



TERN OF EVENTS

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
JUNE/JULY 2024 ISSUE 24:04

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

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Hello all! Hope you got to see many colorful migrating warblers, and are now watching and listening to the local birds nesting in our area. Bird watching is good for our mental health, you know? Just ask Tammah Watts, the author of "Keep Looking Up: Your Guide to the Powerful Healing of Birdwatching".

15 pounds of peanut butter, 30 pounds of bird seed, and 300 pine cones later, area birds are living the good life! Youngsters at the Erie Zoo's *Party for the Planet* and the Union City School District's *Remake Learning Days* recently made about 300 homemade bird feeders from these three ingredients. Many thanks to our newest PIA Board Member **Stacey Dell** for her work in putting together these two events. Look for PIA at *Discover Presque Isle* on July 28, when children can make more of these bird feeders, along with other crafts, bird-watching, and interactive display items.



STACY DELL: PARTY FOR THE PLANET

Two happy educators from this area are going to attend National Audubon's Hog Island Camp in July for "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week". **Emma Mader** is an Environmental Educator at Asbury Woods in Erie, and **Melinda Harmle** teaches at Millcreek School District's Chestnut Hill Elementary School. Congratulations to both! We look forward to hearing about their adventures at our September 20 program. (Cont. on Page 2)



PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

JUNE/JULY THINGS TO DO!

June 8, Saturday – Field Trip, Scott Park
See Page 4 for details

June 9, Sunday – PIA Membership Meeting and Film from 5pm to 7pm at the TREC

June 22, Saturday – Field Trip, Dead Pond Trail

July 13, Saturday – Field Trip, Long Pond Trail

July 17, Wednesday - PIA Board Meeting at 6:00 at the TREC

2024-2025 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

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH (Cont.)

I'm putting in a plug here for some recently recorded PIA programs that are viewable on our YouTube channel. In April we were lucky to have two presentations; **Ron Mumme** on Hooded Warblers and Cowbirds, and a panel of regional moderators explaining how and why to participate in the PA 3rd Bird Atlas. Both programs are highly enjoyable and informative.

National Audubon states: "Responsibly sited and operated clean energy will help protect birds from climate change". Here in PA, three Renewable Energy bills remain in the PA House of Representatives.

1. **Community Solar** legislation (HB 1842) was approved in the House but now needs approved by the PA Senate. Want to help? Sign Penn Environment's petition at: [solar for all Pennsylvanians](#)

2. **Solar for School** (HB 1032) still awaits consideration by the full House and the PA Senate. Want more info on this bill and how to help? Visit: [Solar4Schools](#)

3. **Lake Erie Wind Energy Development** (HB 254), introduced by Rep. Bob Merski, passed in the House and was sent to the Senate's Environmental Resources and Energy committee. Being that the House voted along party lines to approve this bill, it is unlikely that the Republican-controlled Senate will look at it favorably. Wording in this bill includes: "Avoid areas of Lake Erie and pathways where migratory species are concentrated", and a requirement to study environmental impacts to fishing and migratory bird and mammal routes. We are planning to speak directly with Senator Merski or his staff with our concern about the bill's vague wording on bird protection.

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

PRESQUE ISLE FIELD TRIPS

After a brief hiatus, Presque Isle Audubon is resuming field trips starting in June.

On June 8th we will bird the trails at Scott Park. We will meet at the furthest trail head near the MotoCross track by 8:00 a.m. Here we will observe year-round and Spring/Summer residents and possibly some straggling migrants.

On June 22nd we'll return to Presque Isle and bird the beautiful Dead Pond Trail. We will pass through its varying habitats from lush green trees and shrubs into a beautiful open sandy/grassy meadow; the trail bordered in sections by the showy green whorls and purple spikes of our gorgeous native lupine! We may see local and breeding species (I'm hoping for a Black-billed cuckoo!) and possibly some recently fledged young. Overhead we will likely see some of the swallow species and perhaps a raptor, or two.

