Where did that Wilson’s go?

By Sue Guers, 
Migration Program Manager/ Research Biologist

Why does ABO band birds? That’s a question I am often asked at our banding station here in Fairbanks, Alaska. Information garnered by marking individual birds (such as banding) can provide information on things like dispersal and migration, behavior and social structure, life-span and survival rate, reproductive success and population growth. At ABO, we have been banding at Creamer’s Field Migration Station (CFMS) to monitor populations and to learn more about the migration and ecology of Alaska’s birds. Our banding station has several distinctions—we’re the northernmost migration-monitoring station in North America and we’re the only station in Alaska to operate in the spring and the fall. In addition, we’re the longest running constant-effort mist-netting station in Alaska and northern Canada and have acquired one of the largest migration monitoring databases of landbirds in the state. To date, at CFMS we’ve captured and banded ~80,000 birds of 71 species since the station’s inception in 1992.

If you haven’t seen banding in action, here’s the process in a nutshell. After a bird’s been captured (usually in a mist-net) it is marked with a uniquely numbered band or ring (as it’s called in Europe) placed on its leg. The bander records where and when each bird is banded, how old it is, what sex it is, and other information such as body condition and molt, and then the bird is released unharmed. The total process takes one to two minutes. The banding records are then sent to the United States Geological Survey’s Bird Banding Lab (BBL) in Patuxent, MD. The BBL, in coordination with the Canadian Wildlife Service, is responsible for administering the North American Bird Banding Program—currently, there are over 200 banding stations throughout North America. The BBL is also responsible for archiving the millions of banding records from all over the US and Canada. If you happen to see or find a banded bird, you can call 1-800-327-BAND or visit www.reportband.gov to report it. Information from bands subsequently found and reported to BBL provides data on the distribution and movements of species, their relative numbers, annual production, life-span and causes of death. Such information increases our knowledge and understanding of birds and their habits and assists us in their management and conservation.

A recent report from the BBL about one of ABO’s banded birds has provided a snapshot into the life of an Alaskan migratory songbird. On August 6, 2006 a Hatch Year (young of the year) female Wilson’s Warbler was banded at ABO’s Moose Creek Migration Station—a banding station that was located in the Kantishna area within Denali Park. This bird, #2480-40861, weighed in at mere 7.2 grams (or 0.25 ounces)

(continued on next page)
roughly the weight of three nickels! This Wilson’s Warbler was recaptured on August 27, 2006 by banders of the Idaho Bird Observatory (of which Erin Keily, one of our fall CFMS banders was part!) at the Camas National Wildlife Refuge, located in southeastern Idaho—a mere 2,443 miles away! You can follow the possible path she might have taken on the map on page 1 (her route is highlighted in pink). In 20 days, this 7g bird traveled on average, 116 miles a day—and she probably wasn’t done yet, since Wilson’s Warblers are known to winter as far south as Panama. The following spring, I hope she made the return journey back to Alaska—for a year-round trip that could tally up to 15,000 miles. That’s a lot of airline miles! We haven’t recaptured her again, but are hoping for the best.

If you are interested in learning more about Wilson’s Warbler migration here in Alaska, visit:
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Anne Ruggles

Hello from beautiful snowy Fairbanks! Our summer field season was busy and productive. The last of our amazing seasonal staff migrated south in mid-October. We are now analyzing data, writing reports, and working on proposals for next summer’s work. We are hosting the 13th Alaska Bird Conference, to be held in Fairbanks 3-7 March 2008. This provides a venue for researchers and members of the public to meet and share their results. The conference keynote speaker, Scott Weidensaul, will give a public presentation and hold a book-signing March 4.

We welcome a new gift shop and office manager, Nicole Pearce, to ABO. She comes to us from Pt. Townsend, Washington where she worked for the Jefferson Land Trust. She and her partner, David (the new Emergency Manager with the Fairbanks North Star Borough) migrated to Fairbanks in September. Nicole has already shaken things up a bit around here – take a look at the ABO website www.alaskabird.org. You will find a link to all there is to know about the Alaska Bird Conference, research updates, citizen science opportunities, what’s at the ABO bird feeders, and a new ABO t-shirt design that will be available at the Alaska Bird Conference.

