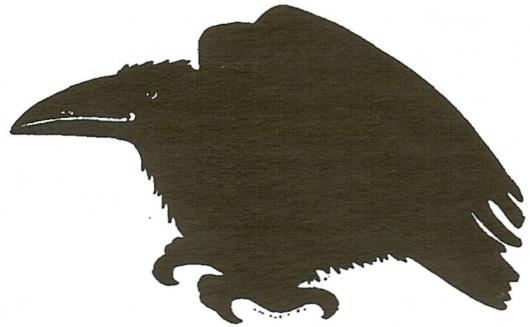


# THE RAVEN



VOL 27 NO 5

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY 2001

Juneau Audubon January Meeting  
Thursday, January 11, 7:30 p.m., Dzantik! Heeni Middle School Library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

## JUNEAU AIRPORT WETLANDS WATCH

Laurie Ferguson Craig will speak on her "Wetland Watch" project at the airport dike trail. Laurie can be seen almost every early morning, observing and reporting on bird and human activities along the dike. Her knowledge and ability to talk about this area is unsurpassed.

There will also be a short report on SEALTrusts refuge project.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 8, REGULAR MONTHLY AUDUBON MEETING: Mark Schwan will speak on bird sighting trends in Juneau.

### FREE FRIDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS AT THE MENDENHALL GLACIER CENTER (7:30 TO 9:00 PM)

- Jan.5 Paddling Prince of Whales Island and More By Scot Foster of "Rain Country" fame.
- Jan. 12 Prehistory and Paleoecology of Southern Southeast Alaska Caves By Jim Baichtal, US Forest Service
- Jan. 26 A Summer in Shangri-la By Mary Noble a Juneau teacher who spent a summer as a farm worker in the Himalayas
- Feb.2 Southeast Wildlife Photography Images and Technology By John Hyde, Alaska Wildlife Photographer
- Feb.9 Largest Territory in the World (Underwater) By John Lachelp and Annette Smith from the Juneau Scuba Diving Team.

SPRING CLASSES OFFERED AT UNIVERSITY OF UAS JUNEAU CAMPUS. Spring semester begins January 16. Nearly 400 different classes will be offered. They are all described in the class schedule available at UAS buildings and city libraries. Or call 465-6457 and ask for a schedule to be sent or to ask any UAS questions.

Following are some UAS spring classes, the class designation, and the meeting day and times.

- General Astronomy, ASIR 225, Mon. and Wed. 5:15 - 6:45 p.m.
- Log House Construction, CT 118), Sat and half of Sunday, April 14 - 29.
- Alaska Native Literature, ENGL 270, Mon. and Wed. 5:15 - 6:45 p.m.
- Introduction to GPS, ENV5 193, Sat. 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Feb. 17 to March 10.
- History Seminar: Women's America, HIST 392, Mon, noon - 3 p.m.
- History Seminar: The Holocaust, HIST 392, Wed. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Indian Law in Alaska, LAWS 293, Wed. 7 - 10 p.m.
- Wooden Boat Repair, MT 251, Fri 6 - 10 p.m., Sat/Sun, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., April 6 - 15.

Fiberglass Boat Repair, MF 255, Fri. 6 - 10 p.m., Sat/Sun 9 a.m.-6 p.m. April 20-22.  
Backpacking in SE, PE 193, Fri. 1:10 - 4:10 p.m., Jan. 19 - Feb. 24.  
Intro to Ice Climbing, PE 193, Thur. 7 - 9:30 p.m. Jan. 19 - Feb. 15.  
Intro to Rock Climbing, PE 193, Thur. 7 - 9:30 p.m., March 22 - April 26.  
Backcountry Skiing and Snowboarding, PI 193, Thur. 7 - 9:30 p.m., Jan. 23 - March 6.  
Bald Eagles of Alaska's Coastal Rain Forest, WLF 250, correspondence.  
Brown Bears of Southeast, WLF 251, correspondence.  
Humpback and Killer Whales of the Northwest Pacific Coast, WLF 252, correspondence.  
Emergency Medical Technician Training, VIEC 027, Mon/Wed 6 - 10 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Jan. 17 - April 28.

## AUDUBON BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS by Prill Mollick, Membership Chair

**BELTED KINGFISHER--Last** summer a pair of kingfishers were observed in one of the harbors. One kingfisher was caught on wires high up on one of the boats. It was sounding out distress calls but its mate was unable to help. Some boys hearing and seeing the situation went to help free it from the wire. When finally free it flew over to some rocks and was joined by its mate. The boys noticed that it had a broken wing. Wanting to help they tried to approach the bird. It did not understand and was only more frightened. So it flew toward the water but could not fly very well and fell into the water. Two eagles flew over to see what was going on. When the kingfisher fell into the water one eagle swooped down but missed. The other eagle did not miss and carried the wounded kingfisher away. Sad for the kingfisher but good news for the eagle.

Have you ever watched a belted kingfisher as it dives headlong from the air into the water in pursuit of fish? It can provide a fascinating pastime pleasure. It will often hover with rapidly beating wings in readiness to plunge. Then it will dive for fish, again and again, each time returning to its favorite conspicuous perch. It can be seen flipping the fish in its beak until the fish is turned to swallow it head first.

Its easily recognized in flight by irregular, jerky, wing beats, its big-headed appearance and its loud dry rattling call. It is blue-gray above with a ragged bushy crest and a broad gray breastband. The female has a second rusty band across the belly.

Usually loners and territorial but tolerates others of its kind during summer nesting season. In courtship display the male brings fish and feeds it to the female. Then for a few weeks a mated pair will work together as a well disciplined team. Nest sites are dug in dirt banks of sand and clay to form an upward sloping tunnel 3-6 feet long, near their fishing territory. At the tunnels end they create a nesting chamber where the female will lay her 6 to 8 pure white eggs. Incubation of 22-24 days is shared by both male and female. They fish when not in the nest. Females incubate at night with males taking over early in the morning. Both parents feed the young, at first giving them partially digested fish, later whole fish. Chicks leave the nest in about 5 weeks fully feathered and able to fly, and within a week or two learn how to fish for themselves.

They can be observed near almost any type of waterside habitat such as rivers, lakes, ponds, and marshes. They may overwinter as far north as water remains open. Some from North America migrate as far south as Central America, West Indies, and northern South America.

Our wonderful creator has provided an amazing variety in nature for us to enjoy especially the birds. Take the time in this new year to notice and identify birds in your area. Make a list of your observations. Soon your list will grow as your interest grows.

## A Winter Solstice Report from Petersburg by Barry Bracken

Winter is now fully upon us and the sea bird distribution pretty much reflects the season. Over-wintering numbers of Old Squaw, Scoters (black, surf, and white-winged), Barrow's Goldeneye, and Harlequins off of our beach and in the Narrows seem to be about normal. We see one or more Common Loons nearly every day. On the other hand, the over-wintering population of Mallards on our beach is about one third of the normal average. I am not certain if this is unique to our small beach or reflects a general decline in over-wintering Mallards throughout our area. There was some storm-caused disruption to the grass flat in front of our house during the fall of 1999, which may have impacted food abundance, contributing to this decline.

Bird observations of note during December include:

Dec. 3, a Northern Hawk Owl hunting on the back side of the airport.

Dec. 5, seven Black-billed Magpies, which is the highest number of I've personally observed in one flock on Mitkof Island.

Dec. 20, a Red-shafted Flicker landed near me on our beach. We see Flickers frequently during the summer, and, on occasion, have even observed them feeding like Robins on amphipods in the pop weed windrows, but this is the first winter sighting on our beach that I can recall."

### OCTOBER PETERSBURG FIELDTRIP THANK YOU'S

"Thanks to Scott Roberge, Tongass Kayak Adventures, for van transportation in Petersburg and out to Blind Slough, and to Barry Bracken, Water's Edge B&B and Kaleidoscope Cruises, for donating rent of a meeting room at Mt. View Manor for a slide presentation on swans and for all his help in organizing the trip."

## 2000 JUNEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

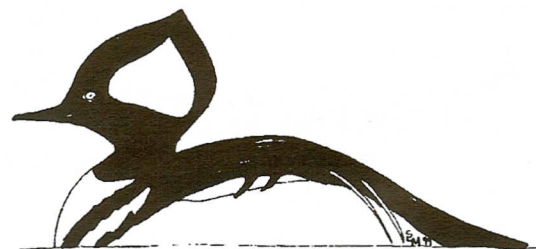
Compiled by Mark Schwan

Juneau's Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 16. Approximately 25 volunteers either enjoyed, or endured a wintry day for birding. Sixty-four species and more about 10,400 birds were logged in during the limited time available for birding. Given the cold weather during the preceding week, the count ended up being rather average. All the common species normally seen were found, except for, interestingly, starlings. New high counts were obtained for just 2 species (numbers below in bold face), including 14 Hooded Mergansers and 18 Red-breasted Nuthatches. There was a "mini-invasion" of nuthatches this fall, and the CBC count definitely reinforced the impression that the species was more abundant than usual this fall. No new species were added to the cumulative count list. There were several species seen during the count week but not on the count day; they are not included herein. Thanks to all those who participated; it was a fine day. During the potluck later that evening, there was a special ceremony to honor Paul Suchanek for his Juneau bird listing efforts during 2000. Paul broke the 100 total for one day of birding on the Juneau road system (he actually located 106 species) and he also identified 200 species of birds during the year within the Juneau checklist area. Both of these birding feats have never been done before.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>
Pacific Loon	8
Common Loon	3
Yellow-billed Loon	3
Homed Grebe	44
Red-necked Grebe	15
Pelagic Cormorant	11
Great Blue Heron	12
Canada Goose	605
Green-winged Teal	38
Mallard	1,967
Northern Pintail	38
Gadwall	3
American Wigeon	46
Greater Scaup	156
Unidentified Scaup	5
Harlequin Duck	119
Long-tailed Duck	22
Black Scoter	9
Surf Scoter	554
White-winged Scoter	532
Unidentified Scoters	371
Common Goldeneye	170
Barrow's Goldeneye	519
Unidentified Goldeneyes	16
Bufflehead	106
Hooded Merganser	14
Common Merganser	173
Red-breasted Merganser	110
Bald Eagle	134
Northern Goshawk	1
Killdeer	10
Black Turnstone	19
Rock Sandpiper	7
Unidentified Sandpipers	202
Common Snipe	3
Mew Gull	75
Herring Gull	3
Thayer's Gull	1
Glaucous-winged Gull	1,366
Gl.-winged x Herring Gull hyb.	2
Unidentified Gulls	1
Common Murre	10
Pigeon Guillemot	6
Marbled Murrelet	83
Rock Dove	188
Belted Kingfisher	3
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Three-toed Woodpecker	2
Steller's Jay	58

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>
Black-billed Magpie	42
Northwestern Crow	1,120
Common Raven	455
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	88
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18
Brown Creeper	1
Winter Wren	4
American Dipper	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	27
American Robin	13
Varied Thrush	2
Northern Shrike	1
Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	6
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1
White-crowned Sparrow	2
Dark-eyed Junco	232
Pine Grosbeak	11
Red Crossbill	326
White-winged Crossbill	4
Unidentified Crossbills	90
Pine Siskin	115
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>10,420</b>

\*\*\*\*\*Look for reports from the Christmas bird counts in the rest of Southeast in the February newsletter.



## CARIBOU SCIENTISTS CALL FOR PROTECTION OF ARCTIC REFUGE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR CARIBOU IS MONUMENT STATUS SAYS AUDUBON

Washington, DC, December 20, 2000 ---Arctic caribou scientists urged President Clinton to protect the Porcupine Caribou Herd, one of North America's largest, by increasing protection for Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon Society urges monument status for the Arctic Refuge to preserve the caribou and the Arctic ecosystem.

"Designating the Arctic Refuge a national monument is the perfect Christmas gift for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. It is a gift that will keep on giving," said John Ricker, Audubon's President. "Leading caribou scientists have concluded oil development is harmful to the long-term health of the caribou."

Six American and seven Canadian scientists signed the letter to President Clinton. Their expertise is in the ecology and conservation of Arctic caribou. Their recommendation is based on observations of the effect oil drilling activities have had on the Central Arctic Caribou Herd over the past three decades.

### The letter concludes:

In summary, state-of-the-art technology has not prevented displacement of calving from even the newer oilfields on the North Slope, and no proven technology exists that would ensure unrestricted passage through an oilfield of the large mid-summer aggregations of Porcupine Caribou. Considering the high degree of uncertainty regarding mitigation of oilfield impacts on caribou, ensuring the integrity of the calving grounds and early summer range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is a compelling reason for applying the most precautionary management to the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. The Porcupine Herd is an international resource too important to put at risk.

"Caribou and oil development do not mix very well," said Ricker. "The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge deserves monument protection for many reasons, including the caribou."

With over a million members and supporters in 530 chapters throughout the Americas, the National Audubon Society conserves and restores natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

## A JUNEAU LISTER'S YEAR: (or 2C in Y2K): By Paul Suchanek

Although there are about 485 bird species on the Alaska checklist, many of these species are vagrants, or very limited in distribution - often just entering either the very western or eastern portion of the state. Attaining 200 species in Alaska is generally thought to be an achievement, and there is even Alaska 200 Club (contact Robert Scher, 8640 Leeper Circle, Anchorage, AK 99504 or [rscher@rmconsult.com](mailto:rscher@rmconsult.com) for information) for those attaining this total. Finding 200 Alaska species in one year is difficult - although the annual total for a single year is now at least 275 species. However, to obtain 200 species in one year, in one small part of the state, has probably never been achieved. Juneau is located in the southern portion of the state, has a diversity of birdy habitats, and offers a checklist for the Juneau area (faku Inlet to Bemers Bay) of about 290 species. Gus van Vliet and I had been keeping track of annual lists (AL) of species for the Juneau area for a few years and had discovered that 175 species wasn't too hard to attain, and had hypothesized that 200 species in one year should be achievable if one worked at it - although it wouldn't be easy. My best AL total was 193 species in 1999 with my second highest total of 185 in 1997. In the year 2000, I figured 200 for the year would be a worthy goal with a subgoal of getting 100 species in a day. A Big Day total of 100 species had also not been achieved in the Juneau area but has been done elsewhere in the state (Anchorage to Homer drives or Anchorage to Nome via jet). Here is a summary of my 200 AL try - the skeptical reader can believe it or not.

Birding in the first few days of January brought me about 40 species but my first bit of luck occurred on January 15 when a white-throated sparrow reappeared at my feeder which hadn't been seen since December 12 - this species is casual in Juneau. On the same day, I also saw a northern pygmy-owl, sometimes a very tough species to find,

although this winter they were widespread in the Juneau area. On January 16, after several attempts, I finally saw a staked out evening grosbeak - another mega-rarity for Juneau. On February 5, a first for the Juneau checklist area, a great gray owl found by Bob Armstrong and Richard Carstensen, proved very cooperative and later on the same day, a gyrfalcon on the Mendenhall Wetlands was an outstanding addition to the list which now stood at 60. On February 21, a flock of 150 common redpolls with at least 1 hoary redpoll added 2 species to the list.

A few species were added to the list over the next two months (70 species by April 1), but it wasn't until spring migration began that birding got most interesting again. April 14 out at Point Bridget brought me a nice look at 4 male mountain bluebirds and brought me 9 other new species for the year. I saw #100 on April 23 when an Arctic tern was seen on a buoy near Fish Creek - oddly enough, this was the exact date I achieved 100 in 1999. Over the next week, very nice additions were made to the list as spring migration began to peak: lesser black-backed gull, Pacific golden-plover, Townsend's solitaire, cinnamon teal, red knot, and homed lark - none extremely rare (the lesser black-backed gull has been returning to Juneau for years), but all easy to miss. By the end of April, 121 species were on the list.

May generally provides peak birding in Juneau and over the first two weeks of May, such goodies as Hammond's flycatcher and redhead were observed, although nothing truly bizarre was seen. I tried a Big Day on May 5 and got up to 95 species before quitting at 6:00 PM, figuring I probably wasn't going to make 100. I then tried a Big Day again on May 12 starting at 4:00 AM and achieved 100 species by 2:00 PM, and finally quit at 106 species, with plenty of daylight but no energy. I believe 120 species in a day on the Juneau road system is possible with a few stakeouts, a heavy migration fallout, a well thought out plan, and some high energy individuals. By May 16, I had 151 species. The last half of May treated me very well with a Juneau checklist first eared grebe found by Rich Gordon, a singing Cassin's vireo at Sandy Beach, and a male wood duck on Norton Lake - all "mega-ticks" for the Juneau roadside. At the end of May, I had 166 species, two more species than in 1999.

June often provides some big time rarities for Juneau roadside birders but I only saw 5 new birds for the month - none unexpected, and this left me 4 species behind the 1999 pace (when a black-headed grosbeak and a great egret were found in June). July treated me a lot better with a staked out swamp sparrow, double-crested cormorant, and a cedar waxwing - but now I was 5 species behind the 1999 pace (175 vs. 180 in 1999).

Early August brought me a real bonus in an adult slaty-backed gull at Sheep Creek, a casual species for Juneau but no other new species. It was at this time, however, that I decided that I was going to hit it hard to find some really good birds if I was going to have any chance for 200 species. I reserved a cabin out at Point Bridget in late August for 2 days to see if I could get on track. Little did I realize how lucky I would be in finding some very rare species over the next few months of fall migration.

My first bit of great luck was on my drive out to Point Bridget on August 24 when a large brown dove with a pointed tail (almost certainly a mourning dove) cruised by me - another "species" which is casual on the road system. Over the next couple of days at the cabin, I saw a lot of nice birds with a couple of parasitic jaegers and an upland sandpiper as the highlights. The last couple of days of August also provided a staked out cowbird at Gus's feeder and a juvenile sharp-tailed sandpiper (one of 3 I was to see!). On August 31, I hiked up to the alpine and finally succeeded in seeing several flocks of gray-crowned rosy finches (#185) - with that species I was now 1 species ahead of the 1999 pace through the month of August.

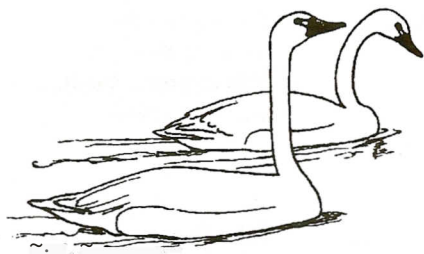


The first several days of September provided beautiful weather and the birding started off strangely on the 1<sup>st</sup> as while driving down the Glacier Highway, I saw a common nighthawk flying around on a sunny afternoon - apparently in migration. I had last seen this species in Juneau in 1986. Birding got better on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when I spotted a magnolia warbler which was mixed in with a nice flock of warblers - a first sighting for me on the Juneau road system, and the first sighting of this species in years.

After a bit of a lull in mid-September, I hiked to the ridge above Echo Cove for some hawk watching. The hawk watching wasn't that great but I managed to see a three-toed woodpecker and a totally unexpected northern hawk owl to increase the AL to 190. Ten days later, I saw my first rough-legged hawks of the season leaving me at 191 for the month - a whopping 6 species over the 185 through September 1999. I now figured my chances were getting better although I figured I still needed some lucky birds - little did I know how lucky I would get.

On October 1, I went deer hunting up behind my house on Douglas Island. As I was making my way back down from high on the ridge I heard a loud tapping. I worked my way around the tree to get a better look and finally located its source. Amazingly, I got outstanding looks at a male black-backed woodpecker, another Juneau accidental bird and a species I had only seen once before in the Juneau area (also on Douglas Island).

