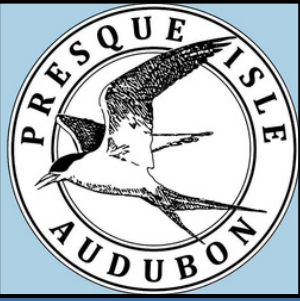




OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
ISSUE 25:06

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.



PIA is preparing to kick off Nurture the Nature Lover Year #2, and we need your pinecones! Check out the President's Perch for more info!

Featured In This Issue

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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

Question for you:



What is currently thought to be the leading cause of bird mortality in the US?

1. climate change
2. bird window collisions
3. feral cats

Answer—bird window collisions. And not birds flying into skyscrapers, but birds flying into the windows of our homes! Researchers from the Acopian Center for Ornithology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA wrote in 2023: "50% of bird-window collisions leave no measurable evidence of a strike, and as much as 70% of stunned victims likely succumb from a collision."

Oh my gosh, 70%!

"Anyone who lives near a window has an opportunity to take action," says Connie Sanchez, program manager for Audubon's Bird-friendly Buildings initiative. Through Audubon bird-friendly buildings, she urges people to explore ways to increase the visibility of transparent and reflective surfaces in their homes to prevent collisions. For more help, you can also visit this website: [stop bird collisions](#).

We are still hoping for a donation of a mounted duck to use at tabling events in the community. There is nothing like the chance to see a bird close up to draw people over to our table!

Also, if you are out and about and see any "good" pine cones, we could use some for our Nurture the Nature Lover days for school children at TREC and other events. "Good" is any pinecone that is not broken, and allows people to spread shortening in the little crevices to make birdseed stick. Please collect and save for us! They can be dropped off at the front desk at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, or we can pick them up.



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

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH *Continued*



Thank You



Many thanks to the following people for their recent donations to PIA:

- **Ed and Nancy Group** for a boxload of bird books.
- **Jennifer and Dave Dinicola** for bird feeders and a shepherd's crook pole (right).
- **Kim Gardiner** for a Wingspan board game (left).
- **Gay and Steve Lipchik** for the unusual heirloom squash that grew into a swan shape (bottom).

We appreciate your generosity!

Keep in touch!



Sue Murawski, President
president@presqueisleaudubon.org

Welcome

to the PIA Family, Julie!

Julia Guerrein is an environmental attorney at MacDonald, Illig, Jones & Britton, LLP. She received her B.S. in environmental science from Penn State Behrend in 2019, where she also served as editor-in-chief of the Behrend Beacon, president of Greener Behrend, and was an undergraduate researcher in environmental science. She worked for three summers during college at the Regional Science Consortium as a water quality intern. Her interest in environmental law took her to Vermont Law School where she graduated with her J.D. in 2022. Julia also received her master's degree in environmental policy from the University of Cambridge, in Cambridge, England, in 2022. Julia, an Erie native, particularly enjoys spending

time at Presque Isle. Even when she's in the office, Julia uses her binoculars to try and spot birds. She was recently very excited about an osprey eating a large fish right outside her office window!



In Memoriam
Don Snyder



Presque Isle Audubon lost another respected and long-time member with the death of Don Snyder in July. Don was involved with PIA for decades; as a Board member, Christmas Bird Count participant, and field trip leader. From his obituary: "After earning his BS in Biology at Manchester College, IN, Don earned his MS and PhD in zoology from Ohio State University culminating in 1963. He went on to complete twelve post-doctoral projects and over 30 scientific publications, mostly regarding ornithology. He was known for inspiring his students to pursue careers in ornithology and natural sciences, and several became life-long friends. In 1996, Don retired emeritus from his teaching career at Edinboro University of PA, but did not slow down his passion for the outdoors and birding." He will be missed.



BIRD HABITAT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The **Pennsylvania Audubon Council**, in partnership with PA Audubon chapters (like **Presque Isle Audubon**) and **Bird Town PA**, invites you to join our **Bird-Friendly Habitat Program**! It recognizes and celebrates properties that provide essential food, water, shelter, and nesting places for birds while using sustainable practices. It's designed to engage, educate, and empower individuals to rethink yards, balconies, and community green spaces, turning them into functional habitat that is both beautiful for you and beneficial for birds. By registering your property, you'll be automatically connected to your local Audubon chapter so you can discover the bird walks, events, and social opportunities happening right in your community.