ABO wouldn’t be able to meet its mission without our volunteers and Board of Directors. This year’s volunteers helped on the Arctic Warbler project along the Denali Highway, the Creamer’s Field Migration Monitoring Site, scanned slides so that we now have digital access to them, mentored students, helped with the newsletter, and provided handy-person skills. Our Board of Directors provides guidance, expertise, and support. Several of our Board members have been with the organization from its inception and are now migrating themselves. Over the past year, Dee Dee Hammond, Bob Ditrick, Carol McIntyre, and Debbie Nigro have moved on to other endeavors in their lives after many years of helping to guide ABO. But we haven’t lost their expertise. They continue to support ABO as members and volunteers. We welcome long-time ABO member and volunteer Chris Harwood, biologist with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, as a new member of the Board.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our members. You play an indispensable role in annually providing unrestricted working capital for ABO. This supports all of the programs and projects of ABO—research, monitoring, education, and outreach. Thank you!

STAFF MIGRATIONS

We haven’t put satellite collars on our summer staff, but we stay in contact with them. Some are taking some well-earned vacation time, while others have jumped right into new activities. Scott Kiersztyn is getting married in November and is working as an educator at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Chantal Villeneuve and Aaron Beville embarked on a roadtrip that took them from Fairbanks to the Everglades—and they are still friends! Jessica Hightower will graduate from Central Arkansas State College this spring. April Harding has moved to Fairbanks with her partner and is taking classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Rachel Rabinovitz is attending Graduate School at Antioch College in New Hampshire. Julia Montgomery is attending graduate school in Halifax Nova Scotia. Lily Sweikert is working on a California Condor reintroduction project in California. Heather Darrow and her partner moved to Goldhill, CO. Sally Galbraith, “The voice of ABO” and her husband, Dr. Joe, moved back to Oregon in October after Joe completed his PhD in infrasound at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
Alaska Bird Conference

Every two years 150 to 200 scientists and educators convene at the Alaska Bird Conference to share ideas, information, and research results about Alaska’s avifauna. The first Alaska Bird Conference was held in Anchorage in 1982. Twenty-five years and twelve conferences later the Alaska Bird Conference has grown into a partnership bringing together students, professionals, and expert birders from all over Alaska, the Lower 48 and Canada. The list of conference sponsors includes agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, the business community, and others.

The 13th Alaska Bird Conference will take place from 3-7 March 2008 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. The conference will include scientific presentations, a poster session, a banquet and keynote address, special awards, several workshops, associated meetings, an Educator Resource Fair, and an art show. Additionally, there will be associated meetings including the Boreal Partners in Flight annual meeting, the Alaska Shorebird Group Meeting, and the Alaska Raptor Working Group Meeting.

Scott Weidensaul will give the keynote address for the conference. He will present a public lecture and book signing the evening of 4 March 2008 at the Westmark Hotel in downtown Fairbanks. You can pre-order books to pick up at the conference. For those who cannot attend the conference, Mr. Weidensaul has graciously agreed to sign pre-ordered books. See page 5 for information on pre-ordering.

For more information and to download a copy of the registration form go to: http://www.alaskabird.org/ABOAKBirdConferenceHome.html

Elderhostel Comes to ABO

We had some very special visitors this summer. ABO was part of Elderhostel’s America’s Arctic and the Alaskan Interior: Endless Summer and Adventures in America’s Arctic during the International Polar Year programs. The visit to ABO was sandwiched between a tour of the University of Alaska Museum of the North and the Large Animal Research Station. These hardy seniors learned about the amazing avian residents of Alaska and their adaptations to Interior winters. The Elderhostel model of “learning vacations” fits perfectly with ABO’s mission to promote the conservation and appreciation of birds through education. The Fairbanks Elderhostel program is sponsored by Denakinaaga, Inc. and UAF Summer Sessions. ABO is looking forward to continuing to work with Elderhostel next summer in their existing programs and a potential new program that focuses on birding and the Sandhill Crane Festival.

ABO will have a New T-shirt available at the Alaska Bird Conference. The above artwork by George C. West will be part of the new design. Check ABO’s web site in the new year for information on ordering your new t-shirt.
Scott Weidensaul Books Pre-Order

Author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul has written more than two dozen books on natural history, including Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; The Ghost with Trembling Wings, about the search for species that may or may not be extinct; and his most recent book, Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding. He lectures widely on wildlife and environmental topics, and is an active field researcher, specializing in birds of prey and hummingbirds.

