



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2022 ISSUE 22:02

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

Happy Winter Everyone!

The lucky winner who entered the free raffle to win the two-volume book set: "Original Water-Color Paintings by John J. Audubon for the Birds of America" is Board Treasurer Julie Dell!

As part of our effort to share our resources to help others learn about birds, the Board authorized a \$2400 scholarship for the 2022 "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" at Audubon's Hog Island, Maine. This money will cover the cost of attending the camp and transportation to and from the Island. On Feb.1, I will be right in line to secure a reservation. Once that's done, I'll send the scholarship application to the NW Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 in Edinboro, for distribution to the educators they work with in NW Pennsylvania. I'll also post the application on our Facebook Page and website, and ask all to spread the word about this scholarship. If you know of an educator who may be interested, keep an eye out for the application after Feb.1.

Some PIA members are reporting they are not getting their yearly renewal notices from National Audubon. Our membership chair Ron Intriери contacted the National office and was told they still do send out renewal notices, and perhaps some of our members were mistaking it for junk mail and ignoring it.

If you have any questions about your membership due date, contact me and I'll forward your request on to Ron. (Cont. on P2)

FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEES

February 18, Friday – PIA Program: Zoom Meeting (See Page 3)

February 20, Sunday – Great Backyard Bird Count, 10am (See Page 2 and 6)

February 22, Tuesday - Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00p via Zoom.

March 18, Friday – PIA Program: Zoom Meeting. See PIA Website for Announcement

March 22, Tuesday - PIA Board Meeting at 6:00. Zoom Meeting?

2020-2021 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.)

Need something to do with the kids on a Sunday? Interested in participating in the **2022 Great Backyard Bird Count?** PIA is working with DCNR to host the event on Presque Isle on Sunday Feb. 20., from 10AM to 1PM. In addition to birdwatching we'll have some indoor fun bird displays and activities for children. To register by Feb. 18, click on:

http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/presque_isle_state_park

then View Full Calendar, then click on Feb. 20 and you're there.

If you want to do the GBBC on your own, visit birdcount.org for details. You can participate for as little as 15 minutes, from Feb. 18 to 21.

In the last newsletter I mentioned our group is working towards building and placing chimney swift towers in our region. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see a notice about our Feb. Zoom program with Scott Burnet from eastern PA, who is an expert in these Towers. Zoom is great as it enables us to bring in speakers from a distance. But it's nice to meet in person and socialize, too. For now, we do keep the Zoom program going after the presentation is over, so members can chat. Keep in touch!

~Sue Murawski, President of PIA

president@presqueisleaudubon.org



PIA will be in need of Publications Chair soon as Janet Price is ready to pass on that assignment. Responsibilities include planning the newsletter for printing every other month, collecting articles and other information from members, typing the eight page *Tern of Events* and forwarding it to the printer and webmaster. Contact the editor with questions.

**PIA PROGRAM: CHIMNEY SWIFTS –
AMERICA’S MISUNDERSTOOD BIRDS**

Presque Isle Audubon is inviting you to a
scheduled Zoom meeting: Chimney Swifts
and their Towers
Friday, Feb. 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM



Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85087367940?
pwd=OGwxVGVESUNnWDVzM2tzZG5ZTnhrZz0
9](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85087367940?pwd=OGwxVGVESUNnWDVzM2tzZG5ZTnhrZz09)

Meeting ID: 850 8736 7940

Passcode: 768406

Find your local number:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kDn6swu9U>

Scott Burnet will explain the biology, anatomy and conservation of the only swift native to our part of North America. The presentation will also discuss how to construct Chimney Swift towers which help the declining population with finding appropriate nesting and roosting habitat.



Burnet began birding at age four, encouraged by his grandparents. He’s been a lifelong Audubon member and has been an Executive Board member and Habitat Chairman for the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society since 2011. At the age of 14 he began establishing Eastern Bluebird and Wood Duck nest box trails, and has now installed and continues to monitor thousands of nesting structures for 20-plus species, with the help of volunteers.



He built his first Chimney Swift tower in 2010 and has gone on to build more than 20 towers, and consulted on construction of many more.

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MONTHLY TIPS AND REMINDERS

- ✓ Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count
- ✓ Explore alternatives to pesticides
- ✓ Learn about the environment connected to your backyard habitat
- ✓ Clean out and repair nest boxes
- ✓ Create a brush pile with fallen branches as shelter for wildlife

THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Dec 2021 through Jan. 25, 2022, at Presque Isle S.P., unless noted otherwise.