Homeowners, renters, schools, parks, businesses, and community spaces can apply. Properties of any size — from small yards to large parcels — are eligible as long as they meet the habitat requirements. Small green spaces, balconies, terraces, and container gardens can provide valuable habitat if designed thoughtfully with native plants and bird-friendly practices. Schools, places of worship, and municipal properties do not have to pay a fee!

To qualify for the **Bird Habitat Recognition program** and receive your yard sign, your property must have items from each of the four pillars of healthy habitats: **Food, Water, Shelter, and Nesting**. We recognize that individuals seeking recognition for a small space, such as a patio or balcony, may offer alternative options for bird friendly habitat, so exceptions will be considered.

Food: Include plenty of options that reflect bird-friendly food groups like berries, seeds, nectar, insects, and more. Seed, suet, and nectar feeders are also encouraged. At least two items from this list are required.

Water: Provide clean water sources that offer birds water to drink, bathe, and preen. This might include natural streams and rain gardens, or bird baths and drip fountains.



Shelter: Aim for a variety of sizes and textures to provide safe haven for nesting and protection from predators. Hedgerows, brush piles, and nesting boxes are all good choices.

Nesting: Offer natural and human-made options for birds to construct their nests. This might include clusters of trees (even snags or standing dead trees), shrub thickets, and nest boxes.

Further details about each of these four pillars are included on the application itself. Ready for the next step? **Submit your application and \$30 fee to join the fun!** The application fee helps to support and grow the program, while spreading the word across the state about the benefits of **Bird Friendly Habitats**. You'll get your **Bird Friendly Habitat** sign delivered in person by someone from **Presque Isle Audubon**, or through the mail.

Click here for the [bird habitat recognition application](#)!

The first local applicant to receive a BHR sign was **Colleen McCarthy**. She was excited to have a pair of monarch butterflies spend a successful summer in her garden, along with many other pollinators. Colleen also saw many garden spiders, Cross Orb Weavers, which will be good food for baby birds next spring. These spiders also provide webbing as a nest building adhesive. **Congratulations, Colleen!**

We hope you follow her example and sign up, and then send us pictures of your sign on your property. Join our flock, and help protect habitat and inspire conservation across Pennsylvania!

*Written by
Sue Murawski, President*



Erie & Crawford Gives Day



2025



Wow, there were so many donations this August, over \$8,000! This is double the amount we usually receive. Plus, Presque Isle Audubon won an additional \$500 during Erie Gives Day with the Hourly Incentives Program (thank you Erie Bank). Our work is done by volunteers, so these funds will all be used "for the birds."

We are so grateful to the following donors who help make our mission possible. You are the best!

Frank and Cheryl Zalik, Sherri and Brent Roggie, Robert and Marion Gallivan, Bennett Gould and Jenny Tompkins, The Plastek Group/Prischak Family, Adrienne and Paul Burroughs, Roy Voshall, Pauline Frank. Alec and Rachel Buss, Carol and Rick Holmgren, Lindsay and Thomas Frank, Carol Huber, the Gallagher Family, Teri and Larry Flatley, Joao and Delores Tavares, Marilyn Redenius, Jim and Jane Reilly, John and Heidi Fette, Pat and Pete Benekos, Katherine Leone, Cynthia Conner, Keith and Terriann Ptak, Kathi Swann, Michele Rundquist-Franz, Kathleen Pae, Jennifer Miller Kurzweg and family, Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Jennifer Person, Tiffany Marini, Dennis Olesnanik, David Skellie, Mark Kwitowski, Annie Maloney, Christopher Lundberg, Pamela Moore, Kathy and George Moylan, Marie Bongiorno, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Roxanne Tonn, Martin Rizzo, Karly Wisinski (Penny), Thomas Kennedy, Laurel Mitchell, Brian Hill, Sue Murawski, Amelia Carr and Peter Lebar, Mary Wagner, Shanna and Rob Hodgson, Guy and Wilma Dunkle, Charles Persinger, Deanna and Paul Attardo.

Halfway Point



\$500

to a randomly selected nonprofit at 12:00 p.m.

1 Winner

Halfway Point \$500 Winner!:

Presque Isle Audubon Society

Sponsored by
Erie Bank

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN
JOIN PRESQUE ISLE
AUDUBON OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
ONLINE USING PAYPAL
OR A CREDIT CARD?

CHECK IT OUT



Joining or Renewing Your Membership Online

First, got to this webpage:

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

Scroll to the bottom, and select either **Membership** or **Renewal** from the drop-down, and click the yellow **"Subscribe"** button to take care of your payment. A new window will open asking for either your PayPal email address or choose to the **"pay with a debit or credit card"** option.

