



Audubon ALASKA News

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Continuing the Fight to Protect Old-Growth in the Tongass National Forest

Protecting the Tongass is a high priority for Audubon Alaska. Part of the largest remaining swath of old-growth temperate rainforest in the world, the Tongass is home to the Queen Charlotte Goshawk and many other mature-forest-dependent birds.

Wildlife and the communities of Southeast Alaska depend on the bounty of the Tongass and the old-growth forests that support incredible salmon runs, wolves, birds, deer, and bears. Commercial fishing and tourism, two of the biggest economic drivers for the region, rely on old-growth habitat for fish, the spectacular scenery, and abundant wildlife. Despite that, Forest Service management of the Tongass continues to undermine those industries and the Tongass ecosystem by emphasizing and heavily subsidizing the destructive large-scale clearcutting of old-growth trees.

Audubon Alaska is working from a variety of angles to keep these important old-growth forests standing.

It Doesn't Add Up in the Tongass

While tourism and fishing are the foundation of the region's economy, the US Forest Service continues to prioritize money-losing timber sales in the Tongass, with an average cost to taxpayers of \$21.7 million per year. Ongoing timber sale planning could lock in taxpayer losses for many years to come, with huge missed opportunities for local fisheries and tourism.

To highlight the wasteful subsidies, Audubon sponsored and helped organize a Congressional budget briefing on the Tongass this summer. The turnout was excellent—standing-room only, with an estimated 75 people attending, including numerous Republican staffers.

The President of Taxpayers for Common Sense, Ryan Alexander, introduced the briefing and the speakers, which included Ben Alexander, Associate Director of Headwaters Economics, as well as Austin Williams, the Alaska Law and Policy Director for Trout Unlimited, and Pete Sepp, the President of National Taxpayers Union. Each gave strong presentations focusing on the economic case for

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The Tongass has tremendous ecological significance—it supports many populations of animals genetically distinct from their continental North American relatives, including the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse and the Alexander Archipelago wolf.

Photograph by Nils Warnock



ALASKA WATCHLIST SPECIES

Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse

Falcipennis canadensis isleibi

This subspecies occurs in the Prince of Wales Island complex in southern Southeast Alaska. This is a yellow list WatchList species because the population is estimated at less than 25,000 individuals. Threats include mammalian predators (pine marten, wolves, human hunters), avian predators (Northern Goshawk), and vehicles on roads. Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse are the only population of Spruce Grouse to inhabit temperate rainforest. They tend to choose a mix of old-growth, scrub, and sometimes second-growth forest, but usually avoid clearcuts.

Photograph on masthead by Alan Murray

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DIRECTOR'S VIEWPOINT

Birds, Boreal, and Bogs

By Nils Warnock

For the drought-stricken western United States, the summer and fall of 2015 will certainly be noted for the devastating forest fires that burned millions of acres. Driving up to Denali National Park in mid-June through miles of tinder-dry boreal forest, Sarah and I saw firsthand one of Alaska's most destructive fires of the summer, the Sockeye burn, as we drove past Willow, Alaska, home to many of the world's best dog-mushing teams. Scorched spruce and alder trees stood on either side of the highway, testimony to the heat and intensity of the fire. I thought about the people and animals affected, not just in Willow, but in the more than five million acres that burned in Alaska this summer, mainly acres of boreal forest.

Stretching between 50–60 degrees latitude, the boreal region (also called the taiga) covers extensive parts of northern Europe, Asia, and North America, creating the largest terrestrial biome in the world. Winters in this habitat can be brutally long and bitterly cold, with 40–100 cm (15–40 inches) of snow. Summers are short, fairly wet, and can be surprisingly warm. About 30 percent of the world's forest cover is boreal, including more than 100 million acres of Alaska. Cold-tolerant trees, especially conifers such as our black spruce, are the dominant cover in the boreal.

For birders and researchers, the boreal habitat can be a difficult place to work: hard to move in, with incredible numbers of insects that want to feed on you and lots of wet, marshy bogs. As a result, we know relatively little about many of the breeding birds of the boreal. However, we do know this is key breeding habitat for a variety of birds, ranging from waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds to an array of warblers, thrushes, and other landbirds. One study found that in the western boreal forests of North America, more than 80 percent of all terrestrial vertebrates are birds. Areas within the boreal forest that are of high productivity and use are the bogs (wetlands).

