



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021 ISSUE 21:02

*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

Have you ever wondered about the roots of Presque Isle Audubon? Sifting through some filed documents recently, I came across, "The Presque Isle Audubon Society Records Finding Aid" compiled in 2009 by member Barry Gray. He wrote: "On October 14, 1956, about fifteen people attended a field trip and meeting held at Presque Isle State Park in order to organize a nature group. On December 29, the group participated in its first Christmas bird count. In 1957, the group took the name of "Presque Isle Nature Group" and elected its first president. The members voted to affiliate the group with the National Audubon Society in March, 1961. On May 13, 1961, the organization changed its name to Presque Isle Audubon Society." To celebrate this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the April/May Tern of Events will feature the history of our early years. If anyone has any old pictures or stories from the time of our group's beginnings, please contact me for inclusion in that newsletter.

Presque Isle Audubon is one of 21 Audubon chapters in Pennsylvania. Long-time Audubon member, Leigh Altadonna from the Wyncote Audubon Chapter north of Philadelphia, recently decided to try to organize a new Audubon Council of PA. His goal is uniting the chapters to promote advocacy for the protection of birds in our state. It turns out PA had an informal and active Council through the 1970s and 1980s. In 1988 that Council formally incorporated as the Audubon Council of PA. and was active in conservation issues for about 15 more years before it was disbanded.

Leigh now writes: "Our goal is for each chapter to be represented, and lend their voices in the governance and direction of the Council, with the key focus of identifying the conservation issues of highest concern to our Audubon chapters." Paul Burroughs, Vice-President and chair of the PIAS Conservation committee, and I were invited to be part of the organizing committee for this Council. Zoom meetings for PA Chapter leaders were held in January, to explain the need for the Council to ensure that priority issues of conservation are identified and acted upon. (Cont. on Page 2)

## FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



- February 12 - 15- Great Backyard Bird Count.**  
[www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) for information
- February 19, Friday** – PIA Program at 7:00p  
via Zoom (Page 3)
- March 16, Tuesday** – PIA Board Meeting at  
6:00p via Zoom
- March 19, Friday** – PIA Program at 7:00p  
Via Zoom (Page 3)
- March 20, Saturday** – Spring Begins!

**2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**Officers**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| President          | Sue Murawski     |
| Vice-President     | Paul Burroughs   |
| Secretary          | Mary Ann Daniels |
| Treasurer          | Julie Dell       |
| Retiring President | Drew Mortenson   |

**Board of Trustees**

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 2018-2021 | Dave Gustafson |
| 2018-2021 | Tony Keck      |
| 2019-2022 | Thomas Frank   |
| 2019-2022 | Bill Ferguson  |
| 2020-2023 | TBA            |
| 2020-2023 | TBA            |

**Chairs of Standing Committees**

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Conservation      | Paul Burroughs             |
| Education         | Andrew Sipple              |
| Field Trips       | Michele Rundquist<br>Franz |
| Membership        | Ron Intriери               |
| Programs          | Mary Birdsong              |
| Publications      | Janet Price                |
| Publicity         | TBA                        |
| Sales & Marketing | Jennifer Ferrick           |
| Sanctuaries       | Sue Murawski               |

**THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)**

At this time, we organizers are waiting for each Chapter's leaders to discuss this proposed Council with their Boards, and if in favor, to appoint two representatives to this Council. At our January PIAS board meeting, a motion to support this Council was accepted unanimously. Paul and I will represent PIAS on this Council, along with Sales and Marketing chair Jennifer Ferrick. Next on the agenda for this Council? Finalizing bylaws, establishing a presence on social media, and determining conservation policies and priorities.

Our own Board needs help in identifying and connecting to a pool of potential PIAS Board and committee members. That's why I am now turning to you! Can you share your ideas of which members of PIAS you think we can talk to about volunteer service on the Board? Or would you yourself be interested in serving? We need a few members who would consider being a Trustee, one to chair the Publicity Committee, and others to participate on any of our nine standing Committees (Conservation, Membership, Education, Program, Field Trip, Publications, Sales & Marketing, Publicity and Sanctuary). What does a Trustee do? Uphold PIAS's overall mission and direction and protect all of the organization's assets and funds. Trustees are requested to serve on one of the nine committees. The Publicity Chair publicizes the purpose and activities of the Society through newspapers, the PIAS website, and other public and social media. Our Board's main purpose is to ensure our mission is met: "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." This requires six Board meetings a year, which last less than two hours. If you can help by volunteering yourself, or suggesting other PIAS members for potential Board positions, let me know, please.

