



The Raven newsletter from Juneau Audubon Society
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Edited by Lauren Cusimano



THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

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October program on bird studies and citizen science. Photo: Lauren Cusimano

JAS 2022-23 Program Season

Juneau Audubon Society's monthly programs are back — and so is the audience! JAS is hosting in-person programs each month until April 2023. Here is the event information for the November and December programs.

Nov. 10, 7 p.m., UAS Egan Lecture Hall — The Healing, Medicinal, and Spiritual Properties of Native Plants in Southeast Alaska: Heather Evoy will be presenting on the healing, medicinal, and spiritual properties of native plants in Southeast Alaska. Heather, who's from Ketchikan and is an Alaska Native, Tsimshian, and Tlingit, lives in Juneau where she enjoys harvesting, advocating for plant knowledge, and connecting with the land with her two children.

JAS 2022-23 Program Season Cont.

Dec. 8, 7 p.m., UAS Egan Lecture Hall — Red Knots of Controller Bay: Jenell Larsen Tempel just finished her first pilot season up in Controller Bay on the Red Knot. She is excited to share with Juneau Audubon the importance of the study site to shorebirds, why the Red Knot was her bird of choice, and a bit of insight into the dietary needs of this fascinating and beautiful bird.

Did you miss the first program of the season on **Bird Studies and Citizen Science** from University of Alaska Southeast student and former Juneau Audubon Society Bird Studies and Conservation Intern Mali Tamome? Don't worry! The recording from Oct. 13 is posted at facebook.com/JuneauAudubonSociety/videos/!

JAS Board Member Spotlight — Kim Ramos

Hi, I'm Kim Ramos — the new Programs Chair for the Juneau Audubon Society.

Growing up and exploring the land and sea in California inspired my love of nature. Passion turned into academic exploration as I studied for my degree in Zoology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Since graduating, I have worked in biology and outdoor education all over the country. I moved to Maui in 2013, fell in love with humpback whales, and eventually migrated to Juneau in 2016.

I assumed I would just spend one summer in Alaska but, like many, I fell in love with this place and returned for another summer and decided to make Juneau my year-round home. Most recently I have worked as an expedition guide. I am passionate about sourdough bread, conservation, travel, and exploring the wonders of Southeast on foot or by kayak.

I joined JAS in 2021 as the Education Chair and am very excited to transition to Programs Chair with the goal of facilitating meaningful



The new JAS Programs Chair. Photo: Courtesy of Kim Ramos

opportunities for JAS to connect our community with the incredible birds, wildlife, and entire ecosystem of Southeast Alaska.

I look forward to seeing you at our next program!

JAS Has Two Open Board Positions!

Vice President: Do you care about birds, people, board members, and working to connect all three? The Juneau Audubon Society needs a Vice President! Responsibilities for this role may include attending all meetings for JAS members and the Board of Directors, coordinating JAS internship(s) and community partnerships, overseeing special projects interpretive signs, and planning our JAS summer retreat!

As a member of the Board of Directors, the Vice President shall exercise all the powers, authority, and duties of the President during the President's absence or inability to act. That includes countersigning all negotiable instruments made by the Treasurer, signing all contracts entered into on behalf of the Chapter, fixing the time and place of any special meetings, and other fun duties.



The JAS board at the August retreat. Photo: Timi Tullis

Open Board Positions Cont.

Education Chair: Love to teach ... about birds and birding? The JAS Education Chair's main responsibility would be to further the purposes and programs of the National Audubon Society and of the Juneau Audubon Society through education, outreach, and interpretation.

The Education Chair would plan, develop, and present educational programs while coordinating with the Program Committee. Examples of this can include hosting educational programming at regional schools and institutions, creating educational birding activities, attending events on behalf of JAS like the UAS Campus Kickoff, art shows, book releases, and more!

**JOIN THE JAS BOARD
— A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**
Interested in either role — Vice President or
Education Chair? Email us at
president@juneau-audubon-society.org.



The Northern Goshawk. Photo: Bob Armstrong

The Queen Charlotte Goshawk: An Endemic of Southeast Alaska

By Winston Smith

The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is a forest raptor that occurs throughout southeastern Alaska. The breeding home ranges of northern goshawks in Southeast are quite large, commonly encompassing 10 square miles.

