



Audubon ALASKA News

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An Exciting Step Forward for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

This year started off with the most positive note the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has heard in many years. On January 25 the Obama administration became the first in history to make a Wilderness recommendation for the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain. On April 3, the President delivered his official Wilderness recommendation to Congress.

The Coastal Plain is the heart of the refuge for wildlife. These broad coastal wetlands host more than 200 species of birds, as well as polar bears, musk oxen, wolves, and the 197,000-animal Porcupine caribou herd during the calving season.

Audubon Alaska has a long history of working for protection of the incredible habitat of the Arctic Refuge. We played a key role in developing and passing the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which created millions of acres of national parks, refuges, and other conservation lands in the state. This legislation nearly doubled the newly renamed Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, expanding the refuge to the size of South Carolina. ANILCA also required that the Coastal Plain (the "1002" area, named after the section of the legislation defining its boundaries) remain undeveloped until Congress votes to allow development or permanent protection.

Since its creation, support for the Arctic Refuge has been diverse and nationwide. During the public comment period for this most recent plan, the US Fish and Wildlife Service received more than 1 million comments in support of Wilderness for the Arctic Refuge and in opposition to oil and gas exploration and development.

In response, the US Fish and Wildlife Service recommended 12.28 million acres, including the "1002" area of the Coastal Plain, for Wilderness designation. The agency also recommended four rivers for National Wild and Scenic River designation: the Atigun, Hulahula, Kongakut, and Marsh Fork Canning.

Although only Congress can grant Wilderness designation, this recommendation is a critical step forward, reversing a Reagan administration position in favor of oil and gas development. This important administrative plan for the Arctic Refuge will guide management decisions for at least the next 15 years, and marks the first time the pendulum has swung in the direction of additional protections for the Refuge since 1980.

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Tundra Swans are one of the species that migrates from the Atlantic Flyway to the Arctic Refuge.

Photograph by Dave Shaw



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ALASKA WATCHLIST SPECIES

Photograph on masthead by Dave Shaw

Pacific Brant

Branta bernicla nigricans

The Pacific, or Black, Brant is a subspecies of this coastal goose that nests on Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and North Slope. They are a common migrant through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Brant gather in large flocks after the breeding season, making them vulnerable to habitat changes in a few locations. About 37,000 Brant gather at Teshekpuk Lake to molt before migrating. Nearly the entire Pacific Brant population stops at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to refuel during migration. Most birds then fly to wintering grounds that range from Southcentral Alaska to northern Mexico. With warming trends over the past few decades, up to 40 percent of the population now overwinters on the Alaska Peninsula, including Izembek.

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DIRECTOR'S VIEWPOINT



Photograph by Mike Boylan

Bristol Bay: Good News for a Haven for Waterbirds

By Nils Warnock

As we pass from winter into spring, there are many things to be thankful for. In Anchorage, the dreary, rainy December (one of the warmest on record) brightened with the President's announcement that the federal waters of Bristol Bay would be indefinitely withdrawn from oil and gas leasing. Drilling began on the Alaska Peninsula in 1903 and sputtered along until 1985. The only offshore well was drilled in 1982 in the North Aleutian Basin, with negligible results. The December announcement brings an end to this long history of exploratory oil development in Bristol Bay. That is good news for the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery, for the Bristol Bay fishing communities that depend on salmon, and great news for a significant proportion of the waterbirds of the world.

I first began to appreciate how important the Bristol Bay region was to birds during the fall of 2005, when I spent a couple weeks helping the US Geological Survey catch shorebirds at Egigik Bay. We were looking for evidence of avian flu in waterbirds, and Egigik Bay, on the northeast side of the Alaska Peninsula, is one of the most important waterbird spots in the region. We saw flocks upon flocks of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds coming through to feed and rest. In some years, more than 30 percent of all the Bar-tailed Godwits that breed in Alaska can be seen on the rich intertidal mudflats of Egigik, preparing for their nonstop flight to wintering grounds in New Zealand and Australia.

Physically, the Bristol Bay region is diverse. In the north by Cape Newenham, rocky cliffs and islands punctuate the shoreline, attracting millions of breeding seabirds. Moving south along the shoreline of Bristol Bay and west along the northern Alaska Peninsula the habitat flattens out, interrupted by incredibly rich intertidal lagoons and estuaries, such as Izembek-Moffet Lagoons and Egegik Bay, which host globally-significant concentrations of shorebirds and waterfowl. The entire world population of the Emperor Goose migrates through Izembek Refuge each spring and fall. The entire Pacific population of Brant uses the refuge for periods in the fall and spring. Currently, about 40 percent of the Pacific Brant population winters along the Alaska Peninsula; that number is growing more than 7 percent annually.

