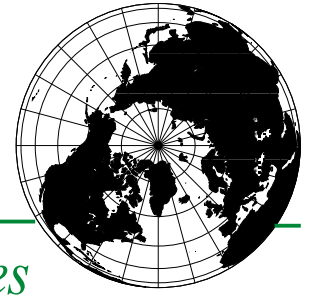


ABR Research Notes



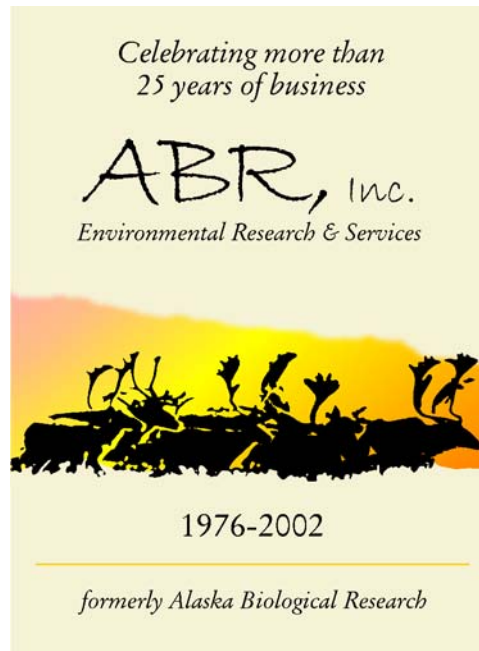
ABR, Inc., Environmental Research and Services

P.O. Box 80410 Fairbanks, AK 99708 • P.O. Box 240268 Anchorage, AK 99524 • P.O. Box 249 Forest Grove, OR 97116 • Winter 2002

ABR Celebrates Anniversary!

ABR entered its 27th year of business in 2002. Founded as Alaska Biological Research in 1976, we've grown to 50 scientists in three offices (Fairbanks and Anchorage, AK, and Forest Grove, OR). Primarily staffed by wildlife biologists in our early years, ABR has expanded horizons by adding expertise in ecological restoration, wetland science, GIS and, most recently, aquatic sciences including watershed assessments and monitoring. Specialty services, such as radar ornithology and rehabilitation of industrial sites in the Arctic, have carried us into Europe, Russia, and Canada.

Each year we are more focused by the challenge to be good corporate citizens. Most importantly, our core



values haven't changed, but they have become clearer. We continue to be dedicated to customer service, with excellence in scientific research, while sustaining a progressive work environment, where we judge our success with a 'triple bottom line'. That is, we strive not only to satisfy economic measures of profit, but social and environmental measures, as well.

Finally, our country's leaders have grave and formidable decisions to make if the U.S. is to continue to be a leader in economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection. As we enter our 28th year of business, we pray for their good leadership. Peace.

Bob Ritchie
President

Pollution Prevention Award to ABR



Tom DeLong with DEC Award

For the second time, ABR has received the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Pollution Prevention Award for our corporate environmental responsibility. Like many businesses and Greenstar members we've tried to emphasize reducing, re-using, and recycling in day-to-day activities. We also promote other actions suitable for Alaska businesses: support for carpooling, purchasing hybrid vehicles, and volunteering time in the community (see *Paying Carbon Tax*, last page). Suggestions for greening your business? Give us a call or e-mail britchie@abrinc.com.

Our First Job, 25 Years Later

ABR's first field project was a survey for Peregrine Falcons along the alignment of a proposed gas pipeline in 1977. At that time the species was endangered. In 2002, we completed our 12th year of monitoring this population. There have been some changes along the river in that 25-year period, including an increase in the number of peregrines, from 3 sites occupied in 1977 to 55 sites in 2002! Peregrines were removed from the Endangered Species list in 1999, but certain populations, like those on the Tanana, may continue to be monitored.



