



Audubon ALASKA News

Published twice a year by the Alaska State Office of the National Audubon Society



Globally-significant numbers of Arctic Terns rely on the Chukchi Sea during the breeding season.
Photograph by Dave Shaw

Mapping the Mysterious Chukchi Sea

During our first day in the Chukchi Sea, the waters were relatively quiet, most birds having vacated already for warmer places down south. But what we did see was spectacular. Several flocks of Spectacled Eiders flew past, leaving their breeding and staging grounds behind to head to the Bering Sea to spend the winter in an open ice area south of St. Lawrence Island. Ross's Gulls came by in strings of five to ten birds, their bellies noticeably flushed pink, an apparently rare sighting sometimes caused by their diet. Then a Sabine's Gull flew past mixed in with some kittiwakes, my third life bird for the day. Later in the afternoon two walrus swam close by the boat as both crew and scientists scrambled to the windows for a peek.

—Melanie Smith, Conservation Science Director, October 8, 2012 blog post from the US Coast Guard icebreaker the *Healy*.

The Chukchi Sea, off the coast of northwest Alaska, is one of the most productive ocean ecosystems in the world. Its pristine habitat supports wildlife ranging from walruses, polar bears, ice seals, and bowhead whales to millions of seabirds. Climate change is evident here perhaps like no other place; and as sea ice retreats, there is substantial pressure for new offshore industrial activities, including oil and gas drilling.

Audubon opposes oil and gas development in the Chukchi Sea. The dynamic environment of this vastly productive region for wildlife is still poorly understood; further development should not be allowed. As the recent anniversaries of the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon spills remind us, the chances of a major oil spill in these fragile waters are very real and the technology for oil cleanup in remote, ice-choked waters is ineffective.

Unfortunately, instead of banning leasing, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the agency that manages offshore oil and gas development, has adopted a policy of "targeted leasing" in the Arctic Ocean. Instead of area-wide sales as in the past, the agency says it will focus on leasing specific places with "high resource potential, clear indications of industry interest, and reflecting appropriate environmental protection and the interests of other users of the Outer Continental Shelf."

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ALASKA WATCHLIST SPECIES

Photograph on masthead by Dave Shaw

Rusty Blackbird

Euphagus carolinus

The northernmost nesting blackbird in North America, Rusty Blackbirds prefer boreal forest wetlands. They often wade in shallow water to forage for aquatic insects. This species is on the Red List of the WatchList due to a nearly 90 percent decline in the population since 1966. Causes are unknown, but could include loss of habitat on wintering grounds in the south-eastern US, boreal wetlands drying out due to climate change, or mercury poisoning in the northeastern US and Canada.

is published twice a year.

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DIRECTOR'S VIEWPOINT

Connecting Across the Flyways

By Nils Warnock

March in Alaska is one of my favorite months, often cold and snowy, but the sun finally has a bite of warmth. Plus March is followed by April and May, which in Alaska means birds will finally be migrating back to our rich, productive breeding grounds. I like to say that Alaska is the breeding grounds for the flyways; not just the Pacific Flyway, not just the four flyways of North America, but the flyways to all parts of the world. Right now, the diminutive Northern Wheatear, a landbird that breeds along the drier tundra ridges in Arctic Alaska, has departed its wintering grounds in eastern Africa and is probably somewhere over Asia. My personal favorite, the mighty Bar-tailed Godwit, is flying 6,000 non-stop miles from New Zealand to China's Yellow Sea, where it will spend a month before flying across the Pacific Ocean to Alaska.



Mai Po Marsh in Hong Kong: Where development meets the flyway.

