



The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vol. 27 Issue No. 3

January 2005

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.



Results of the **Fairbanks Christmas Bird Count** held January 2, 2005 will be published in the February issue of *The Redpoll*.

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge... the next 15 years

slide presentation and lecture by Merry Maxwell

Monday, January 10, 7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Spend a virtual evening at Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge as Deputy Manager Merry Maxwell shows slides and describes the area, wildlife, and history. Located northwest of Fairbanks, the Kanuti Refuge is home to over 130 species of birds, 30 species of mammals, and 16 species of fish. Each spring, migratory birds arrive to breed on the refuge, many from as far away as the Amazon basin. Bands from marked waterfowl have been recovered in 45 of the 50 states, eight Canadian provinces, and 11 foreign countries.

Straddling the Arctic Circle, the 1.6-million-acre Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge is a boreal forest ecosystem sculpted by ice, fire and flooding rivers. It was established in 1980 by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Access to the refuge is principally by aircraft in the summer from Bettles. During the winter, Kanuti can be reached from the Dalton Highway using non-motorized transportation such as skis or dog teams. Athabaskan Indians and Inupiaq Eskimos in nearby villages continue to use refuge lands for subsistence purposes as they have for thousands of years.

Kanuti Refuge staff members are updating the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), a process that will guide uses of the Refuge for the next 15 years. Public comment is critical to this process. Increased interest in natural resource extraction and tourism may affect the Refuge, such as development of a gas line from the North Slope and public access from the Dalton Highway. Merry will describe how refuges were created under ANILCA, the planning process, and how the public is involved. More information about the Kanuti Refuge is available at <http://kanuti.fws.gov>.

Merry Maxwell has been on the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge staff with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1997.



Killolitna River in Kanuti Wildlife Refuge

Photo courtesy of US Fish and Wildlife

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Permit No. 181
Fairbanks AK

Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, January 2

Compilation Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm at the Girl Scout Hall at the corner of College Rd & Old Steese.

Arctic Audubon Board Meeting, Monday, January 10, 5:30 pm, Noel Wien Library

Members are welcome at our business meeting.

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge... the Next 15 Years, Monday, January 10, 7:00 pm

Learn more about the Kanuti Refuge at this slide presentation by Merry Maxwell held in the Noel Wien Library Auditorium.

Feathered Tales from Around the World, January 4 & 6, Noon, at ABO

Kids and their caregivers can join ABO for a program sharing traditional bird stories.

Arctic Audubon Board of Directors

email address: arcticaudubon@netscape.net

President: Gail Mayo

Vice President: Amy Turner

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Updated by Laurel Devaney & Ken Russell

Report interesting bird sightings;
learn what others have spotted.

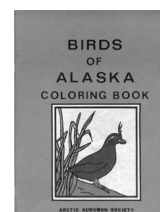
also at

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: _____

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

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

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Chapter Only Membership, \$10.

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