



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE 16:01

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

Just as I was sitting down to compose this Perch, I got a call from Chuck Kern. Most, if not all, of you know Chuck. He and his recently deceased wife, Jeanne, have been stalwarts in the organization for many years; way before I started attending membership meetings. Heck, way before I had noticed that there were more birds out there than just sparrows. Jeanne and Chuck Kern and PIAS, I can't help but think of one when I think of the other. Chuck is at home now, but not feeling very well. I don't think he'd mind my telling you. Despite that, he calls me and other members and offers advice and support for PIAS and says he misses the meetings and the people. He also takes the time to mail out information he thinks might be of interest to the members of PIAS. He'd really love to be able to deliver this information in person, I'm sure, but is just not up to it YET. I told him the date of the next membership program in February and he just might decide to attend. I hope he does. We talked a little bit about how things have changed in the world and the affect that has had on PIAS. He talked of families coming to the programs and the banquet together and children giving presentations. I talked of a too busy generation of families with kids playing sports, taking dance classes, music lessons, or on their computers and other devices. It's cyclical, we agreed, or hoped. I let him know that we have more children than ever registered for the Festival of the Birds for next year. He was pleased. Chuck then brought up the subject of board nominations and I told him that Dave Gustafson, another PIAS

stalwart, is the Nominating Committee Chairperson. He promptly called Dave after we hung up and threw my hat into the ring for continuation of my PIAS board presidency despite what I thought was my clear message that I am definitely ready to hand over the reins to another. (Cont. on Page 2)

FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



- February 13, Saturday** – Great Backyard Bird Count at the TREC: 10:00am – 2:00pm in Room 108 (Page 5)
- February 19, Friday** – PIAS General Meeting and Program in Room 112 at the TREC Program: 7:00pm followed by Social (P. 3)
- February 23, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00pm
- February 25, Thursday** – Luther Memorial Birding Project at PISP
- March 15, Tuesday** – PIAS Board Meeting at 6:00pm in Board Room at the TREC
- March 17, Thursday** – Luther Memorial Birding Project at PISP
- March 18, Friday** – PIAS General Meeting and Program in Room 112 at the TREC. (P. 3) Program at 7:00om followed by the Social.
- March 22, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at the TREC at 6:00pm

2015 - 2016 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

2013-2016	Lisa Danko
2013-2016	Drew Mortensen
2014-2017	Don Snyder
2014-2017	Marion Gallivan
2015-1016	Dave Gustafson
2015-2016	Katie Andersen

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Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Lisa Danko
Field Trips	Drew Mortensen
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores and Joao Taveras
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Nominating	Dave Gustafson
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
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Programs	Mary Birdsong
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Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

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

It's truly an honor to know that Chuck has that much confidence in me. I bet if Chuck were feeling better he would jump into the ring himself. I wish he was. Short of that, though, we will be looking for someone else to take the helm (Wow, how many metaphors can I fit into one article?).

It has been a terrific experience and I've learned a lot, but it really is time for me to step down in May. Most of the current board has been serving the organization in some capacity for years now, again, many before I started attending the membership programs. The board is an exemplary bunch, which has made my nearly four years as Prez fly by. (Huh, I knew I could squeeze in a bird metaphor!) While the presidency is a two-year term, the other offices are one year and include Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact me at president@presqueisleaudubon.org and I will pass along your contact information to Dave Gustafson.

One final note, and the primary reason for Chuck's call this evening; A special event to recognize Jeanne and all she has done for the Presque Isle Audubon Society over the years is in the works and we'll have more details for you in next month's TOE.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, President of PIAS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT HIGHLIGHTS - 2015

On December 19 17 observers spent a total of 37 hours observing and counting 26,953 birds that equaled 76 species.

There were two species that required rare bird reports: Pacific loon (*Gavin pacifica*) and sanderling (*Aledris alba*).

Red-breasted mergansers numbered 1,649 and Bonaparte gulls numbered 6,837.

There were 71 Darkeyed juncos, 41 American Robins and 81 Northern Cardinals spotted.

PIAS PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

THE MOTUS TRACKING SYSTEM

PIAS February Program

February 19, 2016

7:00 in Room 112 at the TREC



Stu McKenzie, the Motus Wildlife Tracking System Manager for Birds Studies Canada will make a presentation about The Motus Tracking System, which is a coordinated hemispheric tracking system for all migratory bird species, and is the world's most ambitious bird tracking initiative. The project's goal is to understand the connections between breeding, migrating, and wintering locations for every Canadian bird species by 2030.

Motus technology is the first of its kind in the world, and involves a combination of miniaturized radio transmitters and a new, expansive network of receivers. The "nano-tag" tracking devices are light enough to track even the smallest animals, such as hummingbirds, dragonflies, and butterflies.

