TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2023 ISSUE 23:01

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 PRESIDENTS PERCH

What does Presque Isle Audubon want for Christmas?

In order of importance:

1. A Secretary for the Board of Directors.
2. A Publicity Chair for the Board of Directors.
3. A Trustee for the Board of Directors.
4. Members joining the nine standing committees of the Board of Directors.

Seriously!

PIA started in 1956 as a nature club, and officially affiliated with National Audubon as a chapter in 1961. Membership numbers remain strong over the years, but membership involvement is dwindling. Several on the Board have been serving for over 15 years! It's time for new faces and ideas.

Your Board just started a strategic planning process to help figure out how to keep Presque Isle Audubon not only alive but thriving into the future. So far, we've decided our mission needs to include education, conservation and advocacy. Next step in this process? Choosing a vision for our future, and determining how to realistically reach it.

Sometime next year all PIA members will be invited to participate in the final steps of this strategic planning process. We look forward to hearing your suggestions for actions and plans on how to connect all local people to birds.

And if you're interested or have questions about being on the Board or one of its committees, let me know.

Keep in touch!
~Sue Murawski, President
president@presqueisleaudubon.org

DECEMBER/JANUARY THINGS TO DO!

Evening Grosbeak

December 17, Saturday – 123rd Christmas Bird Count at Presque Isle. Meet no later than 8:00am at Shelter #2. (See page 3)
December 21, Wednesday – First Day of Winter

January 1, Sunday – New Year's Day
January 17, Tuesday – PIA Board Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC.

2022 - 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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

Board of Trustees

2020-2023	Ken Andersen
2020-2023	TBA
2021-2024	Lisa Danko
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2022-2025	Jaimie Miller
2022-2025	Thomas Frank

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

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

BIRDSEED ORNAMENTS

The holidays are often a busy time in the kitchen. Make time to whip up tasty treats for birds, too. These festive goodies will attract an array of avian visitors outside your home.

Photo: Mike Fernandez/Audubon

Materials:

2 cups birdseed, such as Audubon's cherry wild mix;
1 tablespoon unflavored gelatin;
2 tablespoons cold water;
1/3 cup boiling water;
12 cookie cutters;
Needle and thread.

Steps:

- ✓ Combine gelatin and cold water and let sit one minute.
- ✓ Add boiling water and stir until the gelatin is dissolved.
- ✓ Add birdseed and stir the mixture thoroughly to combine.
- ✓ Fill cookie cutters with the seed mixture; press firmly to fill the mold completely. Refrigerate overnight.
- ✓ Let ornaments come to room temperature and gently remove from molds.
- ✓ Use a needle to pull the thread through the ornament, at least a half-inch from the edge, and tie knot.
- ✓ Hang the ornaments.

Thanks to Audubon Magazine, Winter 2020, for this article.

THE 123RD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AT PRESQUE ISLE

The holidays are fast approaching and for birders across North and South America that means gathering for one of the longest running avian citizen science projects, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year, Presque Isle Audubon will again be a part of the 123rd annual CBC. The CBC began in 1900 when ornithologist, Frank Chapman, proposed counting birds to replace the traditional brutal Christmas side hunt, a competition during which many birds were killed for sport.

The CBC is held each year from December 14th through January 5th with local chapters choosing a date somewhere in that three week span to conduct their official count. This year, the PIAS CBC will be held on Saturday, December 17th. Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join in on the fun!

Ready to Have Fun Counting Birds!

We will have a few pairs of binoculars available to borrow if you or someone you think might like to join us and are in need, or would just like to try out some different binoculars. We will meet on Presque Isle SP at Shelter #2 by 8:00 a.m., form teams, and head out onto designated areas of the park to…count birds!

We will reconvene at noon for lunch (bring a bagged lunch and a drink) to do our initial tally and then head back out to cover any uncounted areas as needed.

If you have any questions regarding the CBC, please contact us at info@presqueisleaudubon.org.

For further details, please see our website: www.presqueisleaudubon.org and/or our Facebook page.

We do have some teams to cover off-park areas within our count circle and if you are within the circle and wish to participate from home we welcome your input.

Please check out the CBC counting rules on the National Audubon website:

www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count and forward your data to info@presqueisleaudubon.org.

Thanks, and hope to see you in December!

