

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

ISSUE 25:05

# TERN OF EVENTS

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



*Photograph by Rachel Buss, PIA Trustee*

## Featured In This Issue

- Meet our **Hog Island Scholarship** Recipients!
- Don't Forget PIA During **Erie/Crawford Gives!**
- **Audubon Leadership Conference** Reflections
- **Volunteer Spotlights** & Notes from the Field
- **The Bird Report**, and more!

Stay up-to-date with PIA and learn how you can get involved by following us on social media or visiting our website:

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH



I'm so happy to announce the PIA Board has agreed to participate with the **PA Audubon Council's** new **Bird Habitat Recognition Program!** It's designed to encourage community members to promote bird-friendly practices at their homes, schools, places of work and worship.

Why have such a program? I like this goal posted on the **Bird Town PA website**: "It is our vision to build highways of sustenance and safety to counterbalance the tremendous loss of living space for birds, plants, and all native species."

What makes an outdoor space bird-friendly? Using native plants in landscaping and gardens, and reducing bird collisions with windows. And providing the following:

- **Food:** berries, seeds, nectar.
- **Water:** clean water for drinking, bathing.
- **Shelter:** Safe haven for nesting and protection from predators.
- **Nesting:** Trees, shrubs, nest boxes.

Our **PIA Bird Habitat Recognition** sign has been designed and production is underway! The sign on your property will be a wonderful conversation starter with friends and neighbors. **Check out an image of the sign on the next page!**

The digital application for property owners and managers to enroll in the program is now available on the **PA Audubon Council** website at <https://paauduboncouncil.org/bird-habitat-recognition-program>! However, we here at PIA are still developing guidelines for administering this program, so it's likely that we won't be processing applications until October. So, stay tuned for more details and updates, which will be sent via email to all subscribers of TOE, and also posted on our website. At that time, we'll let you know it's OK to send in your completed online application.

*"The President's Perch" continues on the next page.*



## Bird-Friendly Habitat



The Pennsylvania Audubon Council recognizes that this property provides a healthy wildlife habitat that supports and protects birds, people, and the places we share.



[paauduboncouncil.org](http://paauduboncouncil.org)  
[birdtownpa.org](http://birdtownpa.org)  
[presqueisleaudubon.org](http://presqueisleaudubon.org)



To learn more about how to make an outdoor space bird-friendly: [\*\*audubon/bird-friendly\*\*](#) and how to prevent bird-window collisions: [\*\*audubon/reducing collisions\*\*](#)

We're still looking for someone to serve as **Conservation chair** on the PIA Board. **Paul Burroughs** has served on the Board since 2001! He currently holds that position and is looking to step down once a replacement is found.

If you're someone who already likes to keep up-to-date about legislative and governmental matters affecting conservation, you would be a perfect fit. We need someone to advise the Board and membership about actions we need to take when legislation or governmental policies affecting birds are proposed, especially at the local and state level.

And one last request; do you know of anyone who has taxidermy bird mounts, also known as taxidermy stuffed birds, to donate to PIA? We are looking for display items when doing public events. We need something interesting to look at in order to bring folks passing by over to our table.

Keep in touch!

*Sue Murawski, President*



## ♥ Thank You

Each issue, we want to take the time to showcase the **incredible work of our volunteers**. We couldn't have done the following events without people stepping up to help out!

- June Membership Meeting & Picnic: **Emilia Nolen, Freda Tepfer, Shelley Rhodes, and Joao Tavares.**
- Cub Scout Day Camp: **Lisa Danko**
- Discover Presque Isle: **Cash and Bob Miller, Kathi Pae, and Daniel Lopez.**

***Presque Isle Audubon is so lucky to have you all as our friends!***

To learn how you can volunteer and help make an impact in our community, email [\*\*info@presqueisleaudubon.org\*\*](mailto:info@presqueisleaudubon.org).



## Memorial for Ken Andersen

A celebration of the life of former PIA Board member Ken Andersen, who died on May 1, will be held on Monday, August 18 from 3:30 - 7:30 P.M at the Rotary Pavilion on Presque Isle State Park. Feel free to come and go according to your schedule! This is an opportunity for family and friends to gather and share stories and memories of Ken, to laugh, and enjoy a cold beverage along with sweet and savory snacks.





