

"BRING BIRDS BACK"



11-14 December, 2023
The Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage, Alaska

About the Logo Artist

The 20th Alaska Bird Conference logo features an original drawing of a Lesser Yellowlegs by Alexandra (Sasha) Munters. Alexandra is an ecologist and illustrator seeking to savor and share the balm and beauty of the earth through art and science education. She earned a B.A. in Philosophy from St. John's College and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Texas State University and has since been primarily focused on bird research and conservation. Discovering that illustrating the subjects of her research helped her to better understand and connect with them, she began sharing her illustrations, eventually deciding to professionally incorporate art into her message of stewardship and appreciation for the natural world. in 2015 she completed the Science Illustration Graduate Certificate program at CSUMB. She is passionate about finding creative and interdisciplinary ways to communicate the findings of sound science and plans to one day illustrate all of the birds of the world.

www.sashaparula.com





About the Event Coordinator





"Art is my passion, my peace, and being creative everyday never feels like work". - Jenada

Event Embellishments by Jenada, LLC has been a long time coming and Jenada is proud to have recently ventured out on her own in 2023 with 24+ years of experience as a Prop Designing Artist working in both Las Vegas and Anchorage. She holds a B.S. in Fine and Applied Arts from the University of Oregon. Jenada creates large scale special event 3-D props, entrance facades, sculptures, faux painting projects, and elements of detailed stage and set designs. She enjoys creating those one-of a-kind pieces that help sell the illusion or imaginary reality for your display, production, event or other needs. She helps coordinate your event when the details matter.

Special Event Décor Design - Custom Props - Décor Rentals - Drapes - Linen - Event Coordination

Hours by Appointment: (907) 244-2423; EventEmbellishmentsbyJ@gmail.com

2023 Conference Committees

Conference Planning Committee

Chair: Rick Lanctot¹

Members: Tracey Gotthardt², River Gates³, Beth

Trowbridge & John Pearce⁵

Event and Volunteer Coordination

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Chair: Jim Johnson¹

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Co-Chairs: Lauren Cusimano⁷ & Grace Rodgers ¹³

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Pete Isleib Award Subcommittee

Chair: Robb Kaler¹

Members: Kate Martin¹, Dan Ruthrauff⁵ & Adrian

Gall⁹

Tom Fondell Memorial Award for Student Travel Subcommittee

Chair: Dan Ruthrauff⁵

Members: Laura McDuffie⁵ & Kassandra Smith⁷

Best Student Awards Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Steve Lewis¹ & Kate Martin¹

Merchandise Subcommittee

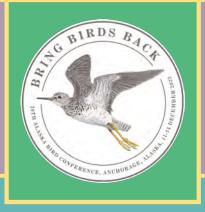
Chair: Laura McDuffie⁵

Members: Katie Pervier¹ & Callie Gesmundo¹

Member Affiliations

- ¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management
- ² Alaska Department of Fish & Game; Thretened, Endangered & Diversity Program
- ³ Audubon America Alaska
- ⁴ Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
- ⁵ U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center
- ⁶ Event Embellishments by Jenada, LLC
- ⁷ Audubon Alaska
- ⁸ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conservation
- ⁹ Alaska ABR Environmental
- ¹⁰ Alaska Department of Fish & Game; Division of Subsistence
- ¹¹ Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.
- ¹² Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- ¹³ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Science Applications

Welcome to the 20th Alaska Bird Conference!



The first Alaska Bird Conference was held in 1985 in Anchorage. It grew from the often expressed need for exchange of information among those in government, universities, non-government organizations and the private sector who are working with Alaska's diverse and abundant birds. The conference has been held on an approximately biennial basis ever since.

This year marks the 20th Alaska Bird Conference. The conference regularly attracts between 150 to 200 participants reporting on their findings and new initiatives. By design the conference retains a familiar and friendly atmosphere, welcoming new students and ornithologists into the field, and providing a muchanticipated gathering for those who work with and care for Alaska's birds.

The conference is being organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Management Division, with significant financial and logistical support from other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Divisions; U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Science Center; Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Threatened, Endangered, and Diversity Program; Bureau of Ocean Energy and Management; Audubon Alaska; and Alaska Biological Research & Services; and many other sponsors (see next pages).

The theme of the conference is "Bring Birds Back". We chose this theme because 3 out of 10 birds present in North America in 1970 are no longer here. Birds face many threats throughout their annual cycle, but particularly as they transit between their breeding, migratory stopover, and wintering areas.



Conference Sponsors Thank You!





Gray-headed Chickadee: Diamond Sponsorship













U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ConocoPhillips, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Anchorage Audubon Society & Alaska Department of Fish and Game









Audubon Alaska, North Pacific Research Board & Alaska Airlines

Bird drawings retrieved from Audubon Guide to North American Birds

Conference Sponsors Thank You!





Tufted Puffin: Gold Sponsorship





















Plover House | David Personius

Prince William Sound Science Center – Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Alaska Ocean Observing System, Ducks Unlimited Alaska, Seeds & Soil Farm, St. Isidore Farm, Lotek, Inc., Bella Luce Fine Art Portraits, Birds & Beans, Manomet & ABR, Inc.



Yellow-billed Loon: Silver Sponsorship

















Karl Becker

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, Juneau Audubon Society, Major Marine Tours, Raaka, The Alaska Railroad, Wildlife Acoustics, Wildlife Conservation Society & Window Alert

Bird drawings retrieved from Audubon Guide to North American Birds

Conference Sponsors Thank You!





