



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023 ISSUE 23:02

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 A Few Cheerful Messages



I'm so happy to announce that your Board of Directors recently voted to offer TWO scholarships this year to area educators to attend "Sharing Nature: Educators Week" this summer at Hog Island, Maine. The two winners will learn practical approaches to engage children with nature, and how to add inspiration to their environmental education curriculum.

Last year's winner, Jill Hyatt, was very enthusiastic in describing her time at Hog Island and how she would share what she learned with her students. We want to spread this kind of excitement about connecting youngsters with nature. Look to our website for details and applications; the deadline to apply is April 1.

Speaking of connecting to nature, join us at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center on Sunday, Feb. 19 for the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. We'll be in the Discovery Room there

from noon to 4 PM, watching and identifying birds and the occasional squirrel raiding the feeders, and helping youngsters make their own feeders with pine cones, peanut butter and birdseed. Whatever the weather, whatever your skill level, come on over and have some fun watching birds.

Keep in touch!

Sue Murawski, President of PIA

FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



Green Heron

February 17, Friday – PIA Program: 7:00 via Zoom - Watershed Stewardship in NW PA. (See Page 3)

February 19, Sunday – GBBC: 12 – 4pm Discovery Room at the TREC. (See P. 6)

March 17, Friday – PIA Program: 7:00p via Zoom – Owls of Pennsylvania (See P.3)

March 21, Tuesday – PIA Board Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC

APRIL 1, SATURDAY – **Deadline for Applications for Scholarship to Hog Island**

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 Dr., Suite 8
Erie, PA 16505
Website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org

NEW PRESQUE ISLE BOARD MEMBERS

SUSAN STUSH



Susan Stush is a retired administrative assistant most recently from Edinboro University, but has past work history with Hamot Medical Center and the former Regional Cancer Center. She has many interests that include watercolor painting, a variety of nature pursuits and investigating the paranormal. She lives in Fairview PA with her husband Mike and has one son, Jacob who is currently teaching English in China. Susan is a backyard birder, now retired, and looks forward to volunteering with an environmental organization. She has accepted the position of Secretary for Presque Isle Audubon. Welcome Susan!

ASHER WHITNEY

Asher Whitney has served as an adult leader to Scouting Troop 13; was lead for interagency/joint military projects with DCNR and the City of Pittsburg (marathon, veteran's day events.)

Asher loves to travel and spot new birds, and wants to become more involved with and contribute to Presque Isle Audubon

We welcome Asher as a new Trustee who will serve in that position until 2023.

PIA PROGRAMS - FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Please check our website and Facebook for the link to each of the programs.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP in NWPA

Friday, February 17, 7-9 pm via Zoom

Amber Stilwell, Master Watershed Steward Coordinator for Erie, Warren, and Crawford Counties will present information about The Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program which provides extensive training in watershed management to volunteers who, in return, educate the community about watershed stewardship based on university research and recommendations. She will explain what volunteers do, and how you can get involved in the protecting local watersheds.

The program was established to strengthen local capacity for management and protection of watersheds, streams, and rivers, by educating and empowering volunteers across the commonwealth. The program's focus areas include Erie, Crawford, Warren program, and deal with invasive species outreach, native tree and shrub plantings, water quality monitoring, coordination with local watershed associations, and much more.



Amber Stilwell joined Penn State Extension in August, 2021. Additionally, Amber is a Lake Erie Coastal Outreach Specialist with Pennsylvania Sea Grant where she is responsible for planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating regional outreach programs with a focus on healthy ecosystems and watershed restoration.

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OWLS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Friday, March 17, 7-9 pm via Zoom

Julie Travaglini, Senior Director of Education & Curriculum for the Allegheny Land Trust, will introduce us to the eight species of owls that call Pennsylvania home and talk about their biology.



LONG EARED OWL

Julie Travaglini has been with Allegheny Land Trust since 2016. Julie joined ALT in June 2016 as the Education Program Director. She served as the Senior Program Facilitator at The Outdoor Classroom for almost seven years where she taught more than 5,000 pre-school children the joys of nature, planned community events, and wrote curriculum. She is also a Specialty Discipline Instructor for the state. She also completed internships at Living Treasures Animal Park, The Dawes Arboretum, and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Julie holds a BS in Biology and an MS in teaching from Muskingum University.



JULIE

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THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from November 27, 2022 to January 26, 2023, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Snow Goose (blue imm.)—1; Jan. 24; Edinboro Lake; B.Z.