Photograph by Nils Warnock

Not to be outdone, although in a less strenuous fashion, I sit on a packed airplane jetting to Tokyo and then Hong Kong in a reverse migration from some of the Asian migrants, but nevertheless related to flyways. I will give a talk for the Hong Kong Birding Society before taking the bullet train up mainland China's coast to the city of Fuzhou. I have been invited to represent Audubon at China's first international bird fair, where I will talk about how connected Asia is to Alaska is from the perspective of birds. I'm traveling this distance for the opportunity to make the point that what happens in one part of the flyway has significant effects in other parts. The Yellow Sea, surrounded on three sides by China, North Korea, and South Korea, is one of those places that many bird species cannot afford to lose; however, they are losing it rapidly to the relentless expansion of coastal development out onto its mudflats. My favorite migrant, the Bar-tailed Godwit, is in trouble because of this, so I head over the ocean for the opportunity to tell this story.

My in-flight GPS tracker shows my plane flying over the Alaska Peninsula, crossing just east of Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Possessing some of the largest eelgrass beds in the world, Izembek is a Yellow Sea kind of chokepoint for the Pacific Black Brant and Emperor Goose. It is the only place in the world where nearly the entire population of Pacific Brant stages during their migration between Arctic breeding grounds and wintering grounds in Mexico. More than 90% of the world's population of Emperor Geese also stops to feed at Izembek during spring and fall migrations. Areas around Izembek see significant numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits as well. While not as dramatic as the filling in of the Yellow Sea, Izembek is threatened by a proposal to build a road through part of the refuge that is currently designated Wilderness. I recently wrote an op-ed piece opposing the road and have been reprimanded by some for favoring birds over people. Audubon believes the communities of birds and people are intertwined, and we need to find a more creative solution in this case.

Whether by small cuts or big events, the flyways of the world are increasingly degraded and developed. Bird populations are vulnerable as a result. They cannot afford to lose much more without suffering declines. Some species, such as the Bar-tailed Godwit, are already at that point. Too many places along the flyways are disappearing and we need to protect the key remaining areas. The return of Stan Senner to Audubon as the new Director of Bird Conservation for the Pacific Flyway brings back a strong advocate for bird conservation along the flyways. Audubon's ability to protect the critical places that birds need along their flyways just got better. ♦

Mapping the Mysterious Chukchi Sea (continued from page 1)

BOEM is currently assessing if there should be areas off-limits to oil and gas leasing in the Chukchi Sea. To aid in that effort, Audubon Alaska and our partners World Wildlife Fund, Oceana, Ocean Conservancy, and Pew Environment Group identified important wildlife and subsistence use areas that should be unavailable for development. In November, Audubon Alaska's Conservation Science Director Melanie Smith and our partners impressed top-level officials at various agencies in Washington, D.C. with our work, including scientists and policy makers at BOEM and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

In December, Audubon Alaska and partners submitted 36 maps to BOEM covering wildlife and habitat, including whales, seals, walrus, birds, sea ice, and subsistence use. Should oil and gas leasing proceed in the Chukchi Sea, this suite of maps will form the foundation of Audubon's science-based recommendation for areas to exclude from leasing.

A Wave of Good News

Early in 2014, good news poured in for the Arctic Ocean! A court ruled on January 20 that the federal government's analysis of federal Lease Sale 193 for offshore drilling in the Chukchi Sea dramatically downplayed the hazard of a possible major spill and violated the law. Barely a week later, on January 30, oil giant Shell announced it was cancelling its 2014



Globally-significant numbers of Long-tailed Ducks rely on the Chukchi Sea during the breeding season. *Photograph by Dave Shaw*

drilling season. These are both incredible victories for Arctic Ocean birds and wildlife—and we thank you for speaking out to protect America's offshore Arctic treasure.

Now Audubon is waiting to see if BOEM will do the right thing and take this opportunity to do a fair, careful evaluation of the true risks of Lease Sale 193. ♦



**Audubon Alaska 2014
Bird of the Year**

Feathers flew furiously at the end of the 2014 Alaska Bird of the Year election, but the winner is (cue the bugling of Sandhill Cranes)...

The long-distance migration world-champion, the Bar-tailed Godwit! Starting with a strong lead, the godwit managed to keep a wingspan ahead, winning 46% of the vote. The Short-tailed Albatross made a heroic sprint for the finish, ending as the runner-up with 42%. The Lesser Yellowlegs remained the underdog, but kicked up its supporters to 12%. Better get some sprint training in for the next race.