Recently, Melanie Smith and I have been working on a book chapter that describes the importance of the Bristol Bay region to waterbirds. This has reinforced my sense of the importance of this area to waterbirds. Overall, about 105 waterbird species regularly use the region, of which 75 breed there. Depending on the time of year, the region supports millions to tens of millions of waterbirds. During summer months, an estimated 8-13 million non-breeding seabirds, many of them Short-tailed Shearwaters, come to feed on a tremendous biomass of food in Bristol Bay, thanks in part to the nutrients that millions of salmon leave behind when they die after spawning.

Despite being remote and inhabited by relatively few people, birds still face significant threats in this region. A proposed road through an extremely sensitive area of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge threatens Brant, Emperor Geese, and Steller's Eiders. Mirroring the rest of Alaska, the Bristol Bay region is warming rapidly and its winter ice is decreasing. This has led to more favorable conditions for some species (such as Brant in the winter) and less favorable conditions for other species (such as certain seabirds). The potential for disruption of the incredibly rich food chain that supports the massive numbers of marine and other waterbirds in the Bristol Bay area through large-scale mining (think Pebble Mine) remains a serious threat to this wildlife haven. Audubon Alaska will continue to work to ensure that Bristol Bay remains one of the most important regions in the world for birds. ♦

An Exciting Step Forward (continued from page 1)

Even with this important action, there is more work to be done. Recently re-introduced legislation is necessary to finalize the protection. But today, we are one step closer to finishing the task begun by President Eisenhower in 1960 when he had the foresight set aside this spectacular landscape as a refuge for birds and wildlife as part of our national heritage.



A wide variety of birds and wildlife depend on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge, from ptarmigan to polar bears.

Photograph by Dave Shaw

Arctic Refuge Nesters in Your Neighborhood Flyway

Audubon Alaska will celebrate the Arctic Refuge throughout this year. This spring, we'll follow the migration of five "posterbirds" as they move across the country to gather in the incredibly rich nesting grounds of the Arctic Refuge.

- **Atlantic Flyway:** Tundra Swans gather in large flocks along the East Coast, migrating across Canada to reach the tundra ponds of their Arctic Refuge nesting grounds.
- **Mississippi Flyway:** Smith's Longspurs winter in the Great Plains of the Mississippi Flyway, then head to the edge of the tundra in the refuge.
- **Central Flyway:** American Golden-Plovers have the longest migration of the bunch, spending winters in South America. They move up through the Central Flyway on their way to the refuge.
- **Pacific Flyway:** Pacific Brant nibble on marine eelgrass beds all winter from Baja to Southcentral Alaska before heading north.
- **All flyways:** Northern Pintails from all four flyways converge on the Arctic Refuge in spring.

You can find fun facts and migration maps about each species at www.AudubonAlaska.org.

What You Can Do

Showing Congress there is strong support for permanent protection of the Arctic Refuge will be crucial in coming months. Writing a letter to the editor in your local paper is a great way to catch the attention of both your members of Congress and the people in your community. Tell them that the Arctic Refuge belongs to all Americans, that birds you watch rely on the Refuge (see list above for your flyway), and that designating the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain as Wilderness to protect it from oil and gas development is important to you. ♦

Kenneth Hofmann Challenge Grant

Ken Hofmann, a Northern California real estate developer and philanthropist, is a long-time champion of waterfowl. In 2014 he made a substantial investment in their future: Mr. Hofmann's \$1 million challenge grant to Audubon will support work in the Pacific Flyway and the boreal forest to benefit waterfowl and other wildlife. "We must conserve the entire flyway if we're going to save our waterfowl and other migratory birds," he says.

He founded The Hofmann Company in 1959, and for the past 50 years he has built a successful career in residential and commercial real estate. A love of sports led him to become an owner of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and the MLB's Oakland Athletics. But Mr. Hofmann's enduring passion has been wildlife conservation and waterfowl hunting, and he has traveled the world to better understand the importance of wetlands to migrating wildlife. He has served on the board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and has supported Ducks Unlimited and the California Waterfowl Association.

