided. The IBAs in the PIA region are all state recognized:



- Roderick Wildlife Preserve - SGL 314
- Presque Isle Bay Martin Roost
- Presque Isle State Park
- Hemlock Hill Research Area (Private land)
- Cussewago Bottoms
- Pymatuning, Hartstown Complex
- Conneaut Marsh - Geneva Marsh
- Erie National Wildlife Refuge

(Continued on Page 2)

NEW IN THIS ISSUE

Check out **page 3** for a "Letter to Martha". Martha is our go to person for questions about birds and birding.

Be sure to read **page 7** for the announcements sent in by our Audubon members. One of the notices might be your "cup of tea".

DECEMBER/JANUARY THINGS TO DO!



DECEMBER

- December 16, Saturday** – Christmas Birds Count at 7:00a on Presque Isle State Park. (Page 5)
- December 30, Saturday** – Field Trip with Michele Franz: In Search of Snowies: An Avian Adventure; Meet at 9:00 at the TREC (Page 5)

JANUARY

- January 16, Tuesday** – PIA Board Meeting at the TREC at 6:00.
- January 23, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC

2017-2018 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 Pennsylvania including Erie and Crawford counties.

Address: 301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 8
Erie, PA 16505

Website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

These IBAs, along with other significant habitats, including, but not limited to, Erie Bluffs State Park in western Erie County, PIA sanctuaries Titus Bog, Fernwood and Laura Olsen Memorial Sanctuary, as well as the Erie city shoreline and other locations in both counties have much diversity. Unfortunately, human activity and development has caused habitat loss, disruption and fragmentation, placing birds that rely on these habitats at risk, but there is still much to protect or improve.

Through active advocacy for stewardship and developing ways for more people to become educated about these unique habitats and the species they harbor, PIA can develop a growing army of volunteer caretakers of nesting habitat and stopover site for migrating birds. PIAS can contribute to the preservation of these habitats by

- 1) encouraging participation in programs like Weed Warriors at PISP,
- 2) offering educational programs that highlight the species found within these habitats, and
- 3) publically supporting policies and practices that will reduce threats to these environments.

In the section that follows the strategies of the plan, we outline the Five Year Goals. These are our guiding objectives and the measure by which we judge our successes.

Five Year Goals

Our goals are set to provide specific measurable objectives that can be accomplished between 2015 and 2020. These goals do not represent every activity, event, or need to which we will devote energy and resources, but instead serve as a list of understandable, measurable, and achievable priorities which should be addressed and prioritized by the organization.

(Continued on Page 6)

LETTERS TO MARTHA

Dear Martha,

I don't consider myself a bird "lister" but I do keep track of the birds I see in my yard and in local patches. I was thinking that maybe I should start keeping track of all my sitings in a more formal fashion. With this in mind, I also think I would feel a sense of accomplishment and gain some birding inertia if I could list an entire genus of particular birds found regularly on the east coast. For instance, I feel like I'm probably close to seeing all the woodpeckers present on the east coast of the US. Then I could tell myself, "Well, that one's out of the way, now onto the..." Can you tell me which genus you might shoot for (maybe whichever has the fewest or most conspicuous members) if you were doing this and which you might avoid (like warblers, because I feel like I'll never get a Connecticut!!)

Sincerely,
To List or Not to List

Dear TLONTL-

Ooo, I am also not a very formal "lister" and find your question intriguing. It WOULD feel good to be able to say "Oh, I've seen all the woodpeckers on the east coast!!" We are going to forego the taxonomy here as it can get really complicated. Let's stick with broader terminology and say if I were doing this I might try and get those "groups" a.) with which I already have a nice start; b.) that include birds that you really enjoy seeing; c.) that can be found within the area you are able to bird, and d.) that fit in with your birding style. Keeping the above in mind, I love owls and already have a majority of those found in the east, so, I might start with them. Then I might go after all the woodpeckers and then perhaps, all the nuthatches. There are 19 species of owls in North America and of those only a handful can be found regularly in the eastern U.S. These include the Common barn owl (need it!), Eastern screech owl (have it), Great horned owl

(have it), Barred owl (have it), Northern saw whet (have it), long-eared owl (have it but want more of it!), Short-eared owl (need it!), Burrowing owl (have it). In addition to those, I also have a great bonus of a Snowy owl! That leaves me only two species shy of a full nest☺ for owls of the Eastern U.S. The short-eared owl is seen regularly in the county in which I live but I've tried several times unsuccessfully to find one. Yes, I dipped!! More than once!! The barn owl will be a little harder for me to get, but I'll keep looking. As for the woodpeckers, not only do I have a good start with them I also enjoy seeing them. I've had all the woodpeckers seen in this region in my backyard, but am still shy a few for the eastern U.S.

