



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE 17:05

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

Strategically Planning for Our Future

Were you aware that Presque Isle Audubon has a Strategic Plan? Have you read it? If you answered no to either question, you are not alone, yet we do have such a guiding document. Over the next several issues of the *Tern of Events*, I am going to highlight a section of the Strategic Plan so that we, as a community, can continue to do good works based on a shared vision. The PIA Executive Board will be working through this document as well, and I encourage everyone to become active in seeing the vision brought to fruition.

Here then is the first section of the Strategic Plan;

The Purpose:

This strategic plan was developed over the course of 24 months, beginning in July of 2013 and concluding in June of 2015. It represents an evolution of thought and effort, with contributions coming from many members. The intention of this plan is to set a roadmap for continuing Presque Isle Audubon's long history of doing work which benefits birds, the environment, and the people in our community. While the plan is not meant to be exclusive and limiting the group to only what is contained within, it is meant to help steer decisions through a common and shared vision for a period of five years.

Continued on Page 2

**PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON NEEDED TO FILL THE OFFICE FOR PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON
SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFORMATION**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER THINGS TO DO!



- October 2, Monday** – PIA Special Program at 7:00p in Room 112. (See Page 3)
- October 7 and 8, Saturday and Sunday** – The Big Sit. (See Page 6)
- October 20, Friday** – PIA General Meeting and Program at the TREC in Room 112
7:00p Program:
Followed by a social (See Page 5)
- October 24, Tuesday** – Festival of the Birds Committee Meeting at 6:00p in the Board Room
- November 24, Friday** – PIA General Meeting and Program at the TREC in Room 112
7:00p Program:
Followed by a social (See Page 5)
- November 21, Tuesday** – PIA Executive Board Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC in the Board Room

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

2017-2018 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	Katie Lutton
2017-2020	Issy Lawrie
2017-2020	Michele Rundquist Franz

Chairs of Standing Committees

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

In order to develop this plan, the Strategic Planning Committee spent time reviewing plans from numerous Audubon chapter organizations, the National Audubon plan, the National Audubon Climate Change Report, and many other foundational documents. The result of the extensive research and review process is that our plan in many ways mirrors that of those that face similar obstacles and shared interests. Our chapter is unique however, and so many aspects of the strategies and goals were written or edited to be purposeful to our region.

At the heart of the strategies and goals found within this report is the mission statement of Presque Isle Audubon

"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."

This mission, which was developed by the Strategic Planning Committee and adopted by the Executive Board, reflects the essence of the organization and its historical commitment to birds, ecosystems, and the people of the Erie region."

Undoubtedly, we are an organization that is committed to action, propelled by the strength and dedication of its members. The Strategic Plan was accepted and ratified in 2015, and we are now more than two years into this five year plan. Progress has been made, but there is still much to be done. In the next installment of the *Tern of Events*, we'll look at the Strategies and Goals set out in the plan, and begin to discuss where we are in achieving the goals.

To see the complete Strategic Plan, please visit our website - www.presqueisleaudubon.org

~DM, 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

**PIA SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 2
“BIRDS, BIRDING AND BIRD CONSERVATION
IN PERU”**

by Gunnar Engblom

**Monday, October 2 AT 7:00P IN Room 112 at
the TREC**

Peru is one of the most diverse bird nations in the world with some over 1860 species on the list. Gunnar Engblom will tell us about the ornithological highlights and the best birding routes, as well as reviewing some of the bird conservation challenges Peru face.



Gunnar Engblom is a Swedish birder living in Peru for 19 years, with a Peruvian wife and two daughters. He runs Kolibri Expeditions: Birdwatching and bird photography tours. He is also a marathon runner and is currently dabbling in a music career.



**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
NEEDED FOR
PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON**



Presque Isle Audubon is searching for an individual to chair the Publicity Committee. Duties will include publicizing the purpose and activities of the organization through newspapers, radio, television, other public media and the PIA website. Working through social media is an important skill needed for this position.