Ross's Goose—1; Nov. 27 to Dec. 11; Edinboro Lake; J.F., et al. Third county record.

Greater White-fronted Goose—2; Dec. 30; Gull Point; J.K. 1; Dec. 30 & 31; LECOM campus; B.M., et al. 1; Jan. 6; Fairview Business Park; D.S.

Brant—1; Nov. 3 to 12; Sunset Point (Waterbird Count=WC); J.M., et al. 1; Nov. 14 to Dec. 4; Gull Point & Sunset Point; R.Sw., et al. (See Below)



Cackling Goose—up to 18; Dec. 16 to Jan. 17; Edinboro Lake; R.S. et. al. 3; Jan. 6 & 7; Fairview Business Park; D.S. 2; Jan. 14; Leo's; A.M.

Long-tailed Duck—500+ (high count); Jan. 15; Sunset Point; J.M. (See Below)



Harlequin Duck—total of 3; Nov. 12 to Dec 17; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., et al. 2; Jan. 9; Sunset Point; J.M.

Red-necked Grebe—total of 2; Dec. 2 to 28; J.M. 1; Jan. 21 to 24; south of south pier; J.M.

Sandhill Crane—10 (high count); Dec. 4; Waterford; J.H. (See Below)



Sanderling—1; Dec. 22 (late); Gull Point; R.Sw.



Sanderling

Purple Sandpiper—up to 2; Jan. 19 to 26; Gull Point; R.D.

Herring X Glaucous Gull (hybrid)—1; Jan. 19; Lake View Landfill; J.M.

Iceland Gull—total of 4; Jan 13 to 26; Sunset Point and Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

Green Heron—1; Dec. 6 (late); Leo's; J.H. Record late in the county by a month.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1 heard only; Dec. 12; Erie; K.A. 1; Dec. 17; pines; R.D. 1; Jan. 25; pines; R.D.

Cont. on Page 5

THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Long-eared Owl—2; Dec. 3; east of B-trail; R.D.



LONG EARED OWL

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1 heard only; Dec. 12; Erie; K.A. 1; Dec. 17; pines; R.D. 1; Jan. 25; pines; R.D.

Northern Shrike—1; Jan. 25; Summit Twp, Elk Creek Rd.; R.S.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—1; Dec. 9; ranger's station feeder; D.S. (See Below)



Contributors: K.A.-Katie Andersen, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, J.H.-Jamie Hill, J.K.-John Kramer, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, B.M.-Bailey Merritt, A.M.-Andrew M., R.S.-Robert Scribner, D.S.-Don Snyder, R.Sw.-Ruth Swaney, S.W.-Suzanne Winterberger, B.Z.-Brian Zimmerman

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2022 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Michele Rundquist Franz

Presque Isle Audubon hosted the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday December 17, 2022. This was the 123rd such bird count that was first held on Christmas Day 1900. The brainchild of Frank Chapman, an officer in the then newly formed Audubon Society, proposed this new holiday tradition to replace the traditional Christmas Day "Side Hunt". The Side Hunt was an activity in which teams of armed men would go into the field and compete for the largest tally of feathered and furred quarry. The team with the largest pile was dubbed the winner.

The CBC is one the longest continuously running Citizen Science projects and by using the data collected and submitted to the scientific community over these 123 years, scientists can track and gauge trends in bird populations. Interestingly, the first CBC was composed of 27 "counters" whose locations ranged from Toronto, ON to Pacific Grove, CA. Those counters tallied 90 species on all the counts combined. This year, our CBC which encompasses Presque Isle SP and parts of Erie County, tallied 78 species, so, NOT BAD!



Yanni, Julie and Jacob

Many thanks to our participants who ranged from novice to expert, rookie to those who probably never missing a PIA CBC. Hope to see you all, and more, next year!

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Pennsylvania Audubon Council



What's Happening with the PAAC?

Formed in late 2020 to advocate for birds and the environment, and independent of Mid-Atlantic Audubon and National Audubon, the purpose of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council is, in its own words: “to serve the Audubon chapters in Pennsylvania, to advocate for the conservation and preservation of birds, other wildlife and the environment on which they depend; through the sharing of resources and ideas among and between the chapters and in collaboration with other conservation partners.”

What does that translate to in real life?

Just look at the biggest, continuing project of the PAAC: to identify and work on conservation issues that are of highest concern to members of the 21 Audubon chapters across our state.

