

www.absc.usgs.gov/research/bpif/bpif.html

Boreal Partners in Flight - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Alaska Landbird Resource Information System Boreal Partners in Flight

WELCOME to the *Alaska Landbird Resource Information System*, the official web site for *Boreal Partners in Flight*! Thanks for taking the time to learn more about the *Boreal Partners in Flight* program and our efforts to understand and conserve northern populations of landbirds. Please browse our site to learn more about us.

About Boreal Partners in Flight	Who we are, how we are organized, what our goals are, and how you can get involved.
Chickadee Alert!!	Deformed Black-capped Chickadees in South-central Alaska.
Bird Maps	Where to find birds in Alaska.
Education	Educational information about landbirds and the habitats they need.
Monitoring and Research	Monitoring and research projects in Alaska.
Conservation	Our plans to conserve landbirds in Alaska.
Members	How to contact our contributing members.
Events	Birding festivals, technical training, and <i>Partners in Flight</i> meetings.
PIF Meetings	Topics discussed at regional, national, and international working groups of <i>Partners in Flight</i> .
Links	Links to other related internet sites.
Site Map	A directory of the <i>Boreal Partners in Flight</i> web site.

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About Boreal Partners in Flight



Who are we?

Boreal Partners in Flight is a coalition of individuals who are working together to help conserve bird populations throughout boreal regions of North America. *Boreal Partners in Flight* is the official Alaska state working group of the international [Partners in Flight](#) program. We also have many members from Canada because we share many of the same species, habitats, and problems. The international program was started in 1990 because of concerns about continental declines in populations of many landbird species. Initially the program focused on species that breed in North America and winter in the Neotropics (Central and South America) but it now addresses all North American landbirds and other species that use terrestrial habitats, such as shorebirds, owls and grouse.

Boreal Partners in Flight has over 100 [members](#), including representatives from all the major federal land and resource managers in Alaska and Canada, state and provincial agencies, universities, Alaska Native corporations, and local environmental consulting firms. Nongovernmental organizations such as the [Alaska Bird Observatory](#), [Alaska Natural Heritage Program](#), and local chapters of the [National Audubon Society](#) play key roles. The foundation of the program, however, relies on the commitment of individuals. *Boreal Partners in Flight* includes biologists, land managers, teachers, and birders--a diverse, active, and dedicated group.

What are our objectives?

When *Boreal Partners in Flight* was first formed in November 1991, we were concerned with the alarming downward trend in populations in other parts of the continent, and realized that we knew little about the landbirds that breed in boreal regions. We decided to combine our efforts to determine the status of northern bird populations. Our main objectives are to:

- establish statewide bird inventory and [monitoring programs](#),
- conduct [research](#) on factors affecting the status of northern populations,



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CHICKADEE ALERT!

Deformed Black-capped Chickadees in Southcentral Alaska



CONTENTS

- [Numbers of deformed birds continue to increase](#)
- [What do the deformities look like?](#)
- [Where are the deformed chickadees being found?](#)
- [How are the deformed birds coping with their abnormal bills?](#)
- [What is causing these bill deformities?](#)
- [Why is it so difficult to discover the cause of the deformities?](#)
- [What will be done next?](#)
- [How can you help?](#)
- [Results from 1999 Christmas Bird Count survey for deformed birds](#)



[Anchorage Daily News Featured Article 11/7/00](#)

[Anchorage Daily News Featured Article 11/23/00](#)

NUMBERS OF DEFORMED BIRDS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

As of mid-December 2000, we have received 692 reports of Black-capped Chickadees with grossly deformed bills within Alaska. We estimate that these represent at least 533 different individuals. Many new deformed birds are being reported this winter (2000-2001). We have also received reports of 98 individuals of 19 other species of birds with bill deformities ([Click here for numbers of birds reported by species](#)). The chickadees and most of these other species are permanent residents and do not migrate. This means that whatever is causing these deformities is doing so locally, in Alaska.

WHAT DO THE DEFORMITIES LOOK LIKE?