A specific program that is included in the Publicity Chair's duties is the Festival of the Birds, held each year in May. The chair will be a member of the Festival Committee.

The Publicity Chairperson will work closely with the PIA website administrator who will also be a member of the Publicity Committee. Anyone interested can contact Drew Mortensen, the PIA president, for more information and/or to apply for the position. He can be reached at president@presqueisleaudubon.org

FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS - 2018

The 2018 Festival of the Birds is scheduled for **May 18, 19, 20 – Friday, Saturday and Sunday**. Save the dates for this exciting event that features the Spring migrating birds, particularly the warblers. Field trips are scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday and Sunday mornings on Presque Isle. Workshops are held at the TREC on Saturday afternoon. Pontoon boat rides are offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Dr. J. Drew Lanham a birder, naturalist, and hunter-conservationist is the keynote speaker.

BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported for August through September 20, 2017 from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise.

American Golden Plover—3; Sept. 16; Gull Point; R.D.

Piping Plover—1 or 2 continuing juveniles; to at least August 28; Gull Point; M.B., R.D.

American Avocet—3; Aug. 5; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Aug. 20; Gull Point; R.D.

Greater Yellowlegs—60+; Aug. 31; Gull Point; J.M., J.F.



GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher—1; Sept. 1; Gull Point; J.M.



OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

White-winged Dove—1; Sept. 13; Summit Twp.; S.S.. Third county record. (Below)



Willet—1; Aug. 2; Gull Point; M.B.

Whimbrel—1; Aug. 12; Gull Point; R.D. 2; Aug. 13; Gull Point; R.D.

Red Knot—up to 2; Aug. 26-28; Gull Point; R.D. 1; Sept. 1 to 11; Gull Point; J.M. 4; Sept. 16 to 17; Gull Point; R.D.



RED KNOT

White-rumped Sandpiper—1; Sept. 2; Gull Point; R.D.

Stilt Sandpiper—2; Sept. 2; Gull Point; R.D.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—1; Aug. 19, D.S. 1; Aug. 26; R.D.

Contributors: M.B.-Mary Birdsong, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jim Flynn, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.S.-Don Snyder, S.S.-Sam Stull

~Jerry McWilliams, Bird Record Chair
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Erie, Pa. 16508
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**PIA PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20
“BIRD-SAFE WINDOWS”
By Heidi Trudell**



Hundreds of millions of healthy birds are killed per year when they collide with glass at residences and office buildings. This is a serious problem: bird populations are facing steep declines, and aside from habitat loss and cats, glass collisions are the leading cause of death.



In order to save birds, we need to understand how we impact their lives. Trudell will discuss the ethics of attracting birds to our yards, and exploring the risks we pose to them as well as discussing solutions to keep them safe. Additionally, learn about how valuable dead birds are to research and science, and how we can respectfully make sure that every dead bird becomes a learning opportunity.

Heidi Trudell is chair of Great Lakes Safe Passage (a branch of Detroit Audubon) as well as the Regional Coordinator in Ypsilanti, MI for

Washtenaw Safe Passage (WSP), an active research branch of Washtenaw Audubon Society. Safe Passage programs are dedicated to making the world a safer place for birds through education, outreach, and monitoring buildings for window collisions. Part of this includes guiding architects through the process of designing bird safe buildings and helping reduce the impacts of existing buildings. Heidi has conducted bird collision surveys on a dozen low-rise structures as part of WSP since 2015. Her avian mortality work began with window studies in southern Illinois in 2003 on a small college campus and she co-authored a publication, *Bird Density and Mortality at Windows*, in 2008. From 2006-2009 she served as a pre- and post-construction wind farm monitor for birds and bats in central Texas. She was heavily involved with Attwater's Prairie Chickens, leading birding tours, nature blogging, and citizen science in West Texas prior to her move to Michigan in 2014.

