



# TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE 24:06

*To connect people with birds, other wildlife and their habitats; through education, conservation and advocacy.*

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

We here at Presque Isle Audubon love and admire birds, and are always happy to find others who share our sentiments. Enter Solar United Neighbors! SUN is a nonprofit organization that works in Pennsylvania and nationwide to represent the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters. Solar United Neighbors helps people become informed solar consumers. PIA is an official partner with SUN, which on Sept. 26 announced the launch of their Erie County 2024 Solar Co-op to help Erie County residents go solar.

What does this have to do with birds? A lot. National Audubon's scientists tell us that climate change is one of the biggest drivers of declining bird numbers. Climate change is due to the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Solar United Neighbors will help those who want to switch from gas and electricity to solar energy. From the SUN website: **Imagine walking into a solar company's office with 50 or 100 of your neighbors and saying, "We all want to get solar. What kind of deal can you give us?" That's a solar co-op!**

The co-op is free to join, and open to homeowners and business owners in Erie County. Together, co-op members will learn about solar energy and leverage their numbers to purchase individual solar systems at a competitive price and top quality. Although this is the first solar co-op in Erie County, SUN has hosted 20 solar co-ops across Pennsylvania since 2018. SUN will host several free information sessions to educate Erie residents about solar energy and the co-op. Individuals

interested in going solar can sign up for the co-op or one of the upcoming information sessions and solar home tours at the co-op's web page:

[SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/ErieCounty](https://SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/ErieCounty).

See solar close up on October 19 at three solar-powered homes in our area, where you can ask questions. If you are the slightest bit interested, don't wait too long to check out their website, as the first informational session is via Zoom on October 9, and the second is in-person on November 19 at the Blasco Memorial Library. See how solar works, and learn why homes in your community are going solar. It's both exciting and gratifying to be part of this effort to help birds! (Cont. on Page 2)

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER THINGS TO DO!



**American Goldfinch**

**October 18, Friday** – PIA program at 7:00 p at Room 112 at the TREC and Zoom (P. 5)

**November 15, Friday** – PIA Program at 7:00p by Zoom (P. 5)

**November 20, Wednesday** – PIA Board Meeting at the TREC in Room 112 at 6:00p

**2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**Officers**

President	Sue Murawski
Vice-President	Paul Burroughs
Secretary	Susan Stush
Treasurer	Julie Dell
Retiring President	Drew Mortenson

**Board of Trustees**

2022 - 2025	Thomas Frank
2022 - 2025	Jaimie Miller
2023 - 2026	Stacey Dell
2023 - 2026	Asher Whitney
2024 - 2027	Dave Gustafson
2024- 2027	Miriam Ohanjanyan

**Chairs of Standing Committees**

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Publications	Stacey Dell
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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.presqueisleudubon.org](http://www.presqueisleudubon.org)

**THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)**

Dear readers, if you know of any other like-minded organizations that would possibly want to partner with Presque Isle Audubon, let us know! We may be able to offer assistance on a variety of projects that benefit birds, either directly or indirectly. For instance, do you know of any public place with a bird feeder that would like help with covering the cost of bird seed?

Here's news about an ending partnership:



Janet Price is stepping down from the PIA Board after serving for 23 years! She worked in a variety of roles, starting as Trustee in 2001, moving up to Vice-President in 2004, President in 2006, starting the Festival of the Birds in 2008, and finishing as chair of the Publication committee since 2005. Really, there's no way to adequately thank someone for giving so much of themselves over the years to our organization. Speaking for myself, who has been on the Board since 2008, it will be very odd not to see her smiling face at our Executive Board meetings. We wish her many years of happy birding. You're the best and thank you, Janet!

Speaking of partnering: Brian Miller, Allegheny College educator and PIA Board member, arranged for Allegheny College student,

(Cont. On Page 3)

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

Elizabeth Davidson, to begin digitizing the writings of one of PIA's founding members, Evelyn Anderson. Evelyn wrote prolifically over decades about the natural wonders of Presque Isle. Elizabeth's poster was on display at Allegheny College's Celebration of Summer Research poster presentation session in August. PIA was the recipient of a copy of this research poster for our archives.



