



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
301 PENINSULA DRIVE SUITE 8,  
ERIE, PA 16505  
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE 23:06

*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.*

## PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Hello all! Your Presque Isle Audubon had a productive, happy summer. I'm smiling thinking about it.

Dozens of people supported us during Erie Gives Day for a total of \$3,208.57. These donations helped support our program of birding backpacks for most public libraries in Erie and Crawford Counties. Each sturdy backpack contains two birding ID books (one for adults and one for youngsters) and two sets of binoculars (large and medium sized). Now everyone can see birds up close and personal. Spread the word about these please.



The Board recently voted to completely fund the cost of seeds for the bird feeders in front of the Public Safety Building at Presque Isle State

Park. Many thanks to Carrie Robinson for regularly refilling them. Check out this sign by the feeders!



David Lindo, the keynote speaker at this year's Festival of the Birds, wrote an extremely positive blog recently about his birding experience at Presque Isle State Park in May. "It is on this tip of Presque Isle where its specialty bird nests: the globally threatened Piping Plover. One or two pairs of this enchanting little plover have recently chosen to nest on the dunes after 60 years of absence. Their breeding area is cordoned off and the birds themselves watched over and protected by eagle-eyed volunteers. I have always dreamed of seeing this bird. So, forget the large flocks of migrating Blue Jays overhead, the groups of feeding Short-billed Dowitchers, the hunting Peregrine, Merlin and Northern  
(Cont. on page 2)

2022-2023 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 Drive, Suite 8  
 Erie, PA 16505  
 Website: [www.presqueisleaudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org)

PRESIDENT'S PERCH Cont.

Harrier that were around whilst I was enjoying the plovers. Even the totally unexpected Wilson's Phalarope that visited a nearby pool for just a few moments wasn't a patch on my Piping Plovers. The moment I clapped eyes on a pair feeding along the beach, these endearing plovers automatically became the birds of my trip to America. Presque Isle State Park rocks!"

Here's the link to the entire article: [leica nature blog/the urban birder](http://leica.nature.blog/the-urban-birder) When you click on the link, you may first see a page written in German asking you about your privacy preferences. If you click on "Nur essenzielle Cookies akzeptieren" you are clicking on "Accept only essential cookies". Rest assured the blog is written in English. You don't want to miss reading the entire post by David Lindo, Leica Ambassador. [theurbanbirderworld.com](http://theurbanbirderworld.com)

If you own any forested property, the following one-hour webinar from Penn State Extension may be of interest to you: "Forest Management for Birds". It's free, on October 11, at 8 AM. Here's the link for more info: [Forest Management for Birds](http://Forest-Management-for-Birds)

And lastly here's an update on Solar for Schools legislation in PA. After passage in the PA House, on July 27 HB 1032 went to the Senate's Community, Economic and Recreational Development committee. And there it sits. Our Senator Daniel Laughlin is a member of this committee.

Keep in touch!  
 ~Sue Murawski

[president@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:president@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.

**PIA PROGRAMS FOR OCTOBER AND  
NOVEMBER**

**OCTOBER PROGRAM**  
Birds of Costa Rica  
Friday, October 20  
7:00pm via Zoom

The PIA October program on Friday, October 20 is via Zoom at 7pm, with Mike Fialkovich of Pittsburgh speaking about the birds of Costa Rica.



**Collared Aracari**

Mike is an exceptional birder and volunteer. He is Vice President of the Three Rivers Birding Club in Pittsburgh, PA, field trip leader and Bird Reports editor.



**Mike Fialkovich**

He was a board member (May 2011-May 2014), Vice President (May 2014-May 2016), President (May 2016-September 2019) and Past President (September 2019-September 2021) of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO).

He's a Seasonal Editor and Allegheny and Fayette county compiler for Pennsylvania Birds, the journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. He served on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) from 2012-2021, and wrote the PORC annual reports from 2012-2021.

He also served as a Regional Coordinator and author for the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas.

Mike participated in the Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas, surveying two blocks in Westmoreland County, and running a frog calling survey in Butler County-from 1996-2002.

He's an eBird reviewer for Allegheny, Fayette and Westmoreland Counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. He was presented the W.E. Clyde Todd Award by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania in 2011.

Glad he can take the time to talk with us!

Mike says that while Costa Rica is known for its diversity of birds, other wildlife was also a big part of his experience there. Mike will cover the places he visited, the birds and other wildlife observed during the trip.

Check the PIA website the morning of Oct. 20 for the Zoom link.

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**NOVEMBER PROGRAM**  
The Fabled Cahow: Saving a Lazarus Species  
from Extinction  
Friday, November 17  
7:00pm via Zoom

Kate Sutherland moved to Hatteras, NC in 2001 to work for Seabirding, a company that runs pelagic birding tours in the Gulf Stream and has the enigmatic Black-capped Petrel as their signature species! In 2016 she also began helping Bob Flood lead the Cahow Experience, a tour in Bermuda to see the highly endangered Bermuda Petrel. 2019 found her on her first research cruise from Woods Hole, MA as a seabird observer. Her niche is



seabirds, so offshore is her habitat. She has recently earned her master's in marine biology at University of North Carolina Wilmington investigating the foraging ecology of Black-capped Petrels by using stable isotopes in feathers from historical specimens.



Kate

The Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), locally known as the Cahow, was believed to be extirpated a short time after the islands were colonized, disappearing by the 1620s.



Bermuda Petrel

As a boy, David Wingate found signs of these petrels around the island and there were a few records of live and freshly dead individuals thought to belong to other species. In 1951 Robert Cushman Murphy came to Bermuda in search of the Cahow, pulling one from a burrow as a young Wingate looked on. A species that “returns from the dead” is dubbed a Lazarus species. The Cahow was presumed extinct for over 330 years before rediscovery.