Lesser Yellowlegs: Bronze Sponsorship













































Julia Ditto Illustration, Joanne Patterson, Hailey Morgan, Matthew Robus, Tammy Patterson, Katie Pervier & Tamara Zeller

Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, Arctic Haven Studio, Alaska Mill & Feed, Alaska Rock Gym, Tooth Industries, Ginger, Dancing Raven Designs, Visit Anchorage Alaska, Alaska Wild Berry Products, Tern & Tide Design, Alaska Songbird Institute, Alaska Chicks Company, Brecht Studio, Kaladis Brother Coffee, Cabin Fever Fabric, Fiber & Gifts, Sergius Hannan Photography, BGES, Inc., Weyekin Studio, Skinny Raven Sports, Gumbo House, Bird TLC & Coyote Designs

Silent Auction and Raffle



Bidding opens: 9:00am, December 8th Bidding closes: 8:00p.m., December 14th Submit your bids online!

GiveButter.com/c/alaskabirdconference/auction

This year's auction is going **hybrid** with both physical displays of items throughout the conference and evening events, as well as online. All physical items will be accompanied by QR codes for easy bidding. Remember, bidding is open to the public (even those not attending the conference)!

Proceeds support student attendance through the Tom Fondell Student Travel

Proceeds support <u>student attendance</u> through the Tom Fondell Student Travel Memorial Fund.



Auction items include handmade artwork, gift bundles, an Alaska Airlines ticket, and so much more!



Free Raffle for one Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter Micro!

Entries are free, but the online form must be completed. Entries accepted online starting at 8:00am on Tuesday, December 12th and the winner will be announced during the banquet on Thursday, December 14th. Need not be present to win.

2023 Isleib Award Recipient: Liliana Coelho Naves



The M. E. "Pete" Isleib Award in Avian Conservation is presented at each Alaska Bird Conference to an individual for "outstanding contributions to bird conservation in Alaska."



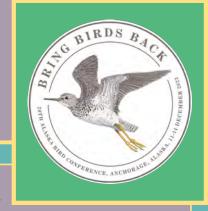


Over the past 15+ years, Liliana has worked tirelessly to fill data gaps and develop more rigorous studies that have increased the utility and reliability of bird harvest survey findings. Liliana's work provides essential insights on diverse cultural and social values that frame Alaska's mosaic of dependence on wild resources. Liliana's considerable quantitative skills and fresh perspectives have helped guide development and adoption of new approaches to improve accuracy and reduce uncertainty of bird harvest assessments.

The 1997 ratification of amended migratory bird treaties with Canada and Mexico mandated bird harvest assessment and basing spring and summer hunting regulations on sustainable and equitable regulatory strategies. Liliana has assumed critical roles to facilitate a collaborative re-design of a statewide subsistence bird harvest survey program for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC). Through her strong commitment to develop and interpret relevant harvest data in this mandated effort, Liliana has proven to be immensely productive and effective in delivering high-quality data and collaborative products relevant to advancing a new subsistence bird harvest regime, with special focus on loons, emperor geese and shorebirds.

Liliana has shown dedication to developing innovative approaches to complex resource management problems by encompassing human dimensions analysis and integrating cross-cultural information into effective conservation strategies. Liliana has successfully combined dedication to rigorous science with description and integration of traditional ecological knowledge that is essential and necessary in resolving biological issues. Her success at developing consensus on issues, achieving mutual education and trust, and nurturing continued long-term collaboration among affected interests has been exceptionally valuable.

Schedule At-A-Glance



Monday, December 11 @ USGS Alaska Science Center (unless indicated)

8:00am-11:00am Alaska Shorebird Group Meeting

11:15am-12:45pm Flyways Film and catered lunch funded by members

1:00pm-4:00pm Boreal Partners in Flight Meeting

5:00pm-8:30pm Registration table open @ The Hotel Captain Cook (Quarter Deck/Library)

5:30pm-9:00pm Opening Reception Night @ The Hotel Captain Cook (Quarter Deck)

Tuesday, December 12 @ The Hotel Captain Cook (Fore Deck unless indicated)

8:15am-8:30am Introduction and Announcements

8:30am-9:30am Invited Speaker: Subhankar Banerjee - Shorebirds in Modern Times: Two Centuries of Art, Science, and Conservation

9:30am-10:00am Refreshments break; Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture videos; poster set-up (Mid Deck)

10:00am-12:00pm Scientific Program: Breeding Biology & Avian Health

12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch on-your-own

1:30pm-4:00pm Scientific Program: Migration & Communication

4:00pm-5:00pm Poster Session; coffee and snacks available (Mid Deck)

Wednesday, December 13 @ The Hotel Captain Cook (Fore Deck unless indicated)

8:15am-8:30am Announcements

8:30am-9:30am Invited Speaker: Tuula Hollmen - Making a Living in Northern Oceans: A Physiological Ecology Lens into Marine Bird Conservation

9:30am-10:00am Break; posters available for viewing (Mid Deck)

10:00am-12:00pm Scientific Program: Health, Disease, and Genetics & Open Data

12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch on-your-own

1:30pm-3:00pm Scientific Program: Status and Trends

3:00pm-3:30pm Break; posters available for viewing (Mid Deck)

3:30pm-5:00pm Scientific Program: Conservation & Modern Methods

6:30pm-10:00pm Art & Conservation Night @ Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

<u>Thursday, December 14 @ The Hotel Captain Cook (Fore Deck unless indicated)</u>

8:15am-8:30am Announcements

8:30am-9:30am Invited Speaker: Peter Marra - Studying Birds in the Context of the Full Annual Cycle

9:30am-10:00am Break; posters available for viewing (Mid Deck)

10:00am-11:30pm Scientific Prgram: Habitat & Human Dimensions

11:30am- 12:30pm "Speed-Connecting" event

12:30pm-1:30pm Lunch on-your-own (poster take-down by 1:30pm)