This shocker, was overshadowed on October 5, however, when I got home from work on a very dreary day and looked out at the junco flock at my backyard feeder. Mixed in with the juncos and a couple of tree sparrows was a smaller non-descript bird which I could not identify - although my first thought was some kind of goldfinch. Knowing it was something good, I put out the alarm to other birders and started doing some research. Mark Schwan made it over just before dark but the bird had disappeared by then, and I was totally confused as to what it was. Later that night, however, upon carefully checking the field guides, I surmised that it was very likely a female Lazuli bunting. To make a long story short, this bird (AL = 193) became the first photographically documented record of this species for Alaska.



On October 10, Gus called me from his house that large flocks of tundra swans were on the move so I took off from work and managed to find several flocks near Lemon Creek, thus breaking my 1999 AL record of 193. I then headed down south for about 2 weeks. Upon my return, I then started birding overtime to get the last few species to put 200 in reach. I again totally lucked out on October 26 at Sandy Beach when I heard and briefly saw a black-capped chickadee - another Juneau accidental. On October 27, I finally saw my first white-winged crossbills (#197) of the year - up until that time, this was a huge miss in my list. I

decided that I also needed to look for additional ptarmigan species as I only had rock ptarmigan on my AL, so I headed up Sheep Creek to at least get a couple of ptarmigan for supper. Footing was treacherous on the wind packed slopes where normally I only find rock ptarmigan, but instead of rock ptarmigan, the only ptarmigan I found were white-tailed (#198).

November 1<sup>st</sup> brought an easy #199 as a Bohemian waxwing flew down a Douglas street and landed in the tree right next to me - obviously it wanted to be part of the record total. At this point, I knew an owl was my best bet for #200 so I inquired around a bit and decided that barred owl was my next target bird. On November 5, I headed out the road at 5:00 AM with the hope that a barred owl would respond to my tapes. As I cruised out past Auke Recreation area, I remembered that Gus had told me that a saw-whet owl had been calling last spring above the Tee Harbor fire station. I decided I would stop there and try the saw-whet owl tapes to see if that bird was still there as that was another species that was not on my AL. It was a very still morning and I got out and played the saw-whet owl tape for perhaps 10 seconds. About 2 seconds after the tape stopped, I heard a screech and then a barred owl called out "who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for you alllll." Amazingly enough, #200 wasn't even the species which I had stopped to try to find! I then tried a barred owl tape, but the bird never responded (although further out the road near Amalga Harbor, another barred owl did respond to the barred owl tape).

It is now December 6, and I haven't added any new birds to the total although I'm still hopeful that a western grebe or king eider may turn up prior to January 1. Will I try to break the AL record in 2001? Probably not, as I plan to do more traveling outside the Juneau checklist area and do more hiking (and birding) up in the mountains where there are less bird species. I'm sure someone could break this record, especially if it is a good year for staked out birds, however, I'm not sure if the record could be broken for a local checklist area anywhere in Alaska outside of Juneau. Although Juneau may not get too many of the Asian vagrants that everyone wants to see, it seems that something new turns up all the time in this very diverse area for birding.

Notes on record keeping: The detailed statistics cited in this report were only possible through careful record keeping in commercially available AviSys software. Without use of this software for record keeping, these statistics would be almost impossible to keep track of. With use of this software, it is easy to keep track of annual lists, county lists, or lists for about any area desired as well as generate local checklists. The list of bird species on the next page took about 1 minute to generate (and 10 minutes to insert in the document and format).

LIST OF SPECIES SEEN BY PAUL SUCHANEK ON JUNEAU ROAD SYSTEM - 1/1-00-12/31/00

LOONS	Bald Eagle	Least Sandpiper	Three-toed
Red-throated Loon	Northern Harrier	Baird's Sandpiper	Woodpecker
Pacific Loon	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Pectoral Sandpiper	Black-backed
Common Loon	Northern Goshawk	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Woodpecker
Yellow-billed Loon	Red-tailed Hawk	Dunlin	Northern Flicker
GREBES	Rough-legged Hawk	Rock Sandpiper	TYRANT
Red-necked Grebe	Golden Eagle	Stilt Sandpiper	FLYCATCHERS
Horned Grebe	FALCONS AND	Red-necked Phalarope	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eared Grebe	CARACARAS	JAEGERS AND	Western Wood Pewee
CORMORANTS	American Kestrel	SKUAS	Alder Flycatcher
Double-crested	Merlin	Parasitic Jaeger	Hammond's Flycatcher
Cormorant	Gyrfalcon	GULLS	Pacific-slope
Pelagic Cormorant	Peregrine Falcon	Mew Gull	Flycatcher
HERONS, EGRETS	GROUSE,,	Ring-billed Gull	LARKS
AND BITERNS	PTARMIGAN,	California Gull	Horned Lark
Great Blue Heron	PRAIRIE-	Glaucous-winged Gull	SWALLOWS
DUCKS, GEESE	CHICKENS	Glaucous Gull	Tree Swallow
AND SWANS	Blue Grouse	Thayer's Gull	Violet-green Swallow
Trumpeter Swan	White-tailed Ptarmigan	Herring Gull	Bank Swallow
Tundra Swan	Rock Ptarmigan	Lesser Black-backed	Cliff Swallow
Greater White-fronted	RAILS,	Gull	Barn Swallow
Goose	GALLINULES AND	Slaty-backed Gull	WAGTAILS AND
Snow Goose	COOTS	Bonaparte's Gull	PIPITS
Canada Goose	American Coot	Black-legged Kittiwake	American Pipit
Brant	OYSTERCATCHER	TERNS	KINGLETS
Wood Duck	S	Caspian Tern	Golden-crowned
Eurasian Wigeon	Black Oystercatcher	Arctic Tern	Kinglet
American Wigeon	PLOVERS AND	AUKS, MURRES	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Gadwall	LAPWINGS	AND PUFFINS	WAXWINGS
Green-winged Teal	Pacific Golden-Plover	Common Murre	Bohemian Waxwing
Mallard	American Golden-	Pigeon Guillemot	Cedar Waxwing
Northern Pintail	Plover	Marbled Murrelet	DIPPERS
Blue-winged Teal	Black-bellied Plover	PIGEONS AND	American Dipper
Cinnamon Teal	Semipalmated Plover	DOVES	WRENS
Northern Shoveler	Killdeer	Rock Dove	Winter Wren
Canvasback	SANDPIPERS	Mourning Dove	THRUSHES
Redhead	Common Snipe	OWLS	Mountain Bluebird
Ring-necked Duck	Short-billed Dowitcher	Great Horned Owl	Townsend's Solitaire
Greater Scaup	Long-billed Dowitcher	Barn Owl	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Lesser Scaup	Hudsonian Godwit	Great Gray Owl	Swainson's Thrush
Harlequin Duck	Marbled Godwit	Northern Hawk Owl	Hermit Thrush
Oldsquaw	Whimbrel	Northern Pygmy-Owl	American Robin
Black Scoter	Upland Sandpiper	Short-eared Owl	Varied Thrush
Surf Scoter	Greater Yellowlegs	NIGHTJARS	CHICKADEES AND
White-winged Scoter	Lesser Yellowlegs	Common Nighthawk	TITS
Common Goldeneye	Solitary Sandpiper	SWIFTS	Black-capped
Barrow's Goldeneye	Spotted Sandpiper	Vaux's Swift	Chickadee
Bufflehead	Wandering Tattler	HUMMINGBIRDS	Chestnut-backed
Hooded Merganser	Ruddy Turnstone	Rufous Hummingbird	Chickadee
Red-breasted	Black Turnstone	KINGFISHERS	NUTHATCHES
Merganser	Surfbird	Belted Kingfisher	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Common Merganser	Red Knot	WOODPECKERS	CREEPERS
OSPREY	Sanderling	Red-breasted	Brown Creeper
Osprey	Semipalmated	Sapsucker	SHRIKES
HAWKS, EAGLES	Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Northern Shrike
AND KITES	Western Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker	CROWS AND JAYS



**LIST OF SPECIES SEEN BY PAUL SUCHANEK ON JUNEAU ROAD SYSTEM - 1/1-00-12/31/00**

Steller's Jay	Townsend's Warbler	Fox Sparrow	BLACKBIRDS,
Black-billed Magpie	Blackpoll Warbler	Song Sparrow	ORIOLES,
Northwestern Crow	American Redstart	Lincoln's Sparrow	GRACKLES, ETC.
Common Raven	Northern Waterthrush	Swamp Sparrow	Red-winged Blackbird
STARLINGS	MacGillivray's Warbler	White-crowned	Rusty Blackbird
European Starling	Common Yellowthroat	Sparrow	Brown-headed
VIREOS AND	Wilson's Warbler	White-throated	Cowbird
ALLIES	TANAGERS AND	Sparrow	FINCHES, SISKINS,
Cassin's Vireo	ALLIES	Golden-crowned	CROSSBILLS
Warbling Vireo	Western Tanager	Sparrow	Gray-crowned Rosy-
WOOD WARBLERS	SPARROWS,	Dark-eyed Junco	Finch
Orange-crowned	TOWHEES,	Lapland Longspur	Pine Grosbeak
Warbler	JUNCOS	Snow Bunting	Red Crossbill
Yellow Warbler	American Tree	SALTATORS,	White-winged
Magnolia Warbler	Sparrow	CARDINALS AND	Crossbill
Yellow-rumped	Chipping Sparrow	ALLIES	Common Redpoll
Warbler	Savannah Sparrow	Lazuli Bunting	Hoary Redpoll
			Pine Siskin
			Evening Grosbeak
			11/1----- STATISTICS --
			--1/11/
			Species seen 200

\*Just received: YAKUTAT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ON DECEMBER 16 By Roger Lockwood

Four counters on cross country skis and by car tallied 19 species. Common Loon 1, Pelagic Cormorant 1, Gr Blue Heron 1, Tundra Swan 6, Canada Goose 60, Mallard 53, American Wigeon 6, Gr Scaup 3, Harlequin Duck 4, Red-breasted Merganser 1, Common Merganser 6, Herring Gull 12, Bald Eagle 53, Northwestern Crow 246, Raven 44, Black Billed Magpie 9, Pine Siskin 125, Pine Grosbeak 11, American Dipper 1.

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITS**

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, A.K 99506-0898.

\*\*Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
 P.O. Box 110030  
 Juneau, A.K 99811-0300  
 (907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
 410 Willoughby Ave.  
 Juneau, A.K 99801-1795  
 (907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

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Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions : SPN 2000-14 Applicant: Corp of Engineers. Location: Alaska. Proposal: Effective September 6, 2000, the new Alaska regional conditions for the recently issued Nationwide Permits now apply. The Corps has issued final decision documents for the new and modified Nation Wide Permits (NWP). These documents are available on the Internet at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/> and Corps district offices. The Alaska District has posted its regional conditions for the new and modified NWP's on its Internet home page. The URL address for the Alaska District regional conditions is <http://www.usace.army.mil/alaska/permit>.

Mineral Management Service is soliciting comments on a new 5-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing program for oil and gas for the years 2002-2007. The OCS Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and maintain a 5-year leasing program. The 5-year program established the size, timing, and location of OCS oil and gas activity. Area of the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, a portion of the area off Florida in the Gulf of Mexico, and the North Aleutian Basin area have been withdrawn as a result of a 1998 presidential directive. The remaining areas of the OCS will be analyzed to determine if they should be included in, or excluded from, the lease sale schedule. The 5-year plan can be found at [HTTV://fwswebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000\\_register&docid=OO-31629-tiled.pdf](http://www.fwswebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=OO-31629-tiled.pdf), it can also be reviewed in the Notice located at 65FR77665 in the Federal Register. Comments should be mailed to: 5-year Program Manager, Minerals Management Service (MS-4400), Room 2324 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170. Comments can be submitted via email at [MMS5-year.eis@mms.gov](mailto:MMS5-year.eis@mms.gov). The MMS will hold hearings in Alaska during December and January. Comment

Juneau-Favorite Channel 40 (Reference number 2-960554). Applicant: National Marine Fisheries Service, PO Box 21668, Juneau AK 99802-1668. Location: Point Lena Loop Road at the rock quarry, Juneau, AK. Proposal: 1. Discharge approximately 230 cubic yards of fill material into approximately .0035 acres of forested wetlands to construct an access road. 2. Excavate approx. 2,700 cubic yards of rock from the shoreline and discharge approx. 1,240 cubic yards of rock over an approx. 15 acres (total) at 2 locations seaward of the high tide line in order to construct an armor rock protected wetwell pump house and buried seawater intake line extending to approximately -80 feet MLLW and a buried marine wastewater outfall extending to approx. -30 feet MLLW. All excess excavated material would be discharged over the beach. Purpose: To construct a National Marine Fisheries Service research facility and University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences classroom/lab facility. Comments due by: January 2, 2001. Please contact Mr. Randal P. Virgil at 790-4490 or e-mail at [randal.p.virgil@noa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:randal.p.virgil@noa02.usace.army.mil) for further information.

Juneau - Gastineau Channel 475 (Reference number M 990759). Applicant: City and Borough of Juneau. Location: West of Aurora Harbor and adjacent to the Juneau Yacht Club. Proposal: The applicant proposes to expand the existing dock by installing one 10-foot wide by 200-foot long high density polyethylene float secured by 5 timber piles driven into the substrate. The work would be located seaward of mean high water in Gastineau Channel. No mitigation is proposed. The purpose of this project is to provide a work float for commercial fisherman. Comments due by: January 2, 2001.

Juneau - Taku Inlet 10 (Reference number 2-951033). Applicant: Lake Dorothy Hydro, Incorporated. Location: Taku Inlet, south of Dorothy Creek. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct an upland pad for a hydroelectric facility by discharging approximately 41,000 cubic yards of fill into 1 acre of intertidal habitat. This project was previously advertised in December of 1996 and a provisional permit was granted in January 1997. Due to substantial changes in project design, a revised public notice is required. For more information a copy of the applicant's [Final Field Study Results, November 21, 2000, FERC Project No. 11656](#) is available at the Juneau COE office. Comments can be emailed to [john.c.leeds@noa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:john.c.leeds@noa02.usace.army.mil). Comments due by: January 16, 2001

Petersburg - Frederick Sound 53 (Reference number 4-991412). Applicant: City of Petersburg. Location: In Petersburg west of the intersection of thirteen and Gjos Streets. Proposal: The applicant proposes to place 5,700 cubic yards of clean shot rock and finish course into 1.0 acres of muskeg wetlands. No mitigation is planned. The purpose of the project is to expand the existing elderly housing facility, including site utilities, vehicle parking, and landscaping. Comments due by: January 3, 2001.

Wrangell - Zimovia Strait 117 (Reference number 4-2000-1014). Applicant: Clayton and Mary Emmorey. Location: City Subdivision, Lot 3, Block 2, Section 30. Proposal: The applicant proposes to place 1400 cubic yards of sawdust over the existing organic matter to level the lot above street level. On the western boundary the sawdust fill will be over 9 feet deep. The applicant will install a retaining wall to hold this material. The applicant proposes to add an additional 200 cubic yards of sbot rock fill and 1000 cubic yards of soil. The purpose is to construct a single-family residence. *Comments due by: December 29, 2000*

Wrangell - Zimovia Strait 118 (Reference number 4-2000-1017). Applicant: Patrick and Patricia McMurren. Location: City Subdivision, Lot 7, Block 2, Section 30. Proposal: The applicant proposes to excavate 283 cubic yards of organic wetlands (0.23 acres) and put 725 cubic yards of fill and 165 cubic yards of topsoil into a forested wetland area. About one-half of the lot as been filled with 50 cubic yards of rock. The purpose is to construct a single family residence. *Comments due by: December 27, 2000*

Wrangell - Zimovia Strait 138 (Reference number 4-2000-1272). Applicant: Timothy Peterman. Location: 300 yards north along Stikine Avenue from the Wrangell Post Office Building and 100 feet south of the Alaska State Ferry terminal, 231 Stikine Avenue. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a rock seawall, 57 feet long and 27-feet across and 8-foot high extending between two existing seawalls. Approximately 0.035 acres of intertidal habitat will be filled with 50 cubic yards of riprap and armor rock. Another 300 cubic yards of sbot rock will be added as fill. The purpose is to protect an existing storage structure from storm damage during high tides. *Comments due by: January 2, 2001*

Sitka - Silver Bay 23 (Reference number 1-2000-1327). Applicant: The Boat Company. Location: North of the Utility dock near sawmill creek in Silver Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 30-foot long by 25-foot wide pile supported pier, connected to a 85-foot long by 8-foot wide ramp to a 100-foot long by 8-foot wide float, along with two 16-foot wide by 160-foot boathouse and docking floats. Additionally, there will be a 55-foot by 16-foot floating fabric boathouse. The whole system will be supported by 24 pilings. A 6,300 square foot building will be built on an upland site. The project will provide refit and repair facilities to the small cruise sbips by the Boat Company. The purpose is to provide berthing for small cruise sbips. *Comments due by: January 17, 2001*

Port Alexander - Port Alexander 30 (Reference number 1-2000-1265). Applicant: Gary Mulligan. Location: Outer Harbor in Port Alexander. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain an anchor and steel float located seaward at a mean high water of 9.1 feet. The float is 13-foot wide by 30-foot long secured to a 55-gallon drum filled with concrete. The purpose is to provide a dock for personal use. No mitigation is planned. *Comments can be submitted via email to [randal.p.vigil@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:randal.p.vigil@poa02.usace.army.mil). Comments are due by January 12, 2001.*

Port Alexander - Port Alexander 31 (Reference number 1-2000-1266). Applicant: Gary Mulligan. Location: Within Back Lagoon in Port Alexander. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain an anchor and a airplane float consisting of 12-foot wide by 10-foot long wood-decked log ramp connected to a 20-foot wide by 20-foot long log float secured to a 55 gallon drum filled with concrete. The purpose is to provide a private mooring for an airplane. No mitigation is planned. *Comments can be submitted via email [torandal.p.vigil@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:torandal.p.vigil@poa02.usace.army.mil). Comments are due by: January 16, 2001.*

Ketchikan - Meyers Chuck 001 (Reference number 1-2000-1276). Applicant: John Thompson. Location: 50 miles northwest of Ketchikan in Union Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a new wood float dock 12-feet by 50-feet installed with 3 steel pilings that would attached to shore by a 55-foot by 4-foot ramp. The purpose is to provide a dock for personal use. No mitigation is planned. *Comments due by: December 20, 2000.*

Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 472 (Reference number N-890773). Applicant: Alaska Marine Lines. Location: Alaska Marine Lines off of Tongass Avenue. Proposal: The applicant proposes to modify an existing permit (M-890773) with the proposed placement of 20,000 cubic yards of fill and rip-rap into 0.5 acres of intertidal habitat. The purpose is to expand the existing marine cargo facility. No mitigation is planned. *Comments due by: December 20, 2000.*

## JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Join Us Today!

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

∴ A 1-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*;

∴ Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription of *Audubon* magazine;

Yes! I want to join Juneau Audubon and National Audubon Society!

