



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
JUNE/JULY 2023 ISSUE 23:04

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

Do you care about birds and the environment, and are you a member of Presque Isle Audubon? If so, you may be interested in deepening your commitment to PIA by volunteering for one of the following three Board chair positions: Education, Field Trip, Publications. What does each chair do?

EDUCATION CHAIR: promotes awareness of PIA by participating with local groups, schools and the general public; through lectures and activities on birds and nature.

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE CHAIR: plans, organizes and arranges field trips for members of PIA and its friends.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR: compiles the Society's newsletter as Editor of the Tern of Events.

What else is involved in being on the Board? Attending bimonthly Board meetings, and in between meetings, reading correspondence about upcoming Board issues.

Hmm, sounds like work and not much fun, doesn't it! But joining with others who feel as you do about birds and the environment, and making a difference in both areas, is enjoyable and fulfilling.

Committee chairs are appointed for a yearly term to the Board by the President, upon recommendation of the rest of the Board. New chairs will be mentored and given an

orientation to the Board, so you can feel comfortable in your new position.

Not sure you're right for the job, or have questions? Come join us at one of our bi-monthly Board meetings, meet other Directors, and get a feel for how things work.

Or contact:

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

JUNE/JULY THINGS TO DO!



CANADA WARBLER

June 10, Field Trip - Meet at 7:45a at the Stull Center to go to Gull Point

June 24, Field Trip - Meet at 7:45a at the Stull Center to go to Graveyard Pond

July 19, *Wednesday -** Executive Board Meeting at 6:00p in Room 108

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Officers

President	Sue Murawski
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Susan Stush
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FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS REPORT

It was another successful Festival of the Birds, especially gratifying since it was the first with full registration since the outbreak of COVID. Over 150 registrants enjoyed the beautiful weather and camaraderie. Many contributed to the final tally of 150 birds, with 24 warblers!

David Lindo, the keynote speaker, enlightened all about the pleasures and surprises of birding in urban areas during the Saturday evening banquet.

The Festival committee deserves thanks for their dedication in planning and preparing for this event. They are: **Mary Birdsong, Lisa Danko, Jennifer Ferrick, Michele Franz, Marian Gallivan, Issy Lawrie, Jaimie Miller, Sue Murawski, Emily Prichard of DCNR, Sarah Sargent, Andrew Sipple, and Carolyn Sturtevant.**

Our field trip leaders and workshop presenters generously gave their time and knowledge. Thank you, **Katie Andersen, Jason Bojczyk, Julie Dell, Roger Donn, Shawn Collins, Jennifer Ferrick, Michel Franz, Jamie Hill, Julie Leonard, Liz McQuaid, Jerry McWilliams, Brian Miller, Laura-Marie Koitsch, Mike Plyler, Janet Price, Sarah Sargent, Andrew Sipple, Don Snyder, Sam Stull, Carolyn Sturtevant, Ruth Swaney, Joao Tavares, Shannon Thompson and Dave Wilton.**

Planning has already begun for Festival of the Birds 2024; here's hoping for another weekend of warm weather and fabulous birds!

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



BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from April 1 to May 24, 2023, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Tufted Duck—1 adult male; April 12 to at least 19; channel; J.B., et al.; First county record



TUFTED DUCK

Ring-necked Duck X Lesser Scaup—1; April 19 & 24; Niagara Pond & Sturgeon Bay; J.B. & T.L. resp.

Surf Scoter—84 (high count); April 29; Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC tower); J.B. 24 (high count); April 30; TREC tower; J.B.

Surf/Black scoter—230 (high count); April 29; REC tower; J.B. 170 (high count); May 10; TREC tower; J.B.

Red-necked Grebe—1; May 6; Presque Isle; J.B. REC tower; J.B.

Swainson's Hawk—1 (imm. light morph); April 1; Presque Isle Hawk Watch near TREC; J.M., J.B., et al. Fourth county record. e; April 1 to 9; pines; R.D., et al May 7 to 19; Erie Bluffs State Park & Presque Isle S.P.; m.ob.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—1 male; May 11; lighthouse area; J.W., et al.

Western Grebe—1; April 23 & 24; Gull Point; M.D. et al.

American Avocet—1; April 19 to 21; Gull Point; S.S., et al

American Golden Plover—1; April 21; Gull Point; T.L., et al.

Whimbrel—2; May 15; Gull Point; S.Sc.

Ruddy Turnstone—1; April 19; Gull Point; S.S.; record early in the county by at least a week.

Purple Sandpiper—1; April 22 to at least May 9 (record late); Gull Point; M.B.

Wilson's Phalarope—1 male; May 18; Gull Point; J.F., D.L. (See Below)



Willet—total of 10; April 29 to May 10; Gull Point; R.D., A.M., J.H. 12; April 30; TREC tower; J.B.

