



Arctic Audubon Society
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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.

How Arctic Audubon Will Communicate with You!

A new year is an opportunity to renew, review, and reimagine. Your Arctic Audubon Board is discussing how best to communicate with members. The “Newsletter” committee has been renamed “Communications” committee to reflect additional ways we share information. Your Board recently decided to transition to electronic communications to members, maintain our Facebook page, and possibly mail postcard notices about programs and field trips. Your ideas and opinions are needed and welcomed! Please share your thoughts or concerns via email, arcticaudubon@gmail.com.

Email Communication

- MailChimp will be used to maintain the list of email addresses. A button on Arctic Audubon’s website will make it easy to submit your email address if we don’t already have it.
- Arctic Audubon will not overwhelm members with emails (1-2 per month at most). Each email includes an “unsubscribe” link at the bottom.

Needed: a Communications Chair

Would you volunteer to guide Chapter communications as chairperson? Help decide what our members should know. The position and responsibilities are not yet clearly defined. The Chairperson would probably think about what information members should have, contact the appropriate person to write an article, format and send the email. The Membership Chair will manage the email list.

Does Arctic Audubon have YOUR email address?

Currently, Arctic Audubon has email addresses for over half of our members. By mid-February, our website will include a button to submit your address. We hope to send our first email to members by then. If you don’t hear from Arctic Audubon, be sure to submit your email address.

Arctic Audubon hopes to hold spring field trips and looks forward to resuming public programs when the pandemic is under control and the Noel Wien Library auditorium is available. Thanks for your membership and participation!

Fairbanks Christmas Bird Count: Remarkable in Many Ways

Christmas Bird Count Results Inside

December 19, 2020 was the 60th annual Fairbanks Christmas Bird Count. It was a remarkable day in many ways perhaps starting with the fact that we were able to hold the count safely amid a global pandemic! Along with our long-time cadre of area coordinators, we had three new coordinators join us this year. Dave Hejna took over the University area from John Wright, Maria Berger took over Goldstream East from Gail Mayo, and April Harding-Scurr took over Ester from Claire Stuyck. We had a record number of 157 participants this year—perhaps partially due to the cancellation of almost all traditional holiday events. All those extra eyes at feeders and in the field counted higher than normal numbers of Three-toed, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees, Nuthatches, Canada Jays and Waxwings.

There were also some very unusual bird sightings this year. A Sharpshinned Hawk seen in the University area may have been the rarest find. However, USFWS biologist Ted Swem, counting Ravens at the landfill saw four individual Bald Eagles. Prior to 2020, single Eagles had only been noted twice before. To have four birds in the area at once is truly remarkable. The star of 2020 though, may have been the very common (and this year extraordinarily abundant) Redpoll. In 2019, over 100 people scouring our CBC area found only 41 Redpolls total. This year, the tiny finches were everywhere, and a record total of 8,629 were counted.

Thanks to all who participated this year. Hopefully, our new volunteers will join us again next year and 2021 will find us back sharing good food, comradery, and our avian finds of the day at our traditional compilation potluck.

National Audubon Society Membership with Chapter Membership, \$20

Membership includes both National Audubon Society and the local chapter, Arctic Audubon Society. You will receive National Audubon’s magazine, *Audubon*, and email or postcard notices from Arctic Audubon Society. Donations to Audubon Alaska also include membership in National Audubon and Arctic Audubon.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ City State Zip

Email Address: _____

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 only, make check payable to Arctic Audubon Society. You will receive email or postcard notices from the Chapter.

Arctic Audubon Board of Directors

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Arctic Audubon Society publishes postcard notices or newsletters for its members monthly fall through spring. National Audubon Society (NAS) dues are \$20. NAS membership includes local chapter membership. Chapter only membership is \$10 and includes the newsletter.

