



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 postcard notices or newsletters 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.

The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska

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www.arcticaudubon.org

December 2011

Join us for the Annual Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 17, 2011

Fairbanks birders are invited to join in the annual Christmas Bird Count. We are hoping that we will be awarded a pleasant day to get out and record the birds using our count area. There is always room for a less experienced birder to join a team and help spot and count birds. Don't wait until the last minute to contact your area coordinator, do it now. The bird count information page in this newsletter and the data entry sheet will get you started.

We have slightly altered the compilation set-up this year due to the fact that the count comes on a busy weekend just before the holidays. We urge you to come directly to the Kunkel Center after your count where you will find hot drinks and a light supper of hot soup and rolls to enjoy while you turn in your data and pay your fee. We will be compiling on the spot, thanks to Jim DeWitt, and you will be welcome to stay as long as you wish or dash off to your next event.

Folks outside of Fairbanks can participate in the following Christmas Bird Counts:

- Cantwell Christmas Bird Count, Friday, December 23rd, contact Jill Boelsma at 907-768-2266 or Nan Eagleson at 907-683-2822.
- Denali Park Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, December 18th, contact Nan Eagleson at 907-683-2822.
- Delta Junction Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 17th, contact Steve Dubois at 907-895-4851.

Have You Missed Us?

Arctic Audubon Society did not sponsor public programs at the library or communicate with members as we usually do in October and November. We hope you have missed us! Regular activities resume with Christmas Bird Count on December 17th and public programs starting in January.

To keep Arctic Audubon Society active and vibrant, we need additional volunteers and board members. Program Chair Lauren Attanas is resigning to focus on parenthood (baby due in January!). Please let us know if you can help schedule programs or manage publicity.

To volunteer, email us at arcticaudubon@gmail.com, call Mary at 479-4547, or stop by our next board meeting on Thursday, December 15th, 11:30 am in Gulliver's Second Story Café meeting room.

New Signs Highlight Wildlife Areas

This is one of the signs Arctic Audubon had a hand in installing at the peat ponds on Goldstream Road. Since their "restoration" after an ecological assault by a peat extraction, the peat ponds at the corner of Goldstream Road, Sheep Creek Road and Murphy Dome Road have become a favorite birding spot, as well as a marvelous place to skate, ski and explore. Frank Keim orchestrated the production and installation of the signs. Superior Hardwoods supplied the wood, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation did the routing, and Frank and Jennifer Keim painted and finished the signs. Interior Alaska Land Trust (title holder of the properties) installed the signs—two at the peat ponds and one at the Blueberry Preserve on Ballaine Road. Hopefully, the signs will signal that these are special natural places deserving of respect.



51ST ANNUAL FAIRBANKS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 17th, 2011

Compilation at Kunkel Community Center, 4:00 pm

Please contact the coordinator of the area in which you want to count as soon as possible. If you have no preference, or can't reach your coordinator, contact Gail Mayo, 479-2954 or mayogail@gmail.com

West Goldstream

Brian Lawhead

455-6849

lawhead@mosquitonet.com

University

Gail Mayo

479-2954

mayogail@gmail.com

Ester

Tom Zimmer

451-0697

calypsotom@gmail.com

Creamer's Refuge

Mark Ross

459-7301 (w)

markross@alaska.gov

Chena Ridge

Joyce Potter

479-3523 (h)

jpotter@alaska.net

East Goldstream

Joseph Ransdell-Green

452-6370

joethebirder@hotmail.com

Farmer's Loop

Nancy DeWitt

457-1420 (h)

