



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024 ISSUE 24:02

The mission of Presque Isle Audubon is to connect people with birds, other wildlife and their habitats; through education, conservation, and advocacy.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

What did Presque Isle Audubon accomplish in 2023? I'm noticing this time of year is when many organizations notify their supporters about the projects they completed the previous year. Sounds like a good idea for us as well! Here's a wrap-up of PIA's efforts for 2023:

Provided 21 birding backpacks (each with 2 pairs of binoculars and 2 bird ID guides) to all public libraries in Erie and Crawford Counties.

Sent 2 local educators to National Audubon's Hog Island camp for Educator's Week.

Hosted The Great Backyard Bird Count at TREC.

Participated in Discover Presque Isle with a pavilion full of activities for youngsters.

Organized and conducted the three-day Festival of the Birds for 150+ guests.

Provided funding for bird-window collision prevention at TREC.

Provided bird seed for the feeders at the Public Safety Building on Presque Isle.

Presented 7 monthly programs, online and in person, centered on birds and birding.

Updated our Strategic Plan for 2024-26.

Redoing the Strategic Plan took over a year and was time well-spent. The Board now has clear and attainable standards to guide their work for the next three years.

A Stronger Tomorrow: Presque Isle Audubon Strategic Plan, 2024-2026.

Our updated **Mission Statement**: *to connect people with birds, other wildlife and their habitats; through education, conservation, and advocacy.*

Our new Vision Statement: *a world in which people and wildlife co-exist in harmony.*

Our revised Goals: maintain significant bird habitat, promote bird friendly communities and strengthen the PIA Organization.

Review the actions the Board has chosen to accomplish, these Goals, and the entire Strategic Plan on our website at: [Strategic Plan 2024-26](#)

Keep in touch!

~Sue Murawski, President

president@presqueisleaudubon.org

FEBRUARY/MARCH THINGS TO DO!



Tufted Titmouse

February 16, Friday – PIA Program at 7:00p

March 15, Friday - PIA Program at 7:00p

March 20, Wednesday – PIA Board Meeting at 6:00p at the TREC

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

2020-2023	Ken Andersen
2020-2023	Asher Whitney
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Chairs of Standing Committees

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Field Trips	Michele Rundquist Franz
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Programs	Brian Miller
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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

PIA PROGRAM

The Agony and Ecstasy: 2023 Piping Plover
Season at Gull Point
February 16, 2024
7pm via Zoom



Join Erie Bird Observatory's Mary Birdsong, who will introduce us to EBO's mission and programs and provide a recap of the 2023 nesting season for endangered Great Lakes Piping Plovers and Common Terns at Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park. With the loss of our pioneer plover, Jerry, and his mate Eve, along with the arrival of new and mysterious plovers, egg rescues and a nest move, the season proved to be challenging but still rewarding.

#

A BIG THANKYOU !



A BIG thank you to AFS Tax Services for the donation of tax preparation help to PIAS.
If you need tax help, please consider AFS for all your tax preparation needs!

AFS Tax Services
2308 W. 8th St.
Erie PA 16505
814-453-4981

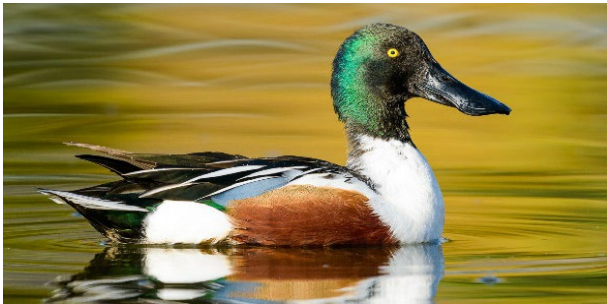
BIRD REPORT

The following birds of note were reported from Dec. 1, 2023 to Jan. 27, 2024, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

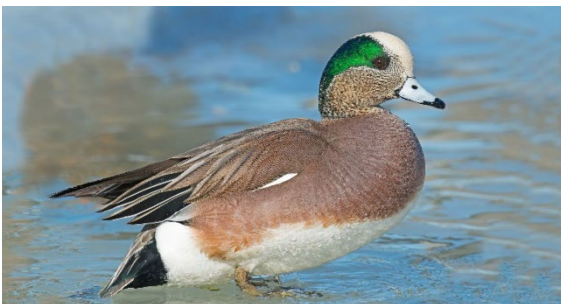
Snow Goose—1 white; Dec. 15; Sunset Point (Waterbird count); J.M.

