



The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska

Vol. 37 Issue No. 1

www.arcticaudubon.org

November 2014

Arctic Audubon & the FNSB Noel Wien Library present...

Butterflies of Alaska: The Kenelm Philip Legacy

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.



presentation by Kath Daly

Monday, November 10th, 7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Alaska's butterfly expert, Dr. Kenelm Philip, died suddenly in March 2014. With his death, the second largest collection of Arctic butterflies and moths in the world was moved to the University of Alaska Museum! The collection is a national treasure. Dr. Philip filled a huge void in our biological knowledge of the butterflies and moths of the North. Kath Daly will talk about Dr. Ken Philip's incredible Alaska Lepidoptera Survey, and share her progress in working on his collection.

Kath Daly is an entomology technician at the University of Alaska Museum. She is a Coloradan who first came to Alaska in 2011 to study caterpillars at Toolik Field Station on the North Slope. She fell in love with Arctic Lepidoptera and decided to move permanently to Alaska in 2013.



Dr. Kenelm Philip

Build It and They Will Come—Winter Bird Feeders & FeederCount

The Alaska Songbird Institute and the Folk School are offering a new class "Feed the Birds" on November 12, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Folk School (fee \$20). Do you enjoy having a bird feeder up in winter but don't know the names of the birds you see? Want to review your bird ID? Not sure what bird seed is best? This class will start with a fun introduction to winter bird identification. Then we'll cover bird feeder basics before building two types of simple bird feeders and learning how to make suet. Visit the Alaska Songbird Institute website for details, www.aksongbird.org.

We'll also discuss how watching your feeder can help birds when you participate in the Fairbanks FeederCount which starts November 15th. Fairbanks FeederCount is a citizen-science program that documents winter bird population trends in the Fairbanks area. It was originally founded and maintained by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, then was managed for many years by the Alaska Bird Observatory. Arctic Audubon Society and the Alaska Songbird Institute have now teamed up to continue the count into the future. See pages 2 and 3 for instructions and a Count form.

Participate in the 28th Annual Fairbanks FeederCount November 15th, December 13th, and March 7th (3 Saturdays)

This year marks the 28th winter of Fairbanks FeederCount! With the help of many local bird feeders we have accumulated quite an interesting record of local bird populations over time. Thanks to all who have participated over the years, and to all who will count this year!

Count Instructions

Count only the birds seen on your count day. Another day within a week of the scheduled day may be substituted, if necessary. If a pair of Downy Woodpeckers has been coming fairly regularly to your feeder but fail to show up on your count day, they should not be reported.

Eligible Birds – Count only birds that are attracted to the food or grit you set out. If a species comes to your feeder, count those at the feeder and others waiting nearby. Do not count birds coming to chokecherry trees or other sources of food, grit or shelter – unless at least one of that species was attracted to your feeder offerings as well. Please comment on interesting observations of other birds, such as waxwings, crossbills, shrikes, owls, or goshawks, and note the circumstances concerning those sightings.

Estimating Numbers – Count the maximum number of each species around your feeders at any one time on the count day. If you have 3 Black-capped Chickadees at your feeders and you see 6 more perched in the nearby shrubs, your count would be 9. If later on your count day, you see 11 Black-capped Chickadees at once, change your report to 11. (Do not add 9 + 11 and report 20.) Follow the same protocol for each species. With large flocks of Redpolls,

count by 2s, 5s, or 10s to come up with a reasonable estimate (it is common to underestimate numbers in large, dense groups).

When & Where to Turn in

Count Forms – Please hold on to this form and fill in your counts for each of the three count days. Return the form following the March count. If you would rather return your form after each count, please feel free to do so. It is ok to copy this form and share it with others. **Mail completed forms to the Alaska Songbird Institute, P.O. Box 80235, Fairbanks, AK 99708 or email forms to tricia.blake@aksongbird.org.**

Contributions – Fairbanks FeederCount would not be possible without the support of our participants—scientifically and financially. Contributions pay for the creation of data forms, outreach, printing project materials, and more. We appreciate all those who have donated in the past. Please consider supporting this program with a donation today!

Identification Assistance – For help with bird identification, visit the Alaska Songbird Institute's website: www.aksongbird.org. There you will find extra data sheets and free bird feeding resources, including a *Common Winter Feeder Birds of Alaska* poster available for download and a link to the reporting form for any birds with deformed bills. (For more information on this phenomenon, called avian keratin disorder, visit the FeederCount tab on ASI's website.)