Many thanks to everyone who voted! Contact Robyn Langlie (rlanglie@audubon.org) or Kathy Wells (kwells@audubon.org) or 907-276-7034 to learn how to get 2014 Bird of the Year window decals. ♦

**Pick.Click.Give.
It's Not Over!**

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, 2014.

Visit <http://pfd.alaska.gov> and click on the green "Add or Change Your Pick.Click.Give. Donation" button. When you select Audubon Alaska, read about the great work happening in Anchorage for the Lesser Yellowlegs and the wetlands they need to thrive.

It's not too late to support the birds in your neighborhood and in your favorite wild places of Alaska!

**Lovalaska.
Pick.Click.Give.**

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

Meet at the Campbell Creek Science Center parking lot.

Campbell Creek Early Morning Birdwalks

May 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:30-8:30AM

Join BLM staff and Anchorage Audubon Society members to develop and fine-tune your birding skills and witness the progression of songbird migration through the Campbell Tract. Dress appropriately for the weather and for walking on uneven terrain. Hot cocoa and coffee will be available at the Science Center afterwards, courtesy of Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center.

Please call 907-267-1241 for more information.

Arctic Audubon Society

www.arcticaudubon.org

Meet at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse in Fairbanks.

May 10, 8:00AM On this morning walk, learn about waterfowl identification.

May 17, 8:00AM On this morning walk, learn to identify those tricky shorebirds.

May 24, 8:00AM On this morning walk, learn to identify songbirds by their songs. (If the weather is bad the alternate date is May 31.)

Juneau Audubon

www.juneau-audubon-society.org

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

May 3 Two Berners Bay cruises: **8:30AM** with Mary Willson and Meg Cartwright; **1:30PM** with Brenda Wright and Mark Schwan. Meet at Statter Harbor.

May 10 Airport Dike Trail and Mendenhall Wetlands.

May 17 Bird Banding at Juneau Community Gardens with Gwen Baluss; Bird Walk at Eagle Beach State Recreation Area.

May 24 Treadwell Trails.

May 31 Moose Lake Area.

June 7 Brotherhood Bridge with Jeff Sauer.

Kodiak Audubon

<http://kodiakaudubon.blogspot.com>

Meet at the ferry dock. Kodiak Audubon hikes continue throughout the summer.

May 3 Narrow Cape Whale Watching, (hike if weather permits, 4 miles) with Stacy Studebaker, 907-486-6498.

May 31 Pillar Mountain, up and over (to Swampy Acres, 5 miles) with Heather Preece, 907-487-2790.

June 1 Heitman Lake (wet start, birds, flowers, 4 miles) with Linda Himelbloom, 907-486-0822.

June 7 Kashevaroff Mountain, to the top (climb, views, flowers, birds, 6 miles) with Tia Leber & Paul Zimmer, 907-481-7285.

Using Your Binoculars to Help Birds

Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz

Where: All of Alaska, enter sightings on Alaska eBird or written data sheets

When: April 12–May 31

This spring, your adventures in birding can be fun with a purpose! 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.

The Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz is a new project for Audubon Alaska, 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 at www.AudubonAlaska.org)—especially when

you find a Rusty Blackbird. If you went out looking for them 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."

Rusty Blackbirds are already on the move and should be in Alaska any day now! For more information about participating, data sheets, Rusty Blackbird identification, or eBird questions please visit Audubon Alaska's website www.AudubonAlaska.org or contact Beth Peluso at bpeluso@audubon.org or 907-276-7034.



Female Rusty Blackbird

Photograph by Dave Shaw

Chukchi Sea Nearshore Important Bird Area

Although from satellite imagery it may look like nothing more than empty sea ice and ocean, the Chukchi Sea Nearshore is a globally-significant Important Bird Area (IBA) because of the estimated 700,000 birds that use the area during breeding season. This includes globally-significant populations of Arctic Tern, Black-legged Kittiwake, Glaucous Gull, Long-tailed Duck, Pomerine Jaeger, Red Phalarope, and Sabine's Gull.

