



# The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vol. 27 Issue No. 5

March 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.

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## Alaska's Unique Birding Hot Spots

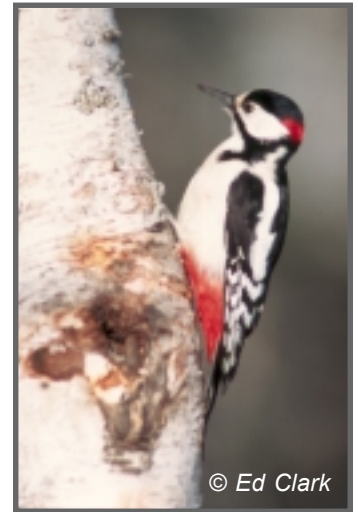
*slide presentation by Ed Clark*

Monday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

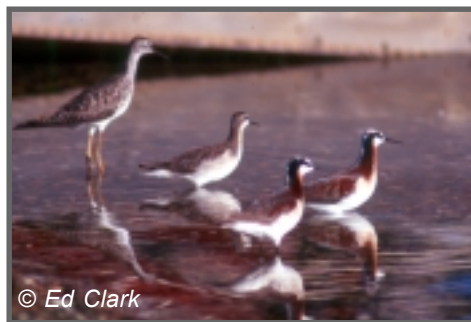
Ed Clark and Judy Dearborn have used their time in Alaska to enlarge their birding horizons. They have discovered how to access and enjoy remote Alaska as they search for unique birding spots. Go to places you might not dream of going and see the birds that might be there while you gain inspiration and information for your next birding venture. Ed's slides will accompany his talk and give you a look at bush Alaska and a host of birds.

Join Ed and Judy as they visit remote Alaska looking for birds and seeing much more.



© Ed Clark

*Male Great Spotted Woodpecker seen at Caswell Lakes, Alaska*



© Ed Clark

*One Lesser Yellowlegs and three Wilson's Phalaropes*



© Ed Clark

*Marbled Godwit*

## Birds of the Boreal Workshops

This spring the Alaska Bird Observatory (ABO) is offering a series of excellent workshops, seminars, and excursions focusing on bird identification, optics, field sketching, and birdwatching for kids. The new "Birds of the Boreal" identification workshops will take place on Tuesdays, starting April 12, and will feature presentations by local raptor, waterfowl, shorebird, and passerine experts. ABO is also organizing a field trip to the Glenn Highway Hawk Watch April 22-24 that includes comfortable lodging at Denali Highway Cabins in Paxson and birding in Delta on the way home. Saturday morning walks and outings with ABO and Arctic Audubon Society will complete a fantastic spring migration season and advance your birding skills to a higher level. More information will be included in the next issue of *The Redpoll* or visit ABO's website at [www.alaskabird.org](http://www.alaskabird.org) or call 451-7159.



## Upcoming Events at the Alaska Bird Observatory

### Don't Mess with Black Birds!

Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

ABO's Center for Education & Research

With increasing development in Alaska, further disturbance of our avian communities is inevitable. Why are some species more resilient to disturbance than others? Join UAF graduate students Julie Morse and Stacia Backensto for a talk comparing and contrasting breeding conditions on an oilfield with those in a national park, using ravens and oystercatchers as case studies. Heavy on interesting anecdotes and slim on real data, this talk is intended to challenge the mindset that human disturbance is always bad. Instead we highlight and marvel at the resilient and adaptive capacity of ravens and oystercatchers.

### Kids EGGstravaganza!

Wednesday, March 16, 1:00 p.m.

ABO's Center for Education & Research

Kids of all ages are invited to learn all about amazing eggs through displays and on-going activities. All participants can decorate and take home an egg of their own at this family event.

### ABO's Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

ABO's Center for Education & Research

Join ABO staff and board members for a dessert social with information on ABO's research and education programs.

### Volunteers for Arctic Warbler Study

Volunteers are needed for the second year of a three-year study investigating Arctic Warbler ecology along the Denali Highway near Tangle Lakes. Volunteers are asked to commit to five days minimum between June 13th and July 29th. Volunteers will help mist-net Arctic and Blackpoll Warblers, re-sight color-banded birds, search for and monitor nests, and record vegetation data. Folks with digital cameras will be an added bonus. For more information visit ABO's website:

[www.alaskabird.org](http://www.alaskabird.org) [ABOVolunteering.html](http://ABOVolunteering.html)

## Interpreter Positions at Creamer's Field

Friends of Creamer's Field will hire three part-time interpreters to lead guided interpretive walks at Creamer's Migratory Waterfowl Refuge this summer season. Individuals with a strong and passionate interest in sharing natural and/or cultural history about the interior of Alaska and Creamer's Refuge should apply. A background, or strong interest, in either biology, ecology, natural or cultural history is required. Experience in creating, designing and leading interpretive walks or programs is desirable, but not essential—all highly motivated applicants are urged to apply.