In most cases the upper mandible is greatly elongated and curved down. The lower mandible often appears normal, but is sometimes elongated and curved





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Educational Materials



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[The Arctic Nesting Shorebirds Curriculum](#)
[Alaska Landbird Bibliographic Database](#)
[Bird Checklists for Alaska](#)
[Bird Songs of Alaska Audio Guide](#)
[Bird Song Master 2.2](#)
[Birds in Hand and Field](#)
[Boreal Forest Songbirds of Alaska - An Interactive Education Unit](#)
[Environmental Education Outreach: "Migration Migraine"](#)
[A Guide to Bird Education Resources, Migratory Birds of the Americas](#)
[A Manual of Selected Neotropical Migrant Birds of Alaska National Forests](#)
[Songbird Blues](#)
[Shorebird Sister Schools Program](#)
[Wildlife Radio Spot Scripts](#)

The Arctic Nesting Shorebirds Curriculum

This curriculum has activities, field trip plans, cultural exchange ideas, and background information designed to teach students in grades K-12 about the ecology of arctic nesting shorebirds and the wetlands they depend upon. It includes a teacher's guide, shorebird field guide, and posters. One unit helps classes become part of the Shorebird Sister Schools Program (see below).

Available through:
Circumpolar Press
P.O. Box 1125, Homer, AK 99603
\$22.95

Alaska Landbird Bibliographic Database



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Boreal Partners in Flight has five major regional projects designed to monitor broad-scale trends in populations of landbirds. There are also many projects throughout Alaska that address specific research questions or local monitoring needs.

North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

About the BBS Program in Alaska	List of Contributors
---	--------------------------------------

Alaska Off-road Breeding Bird Survey (ORBBS)

About the Alaska ORBBS Program	Maps of Bird Distribution
Database of Bird Distribution	List of Contributors

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)

About the MAPS Program in Alaska	List of Contributors
--	--------------------------------------

Alaska Landbird Migration Monitoring Program

About the Migration Program	List of Contributors
---	--------------------------------------

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

About the CBC in Alaska	List of Coordinators
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Other Projects in Alaska

Directory of Projects





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Alaska Off-road Breeding Bird Survey: Database of Bird Distribution



Please query our database of bird distribution to look at patterns in the numbers of birds detected among Alaska Off-road Breeding Bird Survey routes. The database can be searched in two different ways.

By Area: Select a biogeographic region, land management unit, or specific route name to view summaries of the number of bird species and the average total number of individual birds encountered on routes across a queried area. This option also allows you to obtain a list of the species encountered on each route.

By Species: This second option allows you to select a bird species and a biogeographic region or land management unit to view summaries of the average number of birds detected among routes in a queried area.

To find out more about the data contained in the database of bird distribution look at our [metadata](#) page.

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Alaska Off-Road Breeding Bird Survey

Region: Northern
Land Unit: All
Route: All

Define New Search by [Area](#) or [Species](#)

Region	Land Unit	Route Name	No. of Species	Average No. Birds/12 pts.	Species on Route
Northern	BLM Arctic District	Toolik East	10	68.2	Species
Northern	Cape Krusenstern	Milokrawlok	37	190	Species
Northern	Kobuk Valley NP	Onion Portage	24	101	Species
Northern	North Slope Borough	Barrow	18	233	Species
Northern	BLM Arctic District	UMT1	19	134.5	Species
Northern	BLM Arctic District	UMT2	20	129	Species
Northern	BLM Arctic District	UMT3	18	116	Species
Northern	BLM Arctic District	UMT4	14	91	Species

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List of Bird Species Detected on Route:

Region:Northern
Land Unit:BLM Arctic District
Route:Toolik East

Species	Scientific Name	Average No. Birds/12 pts
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	0.2
Oldsquaw	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	2.6
American Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominicus</i>	6.8
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1.4
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	3.2
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	0.2
American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	0.4
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	4.2
Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	47.4
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	1.8

New Search by [Area](#) or [Species](#)

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Alaska Off-road Breeding Bird Survey