Except for the burrowing owl, all of the owls can be found in the northeast, but I'll have to travel south to see some of the species of woodpecker that are found only in the southeast U.S. One tough to get one is the red-cockaded woodpecker which is federally endangered. I was fortunate to get that in FL at Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area near Port Charlotte. It was there that I had also hoped to get the brown-headed nuthatch, but dipped! Yep, just call me the Big Dipper. Nuthatch fits categories a-d for me. Well, really, they all do. There are only 4 species of nuthatch in North America, but only three in the eastern U.S: white-breasted, red-breasted and brown-headed. The Pygmy nuthatch is the fourth, but is a western species. I hope to see it some day when I go to visit my daughter and her family in San Diego. It can be found in coniferous forests, which is right up my birding alley. Certainly, you TLONTL, like all other birders, have your own style and tolerance for birding. Some people are really into waterfowl, but maybe they are not your thing (maybe you don't enjoy birding in subzero temps, often in heavy winds!) Whatever you decide, enjoy yourself, and if the listing becomes too tedious maybe it's not for you after all. I'm sure you'll have fun finding out though!

Thanks for asking and Bird On!
Martha

BIRD REPORT

The following bird sightings were reported from September 21 to November 20, 2017, from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise.

Greater White-fronted Goose—2; Nov. 6 & 7; Waterford; J.H. 1; Nov. 9 to 12; Fairview Business Park; B.S., et al. (See below)



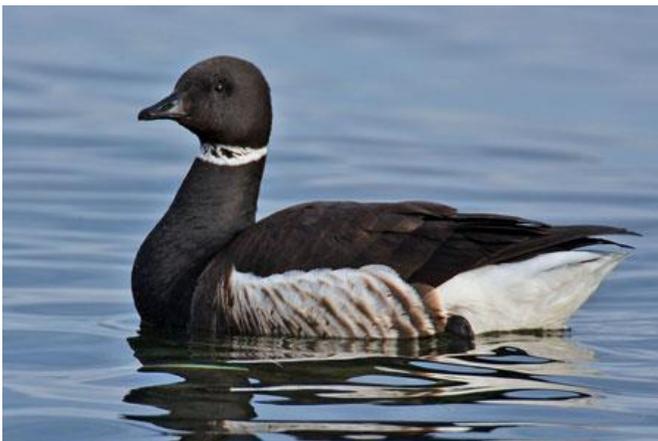
Cackling Goose—1; Oct. 2; Fairview Business Park; M.V. 9; Oct. 29 to Nov. 7; Fairview Business Park; M.V., et al.

American Bittern—1 (road killed); Nov. 1; Millcreek Twp.; J.M. (collected for TREC museum).

American Golden Plover—total of 12; Sept. 16 to Oct. 2; Gull Point; R.D., D.S.

Piping Plover—1; Sept. 28; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Brant—1; Oct. 28; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Nov. 17; Niagara boat launch; G.K. (See below)



Olive-sided Flycatcher—1; Sept. 1; Gull Point; J.M.

Least Tern—1; Oct. 19; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Stilt Sandpiper—2; Sept. 2; Gull Point; R.D.

Red-necked Grebe—total of 9; Nov. 9 to 20; Sunset Point (Waterbird count=WC) & Niagara boat launch; J.M., et al. (See below)



Eared Grebe—1; Nov. 11 to 19; Niagara boat launch; J.B., et al.

Red Knot—total of 6; Sept. 1 to Oct. 2; Gull Point; J.M., R.D., D.S.

White-rumped Sandpiper—1; Sept. 2; Gull Point; R.D.

