



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020 ISSUE 20:02

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.

PRESQUE ISLE FIELD TRIPS - SPRING 2020



PIA Field trips will resume in March! For all trips held on the park, we will meet in the Stull Center parking lot by 8:00 a.m., usually on every other Saturday. The trails might be rather wet so wear boots or other appropriate footwear. Please see the schedule below for our March trip. Future trips will be posted in the next issue of the newsletter. Also visit our Facebook Page and website for updates including “pop-up” trips that might be held for any unusual species that might show up in the area as well as for cancellations or postponements.

March 21st - Fox Trail and that Area

Perhaps we will see the great horned owls that frequent that area.

Remember, as with most PIAS events, field trips are FREE and open to the public so bring a friend (or 2)!

No binoculars? No problem! PIA has binoculars to lend. Even if you have a pair and

are interested in upgrading, we have a variety of models that may help you decide the strength and field of vision that works best for you.

Hope to see you all in March!!

~Michele Franz, Field Trip Chair

FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



February 4, Tuesday – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting, 6:00p in Conference Room at the TREC

February 21, Friday – PIA Program and Social Forest Management for Wildlife Habitat p.2

March 17, Tuesday – PIA Board Meeting at 6:00p in the Conference Room at the TREC

March 20, Friday – PIA Program and Social The Birders, a Film. p.3

March 24, Tuesday – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting, 6:00p in Conference Room at the TREC

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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

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020 PROGRAMS
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Room 112;
7:00 pm

February 21, 2020

**Forest Management for Wildlife Habitat,
Climate Resilience and Overall Health**

Annie Maloney and Guy Dunkle of the Foundation for Sustainable Forests will present a program that outlines how our forests are facing many threats beyond land use and development, such as poor management practices, invasive pests, increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and other impacts associated with a changing climate.

They will present sustainable forestry principles and tools for fostering native plants, tree age and species diversity, and overall health and vigor in our region's forests. They will also discuss how these principles can be applied at our own Laura Olsen Memorial Sanctuary in Crawford County to improve bird habitat.



Annie Maloney is the Executive Director of the Foundation for Sustainable Forests. She holds a PhD in Biology from Boston University, where her graduate research focused on understanding how

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Forest Management for Wildlife Habitat, Climate Resilience and Overall Health, Cont.

interactions between climate change and pollutants affect ecosystem nutrient cycling and long-term resiliency of forests in the northeastern United States.



As a member of the Foundation for Sustainable Forests' Board of Directors and its Land Manager, Guy Dunkle manages woodlands in Northwest Pennsylvania and Southwest New York. He puts the FSF's sustainable forest management principles into practice, and assists other woodland owners doing the same. Guy is also the Vice President of the Northwest Pennsylvania Woodland Association.

March 20, 2020

FILM: The Birders: A Melodic Journey in Northern Colombia

The Birders is a documentary film on Colombian bird diversity and birdwatching presented by ProColombia, the Colombian tourism agency. Directed by Gregg Bleakney of WhatNext Productions, the film highlights Colombian local birdwatching guide, Diego Calderon-Franco and National Geographic videographer Keith Ladzinski as they travel through one of the most diverse bird regions in

the world to capture new and rare birds that have never been new and rare birds that have never been filmed before.



Dominic Sherony

A SCRUB EUPHONIA

According to Matthew Jeffery, International Director, National Audubon Society, The Birders "is an exquisite film. It captures perfectly the experience of birding in the neotropics, with amazing cinematography and a fascinating story."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to all of our new members, as well as those that rejoined. We hope to see you the February's membership meeting.

Erie: Rosemary Renner, Charles Wynkoop, Cas Szymanowicz, Audrey OHara, Robert Przybylak, Carol Huber, Toni & Bob Griffith, Kim Voltz, MarianWygant, Mary Kite, Steven Hicks, Patricia Pora

Corry: Lisa Beeman

Fairview: Roberta Dudas

Harborcreek: Jennifer Guerrein

Meadville: Linda Bollensen, Emily Clarvit

Union City: Lisa Defilippo

Waterford: Suzanne Baum

Elkridge, Md: Griffith Family

I take responsibility for any mistakes or if anyone was left out.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman

membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise from Dec. 1, 2019 to January 16, 2020.

Snow Goose—1 white; Dec. 28 to Jan. 1; Thompson area; B.B., J.M.

Brant—1; to at least Dec. 8; Fairview Business Park; m.ob. (See Below)



Cackling Goose —up to 6; Dec. 7 to 9; Fairview Business Park; A.M., J.F.

Long-tailed Duck—700 (high count); Dec. 5; Sunset Point (WC); (See Below)



Red-necked Grebe—up to 2; Dec. 12 to 14; off Beach 11; J.M.

Eared Grebe—1; Dec. 23 & 24; Presque Isle Bay; C.W., C.V., resp.

Purple Sandpiper—1; Dec. 1; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Dec. 6; Gull Point; J.B. (See Below)



Dowitcher species—1; Dec. 14; Gull Point; R.D., S.S. First winter record.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—1; Dec. 28; north pier; J.B.

Glaucous Gull —1; Dec. 11; Lakeview Landfill; J.M. 1; Dec. 14; Sunset Point (WC); J.B.

Long-eared Owl—1; Dec. 8; pines; R.D. 1; Dec. 28; pines; R.D.

Short-eared Owl—1; Dec. 9; Gull Point; R.D.



SHORT EARED OWL

Northern Shrike—1; Dec. 28; Albion; T.N. 1; Jan. 1; SGL #109; R.S.

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BIRD REPORT, Cont.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—2; Dec. 3; pines; R.D.
1; Dec. 13; pines; R.D.



