



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
JUNE/JULY 2020 ISSUE 20:04

*To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habits for the enjoyment and benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity in northwestern Pennsylvania.*

## PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Who knew the USDA tracked birdwatching? Noted May 12<sup>th</sup> on their website: "As people have been forced to stay at home, interest in attracting and watching birds is on the rise." Here's hoping all of you have gotten out safely to birdwatch, especially since the migrating warblers finally came in large numbers to Presque Isle when the weather improved around May 15.

It was warm enough on May 19 that your PIAS Board of Directors was able to comfortably meet in person, outdoors and masked, for our bimonthly meeting. We welcomed three new Board members: Mary Ann Daniels, Andrew Sipple and Thomas Frank (see accompanying article on Page 3). We still need two more members to volunteer for committee chairs; Publicity, and Sales & Marketing. Duties for Publicity include publicizing the purpose and activities of the organization through newspapers, radio, television, other public media, and the PIA website. The ability to work through social media is an important skill needed for this position. Committee chairs are appointed positions, so an interested person could start leading either committee right away. We also need two more Trustees to round out the Board, but those are elected positions. Since we can't hold our annual general membership meeting at this time, and who knows when we safely can, those spots will remain unfilled.

Our Laura Olsen Memorial Sanctuary in Crawford County is now being managed to improve it for songbirds. The Foundation for

Sustainable Forests, in their February presentation to Presque Isle Audubon, explained how their sustainable forestry principles will improve the overall health and vigor of our forest. Many dying ash trees have since been cut or trimmed; the larger ones sold and the smaller ones left for snags or on the ground. We'll survey this property over time to see how the bird population responds. See the Feb./March 2020 TOE for additional info about this Sanctuary. (Cont. on Page 2)

## JUNE/JULY THINGS TO DO! OR NOT TO DO!



**PIA PROGRAMS** - Because of Covid-19 there will be no programs scheduled until February, 2021 unless otherwise noted.

**FIELD TRIPS** - Field trips that would have been conducted during these coming months have been cancelled due to Covid-19. Watch for future birding trips in the newsletter or on our web page

**July 21, Tuesday** - PIA Board Meeting at 6:00p in the Conference Room or in the Pavilion at the TREC.

## 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
2020-2021	TBD
2020-2021	TBD

### Chairs of Standing Committees

Conservation	Paul Burroughs
Education	Andrew Sipple
Field Trips	Michele Rundquist-Franz
Membership	Ron Intrieri
Programs	Mary Birdsong
Publications	Janet Price
Publicity	TBA
Sales & Marketing	TBA
Sanctuaries	Sue Murawski

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)

## PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Diane Esser of Fairview thanks PIA for our donation of \$240. She'll purchase saplings to give away as part of her Plant It Forward-Making a Change for Climate Change initiative. Diane says: "We are a reforestation movement. Our goal is to promote and plant a larger, healthier urban forest with best practices to make a change for climate change. Reforestation on our planet is a critical issue."

Through community planting, maintenance, and education we can begin a strong reforestation movement. If we all just planted one tree in front of our home, in one year we would be a tsunami of change toward that goal."

"Birds Need You" National Audubon reminds us. "The only way we'll be successful in our conservation efforts is with your help. As a constituent, you have a unique ability to convey your concerns about issues affecting birds, wildlife and their habitats — and be heard like no lobbyist. Lawmakers care about your views and opinions." Please everyone, sign up for Audubon's Action Network, *FastAction*. National and PA Audubon will then send you emails when national or state issues affecting birds need addressed. You'll be able to send your message to legislators with one click. I know, I know, we all receive too many emails, but with *FastAction* it takes less than a minute to respond. Go now to National Audubon's home page, click or tap on "Take Action" on the top right, and then click or tap on "Sign up for Audubon's Action Network here". You're done! And thank you.

~Sue Murawski, PIA President

## **NEW PIA BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2020-2021**

### **EDUCATION CHAIR – ANDREW SIPPLE**

Growing up in northwestern Pennsylvania, Andrew developed a strong interest in nature at an early age. In 2010, he opened Serenity Gardens in Crawford County to give tours and sell perennial plants. In 2015, he graduated from Allegheny College with a bachelor's degree in music and an interdisciplinary minor in environmental studies. He later completed his master's degree in environmental education at Slippery Rock University. He is currently serving the Erie School District's farm-to-school initiative through the AmeriCorps VISTA program. In the upcoming years, he is excited to learn more about birds and promote the conservation mission of this organization.