Along the entire Alaskan Chukchi Sea coast, winds and currents push the shifting sea ice offshore, as well as create a flaw zone between the land-fast ice and the pack ice, creating open-water areas that allow wildlife to migrate up and down the coast in spring and fall when other places are covered in pack ice. These rich waters concentrate zooplankton, providing an important food resource. The Chukchi Sea Nearshore IBA is part of a complex of IBAs including Ledyard Bay, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and Barrow Canyon.

Most bird species that breed on Alaska's North Slope migrate along open-water corridors in spring and fall when heading to their breeding or wintering grounds. Two species of loons, all four species of eiders, and other waterfowl pass through and forage in these open waters. The IBA includes US Fish and Wildlife Service-designated critical habitat for Spectacled Eiders. More than half a million King Eiders migrate through as well. Groups of hundreds to thousands of Short-tailed Shearwaters forage in these waters.

Conservation concerns for the area include oil and gas exploration; future increases in ship traffic; and expected, but not well understood, changes in marine productivity due to shifts in timing and extent of sea ice. A portion of this area—waters within 25 miles of the Chukchi coast—currently is not open to oil and gas leasing by the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or the State of Alaska. Explore at http://gis.audubon.org/pacificflyway_ibas. ♦



Large numbers of Sabine's Gulls (foreground) and Black-legged Kittiwakes (background) are found in this IBA. *Photograph by Milo Burcham*

Arctic Update: A Closer Look at Mooses Tooth

The first real-world test of the much-touted management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA) that protects 11 million acres is now in the works. Conoco-Phillips has proposed the first surface oil production development on public lands in the NPRA. The Greater Mooses Tooth 1 project proposal (and yes, we know BLM left out an apostrophe, don't ask us why) includes a drill site, an access road, and pipelines that would connect the new development to other Conoco-Phillips facilities outside the NPRA.

The proposed project is in an area slated for development in the recent NPRA plan. The area hosts a variety of birds, including four on the Audubon Alaska WatchList: Yellow-billed Loon, King Eider, Spectacled Eider, and Brant. Audubon Alaska does not oppose the project, but we view it as a crucial tone-setter for future development in the NPRA. For that reason, we are working with our conservation partners to provide extensive comments on ways the project can be improved to minimize its impacts. For instance, Audubon will suggest long-term monitoring of bird populations to help develop a better understanding of how the oil and gas infrastructure will impact them. ♦



Pacific Loons spend most of the year at sea, coming inland only to nest on freshwater ponds. *Photograph by Milo Burcham*

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.

Arctic Refuge Back in the Spotlight

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of our national treasures. Despite decades of oil industry efforts to open it to oil and gas drilling, it remains one of the few places with an intact Arctic ecosystem that supports life on a grand scale. The coastal plain is the biological heart of the refuge, supporting the 120,000-animal Porcupine Caribou Herd, thousands of migratory birds, and a full complement of large predators, such as wolves, grizzly bears, and polar bears.

Now the fight to protect the Refuge is heating up again. Conservationists see a golden opportunity to convince the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to make the first-ever Arctic coastal plain Wilderness recommendation to Congress—an important step on the road to Congressional designation of Wilderness. Early this year, the State of Alaska jumpstarted its push to open the coastal plain for oil development when it sued the USFWS for denying the state's application for seismic exploration for oil and gas. Once again, differing visions of the future of this wild land are clashing.

A Place Worth Protecting

The coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge represents only five percent of Alaska's North Slope, most of which is available for oil and gas development. Audubon's position is that the 1002 Area of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain should be permanently protected as designated Wilderness. We believe this provides a balanced approach for managing our nation's Arctic resources and is compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established.

