



# The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vol. 26 Issue No. 6

March 2004

## A Southeast Sampler: Sights & Sounds of Southeast Alaska

a presentation of images and recorded sounds by Gail & Larry Mayo

Monday, March 8, 7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

### **Mission of Arctic Audubon:**

*Earth has unparalleled natural diversity, productivity, and beauty, and provides for life. Recognizing the full value of nature, we work to protect Alaskan ecosystems by encouraging research, education, and management that will contribute to appreciation and good stewardship of this natural heritage. We also strive to conduct our own lives in harmony with nature.*

*The Arctic Audubon Society publishes The Redpoll for its members monthly fall through spring. National Audubon Society (NAS) dues are \$35; new members are \$20. NAS membership includes local chapter dues. Chapter only membership is \$10 and includes the newsletter.*

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Get ready for  
**BIRDATHON**  
May 13–June 13

Contemplating a summer vacation in southeast Alaska? This program will provide a sampler of southeast scenes and sounds. Gail Mayo has been recording sounds of the southeast to add to her slide images. Larry will have a computer with digital photos available for viewing after Gail's presentation. There will be sounds of birds, sea lions, humpback whales, and other mysterious mammals that spend their lives in the water. We will visit a calving glacier and a magical Yosemite of the North. John Muir may make an appearance. Longtime residents of Fairbanks, Gail and Larry bought their boat *Kittiwake* six years ago and keep it moored in Petersburg. They now spend a good part of the summer exploring the waterways of Southeast Alaska.

*At left, Larry and Gail Mayo and the Kittiwake at Le Conte Glacier. Below, a humpback whale surfaces.*



© Kathleen Wright



© Larry Mayo

## Arctic Audubon Field Trip Rescheduled

Come tour the Audubon-Riedel Nature Center property near 5 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road on Saturday, March 6. Meet at Creamer's Field Farmhouse parking lot at 10:00 am to carpool. This field trip was rescheduled from January when temperatures were too cold. Bring a lunch/snack, binoculars, and perhaps snowshoes/skis depending on conditions. Dress warmly! The hike will last about 2-3 hours. We'll look for birds and animal tracks. Directions will be provided.

Contact Tom Green for more information at 452-6370 (home), 474-1559 (work), or email at [fftkg@uaf.edu](mailto:fftkg@uaf.edu). For a historical perspective on the nature center, see the article on the Riedel Nature Center by Mary Zalar in the January 2003 Issue of *The Redpoll*, available at Arctic Audubon's website, [www.arcticaudubon.org](http://www.arcticaudubon.org).

## From the President

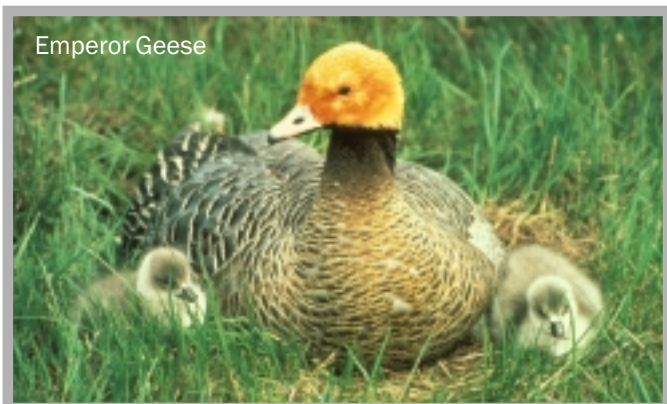
by Gail Mayo

Ten days ago we were still looking for feeding redpolls in our yard, now we are pleasantly inundated. About ten weeks ago Arctic Audubon wondered how many really worthwhile grassroots projects might be simmering in the minds of interior Alaskans. We asked and are now pleasantly inundated. We will be reviewing proposals for small grants at our next board meeting on March 1 at 5:30 pm at the UAF Wood Center lower commons. All members are welcome to attend.

A redpoll influx heralds spring. Owls have started calling. Far to our south, geese and cranes are on the move. This summer's Sandhill Crane Festival keynote speaker Paul Johnsgard from Nebraska reports that Sandhills have started to appear on the Platte River. It is never too soon for you to start planning for our spring and summer's rush. Start with your Birdathon strategy and give it lots of attention for this event is a major fundraiser for the Alaska Bird Observatory and Arctic Audubon Society. Consider volunteering a little time to help with Earth Day on April 24, Spring Migration Celebration at Creamer's Field on May 1, or the Sandhill Crane Festival, August 21-27. Let any board member know if you would like to help out.