But what do you do when you finally find a species after all of that time that has just 7 pairs left? All nesting on low-lying islets in one location on Bermuda? David Wingate dedicated his life to these birds at the moment he saw the first one held up by Murphy.

His dedication, and that of Jeremy Madeiros, current Chief Conservation Officer of Bermuda, have turned the Cahow into a conservation success story like no other.



Those 7 pairs in 1951 have turned into 164 breeding pairs this season (2022-2023).

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HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



Tina Fuhrman and Taylor Hinton

Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week

Looking back on my Hog Island experience, I can think of so many memorable highlights...from the camaraderie to the  
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## Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week (Cont.)

delicious food to the collaborative activities and knowledgeable staff. But what really pulled it all together is that it happened while immersed in an outdoor environment both amazingly beautiful and new to me. Having never been to that part of the country before, the Maine coast held delightful surprises - such as watching the adorable Puffins swim around or standing among a huge number of crabs in the intertidal shores. I returned recharged and reinvigorated and am excited to share this enthusiasm with my students! I am forever grateful to the Presque Isle Audubon Society for the opportunity - thank you!

By Tina Fuhrman

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## Hog Island – A Rejuvenation

By Taylor Hinton

As a worn-out educator who desperately needed a battery recharge, my whole week at Hog Island was a true gift of rejuvenation. From watching sea birds glide over the ocean to sitting with my hands in bioluminescent waters late at night, I felt truly immersed in the ecosystem of Hog Island. It was a well-timed reminder of the healing powers of natural spaces and how important they are to preserve and enjoy whenever possible. I remember sitting on the dock one night watching a school of squid dart around beneath a dock light. I remember the moment someone spotted a Great Shear Water hovering above the waves. I remember crawling into a bed of moss and watching the hemlock trees sway above my head. I remember eating seafood paella and savoring each bite. But mostly I remember feeling in the moment: watching the rhythm of the island go by moment by moment and not worrying about a to-do list sitting back at home was the greatest gift Hog Island could give me and I am so grateful. I won't forget these moments as I look for similar ones to share with my students in the natural spaces that surround them.

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## BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from August 1 to September 19, 2023, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

American Avocet—total of 7; Aug. 1 to Sept. 5; Gull Point; N.H., et al.

Whimbrel—total of 7; Aug. 22 to Sept. 18; Gull Point; J.D., et al.

Hudsonian Godwit—1; Aug 24; Gull Point; D.S.



Hudsonian Godwit

Red Knot—total of 4; Aug. 25; Gull Point; K.Z., et al. (See Below)



Stilt Sandpiper—total of 11; Aug. 10 to Sept. 17; Gull Point; R.K., et al.

Willet—1 (deformed bill); Aug. 6; Gull Point; R.K. 1 (normal bill); Aug. 6; Gull Point; C.K.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—1; Aug. 12; Gull Point; M.B.; Record early in the county. 1; Aug. 26; Gull Point; A.M., R.D. up to 4; Sept. 9; Gull Point; D.M., J.B., et al.

Lapland Longspur— up to 2; Sept. 13 to 16; Gull Point; J.F. & J.B., et al.; Record early in the county by at least a week. (See Below)



White-crowned Sparrow—1; Sept. 17; Presque Isle; S.S.; Photo.; Record early in the county by at least a week.

Tennessee Warbler—1; Aug. 12; Corry; T.K.; County record early by more than a couple of weeks. (See Below)



Contributors: M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, J.D.-Jonathon DeBalko, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, N.H.-Nathan Hall, C.K.-Colin Keith, R.K.-Ripley Kindervater, T.K.- Theresa Konzel, D.M.-Doug Massey, S.S.- Steve Schmit, A.M.-Andrew M., D.S.-Don Snyder, K.Z.-Kendall Zook

Jerry McWilliams [jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I hope everyone had a good summer. Migration season has started, so there is plenty to see. The warm weather may have slowed things down a bit. Presque Isle Audubon wants to welcome all of our new members into our chapter as well as those who rejoined. We are trying to get as many members as possible to get our Chapter newsletter via email. It's faster than getting it by regular mail, and more convenient. The members are:

Erie: Cate Kager, Mary Porath, Pam Wassell, L.D. Peterson, George Zehner, David Crotty, Pat Sexauer, Heather Steva, Linda King, Beverly Larsen, Dale Pehrsson, Meg Kessler, Gerald Basler, Ann Whipple, Janice Showler, Paul Groucutt, Michael McAninch, Gary Vargo, Daniel Barber, Thomas Chandley, Bob & Toni Griffith, Chase Anderson, Charles Schaney, Stephen Kroth, Carol Thomas

Albion: Russell Bromley

Conneautville: Charles Gilbert

Corry: Belinda Sherlock, Theresa Konzel

East Springfield: Jonathan Stewart

Edinboro: Richard Hymes, Denise Kirby

Fairview: Deb Sanko

Girard: Julie Gandley, Beth Decker, William Stewart

Guys Mills: Jane Byham

Jamestown: Maryanne Hoffman

Meadville: Melissa Borgia Askey

North East: Elizabeth Sceiford, Victoria Bartlett, Jack Kerr

Saegertown: Maureen Osborne, Sylvia Czech

Titusville: Cynthia Wurzbacher, Emily Mills Union

City: Elaine Smiley

Waterford: Bonnie Leuthold

Wattsburgh: Ernest Clute

I hope I didn't miss anyone.

~Ron Intrieri Membership

Chairman

[membership@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:membership@presqueisleaudubon.org)

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TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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  
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**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.

Ronald Intrieri, PIA Membership  
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301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8  
Erie, PA 16505