



The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vol. 28 Issue No. 5

March 2006

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.

Inside...

- ABO Events 3
- Calendar 4
- Climate Change 2
- Owling Night 2
- Recycling in Fairbanks 3
- Small Grant Proposals 2
- Tanana Lakes Update 3
- UA Museum Events 3

One People, One River:

An introduction to the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

slide presentation by Laura Phillips

Monday, March 13, 7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

The Yukon River—over 2,200 miles long and draining an area of 330,000 square miles—supports the largest and longest inland run of Pacific salmon in the world. The River and surrounding lands provide over fifty percent of the Indigenous peoples’ food and nutrition in the form of fish, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, rabbit, beaver, ducks, goose and other animals. The overall population of the entire watershed is approximately 110,000 people, roughly 60% of whom are Tribal or First Nation citizens.



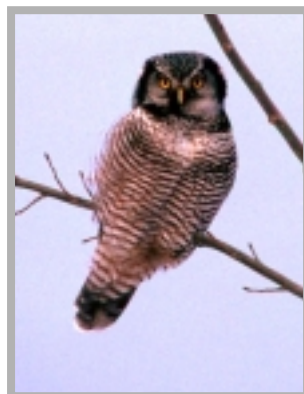
Children from Carcross, Yukon Territory, Canada swim in the headwaters of the Yukon River.

Photo by YRITWC staff

In 1997 a group of 56 chiefs and elders gathered in Galena, Alaska, to discuss their concern about increased cancers and other health problems in human communities and game species within the Yukon River watershed. From this gathering and based on these concerns, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) was formed to restore the River and to protect it from further contamination.

The long-term vision—and the guiding light for the organization—was articulated by those Tribal leaders at the historic 1997 Summit: to once again drink clean water directly

continued on page 2



Owling with Arctic Audubon

It’s spring and the owls are calling! Go on an evening hike to listen for owls on Saturday, March 4 at 6:30 pm. Meet at the end of Jones Road in the Goldstream Valley. To get there, take Goldstream Road to Ivory Jacks, then take Jones Road north until the road ends (at the intersection with Waldheim Drive) We’ll go out for a couple hours so bring a headlamp or flashlight. We’ll be hiking the O’Conner Creek Trail. For more details contact Tom Green at 452-6370 or fftkg@uaf.edu.

Global Warming, Climate Change, or Global Climate Disruption

from Alaska Conservation Voters' Newsletter
Conservation Watch, 2006, No. 3

“As an issue that is vital to the future of the state, it is essential that global warming’s effects be thoughtfully documented and more importantly that there be recommendations on measures that would address or mitigate the near and long-term effects.

This is where Sen. Olson (D-Nome) and Rep. Joule (D-Kotzebue) have stepped in to come to the rescue. Both legislators—whose constituents have huge stakes in the outcome—have introduced different pieces of legislation, **SB278** and **HCR30**, that would launch this very important effort by setting up a representative task force or commission to address a variety of impact questions and make recommendations to the Legislature.”

Arctic Audubon’s Board of Directors urges every member to take a few moments to contact your legislative representatives regarding this important legislation—SB 278 and HCR30.

One People, One River

continued from page 1

from the Yukon River as our ancestors did for thousands of years before us. This is currently not possible without suffering significant health impacts due primarily to industrial and military contamination, mining, and poor municipal solid waste management. Aiming to address the root causes of these problems instead of just the symptoms, the YRITWC was created by the Tribes and First Nations in the watershed to amplify their individual voices and find collective solutions to protect and restore the River that do not pit one group’s well-being against another. More information is available at www.yritwc.com.

Laura will talk about the communities YRITWC works with in the Yukon River watershed, successes in reducing and managing solid waste problems in the villages, and upcoming studies and programs.

Laura Phillips graduated from UAF with an MS in Wildlife Biology in August 2005 and has been working as the Science, Research and Mapping technician for the watershed council since October 2005.

Small Grant Proposals Due March 15th

Arctic Audubon Society’s Small Grants Program funds conservation related projects that support our mission to protect Alaskan ecosystems by encouraging research, education, and management that will contribute to appreciation and good stewardship of our natural heritage.

In 2006, Arctic Audubon will consider applications for grants of \$500 to \$2,000. Partial funding may be offered to successful applicants. Projects should enhance the understanding and conservation of Alaska’s organisms and/or ecosystems. Projects dedicated to increasing public awareness and knowledge of conservation issues will also be considered. High school and middle school students and organizations are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should submit a cover letter introducing themselves, a single page description of the project, a budget, and a timeline for completion. Successful recipients will be expected to submit a report of outcomes and be willing to give a short presentation on the project (if requested).

