



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE 21:06

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

Over one hundred years of Board service! That's what we're honoring this month. Five of our current members have been on the Board so long that their total service is at least 100 years. Let's begin with Dave Gustafson, who remembers starting in 1974, and has been off and (mostly) on the Board since, currently as Trustee. Ron Intrieri, Membership chair, started in 1996 and has served continuously for 25 years. Paul Burroughs, Vice-President and Conservation chair, has been on the Board for 20 straight years; the same number of continuous years goes for Janet Price, our Publications chair. Rounding out the group is Programs chair Mary Birdsong, who started in 2005. All of these Directors have filled varying positions; all have served as Board President. We are so privileged to have benefited from their talents, time and energy over the years. To thank them, the Board has awarded each a gift certificate to Red Letter Hospitality restaurants in the Erie area.

Our members were also very good to Presque Isle Audubon on Erie Gives Day in August! We had 32 donations totaling \$2917. Thanks so much to the following folks (and also 4 anonymous donors):

Sheila & Bruce Baldwin, Harriet E. Beckman, Pete & Pat Benekos, Sarah & Jason Bennett, Heidi Buffington, Greg & Pam Duffin, Guy &

Wilma Dunkle, Maureen Q. Dwyer, Thomas M. Frank, Michele Franz, Bob & Marion Gallivan, Bonnie Ginader, Shanna & Rob Hodgson, Diane Knight-Kallor, Chris H. Lundberg, Mrs. Clemence Mershon, Pamela Moore, Alan & Bonita Munson, Sue Murawski, Patty & Bob Raydo, Janet Russell, Justin & Maryann Scholl, James Snyder, Wendy Swanson, Robyn Sye, Roxanne Tonn, Harriet Victor, and Frank & Cheryl Zalik. (Cont. on Page 2)

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER THINGS TO DO!



BROWN CREEPER

October 12, Tuesday – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC

October 15, Friday – PIA Zoom Program at 7:00p (See Page 3)

November 16, Tuesday – PIA Board Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC

November 19, Friday - PIA Zoom Program at 7:00p (See Page 5)

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

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 2019-2022 | Thomas Frank |
| 2019-2022 | TBA |
| 2020-2023 | Lisa Danko |
| 2020-2023 | Dave Gustafson |
| 2021-2024 | TBA |
| 2021-2024 | TBA |

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 | Jennifer Ferrick |
| Sanctuaries | Sue Murawski |

Attention book club members or group readers: we have at least a dozen new copies of each of the following three books. If you'd like any for your group, send me an email.

1. *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds*, by Julie Zickefoose;
2. *The Private Lives of Birds: A Scientist Reveals the Intricacies of Avian Social Life*, by Bridget Stutchbury;
3. *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*, by Scott Weidensaul.

Here's an update on the PA Audubon Council (PAC): Four officers were recently elected to this newly formed organization, including our Vice-President and Conservation chair Paul Burroughs, who was elected VP of this PAC also. I'm continuing on the Executive Committee. We're currently organizing the list of advocacy concerns generated at the August virtual meeting of PA Audubon chapters. Once the list is organized it will be distributed to all Chapters, and then each Chapter can prioritize the items on this list for future action by the PAC.

Keep in touch!

Sue Murawski,
president@presqueisleaudubon.org

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

FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS - 2022



Save the dates:

May 13 – 15,
2022

OCTOBER PIA PROGRAM - 2021

Program Note: This program will take place via Zoom to make it accessible to all during these uncertain times.

FINCH SUPERFLIGHT:

Tracking the Mysterious Movements of Evening Grosbeaks October 15, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Join David Yeany as he discusses how new technology is being used to track winter and migration movements of Evening Grosbeaks. This information will help in developing strategies for conservation of the species.



In the past 50 years, we have lost three billion birds across North America. At more than a 90% decline, Evening Grosbeak is the most steeply declining land bird species. Since 2017, ornithologists have been researching wintering Evening Grosbeak populations in western Pennsylvania. Evening Grosbeaks follow an irruptive migration with sudden mass movements in response to changes in winter food availability.

During this past winter (2020-21), there was a widespread irruption of boreal finches,

including Evening Grosbeaks, in numbers not seen in decades. With an abundance of grosbeaks in PA, this provided a valuable opportunity to further advance this research project. Using new tracking technology and the power of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, researchers aim to urgently learn more about Evening Grosbeak migration movements, ecology, and to fill in data gaps – all to help develop strategies for conservation of the species.