Purple Sandpiper—1; Nov. 13; Sunset Point (WC); R.D., J.M. (See below)



Red-necked Phalarope—1; Nov. 11 to 15; Niagara boat launch; J.B., et al.

White-winged Dove—1; Sept. 13; Dunn Valley Rd.; S.St. Third county record. (See below)

Snowy Owl—2; Nov. 14; east and west of the lighthouse; m.ob. 1; Nov. 17; east Erie; S.S.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1; Nov. 17; B-trail; R.D.

Contributors: J.B. Jeffrey Bojc, R.D. Roger Donn, J.H. Jamie Hill, G.K. Glenn Koppel, J.M. Jerry McWilliams, B.S. Bob Scribner, D.S. Don Snyder, S.S. Susan Smith, S.St. Sam Stull, M.V. Mark Vass, m.ob. many observers

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Record Chairperson
814-240-8594 jerrymcw@aol.com

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

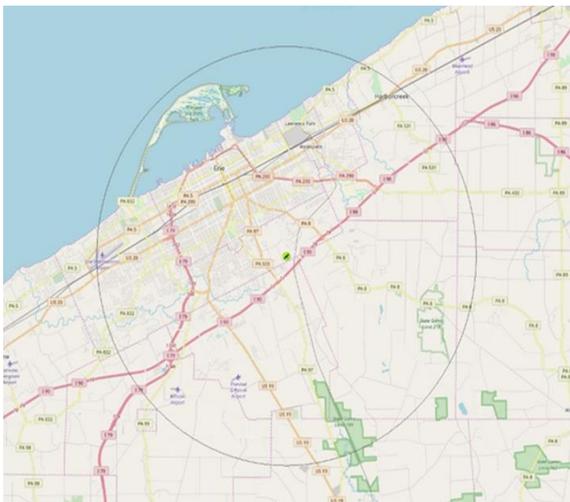
The PIAS Annual Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 16th this year. Participants will meet at the Ranger Station on Presque Isle between 7:00 & 7:30 AM, form teams and head out to bird designated areas of the park creating a tally as you go.

We welcome all birders, no matter your level of experience, to participate 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 5:30 p.m. we congregate 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. 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 below. I will also post a map on our FB page and website. If you have any questions, please inquire on our FB page as that is usually our fastest means of getting information back to people.

ERIE, PA. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CIRCLE BOUNDARIES



DECEMBER FIELD TRIP

IN SEARCH OF SNOWIES: AN AVIAN ADVENTURE Saturday December 30, 2017



We will meet in the front lobby of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at 9:00 a.m. and venture out onto the park in search of the occasionally elusive, always beautiful, snowy owl. Please feel free to bring a friend, a child, a friend's child, whomever would delight at seeing a snowy owl!

At the time of this writing, there have been 4-5 snowy owls spotted at the park in several different locales. Our goals are a.) to find a snowy owl, b.) make observations from a safe and respectful distance using a spotting scope or binoculars, and c.) revel in our good fortune at seeing one of these magnificent birds. Of course, "b" and "c" are not possible without "a"!

We do not plan on walking all the way out to Gull Point (so have no fear). Please also note that this is not a photography trip although cameras are welcome for anyone wanting to take a distant photo or two for your personal bird list/diary or for submission to e-bird.

We will end the search at 11:30 a.m. and head to Perkins on 8th Street for hot cocoa!! Send questions: fieldtrips@presqueisleaudubon.org.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Trip Chair

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

All of the goals fall within our three main strategies:

A. SAVING IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS & SIGNIFICANT HABITAT

B. CREATING BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

C. PIA ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Conserve, or assist in the conservation of, important habitats.
2. Improve and protect the quality of habitat at Gull Point for shorebird species.
3. Better understand our existing sanctuaries in terms of how they may be best utilized by birds and work towards improving those properties.
4. Continue participation in removing invasive plant species at Presque Isle State Park.

Over the next year, these four goals will be at the forefront of our actions. If these goals speak to your passion for birds and conservation, please email us at president@presqueisleaudubon.org or by coming to either the Executive Board Meeting or monthly program meeting and sharing how you would like to help. We need active and engaged members to do the most good. Please consider how your skills and talents can be utilized, and then take the next step to volunteer.