~Sue Murawski, President  
 president@presqueisleaudubon.org

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)

**FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2021 PIA  
PROGRAMS**

**INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE FLORA  
and AVIFAUNA of PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK  
February 19, 7:00p via Zoom  
Presented by Andrew Sipple**

With its complex assemblage of coastal habitats and successional zones, Presque Isle is home to more rare, threatened, and endangered species than any area of comparable size in Pennsylvania. In addition to hosting dozens of state-listed plants, the park's location along Lake Erie makes it one of the top birding sites in the eastern United States, especially for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and warblers. This presentation will showcase a selection of plant species at Presque Isle that provide food and cover for the park's avifauna. It will also feature the presenter's own wildflower photos, taken over the past decade.



Andrew Sipple has been enamored of the natural wonders of Presque Isle all of his life. In addition to exploring the peninsula and searching for rare plants, he is an avid fan of classical music, and his interests include gardening, environmental issues, and social justice.

#

**GIVING IDEAS WINGS  
March 19, 7:00p via Zoom  
Presented by Dave Blazek**

Reuben Award winning syndicated cartoonist, and Erie native, Dave Blazek will share a selection of bird and wildlife cartoons and talk about life as a daily cartoonist who has thought up a cartoon a day for over 20 years. Blazek's cartoon, Loose Parts, is syndicated nationally by the Washington Post and appears daily in the Erie Times as well as in newspapers all across America. Learn how Dave has incorporated his love of nature into weirdly wonderful little squares. And learn how his life in Erie set him on this strange career path.



Loose Parts is created by Dave Blazek, who – when he's not drawing wolverines performing rhinoplasty – is an illustrator, writer, animator, TV and Radio producer, and reformed standup comedian with two medium intestines instead of the standard large and small.

Blazek and Loose Parts won the National Cartoonists Society Reuben Award (the Oscar of cartooning) for America's Best Newspaper Panel Comic in 2019 and again in 2020. It was voted in by hundreds of the best cartoonists, illustrators, animators and industry insiders working today. Dave's been nominated five times for that prestigious award.

Blazek used to roam the Advertising world where his work has earned him more than 120 international, national and local creative awards including a Clio and several ADDYs (all currently being used to hold doors open and/or smash garlic).

(Cont. on Page 6)

## THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from November 19, 2020 to January 11, 2021 from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise.

**Snow Goose**—2 white; Dec. 9 to 21; Edinboro Lake; J.H. 1 blue; Dec. 24; Long Pond; C.V. 1 white; Dec. 24; Edinboro Twp.; J.F.

**Cackling Goose**—up to 11; Dec. 20-26; Fairview Business Park; J.F.

**King/Common eider**—1; Dec. 1; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M.



King Eider

**Red-necked Grebe**— Up to 4; Nov. 19 to January 2; Beach 11; C.V., et al. 1; Dec. 2; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M. 1; Dec. 11; Sunset Point (Waterbird count); J.M.

**Eared Grebe**—1; Dec. 6 to at least Dec. 11; Edinboro Lake; J.H., et al.

**Black-bellied Plover**—1; Dec. 3; Sunset Point; C.V.; Record late in the county by three days.

**Purple Sandpiper**—2; Nov. 27; Sunset Point (Waterbird count); J.M. 1; Dec. 1; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M. 1; Dec. 6; Gull Point; J.B.

**Franklin's Gull**—1; Dec. 29; Gull Point; C.V. Remains found and deposited in the TREC museum

**Black-legged Kittiwake**—1; Dec. 2; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M. Remains found at Gull Point the next day; C.V. Deposited in the TREC museum. (See Below)



**Iceland Gull**—up to 3; Dec. 3 to Jan. 1; around Presque Isle; J.B., J.M.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—1; January 10; Marina Bay; J.M. 1; January 11; off vista 3; J.M.