Scott Weidensaul will be the guest speaker at the Alaska Bird Conference in Fairbanks, AK. Due to the volume of books we anticipate selling at the conference we are asking our members to pre-order. We will have the four titles available for pre-order. To reduce our financial burden we ask that you make a $5.00 deposit for each book ordered (pre-payment in full would be very much appreciated, but not required). Deposits will be applied toward the total cost of your order.

Fairbanks residents and conference attendees will be able to pick up their books at the Alaska Bird Conference and have them personally signed by the author. All other members can have signed copies shipped for an additional charge. (Sorry, no personal additions can be made for shipped books, only the author’s signature.) Please call for shipping rates.

P.O. Box 80505
Fairbanks, AK 99708

ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATORY

Phone: 907-451-7159
E-mail: npearce@alaskabird.org

Please reserve the following books for:
Name:
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City: State: Zip:
Phone: E-mail:
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The following are all paperback:
The Ghost With Trembling Wings $16.00 X =
Living on the Wind $16.00 X =
Return to Wild America $15.00 X =
Enclosed is my deposit check for total number of copies X $5.00 =
Please call Nicole Pearce at ABO if you would like to pay in full or by credit card. Thanks
Teaching from our place  ABO and Friends of Creamer’s Field have teamed up to develop a one-credit continuing education course for Fairbanks teachers. This course will offer a清理house of local ecological information, resources, and community connections. The course is built upon the fundamentals of place-based education and will include 5-7 workshops taught by a host of cooperating community groups and agencies. For more information and registration materials contact Tricia at 451-7159 or tblake@alaskabird.org.

Tundra Swans  ABO staff traveled to the north slope this summer to assist with a Tundra Swan banding effort coordinated by the Swan Research Program. Follow the southbound journey of some of these swans at www.swanmigration.org. Watch for additional education materials on the site in the coming months.

ABO’s Arctic Moon Junior Bird Club is embarking on its third year of bird-related activities, field trips, and FUN! This year we’ll be working with ABO scientists to study Black-capped Chickadees, visiting Eagle Summit, and MORE! The club is open to kids ages 10 and up. Visit www.alaskabird.org/ABOJuniorBirdClub or call 451-7159 for more information. You can also check our calendar for upcoming club activities.

Suet  All-natural homemade suet makes a great holiday gift! Support the Arctic Moon Junior Bird Club by purchasing suet at ABO’s gift shop in December.

Bird Education Resource Fair
March 4, 3:30-6:30 PM at the Westmark Hotel in downtown Fairbanks  A wide variety of teaching kits, posters, activities, and other education materials from state and national bird education programs will be on display, along with information on feeder count and citizen science programs. Bird education experts from across the state will be available to talk to you about their programs. Everyone is invited to join us for this valuable opportunity to get new ideas and add to your arsenal of education materials! If you’d like to display some of your own education materials at this fair, please contact Tricia Blake at 451-7159 no later than February 1, 2008.

BASH

By: David Shaw, ABO Research Biologist

The long field season for the BASH (Bird Airstrike Hazard) project is complete. This may have been the longest season of any project in ABO’s history. We began the field effort on 11 April and worked all the way through the end of September. The field crew pushed through the last, very slow days of autumn in good form and Scott, Heather, Aaron and Chantal deserve big thanks for their endurance. In the process, we made thousands of observations of birds flying over Eielson Air Force Base, counted tens of thousands of geese, ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and passerines during our searches of the study area. We conducted 108 point counts and recorded hundreds of hours of sound. A project of this magnitude generates an enormous quantity of data, which is proving quite interesting.
On these dark winter days, when the sun barely creeps above the southern horizon, snow caps the spruce trees, and the temperature drops to 20, 30 and 40 below… time slows down in interior Alaska. We stoke our wood stoves, collect all those books we’ve been meaning to read, and don jackets, mukluks, skis, hats, mittens, and a lot of down for our brief excursions away from our warm shelters. But outside, Alaskan wildlife endures. Every species from moose to chickadees have accumulated generations of biological wisdom to survive interior Alaska’s harsh winter conditions.