-DM

(Editor's Note: The Executive Board Meetings and the Monthly Programs are listed in *Things To Do* on Page 1 of each newsletter. The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Board meetings begin at 6:00p. Arrive at the front desk for directions to the meeting room.)

JOIN US FOR THE 2018 FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS AT PRESQUE ISLE

Anyone interested in experiencing the bird migration through Presque Isle in May of 2018 should register now for the incredibly popular Festival of the Birds. **Only full week-end registrations will be processed now through January 2, 2018 with partial registrations after that.** We begin field trips on Friday afternoon with a reception for all registrants and volunteers Friday evening. There will be a ticket auction in the lobby throughout Friday and Saturday. Saturday morning is filled with a variety of field trips. We like to keep our festival cozy with 12-15 people per trip. In the afternoon, you can attend one of at least six workshops related to birds and birding. Dinner is held Saturday evening followed by the keynote address by Dr. J. Drew Lanham. He is a birder, naturalist, and hunter-conservationist, a Clemson University Master Teacher and Alumni Distinguished Professor in wildlife ecology. All registrants will receive a copy of his book, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*.



Sunday morning is filled with more field trips led by the proficient birders who led trips on Saturday. Lunch is provided at the Rotary Pavilion where the final bird tally will take place and where birders say goodbye to one another until they meet again at the next festival. To see a brochure with a schedule and information for registering, go to presqueisleaudubon.org.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This is the time of year when everyone should keep their birdfeeders filled. Sometimes the birds can find natural food, but when they can't, they come to your feeder. We have new members and renewals we want to welcome.

Erie: Anthony Keck, Rebecca Wellejus, Evelyn Anderson, Sheila McLaughlin, Zachary Irwin, Janis Prylinski, Joan Collins, James Morgan, Kathleen Cornish, Heidi Winiecki, Barclay Bernadette, Virginia Kochanczyk, Rick Rumball, Tom Pruzenski, Judith Bien, Jenna Mulrooney-White, G. Bollinger, Pat Sexauer, Georgie Walker

Atlantic: John Bowser

Cambridge Sps: Sharon Humes

Centerville: Christine Southwick, Kathryn Hamilton, Michael & Gloria Kelly

Corry: Mary Rublee

Edinboro: Annette Smith

Fairview: Ed & Nancy Group

Jamestown, Pa: Linda Estes

Meadville: Mary Michaels, Leonard Strong, Richard Myers

North East: Rose Lee, Jody Timer

Venango: Tyler Brooks

Waterford: David Anderson

Ashtabula, OH: Nancy Rung

Lincoln, NE: Bertha Mesarch

Kapolei, HI: Amanda Kimball

When you get your newsletter, you have to send in the attached postcard to tell us if you want the paper copy mailed to you or if you prefer the email version. If no postcard is mailed back, we cannot put you on the mailing list. Thank You.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

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 or 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA 16504. If you have any questions, call Janet at 814-825-8394.

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PI AUDUBON MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Field Trips for the Future

I am working on a schedule for regularly occurring field trips at PI that will be held every other Saturday. These will likely commence in late winter or early spring. We will put the schedule up on the website and in the next *Tern of Events* as well as on our PIAS Facebook page as soon as it is complete.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Trip Chair

Birdwatching Scope Wanted

Looking to purchase a used, higher quality birdwatching scope.

Contact Sue Murawski at
Suemurawski94@gmail.com.

Birding Trip to Portugal and Spain

Joao Tavares is organizing a birdwatching trip to northern Portugal and Spain in May, 2018. The trip will extend from May 17 to May 26. There are currently six people interested and Joao is looking for at least two or more individuals to participate. If you are interested or need more information contact Joao at jotdyt@verizon.net.

Publicity Person Needed for Presque Isle Audubon

Duties will include publicizing the purpose of activities of the organization. Working through social media is an especially important skill needed for this position. Contact Drew Mortensen, President, if you are interested.
president@presqueisleaudubon.org

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**

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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Chapter Code C6ZU150Z

Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to:

**National Audubon Society
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P.O. Box 422250
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Renewal members will receive a coupon mailed to them by National. Please write the code number **C6ZU150Z** on your renewal application.