**Glaucous Gull**—total of 3; Dec. 3 to Jan. 6; around Presque Isle; S.S., J.M.

**Snowy Owl**—1; Nov. 21; Gull Point; R.D., J.F. 1; Nov. 25; Parker Rd., Union City; B.S.

**Long-eared Owl**—1; Dec. 18; E of B-trail; R.D.

**Short-eared Owl**—1; Dec. 19; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.F. 1; Dec. 23 & 24; Gull Point; T.S., J.F., resp. 1; Nov. 25; Gull Point; A.M. (See Below)



**Northern Shrike**—total of 4; Nov. 28 to Jan. 10; various sites in the county; R.B., J.S., R.S.

(Cont. on Page 5)

## THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

**Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler—1;**  
Dec.13 & 15; Gull Point; S.S., C.V., resp.

**Red Crossbill—1;** Nov. 21; flying over Pine Tree Trail; M.S. (See Below)



**White-winged Crossbill—3;** Nov. 29; flying over Gull Point; R.G.

**Common Redpoll—up to 150;** through the period; mainly the east end of the park, with smaller groups at various sites in the county. m.ob.

**Evening Grosbeak—singles and small groups;** periodically from November through December; various sites in the county; m.ob.



**Contributors:** J.B.-Justin Berkheimer, R.B.-Ron Burkert, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, R.G.-Ross Gallardy, J.H.-Jamie Hill, A.M.-Andrew Mashburn, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, S.S.-Steve Schmit, R.S.-Robert Scribner, M.S.-Matthew Shenck, B.Sm.-Bret Smith, T.S.-Travis Suckow, J.S.-Joe Susi, C.V.-Connor Vara, m.ob.-many observers

## STAY TUNED FOR THE 63<sup>rd</sup> ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE!

The Allegany Nature Pilgrimage Committee is keeping up to date with all New York State and NYS Parks Covid-19 rules and regulations as they pertain to the 2021 Allegany Nature Pilgrimage event on June 4 – 6. Field trips will be the main focus of ANP 2021.

To assure the safest environment for our attendees and leaders, there will be no centralized registration area or activities, i.e., BBQ or lunch events. Leaders will be unable to pass around items. Attendees will be required to wear masks and socially distance. Walks/Programs will be limited to 20 people and there will be no night time programs. We are working on a registration system to allow everyone to register for those programs that they are interested in and will be online only. We will not be able to accept walk-ins.

We suggest that, if you are interested in attending, you make your accommodation reservations now. Allegany State Park continues to accept cabin and campsite registrations for 2021 via ReserveAmerica at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com).

Please keep watching the website [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com) and our social media Facebook page for updates. We anticipate opening online registration on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

While we continue to plan a modified Pilgrimage, there is a possibility that we will have to cancel the event due to restrictions imposed by New York State. If so, that decision will be made sometime in late April. In that event, refunds will be processed for your ANP registrations.

The ANP committee is looking for one more PIAS member to join! They now meet using Zoom. If interested contact Lisa Danko at [lsdanko@hotmail.com](mailto:lsdanko@hotmail.com) !

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## **WATERBIRDS in and AROUND PRESQUE ISLE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**

Sarah Sargent, Executive Director  
Erie Bird Observatory

It doesn't seem like it, but spring will be coming soon! Once again we will welcome volunteers to help us get a handle on how many ducks, grebes, loons, geese, etc., are using various parts of Presque Isle. The spring monitoring season will start on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and will end 8 weeks after that. We will hold a virtual training session at 7:00 p.m. on March 10<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. If interested, please email [ssargent@eriebirdobservatory.org](mailto:ssargent@eriebirdobservatory.org) to sign up for the session or look for a sign up link via the Erie Bird Observatory facebook page.



LESSER SCAUP BY CONNOR VARA

Meanwhile, what did we find last fall? Connor Vara was our monitor, and the season officially ran from October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, although we extended the season a little bit by checking in September and once in early January. In the main season we had a total of 65 species observed. We monitored 19 locations and, for the 41 most common species, we estimated a total of 132,532 "Waterbird Use Days", or WUDs, where one bird seen at a location during a count equals one WUD. Using WUDs allows us to add up the cumulative use of locations over the season, including estimates for the days where we did not actually conduct a count. For those days we estimate the number of each species at each site by taking an average of the counts from the day before and the day after. Subtracting

off all the gulls, we calculated that there were 95,943 WUDs.

