



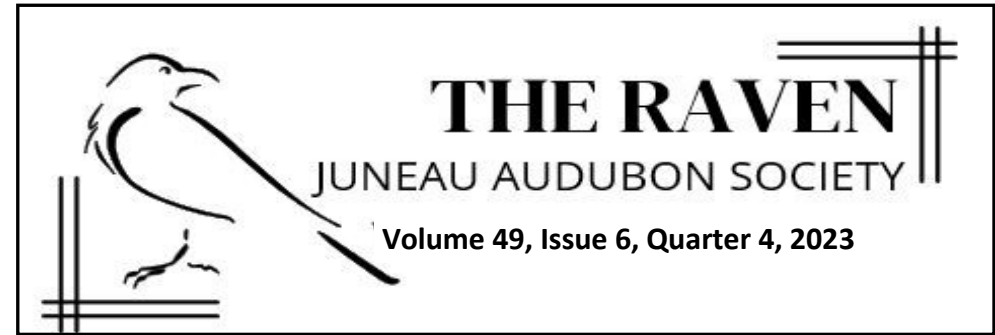
The Raven newsletter from Juneau Audubon Society
501 (C) (3) E IN 92- 0100446

P.O. Box 21725
Juneau, AK 99802

<https://www.juneauaudubon.org>

[Facebook.com/JuneauAudubonSociety](https://www.facebook.com/JuneauAudubonSociety)

Raven Newsletter edited by Gwen Baluss



WHAT'S COMING UP

December 14—Thursday evening program. Starts at **6: 30 p.m.** at UAS Egan Lecture Hall.

Uncharted: Field Science and Storytelling about Disabilities in STEM with Skylar Bayer

Skylar R. Bayer is a marine ecologist, marine habitat specialist, science communicator, and storyteller based in Alaska. Her primary research interests are invertebrate population dynamics, scallops, aquaculture and fisheries management, marine habitat conservation, and collaborative research.

We suspect this accomplished scientist, author and communicator, will also bring some smiles and humor in this presentation. (Skylar may be our first JAS presenter who has been featured on the Colbert Report).



MORE EVENTS

Christmas Bird Count

The 2023 **Juneau Christmas Bird Count** will take place on Saturday, **December 16, 2023**. The Christmas Bird Count is a national citizen science event sponsored by the National Audubon Society. This year's count is the 124th national count and 51st Juneau count. To learn more about the Christmas Bird Count, visit the National Audubon Society website at <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.

An organizational email message will go out to past volunteers in November. If you are new to the Juneau count and would like to participate as a field volunteer or feeder watcher, or if you have questions, please contact Patty Rose at p_rose_raven@yahoo.com.



Programs in the New Year

Check our website (under the “get involved” tab) and Facebook page for updates. Monthly programs run the second **Thursday** monthly through April.

January 11– Local photographer Jeremy Lavender

February 8– Marine mammal specialist Suzie Teerlink

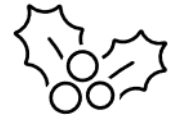
Other dates

January 1—**Deadline** to comment on potential club name change (Details on page 4).

February 16– 19—Great Backyard Bird Count

New Website!

Check out our modern and updated look when you visit <https://www.juneauaudubon.org>. Kudos to our new webmaster **Cody Bennett** for making this long-time goal a reality; and to the board especially **Marsha Squires** who spent a lot of time this summer working on content. And countless thanks to outgoing Webmaster **George Utermohle** who volunteered for decades to keep JAS running.



Public Market

Continuing tradition, new look. JAS returned to the Juneau Public Market in November. This year's emphasis was on eco-friendly gifts and conservation topics. Thanks to all who stopped by with their support.



JAS President Marsha Squires fills the booth with holiday spirit.

Organization Name Change Considered

In the last edition of the Raven we discussed a potential name change for JAS. Before making any decisions, we are asking for additional input from our membership. Please reply by Jan. 1, 2024. We ask members who are interested in sharing their opinion to write to us a **one-paragraph statement at info@juneau-audubon-society.org**.



This beautiful Barrow's Goldeneye, photographed in Auke Bay AK, is one of the many Southeast Alaskan species slated to get a new name; the American Ornithological Society will phase out people's names for common bird names. Crescent moon goldeneye? —G.Baluss photo

Alaska Bird Conference

Every two years the ABC convenes for scientists to share their recent research and discuss the state of the birds in Alaska. This year's took place in Anchorage on December 11.

JAS was a proud supporter of this year's conference.

Look for conservation updates from the working groups that convene alongside the ABC.

Abstracts to be posted at <https://alaskabirdconference.org/>

About Us

Since 1977, Juneau Audubon Society has focused on birding, education, and conservation in the communities and surrounding areas of Southeast Alaska. With the support of volunteers and partners, we connect individuals and groups of all ages and backgrounds to the beauty of nature and birds.

Our mission is to conserve the natural ecosystems of Southeast Alaska, focusing on birds, and other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Our work includes teaching and learning, maintaining and restoring habitats, protecting avian and other wildlife species, and offering volunteer opportunities to engage the people of Southeast Alaska's communities.

Board of Directors

The Juneau Audubon Society functions with an all-volunteer board of 12 individuals. Four executive officers and eight board members. There are six established committee chairs outlined in our Bylaws: Communication, Conservation, Education, Field Trips, Membership, and Programs.

Thank you for connecting with us!