\$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate    \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate    \$30 - 2 year Special Rate

My check is enclosed.    Please bill me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St./Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529   A51  
7XCH

If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above writing in Juneau Audubon only and send \$10 to: The Raven Editor, PO Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802

### JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

President: Steve Zimmerman 586-2597

Secretary: Deanna MacPhail 789-0651

Treasurer: George Utermohle 586-3849

Programs: Linda Shaw 789-3112

Membership: PriU Mollick

Education: Amy Skilbred 780-4649

Publicity: Debbie Rudis 789-4260

Conservation: Chris Kent 463-3494

Field Trips: Judy Shuler

Raven Editor: Mary Lou King 789-7540

Springfest Coordinators: Judy Shuler 789-9544,

Kathy Weltzin 789-0288

### JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB PAGE

Be sure to check out our home page on the Internet. It's hosted by the folks that have developed JUNEAU.COM. Our site's URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://www.juneau.com/audubon/audulx.html> -- add it to your favorites! Recent editions of the Juneau Audubon Newsletter are posted along with links to the Anchorage and National Audubon sites. If you're interested in Corps of Engineers permits, they are posted with this month's newsletter. We are always looking for pictures, stories or ideas to post on our web site. To contribute, email [ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net](mailto:ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net)

# THE RAVEN



VOL 27 NO 6

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2001

## Juneau Audubon February Meeting

Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m., Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### BIRD SIGHTING TRENDS IN JUNEAU

Mark Schwan will be sharing his thoughts on why the Juneau area offers the most diverse birding opportunities in Alaska. He will review and discuss rare bird sightings over the last several years and speculate on what species we might find in the future. Finally, Mark will ask us the question: "Why is producing a Juneau bird checklist much like painting the San Francisco Bay Bridge?"

### CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

MARCH AUDUBON MEETING: Traveling in Mongolia with birder Bill Brown, and an update on what is happening in the Legislature.

FREE FRIDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS AT THE MENDENHALL GLACIER CENTER (7:30 TO 9:00 PM)

Feb. 9 Largest Territory in the World (Underwater) By John Lachelt, and Annette Smith from the Juneau Scuba Diving Team.

Feb 16 The Angoon Bombardment of 1882 By Steve Hendrikson, adjunct faculty, UAS SE

Feb 23 Antarctic Survival: The Amazing Story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Expedition By Nina Rajala, granddaughter of seaman Bakewell who was on the 1914 Expedition.

March 2 Alaska Rock Garden Society China Expedition By Ed Buyarski will present a program on last fall's expedition to collect seeds and bring them back to Juneau.

March 9 Sailing in the Bahamas and Tortugas By Kim and Barb Turley's production showing interesting plants, animals and fish.

### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT UAS

Applications are being accepted for students to take part in the University of Alaska, Southeast undergraduate summer research program. Successful candidates will receive a \$325 a weekly stipend and Juneau housing. The national program, funded by the National Science Foundation, seeks academically strong university students interested in marine biological research. Minority applicants are especially encouraged. Applications are due Feb. 15. See: [www.uas.alaska.edu/uas/biology/nsf.html](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/uas/biology/nsf.html) or e-mail: [beth.mathews@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:beth.mathews@uas.alaska.edu)

## Great Backyard Bird Count - February 16-19, 2001

We need every bird enthusiast in North America to count for the birds! Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on any or all of the four count days. Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate. We recommend watching for a half-hour or more, so that you'll have a good sense of what birds are in your area. You can count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area. (The Checklists will be available on Internet on February 1) Submissions are entered on-line through the Internet, and your count will help to map the distribution of North America's winter bird residents. To see results from previous counts and more information about the counts, please visit [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) or contact Matthew McKown at: [mmckown@audubon.org](mailto:mmckown@audubon.org)

### President's Comments by Steve Zimmerman

On Saturday January 22, Juneau Audubon Society officers and board members met for an all-day retreat to discuss issues of importance to our organization. One of the issues that came up was how to involve members from out of town.

Those of us who live in Juneau often forget that there are many members of the National Audubon Society who live in other Southeast Alaska villages and towns. A check of membership records shows that there are 39 members in Sitka, 20 members in Ketchikan, 18 members in Haines, 14 members in Petersburg, 10 members in Gustavus, 8 members in Craig, 6 members in Skagway and 4 members in Wrangell and several more in other towns. It is likely that the same types of issues that face us in Juneau have to be dealt with in the other towns in Southeast Alaska. Activities like tourism, mining, logging, fishing, population growth, and loss of habitat, impact our whole region. I hope that we can involve members from outside Juneau as we work to conserve the habitat of birds, fish and other wildlife in Southeast Alaska. If there are issues in other towns that the Juneau Audubon Society can help with, please let us know. The more we can coordinate our activities and work together as a region to solve such problems, the stronger our impact as Audubon members will be. Please feel free to call me at 907-586-2597 if you feel there are matters of importance outside Juneau that we can work on together.

### A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS OUR FUTURE-- Chris Kent, Conservation Chair

Juneau Audubon receives anywhere from 3 to 15 proposed permits for wetland fill activities every month of the year (7 notices this month). My goal, as Conservation Chair, is to inform the membership of these activities and to comment on those permits having the greatest affect on habitat. In commenting, I rely on my experiences in Southeast Alaska, education, and to a small extent on outrage. What drives me to spend several nights each month to come up with an intelligible letter is my desire to have a say in our changing world and to let responsible government agencies know that someone is watching.

I would like to think that with existing laws and proper care, development and the environment can co-exist and mostly it does. However, every tideland fill takes away from our public domain and every wetland fill changes functional habitat and hydrology. Nearly all fills are done without monetary or habitat compensation to the public domain. Under our system of private land ownership we sometimes fail to understand that we change the following generation's future. Once a wetland or intertidal habitat is filled, it's changed for better or worse. The question asked most in my recent comments is when do we reach the cumulative impact threshold? What measures do we have in place to indicate that we are near that threshold? Surprisingly, even a simple measure of how many acres of wetland and intertidal habitat

have been filled is data that not a single agency keeps. Look at a Corp permit (there're posted in Post Offices), they give exact measures of fill, but very little information on habitat, wildlife and the area to be filled. We have our priorities mixed up. In the years of commenting, I have learned that change does not come quickly. Change comes from an involved interest and from increasing your knowledge in the subject. I can't have just a good understanding of the law when I comment, I also have to understand agency policy, written and unwritten, local issues, political meddling and lastly the habitat.

I do believe that by working together we can each make a contribution towards our future. What would help are your observations of the landscape, habitats and wildlife. Having more information about what wildlife uses an area, where water runoff occurs, where and what resources people use, can make my comment letters more effective. In an effort to communicate a priority, I have marked permits with an asterisk to indicate those that I feel should have a closer look and possibly a comment letter. If you have something to add, please contact me at [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net) or call me at home 463-3494. Otherwise, take this as encouragement to add your voice, go ahead, write the Corp of Engineers, tell them what you think.

## BALD EAGLE ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED By Scott Foster



A UAS endowment worth more than \$100,000 has been established through the Bald Eagle Research Institute that is associated with the University of Alaska Southeast.

The Institute was established about 10 years ago in conjunction with UAS and has been involved in many projects. A bald eagle conference attracting nationwide participation was held in Juneau. The Institute has developed a comprehensive bald eagle bibliography that is available to the public in Egan Library and on-line. A book, "Bald Eagles of Alaska" is ready to be printed. The book will be used as a reader for the UAS bald eagle correspondence study course.

The endowed Bald Eagle Research program will help insure UAS's role in research about eagles and resources in the area. The endowment will be managed through the University of Alaska Foundation. Earnings from the new endowment will be used to further the Institute's projects including hiring students for jobs related to eagle ecology, up-grading the eagle bibliography, funding occasional publications, providing scholarships, fellowships, and eventually crating an endowed UAS faculty chair dedicated to Bald Eagle ecology, research and teaching.

The University Foundations returns 5% of the earnings from the endowment each year for the Institute program. Additional income is added to the principle. Funds managed this way have been doubling in 8 to 10 years recently. "A full-time professorship is assured" according to Jim King, a founding board member of the Institute. "Additional donations will speed it up."

Note: Anyone wanting to contribute to the Bald Eagle Research Institute endowment should contact Lynne Johnson, UAS development officer, at 465-6416.

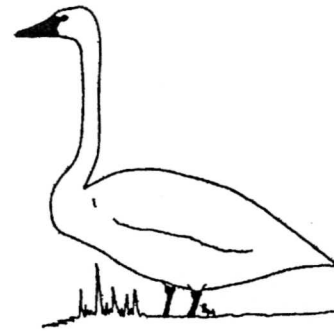
## JUNEAU RAPTOR CENTER REPORT By Sandy Harbanuk

After 14 years of operating in garages and back yards, the Juneau Raptor Center has found a home. With the assistance of the Trust for Public Land, a 10.5-acre parcel of land adjoining Brotherhood Park will become a public park with a raptor center in it. Although the deal will take some time to be finalized, we are beginning to plan a state-of-the-art clinic and rehabilitation facility as well as a nature education center.

We look forward to input from Audubon members, and would welcome an Audubon representative on our facility planning committee. It's important to us to protect the near-natural qualities of this site and we invite you to help us with that goal. We have kicked off a capital campaign for the new facility, and our next fun fundraiser will be an auction on Friday, March 2, at the Hangar Ballroom, 7 - 10p.m.. The \$10 admission includes hors d'oeuvres and there will be a no-host bar. Tickets will be available soon at the usual outlets and at the door.

PETERSBURG TRUMPETER SWAN FIELD TRIP By Deanna McPhail (Ed. Note: I misplaced this article last fall but think it is a good report on an exciting field trip and one that will spark interest in future Audubon fieldtrips)

This Audubon trip provided entertainment on several levels; there was something for just about everyone. Clearly, old friends enjoyed the opportunity to get together and visit; fans of the ferry system got to spend a full day of calm, blue sky weather on the run down to Petersburg; those of us who don't get out of town often were able to explore some new territory; and lastly, everyone had a chance to see some birds, we seldom see in great numbers here in Juneau.



Jim King's slide show and talk gave me some insight into the habits and concerns of Trumpeter Swans. At least I might have a better chance at sorting out the differences between Tundra and Trumpeter when I am lucky enough to see one or the other.

All of the folks we met in Petersburg seemed glad to see us and made us feel welcome. Barry Bracken coordinated our activities, generously donated his vehicle to drive us out to the slough for birding, and served as our tour guide. Scott Roberge of Tongass Kayak Adventures also allowed us the use of his van and a local member of SEACC was a volunteer driver.

Now, JAS needs to plan an equally interesting activity and invite the Petersburg folks up for a visit. Maybe we can coordinate the next Bemers Bay trip with the ferry schedule.

## HAINES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT By Tim Shields

The most outstanding feature of the 2000 CBC in Haines was the lousy weather. Extremely wet and dark (big surprise this year!). Forest species activity was very depressed. Although we got a reasonable # of species (35), the number of individuals for most species was depressed. We got a great blue heron juvenile, a goshawk and a northern pygmy owl as well as a number of long-tailed ducks (all somewhat unusual). We had a great potluck after the count.





#### KETCHIKAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT By Jim Zelenak

We held our count on Dec. 16, and 42 counters participated. We tallied 5,639 individuals of 62 species on count day, and an additional 5 species during count week. We had high counts for red-breasted sapsucker (7), common raven (309), chestnut-backed chickadee (92), and winter wren (30). Unusual species included wood duck, red-tailed hawk, and purple finch. Our results have been entered online, and you should be able to review data at the [birdssource.org](http://birdssource.org) website.

We have a monthly blurb in the Ketchikan newspaper for which I listed participants and general count results from this year's CBC. Thanks to Steve Heintz for the excellent presentation/slide show he gave at the Friday Night Insight at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center the week before the count, and to thank the 42 volunteers who participated in the count this year. Steve also was responsible for the identification of the 3 unusual species down here this year: wood ducks, red-tailed hawk, and purple finch.

#### THORNE BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT By Ellen Lance

This year's Christmas Bird Count in Thorne Bay was held on December 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a cold, clear day. Seven people officially participated. The most action occurred at the Thorne River estuary, where many Canadian geese, common mergansers, buffleheads, and mallards were seen. Also, a large flock (76) of northwestern crows were feeding on exposed mollusks at low tide on the estuary. Many flocking birds were seen including pine siskins (21), white-winged crossbills (66), and common redpolls (5), but in general observers reported very few terrestrial birds. In total, 598 birds were observed in 16.75 hours of effort.



### Juneau Audubon Society letter to Governor Knowles on the roadless issue.

By Steve Zimmerman

The Juneau Audubon Society recently wrote a letter to Governor Knowles expressing our concern with comments he made regarding President Clinton's roadless policy for the Tongass. We respectfully disagreed with the Governor's statement that the roadless plan, "makes a mockery of the public planning process that went into the Tongass Land Management Plan," and that, "it is based on little or no science." Our letter pointed out that extensive public hearings on the roadless policy were held in Southeast Alaska and 59 percent of the people who testified were in support of the policy. Instead of making a mockery of the process that led to the Tongass Land Management Plan, the Clinton plan takes a step forward in the management of the Tongass. We also disagreed with the statement that the roadless policy is based on little or no science. We pointed out that approximately 100 eminent Alaskan scientists were part of a letter to President Clinton stating that, "...roadless reserves are especially critical because only four percent of the Tongass land-base encompasses the low elevation, large old growth most important to fish and wildlife and much of this rare forest has already been clearcut. Excluding the Tongass would severely compromise the scientific legitimacy of any national policy on the protection of roadless areas in our national forest system." We concluded the letter by asking the governor to reassess his position and to support the roadless plan for the Tongass National Forest.

**More Roads in the Tongass Forest?** by Wallace M. Olson (Published as a "My Turn" in the Juneau Empire)

With all the debate whether or not the Tongass Forest should be included in the "roadless" ruling, I thought about an archaeology project on Heceta Island about ten years ago. Every morning, we had to walk a few miles to the excavation site. Heceta Island, like several other islands in the Tongass, has an extensive network of roads. As we passed older clear cuts, we could see little spruce and hemlock growing. They were about three feet high, with trunks about an inch and a half in diameter. Then we went through a stand of old growth forest. It was a different world. Here the trees were two to three feet in diameter, and over two hundred years old. We saw old stumps, more than five feet in diameter, where trees had been cut many years ago. Those trees must have been five hundred years old when they were taken.

Old trees that had fallen were nurseries for the next generation. Little trees were springing up from them. Nothing is wasted in an old growth forest. Since the Tongass is a rain forest, fires are not a major problem. Under the high canopy of the tall, old trees, the ground was wet and full of animal tracks. Obviously, the old growth forest is home to variety of animals. What an experience! It was like being on another planet compared to the barren clear-cut areas.

As so I asked myself, do we need more roads? There must be hundreds of miles of roads in the Tongass already. The Goldbelt Corporation logged some of its lands, using selective cutting and removed the trees with helicopters. They did not need roads. They made a profit without the cost and destruction that goes with road building and clear cutting.

After thinking about this "roadless" question, I stopped by to see our great grand daughter, Avery. She is almost two years old and is a bright little girl. I hope that some day, she can hike in the remaining old growth forest. Twenty years from now, the clear-cut areas may support small trees, but it would take several hundred years to replace the old growth forest that was there. These areas might become tree farms, but not forests.

I hope that the little children of today may someday share the experience that many of us have had by walking and camping in an old growth forest. The surviving old growth timber is really a national treasure that belongs to our children and grandchildren. It is their forest too.

Certainly, timber is worth money. But would it be better to leave the trees standing, to filter water that will flow into productive salmon streams and reduce soil erosion? Twenty five years from now, there will be better logging methods, new processing technologies for value-added manufacturing. Why should we send our logs and jobs elsewhere right now? Tourists come here because it is one of the few places left in the world where they can find beautiful old spruce and hemlock and plants and animals that live among them. People enjoy hiking, camping and fishing in the Tongass. Is this multiple use better than just simply building roads, and cutting trees?

Why do we have to decide right now whether to build more roads, or not? What's the rush? The trees aren't going anywhere. If we don't destroy them, they will be around a long time. If a few old trees die and start to decay, they will nourish new trees, that's the way the forest works. Remember, "Haste makes waste." Let's take our time and do it right.

So I have a modest proposal. Since there are no easy answers now, let's just have a twenty-five-year moratorium on road building in the Tongass Forest. That should please environmentalists, the timber industry, and what is most important, future generations. It would not be an end to building roads in the Tongass. Let's not do something short sighted that we and our grand children might live to regret.

After twenty-five years, Avery and children her age, will be adults. I have faith in these young children. If we give them a good education, they will be smart enough, and can base their decision on better information. Most of all, they have a right to inherit a living, productive old growth forest. Let them decide if there should be more roads in the Tongass.

BUSH SHOULD EMULATE GOP CONSERVATIONISTS. THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDS THAT A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT MUST GO HAND IN HAND WITH A STRONG ECONOMY. THEY REJECT THE FALSE CHOICE BETWEEN THE TWO By John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society

Environmentalists often regard Teddy Roosevelt as our greatest conservation president. To him, being conservative meant conserving our limited natural resources—our capital assets—for future generations.

Roosevelt's tradition of environmental leadership in the Republican Party lasted most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, highlighted by President Nixon signing the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and establishing the Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1980, the seeds of a much different Republican tradition sprouted with James Watt as secretary of the interior, arguably the most anti-environment secretary ever. Rather than acting as a conservative steward of natural resources, Watt opened the doors to the public estate for a fire sale to developers craving quick profits. In 1994, then-Speaker Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" attempted to revive the Watt environmental philosophy; a move that voters overwhelmingly rejected.

George W. Bush now carries the mantle of a Republican Party with deeply conflicting traditions on the environment. In the coming months, he will choose his course for his administration. Will he reclaim the conservative conservation philosophy of Teddy Roosevelt, or will he further cement his party to James Watt's anti-environment crusade?

Bush's recent appointment of Gale Norton, a Watt protegee and former employee, is potentially an ominous sign. But this new administration and Norton still have the opportunity to define themselves on environmental issues and instead to create their own positive agenda for conservation.

The Watt wing of the party is urging Bush to define his conservation philosophy immediately with two issues. First, they urge opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil drilling. Second, they want to reverse President Clinton's executive order protecting more than 58 million acres of roadless areas in our national forests.

For Bush to take this advice and pursue either policy would be misguided. Either of these issues would ignite a protracted, bitter and polarizing national fight. In the end, Bush would lose on both issues in the Congress and in the court of public opinion. The only residue from such a fight would be to define his administration, and the Republican Party, as anti-environment in the tradition of James Watt.

Bush said during the campaign that he supported drilling in the Arctic, and opposed President Clinton's plan to protect roadless areas in national forests. Since then the voters have spoken, and sent a clear message. They want Washington to govern from the middle, not from the extremes.

The public understands that a clean and healthy environment must go hand in hand with a strong economy. They reject the false choice between the economy and the environment. They overwhelmingly want our public lands protected for future generations, and they reject the extremist approach of the Watt Republicans who are too cozy with special interests, and too eager to destroy wildlife habitat and give away our parks, refuges and protected places to developers.

The public does not support development of the Arctic Refuge or roadless areas of our national forests, and the Congress won't either. We would all be better served if the new administration avoided these unnecessary battles, and instead proposed a positive conservation agenda in the Republican tradition of Teddy Roosevelt and Richard Nixon.

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITS

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments, call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has pass~ you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 V.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR. 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 V.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

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Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions SPN 2000-14 Applicant: Corp of Engineers. Location: Alaska. Proposal: Effective September 6, 2000, the new Alaska regional conditions for the recently issued Nationwide Permits now apply. The Corps has issued final decision documents for the new and modified Nation Wide Permits (NWP). These documents are available on the Internet at <http://wv.wusace.army.mil/inet/infuctions/cw/cecwo/reg/> and Corps district offices. The Alaska District has posted its regional conditions for the new and modified NWPs on its Internet home page. The URL address for the Alaska District regional conditions is <http://www.usce.army.mil/alaska/permits>.