On July 13th we will bird along Long Pond Trail which will take us back to a lovely view of the internal waterway of Presque Isle. Here we will look for wading birds, swallows gliding inches above the water, possibly an osprey or two hunting the waters. We also may be lucky enough to spy other non-avian creatures such as beaver, muskrat, deer, squirrel and chipmunk, to name a few.

All PIA field trips on Presque Isle will meet at the Stull Interpretive Center parking lot by 8:00 a.m. From there we will drive, carpooling as possible, to the designated trail. Please dress for the weather including appropriate footwear. Ticks are ever present on the park so be cautious and aware on the trails; apply your preferred repellent and gear.

Of course, bring your binoculars and bring a friend, or two. If you or they are in need of binoculars, we have them to lend for the trip. All field trips are free and open to the public.

~Michele Rundquist Franz, Field Guide

THE FESTIVAL REPORT



The festival committee would like to thank everyone for another successful Festival of the Birds! We had a wonderful turnout with many new faces! Our Sunday lunch bird tally ended with a species count of 162!

PIA offered scholarships to students in grades 3-12 living in Erie or Crawford counties to attend the festival this year. We hope to continue this for future festivals as it is wonderful to see such eager and enthusiastic younger birders joining us!

Our wonderful sponsors help make this event a success! We would like to thank each of them for their continued support!

TREC Foundation
Dan Prischak and Toni Abramoski
Sue Murawski
Ecological Field Services
Presque Isle Partnership
Nancy and Ken Anderson
Marion Gallivan
Jennifer Ferrick
Allegany National Pilgrimage

The Festival committee deserves a round of applause for their dedication in all of the planning, preparing and volunteering for this event! Thank you, Carolyn Sturtevant, Brian Miller, Julie Leonard, Jennifer Ferrick, Lisa Danko, Sue Stush, Asher Whitney, Michele Franz, Tess Wilson, Sarah Sargent, Laura-Marie Koitsch, and Mary Birdsong!

(Cont. On Page 4)

THE FESTIVAL REPORT (Cont.)

We also could not make this event possible without all the additional volunteers to help with registration, workshops and field trips!

Thank you so much, Cindy Snyder, Barry Gray, Delores Tavares, Katie Anderson, Jason Bojcyk, Tim Lenz, Chris Lundberg, Mike Plyler, Jerry McWilliams, Mike Fialkovich, Liz McQuaid, Brian Berchtold, Sam Stull, Kendall and Regina Zook, Shannon Thompson and Dave Wilton, Shawn Collins, Jamie Hill, Andy Troyer, Ken Pinnow, Mark Lethaby, Nathan Hall, Roger Donn, and Michael David!

Special thanks to our DCNR friends for helping throughout planning for this event as well as offering additional hikes over the weekend! Thank you, Emily Pritchard, Anne Desarro, Brian Gula and John Lasko!

The committee will have their wrap up meeting over the next week, but we are already looking ahead to Festival of the Birds 2025!

We are always looking for volunteers and committee members to help with planning and tasks! You can reach out to me at: jacey78@presqueisleaudubon.org.
~Jaimie Miller, 2024 Festival Chair

PROGRAMS FOR 2024

There are no programs scheduled for the months of July and August, but they will be resuming in September. The following is an outline for the rest of the year so you can plan and save the dates. Details will be presented in future newsletters and on the website.

9/20 Hog Island Educators

10/18 Avian Gut Microbiomes

11/15 Monitoring the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Central Florida

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THE BIRD REPORT

By Jerry McWilliams

The following birds of note were reported from April 1 to May 31, 2024, from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Surf Scoter—up to 75; April 6 to May 5; Gull Point; m.ob.

Eared Grebe—1; April 24 to May 2; Edinboro Lake; R.K., et al.

Western Grebe—1; April 14; Gull Point; J.G., D.M., et al.



WESTERN GREBES

White-winged Dove—1; May 2; TREC tower; J.Bo.; Fourth county record.