Applications are due March 15, 2006. For information about Arctic Audubon Society, please visit our website at www.arcticaudubon.org. Please direct questions and submit all materials to: Arctic Audubon Society, Small Grants Program, PO Box 82098, Fairbanks AK 99708 or via email to arcticaudubon@netscape.net.

Owling Night

Wednesday, March 29

7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium



See a live boreal owl and great horned owl with bird rehabilitator, Lorrie Hawkins. Learn about the unique ways of owls in the wild with biologist Jack Whitman, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sponsored by Friends of Creamer’s Field.

Recycling in Fairbanks

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Recycling Plan and Analysis Summary Report is now available! This report explores three possible recycling options:

- 1) maintain existing program (no changes);
- 2) source-separated collection of recyclables at existing transfer stations by Mobile Recycling Centers;
- 3) commingled collection of recyclables at unmanned transfer stations.

Check out the plan in its entirety on the FNSB website at <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/> under hot topics and contact Mayor Whittaker at mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us with your comments, questions or concerns.

Tanana Lakes Project Gains Momentum

Plans to clean up and revitalize the South Cushman ponds, creating the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area, are moving forward. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is pursuing funding from a variety of sources to create a master plan and begin site clean up. Project Coordinator John Haas recently announced:

- 1) The Borough Assembly appropriated \$125,000 for the completion of a master plan and site assessment for the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area.
- 2) An agreement between the Borough and the Department of Natural Resources allows the Borough to spend \$144,046 (from gravel royalties) on Tanana Lakes Recreation Area clean up.
- 3) The Borough will receive funds through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Grant to begin construction of some site amenities.
- 4) The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is requesting funds through the state legislative process to construct a boat launch, parking lot, picnic shelters, and restrooms on the site with federal funding from the Dingell-Johnson Program.
- 5) A small grant request to the National Association of Counties seeks funds to complete limited site clean up and habitat restoration.

Learn more about this exciting project at Arctic Audubon's program on Monday, April 10th at 7:00 pm in the Noel Wien Library Auditorium. FNSB Parks and Recreation staff will update us on the project.

Events at the Alaska Bird Observatory

Fairbanks Feeder Count, Saturday, March 4

Help scientists track winter bird abundance and movements by counting birds at your feeder. For a count form, contact the Alaska Bird Observatory at 451-7159 or www.alaskabird.org.

Kids EGG-stravaganza, Tuesday, March 14, 1-3 pm

Kids of all ages can learn about amazing eggs through on-going activities and displays. Listen to stories and decorate an egg of your own. \$2/child.

ABO Annual Meeting and Dessert Social, Thursday, March 30, 7 pm

Join the Alaska Bird Observatory staff and board members to enjoy dessert and learn about ABO's bird research, education programs, and volunteer opportunities. Dr. Susan Sharbaugh will give a presentation about ABO's research on Arctic Warblers along the Denali Highway.

UA Museum of the North Presentations

Lecture: *Alaskan Masters, Old and New* Thursday, March 9, 7 pm

Artist and guest curator Kesler Woodward will talk about the museum's current exhibit, *A New Sense of Wonder*, www.uaf.edu/museum/exhibit/ansow.html, and how contemporary artists are reinterpreting the North and moving beyond the image of Alaska presented by Sydney Laurence, Eustace Ziegler, Rusty Heurlin, Fred Machetanz and others. Free admission.

Gallery Opening: *The Place Where You Go to Listen* Tuesday, March 21

John Luther Adams' sound and light environment gives voice to the cycles of daylight and darkness, the phases of the moon, seismic activity and the aurora using real-time data. This unique, ever-changing work of art will be a permanent installation in the museum's new wing. Open during regular museum hours. Museum admission charged.

Arctic Audubon Society
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Fairbanks, AK 99708
www.arcticaudubon.org

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Fairbanks AK

Upcoming Events--Mark Your Calendar

Fairbanks FeederCount, Saturday, March 4

For count forms, contact the Alaska Bird Observatory at 451-7159 or www.alaskabird.org.

One People, One River, Monday, March 13, 7 pm, Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Laura Phillips will talk about the communities in the Yukon River watershed and studies and programs of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council.

Small Grant Proposals Due Wednesday, March 15

More information on page 2.

Arctic Audubon Board Meeting, Monday, March 27, 5:30 pm, Noel Wien Library

Members are welcome at our business meeting.

Owling Night, Wednesday, March 29, 7 pm, Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Arctic Audubon Board of Directors

email address: arcticaudubon@netscape.net

President: Gail Mayo

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Ann Wood

Treasurer: Gail Mayo

Education: Megan Phillips

Conservation: Kristi Bailey

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

National 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

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Chapter Only Membership, \$10

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