In a local effort, Audubon Alaska has been working to highlight the importance of boreal bogs in the Greater Anchorage area. Between 1950 and 1990, the Anchorage area lost 53 percent of its wetlands due to draining and filling. These urban wetlands are breeding habitat for various bird species, including birds on Audubon Alaska's WatchList, such as Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, and Rusty Blackbirds. Over the past three summers our staff and many volunteer citizen scientists have surveyed the remaining wetlands in collaboration with faculty at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, US Geological Survey, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Learn more in the newsletter article about our Birds 'n' Bogs program.



In the meantime, on a global level, the boreal forest and its inhabitants are looking at a greatly changed future. Scientists at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and beyond are predicting that in our rapidly warming state, boreal wetlands will decrease; forest fires will be more frequent; and our boreal forests dominated by conifers will be replaced, in some places relatively rapidly, by deciduous forest. How birds and other animals adapt to these changes remains to be seen; even common species such as Gray Jays, White-crowned Sparrows, Greater Scaup, and Lesser Yellowlegs will be challenged by a decreasing boreal landscape. Through our citizen science, Important Bird Areas, and other programs, Audubon Alaska is working to protect our boreal birds. ■

Northern Hawk Owls live year-round in the boreal forest, nesting in open forest, muskegs, and burned areas.

Photograph by Milo Burcham

Continuing the Fight (continued from page 1)

ending the status quo of the Tongass timber program. People on both sides of the aisle can agree that it makes no sense to subsidize an industry that undermines the real economic drivers of the Southeast Alaska economy.

Big Thorne Litigation

However, the logging continues. In 2014, the Forest Service decided to move ahead with the Big Thorne logging sale on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska. The biggest logging sale in a decade, Big Thorne includes 6,000 acres of old-growth forest.

The leading Southeast Alaska wolf expert has repeatedly stated that the Big Thorne sale could be the “straw that breaks the camel’s back” for wolves on Prince of Wales Island, where an estimated 350 wolves lived only 20 years ago. Audubon joined litigation to stop Big Thorne. The suit is now before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Culprit Behind Wolf Declines

Unfortunately, it turns out the wolf expert may have been optimistic about the chances for Prince of Wales wolves. In May, an Alaska Department of Fish and Game report revealed a drastic decline in the wolf population on Prince of Wales and surrounding islands, from 221 wolves to only 89 in the span of a year.

In response, Audubon Alaska’s science and policy team developed a report, *Prince of Wales Wolves*, examining the underlying reason for the decline: large-scale, old-growth, clearcut logging. The report points out three ways old-growth logging has and will continue to drastically impact the wolf population on Prince of Wales: 4,200 miles of logging roads on Prince of Wales and surrounding islands allow poachers easy access into wolf habitat. Clearcutting old-growth trees removes crucial winter habitat for wolves’ main prey, Sitka black-tailed deer, ultimately resulting in a lower deer population. The reduced deer numbers, in turn, make some people perceive wolves as competition for hunting, “leading to increased poaching and public pressure to authorize unsustainable legal limits on wolf take to drive down the wolf population.”

The bottom line is the decline of wolves is a management problem that desperately needs fixing. The Audubon Alaska report offers three steps necessary for survival of wolves on Prince of Wales Island. First, halt hunting and trapping until the wolf numbers return to a sustainable level. Second, end large-scale old-growth logging on Prince of Wales and the surrounding islands. Third, protect the wolves in the Prince of Wales region under the Endangered Species Act.

See the full *Prince of Wales Wolves* report on our website at www.AudubonAlaska.org. ■

What You Can Do

Five years ago the Forest Service promised to transition out of old-growth logging. The agency is now working on an amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan that would finally set a timeline for the transition. The amendment is expected to be released in November. There will be a chance for public comment, so sign up for the Audubon Alaska eNews through Facebook or our website www.AudubonAlaska.org to be sure to catch this chance to speak up for the incredible trees and wildlife of the Tongass!

Focus on Important Bird Areas

By Hannah Uher-Koch



Audubon Alaska’s Wednesday evening birdwalks in the Anchorage Coastal IBA were very popular.

