



Mapping Our Way to Conservation Success

1 July 2013–30 June 2014



This year, you chose the Bar-tailed Godwit as Audubon Alaska's Bird of the Year. The pool of candidates came from our WatchList of declining or vulnerable species. Your support helps us to protect these birds and their habitats. As you read this, Bar-tailed Godwits that nested in Alaska are loafing on New Zealand and Australian wintering grounds, recuperating from their 7,000-mile migration, the longest nonstop migration of any bird.

Although Alaska has some of the last grand wilderness left in the world, our birds are cosmopolitan. The Bar-tailed Godwit, like hundreds of species we see returning to Alaska each spring, connects even our most remote wild places with the far corners of the world. Our science-based approach to conservation design and implementation shapes our policy and communication efforts and consistently receives praise from agencies and nonprofit partners alike. The map on the reverse side charts out some of the successes you helped make possible this past year. Thank you!

Board: Matt Kirchhoff (Chair), Milo Burcham (Vice-Chair), Nancy DeWitt (Secretary), John Alexander, Judith Hamilton, Ken Leghorn, Mason Morfit, Eric Myers, Margery Nicolson, David Secord, David Shaw, LaVerne Smith **Staff:** Nils Warnock (Executive Director), Jim Adams, Robyn Langlie, Beth Peluso, Melanie Smith, Nathan Walker, Kathy Wells, Erik Schneider (DC office), Aaron Bowman (seasonal), John Cannon (seasonal)

Ahead of the Curve for the Arctic Ocean

Fall of 2014 witnessed the first successful Northwest Passage voyage by a cargo ship unaccompanied by an ice breaker. Audubon Alaska has focused significant science and policy efforts on planning ahead for the fast-changing Arctic Ocean. In November 2013, Audubon Alaska's Melanie Smith, with conservation partners Pew Foundation, Ocean Conservancy, Oceana, and World Wildlife Fund, met at the White House Executive Office of the President to present a 125-page set of maps and comments making the case for excluding 12 million acres of ecologically important but vulnerable Chukchi Sea habitat from offshore oil and gas leasing. In 2014, we completed a similar effort to identify areas of highest ecological value in the Beaufort Sea. We are now participating in a coalition of groups working to end all leasing in the Chukchi Sea. Currently, oil development in the Arctic Ocean is simply too great a risk.

Protecting Big Trees and Wolves in the Tongass

The Tongass National Forest is the only national forest that still allows industrial-scale old-growth logging. Along with several conservation partners, we focused our policy efforts on convincing the US Forest Service to begin a targeted Tongass Land Management Plan amendment process that would establish a formal transition away from old-growth logging. The Forest Service has been slow to change course. In response to the Big Thorne old-growth timber sale, Audubon submitted extensive comments in June 2014, focused on the negative impacts of the sale on Alexander Archipelago wolves, a subspecies unique to Southeast Alaska. Our science team's maps clearly show that the cumulative impacts of timber harvest on Prince of Wales Island have and will continue to dramatically impact deer populations and jeopardize the Alexander Archipelago wolf population on the island.

Conservation Science Fellowship Builds New Careers

Audubon Alaska teamed up with the University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA) to offer the 2014 Conservation Science Fellowship to UAA students McKenna Hanson and Lindsay Hermanns. The two Fellows managed the second year of the Anchorage Birds 'n' Bogs citizen science project, which focuses on documenting distribution of boreal wetland birds such as the Lesser Yellowlegs and Rusty Blackbird, in Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley. The Fellows served as volunteer coordinators, collected data, banded birds, created maps of 2014 survey data, and wrote the final report (available on the Audubon Alaska website).



Lindsay Hermanns helps band Lesser Yellowlegs.

"I believe my experience this summer is probably the most influential experience yet that I have had in regards to my career. My internship experience definitely made me want to pursue research as a career in the future." - McKenna Hanson

"Gaining new mentors helped me conclude that I also have a desire to fill a mentor role for a younger person one day; providing them with not only professional guidance, but also education, knowledge, life skills, and social relationships with other mentors that will help shape them into a youth that is passionate about wildlife conservation and responsible to our environment."
- Lindsay Hermanns





DONOR KEY

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- \$2,500–\$4,999
- \$5,000–\$9,999
- \$10,000–\$24,999
- \$25,000 and higher
- Corporate Sponsor
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- Grinnell Legacy Society

AUDUBON: PACIFIC FLYWAY

- With regional partners, we persuaded the Pacific Fishery Management Council, which oversees federal waters from California to Washington, to adopt a Fishery Ecosystem Plan addressing the needs of seabirds and other predators and enhancing protection of the forage fish that support them.
- Secured a challenge grant of \$1 million from the Hofmann Family Foundation, in California, to enhance and restore the Pacific Flyway, including the boreal forest, for waterfowl and wildlife.

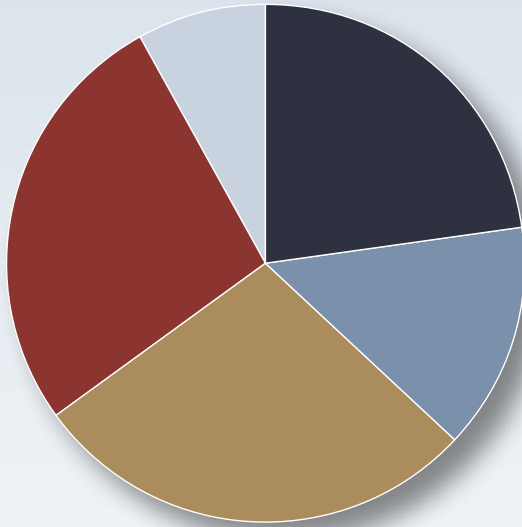
IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

- Submitted comments to Alaska Department of Transportation opposing a highway-widening project through the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, an IBA.

Photos by Milo Burcham

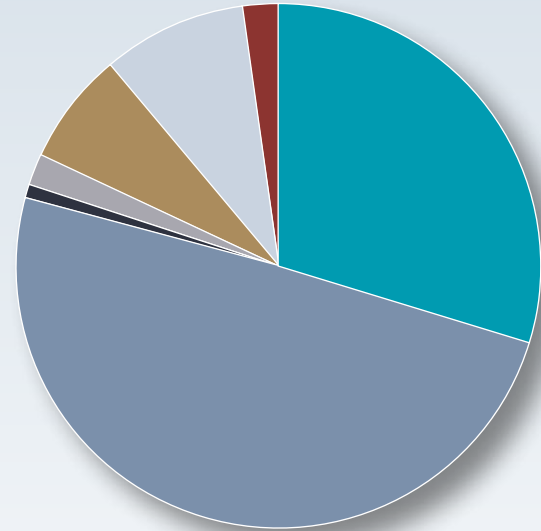
Audubon's mapping capability is made possible by a generous donation of software from Esri. Base map by Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors.

Expenses by Department



● Management and General ● Development
● Science ● Policy ● Communications

Revenue by Contributor



● Individuals ● Foundations ● Corporations
● Bequests ● Grants ● Investment Income ● Earned Income

Audubon Alaska's Financial Health

While Audubon Alaska is the state office for the National Audubon Society, we raise all of our own funds. Overall, Audubon Alaska had a productive Fiscal Year 2014. Audubon Alaska spent \$1,049,000 protecting the birds and natural ecosystems of this incredible state. Thanks to you, our generous supporters, we had another successful year, with revenue exceeding expenses.

Full financial details for FY14 available on request.