In western North America, breeding home ranges of northern goshawks are spatially configured as a hierarchical sequence of three areas, all of which need to be considered simultaneously in land use planning: nest area, post-fledging (family) area, and foraging area.

Nest areas provide alternate nest trees, roost trees, prey plucking posts, and serve as centers of essential breeding behaviors or life-history events. Post-fledging areas surround active nest trees and represent the core-use area of adult female and young goshawks after fledging but before becoming independent of adults and dispersing.



Prince of Wales Island. Photo: Bradley Morris

Queen Charlotte Goshawk Cont.

The northern goshawk has been given special consideration by the U.S. Forest Service as a “sensitive species” on the Tongass largely because of viability concerns over populations of the endemic Queen Charlotte goshawk (*A. g. laingi*).

Recent genetic studies revealed that a population of Queen Charlotte Goshawks in the Queen Charlotte Islands of British Columbia is genetically distinct from regional mainland populations. Formally described as a “meta-population” (group of spatially separated breeding sub-populations), the Queen Charlotte goshawk’s distribution includes Prince of Wales Island and barrier islands and coastal British Columbia and nearby islands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed Queen Charlotte Goshawks nesting in Canada as a threatened subpopulation, although all subpopulations were deemed essential for long-term viability (U.S. Federal Register 2012). The most imminent threats to breeding populations are loss or fragmentation of nesting or foraging habitat from extensive clearcut logging.

ATTENTION, TONGASS SUPPORTERS!
Are you up to date on all the projects happening on the Tongass? Check out the Tongass National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the current quarter — now till the end of 2022, and past SOPA reports are also on display. View the current and past reports at bit.ly/sopa-reports.



Common Redpolls feeding in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

Winter Counting With Project FeederWatch

By Lauren Cusimano

The FeederWatch counting season runs from November to April and is a survey of birds that visit our porches, public areas, and other outdoor spots across North America during the winter months. The program is exactly what it sounds like — you watch birds as they feed, count them, and enter your date online. According to the website — feederwatch.org — your findings will “contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance.” This will also allow FeederWatch scientists to analyze “winter bird abundance and distribution.”

Project FeederWatch Cont.

As bird feeders can be problematic in Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends bird feeders be taken down due to bear activity from April to October. Luckily the FeederWatch data collection runs the opposite months of the year. (But here are other considerations to ensure bird safety, and some excellent tips are listed at fws.gov/story/feed-or-not-feed-wild-birds).

The program, overseen by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada, has been around since 2016. Cost is \$18 in the United States, which gets you instructional materials, digital access to Living Bird magazine and other birding publications, and more.

Visit feederwatch.org/join-or-renew.



Great Blue Heron in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

Christmas Bird Count 2022

By Patty Rose

The 2022 Juneau Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 17, 2022. The Christmas Bird Count is a national citizen science event sponsored by the National Audubon Society. This year's count is the 123rd national count and 50th Juneau count.

If you would like to participate in the count as a field volunteer or feeder watcher, or if you have questions, please contact Patty Rose at p_rose_raven@yahoo.com.



Pine Grosbeak in winter. Photo: Gwen Baluss

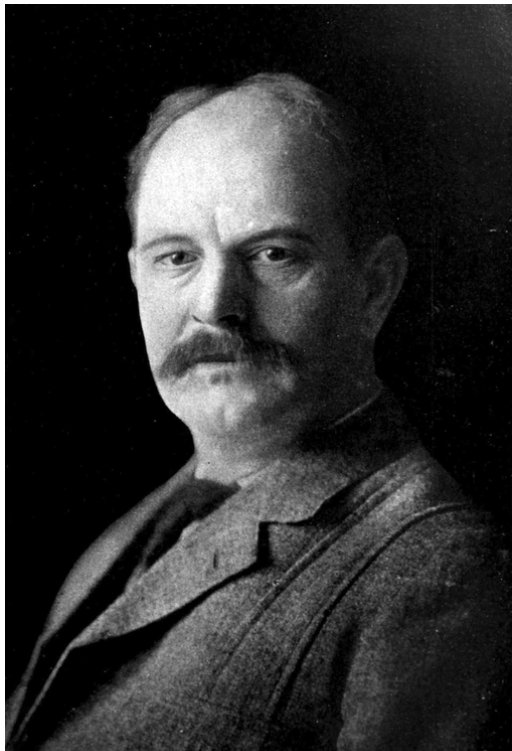
The Story of the Christmas Bird Count

By Doreen Prieto

On Christmas Days prior to the turn of the 20th century, gentlemen hunters across New England and the Midwest would step out of their country homes with the savory aromas of Christmas dinner wafting behind. Attired in the style of the time and accompanied by their retrievers, the men — and perhaps a few ladies — arranged themselves into teams.

