

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2006 - 2007



The Teshekpuk Lake area is the primary calving ground for the 45,000-head Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd. John Schoen represents Audubon and the conservation community on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

Photograph by Gerrit Vyn, The Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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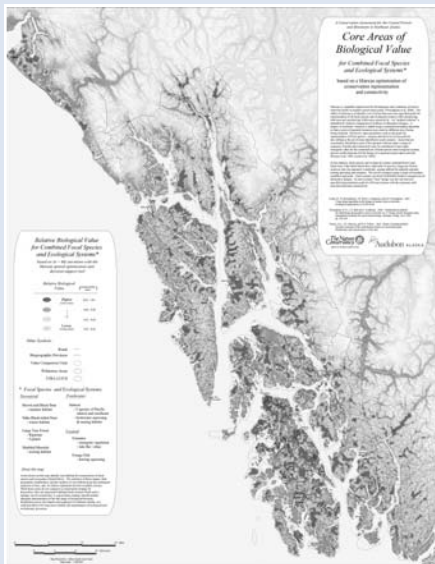
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Public Policy

Advocating for the conservation of nationally and internationally significant wildlife populations and their habitats.

- Halted an oil and gas lease sale near **Teshekpuk Lake** in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska via a successful lawsuit, *National Audubon Society v. Kempthorne*. The court decision forced BLM to address cumulative environmental impacts before proceeding.
- Promoted conservation of priority areas in the Tongass National Forest through participation in the **Tongass Futures Roundtable**. John Schoen, Senior Scientist, serves as the chair of the Roundtable's mapping subcommittee.
- Assisted the national campaign to protect the coastal plain of the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**, resulting in the introduction of HR 39, bipartisan legislation that would permanently protect the area as wilderness.
- Successfully advocated for the protection of **Spectacled Eider** marine habitat. Following Audubon's science testimony, and in cooperation with Oceana, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council stopped the expansion of bottom-trawling into the eider's winter habitat in the Bering Sea.
- Worked with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to identify Important Bird Areas and WatchList species in the nation's first Fishery Ecosystem Plan, this one for the **Aleutian Islands**.
- Provided technical comments and helped generate tens of thousands of public comments on **critical conservation issues**, including proposed endangered species listings for polar bears and Cook Inlet beluga whales, revisions to the Tongass Land Management Plan, and land use plans for several Important Bird Areas, such as the Jim-Swan Wetlands, Anchorage Coastal Wetlands, and Chiniak Bay.



Audubon and The Nature Conservancy have identified and mapped the most biologically productive watersheds in the Tongass. Find this map and more in full color at www.audubonalaska.org (click on Read our Conservation Assessment for the Tongass).



About 60 percent of all Bristle-thighed Curlews breed at the Andreafsky Wilderness, an Important Bird Area east of the Yukon Delta in Alaska.

Photograph by Gary Kramer, USFWS

Right: The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge is an Important Bird Area of global significance, but it is jeopardized by a proposed road that could harm the waterfowl and shorebird habitats of Izembek and Kinzarof lagoons. Photograph by USFWS

Conservation Science

Synthesizing and applying the best available science to identify and understand conservation problems, priorities, and solutions.

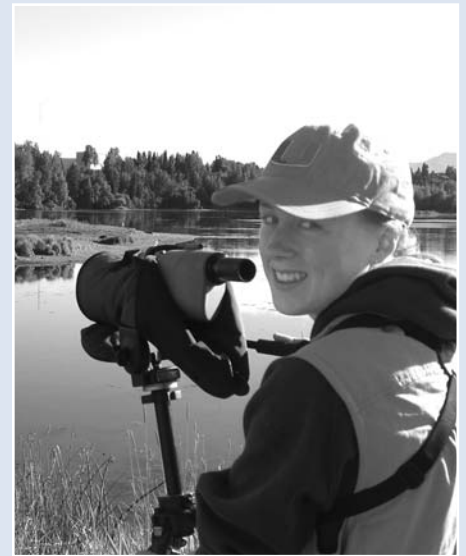
- Began a conservation assessment for the **Beaufort and Chukchi seas** to identify, analyze, map, and describe sensitive ecological resources (e.g., marine bird and mammal habitats) as development pressure mounts in the Arctic Ocean.
- Published and distributed the *Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion in Southeast Alaska and the **Tongass National Forest*** in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. It comes with a complete GIS database, and it is available on DVD and online at www.audubonalaska.org (click on Read our Conservation Assessment for the Tongass).
- Collaborated with The Nature Conservancy to develop and distribute a timber supply database and tool for Southeast Alaska, which calculates potential timber volume by watershed under various policy and management scenarios. This tool helps Audubon and others advocate a **transition from old-growth to second-growth** timber harvest in the Tongass National Forest.
- Continued to identify, nominate, and select **Important Bird Areas** (IBAs) throughout Alaska for inclusion into the international network of essential habitats for birds. Alaska now contains 60 percent of all globally-significant IBAs in the country so far.
- Completed an assessment of the status and future of hard-rock and coal mining in the **western Brooks Range** to develop Audubon's long-term conservation strategy in the western Arctic.



Education and Outreach

Growing and strengthening our conservation constituency by raising public awareness about the natural world.

- Designed and launched **Alaska eBird** in cooperation with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This website enables birders to record their sightings, search thousands of records for bird distributions and hot spots across the continent, and contribute their observations to avian science and conservation. Go to www.ebird.org/ak, or see page 5 for details.
- Stationed a **community naturalist** at Westchester Lagoon in downtown Anchorage for the summer. See photo and caption.
- Sponsored a distance learning project on **shorebird migration**, featuring a live webcast of Stan Senner and Governor Sarah Palin at the Copper River Delta.
- Partnered with the *Anchorage Daily News* to publish descriptions and illustrations of the 52 **Alaska WatchList** bird species on the masthead of the "Science" section in the paper every Sunday.
- Reached more than **3,500 people** through lectures and presentations on IBAs, birding basics, the Tongass National Forest, Teshekpuk Lake, and other topics about Alaska's wildlife and their habitats.



Kelsey Logan, a marine biology student from the University of Miami, served as Audubon's Community Naturalist for the summer of 2007. Kelsey was stationed at Westchester Lagoon near downtown Anchorage, where she interpreted the natural history of birds for families, passers-by, and summer camps and helped monitor Red-Necked Grebe nests for the Anchorage Audubon Society and the Municipality of Anchorage.

Photograph by Lorelei Costa

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