



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
JUNE/JULY 2017 ISSUE 17:03

*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

Well, it's finally happened. I am no longer the president of the Presque Isle Audubon; this Perch will be one of my last obligations as The Prez. It's been a great ride and I can't thank you all enough for the compliments I've received about how much people enjoy my, now bi-monthly, rants. As I know I've stated before, it's always coming up with a topic that's the hard part. Once I get up and running though, it's actually fun doing the research and writing. In keeping with that, I've decided to write a column for the Tern of Events where YOU come up with a topic in the form of a question. I'm going to call it "Dear Martha" in honor of the last passenger pigeon. Readers can write in with their questions to the website ([www.Presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.Presqueisleaudubon.org)), email ([info@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:info@presqueisleaudubon.org)), or our PIA FB page. Feel free to ask questions on any topic pertinent to the PIA and our mission. More than likely I won't have an answer, but I'll either find one or make one up 😊. So, get your thinking caps on and write in with those burning questions that have been keeping you up at night, like..." Why do small birds fly after larger birds when that larger birds could turn around and make a nice snack of them?" No subject is too serious or too silly. I look forward to seeing your questions. If I don't get a question from YOU there might not be a column that edition, or I might make up a question myself, or I might use a question that we get from people in the community about birds they've seen or heard and would like help identifying. It's a work in progress.

Speaking of progress, I am very pleased to welcome our new executive board members who were voted in at the membership program/meeting on May 19th. Our new President is Drew Mortensen who has served on the board in the past as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and as field trip chair. Drew is an energetic, thoughtful and driven leader who I know will serve to forward the PIA mission and take us to the next level. Drew lives in Fairview, PA with his wife, Kristin, and three awesome kids. He is an Assistant Principal at Harborcreek High School.

(Cont.on Page 2)

## JUNE/JULY THINGS TO DO!



**BUTTERFLY WEED (Milkweed)**

**June 16, Friday** – PIA General Meeting and Program: AAUW Education Pavilion  
7:00PM – Program followed by a Social (P. 6)  
**July 18, Tuesday** – PIA Executive Board Meeting in the TREC Board Room at 6:00p

## 2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

President	Drew Mortensen
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Sue Murawski
Treasurer	Julie Dell
Retiring President	Michele Rundquist Franz

### Board of Trustees

2015-2018	Dave Gustafson
2015-2018	Katie Andersen
2016-2019	Jason Lymangrover
2016-2019	Kathy Lutton
2017-2020	Issy Lawrie
2017-2020	Michele Franz

### Chairs of Standing Committees

Bird Records	Jerry McWilliams
Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	TBA
Field Trips	Michele Franz
Grants	Marion Gallivan
Hospitality	Delores & JoaoTaveres
Library	Marion Gallivan
Membership	Ron Intriери
Nominating	TBA
Presque Isle	Paul Burroughs
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	Susan A. Smith
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Sales & Marketing	Mary Birdsong
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

As many of you know, Kel McDonald, our treasurer, moved out of the area early this year to be closer to his family in Georgia. Since then I've been serving in his stead (or at least trying) and am quite happy to turn over the golden calculator to Julie Dell. Julie has been a great volunteer for PIA during the birding festival and recently retired from her job at Edinboro University where she worked in the library and served as the treasurer for her union. Julie is a great friend to the birds and is a purple martin and bluebird landlord. Taking over as secretary on the executive board is Sue Murawski who also serves as our Sanctuary chair. Sue lives in North East with her husband Tim and their playful pups. Sue is a longstanding member of the board and is a wonderful asset always willing to lend a hand when and where she can. Paul Burroughs was re-elected as Vice President of the PIA EB and serves as chair of the Conservation Committee. He is an attorney at the Quinn Law Firm and fortunately for us his legal acumen far outweighs his birding skills. Our two new Trustees are Issy Lawrie, whose ability to sweet talk local businesses into donating or discounting items for the birding festival was a tremendous boon and Michele Franz, yeah, me. Oh, yeah, I'm getting the retirement job I've always dreamed of, too, field trip chair.

