



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE 15:01

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

Back in November I started this 5 part series on the biggest threats to bird populations. I've tried to start with the few threats upon which we might be able to have the biggest impact, either directly as individuals or via education. I started with the feral cat problem and the steps that can be taken to teach people how important it is to keep cats indoors both for the birds and other small mammals they predate, but also for the cats themselves. By the way, we still have some of the *Cats Indoors* pamphlets produced by the American Bird Conservancy if anyone needs one to stick under their neighbor's windshield wiper. In December I wrote about the hazards that balloon releases cause birds and other wildlife. As I get further into this series, the problems become bigger and the solutions seem more out of reach, but there are things that we as individuals and as an organization can do to help stem the tide of bird mortality at the hands of humans and our "projects". It certainly does become more of an uphill battle, but one that needs to be waged. This month I am devoting the President's Perch to the problem of bird collisions. In November I touched upon the problem of bird collisions with man-made structures, in particular, the 4 giant walls of windows that is the new Minnesota Vikings football stadium. As of this writing, despite efforts by local, state and National Audubon societies and despite state guidelines that require bond-funded buildings to protect birds from window collisions, the stadium will go up without the fritted glass that

could significantly lessen the number of potential bird strikes. In the end it seems, money wins, even though the cost of switching to fritted glass is merely one tenth of one percent of the entire 1 billion plus dollar project. Audubon Action Center has an ongoing letter writing campaign to help sway the Vikings organization and the Minnesota Sports Facility Authority towards a better decision. Please consider adding your name to the thousands that have already sent letters. The URL for the letter is: <https://secure.audubon.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1717>



Above is a picture of birds collected in Washington, DC in 2013 during a large-scale collaborative project investigating the factors affecting bird-window collisions. The research is being conducted by the Ecological Research as Education Network, or 'EREN' (<http://erenweb.org>).

(Cont. on Page 2)

2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Lisa Danko
Treasurer	Kel McDonald
Retiring President	Janet Price

Board of Trustees

2012-2015	Dave Gustafson
2012-2015	Sam Stull
2013-2016	Steve Danko
2013-2016	Drew Mortensen
2014-2017	Don Snyder
2014-2017	Marion Gallivan

Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Field Trips	Drew Mortensen
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & Joao Taveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	Janet Price
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Susan A. Smith
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Sales & Marketing	Jeanne Kern

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.)

To learn more about the research being done you can use this link: <http://bit.ly/1FVIfH4>

The Viking Stadium is, of course, just one structure of millions that pose collision threats to birds (and bats).



According to scientists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Smithsonian Institution, up to 988 million birds are killed annually in the United States by collisions with buildings, especially glass windows. While we haven't YET made a difference in the Minnesota Stadium controversy, there are things we can do to try and reduce bird collisions even at our own homes. It's thought that birds hit windows because they see the landscape—trees, sky, clouds and, in my case, the wooded hill behind our home—reflected on the glass surface but do not realize that a hard, transparent surface lies between them and that apparent open space. On my own deck we have sliding glass doors and I always try to have the vertical blinds closed but not flat to cut down on the reflection and keep the collisions to a minimum. I do occasionally, however, hear a collision; luckily, I usually do not find the bird which apparently has just been stunned by the impact. Some other ways to keep collisions to a minimum are: relocate feeders if they are near large spans of window, avoid visual tunnels (which occurs when you have windows on opposite sides of the house that the bird can see all the way through),

(Cont. on Page 3)

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

break up reflections on windows with plastic wrap, soap or stickers, attach hanging objects to deter birds, reduce reflections with awnings, cover windows with netting or installing windows that turn downward. Not sure if your windows are bird-friendly? Go outside at different times of the day and take a look. If you see a reflection of trees or the sky in them, so do the birds.



Compare the couple of shots of my back door with the blinds open and with them closed. (above) See the difference in the reflection? Try some of the techniques above and see what a difference it makes and then decide which one is right for you.

Besides buildings, from large skyscrapers to small single family homes, birds also collide with other man-made objects, although generally in smaller numbers. The following is a breakdown of the best known and studied man-made objects with which birds collide and the estimates of mortality caused by each as well as the year which the data covers.

Wind turbines	2013	573,000
Towers	2012	6.8 million
Power lines	2005	175 million
Glass	2014	300 million - 1 billion

Now add those up and shake your head in disgust and sadness as I am doing. Now, add to these numbers the number of birds killed by cats, balloons and other causes and I dare you not to try and do something about it.