Cackling Goose 1; Jan. 5; Edinboro Lake; D.S.



CAKCLING GOOSE VS CANADA GOOSE

Ring-necked Duck—1689 (high count); Dec. 9; Niagara Pond; J.B. with 400 remaining through Jan. 25; J.M. (See Below)



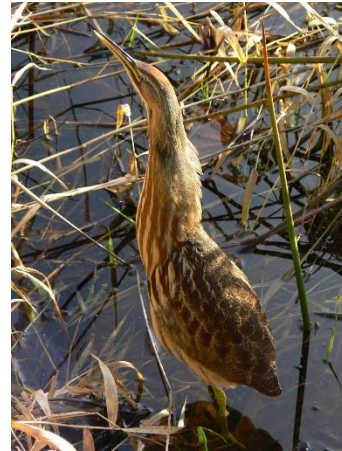
Sandhill Crane—3; Dec. 10; Boat Launch #4; J.B. (See Below)



Purple Sandpiper—1; Dec. 18; breakwater #48; K.Z. et al.

Great Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull—1; Dec. 15; Dobbin's Landing; J.M.

American Bittern—1; Dec. 8; TREC parking lot; B.G. (See Below)



Snowy Owl—total of at least 6; Dec. 3 to at least mid-Jan.; Presque Isle and west Millcreek Twp.; many observers 1; Jan. 24; Erie residence; anonymous

Short-eared Owl 1; Dec. 24; Gull Point; R.D.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1 or 2; Dec. 10, 26, & 28. B-trail area; R.D. 1; Jan. 4 to 10; B-trail area; R.D.

Northern Shrike—1; Dec. 5; SGL #109; R.S.



NORTHERN SHRIKE

(Cont. on Page 5)

BIRDING REPORTs (Cont.)

Turkey Vulture 1; Jan. 8; Summit Twp.; J.Co.
1; Jan 22; Hillside Park, Erie; J.C.

House Wren—1; Dec. 4 (late); Leo's landing;
F.L. (See Below)



Common Redpoll—12; Dec. 3; Lake View
Country Club, Fairview Twp; D.S. Up to 50;
Jan. 10 & 19; east of B-trail and Fry's
landing; R.D., J.M. (See Below)



Lapland Longspur—1; Dec. 11; Sunset Point
(Waterbird count); R.D., J.M.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—1; Jan. 14 to at
least Jan. 25; Erie residence; K.A.; First
winter record for the county.

Contributors: K.A.-Katie Andersen, J.B.-Jason
Bojczyk, J.C.-John Campbell, J.Co.-Jay Cooney,
R.D.-Roger Donn, B.G.-Brian Gula, F.L.-Fred
Losi, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, R.S.-Robert
Scribner, D.S.-Don Snyder, K.Z.-Kendall Zook

~Jerry McWilliams, jerrymcw@aol.com

SUSPENSION OF FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS REGISTRATION

Many of you have already been informed of the decision made by the Festival of the Birds Committee about the changes made regarding the upcoming spring weekend. Following is the announcement regarding those changes for those who have not been informed by now.

Due to the increase in Omicron variant COVID-19 cases, the Festival of the Birds committee has decided to suspend registrations temporarily for the festival. The committee will be following pandemic statistics carefully, and in February will evaluate the situation to determine how we move forward. One large factor in this decision is the current, restricted, occupancy limits at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, the facility where indoor activities of the festival take place. **We will meet in late February and make an announcement by February 28.**

We have three options to consider:

- Hold the festival only for those who have already registered, something the current occupancy numbers allow.
- Re-open registration and welcome the usual number of registrants. This will occur only if the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which operates the TREC, changes the occupancy restrictions.
- Cancel the festival. All current registrants will receive a full refund.

It is the desire of the committee to offer the full festival experience to all, but, as we've learned in that past year and a half, the health of our community is imperative. The committee is ever hopeful that we can once again see old friends and meet new ones at an in-person festival.

If you have any questions, please send an email to info@presqueisleaudubon.org

~Festival of the Birds Committee

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT



Sunday, February 20, 2022

Presque Isle State Park

Join Presque Isle State Park and Presque Isle Audubon Society to be a part of a global day of bird watching! The Great Backyard Bird Count involves people from around the world in collecting data on wild birds. Whether you count one bird or hundreds, participating is easy and fun for all ages. The event at Presque Isle State Park will include bird watching instruction, indoor and outdoor activities, and educational displays.