Chickadees are interior Alaska’s smallest resident birds. Weighing in at just 10-12 grams (about 30 paper clips), chickadees achieve amazing physiological feats on a daily basis. They are early risers, waking just before dawn on a typical winter’s day. Unlike many other avian species, they make use of the twilight hours to increase valuable foraging time. On winter solstice, Fairbanks receives a mere 3 hours and 42 minutes of sunlight. By including civil twilight (when the center of the sun is less than 6 degrees below the horizon), a chickadee can almost double its foraging time to 6.5 hours! This is crucial, as chickadees spend virtually every waking moment obtaining and storing energy. They are incredibly efficient at packing on fat, and increase their body weight by about 10% each winter day.

(Imagine for a moment the sheer volume of bacon one would have to consume to put on 10% of your own body weight in a 6 hour period!) Like us, a cold chickadee shivers—although theirs is not a visible shiver. Instead, each individual muscle fiber vibrates to produce heat.

As the day draws to a close and we stoke up our woodstoves and curl up watching chickadees at your bird feeder, remember the amazing physiological feats those birds have achieved while you were asleep! If you would like to encourage them to continue visiting your feeder, provide black oil sunflower seeds and suet. Both Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees are also fond of peanut butter (skip the low fat option), and will even forage from your Thanksgiving turkey carcass if you hang it outside.

On January 23 join Dr. Susan Sharbaugh, ABO’s own chickadee guru for My Little Chickadee: Avian Tales of Winter Survival, 7 PM at ABO.

Count the birds at your feeder—Take Part in Citizen Science!

Do you have a bird feeder? Do you have a few hours to spare during the winter? If you answered yes to both of these questions, we are looking for you! ABO and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game are offering a chance to participate in citizen science through the Fairbanks Feeder Count Project. Count the birds visiting your feeders on three Saturdays (or within a week of that date) this winter to help us monitor our hardy resident birds. This year’s dates are November 17, December 15 and March 1.

More information and forms will be available on our website, www.alaskabird.org.

To learn more about winter bird feeding in Fairbanks, come by ABO’s Center for Education & Research or attend one of our programs.
ABO is pleased to announce that data from our Arctic Warbler Project will be included in a revision of Arctic Warbler species account for the Birds of North America (BNA). The BNA is a comprehensive reference organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the American Ornithologists’ Union that compiles all the natural history data available for the birds of our continent. Over the past 4 years, ABO has collected the most comprehensive dataset describing Arctic Warbler breeding ecology in North America. Soon, these data will be available to a vast audience through the BNA website. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Arctic Warbler project (financially and as volunteers). You have helped ABO make a solid scientific contribution towards the understanding of this unique member of the North American avian community. To read a report of ABO’s work on this project from 2004-2006 visit ABO’s web site: http://www.alaskabird.org/ABOResearchHome.html#ARWA

Nine-day old Arctic Warbler nestling. Photo by Sue Guers for ABO

Deformed-bill Chickadees

Now that winter is upon us and we are watching our feeders, ABO would appreciate reports of deformed-bill chickadees (or any other species). We have already seen two Black-capped Chickadees with long bills at the ABO feeders. Last winter we spotted a male Hairy Woodpecker with elongated upper and lower bills. And in September, there was a Sandhill Crane at Creamer’s Field with a bill that crossed at the tip.

Your sightings will help build a database that may lead us to the cause of these deformities. Please call ABO at 451-7159 or e-mail us at birds@alaskabird.org to report the date, time, place, type of bill deformity (for example: long upper bill, both bills long, long lower bill), general condition of the bird, and if the deformity is interfering with feeding. These birds have been reported in the Anchorage Bowl since the early 90s and have only recently appeared in the Interior. All information is important in solving this intriguing biological puzzle.

The United States Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center has compiled the results of their research on this phenomena.

Go to http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/landbirds/beak_deformity/index.html to learn about affected species, possible causes, effects on the birds.

For a recipe for a nutritionally balanced recipe that you might be interested in offering, http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/landbirds/beak_deformity/recipe.html
**FALL 2007 AT CFMS—NOT A RECORD-BREAKER BUT DEFINITELY ONE FOR THE BOOKS!**

By: Sue Guers, Migration Station Manager/Research Biologist

This fall marked the 16th season of banding at Creamer’s Field Migration Station (CFMS) here in Fairbanks. The banding staff consisted of Erin Kiely, Lila Tauzer, and Matt Timpf and me (from time to time)—all returnees from the spring season. In addition, we were lucky to have the experienced help of April Harding. The official start of the season was Monday, July 23, 2007—a nice warm day with few mosquitoes, lots of mushrooms and fireweed still in bloom. That day we caught 47 birds including Yellow-rumped Warblers, Lincoln’s Sparrows and Hammond’s Flycatchers. All factors were in place and we were ready for the barrage of migrants.