David Yeany II is the Avian Ecologist for the PA Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC). David joined WPC in 2011 and has 16 years of professional experience in conservation biology, with bird conservation work throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania. His current work includes avian ecology and monitoring, wildlife-habitat relationship studies, rare species surveys, spatial analysis in GIS, and conservation projects for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), particularly birds.

Some of his projects included shale gas impacts assessments on forest interior birds, bird habitat relationships in the PA Wilds region, statewide surveys and monitoring for rare, threatened, and endangered bird species, and co-founding the Allegheny Bird Conservation Alliance. David represents PNHP on the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) Ornithological Technical Committee. He is Chair of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) and a member of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Society (PSO) board of directors. David holds a Master of Science degree in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology from Frostburg State University (2009) and Bachelors of Science in Biology from Messiah University (2006). David grew up in Forest County and currently lives in Allegheny County with his wife, Colleen, and three-year-old son, Drake.

BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from July 28, 2021 to September 29, 2021 at Presque Isle S.P., unless noted otherwise.

Trumpeter Swan—1; to at least Sept. 6;
Howard Eaton Reservoir; m.ob.

American Avocet—1; Aug. 14; Gull Point; R.D.
1; Aug. 30; Gull Point; M.B.

American Golden Plover—6; Sept. 7; Gull
Point; J.Fl. up to 3; Sept. 10 to 16; Gull Point
J.F., et al. (See below)



Stilt Sandpiper—at least 2; Aug. 26 to Sept.
19; Gull Point; S.T. (See below)



White-rumped Sandpiper—1; Aug. 14; Gull
Point; J.F., J.M. 1; Aug. 16; Gull Point; J.M.

Willet—singles; Aug. 6 to Aug. 15 with a high
of 13 on Aug. 12; Gull Point; M.B.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—1; July 30; Gull
Point; J.M.

Whimbrel—total of 6; Aug. 14 to Sept. 5; Gull
Point; R.D. et al. (See below)



Marbled Godwit—1; Sept. 8; Gull Point; A.B.,
S.K..

Red Knot—up to 2; Aug. 14 to Sept. 13; Gull
Point; K.B., et al.



Yellow-headed Blackbird—1; Sept. 13; Gull
Point; Justin Berkheimer, J.M.

Connecticut Warbler 1; Sept. 17; Thompson
Circle; J.M.

Prairie Warbler 1; Sept. 14; Fry's landing; J.M.

Contributors: J.B.-Justin Berkheimer, A.B.-
Angelica Billings, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, K.B.-
Kyle Brock, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer
Ferrick, J.Fl.-Jim Flynn, S.K.-Steven Klingler,
J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson.
m.ob.-many observers

Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd.,
Erie, Pa. 16508-2129
jerrymcw@aol.com

NOVEMBER PIA PROGRAM – 2021

PLOVER PALOOZA! **November 19, 2021 at 7:00**

Program Note: This program will take place via Zoom to make it accessible to all during these uncertain times.

Join Mary Birdsong, Lead Shorebird Monitor for the Erie Bird Observatory, as she recaps the 2021 Piping Plover season at Gull Point.



From April to August (and into September this year!), Piping Plovers gave us some remarkable thrills and chills as one male attempted to nest with three different females. Learn about the intrigue as he chased down every female, and also the hazards of this nesting methodology. But also join us to celebrate the ultimate success of two new chicks fledged into the population. It was an extraordinary season!

Mary Birdsong has been monitoring shorebirds, particularly Piping Plovers since 2015. She is also the Program Chair for Presque Isle Audubon, a freelance writer and artist. She shares her home with her husband Mike Plyler and two tabby cats, and is the proud Busia to two whip-smart granddaughters

BIRDING BY EAR

The Merlin Bird ID App

Birding by ear has always been my weakest skill in the field. I always envied my birding friends who could tell what was lurking out of sight by listening to the bird calls. Now there is help for all of us who are not good at “birding by ear”! It is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology birding app, Merlin Bird ID. Merlin is free! If you have a smartphone, just go to your app store and download Merlin Bird ID.

There are several features within Merlin, but the one that has me excited is the sound id. Merlin “listens” to the bird calls around it and identifies the calls. What fun it is to have this tool. It is not 100% correct all the time, like when it told me I had Lapland Longspur in July in Erie County, but it really is quite accurate.

This little app has made my bird walks so much more fun! Check it out.