Michele Rundquist Franz, CBC Coordinator

THE BIRD REPORT

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

Snow Goose—1 white morph imm.; Nov. 24; Sunset Point; B.S. 1 white morph adult; Nov. 25; Sunset Point (Waterbird Count=WC); J.M.

Snow Goose

Greater White-fronted Goose—1; Oct. 30; Veteran's Park, Erie; R.V. Record early in the county.

Brant—1; Nov. 3 to 12; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1; Nov. 14 to 25; Gull Point; R.S., E.H.

Harlequin Duck—2 females; Nov. 12; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., et al. 1 imm. male; Nov. 13; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1 female; Nov. 17; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Red-necked Grebe—total of 10; Oct. 16 to Nov. 26; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Red Necked Grebe

Eared Grebe—1; Nov. 25 & 26; channel; J.K., A.R., & J.M.

Red Knot—1; Oct. 4; Gull Point; R.S.

American Golden Plover—total of 4; Oct. 9 to Nov. 6; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., R.D. A.M.

American Golden Plover

Purple Sandpiper—1; Oct. 29; Beach 8 breakwater; K.R. 1; Nov. 5; Presque Isle breakwaters; N.B.

Common Tern—170+; Oct. 19; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. (See Below)

Long-billed Dowitcher—1 juv.; Nov. 12; Duck Pond; B.B.

Parasitic Jaeger—1 dark morph juv.; Oct. 23; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., R.D., J.M. 1 light morph juv.; Nov. 2; Sunset Point (WC); J.M. 1 light morph juv.; Nov. 5 & 6; Sunset Point (WC); J.M., et al.

Jaeger species—1 dark morph juv.; Nov. 17; Sunset Point (WC); J.M.

Long-eared Owl—1 injured; Nov. 10; Erie; fide R.S. 1; Nov. 15; pines; R.D

(Cont. on Page 5)

THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Glossy Ibis—1; Nov. 6; Edinboro Lake; B.Z.

Glossy Ibis

Short-eared Owl—total of 4; Oct. 30 to Nov. 26; Gull Point; R.D., R.S.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—1; Oct. 16; Fry's landing; banded by Erie Bird Observatory; fide R.D. 2; Oct. 30; Fry's landing; fide R.V. 1; Nov. 21; pines; R.D.

Northern Shrike—1; Nov. 8; B-trail; G.A.

Cave Swallow—2; Nov. 5; Sunset Point; K.A.

Cave Swallow

Evening Grosbeak—total of at least 17; Oct. 27 to Nov. 22; mostly feeding stations in several areas of the county; S.W., J.H., K.W., J.D., T.K., C.S., D.S.

Lincoln's Sparrow—1; Oct 30; Fry's landing; banded by Erie Bird Observatory, fide R.V. Record late in the county.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—1 female; Oct. 30; Fry's landing; banded by Erie Bird Observatory, fide J.S. Record late in the county.

Nelson's Sparrow—1; Oct. 1; marsh south of Ridge Trail; E.H. (See Below)

Connecticut Warbler—1; Sept. 27; Pine Tree Trail; E.H. 1; late September; Fry's landing; Banded by Erie Bird Observatory; fide R.D.

Connecticut Warbler

Indigo Bunting—2; Oct. 30; Fry's landing; Banded by Erie Bird Observatory; fide J.S.; record late in the count.

Contributors: G.A.-Gregory Allen, K.A.-Katie Andersen, B.B.-Brian Berchtold, N.B.-Noah Butas, J.D.-Julie Dell, R.D.-Roger Donn, E.H.-Eric Hall, J.H.-Jamie Hill, J.K.-Jeff Kenney, T.K.-Theresa Konzel, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, A.M.-Andrew M., K.R.-Kenneth Rieker, A.R.-Angela Romanczuk, J.S.-Janelle Shaw, D.S.-Don Snyder, B.S.-Bob Strenio, C.S.-Carol Sturtevant, R.S.-Ruth Swaney, R.V.-Ripley Vandervater, K.W.-Kathy Wheeler, S.W.-Suzanne Winterberger, B.Z.-Brian Zimmerman

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THE FALLACY OF "10 GOOD THINGS FOR BIRDS"

By Jim Cubie
Policy and Research
Ornithology Center at Muhlenberg College

A doctor would never counsel his patients like bird organizations advise homeowners.

