



The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vol. 28 Issue No. 2

November 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.

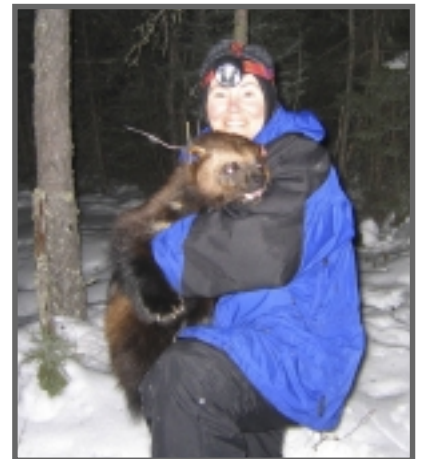
The Arctic Audubon Society publishes *The Redpoll* for its members monthly fall through spring. National Audubon Society (NAS) dues are \$35; new members are \$20. NAS membership includes local chapter dues. Chapter only membership is \$10 and includes the newsletter.

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Ways of the Wolverine

slide presentation and lecture by Audrey Magoun

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Wolverines have been a passion for Audrey Magoun since studying them for her Ph.D thesis at UAF from 1978 to 1984. She spent a month in Sweden assisting in wolverine research in 1998. During the summer of 2000, Audrey spent three months raising two baby wolverines in the Alaska Range, observing growth and behavioral development. For the past three winters, Audrey and husband Patrick Valkenburg have been studying wolverines in Ontario and Labrador, Canada. Using aerial surveys of wolverine tracks in the snow, they mapped the distribution of wolverines in northern Ontario and concluded that there are no breeding populations of wolverines in Labrador. They studied the relationship of wolverines to logging activity near Red Lake, Ontario and, using radiotelemetry collars, were able to find the first natal den of a wolverine in boreal forest. Audrey is currently writing up the results of her Canadian research project and is looking forward to being in Alaska this winter.

Fairbanks FeederCount

Sponsored by the Alaska Bird Observatory (ABO) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Fairbanks FeederCount is a citizen science program designed to track long-term trends in abundance and large-scale movements of winter bird populations in the Fairbanks area. Participants count birds at their feeders on three Saturdays (or within a week of that date) and report their findings on a datasheet. Participation is free. This winter's target dates are November 19, December 17, and March 4. Count instructions and a count form are available online at www.alaskabird.org (click on "hot topics") or by calling ABO at 451-7159.



Northern Voices presents...

Hollywood and the Idea of North

Thursday, November 10, 7:00 pm
Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Join Leonard Kamerling for an illustrated talk considering *Hollywood and the Idea of North*. American films have long presented to the world an image of the north as barren, frozen wasteland, populated by stock, parka-clad characters engaged in a never-ending battle with nature. How did these stereotypes come about and why have they been so enduring? Have contemporary filmmakers succeeded in setting the record straight?

A Fairbanksan since 1972, Kamerling is Curator of Film at the University of Alaska Museum of the North and an Associate Professor of English at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is the producer/director of 14 critically acclaimed, award-winning documentary films.

Northern Voices is a venue for writers, artists, composers, and other visionaries inspired by the Alaskan environment. For more information, contact the Northern Center at 452-5021.

Fun for All at Creamer's Field

Mark your calendar for these events sponsored by the Friends of Creamer's Field. All events will be held at the Farmhouse Visitor Center, 1300 College Road. Call 452-5162 for more information.

Thanksgiving for the Birds

Take part in this annual family program on Saturday November 26th from noon – 4:00 pm. Learn about Alaska's winter birds and build a bird feeder to take home. \$3 donation requested to cover materials.

Tree Lighting and Caroling

Join Friends of Creamer's Field for this annual family event at 6:00 pm on December 1st. Tree lighting and caroling will be followed by cookies and hot chocolate inside the warm Farmhouse. Free to the public.

Creamer's Field Holiday Open House

On Saturdays, December 3rd, 10th and 17th, the Creamer's Field Visitor Center and gift shop will be open from noon–4 pm with fun and nature-oriented holiday crafts to make and take home. The gift shop will also be open each weekday evening, 5–8:00 pm, December 1–21, with a great selection of gifts.

Thanksgiving Bird Count

by Dr. John G. Hewston, Humboldt State University

This is one winter count which can be made in comfort regardless of the weather!

Thanksgiving Bird Counts are to take place on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. The counter chooses the time that best fits his/her holiday schedule. It might even provide a welcome but short break on the holiday since the count is to take only ONE hour.

Select a count circle that is 15 feet in diameter. Count Circles are usually located around whatever attracts birds—feeders, baths, cover, etc. Most participants select a count area visible from a comfortable spot near a window. However, some counters do go outdoors and make their counts in favorite bird areas. The same circles should be used each year—and be sure the birds are within the circle. Record results on the form on page three of this newsletter, and send in a report even if no birds are seen during the count hour.

The count circle can be considered a cylinder, since birds passing through or over the circle/cylinder can be counted. Limit the height of your cylinder to where you can be sure the birds went through it. Count individual birds only once (some may make repeated visits to your count circle). To count flocks, make a count each time and use only the highest number made for one of those counts as your tally.