Thank you, Brian, Elizabeth, and Allegheny College!

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.

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.

Printed on recycled paper.

## MEET YOUR NEW *TERN OF EVENTS* EDITOR!



My name is Stacey Dell, and I am a novice birder who has enjoyed learning from my mother-in-law, Julie, and the Presque Isle Audubon Society family. I currently serve as the Director of Curriculum and Special Programs at Union City Area School District. Before that, I spent 12 wonderful years in the classroom teaching English/Language Arts to middle and high school students. I enjoy writing, reading, running, and volunteering. I grew up in Central PA but now live in East Springfield with my husband, Dan, and our silly dog, Alex Trebark. Together, we enjoy gardening and homebrewing in our free time and love to travel and explore. Thank you for trusting me with the Tern of Events and welcoming me to the PIA family!

#

**DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF  
ANN ROLAND RICHTER  
August 11, 2024**

"In the quiet moments, the humming of wings reminds us of voices that are never silent in our hearts."

Thank you to the following for giving to Presque Isle Audubon in her memory: Beverly Clark, Dave Hallman Chevrolet, Alicia Bryant, Henry James family, Kathryn and Martin Eisert, Don and Linda McKeever, Cynthia and Montgomery Pifer, and Jean Peterson.

## THE BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from August 1 to September 20, 2024, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

**American Avocet**—1; Aug 31; Gull Point; E.H. 5; Aug. 31; Leo's; K.A., I.L. 1; Sept. 1; Gull Point; E.H.

**Whimbrel**—total of 12; Aug. 11 to Sept. 6; Gull Point; D.M., et al.

**Red Knot**—1; Aug. 28 to Sept 16; Gull Point; E.H., et al.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**—1; Sept. 15 & 16; Gull Point; R.D., J.M., R.K. (See below)



**Stilt Sandpiper**—1; Aug. 5; Gull Point; A.F. 1; Aug. 31; Gull Point; E.H. up to 2; Sept. 12 to 18; Gull Point; C.S. et al.

**Willet**—1; Aug 13; Gull Point; C.F., A.F. 1; Aug. 18; Gull Point; D.M. 2; Sep 14; Gull Point; R.D. (See Below)

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—1; Aug. 7 to 10; Gull Point; D.M. et al. 14; Sept. 6; Gull Point; R.K.

**Long-tailed Jaeger**—6; Sept. 1; outer beaches and Gull Point; R.G., J.F., D.Me. First photo documented record in the county.

**Long-tailed/Parasitic Jaeger**—6; Sept. 1; outer beaches and Gull Point; R.G., J.F.

**Jaeger species**—2; Sept. 7; Gull Point; J.B.

**Least Tern**—1; Aug. 24; Gull Point; A.H., D.N., et al. First August record in the county.

**Black Tern**—1; Sept. 2; Gull Point; R.G. (Below)



**Connecticut Warbler**—1; Sept. 14; Girard; B.M.; banded and photographed in hand.



Connecticut Warbler

**Contributors:** K.A.-Katie Andersen, J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, R.D.-Roger Donn, A.F.-Adrian Fenton, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, C.F.-Chris Fischer, R.G.-Ross Gallardy, E.H.-Eric Hall, A.H.-Amos Hershberger, R.K.-Ripley Kindervater, I.L.-Issy Lawrie, D.M.-Doug Massey, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, D.Me.-Dave Medley, B.M.-Brian Miller, D.N.-Daryl Nolt, C.S.-Connor Schmitt

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

**OCTOBER 10, 2024 PROGRAM**

**7:00 PM**

**Room 112 at the TREC and by Zoom**

**Birds and Bacteria: How Gut Microbes Affect  
Their Avian Hosts**

**By Jennifer Houtzin**



Dr. Jennifer Houtzin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Allegheny College. She received her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University, where she studied gut microbiomes and stress physiology in tree swallows. She received her B.S. in Animal Behavior from Millersville University, where she studied the social behavior of wire-tailed manakins in Ecuador. As the faculty advisor of the Allegheny College Bird Club, Jennifer is passionate about involving undergraduate students in ornithological research and outreach.