A two-packs-per-day smoker visits his doctor. The patient asks, "what can I do to extend my life." His doctor will tell him that he should eat right, exercise, and take his blood pressure medicine, but "if you don't stop smoking nothing else you do will really matter. The other good things cannot make up for the deadly consequences of smoking."

Bird organizations do the opposite. They give homeowners a list of "ten good things to do for birds." They should say "stop killing birds in your yard – control cats and prevent window collisions. All the other "good things for birds" cannot make up for 1.25 billion bird deaths caused by cats and home windows." (2-6 per home annually.)

The typical advice to homeowners listing "good things for birds"— such as installing a nest box, providing water and cover, counting birds, buying shade grown coffee - will do little or nothing to increase bird populations as long as the yard is killing birds.

Editor's Notes:
(A graph that accompanied the article indicated the following deaths associated with humans in the U.S. (Millions)
By Glass - 1000
By Cats - 1000
By Hunting – 120
By Vehicles – 50
By Tower, Skyscrapers – Less than 50
By Pesticides – Less than 50)

As the numbers make clear there are only two steps we can take in our backyards that really will save birds: control cats and prevent window collisions. A yard includes a home's windows.

Even if the list of "good things for birds" includes "prevent window collisions," a list delivers the false message that all of these "good things for birds" are equally effective. In fact only two, controlling cats and preventing window collisions, will prevent bird deaths. Very few lists even mention controlling cats and preventing window collisions.

Doing something is not better than nothing. Promoting "participation" instead of preventing bird deaths undermines the very mission of bird organizations. If bird clubs offer easy options to their members, they will choose them – instead of controlling their beloved cats and or spending $50 to prevent window collisions. It is infinitely more important to save birds than to make members happy.

The authors of a major study on bird mortality finished with a call for ecologists to "demonstrate leadership" in preventing bird deaths. "Leadership" means telling our members and the public the truth – we have to start and premise all our yard management on stopping bird deaths caused by our cats and windows.

Like the smoker's doctor we must deliver the blunt message – "first of all, control cats and prevent window collisions. Nothing else you do will make any real difference."

A yard that kills birds cannot be "bird friendly" no matter what else is done in the yard. Homeowners must start by preventing bird deaths.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We want to thank everyone who joined or rejoined the Audubon. If you joined National Audubon, you get a free membership in our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon. Please get our newsletter to keep you up to date on our field trips and other activities. The members are:

Erie: Nancy Rooseirich, Kathryn Flick, Janet Heubel, Claudia Mosso, James Boatfield, Robert Anderson, David Hetrick, Franklin Webb, Tom Brocki, Linda Payne, John Hinman, Shamyra Gonzalez, Virginia Bush, Kathleen Pae, John DePaul, Karen Bukowski, Carson Nickolay, Mike Lyden, Freda Tepfer

Fairview: Jan Warburton, Gilbert Jacobs

Girard: Judith Kubeja

Harborcreek: Becki Burton

Linesville: Marilyn Penfield

Meadville: Dennis Cronin, Richard Myers, Ernst Seeds, Sandra Cupper

North East: Martha Campbell, Jean Ganger, Cheryl Coburn, Sue Murawski

Union City: Anita Hall, Lisa Defilippo

Waterford: Marilyn Stubbe

Freedom: Georgia Wahl

Pittsburgh: C.P. Kollar

Powell, OH: Gene Reid

Venetia: Gigi Gerben

Any questions, just ask.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

PROMOTING NATIVE PLANTS AND PROTECTING WILDLIFE

Many advocates of native plant promotion in the landscape often do not include the dangers to wildlife that can accompany that inclusion. Those who love wildlife, especially birds, need to take the time to consider those dangers and take steps to prevent them.

Here are four key actions that should be in place the day a native plant is planted.

No cats in the yard. Residential cats kill over 1 billion birds and many butterflies annually.

Install an attractive bird window collision prevention system on the home's windows.

Manage pests without pesticides. It makes no sense to plant natives and then hire a mosquito fogger to fog your property.

Turn off outdoor lights, install motion detectors, or switch to yellow bulbs.

We need to consistently couple this important message with our efforts to recruit new native planting in residential landscapes.

(This article includes information from an article by Dr. Doug Tallalmay, Dr. Daniel Klem and Jim Cubie J.D.)

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
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

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City_____ State_____ Zip_____
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Chapter Code U15
Mail this form with your check payable to the National Audubon Society directly to **YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER.**

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