Conservation Impact Report

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016
As a supporter of Audubon Alaska, you make a difference for the birds, wildlife, and habitat they depend on in Alaska. It’s because of your help, your public comments, and your donations that Audubon made significant conservation gains in the Arctic and Tongass National Forest over the past two years. As you page through this report, I hope you’ll join me in feeling proud of the achievements we’ve made together. Thank you for your contributions and your tireless advocacy for science-based conservation. At Audubon Alaska, we raise all our own funding – this means your support is critical to protecting the birds and wildlife you care about.

Nils Warnock, Ph.D.
Executive Director
When it comes to birds and wildlife habitat, Alaska is enormously important. Alaska is the breeding ground for the avian flyways of the world. The vast majority of bird species in Alaska are migratory, fanning out across the globe in winter and returning back to Alaska by the millions to breed and nest in summer.

**Important Breeding Grounds for Birds**

- **Waterfowl**: 20%
- **Shorebirds**: 50%
- **Seabirds**: 90%

**Three Long-distance Travellers**

- Northern Wheatear
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Smith’s Longspur

**Flyways Converge on Alaska**

- Atlantic
- Mississippi
- Central
- Pacific
Less drilling in the Arctic Ocean, for now.

President Obama withdrew 9.8 million acres in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas from oil and gas leasing to protect areas of high biodiversity and Native Alaskan subsistence use. The withdrawal included Audubon Alaska’s recommended conservation area around Hanna Shoal, a critical foraging area for walrus, ice seals, and migratory birds. Audubon Alaska contributed to the scientific support for the withdrawal with detailed syntheses and mapping of critical wildlife habitat in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. President Obama took a big step forward in protecting some areas of the Arctic Ocean from drilling, but much work remains. The risks of oil development in the icy, isolated, and incredibly rich Arctic Ocean are tremendous and many important ecological areas remain open to drilling. Audubon Alaska will continue to use science to inform policies that protect the 15 globally significant Important Bird Areas in the Arctic Ocean.

3.5 billion acres
Size of the U.S. Arctic Ocean.

20,500
The number of Audubon members across the country who told the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management that drilling in the Arctic Ocean is simply too risky.
Tongass National Forest

One step closer to ending old-growth logging in America’s largest temperate rainforest.

The old-growth forests in Audubon’s Conservation Priority Watersheds were designated as off-limits for old-growth logging in the Forest Service’s amendment to the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. These are the top-most ecologically valuable watersheds in the Tongass. Decades of clearcut logging have left deep scars on the landscape and compromised the health of the forest ecosystems. The amended Plan specifically protects 1.5 million acres of productive old growth in those watersheds—a small but significant victory in a big forest. We continue to advocate for a definitive end to old-growth clearcutting throughout the 17 million acre Tongass National Forest.

23,000

Audubon members in Alaska and nationwide expressed concern that the Forest Service isn’t moving quickly enough to end old-growth clearcut logging in the Tongass.
Thank you to all the individuals, foundations, and businesses whose generous contributions have supported our conservation work over the past two years. We are very grateful to everyone that made a contribution. Every dollar donated directly to Audubon Alaska goes to work in Alaska. Thank you for being our partners in Alaska conservation.

Gifts received
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016
Gift amounts are per fiscal year

$100,000+
The Campion Foundation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
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Thanks to the more than 600 Friends who donated $1 to $249 over the past two years.
Thanks to our friends who have included Audubon in their legacy giving plans.

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Financial Summary

FY15 Revenue %
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

FY16 Revenue %
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

FY15 Expenses %
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

FY16 Expenses %
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

FY15 Revenue & Expenses = $1,077,677
FY16 Revenue & Expenses = $1,442,863
Audubon Alaska Team

BOARD MEMBERS

Milo Burcham (Chair)  Jerome McCluskey  John Schoen
Nancy DeWitt  Mason Morfit  David Secord
Matt Kirchhoff  Eric Myers  LaVerne Smith
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*Board and staff members at time of publication – October, 2016.*

STAFF MEMBERS (left to right)

- Beth Grassi, Communications Manager • Max Goldman, Arctic Marine Ecologist • Michelle LeBeau, Deputy Director
- Heidi DeCoeur, Office and Finance Manager • Nils Warnock, Executive Director • Ben Sullender, GIS Biologist
- Melanie Smith, Conservation Science Director • Erika Knight, GIS/Data Analyst • Susan Culliney, Policy Associate
What’s Ahead

Every year Audubon Alaska sets ambitious conservation goals, and over the past decades we have made significant conservation gains. Over the next two years, we have set lofty goals: identifying and protecting ecologically important areas in Alaska’s Arctic from oil and gas development; ending old-growth clearcutting throughout the Tongass National Forest; and, protecting critical habitat within Alaska’s 208 Important Bird Areas that support birds from around the world. Your continued support is an investment in future conservation success.

Southeast Atlas Release

In September 2016, Audubon Alaska released a new Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska. The atlas includes descriptions of regional climate, old-growth ecosystems, fishes, endemic mammals, birds, economic development, and more through maps, photos, and writing. The atlas provides the scientific basis for conservation of one of the most vital places in the world for birds, fish, and other wildlife. A digital version of the atlas is available at www.AudubonAlaska.org.

Arctic Ocean Atlas Preview

The Arctic Ocean is one of the most productive places on earth for wildlife, but there is much we have yet to learn about this ecosystem. The goal of Audubon Alaska’s Ecological Atlas of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas is to create a comprehensive, trans-boundary atlas that represents the current state of knowledge on a range of topics such as mammals, birds, fish and fisheries, oceanography, and human uses. The atlas will illustrate ecological patterns of the region and provide better insight into conservation recommendations.
Your Audubon Alaska Dollars Make a Difference

Ways to Help
Make a difference by investing in a healthy future for birds across the globe that rely on habitat in Alaska. Visit our Ways to Help web page to make a donation and get involved.

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