Photograph by Hannah Uher-Koch

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a region that contains critical habitat for migrating, wintering, or nesting birds. Alaska has more globally Important Bird Areas than any other state! IBAs can be found from the Arctic Ocean to downtown Anchorage and all areas in between. I was brought on board with Audubon Alaska in May as a summer assistant to promote IBAs through coordinating events, leading bird walks, conducting bird surveys, social media, and the creation of IBA profiles.

My background is in outdoor education, however for the past four years I shifted my focus to solely avian research. This led me to the desire to look for a way to bridge my educational background with research. What better way to connect those two interests than to promote IBAs through contact with people through bird walks, via media outlets, and events such as Bike and Bird Day on Anchorage’s popular Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Through bird walks and other events focused on IBAs, Audubon Alaska reached more than 1,000 people this summer.

Through these venues I was given the opportunity to spend time with volunteers and folks interested in the outdoors. Some of my favorite experiences from the summer stem from those interactions. While leading bird walks, you never know what people will ask and you are expected to be an expert in everything, including un-bird-related topics. These types of encounters are guaranteed to keep you on your toes and it’s the most gratifying when you hear, “I never knew that before.”

I have always enjoyed working with people and with birds. Combining those passions is an amazing way to get people interested in the outdoors, especially when they can learn about birds right in their backyard. I love citizen science and getting people involved. My work with Audubon Alaska this summer has further clarified my career goals and is sending me off to grad school with birds and outreach on the brain. ■

Chapter Happenings

Anchorage Audubon Society

2015 has been a banner year for The Anchorage Audubon Society. We expanded our Cutthroat Birding Competitions to three annual events: The Spring Equinox Big Day, The Pro-Am 30 Minute Birding Sprint Challenge, and The Potter Marsh-a-Thon Birding Smackdown.

The Connor's Lake Loon Cam had another wildly successful year providing worldwide live internet streaming of Pacific Loon courtship, nookie, egg laying, and chick rearing.

The Chapter sponsored its first deep sea pelagic birding voyage from San Diego to Vancouver, expanded its educational program to introduce birding to hundreds of youngsters, and continued to provide outrageously delicious cookies at all monthly meetings. The most important lesson we could share with other conservation and natural science organizations is, "Fabulous Cookies will always get you a lot of new friends." ■

Arctic Audubon Society

Arctic Audubon once again had three spring bird outings, one each for waterfowl ID, shorebird ID, and songbird ID by ear. Frank Keim and Joe Green led the first two, and Philip Martin led the third, with help from Frank. Each was well attended by the public, although the songbird fieldtrip, as usual, was the most popular. This year, we saw more Blue-winged Teal than usual, especially at the Creamer's Field

ephemeral pond. Since the season was early, we saw few shorebirds, with Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers the most numerous. All songbirds this year were about two weeks early, with Townsend's Warblers more than two weeks earlier than usual. Now, from an autumn perspective, it appears most birds had a pretty good nesting season. ■

Juneau Audubon Society

Folks had the opportunity in Juneau to take a Beginning Birder class offered by Juneau Audubon Society through the Community Schools. The class is offered in both spring and fall. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) staff let us use interesting bird hands-on items—bones, feathers, and stuffed "lollipop" birds.

With the help of many volunteers, Juneau Audubon Society erected 47 new tree swallow nest boxes with support from the Audubon Collaborative Funding grant. We placed boxes at Sunny Point, Switzer Creek meadow, Brotherhood Bridge meadows, Fish Creek (Douglas), Pioneer Home marsh, and 2 private homes on North Douglas. Volunteers also checked the boxes to keep a record of how many were used and by what species. Our final tally for this year was two boxes successfully fledged young. We hope to meet with ADFG this month to determine new locations for our boxes next year. ■

Kodiak Audubon Society

We had another successful hiking series this summer with good weather really getting the numbers up: at 387 participants, we broke our previous high record. We hiked to a few new places this summer including Kalsin Ridge and up and around Pyramid Mountain to the golf course. We continue to host hikes that are yoga and hiking combined with Veronica Costa-Bolton of 100th Monkey Yoga Studio.

We held our Birding and Breakfast event again at the duck platform at Potato Patch Lake on October 17. ■

A Tree Swallow pauses outside its nest box.