**NOVEMBER 15, 2024 PROGRAM**

**7:00 PM**

**ZOOM MEETING ONLINE**

**Monitoring the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in  
Central Florida**

**By Roxy Ohanyan**



Gary Flanagan/Audubon Photography Awards



**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 17, and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Save the date!**

New for 2025 will be extended hours to get in all the birds, sights, friends and fun you can handle! We had great feedback on our extended Friday hours for 2024 and will add more items to our Sunday schedule for this year!

Bridget Butler, aka The Bird Diva, will be our keynote speaker presenting on Slow Birding. You may know her from Forest Bird Initiative, Talkin' Birds with Ray Brown, or This Birding Life. Slow Birding is the mindful approach of the sit-spot observation, promoting the connection of self and nature.

We will be also continuing our Festival of the Birds Youth Scholarships this year! Our committee is looking forward to seeing the responses this year! This scholarship will cover a full weekend registration for the student and parent/chaperone.

Be on the lookout for updates on registration opening and more schedule details!

**2024 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

**Saturday, December 14**

**Save the Date**

Birders of all skills will meet at Presque Isle at 7:30 am at a shelter to be determined. Teams will be formed and designated areas assigned. Then all will scatter and proceed to count Birds! More details will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Here are both the new members and those that rejoined the National Audubon or our local chapter. When you join National Audubon, you get a one-year free membership in our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon Society.

**Erie:** Lauren Winschel, Linda Monti, Sunny Saunders, Kathryn Flick, Richard Rainwater, Steve Gula, P. Vybiral, Sue Zanco, Steve Kidder, Ronald Gromacki, Robert Lewis, Lynda Schnars, Trudy Eisert, Beth Nielsen, Jack Pat Sims, Lyman Cohen, Jerry McWilliams, Tim Dell

**Albion:** Russell Bromley

**Cambridge Springs:** Bonnie Gaarden

**Conneautville:** Edwin Pieszak

**Corry:** Mary Keim

**Edinboro:** Mary Melvin, Mary Jo Haranin

**Girard:** Georgiann Lethbridge

**Harmonsborg:** Gladys Neeley

**Jamestown:** James Reed

**Linesville:** Henry Vinay

**McKean:** Doris Kroto

**McDonald, PA:** Justin McCloskey

**Meadville:** Rick Tautin

**Spartansburg:** Virginia Firth

**Pittsburgh:** Matthew Falcone

**Mexico, NY:** Patrick Crotty

**Hillsboro, NC:** Jack Sims

Any Questions, just email me.

~Ron Inrieri

membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

## ERIE GIVES DAY

“Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird?” — **David Attenborough**

Maybe that’s why we did so well with Erie Gives Day! Everyone likes birds! In 2024 our total donations of \$4354.20 was the highest since we began participating in 2017. Many thanks to the following for their generous gifts to Presque Isle Audubon. Donations will be used to to connect people with birds, other wildlife and their habitats; through education, conservation, and advocacy.

Tomas Nonnenmacher

Mark Kwitowski

James R Hill III

Katherine Leone

Sue Murawski

Wendy Swanson

Dennis Olesnanik

John Tautin

Michelle Kienholz

Greg Duffin

Joao Tavares

James Murray

Chris Lundberg

Kathleen Pae

Jennifer Newby

Paul & Adrienne Burroughs

Plastek Industries, Inc.

Kimberly Boal

Roxanne Tonn

Pete Benekos

Michele Rundquist-Franz

Cheryl & Frank Zalik

Patricia Wigham

Jennifer Tompkins

Robyn Sye

Lorraine Danielewicz

Marion Gallivan

David & Frances Skellie

Erie Insurance

Jim and Jane Reilly

Barry Gray

Dunkle-Waldung, LLC

Gini McDermott

Country Fair, Inc.

Anonymous x3

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Ronald Inrieri ,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.

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 Inrieri, PIA Membership  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center  
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8  
Erie, PA 16505