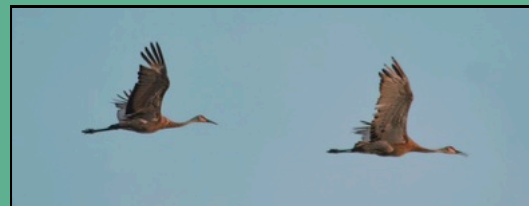


From the minute ruby-throated hummingbird to the soaring red-shouldered hawk, birds are essential to our ecosystems. They are also increasingly in need of our protection. On **August 12, Erie Gives Day and Crawford Gives Day**, make a difference by supporting birds and their habitats through the **Presque Isle Audubon Society (PIAS)**.

Erie is a bird's (and birders'!) paradise. **Presque Isle**, with its protected and ecologically sensitive habitat, serves as an extremely important stop for migrating and nesting birds. It is also the home of the annual **Festival of the Birds**, our weekend-long event that brings 150 people immersed in the wonders of spring migration. PIAS' programs are designed to connect people to not only birds, but nature as a whole. For example, our **Nurture the Nature Lover program** reached 400 students last school year, bringing environmental education to classrooms to inspire the next generation of conservationists.

Our other programs include:

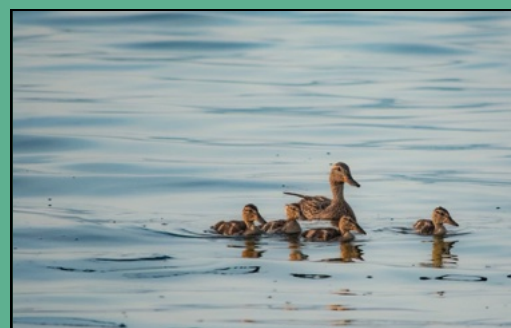
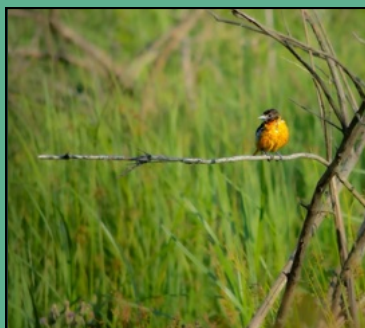
- **Scholarships to two educators** in the Erie area to attend a week of nature education training at **Hog Island, Maine**, where they learn to inspire a love for nature in students.
- **Free and open to the public, guided bird hikes** throughout the year.
- Stewardship of **three nature sanctuaries**.
- Conducting the yearly **PA Christmas Bird Count**.



We consider everyone that has stopped to appreciate the familiar song of a robin, the beautiful coloring of a cardinal, or the quiet grace of a heron to be a birder. Join us on **August 12, Erie Gives Day and Crawford Gives Day**, in our efforts to save birds and their habitats.

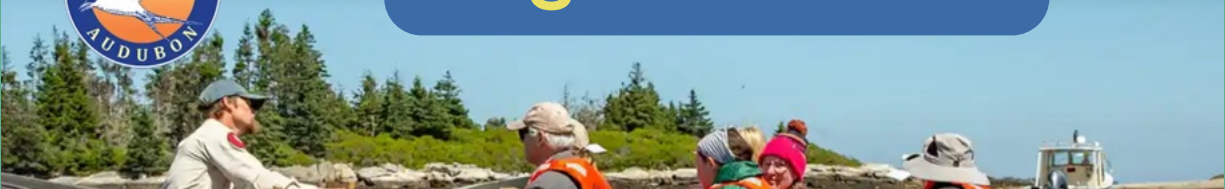
For information about how to donate to PIAS with Erie Gives Day, visit [Erie Gives](#). For information about how to donate to PIAS with Crawford Gives Day, visit [Crawford Gives](#).

## *Bird Photographs Submitted by Rachel Buss*





# Hog Island 2025



## Meet our Scholarship Recipients



Hello!

My name is **Amy Lynn Fitzgerald Montagna**, and I am a **5th Grade Science Teacher at the Girard School District**. I am heading into my 20th year of teaching and am currently an active member of the PDE Assessment Committee. My love for the outdoors began with my grandmother, an avid gardener and backyard bird watcher, and was further shaped through my previous volunteer experience at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. I've continued to nurture that passion by spending time hiking and visiting state and national parks.

I'm excited to bring what I learn during the **Hog Island Educator Week** back to my classroom to inspire my students to love science, connect with nature, and take action to protect our environment. I'm grateful to the **Presque Isle Audubon Society** for this opportunity and look forward to sharing what I've learned with both my students and the Society this fall.