Each interpreter hired will be responsible for one month of guided evening walks (each walk lasts about one hour) during the summer season (June-August). The month each interpreter is hired to work is flexible and will be determined as these positions are filled. This is a perfect evening or part time job for folks who would like to enjoy the Alaskan summer by sharing their love for the natural and cultural history of the interior. Salary is \$750 for one month's work. Training will begin in May.

Please apply with a cover letter detailing your interest in this position, a resume and three references. Deliver your application package to the Farmhouse Visitor Center, behind ADF&G on College Road, or mail to Friends of Creamer's Field, PO Box 81065, Fairbanks, AK 99708. Applications must be received by March 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered.

*ABR, Inc. Environmental Research & Services invites you to a free seminar:*

## Sustainable Investing Strategies for the New Century

What's New in Socially Responsible Investing

Thursday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Presented by Mr. Scott Pope CFP, Progressive Investment Management & Sustainable Wealth Management, Eugene, Oregon.

For more information, contact Doris at ABR, 455-6777 or visit ABR's website:

<http://www.abrinc.com/news.html>

## Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival is scheduled for May 5-8, 2005, in Homer, Alaska. Keynote Speaker is Scott Weidensaul, author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including *"Mountains of the Heart,"* the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *"Living on the Wind"* about migratory birds, and his latest book, *"The Ghost With Trembling Wings,"* about the search for animals that may or may not be extinct. Weidensaul lives in the Appalachians of eastern Pennsylvania, where he studies hawk, owl and hummingbird migration.

The full festival program and registration form will be posted on the website, [www.homer.alaska.org/shorebird.htm](http://www.homer.alaska.org/shorebird.htm), in early March 2005.

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival is the largest wildlife festival in Alaska. It is held in early May during the peak of the shorebird migration. With over 60 events for advanced, beginning and potential bird lovers of all ages, the festival celebrates the return of the shorebirds and the many seabirds, waterfowl and woodland-birds that migrate through or spend the summer around Kachemak Bay. The program includes a variety of workshops, field trips, boat tours, children's activities, visual and performing arts, and a wooden boat festival.

## Northern Voices Speaker Series Presents

Nancy Lord

Thursday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Nancy Lord, a long-time Homer resident and commercial salmon fisherman, will speak on her most recent book, *Beluga Days: Tracking a White Whale's Truths*, a narrative exploration of the Cook Inlet beluga whales' decline. In her talk "What I Learned From the White Whales and People Who Know Them," Lord will speak of her goals as an environmental writer and what she learned in the course of writing the beluga book. She will talk about the failures of our protective systems, as well as share some of her hopes for improved management and responsibility toward the natural world.

Lord writes short stories as well as nonfiction. Other books include *Fishcamp* and *Green Alaska*. For many years she contributed environmental commentaries to the National Public Radio show "Living on Earth."

Northern Voices is a speaker series sponsored by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Library. For more information, please contact the Northern Center at 452-5021.

## Rally for the Arctic Refuge with Alaskans Protecting the Arctic Refuge

Thursday, March 3, Noon at Bicentennial Park (5th and Cushman)

Congress will decide the fate of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge the second week of March. This rally will be a great opportunity for Alaska's wilderness supporters to influence Congress! Bring family, friends and signs to show your spirited, Alaskan support for a wild coastal plain. For more information, or to help, call 479-6829.

**Bring family, friends and signs to show your spirited, Alaskan support for a wild coastal plain.**



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

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
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Permit No. 181  
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## Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

**Alaska's Unique Birding Hotspots, Monday, March, 7:00 pm, Noel Wien Library Auditorium**  
Learn more about Alaska's birding hotspots and unusual sightings in this presentation by Ed Clark.

**Arctic Audubon Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 pm, 201 Irving Bldg at UAF**  
Members are welcome at our business meeting.

**Don't Mess With Blackbirds, Thursday, March 10, 7:00 pm, Alaska Bird Observatory**  
UAF graduate students Julie Morse and Stacia Backensto will highlight the resilient and adaptive capacity of ravens and oystercatchers.

**Owling Night, Friday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.**  
Learn about owls with Lori Hawkins and Jack Whitman. Call 452-5162 for location.

## Arctic Audubon Board of Directors

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

President: Gail Mayo  
Vice President: Amy Turner  
Secretary: Ann Wood  
Treasurer: Gail Mayo  
Education: Open  
Conservation: David Shaw  
Hospitality: Brook Gamble  
Programs: Open  
Publicity: Open  
Newsletter: Mary Zalar  
Membership: Mary Zalar  
Field Trips: Tom Green  
Birdathon: Sherry Lewis  
Web Site: Jim Logan  
Alaska Audubon Board: Frank Keim

**Birding Hotline: (907) 451-9213**



Updated by Laurel Devaney & Ken Russell

Report interesting bird sightings;  
learn what others have spotted.

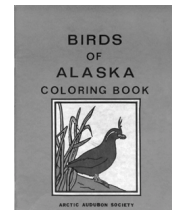
also at

[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

**A52  
7XCH**

**Chapter Only Membership, \$10.**

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