Black Tern—2; May 22; Big Pond; C.L.



BLACK TERN

Black-legged Kittiwake—1; May 5; South pier; T.L., et al. Second spring county record.

Iceland Gull—1; April 21; Gull Point; J.M.

(Continued on Page 5)

BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull—1; April 20; Leo's landing; J.M., T.L.

American White Pelican -1; April 26 & 27; Leo's; fide J.F., K.G., resp.

Tricolored Heron—1; April 21 to 27; TREC tower and Gull Point; J.B. and M.B. resp., et al.

Snowy Egret—3; May 19; Gull Point; N.H.

Little Blue Heron—1; May 10 & 11; Gull Point Trail & Niagara Pond resp.; D.M. & J.H., resp.



LITTLE BLUE HERON

Black Vulture—1; April 5; Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M., et al.

Northern Goshawk—1; April 21; TREC tower; J.B.

Long-eared Owl—1; April 8; pines; 1; April 16; pines; R.D.

Short-eared Owl—1; April 3; Gull Point; R.S.
Northern Saw-whet Owl—up to 4 at one time; April 1 to 9; pines; R.D., et al Up to 2; April 28 to May 3; pines; R.D.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—1; May 12 to 14; Dead Pond Trail and Pine Tree Trail; R.S., et al.;

Loggerhead Shrike—1; May 9; TREC tower; J.B.; First record in the county since 1992. First photo document for the county.

Grasshopper Sparrow—1; May 11; Fry's landing; M.N.

Evening Grosbeak—1; April 14 to late April; TREC tower and over Presque Isle; J.B. et al.



EVENING GROSBEAK

Clay-colored Sparrow—total of 4; May 7 to 19; Erie Bluffs State Park & Presque Isle S.P.; m.ob.

Brewster's Warbler—1; May 7; Fry's landing; J.M., J.F.

Golden-winged Warbler—1; May 19; Long Pond Trail; J.T. 1; May 22; Fry's landing; C.L.



GOLDEN- WINGED WARBLER

Prothonotary Warbler—at least 1; May 20 to at least May 21; head of bay; J.H.; last year's nesting site. (See Below)



(Cont. on Page 6)

BIRD REPORT (cont.)

Common Yellowthroat—1; April 7; Dead Pond Trail; L.M.; Record early in the county by about two weeks. (See Below)



Connecticut Warbler—1; May 22; P.I.; S.Z.



CONNECTICUT WARBLER

Orange-crowned Warbler—1; May 16;
Thompson Circle area; J.B.

Contributors: M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, M.D.-Michael David, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, K.G.-Karen Gutowski, N.H.-Nathan Hall, J.H.-Jamie Hill, T.L.-Tim Lenz, D.L.-David Lindo, C.L.-Chris Lundberg, D.M.-Douglas Massey, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, L.M.-Linda McWilliams, A.M.-Andrew M., M.N.-Martina Nordstrand, S.S.-Sarah Sargent, S.Sc.-Steve Schmit, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, J.T.-Joao Tavares, J.W.-Julia Willis, S.Z.-Sam Zhang, , m.ob.-many observers

~Jerry McWilliams jerrymcw@aol.com

WHATS GOING ON?

Ever wonder what Presque Isle Audubon is accomplishing for birds? Lots! And here's the latest.

- We are sending two area educators on an all-expenses paid trip to Hog Island, off the coast of Maine, for "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week". At this camp, the teachers will learn practical approaches and add inspiration to their environmental education classes. Taylor Hinton from Crawford Central School District, and Tina Fuhrman from Millcreek Township School District, will attend this July, and in September they'll share their experiences with us at a PIA program.

- DCNR has been working on a Bird Window Strike Prevention project at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. PI Audubon provided the financial assistance for DCNR to purchase CollidEscape window dots. These dots will be installed on some of the TREC windows to reduce the number of bird strikes.

- In 2022 we provided the Erie County Library system with 6 birding backpacks. Each contained two sets of binoculars and two birding ID books, one for youngsters and one for adults. This year we were approached by the Erie & Crawford Library District to provide an additional 15 birding backpacks, one for each and every library branch in these two counties. Again, Kowa Optics donated 15 pairs and Vortex Optics gave us 50% off their usual price. The backpacks and binoculars have been delivered, and shortly the ID books will arrive, so hopefully each library branch will soon have the completed backpacks ready to lend out for the summer birding season.

- We sponsored the keynote speaker from our Festival of the Birds, David Lindo, to speak to a large group of elementary students at St. James school about urban birding.

Any projects you would like PIA to try? Let us know.