*by Amy Lynn Fitzgerald Montagna*

Hi! My name is **Rachel Cherry**, and I am an **environmental educator at Asbury Woods**. Growing up I would spend most of my time in the woods or in the "crick" exploring and looking for critters. So naturally that lead me to pursuing an education and completing my B.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. Along that journey, I gained hands-on experience doing internships at Tamarack Wildlife Center, Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Pymatuning State Park, and Regional Science Consortium. In my free time, I am either exploring nature or playing video games with my cats, Nala and Sega. I'm an avid birder, and my 2 favorite species are the American crow and pileated woodpecker.

I look forward to the trip to **Hog Island** and bringing back what I learned to Asbury Woods. Thank you, **Presque Isle Audubon Society**, for this opportunity. I can't wait to share cool pictures and memories when I am back.

*by Rachel Cherry*



**STAY  
TUNED!**

You'll see in our **Upcoming Programs** on Page 6 that Rachel & Amy will share their **Hog Island 2025** experiences with the PIA family during a **September program!** Check our "**Programs**" page on our website and follow us on Facebook for details:

<https://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/categories/programs>

The **Hog Island 2026** scholarship application will be available on our "**Scholarships**" page on our website in the Spring:

<https://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/categories/scholarship>







# Asbury Woods



## PIA Grants in Action: New Projects at Asbury Woods Made Possible through Community Partnerships

Asbury Woods was able to complete some exciting upgrades thanks to project grants from **Presque Isle Audubon**. Three projects were able to be completed: **a native bird wingspan display, a video bird feeder, and a backyard birding workshop**. All three have received great feedback from Asbury Woods' visitors.

The **"Measure Your Wingspan"** display allows visitors to compare their "wingspan" to those of several native birds. This display is part of the ***Wild About Wildlife! Discovering Pennsylvania's Native Species*** exhibit, which was installed in January 2025. As an interactive addition to the **Nature Center**, the display allows people to learn about native bird species in an engaging way. They can then explore those species further throughout the rest of the exhibit. The display was designed and installed by local company **Scalise Enterprises**.

The **video bird feeder** is another interactive addition to Asbury Woods, made possible by the funding from Presque Isle Audubon. The feeder has been a great way to get video footage of our resident birds and share that with the public. Moving forward, Asbury Woods plans to invite the public to connect to our feed and will use footage in a current video project with **WQLN**.

Lastly, Asbury Woods hosted a **"Backyard Birding Workshop"** where over 20 participants learned about basic birding etiquette, how to identify common PA songbirds utilizing both bird calls and colors, as well as decorating a bird house to take home to continue bird watching with. This program was a huge success, bringing people of all ages together with a common interest in birds. Due to its popularity, Asbury Woods is excited to host a **monthly "Bird Tour"** to encourage workshop participants and anyone else interested to join us for a birdwatching walk around different parts of Asbury Woods.

With support from organizations like **Presque Isle Audubon**, Asbury Woods can continue to offer our community the opportunity to discover something new. To learn more about the world around them and what awaits right outside their door.

From everyone here at Asbury Woods, thank you for your ongoing support and for selecting us to receive project grants, which made these programs, exhibits, and features possible.

### **Editor's Note:**

*This article is the perfect reminder of why you should consider donating to PIA on Erie Gives and Crawford Gives Days!*



# DONATE

*by Emma Mader & Sarah Bennett*

**Emma Mader** is the **Director of Education** at **Asbury Woods**, and **Sarah Bennett** is the **Executive Director of Asbury Woods**. Plan your next visit and learn how you can get involved at <https://www.asburywoods.org/>



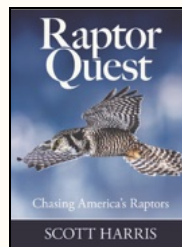
# Upcoming Programs

PLEASE JOIN US!

We have a full slate of exciting educational programs scheduled for the upcoming months!

Follow us on our **Facebook page** and **our website** to stay in loop on event details!

**August 2025** – Scott Harris, author of *RaptorQuest*, will tell us about his version of a Raptor Big Year and the adventures he had along the way.



*Programs Organized by Mariam Ohanjanyan*

**September 2025** – This year's Hog Island Scholarship recipients, educators Rachel Cherry and Amy Lynn Fitzgerald Montagna, will regale us with tales from their trip to the Educator's Week at Hog Island in Maine.

**October 2025** – National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill will enlighten us about the Aviary's research on *Fostering Forest Bird Habitat and Ecosystem Resilience through Management*.