American Avocet—3; May 7; Gull Point; R.Sw.

Whimbrel—1; May 4; Gull Point; J.K.; record early in the county by at least a week
Total of 5; May 23 to 31; Beach 10 jetty & Gull Point; m.ob.

Hudsonian Godwit—1; May 26 to 29; Gull Point; J.Bo.. et al.

Purple Sandpiper—up to 5; April 6 to 24; Gull Point; J.G., J.K., et al.

Long-billed Dowitcher—1; April 24 to 26; Gull Point; J.Bo., et al. First April record for the county.

Willet—total of 10; Gull Point; April 28 to 30 and May 30; A.M., et al.

Laughing Gull—1; May 24; Gull Point; J.Bo., D.M.

Black Tern—1; May 23; Gull Point; J.Bo. 1; May 30; Edinboro Lake; J.H.

American White Pelican—1; May 13 to 19; Gull Point & Thompson Bay; J.N., et al.

Up to 5; May 25 & 26; Gull Point; E.H., et al.

Snowy Egret—1; May 3 & 4; Thompson Bay and Gull Point resp.; J.H., et al.

(Cont. on Page 5)

THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Black Vulture—1; April 8; North East; N.T.
2; April 15; West 12th and Bayfront
connector; J.B.

Golden Eagle—1; April 6; flying past Erie
coffee shop; J.G. 1; April 9; TREC tower; J.Bo.
1; April 17; Presque Isle Hawk Watch; J.M.,
J.L. 1; April 18; SGL 218; R.K.

Mississippi Kite—1; May 21; Presque Isle
Hawk Watch; J.M., R.S. B.O.



MISSISSIPPI KITE

American Goshawk—1; April 28; top of TREC
tower; J.Bo.

Broad-winged Hawk—21,535; April 17; top of
the TREC tower; J.Bo.

Long-eared Owl—total of 4; April 7 to 17;
pines; R.D.

Northern Saw-whet Owl—up to 2; April 1 & 2;
pines; R.D. 1; May 8; pines; R.D.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—1; May 18; Long Pond
Trail; S.J., et al. 1; May 29; Pine Tree Trail;
J.M.

Fish Crow—1; April 16; top of the TREC tower;
J.Bo. 1; May 18; Beach 6 parking lot; J.Bo.,
J.M.

Sedge Wren—1; April 25; Sidewalk Trail; E.H.
1; April 29; between breakwater 14 & 15;
J.Bo. 1; May 19; along Big Pond near road;
E.M.

Evening Grosbeak—1 male; May 5; Erie; M.L.

Clay-colored Sparrow—1 or 2; May 3 & 4;
Niagara Pond & Beach 11 parking lot, resp.;
V.R., J.M., resp. 2; May 5; Beach 11 area;
J.Bo.

Yellow-breasted Chat—total of 4; May 9 to 26;
Presque Isle; m.ob.

Lapland Longspur—1; April 8; Gull Point; C.H.
3; April 14; Gull Point; J.G.



LAPLAND LONGSPUR

Golden-winged Warbler—1 male; May 5; Gull
Point Trail; R.K. 1 male; May 13; Dead Pond
Trail; J.N.

Prothonotary Warbler—1; May 10; Waterworks
pond; T.R. 1; May 28; near West Fisher
Drive; J.Bo.

Orange-crowned Warbler—2; April 28; Fry's
landing; banded by L.M.K.

1; May 3; Erie; N.A.
1; May 15; Fry's landing; J.M.

Kentucky Warbler—1; May 5; Beach 1 parking
lot; J.Bo. 1; May 14; TREC; C.K.



KENTUCKY WARBLER

Cerulean Warbler—1 male; May 4; Fry's
landing; J.Br., et al.

Yellow-throated Warbler—total of 3; April 29
to May 5; J.Bo., et al.