As I said in my first article of this series, the causes of bird mortality are manifold and diverse and to combat it we must take manifold and diverse approaches to defend against this onslaught. Yes, we can make our own homes safer and educate our families, neighbors and friends how to do the same. We can join in letter writing campaigns and vote for legislation that is bird-friendly and legislators that see beyond the bottom line of their donors. We can educate and engage our children and grandchildren in our own love of birds and teach them how to carry on our stewardship. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi~ "Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it." So perhaps as individuals there is nothing we can do to affect significant change; my closing of the vertical blinds on my windows or writing this article is not going to be a blip on the screen in the cause of bird conservation, and neither is your act of keeping your cat indoors or voting for conservation-conscious legislators. But we each have to do SOMETHING, however, insignificant; If not to make a difference, to set an example for others and be a part of the larger effort to make the world a better and safer place for birds and other wildlife.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, PIAS President

BIRD REPORT FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

The following birds of note were recorded from Dec. 1, 2014 to Jan. 20, 2015 from Presque Isle State park unless noted otherwise.

Red-necked Grebe—up to 3; Dec. 1 & 20-22 several sites on Presque Isle; J.M.

Eared Grebe—1; Dec. 20 to 22; foot of East Ave.; B.C.

Brown Thrasher—1; Dec. 21 (late); Fry's landing; S.T. (Below)



Black-crowned Night-Heron—1; Dec. 18 to at Least 20; Wastewater Treatment Plant; J.D.

Rough-legged Hawk—1; Dec. 8; Gull Point; S.S. dark morph; Dec. 9; Waterford; J.H.1 dark morph; Jan. 19 & 20; Lake View landfill; J.M.

Little Gull—1; Dec. 13; head of bay; R.St.

Herring Gull or hybrid (dark-mantled)—1 adult; Dec. 23; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

Thayer's Gull—1; Dec. 7; north 1; Dec. 23; Lake View

Snow Goose—1 white; Dec. 1; Sunset Point (Waterbird Count=WC); J.M.

Harlequin Duck—1; Dec. 8; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 2; Jan. 11; foot of east Ave.; G.M.

White-winged Scoter—95 (high count); Dec. 8; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 80 (high count); Dec. 20; Handicap ramp; J.M. Landfill; J.M.

Iceland Gull—total of at least 14, Dec. 7 through the period; Presque Isle area and the Lake View Landfill; S.T., J.M.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—total of at least 13; Dec. 13 through the period; Lake View Landfill and Presque Isle area; J.M.

Hybrid gull—1; Dec. 17; near Lake View Landfill; J.M.

Herring X Great Black-backed Gull—1; Dec. 20 & 23; channel, & Lake View Landfill; B.C., J.M.

Glaucous Gull—total of at least 12; Dec. 7 through the period; Presque Isle area and the Lake View landfill; J.M.

Snowy Owl—total of at least 16; through the period; mostly from east end of Presque Isle, but also several sites in the county; m.ob.

Long-eared Owl—1; Dec. 25; center pines; R.D. 1; Jan. 4; center pines; R.D.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1 or 2; Dec. 25 & 30; pines; R.D.

Rufous Hummingbird—1 adult female; last seen on Dec. 17; Albion; M.L.

Eastern Phoebe—1; Dec. 21 to 28 (late); Beach 10 parking lot & Gull Point Trail; S.S., J.C.

Common Raven—1; Jan. 16; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

White-winged Crossbill—2; Dec. 20 & 21; Pine Tree Trail; Amish group & T.L. (fide Michele Franz) (Below)



(Cont. on Page 5)

**BIRD REPORT FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY
(Cont.)**

Gray Catbird—2; Dec. 20 (late); Graveyard Pond Trail; D.S.

Eastern Towhee—2; Dec. 20 (late); Graveyard Pond Trail; D.S. (Cont. on Page 5)

Common Redpoll—1; Dec. 13; Fairview Twp.; D.M. Up to 40; Dec. 21 to 27; Gull Point Trail; SS., G.M., R.S.; 5; Dec. 24; B-trail; J.F.; Up to 6; Jan. 17 & 18; Erie; K.A.; 1; Jan. 18; Presque Isle; D.H. (Below)



Contributors: K.A.-Katie Andersen, J.S.- Jack Chaillet, B.C.-Ben Coulter, J.D.-John DePaul, R.D.- Roger Donn, J.F.-Jim Flynn, M.F.- Michele Franz, J.H.-James Hill III, D.H. - Deuane Hoffman, T.L.- Tim Lenz, M.L., Mike Lipinski, G.M.-Geoff Malosh, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.M.-Drew Mortensen, D.S.- Don Snyder, R.S.-Russ States, S.S.-Sam Stull, R. St.-Randy Stringer, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, m. ob.-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Records Chair
jerrymcw@aol.com 814-240-8594

WILDLIFE FIRST RESPONDERS COURSE

**TAMARACK WILDLIFE REHABILITATION &
EDUCATION CENTER**
21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433
(814) 763-2574

Have you ever wished you'd known how to handle a wildlife emergency? A hawk hit by a car on a roadside? Ducklings stranded away from their mother?