**Do you have an idea for an upcoming program or want to learn more about our offerings?** Reach out to Mariam at [program@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:program@presqueisleaudubon.org).

YOU'RE INVITED



Did you know that Presque Isle Audubon hosts **FREE field trips** open to the public?

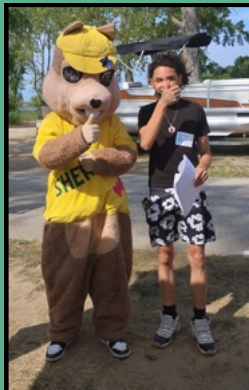
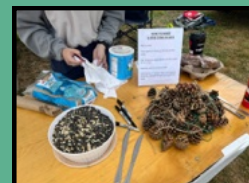
We hosted a series of bird walks during the Spring & Summer months and are looking forward to some new opportunities to get out and about and enjoy nature this Fall. No experience is necessary. Don't have a pair of binoculars? We have it covered!

Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for upcoming field trips, and contact Lauren at [fieldtrips@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@presqueisleaudubon.org) with any questions!

*Field Trips Organized by Lauren Winschel*

Thank You for Visiting PIA at

DISCOVER  
**PRESQUE ISLE**





# Soaring, Together

In July, three members of the Board of Directors drove to **Montreal, Quebec** to attend **Audubon's Leadership Conference**. Called **Soaring, Together!**, the focus brought together National Audubon Society and its related organizations, with an emphasis on **unity, collaboration, and collective effort** towards the shared goal of **protecting birds and their habitats**.

**Jaimie Miller, Kimberly Boal, and Stacey Dell** attended workshops exploring topics pertaining to growing our community, raising funds through grant writing, project development, and more, with an emphasis on building connections. All of this was under an overarching theme of "**bending the bird curve**," explained through Audubon's **Flight Plan**, because what's good for the birds is what's good for the Earth. And that impacts all of us.

Stay tuned to future editions of TOE as more is shared about how **Presque Isle Audubon** is doing its part!

Shout out to our new friends from the **DC Bird Alliance!** Our team connected with **María-Elena, Matthew, and Olivia** and we'll be sharing ideas and information to soar together as larger region, with other folks joining in on the work!

*by Kim, Jaimie, and Stacey*



## Photographs:

Pictured in the top left, **Kim, Jaimie, and Stacey** pose at the conference background. In the top-right, PIA had the opportunity to work in multi-day sessions with our teammates our friends in the **Audubon Mid-Atlantic** crew. In the bottom photographs, the ladies pause for a photograph at the **Montreal Botanical Gardens**, and you can see a group of birders watching a Merlin at **Cap-Saint-Jacques Nature Park**.

This trip was made possible through generous donations to PIA, like those you can make during Erie Gives and Crawford Gives Days! One of our members was also a recipient of a National Audubon Community Chapter Leader Scholarship for the 2025 Conference. Thank you, Audubon!



# The Bird Report

by Jerry McWilliams

*The following birds of note were reported from  
May 1 to July 31, 2025. All reports are from  
Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.*

**Sandhill Crane**—1 adult and two newly hatched young; June 3; Niagara Pond; B.B., et al; First confirmed nesting on Presque Isle S.P.

**American Avocet**—total of 23; June 9 to July 23; Leo's landing and Gull Point; m.ob.

**Whimbrel**—1; July 7; Gull Point; M.B.  
Up to 5; July 17-19; Gull Point; J.Me., et al.

**Marbled Godwit**—1; June 7; Gull Point; J.D.  
1; June 24; Gull Point; R.H.  
1; June 30; Gull Point; M.B.

**Wilson's Phalarope**—1 male; to June 30 and two males on June 29 (R.K.); Gull Point; G.V.  
1 male with two chicks; June 19 to July 1; Gull Point; C.E.. First nesting record for Pa. and perhaps the first east of The Mississippi River outside of Wisconsin.

**Willet**—total of 16; June 20 to July 25; Gull Point; m.ob.  
56; June 30; Gull Point; M.B.

**Stilt Sandpiper**—up to 3; July 10 & 11; Gull Point; J.B., S.S.  
8; July 25; Gull Point; J.M.

**Red Knot**—4; June 1; Presque Isle; D.M.  
1; July 16; Gull Point; D.S.

**Black Tern**—1; June 3; Edinboro Lake; J.H.  
1; June 30; Big Pond; C.L.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—1; June 5; Carter Hill Rd.; T.K.