The Hofmann Challenge grant will match individual gifts made to Audubon dollar-for-dollar, effectively doubling the value of your gift (please ask about the Challenge when you make your gift). ♦



Common Eider.
Photograph by Dave Shaw

Great American Arctic Birding Challenge Runs Through June 1!



It's time for the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge! Birds from six continents rely on America's Arctic in Alaska for nesting, breeding, staging, and molting; their ranges reach across the Lower 48 states and beyond. Test your skills in the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge through June 1. There are two team categories: Alaska and Lower 48. All sightings must be within the geographic boundaries of the categories. There will be First, Second, and Third place prizes for each category.

Visit www.AudubonAlaska.org for the rules and official checklist.

First Place: Autographed copy of the new edition of Alaska author Bob Armstrong's *Guide to the Birds of Alaska*.

Second Place: The book *Arctic Wings: Birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, full of gorgeous photos of the birds that migrate to the Arctic to nest. Includes a CD of Arctic bird songs.

Third Place: Audubon Alaska ball cap and window decal featuring a Bar-tailed Godwit.

Arctic Refuge Bonus Prize: Any teams that find 10 or more species that migrate to the Arctic Refuge (marked on checklist) will receive Audubon Alaska Bird of the Year window decals.

Grab your binoculars and go birding! ♦

Get Outdoors with Alaska's Audubon Chapters

Spring is an exciting time to look for birds in Alaska, with new arrivals each week. Join the fun with the Audubon Chapters. Birders of all skill levels are welcome!

Anchorage Audubon Society

www.anchorageaudubon.org

May 1, 6:30pm–10:00pm

Birding Open House and Little Sit, Campbell Creek Estuary Nature Area

Thursdays May 7, 14, 21, 28;

6:30am–8:30am

Thursday early Morning Bird Walks begin. Join Aaron Bowman at the Campbell Creek Science Center. Meet in the parking lot at 6:20am.

May 18, 6:30pm–8:30pm

Westchester Lagoon Shorebird Walk. Meet at the north boat launch.

May 28, 6:00pm

Monthly Meeting Potluck and Bird Walk. Meet at the Westchester Lagoon boat launch parking lot.

May 30, 8:00am–12:00pm

Potter Marsh-a-Thon Birding Smackdown!

July 31, 6:30pm–8:30pm

Westchester Lagoon Shorebird walk with Aaron Bowman. Meet at the north boat launch. ♦

Arctic Audubon Society

www.arcticaudubon.org

Local birding experts will lead a series of three Saturday morning birding field trips. All trips meet at 8:00am at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse parking lot. Bring binoculars, a snack, and rubber boots if you have them.

May 9, Waterfowl Identification

May 16, Shorebird Identification

May 23, Birding by Ear and Songbird Identification ♦

Juneau Audubon Society

www.juneau-audubon-society.org

Juneau Audubon Society will provide binoculars to borrow. All the walks are free and open to the public. Remember to dress for the weather and no dogs please.

Walks are from 8:00am–12:00pm unless otherwise noted.

April 11, Fish Creek Bird Walk with Laurie Lamm

April 18, Auke Rec/Pt. Louisa Bird Walk with Mark Schwan

April 25, Berners Bay Cruise 8:30am–12:30pm

May 2, Berners Bay Cruises 8:30am–12:30pm, 1:30pm–5:30pm

May 9, Airport Dike Trail Bird Walk with Amy Courtney

May 23, Eagle Beach Bird Walk

May 30, Dredge Lakes Bird Walk with Gus van Vliet

June 6, Sandy Beach/Treadwell Trails Bird Walk with Patty Rose ♦

Kodiak Audubon Society

<http://kodiakaudubon.blogspot.com>

The Summer Hiking Schedule is in the final stages, so check the blog in April for dates.

April 25, 9:30am

Whalefest gray whale watching hike to the Narrow Cape and Pasagshak Point areas with Cindy Trussell (907-486-2878). Meet at ferry building on Center Street and Marine Way.

May 2, 9:30am

Whalefest gray whale watching hike to the Narrow Cape and Pasagshak Point areas with Stacy Studebaker (907-486-6498). Meet at ferry building on Center Street and Marine Way. ♦

Prince William Sound Audubon Society

April 21, 7:00pm

At the USDA Forest Service building, 3rd floor meeting room. Kristen Gorman will give a talk about her Ph.D. research on Antarctica's penguins.