Proceeding into the fields and woods they would bring down any winged or furred creature that had the misfortune to come into the sites of their guns. The winner was the group that bagged the greatest number of quarry, a tradition known as the “side hunt.”

Enter Frank Michler Chapman. He was born on June 12, 1864, in West Englewood, New Jersey during the reign of Queen Victoria, a period in which the sciences underwent major development and expansion, including the field of avian biology. A banker by trade, he volunteered to study bird migration with the American Ornithologists’



Frank Michler Chapman. Photo: Wikipedia

Story of Christmas Bird Count Cont.

Union. He received an offer to become an assistant to the bird curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York where he worked for the next 54 years.

His impact on the museum was huge. Traditionally, rows and rows of stuffed specimens were displayed on plain shelves. Chapman thought visitors would be more attracted to a new type of showcase — the diorama — displaying birds in natural set-

tings, postures, and activities. The diorama became the standard museum format for generations.

Among his many achievements, Chapman conducted fieldwork across the Americas, wrote 23 major research articles and books, was the first recipient of the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the National Academy of Sciences in 1917, received the John Burroughs Medal for distinction in the field of natural history for his 1906-published “Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America” in 1929, and created and edited the magazine *Bird-Lore* for 35 years. (*Bird-Lore* was published bi-monthly until July-August 1940. Audubon Magazine succeeded the following year.)

But arguably the greatest contribution to ornithology by Chapman was his alternative to the “side hunt.” He proposed “a new kind of Christmas side hunt, in the form of a Christmas bird census, and we



Long-tailed Ducks in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

hope that all our readers who have the opportunity will aid us in making a success by spending a portion of Christmas Day with the birds and sending a report of their ‘hunt’ to *Bird-Lore* before they retire that night.”

Twenty-seven bird enthusiasts participated in the first year, counting birds at 25 separate locations. They counted 90 species. Compare those numbers to those for the 2020-2021 Christmas Bird Count: 72,815 folks tallied birds across the hemisphere and beyond, and all counts in all regions tallied 2,355 species. Ponder how Frank Chapman's remarkable accomplishments were achieved with paper, pen, and a formidable intellect.

For some winter reading, here are a few pieces from and on Frank Chapman and the Christmas Bird Count:

- “A Proposal to Start a Christmas Census” by Chapman in *Bird-Lore* in 1900: bit.ly/3gPTWeq
- “Annual Summaries of the Christmas Bird Count, 1901-Present”: bit.ly/3sAygph
- “B&C Member Spotlight — Frank M. Chapman” from Boone and Crockett Club: bit.ly/3TMV1m0



Bohemian Waxwing. Photo: Bob Armstrong



American Dipper with colors in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

Story of Christmas Bird Count Cont.

- “*Bird-Lore*, Volume I — 1899 — Editor: Frank M. Chapman”: bit.ly/3gE5hOG*

*Designated the “Official Organ of the Audubon Societies,” *Bird-Lore* is a great read for those who wish initiation into the arcana of an era we shall not see again. (The prize-winning essays written by two 14-year-olds about their bird walks in February are especially fun.)

Send questions to the JAS Field Trips Chair or info@juneau-audubon-society.org. Enjoy Christmas Bird Count 2022!

The Juneau Audubon Society acknowledges the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples of Southeast Alaska who have been the caretakers of this land since time immemorial. We at JAS are grateful to bird and hold events, field trips, and presentations on the ancestral and traditional lands of Indigenous peoples in the Áak’w K̄wáan and adjacent T’aaḱú K̄wáan territories and throughout Lingít Aaní.

JAS Membership — Need to Join or Renew?

Joining or renewing membership with the National Audubon Society using an address in Southeast Alaska will include automatic JAS membership. Visit action.audubon.org/renew/membership to do so. Or for local-only JAS membership, print or copy and mail this section with a check for \$10 made to Juneau Audubon Society for annual dues. Members receive a one-year subscription to *The Raven*.

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