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Wind and More Wind



Stateline, Oregon, wind turbines

ABR has been involved in several avian-wind projects during the past year. In fall 2001, we completed a 2-year bird migration study at the **Stateline** wind energy facility—the largest single wind energy facility in the U.S.—in northeastern Oregon. During summer 2002, we began studies near the Oregon coast at the **Tillamook** wind energy facility for Renewable Generation. We are using radar and visual techniques to assess the use of that area by Marbled Murrelets (a threatened seabird) and other resident and migrant birds. During summer 2002, we also worked on a Phase I assessment of bird use at four proposed wind energy sites in northeastern **Poland**. These assessments are designed to gather existing information, talk to local bird experts, and conduct brief field inspections to determine if there

are any “show stopping” bird issues, as well as to identify any additional studies that might be needed. Finally, with wind becoming more of a possible source of power for villages in western Alaska, ABR brought its radar expertise to **St. Lawrence Island** in the Bering Sea (Oct.-Nov. 2002), to assess wind sites in relation to the migration of threatened Steller’s and Spectacled eiders. Support for this program comes from the USFWS and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority/Alaska Energy Authority.

Assessing Watershed Conditions in Eastern Oregon

ABR has been contracted by the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to perform a watershed assessment of the Upper South Fork of the John Day River. The assessment will inventory and characterize watershed conditions and will link human activities in the watershed with the current condition of aquatic resources. Assessment activities include characterization of historic conditions, stream channel types, channel modification, fish distribution and fish habitat quality, riparian zone conditions, sediment sources, water quality, and hydrology. The assessment will provide resource managers and land owners with the information needed to develop action plans and monitoring strategies for improving watershed conditions.



South Fork, John Day River, OR

Recent Publications

- Raphael, M. G., D. E. Mack, and **B. A. Cooper**. 2002. Landscape-scale relationships between abundance of Marbled Murrelets and distribution of nesting habitat. *Condor* 104:331–342.
- Cole, M. B.**, D. E. Arnold, and B. J. Watten. 2001. Physiological and behavioral responses of stonefly nymphs to enhanced limestone treatment of acid mine drainage. *Water Research* 35:625–632.
- Jorgenson, M. T.**, C. H. Racine, J. C. Walters, and T. E. Osterkamp. 2001. Rapid permafrost degradation and ecological changes caused by a warming climate in central Alaska. *Climatic Change* 48:551–579.
- Jorgenson, M. T.**, **J. E. Roth**, M. D. Smith, **S. Schlentner**, **W. Lentz**, **E. R. Pullman**, and C. H. Racine. 2001. An ecological land survey for Fort Greely, Alaska. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cold Regions Res. and Eng. Lab., Hanover, NH. ERDC/CRREL TR-01-4. 85 pp.
- Litzow, M. A., J. F. Piatt, **A. K. Prichard**, and D. A. Roby. 2002. Response of Pigeon Guillemots to variable abundance of high-lipid and low-lipid prey. *Oecologia* 132:286–295.
- Mabee, T. J.**, J. H. Plissner, S. M. Haig, and J. P. Goossen. 2001. Winter distributions of North American plovers in the Laguna Madre regions of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and Texas, USA. *Wader Study Group Bulletin* 94:39–43.
- Quakenbush, L. T., **R. H. Day**, **B. A. Anderson**, F. A. Pitelka, and B. J. McCaffery. 2002. The historical and present distribution and abundance of Steller’s Eider in Alaska. *Western Birds* 33:99–120.
- Sedinger, J. S., M. P. Herzog, B. T. Person, M. T. Kirk, T. Obritchkewitch, P. D. Martin, and **A. A. Stickney**. 2001. Large-scale variation in growth of Black Brant goslings related to food availability. *Auk* 118:1088–1095.

Conferences and Classes

Torre Jorgenson (AK) presented a paper *Long-term evaluation of methods for rehabilitating industrial lands in the Arctic* at a NATO Workshop (Evaluation of socio-economic and environmental consequences of development in the Arctic and Sub-arctic), May, Apatity, Russia. **Allison Zusi-Cobb** and **Will Lentz** (AK) attended the 37th Annual Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference in Anchorage, February. **Todd Mabee** (OR) and **John Shook** (AK) presented papers at the AOU/RRF meetings in New Orleans, LA: *Nocturnal bird migration at the Stateline wind-energy facility* and *Dietary analysis of Northern Hawk Owls in Interior Alaska*, respectively. **Brian Cooper** (OR) attended the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in February, Santa Barbara, CA, as well as coauthored papers with