1:30pm-5:00pm Special Session: Indigenous Partnership in Bird Co-Stewardship

* **3:05-3:20pm** Break (Fore Deck)

6:30pm-11:00pm Banquet, Awards & Band @ The Hotel Captain Cook (Mid/Aft Deck)

*8:00pm Awards and silent auction closes

*9:00pm Woodshedders Band

Main Conference: Invited Speakers

Subhankar Banerjee - Shorebirds in Modern Times: Two Centuries of Art, Science, and Conservation

Subhankar will speak about his ongoing archival and field research (and photography) on shorebirds that is taking him to many places around the world—from Alaska to Australia (and soon to Aotearoa and Argentina), New Mexico to Massachusetts and Maine, Sundarban to the Wadden Sea. He is working toward a three-volume book and an accompanying exhibition provisionally titled, Shorebirds in Modern Times, which will aim to include three entangled histories—art and material and visual culture; conservation; and science—and bring the story forward to the present day to honor and bring attention to the imperiled shorebirds of our time. He will discuss how our current call to action, Bring Birds Back, resonates with a similar call issued during the late 19th century in the United States, but also distinguish how that earlier call was sparked by a very different set of circumstances. While Peter Marra and Chris Santella's eye-opening book, "Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer", brought attention to the peril of birds from feral and domestic cats that roam outside, Subhankar will pose a question that relates to shorebirds and another beloved domestic companion for humans: "Dogs Too...?" and share recent and current cultural battles and conservation initiatives on that subject from Australia, Germany, and the US. The talk will be filled with art and stories, comedy included.

Tuesday, December 12 @ 8:30am at The Hotel Captain Cook

Tuula Hollmen - Making a Living in Northern Oceans: A Physiological Ecology Lens into Marine Bird Conservation

Marine birds spend most of their annual cycle at sea or in coastal marine environments, and move to land to nest and rear their young. Remarkable morphological, behavioral, and physiological adaptations enable their life at sea, transitions between marine and terrestrial habitats, and ability to deal with variability in conditions. In itself a life at high latitudes poses its own unique challenges and, furthermore, the Arctic climate has been warming faster than the rest of the globe in recent decades. The warming climate is exerting broad scale impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems of the north including rise in water temperatures and levels, changes in storminess, precipitation, and winds, and reduction in sea ice - and posing additional adaptive challenges for species relying on these habitats and resources. In this presentation we will travel circumpolar from Scandinavia to Alaska at approximately latitude 60 and north thereof, and visit case studies to explore how physiological ecology can shed light on mechanisms of adaptation and resilience in marine birds and how this information can help support conservation.

Wednesday December 13 @ 8:30am at Hotel Captain Cook

Peter Marra - Studying Birds in the Context of the Full Annual Cycle

Migratory birds spend different parts of the annual cycle in geographically disparate places. The conditions and selective pressures during each period are likely to affect individual performance during subsequent periods. This simple fact presents us with considerable obstacles for understanding how agents of global change (i.e., climate, land-use) will influence the ecology, evolution, and conservation of migratory birds. Such inter-seasonal effects are poorly understood within most avian migration systems, in large part because it has been difficult to follow individuals and specific populations year-round. Here, I will show using long-term research from throughout the annual cycle how events on wintering grounds have important consequences for breeding events and annual survival. Understanding how global change will influence migratory organisms requires the study of biological phenomena in the context of the entire annual cycle.

Thursday, December 14 @ 8:30am in the Hotel Captain Cook





Professor of Art & Ecology and director of the Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities at the University of New Mexico



Senior Research Scientist and Research Associate Professor, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks



Dean of Earth Commons Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and Laudato Si' Professor of Biology and the Environment, Georgetown University

Daily Schedule: Monday, December 11th



Morning
@ U.S. Geological Survey - Glenn Olds Hall , 4210 University Drive

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Alaska Shorebird Group Annual Meeting (hybrid)

11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m

Flyways: The Untold Journey of Migratory Shorebirds

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Boreal Partners in Flight annual meeting (hybrid)

Attend virtually via Microsoft Teams (ASG and BPIF): Please email Laura McDuffie for link (Imcduffie@usgs.gov)



Shorebirds fly thousands of miles each year along ancient and largely unknown migratory routes called Flyways. Species travel from feeding grounds in the southern hemisphere to breeding grounds in the Arctic regions and back again, flying up to nine days non-stop without food or water. They are the world's greatest endurance athletes and their navigational skills on these marathon migrations are as extraordinary as they are mysterious. -Antidote Films

Evening Event

@ The Hotel Captain Cook

5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Registration open - Quarter Deck/Library Pick-up name tags, swag bags, and purchase merchandise

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Opening Night Reception

Connect with conference attendees, sample the finest hors d'oeuvres, and dance along to "The Flint Family Band" in the Quarter Deck

Sponsored by ConocoPhillips



The Flint Family Band (Coal, Heather, and Teal), along with Mary Schallert and Ayme Johnson (not shown)

Please note, the registration table will also be open Tuesday-Thursday in the hallway across from the ballroom.



Morning

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Fore Deck

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.

Introduction and Welcome

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Invited Speaker: Subhankar Banerjee

Shorebirds in Modern Times: Two Centuries of Art,

Science, and Conservation

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Refreshments break in Mid Deck; Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture videos; poster set-up

Scientific Program: Breeding Biology & Avian Health

Moderator: Emily Weiser

*denotes a student presentation

10:00 a.m.

Estimating age-specific recruitment probability of long-lived birds using Bayesian capture-reencounter models

Jordan Thompson*, Caroline Blommel & David Koons

10:15 a.m.