The capture rates started off slowly but had picked up with several 100+ bird days by the beginning of August. These were probably young of the year dispersing out of the area. We were really excited and anticipating the 200 and 300+ bird days yet to come. You may remember last fall, when CFMS experienced large fallouts of Common Redpolls at the beginning of the season and American Tree Sparrows at the end. The banding staff was tired of reminiscing and wanted to see the action for themselves. Unfortunately, it never happened. Capture rates in August and September were much lower when compared to last fall. I strongly believe the weather was the main factor as August and September were warmer than normal. The usual August rains never came but instead appeared in September. In addition, we didn’t experience any hard frosts during the entire banding season. Thus, birds were never in a rush to migrate and we didn’t experience large fallouts. The ‘mixed bag’ of weather created oscillating capture rates and frustrated banders. When we did get a pulse of birds, it was typically after a rainstorm or a weather front had moved through. Our busiest day of the season was on August 15th when we had 187 birds and were only open for ⅓ of the day due to rain in the morning.

From 23 July to 30 September 3,861 birds were captured. Of these, 3,178 birds were banded as first-time captures. The remaining birds were recaptures (518), returning birds from previous years (89) or birds that remained unbanded (76). The most abundant species banded (first-time captures) were Yellow-rumped Warbler (780), Dark-eyed Junco (492), Orange-crowned Warbler (390), Lincoln’s Sparrow (278) and American Tree Sparrow (253). Together, these five species comprised 69% of all birds banded. Additionally, 38 species were captured and 36 banded (we do not band ducks and grouse). As is the norm, young birds represent the majority of our fall captures (89%).

While the capture rates may have been down by 2,000 birds over last fall, the species diversity remained high and kept us guessing as to what we’d capture next! For example, we caught not one, but two Arctic Warblers at CFMS in one week during mid-August. Arctic Warblers are rare migrants to the Tanana Valley. These two birds were the first at the station since 1999 and represent the 20th and 21st captures of this species over the 16-year banding history. Both were Hatch Year Birds (young of the year) that seem a bit off course on their way to Southeast.

*continued on next page*
Asia—maybe they wanted to visit ABO since they are the subject of one of our research projects! Another exciting event at the banding station was the capture of our first Chipping Sparrow on September 14th. In addition to being a new species for the station, this bird was a Hatch Year bird—providing evidence that this species is possibly breeding locally. A look at their range map shows that Chipping Sparrows are not known to breed in the Fairbanks area (Middleton 1998). However, both adult and young have been captured regularly at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge banding station in Tok (approximately 200 miles SE of Fairbanks) since 1994. Mist-netting at CFMS, in addition to incidental observations from local birders, is helping to document the possible range expansion of this songbird species to interior Alaska. Other notable captures include an adult male Merlin, three young Wilson’s Snipe, an adult American Three-toed Woodpecker, an adult Northern Shrike and three Golden-crowned Sparrows. Check out the full details of our fall banding season on our website: www.alaskabird.org.

In addition to mist-netting and banding birds at CFMS ABO continued its collaboration with the Institute of Arctic Biology at UAF (Drs. Jon Runstadler’s and George Happ labs) in testing birds for avian influenza. 2007 marked the third year of this collaboration. The UAF staff collected 2,594 samples from multiple songbird species during the spring and fall banding seasons at CFMS.

Some thank you’s-
The fall banding season would not have been possible without the support of the incredibly talented banding staff. I thank them for their hard work and high morale during many early mornings. Additionally, I would like to thank the many volunteers who contributed their time and dedication (and many baked goods!) to CFMS. ABO could not operate CFMS without folks like you. A special thanks to April Harding and Joel Scurr for hosting the end-of-the season/volunteer appreciation potluck at their new home. I would also like to thank the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the Bureau of Land Management, and our 24 Adopt-A-Mist Net sponsors for their financial support. Finally, thank you Alaska INBRE at UAF for purchasing much needed equipment and providing staff to help operate CFMS. This was indeed a memorable fall; I can’t wait to see what spring 2008 will bring. See you all there!