Mineral Management Service is soliciting comments on a new 5-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing program for oil and gas for the years 2002-2007. The OCS Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and maintain a 5-year leasing program. The 5-year program established the size, timing, and location of OCS oil and gas activity. Area of the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, a portion of the area off Florida, in the Gulf of Mexico, and the North Aleutian Basin area have been withdrawn as a result of a 1998 presidential directive. The remaining areas of the OCS will be analyzed to determine if they should be included in, or excluded from, the lease sale schedule. The 5-year plan can be found at [HITP://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000\\_register&docid=00-31629-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=00-31629-filed.pdf), it can also be reviewed in the Notice located at 65FR77665 in the Federal Register. Comments should be mailed to: 5-year Program Manager, Minerals Management Service (MS-4400), Room 2324 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170. Comments can be submitted via email at [MMS5-year.eis@mms.gov](mailto:MMS5-year.eis@mms.gov). The MMS will hold hearings in Alaska during December and January.

\*\* Juneau-Favorite Channel 33 (Reference number m-840199). Applicant: Cbannel Construction Inc. Location: adjacent to the south shore of the Herbert River. Near the Boy Scout Camp. Proposal: Excavate material within the existing berm area, construct a new road and bridge. Create three material stockpile areas, install a material screen, service building, scales, and create an organic soils stockpile. The proposed work would discharge 260 cubic yards of fill with a 2, 350 square

foot area (0.05 acre) drainage area adjacent to the Herbert River. Purpose: To contain gravel operation at an existing gravel pit area. Comments due by: February 8, 2001. Please contact Ms. Susan Hitchcock at 790-4490 or e-mail at [susan.j.hitchcock@pqa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:susan.j.hitchcock@pqa02.usace.army.mil) for further information.

\*\*Juneau-Fish Creek 509 (Reference number 4-2000-1156). Applicant: City and Borough of Juneau. Location: 4-mile Fish Creek Road just before you get to the Ski Area. Proposal: Mechanically clear and excavate approximately 3.4 acres of forested and emergent wetlands. Purpose: To expand an existing rock quarry to create 182,000 cubic yards of fill. No mitigation is planned. Please contact Mr. Randal N. Vigil at 907-790-4490 or by email [randal.n.vigil@pqa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:randal.n.vigil@pqa02.usace.army.mil). Comments due by February 15, 2001.

\*\*Sitka -- Katlian Bay 12 (Reference number 2-2000.1239). Applicant: Shee-Atika, Inc. Location: 9 miles northeast of Sitka, near the east end of Katlian Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a log-transfer facility, a log rafting area, and two log raft storage areas. Approximately 500 cubic yards of fill would be placed into 0.09 acres of intertidal habitat to construct unloading and loading ramp. The first log-raft storage area will occupy 6.9 acres and the second will occupy 6.4 acres of navigable waters between Baranof Island and a small island within Katlian Bay. No mitigation is proposed. The purpose of this project is to support the harvest of private timber. (Same Corporation that logged Cuba Cove and adjacent lands on Admiralty Island) Comments due by: February 12, 2001.

Sitka -- Jamestown Bay 46 (Reference number M-950548). Applicant: Mr. Burt Roylance. Location: Amended Ray Perkins Subdivision in Jamestown Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain two previously built concrete bents one 20-foot long by 1-foot wide and two-foot high and the other 20-foot long by 1-foot wide by 4-foot high. The bents are located in a north-south direction directly east of the walkway to Mr. Roylance's floating dock. Purpose: To provide winter boat storage. Comments due by: February 15, 2001.

Ketchikan -- Deep Bay 6 (Reference number 1-2000-1351). Applicant: Mr. and Mrs. William Fleek. Location: Thirty-five miles north of the City of Ketchikan, in Deep Bay off of Moser Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 6-foot by 185-foot and an 8-foot by 30-foot float. Install 4 piles and a concrete abutment. No mitigation is planned. The purpose of the project is to provide access to private property. Comments due by: February 6, 2001.

\*\*Ketchikan -- Ward Cove 32 (Reference number 4-2000-1029). Applicant: South Coast Inc. Location: Six-mile North Tongass Highway, north of the Ward Cove Post Office. Proposal: The applicant proposes to clear and construct level terraces on a 6.36-acre property by excavating and filling. A 1.7 acre forest wetland and 3 intermittent streams would be filled with 34,000 cubic yards of material, using existing materials of clay, peat, rock and gravel. The material would be capped with 8,000 cubic yards of fill. The intermittent streams would be diverted around the property and the stream channels filled, one stream would be replaced with a 440-foot by 3-foot culvert and covered with fill. Note that 0.3 acres of wetlands have already been filled with 6,000 cubic yards of overburden including rock, clay, sand and stumps. The purpose is to use the property for storage of construction equipment and materials. Comments due by: January 25, 2000.

Thorne Bay -- Sea Otter Sound 19 (Reference number 1-2001-0045). Applicant: USDA Forest Service. Location: Unnamed bight on Heceta Island off of Sea Otter Sound. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a temporary 3-foot wide by 40-foot long aluminum float access ramp, a 6-foot by 2-foot by 1 foot high concrete shore abutment, and a 16-foot by 16-foot treated timber with polystyrene floatation float. No mitigation is planned. The purpose of the project is to provide access to Heceta Island for float-equipped aircraft and small boats. Comments due by: February 20, 2001.

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\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

## Bird Knowledge Quiz By Prill Mollick MATCH THE FOLLOWING

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. White sides & belly & black back.. Large triangular, orange-red & yellow bill. White face.  | a. Winter wren            |
| 2. Brown above, rich reddish below. White face patch, yellow bill. Swims with ease-spins.  | b. Harlequin Duck         |
| 3. Two black breast bands, reddish base of tail.. Raucous cry kill-dee, kill-dee.  | c. Red Breasted Merganser |
| 4. 6-7 foot wing span, gray plumage. Long straight neck,, bold red crown.  | d. Surf Scoter            |
| 5. Red eyes & bill, reddish breast.. White collar gray sides, greenish black crested head feathers - looks like a bad hair day.        | e. Golden Crowned Kinglet |
| 6. Solid black with white patches on forehead and back of head. Brightly colored patterned bill of orange, black & white.              | f. American Tree Sparrow  |
| 7. Mostly slate blue with white spots & stripes and chestnut colored flanks.   | g. Red Phalarope          |
| 8. 3 1/2 inches in size. White stripe above eye. Olive green above, grayish olive on side. Orange crown bordered with yellow & black.. | h. Sandhill Crane         |
| 9. 4 inches; small-all brown bird with uptilted tail.. Dusty bars on belly and flanks.   | i. Killdeer               |
| 10. Single dusky spot in middle of unstreaked breast.. 2 white wing bars. Red cap; dark upper bill, yellow lower bill.                 | j. Horned Puffin          |

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIRDERS 2001 DIRECTORY, Published by the American Birding Association, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934-6599, lists more than 550 volunteer opportunities with locations that span the globe. You can request a copy of the directory by mail or review the online listings on the ABA website (<http://americanbirding.org/opsD>).

Answers to Bird Quiz  
1. j; 2. g; 3. i; 4. h; 5. c;  
6. d; 7. b; 8. e; 9. a; 10. L

••THE RAVEN" ELECTRONICALLY???? One of the major costs to Juneau Audubon is printing and mailing out the newsletter. With most people now having access to email, we would like to know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. We would send it to you in either Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format. If you would like to save a tree, reduce the mail you receive and still be in touch, send us an email with your address and preferred file type (most word process software will read Rich Text), Our address is [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)

RECYCLE YOUR NATIONAL  
AUDUBON MAGAZINE

If you do not save your Audubon magazine, then consider taking each new issue, after you are finished with it, to places where folks are waiting around for: The doctor, car to be fixed, hospital or libraries or other places where people might pick it up to read and might even decide to join Audubon. It would be a good idea to see if a magazine is already at that location and if not then get permission to leave yours.

AUDUBON JELLIES WILL BE  
FOR SALE AT THE FEBRUARY  
AUDUBON MEETING

Several cases of jelly were inadvertently left behind when the November Booth was set up. These jellies will be for sale at the February Audubon meeting. Or you can contact Deanna at 789-0651 evenings.

**MEMORIAL FUNDS:** Several years ago funds were donated to Juneau Audubon as a memorial to a young fellow who died in an avalanche. At our Board retreat last weekend we discussed how we might use these funds. One option might be a small bench and a short planked trail around a beautiful muskeg pond high in the meadow along the trail to Mt. Jumbo. Hikers are visiting this pond with its pond lilies, and this foot traffic is beginning to damage the muskeg. A planked trail would not only give access to a beautiful pond but also help preserve the vegetation. And if you get that far on a hike, a bench would be a welcome site.

Trail Mix would be willing to help with this project, however more funding will be needed and Audubon volunteers to come for at least one Audubon work day at the site. If you are interested in helping with either money or labor or both please call Mary Lou at 789-7540.

•THE RAVEN" ELECTRONICALLY???? One of the major costs to Juneau Audubon is printing and mailing out the newsletter. With most people now having access to email, we would like to know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. We would send it to you in either Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format. If you would like to save a tree, reduce the mail you receive and still be in touch, send us an email with your address and preferred file type (most word process software will read Rich Text), Our address is [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)

RECYCLE YOUR NATIONAL,  
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If you do not save your Audubon magazine, then consider taking each new issue, after you are finished with it, to places where folks are waiting around for: The doctor, car to be fixed, hospital or libraries or other places where people might pick it up to read and might even decide to join Audubon. It would be a good idea to see if a magazine is already at that location and if not then get permission to leave yours.

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## JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Join Us Today!

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits, including:

- A 1-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*;
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription of *Audubon* magazine;

Yes! I want to join Juneau Audubon and National Audubon Society!

\$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate     \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate     \$30 - 2 year Special Rate

My check is enclosed.     Please bill me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529    A51  
7XCH

If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above writing in Juneau Audubon only and send \$10 to: The Raven Editor, PO Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802

### JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, CHAMs AND COORDINATORS

President: Steve Zimmerman 586-2597  
Vice President: Brenda Wright 789-4656  
Secretary: Deanna MacPhail 789-0651  
Treasurer: George Utermohle 586-3849  
Programs: Linda Shaw 789-3112  
Membership: Prill Mollick  
Education: Amy Skilbred 780-4649  
Publicity: Debbie Rudis 789-4260  
Conservation: Chris Kent 463-3494  
Field Trips: Judy Shuler  
Raven Editor: Mary Lou King 789-7540  
Springfest Coordinators: Judy Shuler 789-9544,  
Kathy Weltzin 789-0288

### JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB PAGE

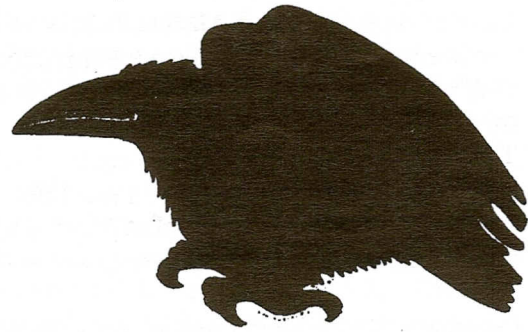
Be sure to check out our home page on the Internet. It's hosted by the folks that have developed JUNEAO.COM. Our site's URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://www.juneau.com/audubon/audulxml.htm> -- add it to your favorites!. Recent editions of the Juneau Audubon Newsletter are posted along with links to the Anchorage and National Audubon sites. If you're interested in Corps of Engineers permits, they are posted with this month's newsletter. We are always looking for pictures, stories or ideas to post on our web site. To contribute, email [ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net](mailto:ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net)

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# THE RAVEN



VOL 27 NO 7

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2001

## Juneau Audubon March Meeting

**Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., Dzantik'I Heeni Middle School Library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

### TRAVELING IN MONGOLIA

During late August and early September this last fall, Bill Brown and Joan Thompson spent 12 exciting and interesting days traveling in Mongolia. They were able to travel overland with a Mongolian outfitter who had never had American clients, so they saw the "real" Mongolia. Bill and Joan wanted to see and fish for Taimen, the largest salmon in the world. They will show slides of this fish, the country and the people.

Sue Schrader will report on what is happening in this session of the legislature.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### FREE FRIDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS AT THE MENDENHALL GLACIER CENTER (7:30 TO 9:00 PM)

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 9  | Sailing in the Bahamas and Tortugas by Kim and Barb Turley   |
| March 16 | "Trails of the Unseen" by Nick Jans (slide show and reading from new book)                               |
| March 23 | Alaska Aviation; Wolf Squadron to WiD Rogers and Wiley Post by Jim Ruotsala (last program of the series) |

### LETTER FROM: Stanley E. Senner, Executive Director, Audubon Alaska

Dear Chapter Members:

No doubt most of you are aware of the controversy raging over court-imposed restrictions on pollock and other commercial fisheries in order to protect the endangered western stock of Steller sea lions. Neither the National Audubon Society nor Audubon Alaska is party to the litigation that is forcing major restrictions on fishing in the vicinity of sea lion rookeries. We are, however, very concerned about incidental takings or bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds and other nontarget species. We're also concerned about the ecological effects of certain fishing practices, such as bottom trawling, and the removal of huge biomasses of fish and crabs from the Bering Sea and other marine ecosystems.

In January, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Alaska Groundfish Fisheries in Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The SEIS was prepared because a federal judge found that they failed to analyze the full impact of the groundfish fisheries on the marine ecosystem, including the Steller sea lion. The SEIS is physically huge—more than 3,300 pages—and it is enormously important. The results of this process will have a great deal to do with whether fisheries for pollock and other species are managed in ways that provide for the needs of the larger ecosystem, including top predators, such as marine mammals and seabirds.

Comments on the SEIS are due on April 26, 2001, and it is important that NMFS hear from Alaskans who care about the sustained productivity of our oceans. Most of us aren't going to have the time or training to delve into the 3,300-page SEIS, but that shouldn't stop you from expressing concerns about management of the Alaska Groundfish Fishery. Please write a letter to NMFS and consider making some combination of the following points:

- ban bottom trawling and other destructive fishing practices from important fish habitats;
- phase-out fisheries that have high amounts of bycatch, waste and discards through conversion to other gear types and practices;
- allocate enough fish as food for other marine wildlife, especially for the abundant seabirds and marine mammals that are unique to Alaska;
- set aside no-take regeneration zones in fish nursery areas and wildlife birthing grounds to protect fish and wildlife populations;
- set conservative fishing quotas to account for uncertainty in information that could lead to collapse of fish stocks which are important links in the ocean food chain; and
- provide sustainable fisheries for fishing families whose gear and practices do not adversely impact habitat and minimize bycatch.

Comments should be mailed by April 26 to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802. If possible, send a copy of your letter to me at Audubon Alaska.

If you want more information, check out the website of the Alaska Oceans Network at [www.alaska-oceans.net](http://www.alaska-oceans.net) or call Francine Bennis, the network's coordinator at 907-929-3553.

Remember that fish are wildlife too, and appropriate management of Alaska's fisheries is crucial to the health of seabird and marine mammal populations.

## BIRD OF THE MONTH By Kathy Weltzin

Nine inches long, prominent orange eye stripes and matching wing bars, orange underparts, a black band across a rusty breast. (*Ixoreus naevius*). How little this really says about a small creature that brings such joy to Southeast Alaska.



The Varied Thrush, before even the skunk cabbage, announces spring in mid-March or earlier. Occasionally a few birds remain in Southeast in the winter but most migrate south as far as northern Baja California returning to Southeast usually in mid-March. This is a sufficient reason to be sure that I am in Juneau when the birds begin to announce spring. I don't need to see him or look for him. From the moment I open my eyes, I listen for the one long quavering whistle, a pause, then

another note in a changed pitch. It has been described as haunting, eerie. I only hear joy and expectation. As spring advances, a sure place to hear them is on a walk at the Mendenhall Campground. Each member of our family wants to be the first to announce the arrival of the thrush, spot the first skunk cabbage or bear sign.

Our Varied Thrush is one from a species of over 300. Their favorite summer haunts are the older coniferous forests but range from sea level to the mountains from Alaska to Northern California. They forage on insects and are particularly fond of berries. Twigs, roots, moss, plant fiber bound with mud and then lined with grass form the nest that is usually placed in a conifer tree. The female lays three to five blue eggs marked with brown and incubates for about two weeks. They can raise two broods during some summers.

Although they nest chiefly in the woods, they can be found in abundance gathering food for their young in the area of the Mendenhall Campground each summer. As spring advances, the campground is also a good area to listen for the thrushes long quavering whistle.

Following is a quote from *Reader's Digest Book of North American Birds*: "On still, misty mornings, droplets of moisture fall from the needles and leaves of great trees to soak rotting logs and rocks on the ground below. Suddenly an eerie, quavering whistle arises followed by several more at different pitches. These sounds seem the perfect accompaniment to this somber, damp scene—like a melancholy pipe organ tuning up in a natural cathedral. The Varied Thrush whistle is the quintessential sound of this drizzly habitat ..."

#### WRANGELL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT By Peg Robertsen

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, fourteen field observers and four feeder watchers participated in the Wrangell Christmas Bird Count. By the end of the day we had recorded 50 species and 2,273 individuals. Species which were low in number or missing this year were some of the sea ducks and sea birds including marbled murrelets(1), common murre(O), common mergansers(29), Barrow's goldeneye(234), scoters(O) and 100ns(2 common and 3 yellow-billed). There is a new building to contain Wrangell's garbage which may explain why we reported fewer Bald Eagles, ravens and gulls since the dump is usually a favorite spot for those birds. Record high numbers of Canada geese(71), American wigeon(28), red-breasted merganser(30), glaucous gulls(7) and rock dove(50) were reported. Unusual birds included killdeer (3), white-crowned sparrow(1), white-throated sparrow(1) and purple finch (3) ? the last three species all reported at the same feeder! These results can be viewed at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org). Thanks to all the Wrangell birdwatchers!

"THE RAVEN" ELECTRONICALLY???? One of the major costs to Juneau Audubon is printing and mailing out the newsletter. With most people now having access to email, we would like to know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. We would send it to you in either Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format. If you would like to save a tree, reduce the mail you receive and still be in touch, send us an email with your address and preferred file type (most word process software will read Rich Text), Our address is [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITS

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

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General Permit 98-01M -- Wrangell Industrial Park Subdivision, (Reference Number: SPN 01-01) The GP will accommodate projects for the placement of dredge and fill material and structures into wetlands for activities associated with the construction of foundation pads; associated driveways; parking spaces; and lot utilities. This permit has been issued for five years. Questions and additional information should be directed to: Alaska District, Corps of Engineers, Attn: Janice Stuart, Regulatory Branch, P.O. box 898, Anchorage AK 99506-0898. Telephone (907) 753-2720, toll free in Alaska at 800-478-2712 or by email [atjan.f.stuart@poa02.usauace.army.mil](mailto:atjan.f.stuart@poa02.usauace.army.mil).

General Permit 91-7M -- Aquatic Farm Structures Within the State of Alaska, (Reference Number: SPN 01-02) The GP will authorize the placement of aquatic farm structures, including associated float-houses and mooring buoys in certain navigable waters within the State of Alaska, east of Cape Resurrection (Latitude 59 52' 20.4" N, Longitude 149 17' 32.7" W), for the purpose of commercial and or experimental aquatic plant and or shellfish aquaculture. Cape Resurrection is located south of Resurrection Bay, near Seward, Alaska. Proposed aquatic farms west of the reference line of longitude are not authorized by this GP and will be required to undergo an individual permit evaluation. This authorization does not include finfish related activities. This permit has been issued for five years. Questions and additional information should be directed to Alaska District, Corps of Engineers, Attn: Mirian J. Magwood, Regulatory Branch, P.O. Box 898, Anchorage AK 99506-0898. Telephone (907) 753-2720, toll free in Alaska at 800-478-2712.