Greater White-fronted Goose—1; Dec. 5; Waterford; J.H. **Cackling Goose**—1; Jan. 15; Edinboro Lake; J.H.

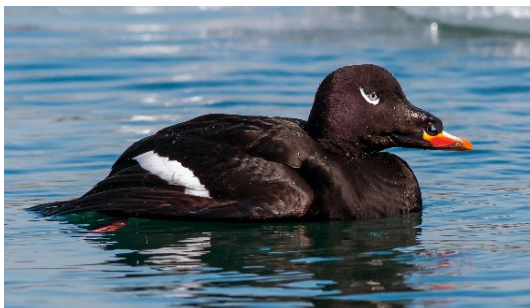
Northern Shoveler—15 (high count); Jan. 17; Foot of East Avenue, J.M. (See Below)



American Wigeon—40 (high count); Jan. 15; Presque Isle; R.G. (See Below)



White-winged Scoter—400+ (high count); Dec.16; off the lighthouse; K.Z., et al. (Below)



Green-winged Teal—17 (high count); January 15; off Beach 10 parking lot; R.K. (See Below)



Harlequin Duck—2 female; Dec. 1 to 16; Sunset Point (waterbird count); J.M., et al.



HARLEQUIN DUCK

Red-necked Grebe—total of 5; Dec. 2 to 24; Presque Isle Bay; J.M.

Eared Grebe—total of 3; Dec. 2 to Jan 15; head of bay & Gull Point; G.B., J.K., R.K.

Dunlin—18 (high count); Dec. 3; Gull Point;D.



Dunlin

Iceland Gull—total of 3; Jan. 2 to 24; east end of the park and foot of East Avenue; J.M.

Glaucous Gull—total of 4; Dec. 12 to Jan 24; Sunset Point (Waterbird count), Presque Isle Bay and foot of East Avenue; J.M., D.S., R.K.

Purple Sandpiper—total of 3 or 4; Dec. 5 to Jan. 25; Gull Point; R.Sw., et al.

Rufous Hummingbird—1; continuing to Dec. 8; Erie, J.Ho. (See Below)



Black-crowned Night-Heron—up to 2; Dec. 6 to late Jan; south pier; J.K., et al. First January record for the county. (See Below)



Long-eared Owl—2; Jan. 27; pines; R.D., J.F., et al.—2 or 3; Dec. 14 to 25; pines; R.D. (Below)



Northern Shrike—1; Dec. 5; near Pine Tree Trailhead; E.H. 1; Dec. 16; Graveyard Pond; J.K. 1; Jan. 8; SGL #218; J.C. 1; Jan. 19; Franklin Center; J.D. (See Below)



Gray Catbird—1; Jan. 8; Gull Point Trail; J.G.
Common Redpoll—1; Dec. 16; P.I.; A.T.

Painted Bunting—1 male; January 2 to at least 21; North East; R.S. First winter record for the county. (See Below)



Contributors: G.B.-Greg Butcher, J.C.-John Campbell, J.D.-Julie Dell, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.F.-Jennifer Ferrick, R.G.-Ross Galardy, J.G.-John Garrett, E.H.-Eric Hall, J.H.-Jamie Hill, J.Ho.-Julie Holland, R.K.-Ripley Kindervater, J.K.-John Kramer, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, R.S.-Rob Schneider, D.S.-Don Snyder, R.Sw.-Ruth Swaney, A.T.-Andrew Troyer, K.Z.-Kendall Zook

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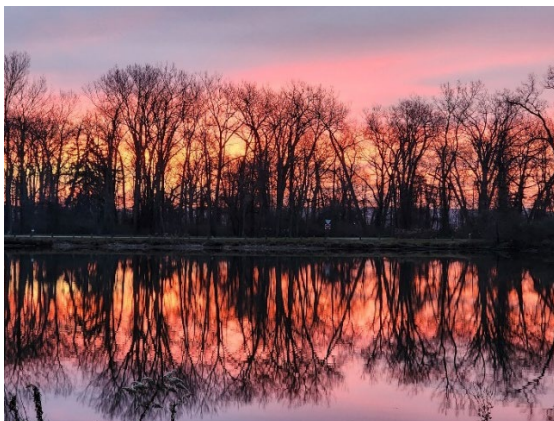
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – 2023