### **SECRETARY – MARY ANN DANIELS**

Mary Ann Daniels is chief executive director of the Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission. She previously served as executive director of the Erie County Office of Children and Youth, and has worked in the field of human services for over 30 years. Mary Ann earned her Masters in Educational Psychology and a BA in Early Childhood Education and Psychology from Edinboro University. She enjoys all four seasons and their outdoor

activities, including birding, backpacking, running and watching any kind of wild life.



### **TRUSTEE – THOMAS FRANK**

Thomas Frank, an Erie native, is a lifelong birder and enjoys all the region has to offer with his wife, Lindsay, and his 1 year old daughter Sofie. In his day-to-day life, he currently serves as a Senior Strategy Analyst with Erie Insurance, supporting ERIE's Executive Council and Senior Leadership with strategic planning, engagement, and communication. He graduated from Mercyhurst University in 2013 with a B.A. in Intelligence Studies and a M.S. in Organizational Leadership in 2015. He looks forward to meeting more PIAS members in the coming months and supporting the organization as a Trustee.





## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from February 1 to May 7, 2020 from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**Snow Goose**—21 (high count); Feb. 12; Fairview Twp.; L.S.

**Cackling Goose**—3; March 9; Fairview Business Park; K.A.

**Green-winged Teal**—1 pair; Feb. 11 (early); Edunboro; R.S. (See Below)



**American Bittern**—1 or 2; April 27; Sunset Point and Niagara Pond; K.A., K.F. 10; April 28; Niagara Pond; J.F., J.M.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—2; April 28; Niagara Pond; J.F., J.M.

**Wilson's Snipe**—1; Feb. 13 (early); Edinboro Lake; R.S. (See Below)



**Black Vulture**—1; Feb. 10 & 11; near entrance of Presque Isle; B.B.; second winter record for the county.

**Turkey Vulture**—1; Feb. 5 (early); Erie; P.B.Z. 34 (high count for this date); Feb. 23; Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M.

**Summer Tanager**—1 adult male; May 1; Vista; S.S. (See Below)



**Golden Eagle**—1; May 2; Presque Isle Hawk Watch at the TREC; J.M., K.F. Photo by J.M.

**American Avocet**—1; April 21; Edinboro; J.H. 2; April 30; Edinboro Lake; J.H. 2; April 30; Gull Point; M.B.

**Purple Sandpiper**—1; Feb. 29; Niagara boat launch; B.B.; Third winter record for the county.

**Sedge Wren**—1; May 7; Dead Pond Trail; J.B.



**SEDGE WREN**

(Continued on Page 5)

## BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

**Willet**—44; April 26; Gull Point; M.B. Record county high. 20; April 26; Manchester Beach, Fairview; B.P. 2; April 30; Gull Point; M.B. 22; May 3; Fairview Business Park; B.G.



**WILLET**

**Iceland Gull**—total of 9; Feb. 1 to March 4; Presque Isle Bay J.M.

**Iceland Gull (Thayer's type)**—total of 5; Feb. 9 to March 4; Presque Isle Bay; J.M., J.F.

**Herring Gull X Lesser Black-backed Gull (hybrid?)**; Feb 16 & 18; Channel and Misery Bay, resp.; J.M.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—up to 4; March 2 to 4; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

**Glaucous Gull**—up to 9; Feb. 29 to March 4; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

**Golden-winged Warbler**—1 male; May 3; Fry's Landing; J.T. (See Below)



**Snowy Owl**—1; March 11; Sunset Point; D.Z., fide R.D.

**Long-eared Owl**—total of 8; March 6 to April 19; pines; R.D.

**Short-eared Owl**—total of 2; March 20 to 28; Gull Point; R.D., R.S. 1; April 7; Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M., et al

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—total of 3; March 8 to April 3; pines; J.B., R.D.

**Northern Shrike**—1; to Feb. 16; SGL #109; R.S. (See Below)



**Yellow-breasted Chat**—1; May 3 to at least May 5; Erie residence; N.A. (See Below)



**Prothonotary Warbler**—1; May 3 & 4; Vista 1; J.F. (See Below)



(Cont. on Page 6)

## BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

**Prairie Warbler—1; May 3; Pine Tree Trail; J.B.**



**PRAIRIE WARBLER**

**Clay-colored Sparrow—1; May 5, Erie residence; J.M. (See Below)**



**Brown-headed Cowbird—1 (pure white); April 4; Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.F., J.M., also the same bird or perhaps a different one, was photographed coming to a feeder in Fairview from at least April 10; B.L.**