Join us anytime and stay any length of time, from 10:00am to 1:00pm on Sunday, February 20, 2022.

To register, go to

http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/presque_isle_state_park

and click on the green "Register" button.

Program is limited to 25 participants.

Please register each guest individually.

Please register by February 18.

Current COVID-19 safety regulations will be in place. Program may be modified or cancelled at discretion of park staff.

For more information, please contact the Presque Isle State Park office, located on the second floor of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, at 814-833-7424. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM – 4 PM.

WINTER RAPTOR SURVEY

JANUARY 15 TO FEBRUARY 12

During the winter months many citizen science projects occur one of which is the Great Backyard Bird Count advertised in the previous column. Ongoing from November to April each year is Project Feeder Watch conducted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The Christmas Bird Count was conducted last month directed by Audubon member, Michele Rundquist Franz. Erie Bird Observatory's Waterbird Monitoring had volunteers counting waterfowl from October through December.

One project that doesn't get much publicity is the Winter Raptor Survey being conducted each year throughout Pennsylvania.

The WRS monitors winter raptor populations by conducting roadside surveys in mid-winter. Participants create their own route in their area, drive it once and count all of the raptors seen. Drivers must check with the coordinator to avoid overlap of routes. (Interstate highway counts are not accepted.) Drivers must cover a minimum of 10 to 20 miles and maximum of 100 miles. A route is done just one time with no repeats for the sake of improving the numbers. **THIS IS CRITICAL!**

Birders are to do the route from mid-morning to mid-afternoon and must wait for good weather, avoiding fog, high wind, heavy rain and snow. The average survey time and miles are recorded as well as indicated weather conditions. Then the counting begins! You may stop at good vantage points to get out and scan more thoroughly but are not to go on hikes looking for birds.

There are a number of volunteers covering most of Erie County at this time but next year when requests for volunteers go out, you might want to sign up. Or you can contact Greg Grove, the coordinator, at 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntington, PA 16652 or at gwg2@psu.edu to let him know you're interested.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to our new members and our renewals. Check out our newsletter, the *Tern of Events*, published every other month for upcoming events and field trips. When you join National Audubon, you are automatically a member of our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. At present our membership meetings are on Zoom, but hopefully soon we can all get together at the Ton Ridge Center for a membership meeting.

Erie: Robert Nelson, Walter Rybka, Jessica Hartnett, John Kramer, Andrea Behan, Mike Cardarelli, Susan Schuette, Marguerite Miller, Lisa Balsan, Daria Rexford, Sheryl McIntosh, Pamela M Friend, Philip Oriole, Gregory Williams, Kimberly Stanko, Judith Rood, Alfred Fehl, Thomas Frank, Patricia Smith, Barbara Cole, Ruth Stiles, Lew & Judy Vespoli, Annette Kiehl, Donna Barretta, Toni & Bob Griffith, Kathleen Pae, Mary Birdsong, Larry Burlingame, Bob & Marion Gallivan, Ron Vicander, Linda Kierstein, John Scott Photos, Rich Markiewicz

Cochranon: Curtis Oakes,

Conneautville: C. Kent Persinger, Lura Parker

Corry: Sue Jewell, Diane Cowles

Cranesville: Paula Reinhart

Edinboro: Sally Scarlett, Denise Kirby, James Robertson, Theresa Thewes, Patrick Kramer

Espyville: Henry Vinay

Fairview: Catherine Leopold, Christopher Bell, Vicki Grzasko, Patricia Raydo, Jane Woods, Ed & Nancy Group

Girard: Mary Shaw, MaryAnn Daniels

Jamestown: George Summers

Lake City: Walter Thompson

Linesville: Kathleen Baldwin

Meadville: Angela Morton, Shanna Hodgson, Kristen Peterson, Mary Wiley

North East: William Lawry, Sue Murawski

North Springfield: Milton Ganger

Spartansburg: Jim Reilly

Titusville: Susan Zaritski, Wayne Reed

Waterford: Kristine Evankovich

Washington D.C.: Drew Bailey

W. Chester: Rebecca Myers

W. Springfield: Sandra Rand

Allison Park: Teri & Larry Flatley

Portland, ME: Heather Strelecki

Any problems, just email me.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

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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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**

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 _____
E-mail address _____

Chapter Code U15

Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to **YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER.**

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Ronald Intrieri, Membership
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301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
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