**American White Pelican**—9; June 10; circling over Erie; J.L.

**Western Kingbird**—1; July 10; Gull Point trail; J.B.

**Yellow-breasted Chat**—1; June 11; East Springfield; K.A.  
1; June 30; Howard Eaton Reservoir; T.L.

**Connecticut Warbler**—1; June 11; East Springfield; K.A.; Latest county record by at least two weeks.

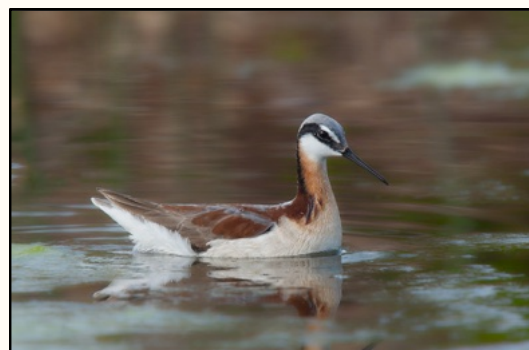
**Blackpoll Warbler**—1; through July 21; Presque Isle; Jason; record late in the county by about two weeks



**Sandhill Crane**

Myrna Erler Bradshaw

*Audubon Photography Awards*



**Wilson's Phalarope**

Marlin Greene

*Audubon Photography Awards*

## Contributors

K.A.-Katie Andersen, B.B.-Brian Berchtold, M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, J.D.-John Dickson, C.E.-Carl Engstrom, J.H.-Jamie Hill, R.H.-Rob Hooton, R.K.-Ripley Kindervater, T.K.-Theresa Konzel, T.L.-Tim Lenz, J.L.-Julie Leonard, C.L.-Chris Lundberg, D.M.-Doug Massey, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, J.Me-Jackson Medeiros, S.S.-Sarah Sargent, D.S.-Don Snyder, G.V.-Grace Vesho

**Contact Jerry McWilliams at  
814-240-8594 [jerrymcw@aol.com](mailto:jerrymcw@aol.com)**





# PIA Membership Report **Thank You, Members!**

Hope everyone is having a good summer. I want to thank everyone for renewing their membership in Audubon and welcoming the new members to our society. The new members and members that rejoined are:

**Erie:** Valerie Kinlan, Karen Ericson, Jennifer Mcquade, David McDonald, Donald Bauer, Kathleen Horan, Alan Swigonski, Verna Ehret, Meg Kessler, Amy Gould, Claudia Mosso, Carole Ackelson, Margaret Hauser, Bruce Mong, Larry Dunlap, Kathrine Beaver, Carol Allen, Alan Swigonski & Linda Swigonski, Rachel Cherry, Lisa DeWalt, Karen Salvatore, Jaimie Miller, Kathleen Pae, Michele Rundquist Franz, Stephen Kroth, Pamela Moore

**Cochrannton:** Curtis Oakes

**Corry:** Theresa Konzel

**Fairview:** Marie Gieza, Barb Layman, Ursula Ansbach

**Harborcreek:** Margaret Weiser

**Lake City:** Dorothy Konyha

**McKean:** John Kreider

**Meadville:** Beth Forbes, Richard Ackert, Kimberly Boal

**North East:** Roger Koebe, Lois Nelson, Katherine Ditrich

**Saegertown:** Edwin Shaffer

**Titusville:** Marjorie Wolfe, donna Appel

**Union City:** Lisa Kafferlin, Anna Gruber

**Waterford:** Delores Pasiecznik

**Atlantic, Pa:** Sylvia Miller

**Cherry Creek, NY:** Bonnie Bowen

**North Wales, Pa:** Jerry Flynn

**Pittsburgh:** Charles Kollar

**Trafford, Pa.:** Karen Rose Cercone

**Wexford, Pa:** Edward Weller

**Ron Intrieri**  
Membership Chairman



## Presque Isle Audubon Society

Our mission is to connect people with birds, other wildlife and their habitats; through education, conservation, and advocacy.

[presqueisleaudubon.org](http://presqueisleaudubon.org)

## 2024-2025 Board of Directors

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Secretary  
Treasurer

Sue Murawski  
Paul Burroughs  
Susan Stush  
Julie Dell



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Lauren Winschel  
Ron Intrieri  
Mariam  
Ohanjanyan  
Stacey Dell  
OPEN  
Jennifer Ferrick  
Sue Murawski



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 Stacey Dell, editor, via email at [editore@presqueisleaudubon.org](mailto:editore@presqueisleaudubon.org). If you have any questions, call or text Stacey at (814) 553-0818.



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 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