You can still submit your membership application via mail with a check. Here's the direct link to the membership application:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/66f9bd45cd737d00debd4738/672c4c2debf261bca98ccb83_2018piasmembershipapp.pdf

Even if you've been away for a bit (migration happens!), we'd love to have you rejoin the flock!



Soaring, Together

This summer, three of our PIA members attended the National Audubon Leadership Conference. We'll highlight some of their experiences in each of our upcoming issues!

Sharing the Magic of Bird Migration and Motus

This July, I had the opportunity to attend the Audubon Leadership Conference in Montréal, where I joined a fascinating session about Motus—a powerful tool that's transforming how we understand bird migration.

So, what is Motus? The word comes from Latin, meaning movement, and that's exactly what it's all about. Motus is an international research network that studies the movements of birds, bats, and even insects. Scientists place tiny, lightweight tags on animals, which then send signals to receiver stations (called "Motus towers") scattered across the landscape. Each time a tagged animal passes by, the tower records its journey.

Think of it as a global "check-in" system for wildlife! The data collected helps scientists learn where animals travel, how long they stay in certain areas, and what routes they rely on. This information is vital for conserving migratory species and protecting the habitats they need to survive.

Here's the exciting part: Presque Isle is home to two Motus towers! That means birds stopping here on their epic migrations are part of this international tracking effort. The next time you see a warbler flitting through the trees or a hawk soaring over the lake, it may be carrying a tiny tag that contributes to groundbreaking research.



Our Wider AUDUBON COMMUNITY



At the Leadership Conference, we were reminded that Presque Isle Audubon is part of something much larger than our local chapter work in Erie and Crawford counties. Across the region, fellow Audubon chapters are doing incredible things to protect birds and habitats, engage their communities, and inspire conservation.

One example is the Southern Maryland Audubon Society (somdaudubon.org), whose members are active in everything from habitat restoration to educational outreach. Taking a look at what other chapters are doing can spark ideas, foster collaboration, and remind us that we're all part of a vibrant, connected network working for birds.

Want to learn more? Visit motus.org and discover how this project is connecting communities, scientists, and nature lovers around the world.

Motus is science, technology, and conservation coming together—and it's happening right here in our own backyard.

*Reflections Written
by Kimberly Boal*



The Bird Report

by Jerry McWilliams

The following birds of note were reported from August 1 through September 25. All reports are from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Purple Gallinule—1 juvenile; Sept. 2; Lawrence Park in Erie; fide Sue Murawski; found dead by a Wabtec employee.

American Avocet—1; Aug. 9; Gull Point; A.F.
1; Aug. 24; Gull Point; B.S.

Whimbrel—1; Aug. 5; Gull Point; C.P.
1; Aug. 9; Gull Point; A.F.
1; Aug. 31; Gull Point; T.Z.

Hudsonian Godwit—3; Sept 6; Gull Point; J.Me., J.B. et al.

Marbled Godwit—1; Aug 13; Gull Point; M.B.

Long-billed Dowitcher—1; Aug. 2 to 6; Gull Point; J.B., J.Me
1; Sep 20; Gull Point J.H.

Wilson's Phalarope—1; Aug. 21; Gull Point; J.B.

Red-necked Phalarope—2; Aug. 30; Gull Point; J.B.

Willet—1; Aug. 10; Gull Point; T.B.
1; Aug. 13; Gull Point; M.B.
1; Aug. 16; Gull Point; J.Me.

Red Knot—up to 2; Aug. 23 to 31; Gull Point & Beach 11; K.H., et al.

Stilt Sandpiper—up to 2; Aug. 1 to 11; Gull Point & Beach 11; C.S.,
J.M., et al.

1; Aug. 16; Gull Point; m.ob.
1 juv.; Aug 25 to 28; Gull Point; J.B., et al.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—1; Aug. 27; breakwater 53; J.B.
1; Aug. 31; Gull Point; P.R.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—1; Sep 15; Gull Point; J.B.

Western Sandpiper—1; Aug. 2; Gull Point; J.Me.

Little Gull—1; Sep 4; Sunset Point (waterbird Count); J.M.