Eastern Phoebe—1; Dec. 13 (late); north of
Horseshoe Pond; J.M. (See Below)



Common Raven—2; Jan. 2; SGL #109; J.H.
1 or 2; first half of Jan.; Edinboro area; J.H.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—1; Dec. 31 (late); near
Long Pond Trail; J.H.. First winter record.



BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

Gray Catbird—1 or 2; Dec. 25 to at least Jan.
13 (late); Coast Guard Rd. and Leo's landing;
m.ob.

Brown Thrasher—1; Dec. 31 (late); Beach 11
area; J.H.



Orange-crowned Warbler—1; Dec. 31 (late).
Pine Tree Trail; J.H. Second winter record



Contributors: B.B.-Brian Berchtold, J.B.-Justin
Berkheimer, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer
Ferrick, J.H.-Jamie Hill, A.M.-Andrew Markle,
J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, T.N.-Tomas
Nonnemacher, R.S.-Robert Scribner, S.S.-Sam
Stull, C.V.-Connor Vara, C.W.-Chris Williams,
m.ob-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams
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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2019-2020



The 2019-20 CBC was held on December 14, 2019 this year and it was...Soggy! Yes, that's probably the most succinct and accurate description of this year's CBC. The air was misty, the ground was muddy and the participants; soaked. Add it up and you get one soggy day of birding. Not surprisingly, the number of species as well as the total number of birds was way down compared to our average. With a total of 62 species, we were ~11 fewer species than last year, which was also a mild, but much drier count day. Ring-billed gull was the species with the most individuals counted at just under 10,000. This was the "winner" last year as well, however, last year we counted over 67,000!! Despite the dreary day, the count did hold a few highlights! The county counters; Ruth Swaney, Lisa Danko and Julie Dell, had a big surprise of spotting 20 pheasants! Probably the biggest surprise though was a dowitcher that was spotted out at Gull Point. We also had a late Eastern phoebe for count week and there have been reports on eBird of this species right up until this writing. Another nice addition which has been more consistently spotted during recent counts was a Merlin spotted by Mary Birdsong and Mike Plyler.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, CBC Chair

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIRDS GONE?

By Janet Price, Editor

If you were alive during the last 50 years you probably hadn't noticed that the bird population has significantly lessened since it happened oh so gradually. But over the past those years we have lost close to 2.9 billion birds. One of every four birds in North America has disappeared according to research published in the journal *Science*. The study covered a variety of habitats rather than covering just one large area. A variety of bird species from the forests, the Arctic Tundra, the grasslands as well as shorebirds are among those that have waned although gradually. Why has this happened? I'm sure that most of you know that a major cause of bird loss is due largely to habitat loss resulting largely from destruction of enormous areas whether for building structures, agriculture or for creating roads. Pollution and climate change are likewise responsible for our shrunken bird population. To put it simply, this has led to a shortage of food sources and places for birds to nest and survive.

Is it possible to halt this decline or is it a lost cause? Scientists say it is within our power to reverse this trend and maybe even to bring some birds back. First of all though, countries and businesses must create plans and cooperate to be more environment friendly so as to increase the possibility of this recovery. But we as individuals can do our small part to aid in this rescue. I've heard individuals say "What good is my small effort?". Well, think of yourself as a sheet of paper. Now think of a ream of paper that is comprised of 500 sheets. It's a large and heavy item and now you're a part of it. If we have 500 sheets of paper, people, doing small things, it adds up to something big! So let's undertake those small things and encourage others to do the same. Here are some simple actions suggested in *Living Bird* that will help to save millions of our avian friends in the long run.

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIRDS GONE?, Cont.

1. Keep Cats Indoors: We know that outdoor cats, whether pets or feral, are responsible for the second most bird deaths statistically. Individuals in a community can help to control feral cats by working with organizations whose mission is that and pet owners can keep their cats indoors.

2. Avoid using chemicals on your lawn. I know that a green, modeled lawn is most people's desire because it's the social thing to do. If birds are important to us, we will do what is necessary to help them survive. Use organic means to create a healthy lawn and.....

3. Reduce lawn by introducing native plants, shrubs and trees into your yard wherever and whenever possible. Choose those that are beneficial to birds; those that provide shelter and those that deliver food such as nectar, seeds, berries and insects. Not only will you attract birds to help them but you will enjoy their presence.

4. Drink bird friendly coffee. I had made this suggestion while back in one of the newsletters. Look for the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's "Bird Friendly" certification on the label. That certification is proof that the coffee is grown in forests that support bird habitats. You will be paying a little more for your coffee but isn't it worth it to help restore our bird population? Birds and Beans coffee is certified. You can go to birdsandbeans.com for more details.

5. Take steps to reduce or eliminate plastic from your immediate environment. Be aware especially of avoiding single-use disposable plastic items such as bags, bottles, straws and utensils. If you must use them, recycle them. It is important especially to keep these objects out of the ocean as seabird species are being devastated by such items. One million sea birds a year die from plastic.



6. Join a citizen science project that includes monitoring bird populations. Project Feeder Watch, e-Bird, Winter Raptor Survey, Waterbird Monitoring, and the Christmas Bird Count are some of the projects that have bird monitoring as the mission. Bird reports from these projects provide valuable information about where the birds and where they might need help.

7. Make your windows safer by applying stickers to break up the reflections that could attract birds causing them to collide. Installing screens or specialized curtains are other ways to help birds avoid collisions. Maybe an individual can prevent only a handful of bird deaths through collisions, but remember the ream of paper. Every little bit adds up.

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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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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 _____
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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.

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Return this form with your check payable to the Presque Isle Audubon Society to:

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Ronald Intrieri, Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
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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
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Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to **YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER.**

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