Species: Rusty Blackbird

Region: All

Landunit: All

Region	Land Unit	Route Name	Average No. Birds/12 pts.
Central	BLM Northern District	Bear Creek	0.6
Central	Innoko NWR	Cabin Lake Bog	2.2
Central	Innoko NWR	Iditarod	0.5
Central	Innoko NWR	Innoko 16	1
Central	Innoko NWR	Innoko 24	1
Central	Innoko NWR	Innoko 25	11
Central	Innoko NWR	Innoko 27	2
Central	Innoko NWR	Innoko 30	8
Central	Innoko NWR	River Lowland	4.25
Central	Kanuti NWR	Tundra	1.33
Central	Kanuti NWR	Tundra Burn1991	6
Central	Tetlin NWR	Fish Camp Lake	7.93



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Central	Innoko NWR	Innoko 27	2
Central	Innoko NWR	Innoko 30	8
Central	Innoko NWR	River Lowland	4.25
Central	Kanuti NWR	Tundra	1.33
Central	Kanuti NWR	Tundra Burn1991	6
Central	Tetlin NWR	Fish Camp Lake	7.93
Central	Tetlin NWR	Moose Creek	1.75
Central	Tetlin NWR	Northway Road	3.11
Central	Tetlin NWR	Ten Mile Hill	0.43
Central	Yukon Flats NWR	Arte Lake	0.25
Central	Yukon Flats NWR	Long Lake	0.6
Central	Yukon Flats NWR	Phalarope Lake	1
Central	Yukon Flats NWR	Willow Stringer Lake	0.2
Southcoastal	Anchorage-USGS	Beach Lake	0.6
Southeastern	Tongass NF Hoonah RD	Big Cut	0.67
Western	Yukon Delta NWR	Hangar Lake	3.5
Western	Yukon Delta NWR	Siren Lake	2

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Recent Meetings

Information on topics discussed by regional, national, and international working groups of *Partners in Flight*.



Boreal Partners in Flight Annual Reports

[1994](#), [1995](#), [1996](#), [1997](#), [1998](#), [1999](#), [2000](#), [2001](#), [2002](#)

Presentation from the 2003 Annual Meeting of Boreal Partners in Flight, Dec 10-11, 2003

[Agenda with links to presentations](#)

Refining the Alaska Off-road Point Count Program (Winter 2002-2003)

Summaries

[Part I, Anchorage, December 13, 2002](#)

[Part II, Fairbanks, January 14, 2003](#)

Slide Presentations

Colleen Handel - [Proposed sampling design for the Alaska Off-Road Breeding Bird Survey, Issues of scale and inference](#)

Karen Oakley - [Monitoring heuristics: rules of thumb for developing successful long-term monitoring programs](#)

Deb Nigro and Michelle Kissling - [Training programs for Alaska landbird surveys](#)

Maggie MacCluskie - [Inventory and monitoring in the National Park Service](#)

Tom Paragi and Robert Ott - [Linking songbird surveys to forest management through habitat mensuration](#)

ArcView files: to download files showing proposed sampling blocks go to ftp://ascftp.wr.usgs.gov/users/colleen_handel/

Whitehorse Meetings, 6-10 October 2002

[Joint Meeting of Boreal Partners in Flight and Partners in Flight British Columbia/Yukon Territory](#)

[Western Working Group Meeting](#)

[Boreal Monitoring Workshop](#)

[Partners in Flight Meetings](#) from the National PIF website. This site includes PIF newsletters, minutes and proceedings from recent PIF meetings, and many other materials.



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- [Strategies for Bird Conservation: The Partners in Flight Planning Process](#)
- [Department of Defense](#)

Contributors to BPIF

- [Alaska Bird Observatory](#)
- [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)
- [Alaska Natural Heritage Program](#)
- [Canadian Wildlife Service](#)
- National Audubon Society: [National](#) / [Alaska](#)
- Bureau of Land Management: [National](#) / [Alaska](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [University of Alaska, Fairbanks](#)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [National](#) / [Alaska](#)
- U. S. Forest Service: [National](#) / [Alaska](#)
- U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division: [National](#) / [Alaska](#)

Issues with the website

- Background: developed in 1998 by USGS through a national grant.
- Since then updates have been made sparingly.
- Focus of updates has been on providing information from our meetings.
- With loss of personnel it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the site.

Future with the website

- Does anyone even use the site?
- If so, what are the most useful pieces of information for BPIF members?
- How can we make the site more useful considering limited time available to work on the site?
- Can we use other sites more effectively (i.e., ABO, USFWS).