nancy@wildwingsetc.com

Steese/Wainwright

Dan McGauhey

451-0776

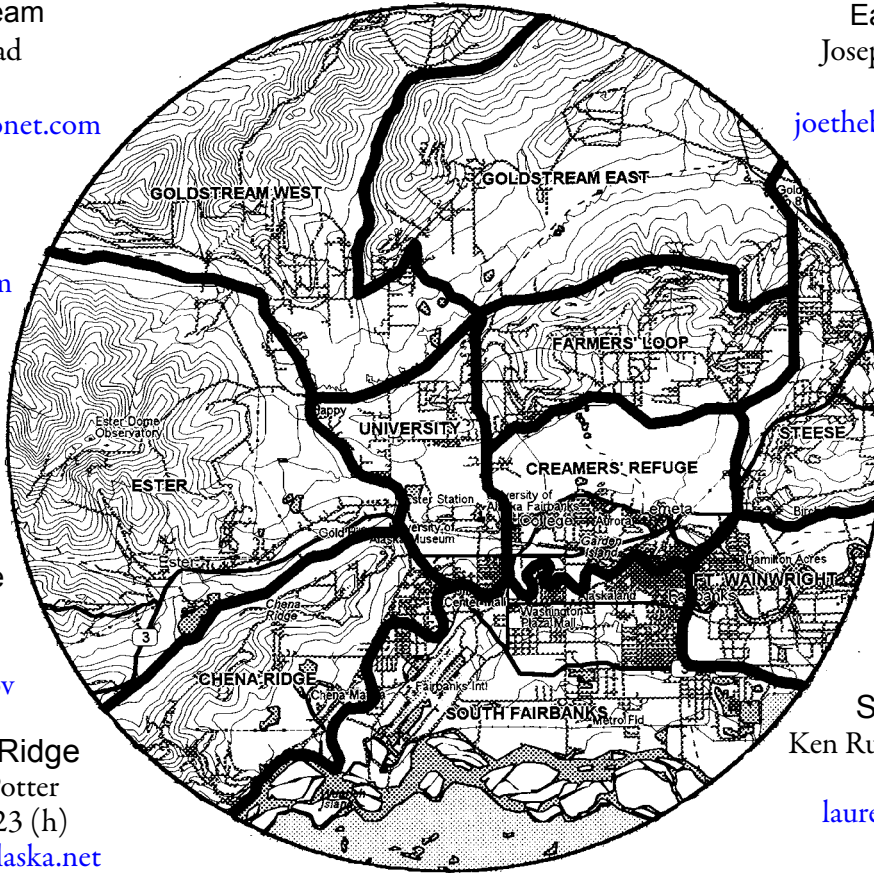
danmcg@acsalaska.net

South Fairbanks

Ken Russell & Laurel Devaney

488-8170 (h)

laurel_devaney@fws.gov



Each Christmas Bird Count lasts 24 hours and covers a 177 square mile circle that is 15 miles in diameter. The Fairbanks count is centered on the intersection of Dalton Trail and Yankovich Road. The circle includes the top of Ester Dome, parts of the Chena and Tanana Rivers, the dump, and plenty of typical Interior habitat. The **object of the count** is to cover as much of the circle as possible while identifying and counting birds without duplication. Since our daylight hours are limited we need many volunteers willing to cover assigned areas.

- **Field observers** cover an assigned area and record species, numbers, and effort. Please use the data sheet on the next page.
- **Feeder watchers** participate by counting the largest number of birds of each species seen together on that day. Please use the data sheet on the next page.
- During “**count week**” (three days before and after count day) additional species seen or heard within the count circle can be added to the final list of species observed.

A \$5 fee is required from field observers over 18 years old. Observers under 18, feeder watchers, and owl listeners are not required to pay but will not receive the CBC issue of *American Birds* unless they choose to pay. Make sure we have your correct mailing address and let us know if you do not want to receive the CBC issue.

Plan to join us at 4:00 pm for the compilation and supper at the Kunkel Community Center on Goldstream Road near Ivory Jack's. See directions at www.goldstreamvalley.net/kunkel. The doors will be open at 4:00 pm and hot drinks plus hot soup and rolls will be provided. Bring your bird count data and, if you wish, bring a dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Christmas Bird Count is on line with data from 1900 to present at www.audubon.org.

If you can't attend the compilation, be sure to contact your area coordinator or report your data to 460-4659 (after 4:00 pm). Final results will be available on our website, www.arcticaudubon.org, and published in *The Redpoll*.