You can also join the chapter at the Copper River Shorebird Festival. ♦



Didn't have a chance to select your **Pick.Click.Give.** donations? Don't worry, you can designate contributions from your Permanent Fund Dividend or redistribute your contributions until August 31, 2015. Visit <http://pfd.alaska.gov>. It's not too late to support the birds in your neighborhood and in your favorite wild places of Alaska!

The Gunsight Pass Hawkwatch Weekend in April, hosted in part by Anchorage Audubon, is one of the first outdoor chapter activities of the spring.

Photograph by Beth Pelluso

Northeast Arctic Coastal Plain Important Bird Area

In Audubon Alaska's recent work updating our coastal and land-based Important Bird Areas (IBAs), the Northeast Arctic Coastal Plain IBA got a boost to nomination for global status. This IBA stretches across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain.

Three species occur here in globally-significant numbers. About 7,500 American Golden-Plovers fly from South American wintering grounds to nest in this IBA. Just more than 1,600 Buff-breasted Sandpipers head here to shake a tailfeather. Males of this shorebird species make up for their muted coloring with a striking dance that includes snapping open one or both wings, showing off snowy white wing linings. More than 16,000 Pectoral Sandpipers strut their stuff here every spring. Males have an inflatable air sac in the chest that they puff up as they give hooting calls in a slow display flight as they defend their territory and try to attract females.

Snow Geese that nested in Western Canada gather here in continentally-significant numbers, sometimes up to 325,000, to feed as they fuel up for their migration south. Whimbrel and Red Phalaropes also migrate here in continentally-significant numbers.

The Coastal Plain is an incredibly vital place in the Arctic Refuge and deserves permanent protection. ◆



Buff-breasted Sandpiper male busts a move on the Coastal Plain dance floor.
Photograph by Dave Shaw

Using Your Binoculars to Help Birds

Whether you're an experienced birder or just starting, citizen science is a great way to help answer important questions about the birds that flood back to Alaska each spring.

BIRDS 'N' BOGS

Where: Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley

When: May (Volunteer trainings in early May, surveys start May 15)



This year will mark our third season of Birds 'n' Bogs! This project, in cooperation with the University of Alaska Anchorage, monitors the distribution and productivity of boreal birds (Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, Rusty Blackbirds, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, and Violet-green Swallows) in the breeding grounds of Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley.

This project is important because wetland habitat is disappearing in many places, and boreal wetland birds are among North America's most rapidly declining avifauna. Although the species in this study are common, they are rapidly becoming less abundant. For this reason these boreal bird species are now of national conservation concern.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Beth Peluso at 907-276-7034 or bpeluso@audubon.org. ◆

RUSTY BLACKBIRD SPRING MIGRATION BLITZ

Where: All of Alaska (or North America), enter sightings on Alaska eBird or written data sheets

When: April 11–May 31

This will be the second year of the three-year Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz, a project Audubon Alaska is doing in partnership with the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Rusty Blackbirds, although numerous, are declining alarmingly, putting them on the Red List of the Alaska WatchList. The causes of decline aren't well understood, so researchers are scrambling to find out more. Here's where you can help, from anywhere! All you have to do is enter your bird sightings in eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ak/>) or a written data sheet (available on the Audubon Alaska website)—especially when you find a Rusty Blackbird. If you went out looking but didn't see any, that's useful too. When you login to eBird, on the second data entry page under "Observation Type," select "Other—Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz."

For more information about participating, data sheets, Rusty Blackbird identification, or eBird questions please visit www.AudubonAlaska.org or contact Beth Peluso at bpeluso@audubon.org or 907-276-7034. ◆

A One-Two Punch to the Tongass

This year has been a tough one for the Tongass National Forest. In early December, new legislation passed allowing the Sealaska Corporation to cherry-pick old-growth forest for transfer from the Tongass to finalize its land entitlement selections. This March, the Forest Service moved ahead with the Big Thorne logging sale, the largest old-growth sale since the 1990s.

Audubon members consistently raised their voices this past year in support of transitioning out of old-growth logging on the Tongass. Last spring, through alerts and petitions, nearly 50,000 Audubon supporters asked to end old-growth logging. In December, when the Sealaska legislation suddenly appeared in the defense bill, almost 22,000 Audubon members quickly responded. Thank you for speaking up for the Tongass!

Sealaska Land Transfer

On December 12, the Sealaska bill transferring 70,000 acres of Tongass National Forest to Sealaska Corporation passed in Congress. The Sealaska legislation was tacked on to the defense bill and moved quickly. Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Sealaska was entitled to select 70,000 acres of federal land, a selection Audubon fully supported. Unfortunately, the Sealaska bill allows Sealaska to make its selection from different lands than originally agreed upon, in order to high-grade large-tree old-growth in the Tongass for clearcut logging.