UNRAVELING THE ELUSIVE
Kittlitz’s Murrelet

Presented by: Michelle Kissling, USFWS
Date and time: December 5, 2007 7 pm
Sponsored by Arctic Audubon and Alaska Bird Observatory

The Kittlitz’s murrelet (Brachyramphus brevirostris) is one of the rarest and least understood seabirds in the world. This species is near-endemic to Alaska with a small population occurring in the Russian Far East. Although less than 40 nests have been found, at-sea distribution of Kittlitz’s murrelets during the breeding season seems to be restricted to tidewater glaciers, glaciated fjords or outflows of glacial streams. In response to documented declines, this species has earned accolades such as “top 10 most endangered birds in the United States” (Audubon 2006) and “critically endangered” (IUCN Red List 2006).

We began studying Kittlitz’s murrelets in Icy Bay, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, in 2002. This area supports roughly 15% of the world’s population of Kittlitz’s murrelets. In 2007, we had our most successful field season to date studying Kittlitz’s murrelets in Icy Bay! We captured and radio-marked 30 Kittlitz’s murrelets. We discovered four active nests and monitored one nest continually using a remote video camera system. Despite the relatively pristine environment, the local population of Kittlitz’s murrelets has declined by 53% (18% per year) since 2002. We will share preliminary results from the 2007 field season along with video clips and photographs of nesting birds. Everyone is welcome to join us at ABO for this informal presentation!

RUBL UPDATE

By: David Shaw, ABO Research Biologist

ABO’s cooperative field effort with the USFWS to study the breeding ecology and habitat associations of Rusty Blackbirds (RUBL) concluded at the end of July. Two sites were involved in the project, one on military lands near Anchorage (USFWS) and one in the Tanana Flats south of Fairbanks (ABO). It was a successful season with more than 30 nests found and monitored in the Fairbanks portion of the study. Our field crew consisting of two interns (Julia Montgomery and Lily Sweekert) and two field biologists (April Harding and Rachel Rabinowitz) was exceedingly hard working and did a superb job. Stay tuned to ABO’s web page for the final report on the year’s effort to be posted before the end of January 2008.

RUBL Publication

ABO contributed to an upcoming chapter of the ongoing ornithological series “Studies in Avian Biology”. The paper, authored by members of the International Rusty Blackbird Technical Group, including ABO’s David Shaw, is entitled Understanding Declines in the Rusty Blackbird. Though accepted for publication, the manuscript will likely not be seen in print for another year or more.

In addition to the biologists on the ABO staff, there are scientists and specialists in the community who volunteer specific and vital types of help on a regular basis. We depend on their experience and expertise:

ABO Scientific Advisory Council
Abby Powell
Carol McIntyre
Ed Murphy
Debbie Nigro
Steve Kendall
Philip Martin
Ted Swem
Kevin Winker

ABO Education Committee
Susan Campbell
Laurel Devaney
Wendy Ehnert
Steve Kendall
Mary Liston
Philip Martin
Jeff Walters
Volunteer Spotlight - Laurel Devaney

Here at ABO, we are lucky to have a strong core of dedicated volunteers. We literally couldn’t operate without your support—You assist with research projects, facilitate education programs, serve on our board of directors and committees, submit data to our citizen science programs, and brave those early mosquito-filled mornings at the banding station and long-time ABO volunteer Laurel Devaney does it all!

Laurel and her husband Ken have been loyal volunteers at our bird banding station since 1994—they’ve extracted hundreds (if not thousands) of birds from our nets and have scribed numerous lines of data. Laurel is a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters and this year began teaching her little sister Samantha the intricacies of removing birds from mist nets. Laurel and Samantha were regular Saturday morning fixtures at the station this fall.

As the education coordinator for the US Fish & Wildlife Service Fairbanks Field Office, Laurel is a passionate educator. She is a valued voice on ABO’s education committee, teaches education programs, coordinates activities for our Arctic Moon Junior Bird Club, participates in our annual Birdathon, and is involved in planning educational components to the 2008 Alaska Bird Conference. But Laurel’s dedication to birds doesn’t stop with ABO. She also maintains the local bird hotline and, along with Ken, coordinates a count circle for the Christmas Bird Count.