Whittier -- Passage Canal 33, (Reference Number: 1-2001-0059) Applicant: Kenai Fjords Tours. Location: Whittier waterfront between the Alaska Marine Highways terminal and the Alaska railroad Corporation's Marginal Wharf. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct an 80-foot by 6-foot wide steel pier, pile supported (four 24" steel pilings). Construct a 110-foot long by 4-foot wide aluminum access ramp to a 116-foot long by 29-foot wide steel floating dock. Purpose: Provide a floating dock for passenger loading and unloading. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: March 16, 2001.

Cordova -- Orca Inlet 135, (Reference Number V-2000-1093) Applicant: Jose Rubio. Location: South end of Whited road in the Hartney Bay Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain 600 cubic yards of gravel and overburden used to create a 30-foot by 50-foot pad and a 50-foot by 24-foot access road. Approximately .35 acres of wetlands were impacted. Purpose: Provide a house pad and driveway. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 21, 2001.*

\*\*Juneau -- Hood Bay 7, (Reference Number 2-2001-0092) Applicant: Hidden Bay Corporation. Location: Approximately 12 miles southeast of Angoon near Hood Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes construct a 240-foot long log access float and a 20-foot by 40-foot dock and install a sewer outfall pipe to discharge treated effluent. Mitigation - Blocks to keep the log ramp from grounding. Hood Bay has several catalogued anadromous fish streams supporting coho and steelhead. The nearest salmon stream is 0.5 miles from the project. The operator will be removing the old cannery building and clearing the upland. Comments due: *March 20, 2001.*

Sitka -- Sitka Sound 271, (Reference Number 2-2001-0039) Applicant: Mark Gorman. Location: Approximately six miles north-northwest of Sitka on the southeastern peninsula of middle Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain an existing 21-foot by 6-foot wide dock and extend it to 45-feet long. Pilling will be secured by pouring cement footings. Construct a 40-foot long by 6-foot wide aluminum or treated lumber ramp to a 25-foot by 20-foot timber float platform. The platform would be secured in place with 4 driven creosote treated timber pilings. Purpose: Create a private mooring facility. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 16, 2001.*

\*\*Sitka -- Granite Creek 4, (Reference Number 2-2001-0060) Applicant: City and Borough of Sitka. Location: Approximately 2.25 miles north of the city center. Proposal: The applicant proposes place 106,000 cubic yards of native soils fill into 3.9 acres offorested wetlands. The site will serve as a repository for 55,000 cubic yards of waste material from the construction of the Benchland road project. Purpose: Create waste material site. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 20, 2001.*

Petersburg -- Wrangell Narrows 502, (Reference Number 4-2000-1067) Applicant: Vern Anderson. Location: Within the city limits of Petersburg, milepost 4.15 Mitkof Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain 1440 cubic yards of fill in 0.28 acres offorested muskeg wetlands and place additional 225 cubic yards of fill into 0.1 acres of wetlands to expand the parking area. Purpose: To create a driveway, parking area, trail system, hot tub pad and storage tent area. Comments due: *March 6, 2001.*

Wrangell -- Zimovia Strait 126, (Reference Number 2-2000-1104) Applicant: Randy and Carol Churchill. Location: Wrangell Harbor, near Inner Harbor, off Shakes Street, approximately 200 yards north Chief Shakes House. Proposal: The applicant proposes fill 5,550 square feet of intertidal habitat with 1964 cubic yards of clean fill. The fill will be 10 to 15 feet deep. No mitigation is proposed. Purpose: Create an upland area for fishing gear and boat storage. Comments due: *March 20, 2001.*

Ketchikan -- Second waterfall Creek 0001, (Reference Number 4-2000-1337) Applicant: Trevor Sande. Location: Fifteen miles north of the Alaska Marine Ferry terminal on Waterfall road. Proposal: The applicant proposes to excavate 2,500 cubic yards of muskeg, clay, and dirt and 6,000 yards of rock. Another 4,000 cubic yards of rock will be placed as fill to create a driveway and house pad. Waste rock, clay and soil will be used to develop embankments. The project will impact 18,500 square feet of wetlands. Purpose: to create a private house pad and driveway. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 9, 2001.*

Ketchikan -- Tongass Narrows 354, (Reference Number T-81 0040) Applicant: 10-Mile Marine. Location: 9737 Totem Bight Road, 10 mile N. Tongass Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 10-foot by 60-foot steel and untreated wood float and a floating breakwater consisting of a 10-foot by 180-foot and a 10-foot by 30-foot steel and untreated wood float held in place by 4 steel pilings. Install a 5-foot by 50-foot aluminum personnel access ramp. Install a 10-foot by 64-foot and a 20-foot by 80-foot steel and untreated wood float. Replace approximately 570 square feet of eroded fill, upgrading the face of the fill with clean riprap. Purpose: Perform maintenance on existing eroded fill and expand the marine repair facility. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *February 22, 2001*

Ketchikan -- Tongass Narrows 529, (Reference Number 4-2000-0525) Applicant: Monte Guymon. Location: 5539 Narrows Lane, Mile 4 North Tongass Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 116-foot by 6.5-foot concrete block wall on the Mean High Water line and backfill behind the wall with 500 cubic yards of clean fill. Another 325 cubic yards of fill will be placed below the High Tide Line and will cover 0.046 acres. Purpose: To expand the applicants

property. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 20, 2001.*

Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 530, (Reference Number: 1-2001-0064) Applicant: Thomas Updike. Location: Approximately 4 miles northwest of Ketchikan Airport. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a dock 60-foot by 24-foot in width and a ramp 60-foot long by 6-foot in width. The approach will be a 40-foot by 6-foot landing. Eight to-inch diameter galvanized steel piling will be used to secure the landing and four steel pilings will be used for the float. Purpose: Create a private mooring facility. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 20, 2001.*

Ketchikan - Meyers Chuck 2, (Reference Number: 1-2001-0010) Applicant: Robert Hunley. Location: Approximately forty miles northwest of Ketchikan, Meyers Chuck-Back Chuck. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a to-foot wide by 60-foot long wood float, 55-foot long by 4-foot wide ramp, connected by chains to a 4-foot by 4-foot cement abutment. Three 12" diameter galvanized steel pilings will be used to secure the ramp and float. Purpose: Create a private mooring facility. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 20, 2001.*

Prince of Wales - Port St. Nicholas, (Reference Number: 1-2001-0131) Applicant: Thomas Kirkman. Location: Approximately 5 miles southeast of Craig, within Port St. Nicholas. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a private walkway 80-feet by 6-feet wide on 8 pilings, a ramp 25-feet long by 6-feet wide, and a floating dock 30-feet long by to-feet wide on 4 pilings. Purpose: Create a private mooring facility. Mitigation work will not occur between April 1 and June 1 for salmon migration. Comments due: *March 21, 2001.*

Prince of Wales - Kashevarof Passage 7, (Reference Number: 0-720177) Applicant: U.S. Forest Service. Location: Whale Passage, off Kashevarof Passage. Proposal: The applicant proposes to rebuild a log transfer facility consisting of a 17 percent low angle drive-down ramp, a log bulkhead, a 60 foot long dock access ramp to a 20 foot by 30 foot floating dock within the existing foot print of the old site. 2,300 cubic yards of rock fill and 920 yards of dredge material will be used to fill 0.014 acres of intertidal habitat. Purpose: Accommodate logging activity. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *March 2, 2001.*

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\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

**AUDUBON JELLIES WILL BE FOR SALE AT THE MARCH AUDUBON MEETING**

Several cases of jelly were inadvertently left behind when the November Booth was set up. These jellies will be for sale at the March Audubon meeting. Or you can contact Deanna at 789-0651 evenings.

**RECYCLE YOUR NATIONAL AUDUBON MAGAZINE**

If you do not save your Audubon magazine, then consider taking each new issue, after you are finished with it, to places where folks are waiting around for: The doctor, car to be fixed, hospital or libraries or other places where people might pick it up to read and might even decide to join Audubon. It would be a good idea to see if a magazine is already at that location and if not then get permission to leave yours.

## JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Join Us Today!

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- ∴ A 1-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*;
- ∴ Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription of *Audubon* magazine;

Yes! I want to join Juneau Audubon and National Audubon Society!

\$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate     \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate     \$30 - 2 year Special Rate

My check is enclosed.     Please bill me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529    A51  
7XCD

If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above writing in Juneau Audubon only and send \$10 to: The Raven Editor, PO Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802

### JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

President: Steve Zimmerman 586-2597  
Vice President: Brenda Wright 789-4656  
Secretary: Deanna MacPhail 789-0651  
Treasurer: George Utermohle 586-3849  
Programs: Linda Shaw 789-3112  
Membership: PriU Mollick  
Education: Amy Skilbred 780-4649  
Publicity: Debbie Rudis 789-4260  
Conservation: Chris Kent 463-3494  
Field Trips: Judy Shuler  
Raven Editor: Mary Lou King 789-7540  
Springfest Coordinators: Judy Shuler 789-9544,  
Kathy Weltzin 789-0288

### JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB PAGE

Be sure to check out our home page on the Internet. It's hosted by the folks that have developed JUNEAU.COM. Our site's URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://www.juneau.com/audubon/audubon1.htm> -- add it to your favorites! Recent editions of the Juneau Audubon Newsletter are posted along with links to the Anchorage and National Audubon sites. If you're interested in Corps of Engineers permits, they are posted with this month's newsletter. We are always looking for pictures, stories or ideas to post on our web site. To contribute, email [ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net](mailto:ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net)

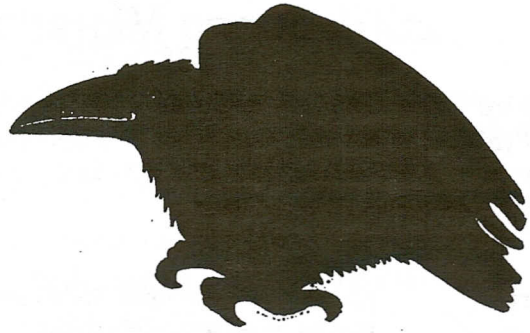
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# THE RAVEN



VOL 27 NO 8

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2001

## Juneau Audubon April Meeting

Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Dzantik'I Heeni Middle School Library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### TRAVELS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA'S GAME PARKS

Roman Motyka has traveled through Kruger National Park (Botswana), in Chobe National Park, Hawange National Park (Zimbabwe), and Etosha National Park (Nambibia). He will share photos of scenery, wildlife and birds.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BIRD WALKS: EVERY SATURDAY BEGINNING APRIL 21 THROUGH JUNE 2 (See schedule on back of this page)

**Alaska Conservation Voters Reception: Sunday, April 8, 5 – 7 p.m. Hangar on the Wharf**

Juneau Raptor Center's yearly meeting on baby bird care, Tues, April 24, 7PM, DZ Middle School, 2nd Floor Library - all are welcome.

Pre-International Migratory Bird Day Celebration: Friday, May 11, 7:00 p.m., Mendenhall Glacier Visitor's Center. Co-sponsored by Juneau Audubon, US Forest Service, Juneau Raptor Center. Bird identification, bird banding demonstration and more.

"THE RAVEN" ELECTRONICALLY???? One of the major costs to Juneau Audubon is printing and mailing out the newsletter. With most people now having access to email, we would like to know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. We would send it to you in either Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format. If you would like to save a tree, reduce the mail you receive and still be in touch, send us an email with your address and preferred file type (most word process software will read Rich Text), Our address is [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)

## 2001 Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks

**B**ird walks last about two hours. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots, (hiking shoes for Sheep Creek Valley) and dress for weather. Please watch local media and May Raven for possible schedule changes and additional walks. For further information contact Judy at 789-9544 or [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

April 21 8 a.m.	Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge from Radcliffe Road <i>Leader: Paul Suchanek</i>	May 12 8 a.m.	<i>International Migratory Bird Day</i> Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge from Radcliffe Road. <i>Leader: Nina Mollett</i>
April 28 7:30 a.m.	Mouth of Mendenhall River from Radcliffe Road <i>Leader: Steve Zimmerman</i>	May 19 8 a.m.	Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge from Radcliffe Road <i>Leader: Deborah Rudis</i>
May 5 8:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.	Berners Bay cruises with birders from Juneau Audubon Society.	May 26 7 a.m.	Sheep Creek. Meet at parking lot at Sheep Creek trailhead off Thane Rd. <i>Leader: Gus van Vliet</i>
May 11 7-9 p.m.	Celebration of Migratory Birds, Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. "Where Our Birds Come From" with Bob Armstrong; bird banding; raptor demonstration.	June 2 7 a.m.	Mendenhall Moraine. Meet at parking lot by Moraine Loop Trail, near Glacier Visitor Center. <i>Leader: Paul Suchanek</i>

## Berners Bay Cruise

Saturday, May 5

8:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. sailings

Adults, \$28; Children under 12, \$5 (*must be accompanied by adult*)

**E**ulachon run upstream to spawn through Berners Bay in late April and early May. Eager predators soon congregate, some in staggering numbers.

Stellar sea lions and harbor seals gather at the mouths of the rivers. Gulls increase dramatically, from a few hundred birds to tens of thousands in just three days. Between frenzied feeding, they loaf on adjacent sandbars.

Migrating red-breasted mergansers gather in the hundreds in the bay. Mallards, pintail, and green-wing teal nibble on dead or moribund eulachon. Shorebirds and even songbirds peck bits of flesh from dead fish on the shore and pick loose eggs from the shallows. Northwestern crows hide their booty in the meadow grasses. Nesting ravens feed eulachon to their chicks and store the extras in the trees nearby. Bald eagles reach a peak of perhaps a thousand as spawning ends. (*Observations from Mary Willson's field studies*)

*Tickets at Hearthiside Books. Vessels depart Auka Bay Harbor below DeHarts for four-hour cruise. Boarding begins one-half hour before departure.*

**GUEST EDITORIAL by Judy Shuler, Juneau Audubon Board Member**

I live close to the Mendenhall Loop Road, about mid-way between Glacier Valley and Floyd Dryden schools. It was a great surprise to me, some 15 summers ago, to realize this tree-lined street of mostly single-family homes had a more eclectic population than I imagined.

One August day, inside our yard fenced to contain two small dogs, and some distance from a stream, I discovered a tooth-marked dead fish. A few yards distant, in berry bushes next to the fence, was a substantial, unmistakable pile of blueberry-laced bear scat. The valley was less developed then, and bear had perhaps not yet discovered that streams and berry bushes were not the only banquet in town.

A few years later, sipping coffee on the back deck, a houseguest asked if a large black dog lived in the neighborhood. No ... a neighbor had left his garage door open, with full garbage cans in plain sight and smell. The bear were learning.

Fast forward to about three years ago. A neighbor diagonally across the street, just two houses off the busy Loop Road, found black bear eating from the bird feeder on her deck. Here was a new wrinkle. Bear eating birdseed.

Now it seems they've grown quite fond of it.

The Mayor's Ad Hoc Bear Committee has proposed that bird feeders, other than hummingbird feeders, be prohibited in Juneau from April through October.

This is not a unique idea. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department recommends the same thing. So does the Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks in British Columbia, where 1,138 black bears were killed in 1999 because of real or perceived threats to human safety, mostly due to conflict with people after bear had access to non-natural food sources.

This is not what we like to hear.

Many Audubon members find great pleasure in watching and feeding birds. For some it is the main reason they became members. Now we're being told to give up feeding for seven months, out of 12.

Sure, bird feeders are only part of the urban bear dilemma. Containing garbage is crucial. But if a fed bear is a dead bear, whatever makes up the first part of that equation deserves our full attention.

If Audubon members do not take a leadership role in separating bear from bird seed, who will?

My birdfeeders do not attract exotic species, but chickadees, nuthatch and pine siskin are quite enough to brighten our day. It's April now, and reluctantly, it's time to let them forage on their own.

Time to let the birds be birds. And let bears be bears. The feeders are coming in.

## WILDLIFE AND THE EULACHON RUN IN BERNERS By Mary Willson

The Berners Bay area is interesting to some folks for hunting bear or the introduced moose, to others as a scenic place to camp and kayak, and to still others as a source of coho and other salmon. The bay also plays an important but little-known role in supporting wildlife populations. We are all familiar with the importance of salmon runs for bear, eagles, and other wildlife species, especially in late summer and fall. Another critical event occurs in spring, when the eulachon (or 'hooligan' as they are often called, here in Southeast) run into the lower reaches of the rivers to spawn. They spawn in several mainland rivers in Southeast, including the Unuk, Taku, Alsek, Mendenhall, and the rivers here in Berners Bay. To the south, there are several eulachon rivers in British Columbia and beyond, but many of the runs have been poor in recent years.

Hooligan are small (about 8") but they are loaded with oils and calories. They are among the richest prey fish known: about 20% of their body weight is fat. They usually enter the bay and its tributaries in millions, but this resource richness only lasts about three weeks. The fish struggle upstream for several kilometers, spawn, and die, their bodies drifting seaward and stranding on tide flats.

They are vulnerable to many predators as they arrive on the spawning grounds, and their predators respond rapidly to their arrival in early May in Berners Bay. Hundreds of Steller sea lions and harbor seals congregate at the river mouths as the run begins, and some even follow the hooligan up the rivers. Sea lions sometimes forage cooperatively; they line up close together in a long row and drive schools of fish across the bay. The gull population soars from a few hundred to a noisy fifty thousand in two-three days. Bald eagles, which forage extensively on dead and dying hooligan as well as the upstream migrants, gradually increase from 5-6 individuals to about 1000 - the third largest eagle concentration I know of (after the Chilkat, for the fall salmon run, and the Stikine, where they gather for another hooligan run). Other predators are there too, including several species of ducks and shorebirds. Numerous ravens and crows harvest hooligan, feeding them to chicks in the nest and storing the extras in the sand, under meadow grasses, and in trees.

The wealth of nutrients comes at an important time of year for the predators, which are just coming out of a long winter and preparing for a reproductive season. Sea lions and seals produce their pups soon after the run, and the rich foraging helps fuel their reproductive effort. Milk production is a very costly process for mammals, and females require a lot of energy to nurse their pups adequately. Male sea lions fast for many weeks when they defend their harems on the breeding rookeries. So loading up on the oil-rich hooligan probably helps sustain these critical activities.

Mergansers and shorebirds feed on hooligan eggs on their way north. Thousands of migrating Thayer's gulls forage on hooligan as they pass northward to their high Arctic nesting areas. Migrating ducks and even songbirds nibble at hooligan carcasses. Many of the eagles that gather here may be on their way north as well. It would be interesting to know the destinations of all the various predators at this ephemeral bonanza!

The spring scene at Berners Bay is echoed at other areas along the coast of Southeast Alaska that host hooligan runs, but we don't know much about the magnitude of the aggregations or their geographical distribution. It is clear, however, that rivers supporting hooligan runs are many fewer than those supporting salmon runs. We have every reason to believe that the spring runs of 'forage fish' along our coast are important to the biology of the predators, although detailed measurements remain to be accomplished. Threats to the continuation of the ecologically important eulachon runs come from many causes, including global warming, deforestation of watersheds and subsequent erosion, increasing commercial harvests (in some areas), and alteration of river access and spawning beds by dredging and road construction. For example, development of roads and bridges in Berners Bay could impair migration and spawning areas for hooligan, as well as disturbing the foraging areas for the wildlife predators. In view of the likely ecological significance of spring spawning runs for wildlife, discretion would urge the conservation of eulachon spawning areas for continuing generations of wildlife.