While the Sealaska provision is bad, initially it was worse. After an Audubon Alaska report detailing the problems with the giveaway, and after significant public pressure from a variety of community stakeholders, Congress modified the original bill to protect some lands important to local communities and to reduce the impacts on old-growth trees. The lands were transferred to Sealaska on March 6. The corporation may begin logging this year.

Big Thorne Logging Sale

Audubon Alaska has been battling the ill-conceived Big Thorne logging sale for several years. Last August, the Forest Service finished a second review of the sale and still decided to move forward. Audubon and partner groups challenged the sale in Federal District Court. The court decided

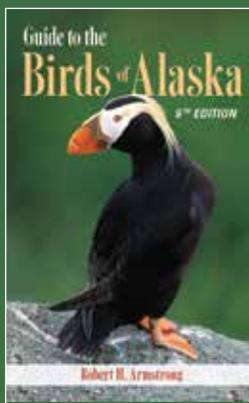


The Red-breasted Sapsucker relies on old-growth forest. *Photograph by Dave Shaw*

in favor of the logging sale on March 25. Audubon and our conservation partners appealed the decision and requested an injunction to halt the logging of some of the Tongass' most important old-growth trees.

The Big Thorne timber sale calls for the clearcutting of more than 6,000 acres—9 square miles!—of old-growth rainforest in a portion of the Tongass already devastated by sixty years of logging. Southeast Alaska's leading wolf expert has said the loss of these centuries-old trees may be "the straw that breaks the camel's back" and could ultimately destroy a third of the Tongass wolf population. Logging in this area would also degrade the already limited habitat on which the Queen Charlotte Northern Goshawk (only about 700 breeding pairs remain) depends. To add insult to injury, the Big Thorne sale is likely to cost American taxpayers more than \$100 million in subsidies over the next five years.

Audubon Alaska, with your help, will continue to push for an end to old-growth logging on the Tongass, one of largest remaining temperate rainforests in the world. ◆



Book Signing of New Guide to Birds of Alaska

Where: Northern Susitna Institute, Talkeetna

When: May 30, 6:00pm–9:00pm

Join Audubon Alaska and Juneau author, photographer, and naturalist Bob Armstrong as we celebrate the new edition of the Guide to Birds of Alaska! Audubon Alaska executive director Nils Warnock wrote the foreword for this essential Alaska field guide and communications manager Beth Peluso reviewed some of the chapters. Bob will generously donate a portion of the proceeds of the book to Audubon Alaska.

Bob will give a presentation before the book signing, and we'll provide appetizers, beer, and wine. We'll have books available for purchase at the event. Hope to see you in Talkeetna!

If you can't make it, stay tuned for an Anchorage event in the fall. ◆

People of Audubon

BOARD



Audubon Alaska thanks **John Alexander** for his time and energy serving on our board. John joined us in the fall of 2009 and participated in the Development Committee. He is a retired vice president of Chicago's Harris Trust & Savings Bank and cofounder and president of the Stewart Foundation. John chairs the Lemur Conservation Foundation Board and is a trustee for the board of Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. He is also a member of the American Museum of Natural History's Advisory Committee for Biodiversity and Conservation. John is an accomplished wildlife photographer. ◆



Judith Hamilton has decided to step down from the board due to time constraints. We appreciate her willingness to join in and hope to see her in the future. ◆



We'd like to thank **Margery Nicolson** for serving on the Audubon Alaska board—multiple times. Margery was a founding Audubon Alaska Board member. She rejoined the board in Fall 2009 for her most recent term and was a member of the Development Committee. Margery is a tireless world traveler who has entertained the staff with her exotic travel tales. She joined our executive director Nils Warnock on a raft trip on the Kongakut River in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 2011. Margery has served on the boards of both Audubon California and the National Audubon Society, and she is a passionate volunteer for the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at the Rowe Sanctuary in Gibbon, Nebraska. ◆



Audubon Alaska thanks **Dave Shaw** for serving on the board and his numerous donations of gorgeous photos. Our publications, print and online, have been more eye-catching with Dave's generous support. Dave joined the Audubon Alaska board in Fall 2009 and was on the Nominating Committee. With both undergraduate and Master's degrees in wildlife biology, Dave blends science, natural history, and adventure into his images and writing. His photography and writing have been published around the world in magazines, textbooks, calendars, websites, and advertising campaigns. He has traveled across the planet from Alaska to Antarctica. This June, with the aid of an online fundraising campaign, we plan to send Dave on a photo mission to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. (Visit our website in April to learn more.) ◆



