

January 2012

Audubon Alaska eNews

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! Audubon Alaska looks forward to a new year of conservation accomplishments we can only reach with dedicated supporters like you. As we dive into 2012, Audubon Alaska eNews includes a new chance to help protect the Arctic Ocean, a new way for Alaska residents to contribute to Audubon Alaska, an introduction to our new Director of Development, and a new opportunity to start dreaming of summer travel in Alaska.

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Take Action: Help the Arctic Ocean

Ask for No Oil and Gas Leasing in New 5-year Program

The federal Department of Interior recently released a proposed Five-Year Program (2012-2017) that would open the Arctic Ocean to oil and gas leasing.

The Arctic Ocean along Alaska’s northern coast supports amazing amounts of wildlife. Roughly half of America’s polar bears live here. Endangered bowhead whales feed in these waters. Almost the entire population of Pacific walrus summers here. Millions of migratory birds nest along the coast. There is much we don’t yet know about how all the parts of this delicate ecosystem fit together and far more basic research is necessary to responsibly assess the threat of oil and gas drilling.

The Arctic Ocean can also be extremely harsh: hurricane force winds, 20-foot seas, with broken ice during much of the year. The oil industry has never demonstrated that it can clean up a spill in Arctic Ocean conditions. With the nearest Coast Guard station 1,000 miles away, an large oil spill in the Arctic Ocean would be devastating.

Tell the Department of Interior to the Arctic Ocean should remain off-limits to oil and gas drilling. Your comments are **due February 8**—[Help protect the Arctic Ocean](#) today!

Good News for Bristol Bay

Bristol Bay holds the largest runs of wild sockeye salmon anywhere in the world. Currently, Bristol Bay is *not* included on the oil and gas leasing list in the Five-year Plan. Join our partner organization, the Pew Environment Group, in asking Secretary of the Interior Salazar to permanently protect Bristol Bay, for wildlife and for people: [Keep Bristol Bay protected](#).



Audubon Alaska Makes the List for "Pick. Click. Give." Campaign

For Alaska residents, once the holidays are over, it's time to register for the Permanent Fund Dividend. In 2012, for the first time, Audubon Alaska will be eligible for the state of Alaska's "Pick. Click. Give." donation program. As part of the application process for online PFD registration, there is a list of nonprofit organizations to which Alaskans can choose to donate some or all of their dividends. This year, look for Audubon Alaska on the list. (We're lucky Audubon starts with an "A"!) [www.pickclickgive.org](#).

Audubon Alaska Welcomes New Director of Development

Audubon Alaska is pleased to announce Shippen Bright as our new Director of Development.

Ship comes to Alaska from Maine, but has previously worked and lived in Alaska. He brings a wide range of experience to Audubon Alaska: in the private sector where he owned a real estate company, in the public sector as Deputy Commissioner for the Maine Department of Conservation, and in the nonprofit sector in a variety of positions.



Ship was a Senior Development Officer for Harvard University and participated in Harvard's \$2.1 Billion dollar campaign. He took those skills and founded the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute where his organization was awarded the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Merit Award, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Contributor of the Year, and was cited by The George Lucas Educational Foundation as an unsung hero of American Education.

Ship is originally from the Philadelphia area, but lived in Maine for 30 years before moving to Alaska. He is a graduate of Bates College, holds an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University, and an MPA from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where he studied environmental economics and policy. An ardent conservationist, he has come to Alaska to be at the forefront of global environmental issues and to be a part of the extraordinary Audubon Alaska team. Ship has four children who are eager to come to Alaska to show up their father with their fly-fishing skills and enjoy the beauty that is uniquely Alaska.

Dreaming of Summer Travel in Alaska?

Now that the days are growing longer, it's time to start planning for summer in Alaska. National Audubon is offering members a chance to explore the Land of the Midnight Sun.



Join Audubon's Taldi Walter and local guides for the Audubon Alaska Wildland Safari. You'll have a chance to hit the highlights across the state, from the highest mountain in North America to coastal glaciers. The tour begins in Fairbanks; then you'll take the historic Alaska Railroad south through the Interior to enjoy the wolves, grizzlies, nesting birds, and other wildlife of Denali National Park. Last year during the Audubon Alaska board meeting trip, we spotted Rock and Willow ptarmigan, a gyrfalcon, and nesting Black Scoters (sea ducks which spend most of the year on the ocean!). After that you'll head for the coast to explore the seaside glaciers in Kenai Fjords National Park. I've seen Kittlitz's Murrelets, along with humpback whales and orcas on marine cruises here, so be sure to pack your binoculars and camera!

Space is limited, so [check out the full schedule and details](#) today.

WatchList Quiz

The entire global population of which [Alaska WatchList](#) shorebird species breeds entirely in Alaska?

Hint: This bird likes to rock out.

PRIZES: Email your answer to me at bpeluso@audubon.org by February 3, and I'll do a drawing for 3 prizewinners. The prize will be a 2012 Alaska Migratory Bird calendar.

LAST MONTH'S ANSWER: The answer to last month's quiz question "How many [Alaska WatchList](#) species have "red" or "green" in their names?" is... 5 (Red-throated Loon, Red-faced Cormorant, Green-winged Teal, Red Knot, Red-legged Kittiwake).

Enjoy your winter birding,
Beth Peluso

PS You've received this email because, at one point or another, you shared your email address with Audubon. If you'd rather not receive emails from me, just let me know.