Marbled Godwit

Joseph Mahoney

Audubon Photography Awards



Purple Gallinule

Margaret Borge

Audubon Photography Awards

Contributors

M.B.-Mary Birdsong, J.B.-Jason Bojczyk, T.B.-Trip Bondi, A.D.-Adrian Fenton, J.H.-James Hamilton, K.H.-Karen Himmier, T.K.-Theresa Konzal, J.L.-Jordan Lehman, J.M.-Jerry McWilliams, J.Me.-Jackson Medeiros, S.M.-Sue Murawski, C.P.-Carter Paldchak, P.R.-Presley Riggs, C.S.-Cheryl Saylor, B.S.-Brian Sedgewick, R.S.-Rebecca Serey, m.ob.-many observers

Contact Jerry McWilliams at
814-240-8594 jerrymcw@aol.com

"The Bird Report" continues on the next page.



The Bird Report *Continued*

Sabine's Gull—1; Sept. 6; Gull Point; J.Me., J.B. et al.; Earliest county record by about ten days.

Franklin's Gull—1; Aug. 29; P.I.; J.B.

Glossy Ibis—1; Sep 14; Gull Point; J.B.

American Bittern—1; Aug. 30; along bike trail; J.L.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—1; Aug. 19; Leo's; R.S.; First August record in the county.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Hannah Meddaugh
Audubon Photography Awards



Presque Isle Audubon Society

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

presqueisleaudubon.org



SAVE THE DATE

May 15-17, 2026



JOIN US!

IF YOU DARE!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16
6PM TO 8PM AT PRESQUE
ISLE STATE PARK**



Join us and Presque Isle State Park staff at the PI Lighthouse to investigate several spooky stations dedicated to the history of the Lighthouse. They'll be bird-related activities (think OWLS), candy give-away, book raffles, and more from the TREC Foundation, Erie Bird Observatory, and PI Partnership. This event will take place rain or shine, so come prepared for the unpredictable October weather.

Registration is required, and limited to 150. To register, or for more information, visit:
<https://eventsreg.dcnr.pa.gov/register/create/50657603840431>



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

Presque Isle Audubon Chapter welcomes our new members as well as those who rejoined. Please check our newsletter for activities you can get involved in. **The members are:**

Erie: Daniel Rogowski, Cynthia Wu, John Hinman, John Anderson, Richard Quiggle, Alexandra Meyers, Gerald Deutschlander, Robert Kolakowski, Stacy Sapko Pam Mayer, Ruth Hunt, Barbarba Conner, Marion Fuller, Rose Whitesel, James Montgomery, Kim Darnofall, Martha Dunlavey, Robert Anderson, Janet Newcamp Julia Guerrein, Gerry McWilliam, Mike Lyden, Patricia Hersch, Lora Caldwell, Richard Markiewicz, Berry Gray & Christine Troutman, Mary Connerty, Thomas Chandley, Linda Williams, Alexis Mustin, Mackenzie Mustin

Adamsville: Marguerite Scullin

Albion: Russell Bromley

Atlantic, Pa: Cynthia Berry

Cambridge Sps: Patricia Renwick

Centerville, Pa: Michael & Gloria Kelly

Conneaut Lake: Cindy Leonhard

Corry: Christine Groves

Edinboro: Jennifer Sliker

E. Springfield: Patricia Woytek

Fairview: Marilyn Ferringier, Robert duMaire

Lake City: Bettylou Italiani

Linesville: Michael Hecker

McKean: William & Elaine Smith

McDonald, PA: Justin McCloskey

Meadville: Larry Albert, Marci Crawford, Tom McWilliams, Paul Seaman, Kathleen Buzza, Cheryl Hodges

North East: Amy Swabik, Richard Robinson, Alice Orton, Jane Sceiford, David Kitchener

Pittsburgh, Pa: Matthew Falcone

Sewickley, Pa: Judy Lipsitz

Titusville: Larry Welson, Patricia Cospier, John Smith

Union City: Susan Loomis, Debra Tomcho, Sherri Margele

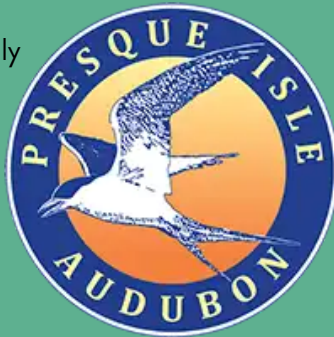
Waterford: John Wiliams, Bonnie Leuthold, Delores Pasiecznik

Lehigh Acres, Fl: Jean Donnell

Mexico, NY: Partick Crotty

by Ron Intrieri,

Membership Chairman



2024-2025

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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 editor@presqueisleaudubon.org. If you have any questions, call or text Stacey at (814) 553-0818.



PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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