Audubon Alaska would like to thank **Raychelle Daniel** for her service on the board; she stepped down because of time constraints this past fall. Raychelle was born and raised in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Wildlife Refuge in western Alaska and lived in a family dependent upon a subsistence lifestyle. This influenced her interest in marine mammals, ecology, and conservation issues. She obtained her B.S. at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau and M.S. at the University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre. She has studied seals and sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska and Beaufort Sea. Raychelle's perspective of the subsistence lifestyle provided valuable insights for Audubon Alaska's work on Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Arctic, both land and sea. We hope to continue working with Raychelle through her position as a senior associate with the Pew Charitable Trusts. ◆

STAFF



Audubon Alaska would like to welcome **Michelle LeBeau** as our new Development Director. Most recently, Michelle was a fundraising and organizational development consultant, working out of Kodiak, Alaska. She has had the pleasure of working with a wide range of nonprofits in Alaska, the Lower 48 and overseas, on securing sustainable funding to further social and environmental causes. As a consultant, she has lead diverse fundraising efforts, facilitated strategic planning processes and started new organizations from the ground up. Prior to moving to Kodiak, she led the formation of the Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Coalition, a regional nonprofit that advocates for eco-friendly urban landscape practices through education and policy change in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. In addition to her professional experience, Michelle holds a B.S. from Indiana University in Natural Resource Management and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Denver. During her free time she enjoys running, swimming, and hiking. She will be moving to Anchorage from Kodiak with her husband and two small children. ◆



Audubon Alaska would like to thank **Kathy Wells** for her energy and enthusiasm as our Assistant Development Director and wish her luck in her new adventures. She kept us on track with our grant reports and applications and tried creative new ways of fundraising. Kathy was the recipient of the 2008 Secretary of Interior Cooperative Conservation Award for work as a partner organization in the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership and was selected as the Frontiersman Newspaper's Civic Person of the Year in 2004. Kathy has an A.A.S. in Ornamental Horticulture and has provided landscape consultation and design services since 1998 through her small business. She loves to spend time with her husband, sisters, and close friends roaming through the mountains hiking, skiing, and bird watching. ◆

Congratulations to **Jim Adams** and his wife Erika on the birth of their son Charlie Kahill. Charlie arrived on March 13 at 10 lbs, 5 oz. and everyone is healthy and happy (although Jim seems to have upped his caffeine intake). ◆

Answer to WatchList Quiz

American Golden-Plover
Pluvialis dominica



This shorebird is on the Audubon Alaska WatchList's red list. The population seems to be declining, possibly because of habitat loss in South American wintering grounds and changing agricultural practices in the Midwest U.S. *Photograph by Dave Shaw*



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2015 Alaska Bird Festivals

See www.AudubonAlaska.org for details.

Ketchikan Hummingbird Festival
Month of April

Gunsight Mountain Hawkwatch Weekend
Mile 118.8 Glenn Highway; April 18 & 19

Stikine River Birding Festival
Wrangell; April 30–May 3

International Migratory Bird Day

- Spring Migration Celebration, Fairbanks, Creamer's Field; May 2
- Juneau, Community Gardens; May 16, 8:00am–11:00am
- Anchorage, Alaska Zoo; May 17, 11:00am–5:00pm
- Kodiak Refuge Visitor Center; May 30

Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival
Cordova; May 7–10

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival
Homer; May 7–10

Kenai River Birding Festival
Soldotna, Kenai, Seward; May 14–17

Upper Tanana Migratory Bird Festival
Tok, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge; TBA

Yakutat Tern Festival
Yakutat; May 28–31

Potter Marsh Discovery Day
Anchorage, Potter Marsh board walk;
June 6, 11:00am–4:00pm

Gone with the Wing Festival
Anchorage, Bird Treatment & Learning
Center; August 22, 12:00pm–4:00pm

Bike and Bird Day
Anchorage, starts at Westchester Lagoon;
TBA (usually first weekend of Aug.)

Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival
Fairbanks, Creamer's Field; August 28–30

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival
Haines; November 9–15

WatchList Quiz Bird

Can you identify
this species from
the WatchList?

Answer on page 7.

