



The Redpoll

Newsletter of the Arctic Audubon Society

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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.

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

Undescribed Diversity in Alaskan Alpine Beetles

an Arctic Audubon Small Grants Project

presentation by Logan Mullen, UAF Graduate Student

Monday, March 2nd, 7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

In 2014, an Arctic Audubon Small Grant provided funds to support Logan Mullen's research to describe a new Alaskan beetle and document impacts of climate change. Logan will give an account of fieldwork and preliminary results of a study of *Phlaeopterus*, a genus rove beetles. These beetles are found primarily at the edges of alpine snowfields, where they scavenge insects from the snowfields surface, making them particularly sensitive to the impacts of climate change. Logan is describing several new *Phlaeopterus* species, two of which occur in Alaska.



Photos of Logan Mullen at work in the lab and in the field.



Logan Mullen is a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks studying beetle systematics (taxonomy and evolution) in the University of Alaska Museum Entomology lab. Before coming to Fairbanks, he studied ecology at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota. Logan's fascination with insects is lifelong, and he hopes to continue museum collections-based insect research throughout his career.

Action Alert for

Special Eastern Alaska BLM Lands

March 3 is the deadline for comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on two proposals that will give BLM better management options on some of the lands they oversee in Fortymile Country. Fortymile country is roughly described as the wild lands north and west of the Alaska and Taylor Highways near the Canada-US border. The Fortymile River enters the Yukon River in Canada. As in much of Alaska, BLM is just one of several land managers in this area.

Areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) are designated by BLM to protect and prevent degradation of important natural systems with historic, cultural, scenic and ecological values. An ACEC designation allows BLM to design measures specific to the values for which the ACEC is designated.

The two proposed areas are Mosquito Flats ACEC and additions to the Fortymile Wild and Scenic Rivers Corridor ACEC. These two ACECs will protect important wildlife habitat from new mining development in the future

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Proposals for Arctic Audubon's 2015 Small Grant Program due March 15th

Arctic Audubon will consider applications for small grants of *up to* \$2,000. Partial funding may be offered. Proposed projects should enhance the understanding and conservation of Northern Alaska's organisms and/or ecosystems.

Detailed instructions and guidelines are available at www.arcticaudubon.org.

Eastern Alaska BLM Lands

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and, most importantly for the present situation, the additions will allow for limits on Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use. Habitat alteration and/or destruction by inappropriate ORV use in these areas is already a concern.

Wildlife using the marshy Mosquito Flats are numerous waterfowl (including Trumpeter Swans) and mosquitoes plus ideal summer moose habitat. The Mosquito Flats ACEC is 30,000 acres. The Fortymile ACEC proposed is 685,000 acres and includes the wild and scenic rivers corridors plus Caribou and Dall Sheep habitat.

Comments can be emailed to easterninterior@blm.gov or mailed to Eastern Interior Field Office, attn. Eastern Interior RMP, Jeannie Cole, Bureau of Land Management, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Ak 99709,



Chemical contaminants suspect in mystery of Alaska chickadee beak deformities

A February 16th article in the *Alaska Dispatch News* offers an update on the research about what causes beak deformities in Chickadees found in Alaska. The link to this article is: www.adn.com/article/20150216/chemical-contaminants-suspect-mystery-alaska-chickadee-beak-deformities

New research by USGS biologists Colleen Handel and Caroline Van Hemert is published in the journal *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* and suggests that environmental contaminants might be linked to the deformities.

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Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

Undescribed Diversity in Alaskan Alpine Beetles by Logan Miller, Monday, March 2, 7 pm, Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Birding in Nome by Dan McGauhey, Monday, April 6, 7 pm, Noel Wien Library Auditorium

Arctic Audubon Spring Field Trips, details TBA

April 18 Spring Birding in Delta Junction area

May 9 Waterfowl Identification

May 16 Shorebird Identification

May 23 Songbird Identification (Birding by ear)

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