The Arctic Refuge influences two large Important Bird Areas (IBAs), one on land and one at sea. The Beaufort Sea Nearshore IBA covers the continental shelf, extending from the Colville River Delta across Prudhoe Bay and three-quarters of the coastline of the Arctic Refuge. Nearly 20,000 Glaucous Gulls and 300,000 Long-tailed Ducks rely on this IBA during breeding season. Other species with globally significant numbers include Arctic Tern, Brant, King Eider, and Red-throated Loon.

On land, the Northeast Arctic Coastal Plain IBA hosts phenomenal numbers of Snow Geese just after breeding season. These geese nest in the western Canadian Arctic, and then come to the coastal plain to fuel up for their fall migration south. Numbers range from tens of thousands



Red-necked Phalaropes are one of the many shorebirds that nest on the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain. *Photograph by Dave Shaw*

to hundreds of thousands of geese—the highest number is more than 300,000! The numbers of geese can vary widely because in some years they stage in Canada and others in the Arctic Refuge.

Why Now?

Since even before taking office, President Obama has consistently supported protecting the Arctic Refuge. It makes sense to push for designation during his term. A new factor, years in the making, is the USFWS's pending management plan for the Arctic Refuge. In the draft plan, the agency made an important decision to formally consider Wilderness designation for the crucial 1002 Area of the coastal plain. As part of this plan, a full Wilderness review was done for the 1002 Area of the coastal plain for the first time—presenting an unprecedented opportunity to protect the Arctic Refuge for future generations. While only Congress can designate Wilderness, this recommendation is a crucial stepping stone to permanent protection.

Unfortunately, the process seems to have stalled out. The plan has been finished for many months, but the USFWS has yet to finalize it. Helping our conservation partners find and provide support for Wilderness champions in Congress could provide the incentive the agency needs to move forward again, tipping the scales in favor of keeping this incredible treasure whole for the future. ♦

Zoom in on Seabirds: It's More than a Map!

In December, Audubon released a new interactive online map that allows users to explore 216 new marine Important Birds Areas, home to more than 33 million seabirds, from the icy Beaufort Sea along Alaska's north coast to the tropical seas of Mexico's Baja Peninsula.

Easy to use and packed with photos and fun facts about seabirds, the map allows you to browse the newest marine IBAs. If you want a more in-depth view, or need information about certain species or places, the map includes species profiles, habitat descriptions, and conservation issues seabirds face. Take a tour today at http://gis.audubon.org/pacificflyway_ibas. ♦



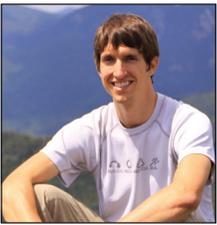
People of Audubon

STAFF



Audubon Alaska is excited to have **Stan Senner** back in the Audubon flock as the Pacific Flyway Director of Bird Conservation. Stan served as executive director of Audubon Alaska from 1999 through 2009. During his career of nearly 40 years he also worked for The Wilderness Society and US House of Representatives during passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and served as chief restoration planner and science coordinator for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and director of conservation science for the Ocean Conservancy.

Stan holds an M.S. in biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has published more than 25 technical papers, mostly focused on the ecology and conservation of migratory birds. Stan is an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union and in 1992 was the first recipient of the Alaska Bird Conference's Pete Isleib Award for contributions to bird conservation in Alaska. In 2005, Audubon honored him with its Charles Callison Award for Outstanding Professional Service. Stan has served as an adviser or board member to many organizations and is currently the Pacific Seabird Group's Vice-Chair for Conservation. ♦



Audubon Alaska welcomes **John Cannon** who, as Spatial Analyst, will be providing short-term support to our geospatial analysis program. He will be focused on issues affecting the Tongass National Forest, specifically examining the impact of historic and proposed timber projects on habitat for the Alexander Archipelago wolf and Sitka black-tailed deer. John has worked on conservation projects for a range of species including piping plovers in Michigan and red-cockaded woodpeckers in North Carolina. He most recently worked with The Nature Conservancy in Ohio to develop a summer habitat model for the Indiana bat, an endangered species. John earned his Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University. He loves exploring Alaska through hiking, running, and cross-country skiing. ♦



Melanie Smith and Nils Warnock accept the award from Geoff Haskett.