## HB 159 COULD HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STATE PARKS

Rep. Bev Masek introduced HB 159, a bill that would have a very negative impact on both the management and selection of State park lands. At the present time Alaska Statutes provide for the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to administratively establish units of the state park system in parcels up to 640 acres. Concerns four years ago about restricting traditional access on these lands and adding these lands to existing legislatively designated parklands were addressed in SB 35, now codified as 41.21.020 (a) (14). An annual report is sent to the legislature of all actions taken in these units relative to traditional access. These limitations were established to address concerns of misuse of this administrative authority, yet still allow flexibility on the part of the administration to provide for new recreational access and facilities (so long as total acreage was under 640 acres).

HB 159 would establish a new limit of 40 acres to these administratively established park units (ILMA), including additions to existing ILMAs that would put the new total acreage over 40. It would also preclude any ILMAs that are "proximately located" to any existing park unit, ILMA or legislatively designated, if the total acreage is above 40. State Parks is unaware of any problems with the 640 acre limit and feel that 40 acres significantly limits the administration's ability to meet the needs for increased recreational access, provide for outdoor recreation facilities like campgrounds, boat launch ramps, trails, and trailheads and meet the requirements necessary for Alaskans to safely recreate in areas where use is concentrated.

Since 1967, Parks has acquired 72 ILMAs which it still manages. Of the 72 active ILMAs, 45 are larger than 40 acres. These include 27 campgrounds, nine trail systems, three stand alone boat launch sites (many campgrounds also have boat access), and four remote recreation opportunities.

Parks has analyzed its existing use of ILMAs to provide recreation access and has three concerns: impact to the Division's trail easement program, and impact on the Division's ability to accept gifts of land, and impact to the division's ability to manage 46 of its ILMAs that are over 40 acres. In addition, it precludes any new ILMAs that would need land in excess of 40 acres to meet the recreation access and facility demand. If you have concerns about DB 159, contact your legislators and let them know how you feel.

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### DID YOU KNOW THAT: From Alaska Oceans Network

- Over 3 billion pounds of groundfish are caught annually in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.
- The scale of the "factory" fisheries has no precedent in the North Pacific. Groundfish catches from the Bering Sea increased from 12,500 tons in the early 1950s to a high of over 2.2 million tons in the early 1970s. Catches have remained up to 2 million tons or more.
- In the last 30 years, while there have been some increases in certain marine populations, there has been alarming number of reductions and declines in sea mammals, sea birds, salmon in the Yukon-Kuskokwim river systems, stocks of crabs and shrimp, and non-target species of fish/invertebrates.
- In 1999, the fleet threw over board, dead or dying, over 300 million pounds of fish and other marine life.
- More groundfish is thrown overboard in Alaska's waters than is caught in any other groundfish fishery in the nation.
- Large scale bottom trawling is altering the ocean habitat of sensitive areas of the North Pacific. Bottom trawl vessels drag heavy nets along the sea floor crushing marine life and damaging habitat and sensitive species.
- On a global scale, it is estimated that 150 times more area is swept annually by bottom trawlers on the continental shelf than is lost to deforestation every year. The disturbance effects of such widespread bottom trawling have been compared to clear cutting, mining, and plowing.
- In Alaska, vessels with owners who indicated that they were not residents of Alaska accounted for 91% of the 1997 catch.
- Now is the time to change the way our fisheries are managed. NMFS (the National Marine Fisheries Service) has done its first Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. They are taking public comment and want to know how you would like to see our fisheries managed. For More Information:

- Contact Heather Ranch, at Alaska Oceans Network 907-929-3553, [akoceans@llotmail.com](mailto:akoceans@llotmail.com)
- Comments are being accepted until June 25 at: National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office, PO Box 21668 Juneau Ak 99802, fax: 907-586-7249, art: Lori Gravel
- You can access the 3300 page SEIS on the NMFS website at [www.fakr.noaa.gov](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov)
- To request a hard copy of the SEIS contact Steven K. Dawis, NMFS, 222 West 7th Ave., Rm. 517, Anchorage, AK, 99513 ph. 907-271-5006
- Alaska Oceans Network (406 G St., Suite 209, Anchorage, Ak, 99501) is a voluntary association of conservation groups, fishing groups, Alaska Native organizations, and Alaska groundfish fishery observers. Our goal is to restore and maintain healthy marine ecosystems in Alaska. Please contact us if you want any more information to make it easier for you to get involved in this process.

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## NEW AUDUBON PROGRAM AIMS TO REDUCE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES

Audubon Launches "Guide for a Healthy Yard and Beyond" --- Alaska, a Pennsylvania, Thursday, March 22, 2001 - The National Audubon Society today announced the launch of a national, multi-medium, citizen awareness campaign promoting responsible pesticide application and the use of alternatives. The new program features the "Audubon Guide for a Healthy Yard and Beyond," a tool designed to help homeowners, gardeners and land managers meet the challenges of detoxifying the backyards, schools and community spaces of America. It is available now at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

"Audubon's 'Guide to a Healthy Yard and Beyond' provides easy-to-use information that Americans need to make informed decisions about the stewardship of green spaces, in their communities and in their homes," said Audubon Senior Vice President of Science Frank Gill. "Spring is an important time to think about creating a safe zone in backyards, parks and other public spaces. Too often, pesticide is used without a specific goal: reduction of that use makes for a healthier environment, for birds and people.

Audubon's chart provides easy reference. It contains information on common household pesticides while offering safe alternatives, guidelines for responsible use, information on naturally pest-resistant native plants, and Audubon's "Ten Commandments for a Healthy Yard." This chart is being made available for national distribution and also on the Internet at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

Founded in 1905 and supported by over 550,000 members, National Audubon Society conserves and restores natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

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### EDUCATION UPDATE: Susan Bonfield at [SBonfield@aol.com](mailto:SBonfield@aol.com)

1. Opportunity for Teachers: K-12 teachers worldwide are invited to apply before April 7, 2001, for a \$1000 grant to develop environmental curricula that integrate hands-on ecology exercises into the classroom. For application details, visit [www.mgaef.org](http://www.mgaef.org) <<http://www.mgaef.org>> or contact Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation, 124 Sapsucker Woods Road #2A, Ithaca, NY 14850, 607-257-7996, [mgaef@clarityconnect.com](mailto:mgaef@clarityconnect.com) <<mailto:mgaef@clarityconnect.com>>
2. USFWS Distance Learning Program: International Migratory Bird Day: A Taste of the Tropics  
It's a mystery worthy of Sherlock Holmes! Each year, fewer migratory birds are making it back to North America from the tropics. Meanwhile, in Latin America, many coffee farmers are removing the trees that shade their plants in the hopes of raising production. What do these two facts have in common? Come, watch, and investigate with us as we track down the missing birds and try putting a stop to their disappearance. Call, fax, or E-mail your ideas to the studio during this event and help solve this mystery! WHO: Teachers and students? Grades 4 through 6 WHAT: FREE interactive distance learning migratory bird adventure! LIVE, direct to your classroom! WHEN: April 26, 2001 ? 12:00 noon through 1:30 p.m. EDT WHERE: Your classroom or media center via the National Conservation Training Center's satellite network. This broadcast will be available via both digital and analog transmission. Check the web site <http://distancelearning.fws.gov> for details.
3. International Migratory Bird Day On-Line: IMBD now has a site complete with an on-line store. Check out [www.BirdDay.org](http://www.BirdDay.org) to learn about IMBD and to order materials. Great education materials, t-shirts, tattoos, press kit, and more.

## A JUNEAU BIG DAY FOR BIRDS-- By Paul Suchanek

Birders often enjoy keeping lists of the species they see - there can be life lists, state lists, county lists, annual lists, and even yard lists. One of the interesting lists is a Big Day list where one tries to see how many bird species they can see in 24 hours. In most of the lower 48 states, finding and identifying 100 bird species in a day (a Century Run) makes for a long day but often isn't that tough. Record Big Days in most states are well over 100 with some over 200 species (the world record of nearly 350 was set in Kenya). Based on conversations with area birders, a Big Day total of 100 species had not been achieved in the Juneau area but has been done elsewhere in Alaska (Anchorage to Homer drives or Anchorage to Nome via jet). The record one-day species count in Alaska without using aircraft is 110 species for the Anchorage to Homer run.

There are a number of factors which comprise important components of a Big Day attempt - the right time of year is important, the right kind of weather - calm seas and little or no precipitation, and a good fallout of birds is also important. One also has to have the time to do it - you basically don't have time for much else during a 24 hour period. You also need to plan to visit a variety of habitats and areas; as any birder knows, the birds aren't just randomly distributed over the landscape. And don't forget - it also helps to be able to readily identify all the species one is likely to run into - especially by call. A good spotting scope is also essential in Juneau. In general, the middle of May generally provides peak bird species diversity in Juneau.

There haven't been a lot of Big Day attempts in Juneau because one has to be a little crazy to do it. In my 3 previous Juneau Big Day attempts, I had never cracked the 100 species barrier (92 species on May 10, 1999; 90 species on May 15, 1999; and 95 species on May 5, 2000). In several past attempts, I had started at Outer Point and worked back along the road system to the Mendenhall Valley. On May 12, 2000, I decided to start at the northern end of the Juneau road system and work back toward town to try to obtain my goal of 100 species in 1 day. I didn't do a whole lot of planning for my Big Day attempt; I basically planned to bird all day and hope that the list at the end of the day was extensive.

I started the day at 4:00 AM at the Pt. Bridget State Park trailhead on May 12 - a singing Lincoln's sparrow became species #1. It was just getting light at this time, although the sun would not actually shine over the mountains to the south until 6:30 AM. This area is probably my favorite birding spot in Juneau as the meadows, creek bottom, estuary, and forests provide a high diversity of habitats, and just about any bird found on the road system is possible. A good variety of warblers, sparrows, thrushes, shorebirds, ducks, and seabirds were all located. Usually this area provides several raptor species which one is very lucky to find elsewhere on the road system, although today only a few bald eagles and northern harriers were moving about. I left Pt. Bridget at 9:00 AM (5 hours later) with a total of 74 species (#50 was northern shoveler). I hadn't really found anything too unusual, although a killdeer and an olive-sided flycatcher were nice additions to the list. I knew sleuthing out an additional 26 species would be a lot tougher, although I knew my shorebird list would grow a lot more (only 10 species to this point).

I next stopped at the bluffs just past Adlersheim Lodge where one can see the reefs on the north end of Benjamin Island. Here, with a very good spotting scope, one can often see a black oystercatcher or two on these reefs and I was not disappointed. There also were a number of red-throated loons on the ocean there (probably the most I've ever seen in Juneau). I also lucked into a singing fox sparrow and also got a look at a golden-crowned sparrow.

Moving on to Eagle Beach, I first spied a large flock of red-necked phalaropes about 400 yards offshore - this species was probably the best find of the day and totally unexpected. Also at the beach was a small flock of redheads - also a nice find and close enough to get some very good looks at the elegant looking

males. As the tide was just starting to go out here (it was about ½ hour past the high of 13.6 feet), I decided to hightail it for the Mendenhall Wetlands in order to get there before the tide got out too far (it's a lot closer walk to the shorebirds if the tide forces them in).

The Mendenhall Wetlands are undoubtedly the best spot for shorebirds and waterfowl on the Juneau road system, and no Big Day attempt would be complete without a visit. After a ½ mile walk to the Mendenhall River mouth off the end of Radcliffe road, I found a couple of good waterfowl species - snow goose and gadwall. I then began racking up a number of shorebird species including red knot, whimbrel, semipalmated sandpiper, and Baird's sandpiper. Caspian terns are often not that common so it was also good to note this species. I was having a great time as I left the parking lot with 92 species tallied.

I next drove out to the Moraine Trail parking lot at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor's Center to visit the glacier forelands habitats available in this area - especially Norton Lake, a productive area for some unusual species. I first spied a solitary sandpiper and a dipper along a beaver pond not far from the parking lot and saw my first swallow species (violet-green) along Mendenhall Lake. At Norton Lake, I added hooded merganser, lesser scaup, ring-necked duck, and rusty blackbird (#99) to my list.

Only needing 1 species to achieve my goal, I then drove to the Community Gardens in hope that I'd run into a few more swallows. My goal was achieved when a small flock of tree swallows was found winging over the small pond there making species #100 for the day; I glanced at my watch and it read 2:00 PM. As a bonus, I then heard a red-breasted nuthatch in the spruce trees above.

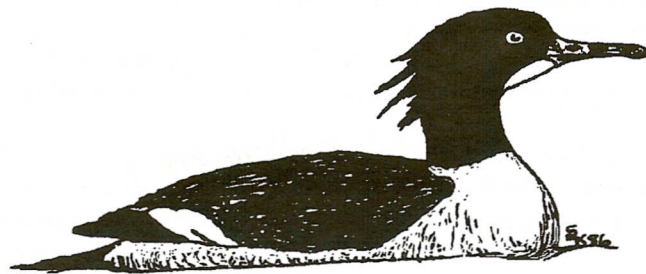
At this point I was tired but knew 2 more species were readily achievable - the starling and rock dove. I sure didn't want to waste much time looking for these exotics. If you're serious about a Big Day list, however, a starling counts as much on the list at the end of the day as a peregrine falcon (although is a lot less memorable). I also knew that pigeons can be very tough to find during the middle of the day. I cannot remember how much time I spent looking for starlings (#102) and rock doves (#103), about all I know is that I did find both species (probably at Salmon Creek and downtown).

Since I now had achieved my goal I headed home out the North Douglas Highway; along the way a merlin (#104) unexpectedly flew across the road above my car. After recuperating for a bit at my house and feeling I had been on a bit of a roll, I decided that I might try to add a species or two to my list out at Fish Creek so I headed out there. I didn't see anything new along the trail but a large flock of shorebirds out on the flats caught my eye. After careful study, I found a few rock sandpipers (#105) and black turnstones (#106) mixed in with a large flock of surfbirds and ruddy turnstones. Pleased with my success, I called it a day - I believe it was about 5:00 PM, although by this time my note taking of extraneous details had become non-existent. I estimate that I walked about 6 miles at Pt. Bridget, 3 miles at Mendenhall Wetlands, 3 miles at Dredge Lakes, and another 1 mile at Fish Creek for a grand total of about 13 miles hiked. I also drove perhaps 120 miles and spent a total of about 12 hours birding. In aggregate, waterfowl (24 species) and shorebirds (22 species) made up nearly half my list.

Given my lack of any real planning, I think that the 106 species total wouldn't be that hard to break - especially with a staked out owl or two along with a few other rarities. My big misses for the day included greater yellowlegs and barn swallow. In most normal years, one or both species of crossbills would also be added to a Big Day list. I also often expect to find something rare on any given day of birding in the spring. I believe 120 species in a day on the Juneau road system is possible with a few stakeouts, a heavy migration fallout, a well thought out plan, and some high energy individuals.



1. LOONS  
Red-throated Loon  
Pacific Loon  
Common Loon
- GREBES  
Red-necked Grebe  
Horned Grebe
2. HERONS, EGRETS AND  
BITTERNs
3. Great Blue Heron
4. DUCKS, GEESE AND  
SWANS
5. Greater White-fronted Goose
6. Snow Goose
7. Canada Goose
8. American Wigeon
9. Gadwall
10. Green-winged Teal
11. Mallard
12. Northern Pintail
13. Blue-winged Teal
14. Northern Shoveler
15. Redhead
16. Ring-necked Duck
17. Greater Scaup
18. Lesser Scaup
19. Harlequin Duck
20. Oldsquaw
21. Surf Scoter
22. White-winged Scoter
23. Common Goldeneye
24. Barrow's Goldeneye
25. Bufflehead
26. Hooded Merganser
27. Red-breasted Merganser
28. Common Merganser
29. HAWKS, EAGLES AND  
KITES
30. Bald Eagle
31. Northern Harrier
32. FALCONS AND  
CARACARAS
33. Merlin
34. GROUSE, PTARMIGAN,  
PRAIRIE-CHICKENS
35. Blue Grouse
36. OYSTERCATCHERS
37. Black Oystercatcher
38. PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS
39. Black-bellied Plover
40. Semipalmated Plover
41. Killdeer
42. SANDPIPERS
43. Common Snipe
44. Short-billed Dowitcher
45. Long-billed Dowitcher
46. Whimbrel
47. Lesser Yellowlegs
48. Solitary Sandpiper
49. Ruddy Turnstone
50. Black Turnstone
51. Surf-bird
52. Red Knot
53. Semipalmated Sandpiper
54. Western Sandpiper
55. Least Sandpiper
56. Baird's Sandpiper
57. Pectoral Sandpiper
58. Dunlin
59. Rock Sandpiper
60. Red-necked Phalarope
61. GULLS
62. Mew Gull
63. Glaucous-winged Gull
64. Thayer's Gull
65. Herring Gull
66. Bonaparte's Gull
67. TERNs
68. Caspian Tern
69. Arctic Tern
70. AUKS, MURREs, AND  
PUFFINS
71. Pigeon Guillemot
72. Marbled Murrelet
73. PIGEONS AND DOVES
74. Rock Dove
75. OWLS
76. Short-eared Owl
77. HUMMINGBIRDS
78. Rufous Hummingbird
79. KINGFISHERS
80. Belted Kingfisher
81. WOODPECKERS
82. Red-breasted Sapsucker
83. Hairy Woodpecker
84. TYRANT FLYCATCHERS
85. Olive-sided Flycatcher
86. Pacific-slope Flycatcher
87. SWALLOWS
88. Tree Swallow
89. Violet-green Swallow
90. WAGTAILS AND PIPITS
91. American Pipit
92. KINGLETS
93. Golden-crowned Kinglet
94. Ruby-crowned Kinglet
95. DIPPERS
96. American Dipper
97. WRENS
98. Winter Wren
99. THRUSHES
100. Hermit Thrush
101. American Robin
102. Varied Thrush
103. CHICKADEES AND TITS
104. Chestnut-backed Chickadee
105. NUTHATCHES
106. Red-breasted Nuthatch
107. CREEPERS
108. Brown Creeper
109. CROWS AND JAYS
110. Steller's Jay
111. Northwestern Crow
112. Common Raven
113. STARLINGS
114. European Starling
115. WOOD WARBLERS
116. Orange-crowned Warbler
117. Yellow Warbler
118. Yellow-roped Warbler
119. Townsend's Warbler
120. Wilson's Warbler
121. SPARROWS, TOWHEES,  
JUNCOS
122. Savannah Sparrow
123. Fox Sparrow
124. Song Sparrow
125. Lincoln's Sparrow
126. White-crowned Sparrow
127. Golden-crowned Sparrow
128. Dark-eyed Junco
129. Lapland Longspur
130. BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES,  
GRACKLES, ETC.
131. Red-winged Blackbird
132. Rusty Blackbird
133. FINCHES, SISKINS,  
CROSSBILLS
134. Pine Siskin
135. 1111--- STATISTICS ---1111
136. Species seen - 106



## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITS

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

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General Permit 91-7M — Aquatic Farm Structures Within the State of Alaska. (Reference Number SPN 01-02) The GP will authorize the placement of aquatic farm structures, including associated float-houses and mooring buoys in certain navigable waters within the State of Alaska, east of Cape Resurrection (Latitude 59° 20.4' N, Longitude 149° 17' 32.7" W), for the purpose of commercial and or experimental aquatic plant and or shellfish aquaculture. Cape Resurrection is located south of Resurrection Bay, near Seward, Alaska. Proposed aquatic farms west of the reference line of longitude are not authorized by this GP and will be required to undergo an individual permit evaluation. This authorization does not include finfish related activities. This permit has been issued for five years. Questions and additional information should be directed to Alaska District, Corps of Engineers, Attn: Mirian I. Magwood, Regulatory Branch, P.O. Box 898, Anchorage AK 99506-0898. Telephone (907) 753-2720, toll free in Alaska at 800-478-2712.