Last year 607 participants turned in 633 counts from the eleven Western States and Alaska. Participants tallied 173 different species, and the usual three species held the top positions again—House Sparrow (3,626), Dark-eyed Junco (3,165) and House Finch (2,670). Rounding out the top five were Pine Siskin (2,105) and Black-capped Chickadee (1,167). The next five species were Mourning Dove, California Quail, White-crowned Sparrow, American Goldfinch, and Steller's Jay.

45th Annual Fairbanks Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 31, 2005

Questions or comments?
Call Gail Mayo, 479-2954.

Thanksgiving Bird Count Form

Thanksgiving (window watch) Bird Count

Counter's name and mailing address:

 _____ Zip _____

Location of Count _____

Date: _____ Temp. _____

Time: Begin _____ End _____

Weather _____

Habitat type _____

Feeders/baths (types) _____

Feeders/baths (number) _____

Procedures for Count: Select a circular area on the ground (may include water area), 15 feet in diameter, to include feeders, bird baths, shrubs, etc., as you wish. Imagine the circle extending upward as a cylinder. Count the numbers of individual birds of each species that come into this circle (or cylinder) during exactly **one hour**. Try to judge as best you can the actual number of individuals that are making visits to the Circle or that fly through the imaginary cylinder. Try NOT to count the same individual bird over and over again! Please print clearly the number for each species in the "In Circle" column. If you wish to report any seen outside the Circle, list them in the "Outside" column.

Pick any ONE-HOUR period during the day—and make the count on Thanksgiving Day! Please send your count results (even if you see no birds at all) to:

Dr. John G. Hewston
 Natural Resources Building
 Humboldt State University
 Arcata, CA 95521



Record your observations on the field form below.

<u>Species Seen</u>	<u>In Circle</u>	<u>Outside</u>
California Quail	_____	_____
Rock Pigeon	_____	_____
Mourning Dove	_____	_____
Anna's Hummingbird	_____	_____
Northern Flicker	_____	_____
Woodpecker, _____	_____	_____
Steller's Jay	_____	_____
Blue Jay	_____	_____
Western Scrub Jay	_____	_____
Black-billed Magpie	_____	_____
Common Raven	_____	_____
American Crow	_____	_____
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	_____	_____
Black-capped Chickadee	_____	_____
Mountain Chickadee	_____	_____
Red-breasted Nuthatch	_____	_____
White-breasted Nuthatch	_____	_____
Northern Mockingbird	_____	_____
American Robin	_____	_____
Golden-crowned Kinglet	_____	_____
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	_____	_____
Cedar Waxwing	_____	_____
European Starling	_____	_____
Yellow-rumped Warbler	_____	_____
Spotted (Rufous-S) Towhee	_____	_____
White-crowned Sparrow	_____	_____
Golden-crowned Sparrow	_____	_____
Fox Sparrow	_____	_____
Song Sparrow	_____	_____
Dark-eyed Junco	_____	_____
Red-winged Blackbird	_____	_____
Purple Finch	_____	_____
House Finch	_____	_____
Lesser Goldfinch	_____	_____
American Goldfinch	_____	_____
Pine Siskin	_____	_____
Evening Grosbeak	_____	_____
House Sparrow	_____	_____
Other species:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Arctic Audubon Society
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Upcoming Events--Mark Your Calendar

Arctic Audubon Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Monday, Nov. 7, Rm 300, Natural Science Facility UAF.

Members are welcome at the monthly Board meeting.

Hollywood and the Idea of the North, Thursday, November 10, 7:00 pm. See page two for details.

Thanksgiving Bird Count, November 24

Only one hour! Details on page 3 & 4.

Thanksgiving for the Birds, Saturday, November 26, 12-4:00 pm, at Creamer's Farmhouse.

Bring the family to learn about Alaska's winter birds and build a bird feeder to take home.

Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 31

Compilation Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm at the Girl Scout Hall. Details in next month's newsletter.

Arctic Audubon Board of Directors

email address: arcticaudubon@netscape.net

President: Gail Mayo (479-2954)

Vice President: Amy Turner (474-4227)

Secretary: Ann Wood (455-4625)

Treasurer: Gail Mayo (479-2954)

Education: Open

Conservation: Open

Hospitality: Brook Gamble (456-3775)

Programs: Open

Publicity: Open

Newsletter: Mary Zalar (479-4547)

Membership: Mary Zalar (479-4547)

Field Trips: Tom Green (452-6370)

Birdathon: Sherry Lewis (479-0848)

Web Site: Jim Logan

Alaska Audubon Board: Frank Keim (451-9308)

Birding Hotline: (907) 451-9213



Updated by Laurel Devaney & Ken Russell

Report interesting bird sightings;
learn what others have spotted.

also at

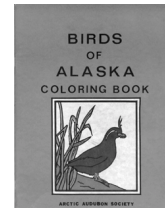
www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/index.html

Birds of Alaska Coloring Book

for sales information call

Gail Mayo, 479-2954 or

Amy Turner, 474-4227



Audubon Society New Member 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.