Thank you, Laurel for your dedication to Alaska’s birds and conservation education in our community!

Thank you to all our Hardworking Volunteers

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<td>Tim Walker</td>
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<td>Nancy Gundlach</td>
<td>Debbie Nigro</td>
<td>John Whissel</td>
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<td>Nicholas Hajdukovich</td>
<td>Steffen Oppel</td>
<td>Judy Williams</td>
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<td>Joanne Haller</td>
<td>Nicole Pearce</td>
<td>John Wright</td>
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<td>Don Hampton</td>
<td>Tenika Peter</td>
<td>Robin Yokel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nan Hampton</td>
<td>Joyce Potter</td>
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HAVE A GREEN HOLIDAY

A Holiday Celebration and Gift Sale!
Saturday December 1, 2007
10:00am to 5:30pm
At the
Alaska Bird Observatory
Center for Education and Research

Local conservation organizations will all gather together for a “Green” Holiday Sale. Get all your shopping done while supporting your local conservation organizations. Special guests will include Randall Compton personally re-marking his Creamer’s Field print for sale and Mark D. Ross re-marking his collection of field sketches. We will provide holiday goodies including: cider, coffee, tea, and a variety of baked goods. Please come by to celebrate the season. Friends of Creamer’s Field will be lighting their holiday tree at the Creamer’s Field Farmhouse immediately following the sale at 6:00 pm.

Support all your favorite local conservation organizations:

Friends of Creamer’s Field
Arctic Audubon
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Calypso Farm
Alaska Bird Observatory

WHAT’S ON ABO’S HOLIDAY WISHLIST?

• 100% post-consumer waste copier paper
• Donation of carpet steam cleaning for our building
• Boat, outboard motor, and trailer
• Canoe and paddles
• Bicycles in good condition and paddles
• DVD player in good condition
• Food for bird feeders (no millet please)
• Zip Drives
• Memory cards for digital cameras

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need assistance with homemade snacks to serve at the Holiday Gift Bazaar. Call or e-mail Nicole at ABO if you can assist us with this task. Items can be dropped off Friday or Saturday. The sale is December 1st.
(907) 451-7159
npearce@alaskabird.org

Looking for a unique gift for the bird or nature lover on your list?

Visit the ABO Gift Shop
Monday—Friday 9:30am to 5:00pm.
Or, check out our stock online and order by phone.

You will find:

• ABO T-shirts
• Field Guides
• Books about Birds
• Children’s Books
• Stuffed singing Birds
• Puppets
• Puzzles
• Carvings
• 2008 Calendars
• Games
• Jewelry
• Chocolate
• Bird Song CD’s
• Ornaments
• Holiday Cards
• Tote/Grocery/Holiday bags
• Gift Shop Gift Certificates
• ABO Holiday Gift Memberships