Factors influencing incubation behavior and nesting success of Yellow-billed Loons in Arctic Alaska

Julie Parrett, Charles Johnson, Adrian Gall & Alex Prichard

10:30 a.m.

Cross-seasonal effects in a sea ice-associated sea duck: do winter conditions affect breeding Spectacled Eiders?

Randall Friendly*, Mark Lindberg, Todd Brinkman, Christa Mulder & Daniel Rizzolo

10:45 a.m.

Improvements in nest monitoring methodologies on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge **Sadie Ulman**, Christopher Latty, Robyn Thomas & Shiloh Schulte

11:00 a.m.

Foraging distribution and diving behavior of Common Murres in a variable prey landscape **Sam Stark**, Mayumi Arimitsu, Sarah Schoen, Ann Harding, Caitlin Marsteller & John Piatt

11:15 a.m.

Monitoring shorebird nest survival across a large landscape of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge using minimal disturbance methods

Sarah Saalfeld, Richard Lanctot, Stephen Brown, Christopher Latty & Shiloh Schulte

11:30 a.m.

Nest survival of Black Brant and Semipalmated Sandpipers at a rapidly expanding Lesser Snow Goose colony in Arctic Alaska Vijay Patil, Daniel Ruthrauff, Joshua Koch, Jerry Hupp, David Ward & Tim Obritschkewitsch

11:45 a.m.

Presence, abundance, and identity of micro- and nano-plastics of Arctic and Beringian foodwebs

Soren George-Nichol*, Douglas Causey & Veronica Padula



Scan QR code to view oral presentation and poster abstracts



Afternoon

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Fore Deck

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on-your-own

Need lunch ideas? See page 28

Ginger (dinner) and Gumbo House (lunch and dinner) are offering 10% discounts on food purchases (excluding alcohol) if you show your conference badge!

Scientific Program: Migration & Communication

Moderator: Julie Hagelin

*denotes a student presentation

1:30 p.m.

Long-term changes in the timing of autumn migration in Alaska's boreal songbirds

April Harding Scurr, Julie Hagelin, Grey Pendleton, Kristin DuBour, Tricia Blake, Claire Stuyck & Eva Allaby

1:45 p.m.

Correlates of Black Oystercatcher strategies of partial migration

Cole Rankin*, Dan Esler, Brian Robinson, Heather Coletti & David Green

2:00 p.m.

Altitude selection in migrating geese produces a high risk of collision with offshore wind turbines **Emily Weiser**, Cory Overton, David Douglas, Michael Casazza & Paul Flint

2:15 p.m.

Tracking fall migration of Bank Swallows from across North America with automated radio telemetry

Eva Allaby, Julie Hagelin, Sarah Endenburg, Jim Johnson & Callie Gesmundo

2:30 p.m.

Fast food: importance of a short but critical stopover location for roselaari Red Knots

Jenell Larsen Tempel, Erin Cooper, Nick Docken, Julie Schram, Julian Garcia-Walther, Erin Grey, Alan Kneidel & Christiana Teye

2:45 p.m.

Non-breeding ecologies of Tufted and Horned Puffins from the Kodiak Archipelago, Alaska Katelyn Stoner*, Robin Corcoran, Megan Boldenow & Don Lyons

3:00 p.m.

Waddling wonders: unraveling Emperor Goose gosling movements on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Mairin Murphy*, Bryan Daniels, Tyler Lewis & Benjamin Sedinger

3:15 p.m.

Migratory strategies of Whimbrel nesting in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Shiloh Schulte, Richard Lanctot, Christopher Latty & Stephen Brown

3:30 p.m.

Migratory connectivity between Arctic and subarctic breeding populations of Black Brant in Alaska

Toshio Matsuoka* & Vijay Patil

3:45 p.m.

Rethinking the research and communication of marking and tagging of birds

John Pearce



Afternoon Continued.

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Mid Deck

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Student & Professional: Poster Session

refreshments provided

*denotes a student presentation

#1

Least Auklet plumage coloration and personality Alexis Will, Ashley Kushin*, Bay Rose Kauffman*,
Tonia Kushin, Ram Papish & Ann Harding

#2

Detection and genomic characterization of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses in wild birds inhabiting western Alaska, USA

Andrew Ramey, Laura Scott, Christina Ahlstrom, Evan Buck, Alison Williams, Mia Kim Torchetti, David Stallknecht & Rebecca Poulson

#3

Mercury and lead exposure in Red-throated and Pacific Loons breeding in northern Alaska

Brian Uher-Koch, Emmanuelle Furst, Chris Latty &
Tuula Hollmen

#4

Survival probabilities of adult female Emperor Geese during harvest closure and after harvest opening

Bryan Daniels, Brian Uher-Koch & Joel Schmutz

#5

Kanuti Refuge's Trumpeter Swan population: "Brought Back" or not, it's booming Christopher Harwood

#6

Small temperature loggers provide highly accurate nest fate determination for shorebirds Christopher Latty, Sadie Ulman & Shiloh Shulte

#7

Nest survival rate for Lesser Yellowlegs - a comparison between Anchorage, Alaska and Churchill, Manitoba

Courtland Brown*, Katie Christie & Erica Nol

#8

Parasite infections and microplastic consumption by seabirds from Pacific and Atlantic oceans Kate Sheehan & Douglas Causey

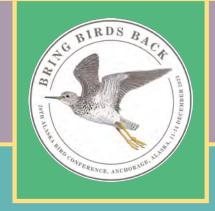
#9

Complex shifts in population dynamics of Beringian seabirds are linked to long- and short-term climate modes

Douglas Causey, Veronica Padula, Brittney DePue & Alexzandrea DePue



Scan QR code to view oral presentation and poster abstracts



Afternoon Continued.