Photograph by Bob Armstrong

Prince William Sound Audubon Society

Prince William Sound Audubon holds monthly meetings from September through April that feature a guest speaker. Considering that Cordova is such a small town, we never lack for exciting talks! Our April 2015 meeting had a talk on Seabirds and Environmental Change Along the Western Antarctic Peninsula while our September talk was about Biodiversity in Madagascar. Small towns always have more than their share of politics. PWS Audubon continues to advocate for waterfront planning with Cordova's Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. Our most recent endeavors include supporting a referendum to repeal an ordinance that would sell the entrance to Cordova's harbor to a private developer for a bar/restaurant/hotel. ■



Support Audubon Alaska

For almost 40 years Audubon Alaska has worked to conserve Alaska's natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, wildlife, and the habitat crucial to them. Audubon Alaska is financially independent, raising all our own funding—this means your support is critical to protecting the birds and wildlife you care about. Show your support by using the enclosed return envelope or visit our Ways to Help page at www.AudubonAlaska.org.

Thank you!



ON THE HORIZON

In addition to the issues we currently work on, Audubon Alaska looks ahead to see what might be on the horizon. We are continually trying innovative ways to apply science and mapping to serve as tools for conservation.

From Data to Design: Building a New Ecological Atlas for the Arctic Ocean

By *Melanie Smith*

Where do King Eiders stop to rest and feed during their northward migration to nesting grounds on the North Slope? Where and why do 12 million birds nest on cliffs in the Bering Strait region? How do modern day developments such as trans-Arctic shipping and offshore oil exploration overlap with areas traditionally relied on by Native communities for subsistence hunting?

Audubon Alaska is taking a fresh look at these kinds of questions as part of our revised *Arctic Marine Synthesis*. There have been many changes since we published the first edition of the Synthesis in 2010: increased Arctic ship traffic, interest in offshore oil and gas development, many new scientific studies, and an increase in available spatial data all make this an opportune time for a new edition.

The second edition will include a fresh new map design, updated data, and an expansion into new regions. First, we'll acquire the latest data for the Ecological Atlas of the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, including the whole of the Canadian Beaufort Sea through Amundsen Gulf. Second, we'll move into new territory by creating our first Ecological Atlas of the Bering Sea. Adding the Bering Sea doubles the geographic extent of the original atlas and will be the first atlas of this kind in nearly 30 years, since the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 1988 atlas of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas.

This new effort brings us three new staff members for the next two years to create three main products: a spatial database, the ecological atlases, and a synthesis report.

The spatial database is a synthesized collection of all types of broad-scale environmental data for the region. Each GIS layer in the database contains information on the study from which it was derived and the processing steps to bring it to completion. The data used are a combination



The new Arctic marine atlas will cover marine mammals, birds, and many other aspects of the Arctic Ocean ecosystem.

Photograph by Terry Debruyne, US Fish and Wildlife Service

of agency studies, university research, traditional ecological knowledge, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and our own analysis. At the end of the project, all public layers in the database will be published online through the Alaska Ocean Observing System.

The ecological atlas will be presented in two parts: the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, and the Bering Sea. We will feature about 50 maps in each atlas, detailing the ecological patterns and biological hotspots of the Arctic. The synthesis report will be organized into six chapters: physical oceanography, lower trophic (primary productivity, zooplankton, and sea floor creatures), fish, birds, mammals, and human uses. The report will describe each map, explaining the ecology, the data used, and a summary of conservation considerations. ■



Audubon Alaska's mapping expertise helped protect 11 million acres in the NPRA. *Photograph by Gerrit Vyn, Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

Mapping Our Way to Success

On July 20, Audubon accepted the Esri President's Award for revolutionizing its data collection and management approach with geographic information system (GIS) technology. Audubon Alaska received special mention for the major conservation success of our mapping of important habitat in the NPRA and Arctic Ocean. We couldn't do it without your support. Go team!

People of Audubon

BOARD

At the spring board meeting, former board chair Matt Kirchhoff handed the baton to the new chair, Milo Burcham.