So, I now must bid you adieu. Remember to send in a question or two so "Dear Martha" has something to write about. I'm sure I'll see you at meetings/programs and, hopefully, out at Presque Isle. Until then, bird on!

~Michele Rundquist Franz, President of PIA

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I will look forward to publishing answers to the questions sent to Michele. Look for the column "Dear Martha" in the August/September issue of the Tern of Events.

~Janet Price, Editor

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)

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to all our new members and returning members. Hope to see you at our next membership meetings, or you can keep up on our chapter activities via our newsletter.

**Erie:** Jennifer Bennett, Patricia Bayless, Diane Kallor, Rynda McCray, Judith Lynch, Lance Strasser, Susan Roehrl, Joyce Harrison, Ken Simkowski, William McGinnis, Elizabeth Frankowski, Nancy Klein, Alice White, Marge Solomon, Jill Gee, Pete Bricker, Rick Rumball, Lisa Rekitt, Sei Paulson, Mary Birdsong, Jonathan Moser, Robert Hartman, James Hallamyer, Cindy Lewis, Donald Brett, Mary Kite, Carl Fetzner, Cheryl Holly, Shannon Thompson, Mike Pyler, Mary Linds Jacky, Angela Hetrick

**Albion:** J. Swann, Edward Zajic, Anna-Lisa Palmquist

**Cambridge Sps:** Cean Schopf, Peter Lindeman

**Centerville:** Jas Murphy

**Conneaut Lake:** Carol West

**Corry:** Karin Vantassel

**Edinboro:** Donald Sheehy, Lianne Walker, Lucy Ford, Jerry Covert, John Yonko, Tim Banks,

**Fairview:** Joyce Getz, Jule McCormack

**Girard:** William Felege

**Leesburg, Fl:** LeeAnn Reiners

**Linesville:** Richard Dean, Bernard Juracko

**Meadville:** Karlin Marsh

**McKean:** Elaine Smith, Susan Kemenyffy

**Titusville:** Katherine Wescoat

**Union City:** Erma Rhodes, Anna Mullen-Kroll

**Waterford:** Phyllis Polumbo, Marilyn Stubbe, Lois Wiley

**Wattsburg:** Olive Sammons

~Ron Intriери, Membership Chair  
[membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)

## TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOUNDATION

Every year including our first Festival of the Birds in 2008, the Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center has generously supported this event. Last year the organization hired a new Executive Director, David Martin, under whose leadership a new approach was initiated for the organization. The mission statement was restated and a new title was introduced. The Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation again this year supported our festival with a generous grant, for which we are very grateful. Marion Gallivan, our Grant Writer, was present to accept the check from David Martin, President & CEO and John Leemhuis, Board Chairman, The Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation.



## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from March through May 19, 2017 from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise.

**Eurasian Wigeon**—1; Mar. 23 & 24; Thompson Bay; J.Mc., J.M.

**Surf Scoter**—4; May 7; Beach 11; J.M.

**Black Scoter**—1; May 13 to 19; off Beach 11; K.Z., A.M.

**Red-throated Loon**—1; May 1; Gull Point; M.B.



**RED THROATED LOON**

**Eared Grebe**—1; May 6 & 19; Leo's and off vista 4; S.T., B.O., resp.

**American White Pelican**—1; May 13; Lake City; L.G.

**Least Bittern**—1; May 6; Sidewalk Trail; D.S. 1; May 14; Niagara Pond; R.T.

**Red-tailed Hawk**—1 (Harlan's?); March 25; Presque Isle hawk watch at the TREC; J.M.

**Golden Eagle**—1; April 3; Presque Isle hawk watch at the TREC; R.S., J.M., J.S.

**Piping Plover**—up to 3; April 18 (earliest spring record in Erie County) to at least May 19; Gull Point; M.B.

**Mississippi Kite**—1; April 22; near the marina on P.I.; S.S.. First Erie County April record 1; May 17; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at the TREC; J.T., J.M., D.S. (See Below)