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Mid Deck

#10

An investigation into an avian mortality event in the far Western Aleutian Islands Elizabeth Byrd & Douglas Causey

#11

Developing a key for seabird endoparasites

Ellie Olsen* & Kate Sheehan

#12

Evaluating mechanisms of decline in a boreal-breeding aerial insectivore using integrated population models

Jeff Wagner*, Julie Hagelin, Katie Christie & David Christianson

#13

Atlas of sea duck key habitat sites in North America

Tim Bowman, James Churchill, Christine Lepage, Shannon Badzinski, Scott Gilliland, Nic McLellan, Emily Silverman & **Kate Martin**

#14

Integrating stable isotopes and geolocator data to reveal variable origins and migratory pathways for a declining aerial insectivore (Tree Swallow)

Rachel Gingras*, Audrey Taylor, Douglas Causey & Roman Dial

#15

Factors influencing productivity of Yellow-billed Loons on the Colville River Delta
Julie Parrett, Rebecca McGuire, Andy Bankert & Alex Prichard

#16

Marine bird populations trends in Prince William Sound, Alaska, 1989–2022

Robb Kaler

#17

Investigating Aleutian Tern breeding and migration season movements using satellite telemetry, 2019–2023

Robin Corcoran, Jill Tengeres, Don Lyons, Kelly Nesvacil, Tory Rhoads, Susan Oehlers, Timothy Lawes & Katelyn Stoner

#18

Lapland Longspur nesting trends at Prudhoe Bay
Sarah Hoepfner & Martin Robards

#19

Big white birds: progress towards automation in counting Snow Geese

Matt Macander, Tawna Morgan, Christopher Swingley, **Tim Obritschkewitsch**, Rebecca McGuire & Brian Person

Remember, the best student poster and oral presenation will be announced at the banquet on Thursday evening!



Morning

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Fore Deck

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.

Announcments

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Invited Speaker: Tuula Hollmen - Making a Living in Northern Oceans: A Physiological Ecology Lens into Marine Bird Conservation

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Refreshments break in Mid Deck; posters available for viewing

Scientific Program: Health, Disease and Genetics & Open Data

Moderator: Lindsay Veazey
*denotes a student presentation

10:00 a.m.

Observational and laboratory data provide insights into an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza among wild birds inhabiting the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska during 2022 Bryan Daniels, Megan Boldenow, Robert Gerlach, Christina Ahlstrom, Michael Brook, Michael Brubaker, Julian Fisher, David Koons, Angela Matz, Marin Murphy, Erik Osnas, Daniel Rizzolo, Laura Scott, David Sinnett, Jordan Thompson, Juliana Lenoch, David Stallknecht, Rebecca Poulson & Andrew Ramey

10:15 a.m.

Phenotypic and genomic variation in five subspecies of Song Sparrow in Alaska Caitlyn Oliver Brown*, K.A. Collier, Kendall Mills, Fern Spaulding, Travis Glenn, Christin Pruett & Kevin Winker

10:30 a.m.

Genomic characterization of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses from Alaska Christina Ahlstrom, Mia Kim Torchetti, Kristina Lantz, Robert Gerlach, Kimberlee Beckman, Megan Boldenow, Angela Matz, Bryan Daniels, David Sinnett, David Stallknecht, Rebecca Poulson, Krista Dilione, Juliana Lenoch, Eric Taylor & Andrew Ramey

10:45 a.m.

Barrow's Goldeneye population delineation: contrasting inferences from different data types **Dan Esler** & W. Sean Boyd

11:00 a.m.

Lead exposure continues to threaten Spectacled Eiders on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Daniel Rizzolo, Paul Flint, Kate Martin & Neesha Stellrecht

11:15 a.m.

Epizootic of beak deformities in wild birds: a review of avian keratin disorder worldwide

Danielle Gerik, Caroline Van Hemert, Colleen Handel, Becki Lawson, Jeff Walters, Kerry Brust, Anna Prinz, Andy Van Lanen, Jessie Schillaci, Susan Cottrell, Clifford Anderson, Cristian Gorosito, Víctor Cueto & Maxine Zylberberg

11:30 a.m.

Avian parasites in seasonal flux in a subarctic lake Kate Sheehan, Sonja Barber & Douglas Causey

11:45 a.m.

Promoting avian research, monitoring, and conservation through open data

Laura McDuffie, John Reed & Marla Hood



Afternoon

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Fore Deck

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on-your-own

Scientific Program: Status and Trends

Moderator: Tim Obritschkewitsch
*denotes a student presentation

1:30 p.m.

Long-term changes in breeding probability and cause-specific mortality rates of Black Brant Caroline Blommel*, Thomas Riecke, Jordan Thompson* & David Koons

1:45 p.m.

Recent declines in population indices for Spectacled Eiders on both breeding areas in Alaska

David Safine, Erik Osnas, Charles Frost, Heather Wilson, Michael Swaim & Julian Fischer

2:00 p.m.

'Detecting' population trends is a red herring **Grey Pendleton**

2:15 p.m.

Low adult survival and high reproductive rates detected in a steeply declining aerial insectivore breeding in boreal Alaska

Julie Hagelin, Katie Christie, Jim Johnson & Kristin DuBour



Scan QR code to view oral presentation and poster abstracts

2:30 p.m.

Recent steep population decline of McKay's Buntings

Rachel Richardson, Courtney Amundson, Jim Johnson, Marc Romano, Audrey Taylor, Michael Fleming & Steven Matsuoka

2:45 p.m.