Photograph by Nathan Walker



Audubon Alaska extends a welcome back to returning board member **Gordon Orians**. He previously served on the board from spring 2008 to fall 2013. Gordon and John Schoen are co-editors of the book *North Pacific Temperate Rainforests: Ecology and Conservation*, published in 2013 by the

University of Washington Press. Gordon is professor emeritus of biology at the University of Washington. He played an especially important role in the development of plans for management of the Tongass National Forest and for identification of Important Bird Areas. Gordon's deep knowledge of ecology, conservation biology, and evolution will be an asset once again in helping Audubon Alaska base its policies on the best available science. ■



Audubon Alaska welcomes **John Schoen** to the board. Previously, John worked on Audubon Alaska staff as Executive Director, Senior Science Advisor, and other capacities for 14 years. Prior to joining Audubon in 1997, John worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 20 years as a research

wildlife biologist and senior conservation biologist. He received his PhD in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Washington and published more than 60 scientific and popular articles on Alaska wildlife. John is a recipient of the Olaus Murie Award from the Alaska Conservation Foundation and a Fellow of The Wildlife Society. He and his wife Mary Beth enjoy exploring Alaska's wilderness by small plane and boat. ■

STAFF



Audubon Alaska welcomes **Skye Cooley** as our Arctic Spatial Ecologist. He is the cartographic lead on the second edition of Audubon's Arctic Marine Synthesis & Atlas of the Chukchi, Beaufort, and Bering Seas. Skye holds an MS in Geology from University of Wyoming. He began his career as field geologist, a GIS technician, and a remote sensing consultant in the Rocky Mountains. Between 2010 and 2015, Skye taught 21 courses for Boise State

Geosciences Department and mapped geology part time for Idaho Geological Survey. In 2011 he founded GIS4Geomorphology.com, a popular online resource for graduate students and researchers using GIS. Skye's wife Hilary now heads up the Polar Bear program for US Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska. Skye, Hilary, and their hound dog Lucy are avid hikers and home remodelers. They make trips into the mountains (and the lumber yard) every chance they get. ■



Audubon Alaska welcomes **Heidi DeCoeur** as our new Office and Finance Manager. Heidi provides the primary administrative and fiscal support for the organization. Heidi came to Alaska in 1988 for summer work in Kodiak and fell in love with all the state had to offer. She has been involved in public services, non-profits, corporate Alaska, law enforcement and the tourism industry. Heidi has more than 20 years of bush and rural living in Alaska and is now

living the city experience with her family. Outside of work, Heidi spends her time with her family and volunteering with a variety of youth and adult groups. She enjoys Alaska public lands and white water rafting, hiking, and biking. ■



Welcome also to **Ben Sullender**, who joined Audubon Alaska as a GIS Biologist. He uses spatial analysis to examine ecosystems ranging from the Western Arctic to the Tongass, with particular emphasis on threatened bird populations. A native of Concord, Massachusetts, Ben graduated from Carleton College in 2011 and returned to Boston to work as a GIS Analyst for two years. He spent ten months working and traveling the Pacific, from monitoring

reptile populations for New Zealand's Department of Conservation to assisting mapping a jungle trail network for a grassroots Malaysian NGO. Most recently, Ben worked as a GIS Assistant for The Nature Conservancy's Wisconsin office. Ben is currently completing his Master's degree in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research integrates fieldwork and spatial analysis to examine the relationship between Eurasian Spoonbill habitat and human alterations to natural water regimes at Poyang Lake, China. ■



Audubon Alaska thanks our Birds 'n' Bogs Conservation Fellow **Michele Craig** for her hard work this summer coordinating volunteers, wrangling data, and writing the final field season report. Michele recently graduated from University of Alaska Anchorage with a degree in Environment and Society. While studying, Michele interned with Koke'e Resource Conservation Program in the native forests of Kauai. She worked on various conservation projects including a National Science Foundation research project in Thule, Greenland studying vegetative response to climate change. She enjoys volunteering, such as a recent University of Alaska project on St. Paul Island focused on phthalate contamination in seabirds. ■



Audubon Alaska thanks **Robyn Langlie** for her hard work and skill for the past five years as our Office and Finance Manager. Robyn left the Audubon flock to become the Executive Director of Anchorage-based Victims for Justice. Robyn did an outstanding job at juggling office operations, coordinating with the National Audubon office for annual budgeting and reporting, organizing special events, orchestrating board meetings, shepherding us through moving offices last summer, and keeping everything running smoothly. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors! ■