In early March, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska Regional Director awarded Audubon Alaska's science team, **Melanie Smith** and **Nathan Walker**, the Region 7 Excellence Award for Outstanding Partner. Audubon Alaska, using Esri mapping tools, developed the Kenai Decision Support Tool, an interactive, online tool that helps prioritize land parcels, subwatersheds, and watersheds for conservation actions and other habitat stewardship approaches for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and people. The result: formation of the Kenai Mountains to Sea partnership to sustain the natural resource economies provided by healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula, one of Alaska's most rapidly growing areas. The partnership will use the tool to help ensure wildlife habitat connectivity into the future. View the tool at <http://gis.audubon.org/Kenai/>. Congratulations! ♦

BOARD



Audubon Alaska welcomes **E. LaVerne Smith** to the board. LaVerne recently retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as the Deputy Regional Director for Alaska, previously serving in various management positions in Washington, D.C. and Alaska. LaVerne led the listing of the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the first listing due to climate change. LaVerne helped lead the Service's National Climate Change Team, which developed the agency's Climate Change Strategic Plan.

Prior to coming to Alaska in 1999, LaVerne served as the Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's National Endangered Species Program, receiving a Meritorious Service Award from Secretary Bruce Babbitt. Prior to joining the US Fish and Wildlife Service, LaVerne worked for the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina. LaVerne received a B.S. in Botany and an M.S. in Ecology from North Carolina State University. She grew up in the North Carolina mountains where she gained her love of wild places. She lives in Anchorage with her husband Rick, new pup, and a collection of rescue parrots. ♦

SUPPORTERS

Audubon Alaska would like to honor **Dr. Ruth Schmidt**, who passed away March 29. Ruth was a prominent geologist in Alaska, founding the Geology Department at University of Alaska Anchorage; she even rode out the 1964 Earthquake on ice-covered Portage Lake. She was a long-time Audubon supporter who served on the Anchorage Audubon board for many years as program chair and was an enthusiastic participant in many Audubon birdathons. ♦

Answer to WatchList Quiz

Solitary Sandpiper
Tringa solitaria cinnamomea

Beth Peluso



The Solitary Sandpiper is one of the few sandpipers that nests in trees. They prefer boreal forest bogs, laying their eggs in abandoned nests of jays or other songbirds. The name stems from this bird's habit of migrating individually or in tiny flocks, unlike other shorebirds. This subspecies, which nests from central Alaska and Northwest Territories to British Columbia and Manitoba, is on the Red List because of a small population that's declining for unknown reasons. It winters from Central America to Argentina.

Audubon ALASKA

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2014 Alaska Bird Festivals

See www.AudubonAlaska.org for details.

International Migratory Bird Day

- Spring Migration Celebration
Fairbanks, Creamer's Field;
May 3, Noon–3:00PM
- Juneau; TBA (Juneau Audubon)
- Anchorage, Alaska Zoo;
May 18, 11:00AM–5:00PM
- Kodiak Refuge Visitor Center;
May 17, 10:00AM

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

Homer; May 7–11

Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival

Cordova; May 8–11

Upper Tanana Migratory Bird Festival

Tok, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge;
May 12–17

Kenai River Birding Festival

Soldotna, Kenai, Seward; May 15–18

Yakutat Tern Festival

Yakutat; June 5–8

Potter Marsh Discovery Day

Anchorage, Potter Marsh board walk; June 7

Autumn Wings Festival

Anchorage, Bird TLC; August (TBA)

Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival

Fairbanks, Creamer's Field; August 22–24

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

Haines; November 10–16

WatchList Quiz Bird

Can you identify
this species from
the WatchList?

Answer on page 7.



Millions of tired Western Sandpipers stop at the Copper River Delta during spring migration. *Photograph by Milo Burcham*

