

Dear Annette,

I hope you enjoy this issue of Audubon Alaska's e-news. In this email:

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1. Conservation Win! Teshekpuk Lake Receives Further Protections!

GREAT NEWS! **The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has expanded the protected area around Teshekpuk Lake to include core caribou habitat.** Later this month BLM will offer 190 tracts of land in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve (NPR) for oil and gas leasing, but it has withdrawn the Teshekpuk Lake caribou calving area from the lease sale, at the urging of Audubon and our partners.

Earlier this year, in its initial proposed map of the sale area, BLM had identified essentially all land in the northeast NPR for the sale, with the exception of the areas north and east of the lake that were deferred in 2008. The initial map even included land all the way up to and along the southern and western shoreline of Teshekpuk Lake. In response, Audubon Alaska lobbied the agency, authored [a letter](#) asking that essential caribou calving areas be protected from the sale, and organized a coalition of conservation groups to join the request.

[BLM has embraced our request in its entirety.](#) For the first time ever, *all* of the land completely surrounding Teshekpuk Lake—including all of the core calving areas for the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd—have been spared from oil and gas leasing. The newly deferred area is *in addition* to the land north and east of Teshekpuk Lake that BLM set aside in 2008 for protection of migratory birds and molting geese.

This is a huge win for conservation. Audubon Alaska's Policy Director, Eric Myers, noted: "This decision reflects a reasonable balance of wildlife protection and energy development." But perhaps Steve Zack from the Wildlife Conservation Society expressed our enthusiasm best: ["Santa Claus is real!"](#)

Audubon has advocated for this kind of balance in Alaska's Western Arctic for many years. Audubon members have been writing letters and emails, spreading the word, building support, and contributing financially. **THANK YOU for all of your support along the way. This decision is truly thanks to your help and generosity!**

I should point out that this recent decision does NOT provide *permanent protection* for Teshekpuk Lake—but we'll get a chance to encourage permanent protection in the coming months as [BLM prepares its first-ever comprehensive management plan for the entire NPR](#). Getting this NPR-wide plan underway has also been a major priority for Audubon Alaska. We'll keep you posted on how you can support conservation during the planning process.

2. Get Involved: Now Accepting Applications for Wilderness Week

The Alaska Wilderness League is now accepting applications for the biannual [Wilderness Week](#) in Washington, DC. This activist training and advocacy conference is scheduled for **September**

25 to 29, 2010, and is cosponsored by Audubon. Participants will attend briefings on Alaska wilderness issues, learn techniques for lobbying and working with the media, meet with members of Congress and congressional staff, and strategize with national leaders on how to mobilize local support for Alaska conservation.

There are still spaces and travel stipends available. We're looking for activists from both Alaska and the Lower 48. This is your chance to gain and hone the skills to help achieve conservation victories in Alaska and beyond (like the recent success at Teshekpuk Lake).

Please apply and learn more at <http://akbriefing.alaskacoalition.org/wildweek/apply.htm>.
Applications are due this Friday, August 13, 2010.

3. Alaska WatchList Booklet is Hot off the Press

Just arrived from the printer is our gorgeous new booklet for the [2010 Alaska WatchList](#). The eight-page pamphlet features a handy, quick-reference table describing the species and subspecies on the Red and Yellow lists, plus sections on threats to birds and how you can help. There is some good news here, too! This year we removed a few species from the list as their populations have recovered, and the booklet includes a success story on conservation of Trumpeter Swans.

Please email me (lcosta@audubon.org) to request your paper copy, or read more on our website: <http://ak.audubon.org/birds-science-education/alaska-watchlist>.

4. WatchList Pop Quiz (with PRIZE for first correct answer)

I will send a **FREE COPY** of Amy Gulick's beautiful new book, [Salmon in the Trees](#), to the **first person who emails me (lcosta@audubon.org) with the correct answer** to this trivia question:

Which bird species on the 2010 Alaska WatchList is regularly polygynandrous?

Hint: It's a swinging songbird.

5. What If Oil Spilled in the Arctic Ocean?

It may be hard to imagine an ecological catastrophe in the United States that could rival the current Gulf Oil Spill. But what if oil spilled in the [Arctic Ocean](#)? What are the resources at risk? What infrastructure and technologies would be ready to clean the spill?

As our nation considers the consequences of oil extraction offshore in the Arctic, these are the questions Audubon is trying to answer. This map displays simulated oil slicks in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas comparable in size to the spill in the Gulf of Mexico after only five weeks: http://ak.audubon.org/files/Audubon%20Alaska/documents/ArcticOcean_OilSpillSimulation.pdf. Compare that to this map, which shows special areas and wildlife habitats that an oil spill would harm: http://ak.audubon.org/files/Audubon%20Alaska/documents/Arctic_Values_Map.pdf.

Are we prepared to clean an oil spill in Alaska's Arctic Ocean? In a word: no. Here's our fact sheet on oil spill response capabilities in the Arctic Ocean: http://ak.audubon.org/files/Audubon%20Alaska/documents/Gulf_and_Chukchi_Oil_Spill_Response_Fact_Sheet.pdf.

The good news: decision-makers are finally beginning to take these risks seriously. After the Obama Administration deferred oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean this summer, [a federal court](#)

[remanded the Chukchi Sea oil and gas lease sale](#) of February 2008. (Audubon is a plaintiff in the lawsuit.) With your help, we'll continue our work to make sure that Arctic ecosystems are appropriately protected and that there is demonstrated spill prevention, response, and clean-up capability *before* oil and gas development proceeds in the Arctic Ocean.

6. Vote for Audubon: Help Us Win \$200,000 for our Gulf Oil Spill Response!

With your help, Audubon could earn \$200,000 for our urgent work responding to the Gulf Oil Spill crisis. Through its new TakePart program, American Express will award \$200,000 to the top vote-getters in each of five nonprofit categories. Currently, Audubon is in the lead in our category (environment and wildlife).

Please take one minute to register for free (you don't have to be an American Express cardholder) and **vote for Audubon** at <http://www.takepart.com/membersproject/vote>. Spread the word to friends and family—and please vote by August 22, 2010!

7. Audubon in the Field: Pictures from Glacier Bay

This summer Audubon has participated in research across Alaska to focus on WatchList species, from Bar-Tailed Godwits and Whimbrels on the North Slope, to Surfbirds and Black Turnstones on Montague Island, to Lesser Yellowlegs in the Anchorage area, to [Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets in Glacier Bay](#).

Below are pictures from our murrelet surveys (thanks to photographers Matt Kirchhoff, John Schoen, and Sean McAllister). Last month our volunteers braved cold, drizzly weather but found the highest numbers in Glacier Bay for both Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelets since 1993! Not to mention a brown bear feeding on a whale carcass...





Thanks for reading Audubon Alaska's e-news! I welcome your comments and questions by email (lcosta@audubon.org) or by phone (907-276-7034).

With friendly regards,
Lorelei

PS Help us spread the word. Please forward this email to a friend.

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