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center is offering a Wildlife First Responders Course. This course will teach you how to identify wildlife in need of assistance, when to intervene and when not to, and how to capture, stabilize and transport injured wildlife. Carol Holmgren and Kristine Steiner, licensed wildlife rehabilitators for Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, will teach the class. Tamarack seeks to train additional volunteers in these techniques in order to increase our capacity and to improve the outcomes for the many injured birds in our region. The Center also needs help with phone coverage, and this course prepares participants for assisting with that as well.

The class will meet at the Edinboro Borough Building, Edinboro PA (124 Meadville St., Edinboro) on Tuesday nights 6:30-8:30pm, February 10, 17, and 24 with a snow date of March 3. The class is intended for adults, though older teens can attend with parental permission. There is a \$25 fee for resource materials and includes a year's membership. Preregistration is requested to ensure there are enough materials for everyone.

Register at www.tamarackwildlife.org and download a registration form. Fill it out and mail it with a \$25 check to the address shown on the form. Or call the center at 814-763-2574 and leave a message, including your name, address and phone number to register by phone and bring payment to the first class.

PIAS NEW YEAR'S DAY FIELD TRIP

I've said it once, I'll say it a million times, "Birding is not for wimps!" The first PIAS field trip of 2015 was held on January 1st this year led by Field Trip Chairperson, Drew Mortensen. What better way to start the New Year than birding with great friends, old and new. I hope that this is a start of a new tradition with PIAS! We met at Vista 1 on Presque Isle and waited a few minutes for the sun to rise, before heading out on our birding adventure on the icy park. The weather was cold as you might imagine, with the wind adding to the pain...fun! We had a great crew of 10 intrepid souls and came out with over 30 bird species including lots of waterfowl concentrated at Misery Bay and a cooperative Hermit Thrush on Pine Tree Trail. The woods seemed to be teeming with woodpeckers, including downy, hairy and red-bellied with one pileated as an added bonus.



The Ten Intrepid Souls!

Our next field trip is scheduled for Saturday February 21st from 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. when we will set out in search of winter finches. Please join us for a chance to beat those winter "blahs" and enjoy some great birding fun!!

~Drew Mortensen, Field Trip Chairperson



FEBRUARY THINGS TO DO!

- February 10, Tuesday**– Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00PM at the TREC
- February 14, Saturday** - Great Backyard Bird Count at the TREC in Room 112. 10am-2pm
(See Page 7)
- February 20, Friday** – PIAS Monthly Meeting and Program in Room 112 at the TREC
Social – 7:00PM
Program – 7:30PM Birding Cleveland's Lakefront
(See page 7)
- February 21, Saturday** – PIAS Field Trip from 7:30AM to 9:30AM. Meet at Vista#1 at Presque Isle State Park (See page 6)

CALENDAR FROM FRIENDS GROUP OF THE ERIE WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Friends Group of the Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Guys Mills is excited to be selling their first calendar. Containing 12 beautiful full-color nature photographs from the talented participants in past Nature Photo Contests, the 2015 calendar pages contain plenty of space to record your special events. The cost is \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

You can order a calendar from their website at www.friendsofenwr.org. Or send a check to: Friends of ENWR, c/o Erie National Wildlife Refuge, 11296 Wood Duck Lane, Guys Mills PA 16327.

~Sue Murawski, Sanctuaries Chairperson

FUTURE OF ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

I am not continuing the Adopt-a-Highway program, and would like to know if anyone else would care to take over this project. I did the highway cleanup twice a year, but it can be done more often if desired. PennDOT supplies all of the equipment such as gloves, vests, etc. Our area begins at 8th and Peninsula and stretches along 8th Street for about two miles. I can help out in the beginning. If interested email me at membership@presqueisleaudubon.org.

~Ron Intrieri, Adopt -A- Highway Chair

PIAS MONTHLY PROGRAM BIRDING CLEVELAND'S LAKEFRONT Friday, February 20, 2015

Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. will share his stories and photographs of birding along Cleveland's lakeshore. Be prepared for gulls, jaegers, migrants, rufous hummingbirds, northern wheatears, a varied thrush and more. A famous brown pelican may make an appearance.

Chuck is a life-long birder, guide, and wildlife photographer. His works have been seen throughout the Ohio birding community, and his efforts to assist and educate novice birders via social media are well known.

Chuck has worked as a Naturalist with the Cleveland Metroparks and is a member of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) and a graduate of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program (OCVN).

~Mary Birdsong, Program Chairperson

The Presque Isle Audubon Society's newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, is published monthly, except in January and July. 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.

Printed on recycled paper.

2015 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 14 , 2015 in
Erie, PA

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are.

Everyone is welcome—from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website.

Scientists use the GBBC information to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations.

New participants must set up a free GBBC account to submit their checklists or use login information from an existing account for any other project for Cornell Lab. You'll only need to do this once to participate in all future GBBC events. Go to gbbc.birdcount.org for more information.



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 238

**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 _____

E-mail address _____

Chapter Code C5ZU150Z

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

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Fl. 32142-2250**

Renewal members will receive a coupon mailed to them by National. Please write the code number **C5ZU150Z** on your renewal application.