



# Newsletter ~ Nov/Dec 2014

*A Birding Club for Northern Maine*

[www.aroostookbirders.com](http://www.aroostookbirders.com)

Volume 23, Pg. 1 of 1

## Upcoming Events:

**November Meeting & Program -  
Thursday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 pm  
"Birding along the Gulf of Mexico"**  
UMPI Campus Center, Alumni Room  
Join photographer Tammy (Morris) Kerekes and her husband, Dennis, for a photo tour of their March trip to the south of Texas to view Padre Island's Peregrines, Aransas Refuge's Whooping Cranes, and so much more.

**January Meeting & Program -  
Thur. Jan. 22 at 6:30 pm, Location TBA  
"Mongolian Birds"** - presentation by Dave Putnam on his recent trip to China

## **AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

**Caribou/Limestone  
Sunday, December 14, 2014  
&  
Presque Isle Area  
Saturday, January 3, 2015**

### Aroostook Birders Officers:

President: Bill Sheehan  
Vice-President: Russell Mount  
Secretary: Judy Roe  
Treasurer: Denise Gagnon  
Publicity: Sue Pinette  
Membership: Bob Pinette



### **Raven or Crow ?**

Just how do you tell them apart? Does it caw or croak - soar or flap? Come to our next meeting for a handy "primer" on these two common Corvids.

For more on Ravens vs. Crows, view Bob Duchesne's "Good Birding" column at [www.bangordailynews.com](http://www.bangordailynews.com).

**Aroostook Birders is an organization whose members share a passion for bird watching and an appreciation of northern Maine's natural environment through field trips and educational programs. Bird enthusiasts of all ages and ability levels are welcomed.**

## **Aroostook County's Audubon Christmas Bird Counts**

This holiday season, tens of thousands of volunteers will take part in an adventure that has become a tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house to count birds.

**Our club hosts two Audubon Counts here in northern Maine: the Caribou area count and the long-standing Presque Isle count first established in the 1930s.**

The **Caribou/Limestone Count** will be held on Sunday, December 14. It includes much of the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge and parts of Caribou including in-town, Connor, Fort Fairfield, Limestone (downtown), New Sweden and Woodland.

The **Presque Isle Count** is set for Saturday, January 3, 2015. It's centered in downtown Presque Isle and also covers parts of Chapman, Easton, Fort Fairfield, Mapleton, Presque Isle and Westfield.



*Focused in on a backyard Northern Cardinal on a recent Caribou area Christmas Bird Count.*

Each "citizen scientist" who takes part in a Christmas Bird Count makes a contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation efforts.

Think you might like to take part as a field scout or feeder monitor? Bird watchers of all skill levels are invited and new birders can be paired with an experienced mentor. We welcome all who'd like to give it a try. That includes beginning birders, as well as, more experienced folks who have never participated in a Christmas Bird Count before. To sign up or learn more about the counts, contact Bill Sheehan at 227-7301 or email [bill.j.sheehan@gmail.com](mailto:bill.j.sheehan@gmail.com).



In February, award-winning videographer Bob Sasha visited Bill Sheehan here in northern Maine to produce a National Audubon video about winter-time irruptive species of birds.

To view this excellent video, featuring the photography of Paul Cyr, visit the following link:

<http://conservation.audubon.org/videos/christmas-bird-count-irruptive-species>

**E-mail [thearoostookbirders@gmail.com](mailto:thearoostookbirders@gmail.com), call 207-764-1801 for information, or visit us on Facebook.**