Nearshore marine bird surveys in the Kodiak Archipelago, 2011–2022

Robin Corcoran

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments break in Mid Deck; posters available for viewing

Scientific Program: Conservation & Modern Methods

Moderator: Dan Esler

*denotes a student presentation

3:30 p.m.

Lesser Yellowlegs research and conservation: filling knowledge gaps while moving to action **Katie Christie**, Jim Johnson, Laura McDuffie, Kelly Srigley Werner & Lee Tibbitts

3:45 p.m.

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture: a strategic plan for conservation of coastal wetlands of the North Pacific Flyway

Laura Farwell, Monica Iglecia & Sara Evans-Peters



Afternoon Continued.

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Fore Deck

4:00 p.m.

Recent decline of Alaska's landbird avifauna
Nicole Michel, Julie Hagelin, Jim Johnson, Steven
Matsuoka & Colleen Handel

4:15 p.m.

Emperor Geese of the Seward Peninsula: same same but different?

Tyler Lewis, Tasha Dimarzio & Jason Schamber

4:30 p.m.

Optimizing sea duck research: computer vision-based behavior and nest survival analysis Lindsay Veazey, Tuula Hollmen & Chris Latty

4:45 p.m.

Lending an Ear: Incorporating acoustics into an existing shorebird monitoring framework

Morgan Ziegenhorn, Sarah Saalfeld, Paul Smith, Shiloh Schulte, Chris Latty, Stephen Brown, Richard Lanctot & Nicolas Lecomte

Logo Merchandise Available!

Official 20th Alaska Bird Conference logo products are available for purchase from the registration table.

If you would like to purchase a shirt but your desired size, color, and style are unavailable, online ordering is an option!

https://www.bonfire.com/alaska-bird-conference-2023/



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Choose between a variety of custom bird-centric sandbasted 16 oz. mugs created exclusively for the 20th Alaska Bird Conference by Brecht Studio in Eagle River!





Art & Conservation Night

6:30 - 10:00 p.m.

@ Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center



A one-night event to #BringBirdsBack through the celebration of Art and Conservation. Peruse and purchase artwork from a dozen local artists and explore the world of bird conservation. A "No Host Bar" (cards only) and light refreshments will be available throughout the night.

\$30 per person (kids 17 and under get in for FREE)
*Pre-registration preferred via Eventbrite



Event Schedule

6:30 p.m. Doors open (atrium open for vendor sales throughout the event)

7:00 p.m. Bird Conservation for the 21st Century with Peter Marra

7:30 p.m. Q & A Session

7:45 p.m. Break

8:00 p.m. Capturing the Lives of Alaska Birds with Gerrit Vyn

8:30 p.m. Q & A Session

8:45 p.m. Auditorium closes

10:00 p.m. Doors close

Artists & Outreach Vendors

Michael Boardman | Coyote Graphics - watercolorist

David Personius | Plover House - contemporary Alaska folkartist

Sergius Hannan Photography - photographer

Carol Lewando - glass mosaics

Edwin Mighell | Redoubt Press & Tiles - prints and tiles
Grace Pardon | The Beading Birder - bead artist
Bird Treatment and Learning Center

Kassandra Mirosh | Weyekin Studio - paper and mosaics
Kirsten Hoppe | Hoppe Handmade - metalsmith
JoAnne Noyles - watercolorist (silks)

Connie Engelbrecht | Brecht Studio - stone ground artwork
Ram Papish - biologist & visual artist
Douglas Girard | Studio Girard - fine art

Bird Friendly Booth - free coffee, chocolate, window decals, and flower seeds

Julia Ditto Illustrations - graphic science communicator Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges

Wet Brant - metalsmith

Robbie Carver - wood sculpturist Alaska Songbird Institute

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Loons, Line, and Lead Partnership
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Junior Duck Stamp Program
Anna Brose | Arctic Haven Studio - biologist & hand cut paper artist

Robin Farmer Art - watercolorist

Audubon Alaska

Arin Underwood | Tern & Tide Designs - biologist & watercolorist Sabrina Kessakorn | Fetching Constellations - biologist & visual artist

Art and Conservation Night: Plenary Speakers

7:00pm: Bird Conservation for the 21st Century with Peter Marra

Migration is one of the most engaging phenomena of the animal world and one epitomized by birds. Today, over 50% of North America's migratory species are declining at unprecedented rates - and for most of these species we don't know why. They face an assortment of threats throughout the annual cycle – habitat loss, cats, collisions, pesticides – all issues we can reduce to restore bird populations. The Road to Recovery is a new conservation effort that proposes to use targeted and actionable natural and social science to recover bird populations before they become extinct. Marra will take us on a hemispheric journey to discover the unknown migrations of migratory birds, explaining the latest technologies used for tracking and why it's up to us to uncover the secrets of their biology and the threats they face to protect these marvelous species.



Peter is Dean, Earth Commons Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and Laudato Si' Professor of Biology and the Environment, Georgetown University

8:00pm: Capturing the Lives of Alaska's Birds with Gerrit Vyn From the outer Aleutian Islands to drifting sea ice in the

Chukchi Sea to remote tundra field camps on the Arctic coastal plain, Gerrit Vyn has traveled to the fringes of Alaska to capture the sights, sounds, and spectacles of birdlife, many for the first time. Visit Alaska's largest seabird colonies on St. George Island, witness an intimate moment at the nest of a Bar-tailed Godwit, and see the massive migration of King Eiders as they head north to breed. Drawing on a 20-year career filming and photographing birdlife and conservation stories around the world for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Gerrit brings an eyewitness perspective to the marvels of birdlife.



Gerrit is a Conservation Media Producer for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Morning

@ The Hotel Captain Cook - Fore Deck

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.