Receiver antennas are well established on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes and now Birds Studies Canada is looking to expand the network on the U.S. side, including here in Erie County.

More information about MOTUS and to see a map of the network of antenna, visit <http://motus-wts.org/>

**HERE AND GONE AGAIN: STUDYING
MIGRATING LANDBIRDS AT AMERICA'S
LONGEST RUNNING BIRD BANDING STATION**

PIAS March Program

March 18, 2016

7:00 in Room 112 at the TREC

Luke DeGroot is the Bird Banding Coordinator at Powdermill Avian Research Center. He will discuss past, present, and future studies of migrant landbirds stopping over in the foothills of the Laurel Highlands.

Powdermill Nature Reserve is located in Rector, Westmoreland County. Powdermill was established in 1956 and is Carnegie Museum of Natural History's biological research station and nature education center. Powdermill sustains and protects a variety of natural habitats where researchers and educators study ecological processes. It is also home to one of the longest continually running avian research stations in the United States.



LUKE EXAMINES THE PLUMAGE OF A GREEN HERON

Research includes the application of the 54 year historic banding dataset to investigate the impact of climate change and the employment of laboratory analysis to determine past and present breeding origins. Avian research staff also utilize captured birds to investigate the origin of migratory flight calls and to test birds' ability to see patterned glass prototypes that manufacturers are creating to reduce the threat of collision mortality.

BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Erie County, Pa. for December 2015 through January 18, 2016

Pacific Loon up to 2; Dec. 4 to at least Jan. 8; J.M. with two birds seen on Dec. 21 to at least 30; north pier and off Niagara boat launch; J.F.& J.M. resp.



PACIFIC LOON

King Eider 1; Dec. 6; off mouth of Walnut Creek (Waterbird Count, WC); J.M. 1; Dec. 20; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Red-necked Grebe 2; Dec. 5; north pier; S.S. Up to 2; Dec. 19 to 23; channel and off Niagara boat launch; J.M. 1 Jan. 17; north pier; J.M.

Killdeer 1; to at least Jan. 3 (late); Gull Point; S.T.

Sanderling 1; Dec. 4 to 25; Gull Point; R.D. Latest county record by about 3 weeks.



SANDERLING

Purple Sandpiper 1 or 2; Dec. 4 & 11; Gull Point; R.D., R.S., respectively



PURPLE SANDPIPER

Dunlin 1; Dec. 25; Gull Point; R.D.

Lesser Black-backed Gull 2; Dec. 18; Lake View Landfill; J.M. 1; Dec. 19; East Ave.; J.M. 1; Jan. 17; off Niagara boat launch; J.M.

Glaucous Gull 1; Dec. 18; Lake View Landfill; J.M.



KING EIDER

Snowy Owl 1; Dec. 23 & 24; Gull Point; D.Z. 1; Dec. 31; Gull Point; R.D., B.B.

Short-eared Owl 1; Dec. 14; Gull Point; D.Z. 1; Jan. 9; Gull Point; T.H., et al.

Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Dec. 6; B-trail; R.D.

Lapland Longspur 1; Dec. 30; Gull Point; R.S.

Common Redpoll 5; Dec. 26; Gull Point Trail; J.F. 20; Dec. 30; Beach 11 road; J.M.

Contributors: B.B.-Brian Berchtold, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jim Flynn, T.H.-Todd Hooe, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, S.S.-Sam Stull, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, D.Z.-Dean Zeller,

~Jerry McWilliams, Birds Records Chairman
jerrymcw@aol.com 814-240-8594

**INVITATION TO ALL BIRD WATCHERS
PIAS GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

**Saturday, Feb. 13 10:00-2:00
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Room 108**



Come join Presque Isle Audubon members while we check out the birds at the TREC feeders. Stay for a short time or a long time. We will be doing a count together while watching the birds and then submitting our tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count website. Families and new birders are especially welcome as this is a great way to learn to identify many of the birds that come to our feeders during the winter in our area. We will have binoculars and field guides to your use and activities for the children.

Here are some highlights from the data collected in the 2015 GBBC :

- Last year was a banner year for pine siskins.
- Snowy owls were reported in large numbers but only about 50% of the numbers reported during the huge eruption of 2013-2014.
- Pennsylvania had the second highest number of checklists submitted following California.
- The most frequently reported species was the Northern Cardinal.
- Snow geese had the highest numbers reported.

After the count weekend, be sure to check back in on the website as reports come in from around the world in near real time. You can check out species reported in our area, or explore maps by species.