~Sue Murawski

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

SPRING FIELD TRIPS: WHERE BIRDERS FIND THEIR FLOCK



Presque Isle Audubon Spring field trips resumed in April of this year, drawing new and experienced birders from far and near. Even when the birds were not especially plentiful or cooperative, our participants had a great time just being on the park and enjoying the company of fellow birders. Janice Yeadon and three of her friends came up to Presque Isle from the Virginia area to do some birding and found our field trip schedule on the website. After the trip, Janice sent us this lovely email: "Michele-I just wanted to let you know how much my friends and I enjoyed going out with you and the other Audubon members last Saturday on Presque Isle. We appreciate how warm and welcoming your entire group was." They are also considering coming up next year to participate in the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle.

Stephanie Kane, who's visiting Erie from Bloomington, IN joined us on the May 27th field trip to Dead Pond Trail. Stephanie is working on a research project as a Fulbright Scholar, involving the relationship between water and cities. She was grateful for advice on how to use binoculars and was excited and expressed a feeling of accomplishment when she was able to get on a bird on her own. She later wrote, "Thanks so much to you and Julie for today. I will always remember it as the start of a new path to wonder, and new friends."

Stephanie took this picture of the group which also included Janet Price, Linda Monti, Pat Howell, Julie Leonard, Joao Tavares and Michele Franz. (Below)



Although getting towards the end of Spring Migration, we tallied over 50 species on May 27th. We have several highlights including nice views of a Mourning warbler, observing several Eastern kingbirds fly catching, and lovely views of a Nashville warbler. Perhaps the biggest highlight of the trip was that at least two birders got "life birds" which is a bird that the birder has never seen before. Our next birding field trip is scheduled for June 10th for a trek out to Gull Point. Our field trips are free, open to the public, and birders of all skill levels and ages are welcome.

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GO LIGHTS OUT! To Save Birds

Partner with the Cornell Lab, DCNR and Presque Isle Audubon to help stop the loss of over 1 billion birds a year in building collisions.

Some things you can do:

Especially during migration, turn off all non-essential lights; turn off all lights before leaving your home or office; make windows safer by day by using window dots or the like to break up reflections; make sure outdoor lights are aimed downward and shielded.

Doing something is better than doing nothing!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope everyone who attended our Bird Festival enjoyed themselves. The weather was perfect. We want to thank all the members who joined for the first time or who rejoined. Keep up on our activities by getting our chapter newsletter by email or have the paper copy mailed to you. The members are:

Erie: Linda McLellan, Colleen McCarthy, Tara Maiello, John Zeitler, Anne Logue, Richard Rainwater, James Montgomery, Daria Rexford, Karen Adams, Bernie Infield, Sonna Miaczynski, Phillip Malinowski, Janet Price, Nancy Rutkoski, Marcia Gensheimer, Gretchen Wolford, Pat Wigham, Annamarie Senita, Patricia Turk, Sylvia Jarema, Marcia Hall, John Scott, Asher Whitney, Carolyn Tellers.

Albion: Paul Madden

Cambridge Springs: Harry White

Centerville: Cheryl Harvey

Conneautville: Lura Parker, Jack Braun

Corry: Tim Conklin

East Springfield: John Schriefer

Edinboro: Lucy Ford, Mark & Mari Harrison

Fairview: Brian Pardini, Denise Foltz, Darla Graff

Forestville: Gale VerHague

Girard: Rick Williams

Linesville: Karrie Eells

McKean: Elaine Smith

Meadville: Marci Crawford, Jacqueline & Stanley Kondrot, Debbie Knapp, Selene McGowen, Thomas Rockwell, Brian Miller

Saegertown: Lawrence Slomski

Union City: Marjory Willison

Waterford: John Williams

Altoona, Pa: Brian Freiwald

Fowler, OH: Richard Orsborn

Pittsburgh, Pa: Dallas DiLeo

Any suggestions or anything else you would like to ask, just email me.

~Ron Intrieri

Membership Chairman

membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

AN E-BIRD ASSIGNMENT FOR STATE BIRDS!?

Info from the Spring Issue of *LIVING BIRD*.

Pennsylvania – Scarlet Tanager

New York – Peregrine Falcon

Ohio – Wood Thrush

West Virginia – Cerulean Warbler

New Jersey – Clapper Rail

Massachusetts – Piping Plover

Indiana – Sandhill Crane

Michigan – Kirtland Warbler

Illinois – Indigo Bunting

Kentucky – Yellow-throated Warbler

Vermont – Black-throated Blue Warbler

Maryland – Seaside Sparrow

New Hampshire – Bicknell's Thrush

Based on the proportions of the global population!

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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**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_____

Please provide your e-mail address if you want the online version of our newsletter.

E-mail address_____

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

Ronald Intrieri, PIA Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
Erie, PA 16505

**National Audubon Society
Membership Application**

Renewal members (\$20) 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 (\$20) 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. Please include your e-mail address to receive the online version of the newsletter.

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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