After the February public program on the Hooper Bay Eskimos: Hunters and Gatherers of the Bering Sea, Frank Keim was asked to make similar presentations to local school kids. He reported that he might have enjoyed it even more than did the kids. In a partnership effort, Alaska Audubon, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Association of Village Council Presidents have developed a booklet about protecting habitat near Hooper Bay on which most of the world's Emperor Geese depend. This is a comic-style booklet titled *Protect our Land, Protect our Future*. We will have this and similar materials for you to view at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at the library.

Get ready to enjoy Spring!



Emperor Geese

## Spring Bird Festivals



### Fairbanks Spring Migration Celebration Saturday, May 1, noon-4:00 pm.

Join the Alaska Bird Observatory, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Friends of Creamer's Field, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Arctic Audubon Society and other organizations, for this festival of feathered flyers around Fairbanks. Activities for all ages will include Junior Duck Stamp Award Ceremony, nature walks, children's games and activities, live birds, spotting scopes, bird sketching, and much more! A nature trail will lead between activities at Wedgewood Visitor Center, Alaska Bird Observatory Center for Education & Research (also in the Wedgewood complex) and Creamer's Field. For more information, call 451-7159.

### Copper River Shorebird Festival, May 7-9

The Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival is one of Alaska's premier birding events. Millions of shorebirds rest and feed on these tidal flats during their spring migration. There are over 30 species of migratory shorebirds on the Delta.

Kenai Fjords Tours offers round-trip transportation (Whittier-Cordova). The tours will depart from Whittier at 9 am on Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8 and return from Cordova at 4:30 pm on May 9, 2004. Guests will need to find their own overnight accommodations during the festival.

Roundtrip rate to Cordova is \$149 + 3% sales tax for adults (12+) and \$100 + 3% sales tax for children (2-11). Audubon members will receive a 10% discount at time of reservation. For more information, visit the Anchorage Audubon website at [www.anchorageaudubon.org](http://www.anchorageaudubon.org) and follow the links.

### Homer Shorebird Festival, May 6-9

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival in Homer, Alaska offers a wide variety of birding workshops and presentations for beginning and advanced birders, guided field trips and viewing stations, children's activities, art and entertainment events, boat tours and sea-kayak trips. For more info: <http://www.homer.alaska.org/shorebird.htm>.

### Upper Tanana Migratory Bird Festival May 14-15

Celebrate the spring bird migration through the Tanana Valley at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge near Tok, Alaska. For more information contact Heather Johnson at (907) 883-9417 or visit the website at <http://tetlin.fws.gov/index.htm>.

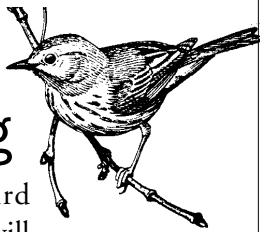


## Owling Night

Friends of Creamer's Field will present Owling Night on Friday, March 26, 7:00 pm at the Girl Scout Hall on the southeast corner of College Road and the Old Steese.

Join Jack Whitman of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as he shares interesting facts about our local owls. Lorrie Hawkins will be bringing a rehabilitated Great Horned Owl and Boreal Owl from the Sheep Creek Wild Bird Center. Maps with recent local owl sightings will be distributed and owl boxes will be available for purchase. Call 452-5262 for more information.

## Learn About ABO at Annual Meeting



On March 24, the Alaska Bird Observatory's annual meeting will be held at 7:00 pm in the Center for Education & Research. The evening's program will feature presentations about ABO's education and research programs by Andrea Swingley and Kevin Hannah, as well as awarding of the "Ritchies Award." This will be the last chance to buy tickets for the annual Hawk's Nest raffle as the drawing will be the next day.

## Land Acquisition Project in Goldstream Valley

The Interior Alaska Land Trust will be raising funds to acquire a parcel of land in Goldstream Valley along Ballaine Road that will help make continuous the Goldstream Public Use Area, a corridor along the old grade of the Tanana Valley Railroad that used to connect Fairbanks with the gold mines on Cleary Summit. On March 28th you can see this property for yourself by joining the Land Trust on a tour. For more information, contact the Interior Alaska Land Trust:

- by mail at PO Box 84169, Fairbanks, AK 99708
- by email at [landtrust@ptialaska.net](mailto:landtrust@ptialaska.net)
- by phone at 451-0737

Watch the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* for an announcement of this event.