In 2021, these issues were identified:

Bird Safe Buildings: Bird Collisions, Lights Out, Municipal Ordinances;

Habitat and Native Plants: Habitat loss, Invasive species, Fragmentation, ATVs;

Climate and Energy: Renewable Energy, Fracking, Regulations and Laws;

Pollution: Plastics, Pesticides, Lead Ammunition, Laws.

In 2022, Education and Outreach (E&O):

Statements were developed for several of these issues; these included a definition and background info about each issue, and a listing of the education and advocacy opportunities for individuals; local municipalities; and state and federal legislatures.

These E&O statements were shared with PA Audubon Chapter leaders in December for review.

The next step in 2023? Once finalized, the E&O statements will be shared with all PA Audubon Chapters, who can then decide how to use them. This could include educating individuals in their region about an issue of concern; petitioning local, state and federal legislators to enact legislation regarding the issue; partnering with other state or national environmental groups to propose solutions. The issues are unfortunately numerous, while the opportunities to resolve them are truly endless.

Want to stay up to date on the activities of the Council? Sign up here: [PA Audubon sign-up](#)

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THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 NOON TO 4:00PM

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations.

Erie's GBBC will be held at the Discovery Room at the TREC from Noon to 4:00 pm. on Sunday, February 19. A checklist of birds observed will be submitted to a national database for study. Be a citizen Scientist and show up to count and identify birds at the feeders there.

Actually, people anywhere will take part in the 26th annual GBBC held from Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2023. Each person or group submits a copy of the birds observed and counted on their specific day. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [National Audubon Society](#), [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and [Birds Canada](#) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thanks to everyone who joined or rejoined the Audubon. If you are a National Member, you get a free membership in our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. Please get our newsletter mailed to you, or if you prefer, get our newsletter online via your email. just let me know what your email address is.

The members are:

Erie: Richard Whitbread, Myongla Choy, Janet Seaman, Joan Potalivo, Dorothea Schutte, Mary Krahe, George Feucht, Donald Brett, Marsa Thomas, Sharon Becker, Larry Dunlap, Janet Gates, Rose Mary Renner, David Wooledge, Frank Pagel, Mary Tssario, Allene Grise, Doris Cipolla, Steve & Lisa Danko, Jason & Megan Pitetti, Rosemarie & Jim Pitetti, Sally Luce, Annette Kiehl, Donna Barretta, Linda, Kierstein, Richard Markiewicz, Larry Burlingame, Mary Birdsong

Adamsville: John Scullin, Jerry McMunn

Conneautville: Rachel Smith, Andrew Troyer

Edinboro: Lydia Laythe, Joyce Hayden, Patrick Kramer

Fairview: Diana Edwards, Robert Czekaj, James Russell, James Moccarmack, Patricia Raydo, Jane Woods

Girard: Linda Susko, David Pangratz, MaryAnn Daniels

Jamestown: Bonita Meszaros, Joseph Kikel

Lake City: Cathryn Snyder

Meadville: Gillie Lu Hart, Jane Adams, J. Stewart, Jeff Deardorff, Andrea Thomas, Rosalind Macken, Carol Holmgren, Dennis Cronin,

North East: William McLaughlin, Maryann Robinson

Spartansburg: Linda McGowan

Titusville: P. Lhuillier, Virginia Pokoj, Misty Bateman, Vivian Coxe

Washington D.C.: Drew Bailey

Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org



Don't forget to register for the Festival of the Birds, May 12,13,14, 2023!

Early (discounted) registration (\$200 per adult for the full weekend) goes away after March 31. Registration includes all field trips, workshops, a Friday night reception, dinner on Saturday and the keynote address by David Lindo, aka The Urban Birder. Every registrant receives a copy of his book *How to be an Urban Birder*.

This is a great opportunity to see some migrant songbirds, brush up on your skills and enjoy the company of fellow nature lovers. See more information, download the brochure and register at

<https://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/information.html>.

Call 814-480-0963 if you have any questions.

Presque Isle Audubon's newsletter, *The Tern of Events*, is published every other month: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submission deadline is one week before the end of the publication month. All material is subject to editing. Send submissions to editor@presqueisleaudubon.org. Printed on recycled paper.

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
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ERIE, PA 16505

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**Presque Isle Audubon Society
Chapter Only Membership Application**

Chapter only individual membership (\$15) includes membership in the Presque Isle Audubon Society ONLY and the chapter newsletter, *Tern of Events*.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

E-mail address _____

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

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

**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.

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**

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