The top five species (excluding gulls) were Scaup (Greater and Lesser combined), with 15,926 WUDs, Red-breasted Mergansers with 11,350, Mallard with 10,229, American Coot with 8791, and Double-crested Cormorants with 7,212. The biggest single day was November 26<sup>th</sup>, with 5115 waterbirds total. A big piece of that was a raft of 2150 Scaup spp. off of Sunset Point.

The location with the most total waterbird-use days (19,900, including 11,076 gulls) was Beach 11, which looks out over lower Thompson Bay towards Gull Point. Head of the Bay and West Pier were the next most numerous sites. Not surprisingly, Beach 11 and Head of the Bay also had the most species diversity, with 32 and 29, respectively.

Many thanks to our volunteers, supporters and funding from the Sustain Our Great Lakes program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Please join us this spring!

Email [ssargent@eriebirdobservatory.org](mailto:ssargent@eriebirdobservatory.org) if you are interested in participating.

### **GIVING IDEAS WINGS (Cont.)**

He was one of the leaders of MediaLab, the groundbreaking newspaper marketing group at The Philadelphia Inquirer, until he left to concentrate even more brainpower on Loose Parts. And oh yeah, he previously helped create the comic Dr. Katz Professional Therapist for Comedy Central.

Blazek actually has a real degree in Journalism from Penn State. In his spare time he plays the piano and guitar, runs like a fool and hikes any mountain taller than his head. He succeeded in marrying a beautiful woman with horrible eyesight, and he and Eileen live in the woods, just outside Philadelphia, right next to Valley Forge National Park. It's there where he drinks good beer, stares at blank ceilings and comes up with the ideas that make people regard him strangely.

#

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope everyone is staying safe from the Covid-19 virus. With the vaccine out hopefully we can start our in person membership meetings again. Refer to our newsletter, the Tern of Events, for a list of Audubon events.

We want to welcome the following new members as well as those that rejoined.

**Erie:** Lance Strasser, Jeff Stankiewicz, Rose Koehler, Kurt Gunther, Susan Moore, Phillip Kahle, Shelley Noel, Ed Koenig, Erie Insurance Group, Rena Wierbinski, John Maleno, Dean & Susan Walk, Toni & Bob Griffith, Julie Schaefer, Maggie Gleason, Pamula Moore, Elizabeth Guldán, Amelia Vidmar, Bonnie Ginader, Laura DiBacco, Shirley Keinath, James Hallamyer, Joseph Walczak, Mariana Mathewson, Marcia Anthony, Marc Bryant, Kyler Sonney, Edwina Gateley, Jane Cowell, Annette Kiehl, Jeff Hancock, John & Lisa DePaul, Stephanie Wood, Janet Price, Larry Burlingame, Linda Kierstein, Richard Markiewicz, Robert & Doris Allen

**Albion:** Carol Kumburis

**Centerville:** Gloria & Michael Kelly

**Cochranon:** Marna Vandyke

**Conneautville:** Clemence Ravacon Mershon, John Tautin, Mike Hague

**Conneaut Lake:** Thomas Sprong

**Cransville:** Christine Anderson, William Taylor

**Edinboro:** Suzanne Winterberger, Jerry Covert, Debbie Zahler, Georgi Knight, Gail Stickner, Cynthia Legin-Bucell

**Fairview:** Thomas Dash, Andrew Edwards, Krista Jeffries, Patricia Raydo

**Girard:** David Pangratz, MaryAnn Daniels

**Harborcreek:** William Joslin

**Lake City:** Walter Thompson, Norman Ewing

**Linesville:** Mary McClinsey, Justin Street

**Meadville:** Jeff Deardoff, Brian Miller, Andrea Thomas, Suzanne Dearment

**North East :**Jody Timer, Martha Campbell

**Saegertown:** Jessica Prutzman

**Spartansburg:** Mary Lay

**Titusville:** Martha Pringle, Stacy Saintz

**Waterford:** Phyllis Polumbo

**West Chester:** Lon Myers

**Elkridge, MD:** Griffith family

**Portland ME:** Heather Strelecki

If there are any problems, contact me at [membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)  
~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman

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  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Chapter Code U15**

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