For general inquiries or if you are interested in joining the board:

info@juneau-audubon-society.org

- Marsha Squires, President
president@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Nina Keller, Vice President
vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Betsy Fischer, Treasurer
treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org
- (Vacant), Secretary
secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Gwen Baluss, Communications
raven@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Winston Smith, Conservation
conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org
- (Vacant), Education
education@juneau-audubon-society.org
- (Vacant), Field Trips
field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Sudie Hargis, Membership
membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Lizzie Solger, Programs
programs@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Vacant, At-large A
at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Brenda Wright, At-large B
at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org

Nesting Arctic Terns at Mendenhall Lake, 2023 Season

By Gwen Baluss

The US Forest Service continues to monitor Arctic Tern productivity near Mendenhall Glacier. Community members and Juneau Audubon's Bird Studies and Conservation Interns assist USFS Staff and interns with the effort. Observers spend hours watching birds and nests nearly daily between late April and early August, and check footage from a camera system near the Visitor Center. This year brought some success, at least 66 adults returned to produce at least 11 fledglings, a welcome event after two seasons of reproductive failure in this location. A cold spring meant a late start, but luckily all young birds had flown when the waters rose in the historic glacial outburst flood in early August.

Ravens, normally the main predator, left the colony alone. Its possible that a new raven moved in to the territory; an individual with at least one white tail feather was seen frequenting the Visitor Center area. Leucistic feathers can develop in adults, but its more likely this was a new individual. Unusual predators impacted the terns this year: a North American river otter predated multiple nests near the Visitor Center, and an American black bear was likely behind the disappearance of nests closer to the glacier face.

Locals and visitors alike have a unique opportunity to see these beautiful birds, the world's longest distant migrant, in our "backyard".

Terns wrestle a sandlance, carried to the lakeshore from the ocean —
G. Baluss



2023 Tree Swallow Nest Box Summary

By Brenda Wright

This was Juneau Audubon Society's 8th year to install tree swallow nest boxes around Juneau. In the beginning we only had 33 boxes and placed them in the same locations as an earlier US Fish & Wildlife project from 2005.



In 2023 we had 61 tree swallow nest boxes at 6 locations. Over time, we have learned the most productive sites and put most of our boxes in or next to the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.

This year we had nests in 57 boxes, but two of them were chickadee nests. Of the other 55 we lost two to bears and three to other predation. Our total number of eggs was 328: 282 hatched, and 255 fledged. This was a productive year with 90% of all eggs that hatched going on to fledge.

Data will contribute to statewide monitoring efforts.

We thank our summer intern, Celia Bower for her integral role in the data collection.

Why do we study swallows? According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service " Among the dramatic declines observed in birds, aerial insectivores have shown the highest percentage of species in decline of any taxonomic group: 73% of species are in decline, representing a loss of 156.8 million birds".

Board Member Changes (or “Musical Chairs”)

Many thanks to **Kim Ramos**, who recently left our board. Kim joined as Education Chair just before the Covid-19 pandemic, and then moved into the role of Programs Chair, creating a wildly popular season last year as we got back into the swing of in-person events.

We will miss her natural history knowledge and enthusiasm for the Tongass. She has her hands full for now with new daughter, Wren. (What a perfect name!) Congratulations Kim!



Kim in her element

This season board veteran **Lizzie Solger** will take over Programs Chair, having served for years as Membership Chair. Lizzie has been a regular at events. Her recording and posting the presentations on Facebook has made unique content accessible to those who are not able to attend in Juneau — these posts have chocked up thousands of views! Thank you Lizzie!

Recent chapter elections in October officialized **Nina Keller** as our new Vice President. She has been serving as an interim appointee since last season. Now, we are glad she ran for the office ‘for real’.

Sadly, Secretary **Thom Young-Bayer** will be leaving the board as he begins a new job with Capital City Fire and Rescue. We appreciate his work on diversity, equity and inclusion as well as his excellent note-taking, but we understand CCFR is important too!

Gwen Baluss will be filling the vacant Communications Chair, after doing much of this work from behind the scenes.

And, we extend a warm welcome to **Sudie Hargis** who will take over as Membership Chair. This introduction from Sudie:

“Greetings to all the Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) members! I’m looking forward to serving all of you on the JAS board as the new Membership Chair. I had a 28-year career with the US Coast Guard, and since retiring in 2016 have been serving as a volunteer and disaster responder with the American Red Cross as well as with Travel Juneau. I wanted to broaden my service to environmental conservation, and am delighted to be joining the JAS board.

I was raised to appreciate nature by my parents and learned trees, plants, and a diverse set of creatures, much of which I then forgot during my adult “career” years. I’m reclaiming that passion through renewed exploration of nature (with a big focus on birds) in my retirement years, and have Gus van Vliet to thank for introducing me to “the concert that is birdsong.” My partner Dianne and I spend time walking, hiking, and visiting wildlife refuges and hotspots on our travel adventures, and participating in citizen science through Merlin, EBird, and the University of Washington COASST program. I’m looking forward to connecting with each of you.”



Sudie enjoying the berry harvest.

Happy Holidays and
Best New Year Wishes!

Juneau Audubon Society 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. This is best done online at the National Audubon website.

Or, for local-only JAS membership, print or copy and mail in this section of the page with a check for at least \$10 made to Juneau Audubon Society for annual dues.

Name(s): _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: (providing an email saves paper and trees!)

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Members receive The Raven newsletter. **Unless you indicate that you require a printed copy, it will be sent via email.**

Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service at audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop Audubon Magazine subscription.)

JAS does not send members any offers, junk mail, or share membership information with anyone.

Thanks for joining our team!

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 Kwáan and adjacent T'aakú Kwáan territories and throughout Lingít Aaní.