## Get Ready for Birdathon!

The 2004 Farthest North Birdathon takes place May 13–June 13. Birdathon raises funds for bird conservation projects. Everyone that cares about birds can participate in this fun event. The concept is simple—collect pledges, choose a day between May 13 and June 13, and go birding! Our next newsletter will have more details.



## Camp Habitat

Nature Education Camp  
for Children Ages 4-16

### Pre-School Program Ages 4-5

Nature Sprouts I June 7-11 (9:00 am-Noon), \$105  
Nature Sprouts II June 14-18 (9:00 am-Noon), \$105

### Day Camp Program Ages 6-11

Refuge Adventures (6-7) July 12-16 (9:00 am-4:00 pm), \$170  
Water Striders (8-9) July 19-23 (9:00 am-4:00 pm), \$185  
Nature Detectives (6-7), (8-9), (10-11) July 26-30 (9:00 am-4:00 pm), \$185

### Backpacking Trips Ages 11-16

Introduction to Backpacking! (11-13) August 2-6, \$275  
White Mountain Explorers (13-16) July 19-24, \$300

To register or for information, scholarship applications, or payment schedules, contact:

Camp Habitat  
830 College Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 452-5021 ext. 26  
[camphabitat@northern.org](mailto:camphabitat@northern.org)  
[www.northern.org](http://www.northern.org)

## Wanted: Instructors for Camp Habitat

Qualifications: Experience working with children; background and/or experience in environmental education; must have CPR/First Aid Certification.

Send a letter of interest, resume, and three references to Camp Habitat Director, address and phone above.

Arctic Audubon Society  
PO Box 82098  
Fairbanks, AK 99708  
[www.arcticaudubon.org](http://www.arcticaudubon.org)

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## Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

### Board Meetings, Mondays, March 1 & April 5, 5:30 pm

Arctic Audubon members are welcome at the monthly Board meetings held at UAF Wood Center lower level.

### Field Trip to Audubon-Riedel Nature Center Property, Saturday, March 6, 10 am

Meet at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse parking lot; see page one article for details.

### A Southeast Sampler, March 8, 7:00 pm

Images and recorded sounds of Southeast Alaska presented by Gail and Larry Mayo, Noel Wien Library.

### Owling Night, March 26, 7:00 pm

Learn about local owls with Jack Whitman, Lorrie Hawkins, and live owls; at Girl Scout Hall.

### Trinidad and Tobago, Monday, April 12, 7:00 pm

Slide presentation by Steve Springer at the Noel Wien Library Auditorium.

## Arctic Audubon Board of Directors

email address: [arcticaudubon@netscape.net](mailto:arcticaudubon@netscape.net)

President: Gail Mayo

Vice President: Amy Turner

Secretary: Laura Henry

Treasurer: Gail Mayo

Education: Open

Conservation: David Shaw

Hospitality: Brook Gamble

Programs: Julie Coghill

Publicity: Open

Newsletter: Mary Zalar

Membership: Mary Zalar

Field Trips: Tom Green

Birdathon: Sherry Lewis

Web Site: Jim Logan

Alaska Audubon Board Liaison: Frank Keim

## Birding Hotline: (907) 451-9213

Updated by Laurel Devaney & Ken Russell



Report interesting bird sightings;  
learn what others have spotted.

also at

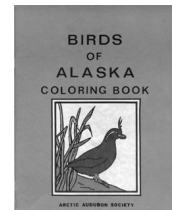
[www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/index.html](http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/index.html)

## Birds of Alaska Coloring Book

for sales information call

Gail Mayo, 479-2954 or

Amy Turner, 474-4227



## Audubon Society Membership Form

Introductory rate, \$20     Two Year membership, \$30

Student or Senior rate \$15

Membership includes both National Audubon and the local chapter, Arctic Audubon. You will receive National Audubon's magazine, *Audubon*, and Arctic Audubon's newsletter, *The Redpoll*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

I do not want the Audubon Society to share my name with other organizations.

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to National Audubon Society)

Send to: Arctic Audubon Society

PO Box 82098

Fairbanks, AK 99708

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7XCH

Chapter Only Membership, \$10.

For membership in Arctic Audubon Society *only*, check box and make check payable to Arctic Audubon.