Northern Cardinal—1 (Bilateral
Gynandromorph); early May; Millcreek Twp.;
fide Sam Stull

(Cont. on Page 6)

THE BIRD REPORT (Cont.)

Prairie Warbler—1; May 9; along beach near Breakwater 11; J.Bo. 1; May 12; P.I.; E.D.J.



PRAIRIE WARBLER

Summer Tanager—1; May 15; Dead Pond Trail; E.H.



SUMMER TANAGER

Dickcissel—1; May 14; top of TREC tower; J.Bo.; 1; May 18; Gull Point; J.Gy.; J.M., et al.

Contributors: N.A.-Nancy Andersen, J.B.-Justin Berkheimer, J.Bo.-Jason Bojczyk, J.Br.-Judy Brunner, R.D.-Roger Donn, J.G.-John Garrett, J.Gy.-Joe Gyekis, E.H.-Eric Hall, C.H.-Christopher Hinkley, J.H.-Jamie Hill, E.D.J.-Erin & David Janetski, S.J.-Steve James, C.K.-Charity Kheshgi, R.K.-Ripley Kindervater, L.M.K.-Laura Marie Koitsch, J.K.-John Kramer, J.L.-Julie Leonard, M.L.-Mike Lyden, A.M.-Andrew Markel, D.M.-Doug Massey, E.M.-Elizabeth McQuaid, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, J.N.-Jack Naglick, B.O.-Bernie O'Connor, T.R.-Thomas Reiter, V.R.-Victoria Rothman, R.S.-Russ States, S.S.-Sam Stull, R.Sw.-Ruth Swaney, N.T.-Nash Turney, m.ob.-many observers

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A YOUNG BIRDER'S TAKE ON THE FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS

By Grace Colwell

Grace Colwell applied for a Youth Scholarship for the Festival of the Birds for this Spring and chosen as a winner. In her application she stated that she hoped to gain more knowledge about the bird species at Presque Isle through participation. (You be the judge as to her success after reading her article below.)

First of all, I would like to thank Presque Isle Audubon for selecting me as a youth scholarship winner. I was very blessed.

I had a great time at the Festival of the Birds. The first thing I did was the walk to Gull Point on Friday. Our leader for this walk was incredibly knowledgeable and helped us to identify many birds by sight and call. We probably saw and/or heard 35 different types of birds, but unfortunately we did not see the Piping Plover. I was disappointed, but we did see a lot of really cool birds, like the White Pelican, a male Black-Bellied Plover in breeding plumage, a Bobolink, and a female Scarlet Tanager. After this we went to the bird banding station, but due to the weather they were not banding on Friday, so we decided to attend the Pine Tree walk. During this walk we were able to see warblers galore even though it was raining for most of the walk. We then went on the Dead Pond Trail hike. On the way to this hike, our leader showed us a Screech Owl nest. While the owl was not there at that time, we were able to see it two times on Saturday, just sleeping away at the entrance to its cavity. On the hike we encountered many different birds including a Blue Jay on a nest. When we came out of the woods, we spotted a male turkey meandering through a clearing. Lastly, we attended the Birds of the Night Walk on the Pine Tree Trail. No Woodcocks were sighted, though some were heard.

After a few hours of sleep, we got up early to attend the kayak field trip. Throughout this trip, we heard the Least Bittern, but were unable to spot this bird. (Cont. on Page 7)

A YOUNG BIRDER'S TAKE ON THE FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS (Cont.)

The next morning, at our house, while letting out my chickens, we heard the Bittern again in a swampy area near our house. Also on the kayak trip we were able to see the ospreys in abundance. They put on quite a show, flying high in the sky, eating a freshly caught fish and warding off multiple attacks by Red-Winged Blackbirds. In the lagoons, some Canada Geese had just hatched their eggs and the goslings could be seen in the nests. There were also lots of Marsh Wrens to be seen and heard.