Fairbanks Christmas Bird Count Data Entry Sheet (December 17, 2011)

2011 DATA ENTRY SHEET		2007	2008	2009	2010
Area:		70	72	74	76
	Parties				
	Car	441	609	589	545
	Foot	78	46	42	73
Observer:	Ski/SShoe	20	13	15	62
	Other	21	22	36	20
Observer:	Car	69	83	84	78
	Foot	41	34	33	55
Observer:	Ski/SShoe	12	7	7	30
	Other	5	3	6	6
Observer:	Feeder	65	67	72	74
Additional Species Observed During Count Week					
Feeder Count	Field Count				
		325	237	225	605
	Mallard				
	Northern Pintail				
	Common Goldeneye	9	8	9	63
	Barrow's Goldeneye	1		2	2
	Common Merganser	10	3	2	25
	Goldeneye sp.			2	
	Duck sp.				2
	Ruffed Grouse	12	25	6	2
	Spruce Grouse	3		1	3
	Willow Ptarmigan		14		6
	Sharp-tailed Grouse				1
	Grouse sp.			1	
	Ptarmigan sp.				2
	Bald Eagle	*			
	Sharp-shinned Hawk				
	Northern Goshawk	1	*	1	1
	Peregrine Falcon	1			
	Rock Pigeon	277	145	81	698
	Great Horned Owl	2	*	*	*
	Northern Hawk Owl	1	2		2
	Great Grey Owl				
	Boreal Owl		*	*	*

Add'l Species	Feeder Count	Field Count	2007	2008	2009	2010
		Downy Woodpecker	22	22	33	39
		Hairy Woodpecker	26	37	26	44
		3-toed Woodpecker	2	2	4	1
		Black-backed Woodpecker		1		
		Woodpecker sp.	1	1	4	4
		Northern Shrike	1	4	2	1
		Gray Jay	87	66	43	114
		Black-billed Magpie	5	8	2	10
		Common Raven	1505	991	1638	93
		Foraging				905
		Commuting				430
		Black-cap'd Chickadee	1011	761	739	1206
		Boreal Chickadee	249	200	203	280
		Chickadee sp.	28	22	9	80
		Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	3	7	1
		Brown Creeper				2
		American Robin	3	1	2	3
		Townsend's Solitaire	2			
		Bohemian Waxwing	441	318	254	281
		Fox Sparrow				
		White-crowned Sparrow				1
		Dark-eyed Junco	3			2
		Snow Bunting				
		Pine Grosbeak	103	124	95	40
		White-winged Crossbill	4	580	12	56
		Common Redpoll	399	1375	1658	706
		Hoary Redpoll	29	19	23	3
		Redpoll sp.	1204	4847	3399	1660
		Pine Siskin				

Bird Count Total	5773	9816	8483	7375
CBC Day Species	24	24	24	31
Week Species	28	27	26	33

* Additional Species
Sponsors - Arctic Audubon Society and Alaska Bird Observatory



Arctic Audubon Society
 PO Box 82098
 Fairbanks, AK 99708

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Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

Green Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, December 10, 10 am–5 pm, Alaska Bird Observatory

Shop “green” by getting all your nature-themed holiday gifts in one location!

Fairbanks Christmas Bird Count, December 17

See details for the inside this newsletter.

Interior Alaska Christmas Bird Counts

Cantwell Christmas Bird Count, December 23

Denali Park Christmas Bird Count, December 18

Delta Junction Christmas Bird Count, December 17

Keith Echelmeyer Memorial Ski, Saturday, March 3

Arctic Audubon members are all invited to participate in this event. Details will be announced in February.

Arctic Audubon Board of Directors

email address: arcticaudubon@gmail.com

President: Gail Mayo (479-2954)

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Paulette Wille

Treasurer: Janet Daley (457-1583)

Education: Melissa Sikes (374-2826)

Conservation: Joseph Ransdell-Green (452-6370)

Hospitality: Brook Gamble (456-3775)

Programs: Lauren Attanas (456-1108)

Newsletter: Mary Zalar (479-4547)

Membership: Mary Zalar (479-4547)

Field Trips: Frank Keim (451-9308)

Birdathon: Sherry Lewis (479-0848)

Web Site: Tom Green (452-6370)

Alaska Audubon Board: Dave Shaw (590-7023)

Birding Hotline
(907) 451-9213

Updated by Laurel Devaney & Ken Russell

Report interesting bird sightings;
 learn what others have spotted.

National Audubon Society
New Member Form

Introductory rate \$20

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 would like to receive email announcements from Arctic Audubon Society. My email address is:

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

Send to: Arctic Audubon Society
 PO Box 82098 **C2ZA520Z**
 Fairbanks, AK 99708

Chapter Only Membership, \$10

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