Ketchikan — Deep Bay 7 (Reference Number 1-2001-0185) Applicant: Mr. Dawid and Katherine Spokely. Location: Twenty miles north of Ketchikan at Deep Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to relocate an existing 12-foot by 40-foot by 5-foot concrete foam filled float using two 12-inch diameter by 60-foot steel piles, install a 5-foot by 62-foot wood ramp and install a 8-foot by 40-foot treated wood and foam billet float and 2- 14-foot diameter and 60-foot creosote piles. Purpose: to provide float access for a private house. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *April 10, 2001*.

Port Alexander — Port Alexander 31, (Reference Number 1-2000-1266) Applicant: Gary Mulligan. Location: Within the Back Lagoon in Port Alexander. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain an airplane float consisting of one 12-foot wide by 10-foot long wood-decked log ramp connected to one 20-foot wide by 20-foot long wood-decked log float that would be secured from each end of the float with one approximately 60-foot long 2-inch diameter synthetic rope connected to a 5-inch length of 1/4-inch diameter steel chain, anchored to a cement filled 55-gallon drum. Purpose: Provide mooring for airplane. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *March 14, 2001*

Klawock - Klawock Inlet 125, (Reference Number: 1-2001-0129) Applicant: Roger Bargar. Location: One mile northeast of Klawock on Wadleigh Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a float dock consisting of 30-foot long by 4-foot wide walkway attached to shore by 8-inch diameter concrete columns. A 50-foot long by 3-foot wide gangway would connect to 5 floats. The floats would be 10-foot long by 8-foot wide, 4 of the 5 floats would have piling guide supports. The decks and main frame would consist of treated lumber. Purpose: To provide waterfront access to property. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: April 9, 2001.

Wrangell- Zimovia Strait 143, (Reference Number: 4-200 1-0180) Applicant: City of Wrangell. Location: Approximately 1.7 miles south of City of Wrangell on Zimovia Hwy. Proposal: Construct a lined aeration, sedimentation basin, new control building and misc. appurtenances. Approximately 2.4 acres of palustrine forested wetland and several small intermittent streams will be filled with approx. 6,000 cubic yards of rock. Purpose: To upgrade and improve the City of Wrangell's wastewater treatment facility. Comments due: April 19, 2001.

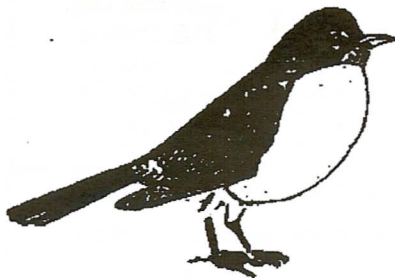
Naukati Village - Naukati Bay 4, (Reference Number: 2-2000-1354) Applicant: Matthew S. Peavey. Location: One mile southeast of Naukati Village. Proposal: Treated piling would be driven into the stratum to support the 75' x 12' pier. A 65' x 7' aluminum ramp would attach from the pier to a 50' x 15' floating dock. Six cubic yards of fill would be used to stabilize the bulkhead piling. The septic system would require thirty cubic yards of fill. The project would impact 0.01 acres of wetlands. Comments due: April 21, 2001.

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

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 • THE U.S. IS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MOST POPULOUS •  
 : country in the world, after China and India, •  
 • with a November, 2000, census of •  
 : 276,140,701; it has a 0.9% yearly increase •  
 • and has the highest rate of teenage births in •  
 • the developed world. It has 25% of the •  
 : world's 501 million passenger cars, and emits •  
 • 23% of the world's carbon dioxide; the •  
 : number of vehicles is increasing 6 times the •  
 • rate of population growth. ZPG Reporter, •  
 • Winter 2001, p. 21-22. •  
 •••••

**JELLIES WILL BE FOR SALE  
 AUDUBON AT THE APRIL AUDUBON  
 MEETING**

Several cases of jelly were inadvertently left behind when the November Booth was set up. These jellies will be for sale at the March Audubon meeting. Or you can contact Deanna at 789-0651 evenings.



**BOOK REVIEW:** National Audubon Society, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, By David Allen Sibley. Alfred A. Knopf., New York, published in 2000. \$35.00. Even though this 10 by 6 ~ inch book is too big to put in your pocket, it is nice to have on your shelf to identify birds. Mr. Sibley has painted several versions of most birds showing variation in plumage as well as the birds in flight. Range maps are on the same page as the bird along with interesting facts about the bird.

## JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Join Us Today!

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- ∴ A 1-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*;
- ∴ Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription of *Audubon* magazine;

Yes! I want to join Juneau Audubon and National Audubon Society!

\$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate     \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate     \$30 - 2 year Special Rate

My check is enclosed.     Please bill me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529    A51

7XCH

If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above writing in Juneau Audubon only and send \$10 to: The Raven Editor, PO Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802

### JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

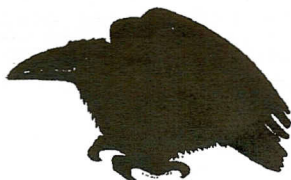
President: Steve Zimmerman 586-2597  
Vice President: Brenda Wright 789-4656  
Secretary: Deanna MacPhail 789-0651  
Treasurer: George Utermohle 586-3849  
Programs: Linda Shaw 789-3112  
Membership: Prill Mollick  
Education: Amy Skillbred 780-4649  
Publicity: Debbie Rudis 789-4260  
Conservation: Chris Kent 463-3494  
Field Trips: Judy Shuler  
Raven Editor: Mary Lou King 789-7540  
Springfest Coordinators: Judy Shuler 789-9544,  
Kathy Weltzin 789-0288

### JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB PAGE

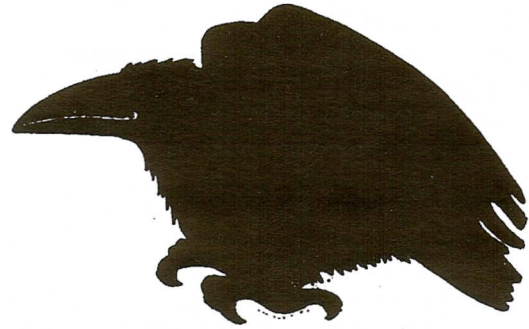
Be sure to check out our home page on the Internet. It's hosted by the folks that have developed JUNEAU.COM. Our site's URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://www.juneau.com/audubon/audubon1.htm>. -- add it to your favorites!. Recent editions of the Juneau Audubon Newsletter are posted along with links to the Anchorage and National Audubon sites. If you're interested in Corps of Engineers permits, they are posted with this month's newsletter. We are always looking for pictures, stories or ideas to post on our web site. To contribute, email [ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net](mailto:ChrisKentatckent@alaska.net)

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
PO BOX 021725  
JUNEAU, AK 99802

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# THE RAVEN



VOL27 N09

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY 2001

Juneau Audubon May Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 7:30 p.m., Dzantik'I Heeni Middle School Library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

## MIDWAY ISLAND

Linda Shaw, our Program Chair, and Bev Agler will present an exciting program on their recent trip to discover and observe the birds on Midway Island.

## International Migratory Bird Day Program

Friday, May 11

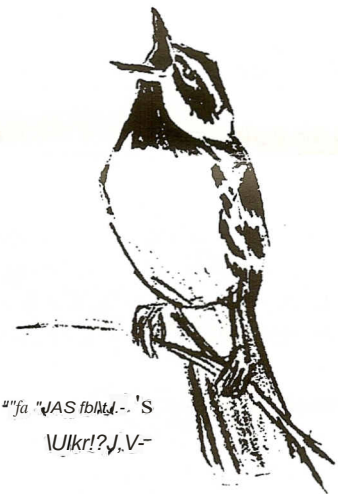
7-9 p.m.

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

### Program

- Bird migration facts and photos with Juneau author Bob Armstrong, Juneau Audubon Society
- Songbird banding, breeding bird survey point counts, bird mist-netting equipment and slides with Gwen Baluss, U.S. Forest Service
- Live owl demonstration by Juneau Raptor Center

Refreshments and organic and shade-grown coffee will be served. Learn more about the connection between coffee farms and bird conservation.



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## Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks

Bird walks last about two hours. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots (hiking shoes for Sheep Creek VaDey) and dress for weather. Please watch local media and May Raven for possible schedule changes and additional walks. For further information contact Judy at 789-9544 or [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net). May 12

### International Migratory Bird Day

May 11  
8 a.m. Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge from Radcliffe Road.  
Leader: Nina Mollett

May 19  
8 a.m. Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge from Radcliffe Road.  
Leader: Deborah Rudis

May 26  
7 a.m. Sheep Creek. Meet at parking lot at Sheep Creek trailhead off Thane Rd.  
Leader: Gus van Vliet

June 2  
7 a.m. Mendenhall Moraine. Meet at parking lot by Moraine Loop Trail, near Glacier Visitor Center.  
Leader: Paul Suchanek

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

University of Alaska Southeast summer session classes begin in mid May. Register on the Auke Lake campus or by phone. Class, registration and other details are in the Summer Class Schedule available on campus. Call 465-6457 to request a copy or ask any questions.

Following are some VAS summer classes:

Wilderness First Responder (PE 193) a four credit class offered May 10-19 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is an approved emergency care course for many guiding and outdoor education programs nationwide. The class provides tools to make critical medical and evacuation decisions in remote locations and covers basic anatomy and physiology, assessment of injuries and appropriate short-term care.

Harvest and Preparation of Basket Materials (ART 183) a half credit class meeting all day May 19 and 20. Students will learn methods of collecting, harvesting and preparing materials for basket making.

Northwest Coast Basketry (ART 282) a two credit class for all levels of experience meeting July 9-20 in the evenings and Saturday mornings taught by Delores Churchill.

Northwest Coast Carving: Tool Making (ART 285) a one credit class meeting June 22-24 in the evening on Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday to teach all levels of students the process for making traditional style NW Coast carving tools.

Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain (ART 293) a two credit class for all levels that introduces perceptual skills for realistic drawing and strategies for assessing right-brain mode. Meets all day June 9-12, and half day June 13.

History of Alaska (IDST 341) a three credit course on the Russian background, acquisition, settlement and development of Alaska. Meets May 21 - June 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Marine Open Lab (MT 193) a two credit course that helps students develop skills by working on self-selected projects. Meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 - 9 p.m.

More than 100 other summer courses are listed in the VAS summer class schedule.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Steve Zimmerman

This is the last copy of the *Raven* you will receive until September. After our May meeting there will be no monthly meetings of the Juneau Audubon Society until the second Thursday in September. This does not mean that JAS will go to sleep for the summer. There are many issues that can profoundly affect our community that will be on the front burner this summer. These include the pending permit for the golf course on Douglas Island, the comments that will be due on area-wide transportation plan, and the EIS scoping meetings that will be held on the airport project. Just a few days ago I delivered a four-inch stack of Corps of Engineers dredge and fill permit applications to Chris Kent, our Conservation Chair.

Juneau Audubon Society is doing a great job on many fronts. We have a strong education program going, our fund raising efforts have been fruitful, and we have been meeting our goal of acting as a watchdog on local conservation issues. But we are an all-volunteer group. There are many conservation issues facing Southeast Alaska, and we need new people to step up and help with the work. We need to form working groups to deal with complex issues like the airport or the transportation plan. We also need to replace Linda Shaw who no longer has time to act as our Programs Chair and Judy Shuler who wishes to step down as our Field Trips Chair. I am hopeful that by making an appeal to the membership we will be able to find new people to work on conservation issues, fill the empty program chairs, and bring new spirit and energy into our many programs. Please call me at 586-2597 if you are interested in helping to shape the role that JAS will play in Juneau over the next few years.

Do we have anyone out there who would like to help design a web page for Juneau Audubon? Call Steve at the above number if you could help. Have a great summer.

## Kenai Refuge Listed in National Audubon's "Refuges in Crisis" Report

John Schoen, Senior Scientist, Audubon Alaska

In December of 2000, National Audubon Society released a report called "Refuges in Crisis." This report describes threats to birds and other wildlife on ten national wildlife refuges. These threats are examples of the

kinds of problems facing many refuges across the country and include water pollution, habitat loss, limited water supplies, invasive species, and harmful public uses. The Refuge System also faces a backlog of \$1.6 billion in unmet operations and maintenance needs. This report (Web site: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)) included Alaska's Kenai National Wildlife Refuge as one of their examples. This article summarizes some of the conservation challenges facing the Kenai Refuge.

First established by President Roosevelt in 1941 to preserve and maintain the Kenai's moose population, the Kenai Refuge represents a microcosm of Alaska. At 1.9 million acres, the Kenai Refuge provides valuable habitat for many mammals - Dall sheep and mountain goats, moose and caribou, black and brown bears, wolves, wolverine, lynx, and numerous small mammals. It is also important for Trumpeter Swans, Bald Eagles, over 140 species of other resident and migratory birds, and five species of anadromous salmon. In 1980, as part of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Congress directed the Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve the Kenai's fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity, and to manage the area for its wildlife, wilderness, scientific, water quality, and recreational values. This clear conservation purpose and the refuge's size and central location on the peninsula makes it an anchor for conservation of the entire Kenai Peninsula ecosystem.

Of Alaska's 16 national wildlife refuges, only the Kenai and Tetlin refuges are accessible by road. Because of this access and its recreational value, the Kenai Refuge is the most heavily used refuge in Alaska. The conservation challenges on the peninsula, and the refuge, are many. For example, the Kenai Peninsula is one of Alaska's most developed and fastest growing regions. The human population has more than doubled in the last two decades. Only two hours by road to the largest city in Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula is the focal area for many of the state's outdoor recreationists and an important visitor destination for a growing tourism industry. Outdoor recreation, sport hunting and fishing, logging, mining, oil and gas development, land subdivision, and other developments are increasing throughout the Kenai Peninsula. The spruce bark beetle infestation and the call for extensive salvage logging (and road construction) further exacerbate these developments.

Several proposed developments on the Kenai Peninsula are of specific concern for conservation. The Southern Intertie Transmission Line, spearheaded by Chugach Electric Association, has been proposed, as a preferred alternative, to run through the Kenai Refuge across the Chickaloon Flats to Anchorage. This would fragment the northern portion of the refuge and could lead to additional developments through this important wildlife habitat. Other alternative routes would have much less impact on the integrity of the refuge.

One alternative of the Cooper Landing Highway Bypass project is proposed to route the Sterling highway north of Cooper Landing above Juneau Falls. This would lead to significant development in this sensitive wildlife area and may be routed through a corner of the refuge's designated wilderness. This area is an important brown bear feeding area and considered an ecological linkage area for wildlife moving north and south on the peninsula.

Unocal has recently proposed to develop two new natural gas fields on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in the Swanson River area. This project would result in the construction of new roads and pads significantly expanding the footprint of this development.

Preparation of environmental impact statements is scheduled to begin this year on all these projects. These large projects and expanding recreational, residential, and other developments across the Kenai will inevitably place more pressures on wildlife and their habitats. In addition, the Kenai Refuge is right in the middle of all this activity. Maintaining the ecological integrity of the peninsula depends on the refuge, but the refuge also is affected by activities beyond its borders.

The brown bear is a good indicator of ecosystem health. In 1998, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) listed the Kenai brown as a population of special concern because the population is vulnerable to a significant decline due to low numbers, restricted distribution, dependence on limited habitat resources, or sensitivity to environmental disturbance. Last year in a proactive move to head off a conservation crisis, ADF&G coordinated a Kenai Brown Bear Stakeholder process that developed a conservation strategy for protecting brown bears and the ecosystem on which they depend. This was an important first step in looking at the big picture of Kenai conservation.

The Department of Natural Resources completed the Kenai Area Plan last year. The Chugach Forest is now in the final process of revising their forest plan. And revision of the Kenai Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan is due to start soon. The dedicated men and women who manage the Kenai Wildlife Refuge are doing an outstanding job to achieve their conservation mission. However, all of us who have a stake in conservation must also do our part. We have a responsibility to monitor the projects I have described above and provide agencies, like the Chugach Forest and Kenai Refuge, with our comments on how we want our public lands managed. Effective conservation of the Kenai Refuge will require ecosystem management, interagency cooperation, and eternal vigilance from an informed public.

## JUNEAU AUDUBON GIVES AWARD TO IDGH SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPANT LEV TOBIAS

The Capital City High School Science Fair is organized and sponsored by volunteers from the scientific and engineering communities of Juneau, whose objectives for the Fair are:

1. To increase scientific understanding and interest in studying science;
2. To build community among Juneau's parents and students, professional scientists and engineers, and educators.

On Saturday morning, February 24, the Ninth Annual Capital City High School Science Fair hosted fifty-seven (57) individual projects and forty-six (46) team projects involving a total of one hundred sixty-one (161) students. The projects were evaluated by 96 of Juneau's professional scientists, engineers, architects, homemakers, and medical personnel.

Audubon special award was given to high school student Lev Tobias for the following project:

### Chaos in the Crowd

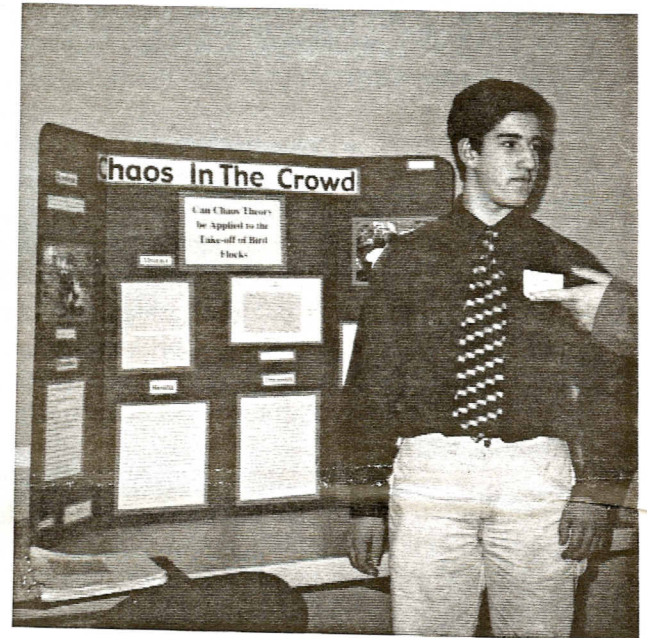
#### Abstract

The purpose of this project was to see if chaos theory could be applied to the take-off pattern of bird flocks. The inspiration for this project was a study done by researchers at the University of Notre Dame on the applause of audiences in Central European theaters. Chaos theory was used to predict the pattern of clapping in crowded concert halls. In an attempt to determine the take-off pattern of bird flocks, a similar technique was used. After researching this topic, I hypothesized that the equation  $X_{n+1} = ax_n(I - X_n)$ , could be used to find patterns in simultaneous take-off of bird flocks. The equation determines the future value of the variable;  $X_{n+1}$  at time-step  $n+1$  from the past value at time-step  $n$ .

In order to go through this process, it was necessary to gather footage of bird flock take-offs, enumerate the birds on the ground every ten frames, and compare that to the number of birds in the air. The data was not chaotic, so a differential equation was used to graph the data on a logistic curve. I found that there was a fairly distinct pattern. The pattern was nearly the same in all of the tests which suggests that there is a pattern to bird flock take-offs.

#### Conclusion

The data failed to support my hypothesis. However I was able to find a pattern in the simultaneous take-offs of bird flocks, so the project was successful. It is likely that it is possible to use the chaos theory to predict the pattern. However a different technique would most probably require graduate level calculus and advanced computer software, to which I had no access.