Announcments

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Invited Speaker: Peter Marra

Studying Birds in the Context of the Full Annual

Cycle

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Refreshments break in Mid Deck; posters

available for viewing

Scientific Program: Habitat & Human Dimensions

Moderator: Grey Pendleton
*denotes a student presentation

10:00 a.m.

Changing forage conditions for molting Steller's eiders in Izembek Lagoon, Alaska

Anastasia Maliguine*, Tuula Hollmen, Courtney Amundson & Brenda Konar

10:15 a.m.

Red-tail Hawk and Short-eared Owl summer habitat use

Jonah Rothleder*, Stephen Lewis, Cassandra Schoofs, Amy Bishop & Douglas Causey

10:30 a.m.

Phenological asynchrony between onset of green-up and spring arrival for 21 migratory songbirds of conservation concern in Alaska Melinda Wood*, Julie Hagelin, April Harding Scurr & John Withey

10:45 a.m.

Rapid growth of the Lesser Snow Goose population in Arctic Alaska Tim Obritschkewitsch, Brian Person & Vijay Patil

11:00 a.m.

What was the price paid in migratory shorebirds for development of the Prudhoe Bay oilfields?

Martin Robards

11:15 a.m.

Efficacy of placer mine reclamation for breeding birds

Morgan Brown, Erin Bayne & Chrystal Mantyka-Pringle

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

"Speed-Connecting" with

students/early-career professionals and career professionals

 Meet other bird enthusiasts through a fun and interactive "speed dating" formatted event.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on-your-own

Poster Presenters: Don't forget to take-down your poster prior to 1:30p.m. TODAY!



Special Session: Indigenous Partnership in Bird Co-Stewardship

1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

@ The Hotel Captain Cook (Fore Deck)

The objective of this session is to foster bird research and conservation that is inclusive of Indigenous and subsistence communities in Alaska. By bringing together people involved in these topics, we hope to build on current efforts, expand collaborations, and empower people to get involved.

1:30 - 1:35 p.m.
Welcome and Invocation
Liliana Naves & Christopher Tulik



1:35 - 2:05 p.m.

Partners in bird conservation: working with Alaska Native tribes, organizations, and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council

Patty Schwalenberg, Wendy Loya, Ryan Scott & Karen Pletnikoff Patty Schwalenberg is Anishnaabe (Ojibwe), member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin. She has worked with tribes across the country on natural resource program development and management for nearly 40 years. With a background in cultural anthropology, she works across cultures in partnerships including tribal governments, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations that utilize and honor all ways of knowing. She serves as the Executive Director of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.



2:05 - 2:35 p.m.

Co-Production of knowledge and healing: how healing catalyzes positive relations, leading to best practices

Crystal Leonetti, George Yaska & Mic Isham

Crystal Ciisquq Leonetti is the Alaska Native Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, based in Anchorage. Crystal has a background in tribal consultation policy and law and assists USFWS staff and others on topics such as co-production of knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, and cross-cultural communication. She helps to teach an annual Alaska Native Relations training to Department of Interior agency employees who work throughout Alaska and an Indigenous Stewardship course at Alaska Pacific University.



Indigenous Partnership in Bird Co-Stewardship Continued.



2:35 - 2:50 p.m.
The refuge information technician program: Native liaison supporting Indigenous partnerships in bird co-stewardship
Christopher Tulik

Christopher Tulik is the Lead Refuge
Information Technician for the Yukon Delta
National Wildlife Refuge. Chris supervises up to
five permanent RITs assisting the Refuge with
outreach, education, and tribal consultation.
Chris was born in Bethel and raised in
Negtemiut, a Yup'ik village on Qaluyaat (Nelson
Island). Growing up in a traditional subsistence
way of life has given Chris an understanding of
the importance of fish and wildlife to the culture
of local Alaska Native people.



2:50 - 3:05 p.m.
Bird traditional knowledge and ethnography in the Chugach region
Willow Hetrick-Price, Brooke Mallory & Priscilla Evans

Willow Hetrick-Price is the Executive Director of the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC). She is responsible for the nonprofit Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission, which is involved with natural resources, subsistence, climate change, environmental management and research, and related community economic development. A self-proclaimed bird nerd, Willow can identify 90% of Alaska's songbirds by song and especially loves the thrushes in the summertime. She is thankful to the People of the Chugach for entrusting CRRC to tell the amazing stories of bird use throughout history to today.

3:05- 3:20 p.m.Refreshments break (Fore Deck)

Butch (Steve Hobson Jr.) teaching young Kela (Tristan Evanoff-Stickman) how to pluck and process birds, this day a spruce grouse. Lime Village, November 2013. Photo by James Van Lanen, ADF&G Division of Subsistence, used with permission.

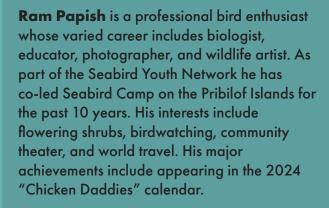




Indigenous Partnership in Bird Co-Stewardship Continued.



3:20 - 3:35 p.m.
Pribilof island seabird youth
network
Ram Papish, Ann Harding, Tonia
Kushin, Alexis Will & Kendra Bush





3:35 - 3:50 p.m.
Shorebirds for today and tomorrow: culture- and place-based learning at schools and communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
Liliana Naves, Brenda Duty, Richard Lanctot, Alissa Rogers & Lara Mengak

Liliana Naves is an Oceanographer with a background in avian research. Since 2007, Lili has worked with the Division of Subsistence of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Her work blends natural and social sciences and has focused on bird harvest assessment, local and traditional knowledge, and outreach and education.