George C. West
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td><strong>Birds of the Aleutians lecture &amp; book signing</strong> Co-authors Dan Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd talk about species diversity in these remote islands and share images of rarely-seen birds. Location: UA Museum of the North. FREE</td>
<td>1-3 PM at the Creamer’s Farmhouse. $5/child</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
<td><strong>Fairbanks FeederCount</strong> This is the first day of the annual count of birds visiting your feeders. More information and data sheets available at <a href="http://www.alaskabird.org/ABOFeeDcount.html">www.alaskabird.org/ABOFeeDcount.html</a></td>
<td>February 20: <strong>Bird Stories, Myths, &amp; Legends</strong> A night of avian folklore. 7 PM at ABO. FREE</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
<td><strong>Arctic Moon Junior Bird Club meeting</strong> 1:00 PM at ABO. RSVP to Tricia at <a href="mailto:tblake@alaskabird.org">tblake@alaskabird.org</a> or 451-7159 by November 16.</td>
<td>March 1: <strong>Fairbanks FeederCount</strong> Final day of the annual count of birds visiting your feeders. More information and data sheets available at <a href="http://www.alaskabird.org/ABOFeeDcount.html">www.alaskabird.org/ABOFeeDcount.html</a></td>
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<td>November 24</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving for the Birds</strong> Join the Friends of Creamer’s Field for family activities! Drop by the Creamer’s Farmhouse 12:4 PM. FREE</td>
<td>March 4-7: <strong>12th Biennial Alaska Bird Conference</strong> at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. Suggestions for pre-conference workshops, special sessions, and associated meetings are now being accepted. This year’s keynote speaker is author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul. For further details visit <a href="http://www.alaskabird.org">www.alaskabird.org</a>.</td>
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<td>December 1</td>
<td><strong>Green Christmas &amp; Creamer’s Tree Lighting</strong> Support local conservation organizations at a holiday sale featuring nature-themed items. 10:00 AM-5:30 PM. Followed by the Creamer’s tree lighting at 6 PM.</td>
<td>March 6: <strong>All about Owls</strong> A program for kids featuring stories, crafts, and hands-on activities. 2 PM at the Noel Wien Library</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td><strong>Unraveling the Elusive Kittlitz’s Murrelet</strong> with Michelle Kissling, USFWS. Lecture and photos featuring research in Icy Bay, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. 7 PM at ABO. FREE</td>
<td>March 11: <strong>Owls of Alaska</strong> - A public lecture sponsored by ABO and Friends of Creamer’s Field. 7 PM at the Noel Wien Library</td>
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<td>December 8, 15, 22</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Ornament Making</strong> at the Creamer’s Farmhouse 12-4 PM</td>
<td>March 12: <strong>EGGstravaganza!</strong> A free <strong>Flint Hills Family Fun with Birds</strong> program for adults and kids of all ages. Learn all about eggs through activities and egg decorating. Drop in 1-3 PM at ABO.</td>
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<td>December 22</td>
<td><strong>Winter Solstice Walk</strong> with Friends of Creamer’s Field. 12-2 PM. Meet at the farmhouse.</td>
<td>March 19: <strong>Birds of Bolivia</strong> a seminar with ABO research biologist David Shaw. 7 PM at ABO.</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td><strong>My Little Chickadee: Avian Tales of Winter Survival</strong> with Dr. Susan Sharbaugh. 7 PM at ABO. FREE</td>
<td>March 27: <strong>ABO’s Annual Meeting</strong> featuring light refreshments, updates on our recent education and research endeavors and, of course, Bird Jeopardy!</td>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td><strong>Winter Wildlife Workshop: Birds.</strong> A workshop for homeschool families with kids ages 8 and up. Register at 451-7159 or <a href="mailto:tblake@alaskabird.org">tblake@alaskabird.org</a>. 1-3 PM at ABO. $5/child</td>
<td>April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 &amp; May 7, 14: The return of the <strong>Birds of the Boreal identification workshops</strong>! Each workshop is taught by a local expert. 7-9 PM at ABO.</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td><strong>Winter Wildlife Workshop: Tracking</strong> A workshop for homeschool families with kids ages 8 and up. Register at 451-7159 or <a href="mailto:tblake@alaskabird.org">tblake@alaskabird.org</a>.</td>
<td>April 26: <strong>Spring Migration Celebration!</strong> Our celebration of International Migratory Bird Day 2008. 1-4 PM at ABO and Creamer’s Refuge. This year’s theme is <strong>Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, &amp; People.</strong></td>
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ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATORY’S
WAYS OF GIVING
(Please check the items in which you would like to participate)

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ___________ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: ___________ E-Mail: ____________

☐ Sponsor a whole day!
Give $300 to ABO and we will post your name or message on the front page of our website on the day of your choice. Please write your message here:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

☐ I would like to become a frequent flyer
Pay your annual membership in monthly installments. You may give a minimum of $5 a month for a year. Just provide your credit card information below. Let us know we can count on you for another year.
Start Date: ____________________________
Monthly Contribution: ____________
Total Yearly Contribution: ____________

☐ I would like to give a $20 introductory gift membership to:
Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: _______________ State: _____ Zip: ______
Phone: _______________ e-mail: __________
The $20 introductory price is for new members only and includes all the same benefits as a regular membership. We will send an introduction letter and notice of their gift membership.

☐ Enclosed is my check
☐ Please charge my credit card
Card # (Visa or Mastercard): ____________________________
Exp. Date: __________ Security Code: ____________
Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________

□ I would like to give a gift to support ABO’s general fund.
Just send a check to:
Alaska Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 80505
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Or fill out the credit card information below and enter the amount here
$_________
The Arctic Warbler 16

Female Rusty Blackbird by David Shaw