**PIA PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24
(Fourth Friday not the third, our usual
program night)
Tanzania: A Photographer's Journey**



Join photographers Sam Stull, Scott Gorrington and Shawn Carey on an adventure into the heart of Tanzania. We'll take a safari vehicle into the country's spectacular national parks and see the "Big Five"—African Elephant, Black Rhino (Next Page), Cape Buffalo, Lion, and Leopard—in all their glory. **Cont. on Page 6)**

Tanzania: A Photographer's Journey (Cont.)



Along the way, we'll search for and photograph Cheetahs, Giraffes, Black-backed Jackals, and Hippos.



And we'll encounter a panoply of Tanzania's wonderful and amazing birds, including the Greater Flamingo, Lilac-breasted Roller, Little Bee-eater, Giant Kingfisher, and Grey-crowned Crane—the country's national bird.



If you've ever dreamed of visiting East Africa and its incredible wildlife, this is a journey you'll never forget. And it may just have you planning your own African adventure.



The Big Sit! 2017 will occur on the Weekend of October 7-8, 2017!

The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. Every team that observes the year's "Golden Bird" has a chance to win \$500. Every year, bird watchers from around the globe unite on this special day by participating in this free event, open to any person and club in any country! The Big Sit! is sponsored by Swarovski Optik.

The Big Sit! is like a Big Day or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the area limitation from which you may observe.

Some people have called it a "tailgate party for birders." Find a good spot for bird watching—preferably one with good views of a variety of habitats and lots of birds. Next, create a real or imaginary circle 17 feet in diameter and sit inside the circle for 24 hours, counting all the bird species you see or hear. That's it. Find a spot, sit in it, have fun. Then submit your findings.

Participants are allowed to come and go from the circle—especially for the purpose of bringing food back into the circle—and the circle need not be occupied for the entire 24 hours.

There are Big Sit! circles all over the world, including Guatemala, India, the Netherlands, England, Vietnam, and New Zealand. **Why not plan one for Erie, Pennsylvania!**

For more information or to register go to: www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome back everyone. I hope everyone had a good summer, even though it was warmer than usual.

Our new members and renewals are:

Erie: Gretchen Fairley, M. Kisiel, Alice Mountjoy, James Montgomery, Dahte Homan, Ron & Diane Ames, Caroline Reichel, James Nesgoda, Jennifer Shope-Martin, Patricia Benekos, Jerry McWilliams, Donald Brett, Tom Chandley

Cambridge Sps: Robert Grinarmi

Conneautville: Deb Durrant

Edinboro: Robert Tammariello, Gayle Yonkin

Fairview: Melody Kissell, Karen Brady, Mike Decorte

Meadville: John Litzinger

North Springfield: Susan Barton

Titusville: Ted Metz, Emily Mills

Mexico,NY: Patrick Crotty

Waterford: Deborah Hakkarainen

Any questions about membership, email me at membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman

JOAN HOWLETT, LONG TIME PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON MEMBER



Joan S. Howlett, age 78, of Saline, Michigan, died Saturday, September 9, 2017. She was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late John K. and Luella (Miller) Specht. She resided in Edinboro, Pennsylvania for more than 40 years with her husband, Dorn Howlett, before moving to Michigan.

She was an avid birder and an active member of the Presque Isle Audubon Society, leading field trips, acting as compiler of the Erie Christmas Bird Count, and designing and maintaining their website. She taught a Continuing Education Course on Birding. She participated in the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and volunteered at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge, and for the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

Joan also edited the PIA newsletter for a number of years before she left for Michigan and continued her input when requested for years after leaving.

Her dedication to PIA made a difference and is acknowledged and appreciated.

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 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
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ERIE, PA 16505

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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 encouraged to send their first check to membership at the local chapter so we can get credit for new members. 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 issues per year) and the monthly newsletter *Tern of Events*. **Please include your email address to receive the on line version of our chapter's newsletter.**

Introductory Membership \$20

Renewals \$20

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Chapter Code C7ZU150Z

Please mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER AND INCLUDE THE CHAPTER CODE ABOVE.

**Presque Isle Audubon Society
Ronald Intrieri, Membership
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite #8
Erie, PA 16505**