Todd on *Nocturnal bird migration at wind projects in Oregon and Washington*, at the OR Wildlife Society (February) and American Wind Energy Associates meetings (June, Portland). **Rick Johnson**, **Ann Wildman**, **Bob Ritchie**, and **Bob Day** (AK) presented posters and papers at the Alaska Bird Conference, Fairbanks, March 2002. **Brian Lawhead** (AK) attended *Accounting for Cumulative Effects in the NEPA Process*, February 2002, at Duke University, NC. **Mike Cole** (OR) honed his invertebrate identification skills at an *Aquatic worms and mollusks taxonomic workshop*, April 2002, Boise State University, ID. **Betty Anderson** (AK) presented *Ten years of Spectacled Eider research in the Kuparuk Oilfield* at the Sea Duck Conference, Victoria, BC, November 2002.

Staff Notes



Amy Bradford, *Assistant Office Manager*. Amy first worked for ABR in 1989, but returned this year to help manage the Oregon office. With a BS in Biology from the University of Oregon, her research experience has taken her from

Alaska (fox and raptor surveys) to Antarctica (oceanic carbon monitoring), with a stint in Oregon working for the Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Council. Her management skills include field program planning, logistics support, and accounting.



John Shook, *Research Biologist*. John is not new to ABR, but with his M.S. on Northern Hawk Owls from Boise State under his belt, he has accepted a research position at ABR. John's expertise includes behavioral and dietary

investigations with raptors, aerial and ground survey techniques, and predator/prey relationships. His time will be spread over a number of population monitoring projects including Peregrine Falcon studies on the Tanana River and drainages of the Yukon-Tanana Uplands, and Tundra Swan and Snow Goose studies in northern Alaska.



Jennifer Roof has recently been hired as *Publication Specialist/Administrative Assistant* for ABR. Jennifer will assist in the preparation of scientific reports and publications for ABR's research staff. She also will be involved with administrative

tasks including the design and preparation of marketing materials. Ms. Roof previously worked as an IT Technician for Utility Services of Alaska. She is currently a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in pursuit of a business degree.



Matt Macander joined ABR as a *GIS Specialist* in 2001. Matt is completing his Masters at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He brings air photo and satellite image processing expertise to ABR. Currently, Matt is involved in ecological land mapping and

landscape change detection projects on the North Slope. He also worked on a long-term experimental forest plantation on the Kenai Peninsula and is measuring coastline characteristics in Prince William Sound. Matt is also invaluable in the programming, development, and servicing of our computer systems.

Bioshare

*ABR's staff shares a sense of responsibility for the well-being of our local and global communities. We try to meet this responsibility by seeking out opportunities to assist worthwhile projects and programs by providing resources, biological expertise, and our time through a program we call **Bioshare**.*

Anniversary Contributions

To help celebrate more than 25 years in business in Alaska and nearly a decade outside, ABR donated over \$35,000 to a number of grass-root community organizations in Alaska and Oregon. Our donation to Calypso Farm and Ecology Center in Fairbanks helped them secure a 5-year grant with Eihlu Foundation. We also donated money and in-kind services to Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Alaska and Oregon for additional homebuilding needs. Finally, we met a challenge from BP Alaska, Inc. and donated over \$5000 to the Fairbanks Community Food bank.

Paying 'Carbon Tax'

ABR provided \$6,500 for the purchase of equipment in support of an EPA grant "Power Up! Alternative Energy Works – Even in the Frozen North". Our matching



Solar panel set on Randy Smith School

contribution was used by Greg Egan (Renewable Alaska Energy) and teachers at Randy Smith Middle School (Fairbanks) to build a portable solar power system to show school kids that there are choices for green power in Alaska. Our contribution represents one of the ways we are trying to mitigate for the carbon dioxide we pump into the atmosphere as a result of our travel, electricity use, heating, and other resource uses. Other 'carbon taxes' include paying for reforestation programs and paying employees to carpool or use alternative means of transportation to get to work.

ABR Newsletters can be accessed on our website www.abrinc.com



ABR, Inc.

P.O. Box 80410

Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

(907) 455-6777