3:50 - 4:05 p.m.
Weaving Indigenous and conventional science in shorebird monitoring
Claire Atkins*, Keli'i Kotubetey,
Hi'ilei Kawelo, Yoshimi Rii, Lee Tibbitts,
Kawika Winter & Melissa Price

Claire Atkins is a graduate student in the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Management at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is energized through collaboration, mutual support systems, and growing biocultural resilience in the context of climate change.

4:05 - 5:00 p.m.

Talking circle

- Practical steps for communicating & working with communities and Native organizations
- Identifying priority topics in bird research and conservation from the local perspectives Facilitator: Michael Opheim

Participants: Patty Schwalenberg, Crystal Leonetti, George Yaska, Mic Isham , Christopher Tulik & Subhankar Banerjee



Closing Banquet & Awards 6:30 - 11:00 p.m. @ The Hotel Captain Cook (Mid/Aft Deck)

Let's end another awe-inspiring Alaska Bird Conference by gathering for one final celebration of bird conservation with colleagues. The 2023 Isleib Award recipient will be presented with a gift and the best student oral presentation and poster will be announced. Finally, close-out the night by dancing to Alaskan band, The Woodshedders.

Awards Start & Silent Auction closes @ 8:00pm **Band Starts @ 9:00pm**



The Woodshedders are a hot 4-piece band out of Delta composed of rapidly declining senior citizens who've been playing together for better than a decade. We're an acoustic ensemble with an electric guitar thrown in recently by mistake. We play an eclectic mix of home-made songs, traditional tunes, and obscure classics with nice 4-part harmonies. We've taken many requests over the years but have kept on playing anyway. Don't miss your chance to see us before we croak!









- •Raaka makes unroasted dark chocolate in Brooklyn, NY in small batches from bean-to-bar with transparently sourced cacao beans and whole food ingredients, ensuring quality, deliciousness and traceability.
- •We source cacao via our Transparent Trade model from Zorzal Cacao, a 1,019 acre bird sanctuary and organic cacao demonstration farm in the northern mountain range of the Dominican Republic.
- Zorzal Cacao aims to tackle big obstacles like climate change mitigation, deforestation, wildlife
 conservation, habitat restoration, and sustainable development through the preservation and
 community-based bird monitoring of one tiny songbird with a chipper voice, the Bicknell's Thrush,
 zorzal de Bicknell in Spanish.
- •SMITHSONIAN MIGRATORY BIRD CENTER BIRD FRIENDLY* PROGRAM has certified Raaka and Zorzal Cacao as the world's first "Bird Friendly" chocolate! The program inspects and certifies the production of cocoa produced from plantations with specific diversity of shade trees, using traditionally and ecologically sound methods of cultivation, promoting the growth of organic, shade-grown, and forest-friendly cocoa.







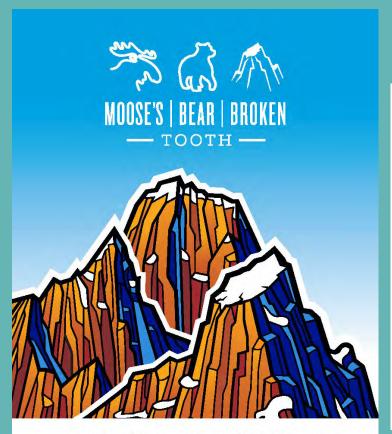
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Jennifer is the visionary behind the trailblazing curriculum for regenerative gardening, a program that's been embraced and replicated not just in Alaska, but across Canada and the Lower 48. She has instructed over 1,000 Alaskans in a balanced methodology for gardening in the Far North.

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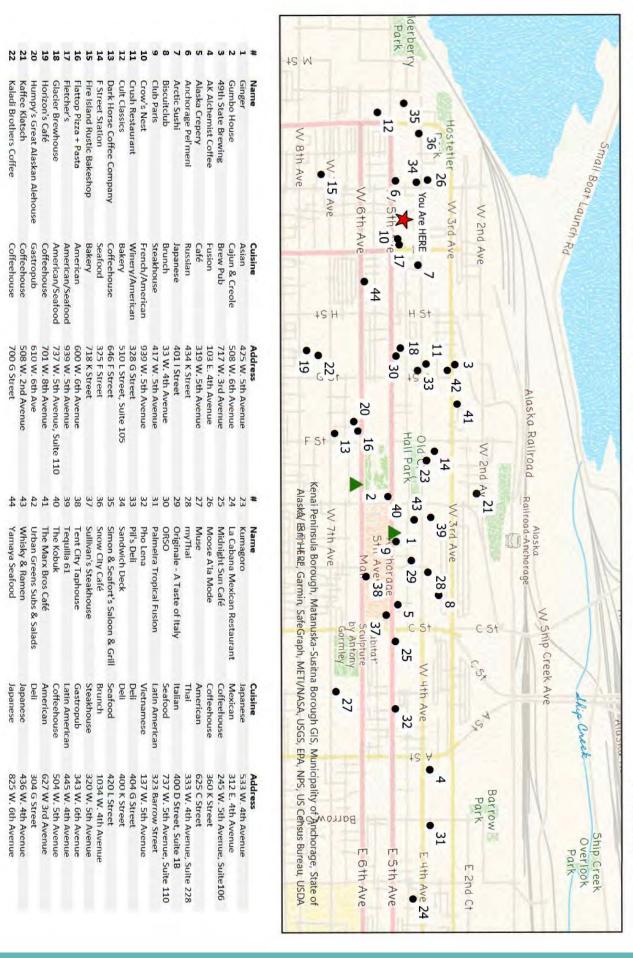




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