**American Golden Plover**—1; May 18; Gull Point; M.B.

**Long-eared Owl**—up to 2; April 11 & 12; pines; R.D., J.M. resp. (See Below)



(Cont. on Page 5)

## BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

**Northern Goshawk**—1; April 9; Presque Isle hawk watch at the TREC; J.S. ; April 27; Presque Isle hawk watch at the TREC; J.M., K.F., R.S.  
**American Avocet**—1; April 29; Gull Point; M.B.  
**Thayer's Gull**—1; April 5; Misery Bay; J.M.  
**Iceland Gull**—1; April 6; Lake View Landfill; J.M.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—4; April 6; Lake View Landfill; J.M.  
**Glaucous Gull**—1; May 4; Gull Point; M.B.  
**Black Tern**—1; May 5 to 7; head of P.I. Bay; S.T. 1; May 14; Waterford; J.H.  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—1; April 11; ines; R.D.  
**Common Raven**—1; May 18; Thompson Circle; J.M.  
**Golden-winged Warbler**—1; May 13; Fry's landing; K.Z. 1; May 14; Pine Tree Trail; J.M.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler**—2; May 14; Fry's landing; fide J.F. 1; May 16; Graveyard Pond Trail; N.A.  
**Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler**—1 male; May 7; Pine Tree Trail; S.C. (See Below)



**Willet**—1; April 29, Manchester Beach, Fairview Twp.; B.P. total of 11; April 29 to May 1; Gull Point; M.B. 1; May 15; Mill Village; J.H.

**Red Knot**—1 (record early in Erie County); May 1; Gull Point; M.B.

**Prairie Warbler**—1; May 6 & 7; Pine Tree Trail; S.S.



PRAIRIE WARBLER

**Clay-colored Sparrow**—up to 3; May 14 & 15; north pier, Thompson Circle, Dead Pond Trail; J.M., J.H., R.Sc.

**Contributors:** N.A.-Nancy Andersen, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, S.C.-Shawn Collins, R.D.-Roger Donn, K.F.-Ken Felix, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, L.G.-Leonard Garf, J.H.-Jamie Hill, A.M.-Andrew Markel, J.Mc-Jim McConnor, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, B.O.-Bill Oyler, B.P.-Brian Pardini, R.Sc.-Robert Scribner, D.S.-Don Snyder, J.S.-Jerry Stanley, R.S.-Russ States, S.S.-Sam Stull, S.T.-Shannon Thompson, R.T.-Ryan Tomazin, J.T.-Joao Taveres, K.Z.-Kendall Zook

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Record Chair

814-240-8594 jerrymcw@aol.com

**PIA ANNUAL PICNIC  
Friday, June 16, 7 pm  
AAUW Pavilion**

PIA provides subs, beverages and all the plates, napkins and utensils. You bring a dish to share if you're so inclined, your appetite and a bird charade. All welcome—no need to be a member. Laid back event—come for the fun.

~Mary Birdsong, Program Chair

**FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS, RAIN OR SHINE  
By Janet Price, Chair of the Festival of the  
Birds at Presque Isle**

Another year, another festival. The 9<sup>th</sup> Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle was deemed a great success despite the curveball thrown at it – a rainy Saturday. Birders understand that weather cannot be controlled but they also understand that weather will not control their spirits. This phenomenon was observed during this year's festival when rain challenged the organizers and birders to adapt to the situation. Adapt they did with a willingness to make the best of it. Kudos to all for such an attitude.

I want to acknowledge the quality effort and support that certain individuals put into the festival. I realize that everyone who was involved deserves individual thanks but that's not possible so here I heartily send my thanks to each of our festival contributors.