Thank you for your participation!



Snow Geese and Ross's Geese
Photo by Steve Emmons, FWS

Celebrate 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act: Protect the Arctic Refuge

This year marks the 50th anniversary of President Johnson signing the Wilderness Act. This landmark law has protected our nation's heritage of wild places across the country, including places in Alaska such as Gates of the Arctic Wilderness and Denali Wilderness in Denali National Park.

The efforts to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge inspired the creation of the Wilderness Act. The coastal plain of the refuge hosts more than 150 species of birds, as well as polar bears, musk oxen, wolves, and the 197,000-animal Porcupine caribou herd during the calving

season. An Important Bird Area of continental significance, the coastal plain is a crucial staging area for up to 325,000 lesser Snow Geese as they prepare for their fall migration.

Unfortunately, this unparalleled 1.5-million-acre habitat has never received Wilderness protection, leaving it vulnerable to harmful oil and gas development.

There is no better time than right now, at the anniversary of an American ideal of treasuring our wilderness heritage for future generations, to push for Wilderness Act protection for the coastal plain. Please send a letter to President Obama to recommend a Wilderness designation for the coastal plain to help protect this extraordinary place once and for all: www.audubonaction.org/site/Advocacy?id=1753.

Fairbanks FeederCount 2014-15

Alaska Songbird Institute
www.aksongbird.org &

Arctic Audubon Society
www.arcticaudubon.org

Observer: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Add to ASI email list? _____

Section of Borough: _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to support Fairbanks FeederCount.

Types of Food

Indicate total quantity.
 Specify any not listed.

	Blk Oil Sun. Seed
	Sunflower Chips
	Mixed Seed
	Niger (Thistle)
	Suet/Fat
	Peanut Butter
	Grit

Number of Birds at Your Feeders

(Remember to record only the maximum number of each species seen at any one time on each count day. (Please see back for more detailed instructions.)

Winter 2014-2015	Nov 15	Dec 13	Mar 7
Watched but no birds seen			
Ruffed Grouse			
Spruce Grouse			
Rock Dove (Pigeon)			
Downy Woodpecker			
Hairy Woodpecker			
Gray Jay			
Black-capped Chickadee			
Boreal Chickadee			
Red-breasted Nuthatch			
Pine Grosbeak			
Redpolls (total)			
Hoary			
Common			
Dark-eyed Junco			
Other:			
Temperature/Weather			

Types of Feeders

Indicate number of each.
 Specify any not listed.

	Tray or Shelf
	Hopper/Enclosed
	Tube
	Clinger
	Hanging Suet
	Suet on tree

Outdoor Pets

	Cats
	Dogs

Housing Density

Check the appropriate box.

	High (≤ 0.5 acre lots)
	Moderate (0.6-2 acres)
	Low (2-5 acre lots)
	Rural (< 1 house/5 acres)

Your Habitat: Indicate the % coverage of each type of vegetation within 1 km (0.62 mile) radius of feeders.

Lake/Pond (water & shore)	Low Shrub (0.04 – 1.0 meter)	Coniferous Forest (dominant species =
Stream/River (water & shore)	Medium Shrub (1.1 – 2.4 m)	
Wet Meadow	Tall Shrub Thicket (> 2.5 m)	Scattered Forest (Black Spruce)
Grass Meadow	Deciduous Forest (dominant species =	
Dwarf Shrub (< 0.04 meter)		

National Audubon Society New Member Form

Introductory rate \$20

Membership includes both National Audubon Society and the local chapter, Arctic Audubon Society. You will receive National Audubon's magazine, *Audubon*, and postcard notices or newsletters from Arctic Audubon Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

C4ZA520Z

City

State

Zip

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

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

Chapter Only Membership, \$10

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

Local Bird Sightings Reported on

Boreal Birder

<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/BorealBirder/info>



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Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

website: www.arcticaudubon.org
facebook: www.facebook.com/arcticaudubon

Butterflies of Alaska, Monday, November 10, 7 pm, Noel Wien Library Auditorium. Presentation by Kath Daly about Dr. Kenelm Philip's Butterfly Survey.

Feed the Birds, Wednesday, November 12, 6:30–8:30 pm, The Folk School. Workshop about bird identification, bird feeder basics, and feeder construction. \$20

Fairbanks FeederCount, sponsored by Arctic Audubon Society and The Songbird Institute, details on pp 2-3

Saturday, November 15

Saturday, December 13

Saturday, March 7



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