**THE 19TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD
COUNT**

Feb. 12-15, 2016

What? Haven't heard of the Great Backyard Bird Count? In 1998 the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon began the project. This was the first online citizen science project designed as a way to help scientists determine the location of wild bird populations. All the data collected creates an annual "snapshot" and a big picture of the distribution and abundance of birds.

Presque Isle Audubon is inviting everyone to participate in this activity on February 13, as you can see in the previous column. In case you're not able to count birds at the TREC, join in this fun activity in your backyard or another area of your choice.

If you've never been involved, and aren't sure of what to do, it's very easy to start. Check out the website birdcount.com for all the details, but below are some answers to basic questions you may have to help you get started.

What do I need to do? Tally the birds you see for at least 15 minutes, or as long as you want, on one or more days of the 4 day count. Follow the directions to record the highest number of each species seen at one time.

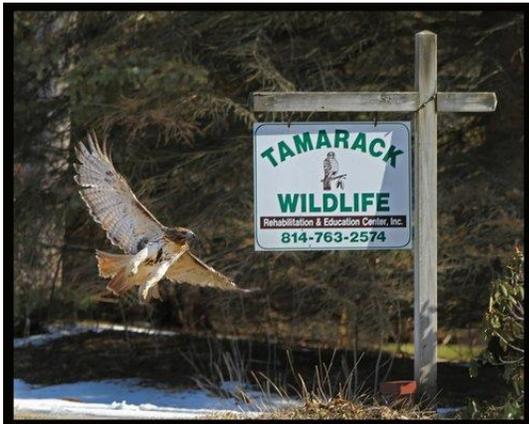
Where do I count? You can sit in your own kitchen or living room with a cup of hot cocoa while watching your own feeders. Or if you'd like, you can go to a favorite park or wildlife refuge.

How do I submit my observations? You can submit it on your computer or mobile device. You will be asked for the location where you did your count and can do that by clicking on a Google map. The website can also help you sort out and identify confusing species.

Do your part in bird conservation!

~Janet Price, Editor

WILDLIFE FIRST RESPONDERS COURSE



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 whether wildlife need assistance, when to intervene and when not to, and how to capture, stabilize and transport injured wildlife. Tamarack seeks to train additional volunteers in these techniques in order to increase our capacity and to improve the outcomes for injured wildlife 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 16, 23, and March 1. The class is intended for adults, though older teens can attend with parental permission. There is a \$25 class fee which includes a year's membership. Preregistration is requested to ensure there are enough materials for everyone. Previous participants are welcome to attend again at no cost, but should inform the center that they plan to come.

To register, phone the center at 814-763-2574 and leave a message, including name,

address and phone number. A registration form can be mailed, or plan to arrive at 6:15 the first day to complete registration and payment.

~Carol Holmgren, Education Coordinator and Wildlife Rehabilitator
Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center
21601 Stull Rd.
Saegertown, PA 16433

814-763-2574 www.tamarackwildlife.org

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope everyone had a good holiday. We can actually start to see the days get a little longer. Can't wait for Spring. Our new members and members who rejoined are:

Erie: C. Fisher, James Thompson, Doris Courteau, Deborah Swabb, John Peterson, Lucy John, Ruth Deplatchett, Delores DeMichele, Mary Birdsong, Altadonna Family, Jan Kosco, Kathie Andersen, Frank Singer, Elizabeth Guldan, Robert Wehrer, Dorothy Murphy, Shivani Suri, Kathy Lutton, Karin Mentz, Albert Vota

Cambridge Sps: Robert Grinarm, Michael Southworth

Conneaut: Rebecca Lash

Edinboro: Bev Austin

Fairview: Lance Howell

Girard: R. Miller

Guys Mills: Mary Byers

Jamestown: Richard Kreuger

Linesville: Carl Johnson

Meadville: Regina Johnson, Roberta

Rossmann, Violet Pratt, Barbara Hoover

Waterford: John Williams, Constance Tutino

Thanks for your memberships, and hope to see the new members at our next meeting.

~Ron Intriери, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

IDENTIFY THE BIRDS BELOW



Write the appropriate number next to the name. There are duplicates. (Ans. next issue)

- American Kestrel Bald Eagle Broad-winged Hawk (imm.) Cooper's Hawk (imm.)
 Merlin Northern Harrier Peregrine Falcon Sharp-shinned Hawk (imm.)
 Red-shouldered Hawk (adult) Red-shouldered Hawk (imm.) Red-tailed Hawk
 Sharp-shinned Hawk Northern Harrier (imm.) Sharp-shinned Hawk (adult)
 Turkey Vulture Osprey Cooper's Hawk (imm) American Kestrel
 Northern Harrier

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

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 _____

E-mail address _____

Chapter Code C6ZU150Z

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**

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