There is a group whose members are many time silent supporters of our yearly event. This year our **sponsors** include: Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation, Janet Price, Kal Darres, Mary Birdsong and Mike Plyler, Paul Burroughs, Marion Gallivan, Linex-Erie, Marti Pastore, Wild Birds Unlimited, Nancy and Ken Andersen, Channellock, Inc., Pat Howell, Sue Murawski, Carolyn Sturtevant, Dolores and Joao Tavares. I thank all of them for their loyal support.

The **Festival of the Birds Committee** members deserve special praise for their exceptional performance. These members are: Chuck Benson, Holly Best, Mary Birdsong, Sue DeArment, Anne DeSarro, Michele Franz, Marion Gallivan, Pat Howell, Issy Lawrie and Susan A. Smith.

The food offerings for the Friday reception and the Saturday dinner were labeled fantastic and excellent. These descriptions should make our **chef, Kal Darres**, the happiest chef in Erie. He has provided quality food each year and each year it gets better, if that's possible. Thank you, Kal, for making our birders happy!

The following are a couple of items of interest.

1. The winner of the \$25 gift certificate to Wild Birds Unlimited for submitting an evaluation was Paula Bigelow from Lakeport, New York. Hers was chosen from among the 51 evaluation sheets that were handed in.
2. Besides most of the birders registered for the festival coming from Pennsylvania and New York, birders represented many other of the 51 states namely: Connecticut, Virginia, Vermont, Michigan, Kentucky, Illinois, Colorado, Rhode Island, California, New Jersey, Ohio, and Florida. Canada was also represented with two birders attending.
3. We had rain on Saturday, as you all know, but it was only the second time in our nine festivals that rain challenged us.

Following is a list of many of the comments made by birders who submitted evaluation sheets. I thought you should know how our festival is perceived.

“Committee did a wonderful job as always. Very friendly and organized.”

(Cont. on Page 7)

**FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS, RAIN OR SHINE  
(Cont.)**

“It is hard to believe that I had to pay so little to come here and get fabulous meals, a book, and excellent guides. I can’t begin to express satisfaction to fit how wonderful the experience was – rain, cold and all.”

“Great job – setting up every year!”

“The committee did an excellent job!”

“Friendly, close knit atmosphere. All guides were knowledgeable. No large crowds on trips- lots of trip selections.”



**SAM STULL AND BIRDERS**

“I’m very impressed with the smooth organization, good meals and hand-outs, great facility, excellent tours. The volunteers are very helpful and friendly. All this is why we’ve returned to the festival 4 times. My enthusiastic thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this festival great. I’ve recommended it to many of my friends and brought another couple this year.”

“We continue to enjoy how well the festival is organized. We always enjoy the company of other birders.”

“There was a great variety with most of the time filled with events. The organization of the festival was superb.”

“Thanks for all the work you put into this festival. It’s a real good value for the price.”

“Thanks so much for all your hard work! Great festival and that’s why this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> time here and we coaxed our birding friends to come, too.”

So here is a sample of what people think about the Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle. As you have read, many attendees return because of the quality of this event.

Since that is the case, you might want to know that **Drew Lanham** will be the keynote speaker in 2018 and the dates will be **May 18 – 20**.

**SEE YOU THEN!**

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](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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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

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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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Tom Ridge Environmental Center  
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Erie, PA 16505**

**National Audubon Society  
Membership Application**

**ALL CHECKS TO NATIONAL AUDUBON MUST NOW BE MAILED TO THE LOCAL AUDUBON CHAPTER. NATIONAL AUDUBON WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP CHECKS DIRECTLY.**

Membership includes membership in BOTH the National Audubon Society and the local Presque Isle Audubon Society. National members receive *Audubon Magazine* (4 issues per year) and the monthly newsletter *Tern on Events*. Please include your email address to receive the on line version of our chapter's newsletter.

Introductory Membership     \$20.00  
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