GRACE AND HER DAD

After paddling around in the lagoons, we headed to the bird banding station. That was a treat! We were able to see birds up close. My favorite bird was the male Canada Warbler that was caught. We also saw a male Scarlet Tanager in the trees. We stayed here watching the birds until it was about time for the herping talk at the TREC. I really love animals of all kinds, so I was intrigued to hear about the reptiles and amphibians of NW PA. The speaker even had some living examples of local herps. My favorite was the Black Rat snake. The last activity I participated in was the bird drawing workshop. I am not a great artist, but I had fun learning different techniques and ideas about how to draw and help my birding experience. After this we had enough time for one short walk before the dinner, so we again headed to Pine Tree and walked the trail. Right at the trail head we saw a nighthawk, or as I told my mom when I got home a bump on a log! We were able to see a bunch of birds flitting around, mostly warblers. On the way

back to the car, I spotted a small garter snake crossing the path connecting to the herp talk we had just heard.

The two evening speakers were masters of their field and fun to listen to. I loved seeing all the pictures of Presque Isle on Friday night. He is an amazingly talented photographer. The keynote speaker Saturday night was passionate about CA Condors and she was able to provide an abundance of information about these magnificent birds.

I want to thank Presque Isle Audubon for this experience and the opportunity to expand my birding knowledge. I had a wonderful time and look forward to using my knowledge in the future. It was fun to see birds that I was not overly familiar with and hope to use the knowledge I learned to become a better birder.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Presque Isle Audubon Society welcomes all of our new members as well as those members that have rejoined. When you join National Audubon, you get a free membership in our local chapter, the Presque Isle Audubon Society. The members are:

Erie: Joan Hersperger, Joan Collins, Jennifer & Chris Newby, Susan Jowett, Patricia Wigham, Helen Kohn, Carol Tipson, Gerald Deutschlander, Deanna Meehan, Dottie Hodapp, Patrick Leighton, Barbara Stevenson, Emily Briglia, Heidi Arnold, Donald Stefanski, Claudia Mosso, Judy Clark, Ron Strecker, Ginny Brocki, Asher Whitney, AnnaMarie Senita, Patricia Turk, Marcia Hall, Michael Plyler

Adamsville: Marguerite Scullin

Albion: Lauren Brown, Joanna Lorance

Cambridge Sps: Judy Metzler

(Cont. on Page 8)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Cont.)

Conneautville: Eileen Bertera

Cransville: Carol Ambro

Fairview: Gilbert Jacobs, Ed & Nancy Group,
James McCormack, Darla Graff

Girard: Nancy Dunn, Pat Howell

Guys Mills: Douglas Mehok

Linesville: Ron Mullenax, Suzanne Schillinger,
Celestine Pilarcik

Meadville: Susan First, Jonathan Miller, Teresa
Herrera, Susan Breckenridge, Brian Miller

North East: Mike Williams, Susan McKee,
Roger Coda

Union City: William Fletcher,
Daniel Rifenberick

Waterford: Linda Fish

Ashtabula, OH: Devon Newkirk

Pittsburgh, PA: Linda DiLeo

Russell, PA: Lara Larson

Any problems, let me know.

~Ron Intrieri, Membership Chairman
membership@presqueisleaudubon.org

Presque Isle 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 20th of the month preceding publication. All published material is subject to editing. Send materials to Janet Price, editor, via editor@presqueisleaudubon.org or to 418 E. 36th St., Erie, PA, 16504. Or call at 814-825-8394.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Presque Isle Audubon Society Chapter Only Membership Application</p> <p>Chapter only membership includes membership in the Presque Isle Audubon Society ONLY and the chapter newsletter, <i>Tern of Events</i>. Individual membership \$15.00/year</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Please provide your e-mail address if you want the online version of our newsletter.</p> <p>E-mail address _____</p> <p>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</p> |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">National Audubon Society Membership Application</p> <p>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. <u>New members (\$20) are to send their first membership check to the local chapter. The address is at the bottom of this application.</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>E-mail address _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chapter Code U15</p> <p>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</p> |
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