

Poster Abstracts

(21) THE STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM 10TH ANNIVERSARY: A DECADE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO BIRD CONSERVATION IN ALASKA

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Since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has provided Alaska nearly \$31 million to identify, prioritize, and address conservation needs statewide, so that we may safeguard species before they become threatened or endangered, recover wildlife already in peril, and keep “common species common.” The Division of Wildlife Conservation utilizes its share – averaging \$2 million a year – to support 140 projects conducted by the Wildlife Diversity Program and its partners. Approximately two-thirds of these directly benefit bird conservation, focusing on rare or declining species like the Yellow-billed Loon, Rusty Blackbird, Black Oystercatcher, Short-eared Owl, and Kittlitz’s Murrelet. The program funds broad, cooperative efforts such as the North Pacific Seabird web portal, ShoreZone Mapping System, all-bird conservation planning, identification of Important Bird Areas, eBird, Creamer’s Field Migration Station, and citizen science efforts. Funds also support the Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Alaska’s clearinghouse for information on species with conservation concerns. The Department, along with its many partners, developed Alaska’s Wildlife Action Plan, the first comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the state. Please join us in celebrating the program’s many accomplishments.

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