Julie, Janet and Pat

Well, another successful and fun Christmas Bird Count is in the books! Presque Isle Audubon held its local Christmas Bird Count on December 16, 2023. We had nearly 30 adventurous participants (whom we thank whole-heartedly!!) spread out across the Erie County count circle, which includes Presque Isle SP. Our efforts yielded 85 different species, which is above the average of 76 for counts held over the past 10 years. The only higher species count in the past decade was 87 in 2014.

The weather was unusually balmy with highs in the 50s this year. This may account for the nice number of bird species encountered. Not surprisingly, the Ring-billed gull captured the prize for most individuals counted of a single species at 6,172. Thank you, again, to all of our participants & hope to see you all next year!



WINTER RAPTOR SURVEY



Janet, Issy and Pat

If you want to add a new birding venture to your winter schedule, you should consider joining the PAWRS project – the Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey. (This project happens to be affiliated with HMANA – Hawk Migration Association of North America). Each year Greg Grove, editor of Pa Birds and eBird reviewer, coordinates and initiates this survey (which ran this year from January 13 to February 10). Volunteers establish a route on country roads in Erie County, in this case, and travel by car from mid-morning to mid-afternoon to record the number of designated raptors spotted while traveling somewhere between a minimum of 10 to 20 miles and a maximum of 100 miles. A condition to be observed while doing the count is that there is good weather – no fog, no high wind and only moderately heavy rain and snow. Miles traveled should be recorded with no overlaps. It is important that you report them accurately.

There are presently three established routes in Erie County. Erie Southwest by Scott Stoleson, Lake Erie Shore by Mary Birdsong and Erie West by Janet Price. This year, on January 22, Janet, Pat Howell and Issy Lawrie traveled 76 miles over the Erie West Route for a period of 4 hours and 55 minutes. They recorded 11 Red Tails, 1 Kestrel, 4 Red Shoulders, 3 Bald Eagles and 1 Sharp Shinned. Working together to gather information for avian research is rewarding in more ways than one! If you'd like to add a positive experience to your life and contribute to this effort, there are still routes open in Erie County and elsewhere. Contact Greg Grove at gwg@psu.edu. You'll be glad you did!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



We've been having a mild winter thus far and in less than 2 months spring migration season will begin. We want to welcome all of our new members as well as the members who rejoined. For our new members, when you join National Audubon, you also get a free membership in our local chapter, Presque Isle Audubon. If you did not give your email to National, and want to receive our Chapter Newsletter via email, you can email membership at membership@presqueisleaudubon.org. Thanks for joining Audubon.

Erie: Bernadine Gehringer, Chad Burns, John Pellegrino, Marilyn Watson, Dolores Campbell, Robert Bruschi, Dahte Homan, Catherine Rusnak, Rich & Clair Giardina, Barbara Cole, David Shapter, Leo Gallina, Daniel Burke, Chris Rupp, James E. & Susan Livingston, Tom Minski, Carolyn Hammers, Katie Smyklo, Rosemarie & Jim Pitetti, Rich Markiewicz, Ronald Fall, Janet Heubel, John Presogna, Larry Burlingame, Mary Birdsong, Nora Oslak

Albion: Elizabeth Rees

Carnesville: Paul Mayhew

Cochranon: Curtis Oakes

Conneautville: Eileen Bertera, Charles K. Persinger, Mike Hague

Corry: Jeri Bleech

Edinboro: J.M. Bozman, Joanne Tonin, Julie Dell, Patrick Kramer, Candice Kemp

Fairview: Michael Carbo

Girard: Mary Sliker, MaryAnn Daniels

Jamestown: E. King

Meadville: Nancy Zinn, June Allen, Teresa Smith

McKean: Martha Dunn

Waterford: Samantha Matson, Diane Bestvina, Jason & Megah Pitetti

Wattsburg: Ray Oshop

West Springfield: L. Risinger

Espyville: Mary McClinsey

Sarasota, FL: LM Koitsch

Washington, D.C.: Drew Bailey

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@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 jrp1km@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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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 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.

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