Julie Dell, PIA Member and Treasurer

PIA NEEDS TRUSTEES

Presque Isle Audubon has six trustees on the board at any given time. Two trustees are elected each year and serve for a three year period. Right now there are three vacancies: one for one year (due to a resignation) and two for three years. The duty of a trustee is to uphold the overall mission and goals of Presque Isle Audubon and to protect all of the organizations assets and funds. Trustees assure the formation of an Audit Committee each year and will attend board meetings which are held every other month on the third Tuesday. A trustee may also choose to volunteer to serve on one of the standing committees during his/her tenure. Contact president@presqueisleaudubon.org if interested.

**PREVIEW OF THE FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS
MAY 13, 14, 15 - 2022**

If all goes well, there will be a Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle in May of 2022. We are very excited about seeing all the regular birders and sharing all that Presque Isle has to offer.

You can expect the field trips, workshops, reception and dinner that have been on the schedule in past years. Your early morning breakfasts will be provided each day as well as the tasty lunch on Sunday and there is no increase in the registration fees. The only activity that has been eliminated this year is the kayak trip.

Our keynote speaker (Katie Fallon) comes with a plethora of experience and knowledge about birds. She is the author of two nonfiction books about birds as well as two books for children.

***(Note: Welcome bags will include her book *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird*.**



Katie Fallon

Katie has worked with birds since 1998. Over the last twenty years she has given educational presentations featuring live raptors, vultures, parrots, and corvids. She is also a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and has taught writing at West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and elsewhere.

**WHO IS IRG?
By Janet Price, Editor**

I was presented with some fliers about IRG, and, since I hadn't heard of IRG, I wanted to find out what the initials meant and why fliers were being distributed by warights.org. (Our Water, Our Air, Our Rights) I want to share some of the contained information with you.

The International Recycling Group (IRG) is a collection of corporate and private investors who want to build a fully automated Plastics Recovery Facility in the City of Erie where that plastic waste will be recycled.

The Group plans to collect about 500 million pounds of plastic each year from an area covering a 750-mile radius and bring it to Erie for washing, sorting and flaking. The facility will be located in the neighborhoods from East 6th Street on the North and East 10th Street on the South with Gilson Street on the West and Downing Street on the East. If there happens to be plastic waste that cannot be recycled, IRG plans to ship it across Lake Erie to Canada to be burned as Polycoke in a steel mill in Nantucket, Ontario.

There are many issues that aren't addressed among which are:

How will populations and the environment in the above area be affected by the materials used in the recycling processes?

What effect will the constant presence of huge tractor-trailer trucks on Erie streets and roads have on the citizens and the environment. How much water must be used in the process?

Will Canada approve of shipping the waste there and will local businesses be awarded the work in constructing the plant or will out of town companies be contracted?

You can go the IRG's website to find out more about this project: warights.org

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcome all of our new members as well as our renewals. Most of us could not get out to do any birding this past year, but that should change. In person membership meetings will be starting up in the fall at the Tom Ridge Center. Some months we will have our meetings on Zoom. I prefer the in person meetings just like the old days.

Our members, both new and renewal are:

Erie: Michael Koncewicz, Diane Kellor, Paula Ruane, Peter Major, Marlene Golab, Patricia Wigham, Phillip Kahle, Sarah Shidemantle, Toni & Bob Griffith, Karen Leo, Jeanne Szymanowicz, E. Michael Dail, Pat Hersch, Barbara Cole, Cindy Snyder, Suzanne Ludwig, Grace Widdowson, Patricia Murphy, Tom Chandley, Michele Rundquist Franz, Susan Smith, Stephen Kroth, Clarence Schaney

Cambridge Sps: Margaret Mamula

Cochranon: MaryAnn Gorka

Conneautville: Thomas Waldron, Lura Parker

Edinboro: Gail Stickner

Espyville: Louise Petronio

Fairview: Dr. Joann Painter, Karen Brady

Girard: Rachel Hido, P. Buziesicz, Timothy Myers

Lake City: Walter Thompson

Linesville: Charles Powell

Meadville: Rosalind Macken, Barbara Shick

North East: Jack Airhart

Titusville: Nancy Drusko, Emily Mills

Trafford: Karen Rose Cercone

Saegertown: Patricia Culbertson

Union City: Louise Yucon

Waterford: Susan Messenger

Wattsburgh: Larry May

Akron, OH: Diana Schieber

Beaver Falls, PA: Leo Meier

Cherry Creek, NY: Bonnie Bowen

Dallas, Texas: Douglas Nichols

Elkridge, MD: Griffith family

North Potomac, MD: Ellison Onsi

Thank you all,

Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

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 25th 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 _____

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.**

Presque Isle Audubon Society
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Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8
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