**Contributors:** K.A.-Katie Andersen, N.A.-Nancy Andersen, B.B.-Brian Berchtold, J.B.-Justin Berkheimer, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, R.D.-Roger Donn, K.F.-Ken Felix, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, B.G.-Bonnie Ginader, J.H.-Jamie Hill, B.L.-Barabara Lamb, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, B.P.-Brian Pardini, R.S.-Robert Scribner, S.S.-Susan Smith, L.S.-Linda Susko, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, J.T.-Joao Taveres, C.V.-Connor Vara, P.B.Z.-am & Bob Zelenak, D.Z.-Dean Zeller

~Jerry McWilliams  
814-240-8594 jerrymcw@aol.com

## MAKING YOUR OWN BIRD FEST

Yes, the 2020 Presque Isle Audubon Bird Fest was cancelled. But fret not. You can make your own Bird Fest. Bring your binoculars, and that's about all you need! If you have someone in your household who will bird with you, that's great. Or birding can be solitary. Here is a sample Mini Bird Fest Outing, in this case, a trip for two.

On Wednesday May 29, around 5pm, with southerly winds and overcast skies, around 60 degrees, we headed to PI. We hoped to see birds but didn't have high expectations. You never know. The flash of sunset orange at the feeder at the Ranger Station made us take a hard right into the lot. Oh yeah! Baltimore Orioles and a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. Welcome back Pretty Birds: (And thank you Bonnie Ginader for filling the feeders:)

We headed to the Gas Well Trail. We might see Wood Ducks in the trees (or not). The light was fading but the trail was alive with birds. White-Crowned and White-Throated Sparrows scratching like starving chickens in the leaves. A mob of Robins feeding along the trail, at least six. A Veery feeding in the leaf litter. And a Rufous-Sided Towhee silently perched.

A couple of silent Crows, on lookout from the bendy tip top branches, silently escorted a small hawk out of the vicinity and returned to bug a squirrel out of it's (someone's?) nest. Then they kept an eye on us.

A Yellow-Rumped Warbler, always a joy to see. Such bright colors, little bird! Other small birds were in the tangled vines further back, but hard to see.

Over to the lake and the Red -Breasted Mergansers are still here in the stilled south wind waters:) Around eight or nine are hanging out right here on the Lake. Thinking about Going North. No Wood Ducks. Oh, well.....

(Cont. on Page 7)



## **MAKING YOUR OWN BIRD FEST (Cont.)**

Driving back to the exit there are ducks scuttling off the road and plopping into a roadside pond. Wood Ducks!! The most beautiful duck that we are lucky enough to have in our own Presque Isle back yard. I love to see the Wood Ducks.

So, on a birding outing you never know what you'll see! It's a treasure hunt and a surprise! But consider making your own mini Bird Fest! You'll be glad you did!

~Issy Lawrie, PIA Contributor  
#

### **MEMBERSHIP**

I hope everyone is doing well in this Covid-19. Memberships, both new and renewals.

**Erie:** Larry Sydow, Nancy Anderson, Dan Rogowski, Becky Frank, Ruth Walker, Nancy Morrison, Barb Toy, David Ungerman, Peggy Jones, Irene Baker, Sheila McLaughlin, John Greiner, Ashley Stewart, David Sublette, Patricia Murphy, Russell Bromley, Ashley Whitney, Barb Cole, Cindy Snyder, John Scott Sr., JoaoTavares, AnnaMarie Senita, Marcia Hall, Sylvia Jarema, Richard Markiewicz

**Albion:** Mike Chason

**Cochranon:** Linda Smoch, MaryAnn Gorka, Joseph Bosle

**Cransville:** D.W. Bashline

**Edinboro:** Julie Dell, Patrick Kramer, Liz Dilla, Brian Zimmerman

**Fairview:** Frank Lasky, Linda Mroz, Ed & Nancy Group, Darla Graff

**Girard:** Nancy Pallan, Melissa Paschke, James Baxter

**Meadville:** Paul and Deb Dicey, Karla Buttray, Karen\_Richter, Dorothy Smith, Glenn Thompson, LuAnn Schroeder, Jennifer Ferrick

**North East:** Charles Martin, Martha Campbell, Suzanne Ludwig

**Saegertown:** Andrew Sipple

**Spartansburg:** Jactrading.com

**Union City:** Lisa DeFilippo

**Waterford:** Marilyn Stubbe, Kristine Evanovich, Ruth Pflueger, Susan Messenger

**Wexford, Pa:** Ed Weler

**Akron, Oh:** Diana Schieber

**Makakilo, Hawaii:** Amanda Kimball

**West Chester,PA:** Lon & Becky Myers

**Pittsburgh, PA:** Dalles DiLeo

Hope I got everyone. Stay safe.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chair  
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

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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**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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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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Do you require a paper copy? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Tom Ridge Environmental Center  
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**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

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**Chapter Code U15**

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

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