

Call for 2026 Pete Isleib Award Nominations

We are seeking nominations for the [2026 Pete Isleib Award](#) that will be presented at the [21st Alaska Bird Conference](#), to be held 7–11 December 2026 at the Marriott hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. Please send your nomination as a Word or PDF document to Richard_lanctot@fws.gov **by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 16, 2026** and use “Isleib Award” as the subject line of your email.

M.E. “Pete” Isleib took his passion for birds to scientific and recreational heights. He moved to Alaska in the early 1960s and made his living as a commercial fisherman. Pete was known for his extraordinary ornithological skills and conservation work in Alaska. His book “Birds of the North Gulf Coast-Prince William Sound Region, Alaska,” co-authored with Brina Kessel, provided some of the earliest data on avifauna of this area. Pete Isleib died in an accident while refitting his fishing vessel in Naknek, Alaska, in 1993.

The Isleib Award recognizes “outstanding contributions to bird conservation in Alaska” and has been presented at each Alaska Bird Conference since 1994. Past recipients of this prestigious award are Stan Senner (1994), G. Vernon Byrd (1997), Calvin Lensink (1998), Jim King (2000), Dan Gibson (2002), Brina Kessel (2004), the team of Bruce Conant and John “Jack” Hodges (2006), Robert Gill (2008), Dirk Derksen (2010), Russ Oates (2012), Brian McCaffery (2014), Robert J. Ritchie (2016), Colleen Handel (2019), Margaret Petersen (2021), and Liliana Naves (2023).

We encourage nomination of people who meet the following criteria:

- 1) The nominee must have contributed in some important way to bird conservation through research, management, policy, volunteer work, or outreach/education;
- 2) The nominee may live out of state, so long as the bulk of his/her work was conducted in Alaska or pertained to conservation of Alaska birds;
- 3) The award can be either for cumulative lifetime achievement or for major contribution(s) made at some point in the nominee’s career.

The Isleib Award committee requests that nominations be limited to one single-spaced page, with one-inch margins on all sides, using Times New Roman 12-pt font. Please provide the following in your nomination statement:

- 1) Nominee’s full name and affiliation(s);
- 2) Short biography of relevant work in Alaska;
- 3) Description of significant contributions or cumulative lifetime achievement toward bird conservation in Alaska; and
- 4) Name, contact info, and relationship to nominee of person submitting nomination.

To receive consideration for the 2026 award, nominations submitted in previous years should be updated and resubmitted. Please note: Although it is not required for the nomination, a recent high-quality photograph of the recipient will be required for presentation of the award.