2020 Audubon Christmas Bird Count (121st); the 60th Christmas Bird Count in Fairbanks, Alaska–December 19, 2020

SUMMARY FOR:												TOTAL		Chena Ridge		Creamer's		Ester		South Fairbanks		Farmers Loop		Steese		W. Goldstream		E. Goldstream		University		TOTALS	
												Count Day	Count Week	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder	Field	Feeder
Parties:	77	71	71	71	74	86	81	88	91	90	148.0		7.0	4.0	9.0	1.0	13.0	7.0	9.0		6.0	14.0	8.0	5.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	11.0	13.0	20.0	80.0	68.0	
Participants:	103	99	100	107	91	106	102	101	108	109	157.0		11.0		12.0		18.0		15.0		6.0		8.0		16.0		6.0	6.0	12.0	14.0	17.0	28.0	115.0
–Miles–																																	
Car	545	475	552	513	515	469	383	699	572	558	569.0		104.0		65.5		52.3		110.0		57.8		58.7		38.7		17.0		65.0		569.0	0.0	
Foot	73	60	54	66	74	99	77	74	60	95	148.4		2.5		25.5		32.1		15.8		10.0		4.0		13.0		19.5		26.0		148.4	0.0	
Ski/SnowShoe	62	16	60	32	39	22	38	28	29	46	48.1		2.0		10.0				9.6		9.0		10.5				7.0		48.1	0.0			
Other: dogsled, bike, snow	20	13	37	27	17	40	28	36	24	23	33.5				23.0												10.5		33.5	0.0			
Total Miles:	700	582	703	638	645	629	527	836	685	722	799.0		108.5	0.0	124.0	0.0	84.4		135.4	0.0	76.8	0.0	73.2	0.0	51.7		47.0	0.0	98.0	0.0	799.0	0.0	
—Hours—																																	
Car	78	67	69	77	78	68	64	71	88	84	78.7		16.0		6.0		6.4		16.2		5.5		15.5		2.8		1.5		8.8		78.7	0.0	
Foot	55	38	37	47	56	76	67	54	52	90	122.5		1.5		21.7		33.2		12.0		3.8		2.3		11.8		15.3		21.0		122.5	0.0	
Ski/SnowShoe	30	8	23	12	6	10	22	12	15	32	24.7		1.5		4.0				7.5		2.8		5.1				3.8		24.7	0.0			
Other: dogsled, bike, snow	1		10	8	6	15	9	8	6	6	8.5				5.0												3.5		8.5	0.0			
Feeder	75	53	50	48	84	75	69	90	88	71	163.6		11.5			3.5						33.0		16.0		11.5		26.5		38.2	0.0	152.1	
Total Hours:	224	119.00	188.00	191.00	239.00	243.00	230.00	234.65	249.00	283.00	397.9		30.5	0.0	36.7	3.5	39.6	23.4	35.7	0.0	12.1	33.0	22.9	16.0	14.5	11.5	20.3	26.5	33.6	38.2	234.4	152.1	
Mallard	605	360	354	465	473	617	332	446	520	340	419				1				418											419	0		
Northern Pintail								0			0																			0	0		
American Widgeon								1	*		0																		0	0			
Harlequin Duck								0			0																		0	0			
Common Goldeneye	63	42	22	24	8	13	12	24	22	16	11			3				8											11	0			
Barrow's Goldeneye	2		18	6				0			0																		0	0			
Bufflehead								0			0																		0	0			
Common Merganser	25	4	9		9	5	3	0	1	2	0								0										0	0			
Goldeneye sp.				3	2			0			0																		0	0			
Ruffed Grouse	2	13	11	6	20	21	22	37	27	16	11					1	2				4							1		3	6	5	
Spruce Grouse	3	2	5		1	8	4	7		1	8									2	1	1			3		1		1	4	4		
Willow Ptarmigan	6	49	0					0			0																		0	0			
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1		1	1	13	11	13	8	5		3																		1	2			
Grouse sp.								5			0																		0	0			
Common Murre						0		0			0																		0	0			
Bald Eagle								0			4								4										4	0			
Sharp-shinned Hawk								0		1	1																	1	0	1			
Northern Goshawk	1	1	1		1	7		4	8	3	2			1							1				0		1	1	1	1			
Peregrine Falcon								0			0																		0	0			
Rock Pigeon	698	384	321	452	531	927	549	661	351	532	410		1		35	5			349		5		5				5		400	10			
Great Horned Owl	0	4	0		1	3	1	4	*	1	0								0		0								0	0			
Northern Hawk Owl	2				2			0		*	0								0		0								0	0			
Great Grey Owl			1					0		1	0																		0	0			
Boreal Owl	0	0	0		1	0	4	1	*	4	0		2														2		4	0			
Downy Woodpecker	39	45	18	13	18	20	22	18	35	31	65		1	1	1	3	3	1			11	2	2	1	4	2	2	23	11	31	34		
Hairy Woodpecker	44	30	26	25	23	15	26	28	45	30	52		1	3	3	4	4		1		12	3	1		5	1	5		12	12	40		
3-toed Woodpecker	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	4	3	6	6		1	3	3	1												1	0				
Black-backed Woodpecker								2	1	1	1			1															1	0			
Woodpecker sp.	4	10	3	1	2	1	4	3	7	9	9		2			1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	8	1				
Northern Shrike	1	2			3	1	1	1	4	3	3								1		1								1	2			
Canada Jay	114	105	125	65	98	136	114	98	101	147	170		6		11			35	8	5		13	8	20	3	11	3	6	11	23	7	130	40
Black-billed Magpie	10	12	12	3	5	13	7	26	18	18	13		2					2		3		3				1	2		9	4			
Common Raven	1428	1252	807	1134	821	640	868	723	818	911	1238		11		249			28	10	732	2	12	13	85		23	1	51	10	1202	36		
Black-capped Chickadee	1206	800	584	540	537	826	947	602	935	1177	1537		88	21	85	14	259	83	48	20	46	111	105	69	29	70	88	87	161	153	909	628	
Boreal Chickadee	280	212	194	79	85	222	118	164	243	262	453		19	3	118	6	58	11	14	2	6	19	26	3	10	14	19	19	60	46	330	123	
Chickadee sp.	80	64	62	46	25	45	56	22	56	42	143		18				30	2	36		16		16		7	18	18	141	2				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	11	3	9	8	11	14	8	21	28	55			3	1		1	1			3	2	15		1		0	7	19	11	44		
Brown Creeper	2	1				0	0	5	2	3	4																		1	3			
Varied Thrush					1			0			0																		0	0			
American Robin	3	2		2	2	3		0	2																								