Thanks to **Hannah Uher-Koch** as our summer Important Bird Area Assistant, focused on outreach and the promotion of IBAs in Alaska. She has worked for the US Geological Survey's Changing Arctic Ecosystem Initiative, focusing on waterbirds breeding on the Arctic Coastal Plain. Hannah holds a BS from Northland College in Outdoor Education and started her Master's degree this fall at University of Alaska Anchorage, studying Yellow-billed Loon ecology. ■



Audubon Alaska would like to thank **Nathan Walker** for his GIS mapping creativity in generating everything from animated maps to the interactive NPRA and Kenai Decision Support Tools (and his homemade cookies). Throughout his five years at Audubon Alaska, Nathan enthusiastically helped build Audubon Alaska's reputation as the source of excellent conservation spatial analysis. He's now starting his first semester of graduate school pursuing a Master of Environmental Management degree, with a concentration in Ecosystem Science and Conservation, from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Good luck Nathan in your new adventures on the other coast! ■

A Win for Izembek National Wildlife Refuge



Virtually the entire world population of Pacific Black Brant visit Izembek to rest and feed during spring and fall migrations.

Photograph by Ryan Hagerty, US Fish and Wildlife Service

In September, the US District Court upheld Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell's decision to protect Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and its designated wilderness from a proposed road project. The federal government has repeatedly studied the proposed road through the refuge, and consistently rejected it because of negative effects on the refuge's ecological resources and Wilderness values.

Last year, the court dismissed most of the legal claims made by King Cove and the state of Alaska, allowing only limited claims to proceed. Audubon and our conservation partners intervened in the case to protect the exceptional values of the refuge and its designated Wilderness.

"This decision is the right choice for Izembek wildlife and many Alaska communities. Izembek provides globally important habitat for migratory birds from several continents, including species that people use for subsistence across western Alaska," said Jim Adams, policy director for Audubon Alaska. ■

Answer to WatchList Quiz

King Eider
Somateria spectabilis



King Eiders nest in the high Arctic. During migration, the entire Pacific population flies past Point Barrow in large flocks. This is a red list WatchList species because of severe declines occurring between 1976 and 1996 with a possible increase since then. *Photograph by Beth Peluso*

Birds 'n' Bogs for the Summer

By Michele Craig

Birds 'n' Bogs is a citizen science program established by the University of Alaska and Audubon Alaska in order to address recent population declines in boreal wetland species. During the months of May and June community members volunteer their skill and time to monitor and record data on seven target species (Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Tree Swallow, and Violet-green Swallow) in wetland locations in Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley.

Documenting regional long-term population trends is useful for understanding the steep declines seen throughout Alaska and the rest of the nation. This information serves to establish baselines for future studies and will be shared with other conservation programs. Birds 'n' Bogs, now in its third year, is part of a growing movement to engage the public in conservation efforts. The use of volunteers in the field gets a larger job done as well as serves to emphasize the importance of public participation in land management decision-making.

As an intern I had the privilege of meeting a diverse group of individuals ranging in age, interests, and training. Everyone I met was very generous in sharing his or her observations about the changes they have seen in the local wetland habitats and how these changes may be affecting bird populations. I was particularly encouraged by the commitment shown by the volunteers to make a difference in preserving these species. The most unexpected benefit was discovering some of the unique and beautiful bog habitats within the Anchorage area. Before my internship I had not considered the complex environmental stressors impacting these species. I would like to continue learning more about the migration pathways and the coordination of conservation efforts between the various regions they utilize and how these stressors impact biodiversity more broadly. As an intern I've seen how Birds 'n' Bogs provides valuable data for monitoring the vitality of these species while fostering collaborative discussion on planning for the stewardship of the wetland habitats they need. ■

The final Birds 'n' Bogs report will be posted on www.AudubonAlaska.org



The Greater Yellowlegs is one of the Birds 'n' Bogs focus species.

Photograph by Donna Dewhurst, US Fish and Wildlife Service

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Visit www.AudubonAlaska.org for more information about Pick.Click.Give. and other ways to give.

WatchList Quiz Bird

Can you identify
this species from
the WatchList?

Answer on page 7.



With your support, Audubon Alaska works to protect vulnerable WatchList species such as the Black Oystercatcher.

Photograph by Milo Burcham