## JUNEAU AUDUBON COMMENTS ON PROPOSED GREENS CREEK MINE EXPANSION OF DISPOSAL SITE

Mr. Eric Ouderkirk:

April 29, 2001

Thank you for including Juneau Audubon on your list of interested parties. The Juneau chapter of the National Audubon represents a diverse section of the community whose interest are for the continual health of habitats that support a wide variety of wildlife.

The Greens Creek Mine is proposing the expansion of the dry stack disposal site and the development of two new quarries and the expansion of Pit 5. The issues that we would like to see addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), included: an improved reclamation plan that addresses the existing and additional quarries as well the dry tailings pond, additional science and a proposed plan to prevent any occurrence of "acid mine" drainage, a mitigation plan that includes replacement of lost wetlands and functioning habitat, and a improved water quality monitoring plan to assess performance standards.

Because this mine is located within Admiralty National Monument, we believe that performance standards and measures to protect the environment must go above and beyond the normal mining operations. We expect the Forest Service to ask more of the Greens Creek operation and expect Kennecott to do their best in the protection of this National Monument and its resources.

### Reclamation Plan

The Green's Creek Mine Reclamation Plan must include steps to reclaim burrow pits and the dry tailings pond. Reclamation activities should be an ongoing process and part of a long-range plan. For example, the performance standard for the dry tailings pond should be to return this area to a functional equivalent with adjacent habitat. This means that regeneration of a forested area must include long-term selected clearing to assure that there is an uneven stand of forest that resembles old growth. We know that wildlife and recolonization of reclaimed areas are dependent on the presence of suitable habitat. Burrow pits and mineral extraction areas must be reclaimed as mitigation of ongoing activities.

### Acid Mine Drainage

In light of the new information about the potential of acid mine drainage from the Green's Creek operations, there must be additional information and studies to determine the potential of this problem and to come up with a long-term plan to prevent this from ever happening. There may be an additional need for water quality monitoring to determine if acid mine drainage is occurring from existing tailing and mine operations.

### Mitigation Plan

A mitigation plan should include off-site or on site habitat preservation, restoration or replacement. The Mitigation plan should account for the full acreage loss of functional habitat. We commonly see mitigation plans that cite best management practices as mitigation. We believe that mitigation should apply to restoration or replacement of habitat loss and not part of a best management operation plan.

### Reclamation Bond

An expanded operation and disposal site must require additional performance bonding. The reclamation bond for the Greens Creek operation must be sufficient to cover the cost of environmental restoration and disposal of hazardous materials and contaminated soils.

Thank you for allow us to comment on the Kennecott Greens Creek Mine Tailings Disposal Site Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Document.

Yours truly,

Chris Kent  
Juneau Audubon Conservation Chairman

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITS

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (L 145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.c. . 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.c. . 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

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Whittier -- Passage Canal 34, (Reference Number 2-2001-0266) Applicant: City of Whittier. Location: Whittier shoreline between business area commonly referred to as the commercial triangle and the Alaska Marine Highway System Terminal. Proposal: The applicant proposes to dredge about 600 cubic yards of material from the slopes of the existing drainage way. Additional dredging would occur within the intertidal zone to enlarge the drainage area to 270-feet by 70-foot wide and 15-foot deep. The spoils would be placed on a upland site. Purpose: To fill in an existing drainage ditch located in a tidally influenced area to provide parking and space for small business expansion. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *May 24, 2001*.

\*\*Juneau -- Auke Bay 136, (Reference Number 2-2001-0152) Applicant: Auke Bay Enterprises. Location: The head of Auke Bay harbor. Proposal: The applicant proposes to place 1,633 cubic yards of fill into 0.14 acres of intertidal habitat (below mean high tide line) and fill another 0.03 acres of emergent wetland area above the high tide line. This area would be used as a parking lot (180-feet by 132-feet wide). The applicant will place 50 pilings below the mean high water line for the construction of a lodge, restaurant, and boat rental shop (8, 640 square feet). Purpose: The relocation of the Hot Bite Restaurant and kayak rental shop from the harbor area and the construction of a IS-unit fishing lodge. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *April 22, 2001*.

\*\*Juneau -- Hawk Inlet 1 (Reference Number N-880269) Applicant: Kennecott Green Creek Mining Company. Location: Hawk Inlet on north Admiralty Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes a modification to the permit number 2-880269 to enlarge the existing and permitted mine tailings impoundment structure by 1.282 million cubic yards of fill. This fill will impact 42.3 acres of waters, including wetlands. The proposed wetland impacts are 5.6 acres for construction of a pond, 3.6 acres for roadberms and containment, 10.9 acres for tails underdrain system, and 22.2 acres for reclamation storage area. Purpose: The purpose is to expand the dry tailings area for future operations. The expansion would increase the capacity to 5

million dry short tons. An environmental impact statement is currently in preparation for this action. Comments due: May 15, 2001.

Petersburg - Man Made Hole 1, (Reference Number M-991371) Applicant: U.S. Forest Service. Location: Milepost 20.1 Mitkof Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 0.25 mile hiking trail, 210 foot raised walkway, stream bank riprap for fisheries enhancement, four boardwalk turnpikes, closed vault toilet and three hiking bridges. Approximately 0.33 acres of wetlands would be filled. Purpose: To improve the Man Made Hole Picnic Area. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: May 17, 2001.

Petersburg - Wrangell Narrows 504, (Reference Number 4-2000-1069) Applicant: Mr. Fred File. Location: Milepost 4.39 Mitkof Highway, within City limits. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain approximately 475 cubic yards of fill material in 0.2 acre offforested /muskeg wetlands. This area was filled to create a 425-foot by 20-foot driveway. Purpose: To improve access to applicant's lot. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: May 17, 2001.

Petersburg - Sumner Strait 110, (Reference Number 1-2001-0331) Applicant: U.S. Forest Service. Location: Within Totem Bay, adjacent to Kupreanof Island and approximately 28 miles southwest of Petersburg. Proposal: The applicant proposes to anchor a 32-foot by 85-foot floating barge camp and a 20-foot by 48-foot 2-segment float. Purpose: Provide a float camp housing for Forest Service personnel during administration of various land activities. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: May 16, 2001.

Sitka - Eastern Channel 21, (Reference Number 1-2001-0412) Applicant: Mel Hawkins Jr. Location: Twin Island, near Sitka. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 40-foot by 10-foot extension to an existing 45-foot by 10-foot floating dock. The new section will be held in place by 3 pilings. Purpose: Provide dock space for a larger vessel. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: May 16, 2001.

Wrangell - Zimovia Strait 139, AFTER THE FACT (Reference Number 2-2000-1282) Applicant: Bruce E. Harding. Location: Just south of the Wrangell City boundary, off of the Zimovia Highway, Lot 18. Proposal: The applicant requests to retain previous clearing, excavating and filling of 1.8 acres of wetlands. Purpose: To construct a single-family residence with detached garage. The applicant will be required to incorporate into the project mitigation for the loss of 1.8 acres. No specific mitigation plans have been formalized. Comments due: May 3, 2001.

Wrangell - Zimovia Strait 143, (Reference Number 2-2001-0180) Applicant: City of Wrangell. Location: Approximately 1.7 miles south of the city of Wrangell on Zimovia Highway. Proposal: The applicant requests to construct a lined aeration basin, sedimentation basin, new control building and miscellaneous appurtenances. The total project area is approximately 3.4 acres; approximately 2.4 acres of palustrine-forested wetland and several small intermittent streams will be filled with 6,000 cubic yards of fill. Purpose: To upgrade the City of Wrangell's wastewater treatment facility. Mitigation: The applicant will incorporate the following mitigation, construction of a vegetative drainage ditch to capture and divert surface water around the aeration basin, installation of check dams within the drainage ditch to increase hydrologic holding time and decreased velocities, maintain an undisturbed riparian buffer on the small stream. Comments due: April 19, 2001.

Wrangell - Zimovia Strait 144, (Reference Number M-991371) Applicant: William B. Privett. Location: One-half mile west of Zimovia Highway, mile 13, Wrangell Island West Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant proposes to fill 0.22 acres of forested wetland with clean shot rock. This fill will create a road to the applicant's lot. Purpose: To provide access to applicant's property. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: May 10, 2001.

Port Alexander - Port Alexander 30, (Reference Number 1-2000-1265) Applicant: Gary Mulligan. Location: Within the Outer Harbor in Port Alexander. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain an 13-foot wide by 30-foot long stool float that would be secured from each end with one approximately 60-foot long 2-inch diameter synthetic rope connected to a cement filled drum. Purpose: Provide a docking site for his skiffs, near his property. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: March 14, 2001

Port Alexander - Port Alexander 31, (Reference Number 1-2000-1266) Applicant: Gary Mulligan. Location: Within the Back Lagoon in Port Alexander. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain an airplane float consisting of one 12-foot wide by 10-foot long wood-decked log ramp connected to one 20-foot wide by 20-foot long wood-decked log float that would be secured from each end of the float with one approximately 60-foot long 2-inch diameter synthetic rope connected to a 5-inch length of 1/2-inch diameter steel chain, anchored to a cement filled 55-gallon drum. Purpose: Provide mooring for airplane. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: March 14, 2001

Port Alexander - Port Alexander 32, (Reference Number 1-2001-0258) Applicant: William and Jennifer Patrick. Location: Within the Back Lagoon in Port Alexander. Proposal: The applicant proposes to permanently moor a 68-foot by 24-foot barge. Purpose: To house a sawmill operation. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *April 20, 2001*

Ketchikan - Clarence Strait 90, (Reference Number M-1996-0875) Applicant: Peter Rice. Location: Meyers Chuck. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a refurbished 36-foot wide by 70-foot long float, a 5-foot wide by 50-foot long aluminum ramp adjacent to a previously permitted fill site. Purpose: To provide access and moorage. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *April 21, 2001.*

Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 397, (Reference Number X-1983-0235) Applicant: DuRette Construction Co. Inc. Location: North Tongass Highway, 5.5 miles north of Ketchikan. Proposal: The applicant proposes to develop a commercial boat dock with concrete floats and fingers, concrete pier, walkway ramp, steel piling, and retaining wall. The mooring dock would measure 280-feet long by 12-feet wide. The access walkway ramp would measure 60-foot long by 6-feet wide. The concrete float would measure 20-feet long by 12-foot wide. The concrete pier would measure 24-foot long by 10-foot wide. Ramp dimensions below high tide would be 140 foot long by 90-feet wide. Rock wall to the ramp would be 170-foot long by 25-foot wide. Approximately 0.20 acres of intertidal habitat would be filled. Purpose: Provide mooring space for commercial boats and an upland staging area. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *May 15, 2001*

Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 519, (Reference Number M-1995-0328) Applicant: U.S. Coast Guard. Location: One mile south of Ketchikan along South Tongass Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to clear 5,500 square feet of vegetation and muskeg, excavate and fill to construct a 1,680 square foot commercial building, install an on-site wastewater system and a potable water tank. Approximately 0.13 acres of wetlands will be lost. Purpose: To provide shore support building. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *April 26, 2001.*

Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 525, AFTER - THE - FACT (Reference Number 4-2000-0307) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Location: Gravina Island near the Ketchikan International Airport. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain the discharge of native materials including the filling and diversion of a small stream, and land clearing on approximately 12 acres of mixed forested scrub/shrub and emergent wetlands. Purpose: To expand the operations at the airport. Mitigation: 1. Fill material was removed from the stream and the site restored. 2. ADOT&PF has contracted to have a jurisdictional determination conducted which identifies wetlands and other waters of the United States on airport lands. 3. An After-the-Fact application was prepared. Comments due: *April 21, 2001*

Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 531, (Reference Number 2-2001-0160) Applicant: Rosemary Crowder. Location: Approximately 4.5 mile North Tongass Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a rip rap wall and fill behind it with 500 cubic yards of rock, install seventeen 10-foot by 8-foot wide floats, a 9-foot by 9-foot deck and a 4-foot by 50-foot long aluminum access ramp. The deck will be sitting on I-beams located on the fill. 2,000-square foot of area will be filled in from High tide line to the Mean High Water, and 3,000 square feet will be filled in waterward from mean high water. A total of 0.12 acre of intertidal habitat will be filled and another 0.02 acres adjacent shore would be filled and another 0.09 acres of upland area will be impacted. Purpose: To provide parking a storage space. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *May 11, 2001*

Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 538, AFTER THE FACT (Reference Number 4-2001-0220) Applicant: Karl Powers. Location: Lots 13, 15, and 16, 12452 North Tongass Highway (12.4 miles north of Ketchikan). Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain existing housepad, parking area, lawn, terraced garden area built on 0.44 acres of wetlands. Another 0.17 acres of wetlands would be filled to construct a 16-foot wide by 400-foot long driveway. Mitigation: The applicant has not proposed any mitigation for the loss of aquatic environment. Purpose: Provide a house site and access road. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *May 11, 2001*

Ketchikan - Deep Bay 8, (Reference Number 2-2001-0413) Applicant: James Benson. Location: Approximately 20 miles north of Ketchikan at Deep Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to relocate an existing 10-foot by 45-foot wood float with foam billets about 10 feet eastward. The applicant also requests an additional 4-foot by 130-foot access ramp that would be attached to a 33-foot by 10-foot rock filled ramp. Purpose: Provide float access to a private residence. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: *May 17, 2001*

Ketchikan - Ward Cove 33, (Reference Number 2-2001-0319) Applicant: Rick Bradley. Location: Head of Ward Cove Bradley Float Plane Haulout. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a haul-out ramp that will impact 2,660 square

feet of intertidal habitat.. The applicant will discharge 294 cubic yards of fill to construct a ramp starting at 5.8 below high tide line and proceed 50-feet landward. The ramp will be constructed with 32 8-inch by 16-inch by 16-foot concrete planks. Purpose: To provide haulout for private planes. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: **May 16, 2001**

**Ketchikan - Vallenar Bay 1**, (Reference Number 1-2000-1352) Applicant: Eugene A. Frank. Location: Northwest side of Gravina Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install 20 creosote or steel pilings, install 12 floats sections 5-foot by 28-foot for the pier, install a 12-foot by 24-foot floating dock that will be attached to the pier. The concrete abutment will be 350-feet long. In addition to the pier and dock, the applicant will moor two breakwaters consisting of 20-inch by 65-foot long boomsticks that will be anchored at both ends to a permanent 3-foot diameter steel-mooring buoy. The float sections will rest on the substrate during low tide. Purpose: Provide access to a private residence. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: **May 17, 2001**

**Prince of Wales - Klawock Inlet 126**, (Reference Number 4-2001-0324) Applicant: Alaska Pacific Logging Inc. Location: East side of Tract E, Mary Jackson Subdivision, corner of K Street and Klawock-Hollis Highway, in Klawock. Proposal: The applicant proposes to fill 4,500 (0.95 acres) of wetlands with fill. The applicant will re-route an intermittent drainage to the roadside ditch along K Street. Purpose: Construction of a lodge and recreational vehicle park. Mitigation: will avoid a perennial drainage on the west side of the tract, by allowing a 200 foot buffer. Comments due: **May 24, 2001**

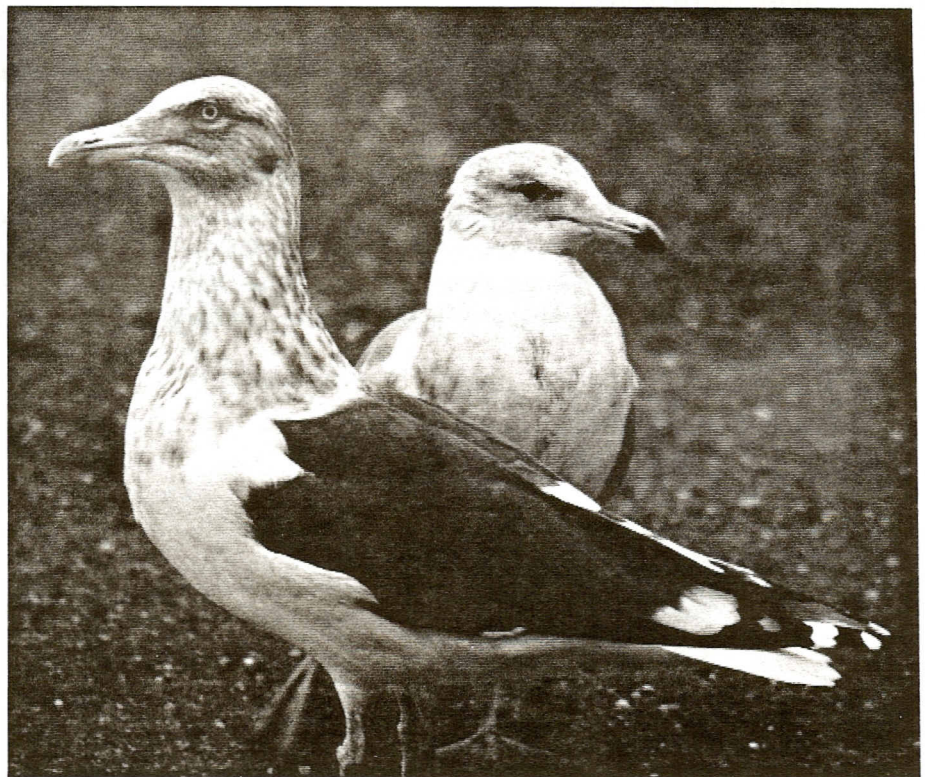
**Prince of Wales - Naukati Bay 4**, (Reference Number 1-2000-1354) Applicant: Matthew Peavey. Location: One-mile southeast of Naukati Village. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 75-foot by 12-foot pier attached to 12-piles. A pier would be built on shore with an access ramp to the floatdock. The pier will impact 0.01 acres of intertidal habitat. Purpose: Boat moorage and access to upland. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: **April 21, 2001**

**Prince of Wales - Naukati Bay 5**, (Reference Number 1-2001-0221) Applicant: Southeast Island School District. Location: Naukati Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain a 70-foot by 60-foot floating dock connected to shore by a 4-foot by 60-foot stiff leg. Purpose: To provide gymnasium facilities to the elementary school and the community. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: **May 8, 2001**

**Prince of Wales - Tokeen Bay 5**, (Reference Number 1-2001-0296) Applicant: Philip Roth. Location: Tokeen Subdivision, 9 miles northeast of Edna Bay, Alaska. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 20-foot wide by 30-foot long log float attached to three pilings and a 30-foot long by 5-foot wide ramp. Purpose: To provide moorage a private boat. No mitigation is proposed. Comments due: **May 3, 2001**

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

Thanks to David W. Sonneborn for sharing this great photo of the, rare to Alaska, Asiatic Slaty-backed Gull. It spent a part of the winter in the area along the road to Costco.



## JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529    A5]

7XCH

If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above writing in Juneau Audubon only and send SW to: The Raven Editor, PO Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802

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### JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB PAGE

Be sure to check out our home page on the Internet. It's hosted by the folks that have developed JUNEAU.COM. Our site's URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://www.juneau.com/audubon/audubon.htm> -- add it to your favorites!. Recent editions of the Juneau Audubon Newsletter are posted along with links to the Anchorage and National Audubon sites. If you're interested in Corps of Engineers permits, they are posted with this month's newsletter. We are always looking for pictures, stories or ideas to post on our web site. To contribute, email [ChrisKentatckent0.alaska.net](mailto:ChrisKentatckent0.alaska.net)

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# THE RAVEN



Vol 28 No 1

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

September 2001

## Juneau Audubon September Meeting

Thursday, September 13, 7:30 p.m., Dzantik'I Heeni Middle School Library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

### QUEEN CHARLOTTE GOSHA WIK

Kim Titus, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Biologist, will report on the results from several years of research on the Queen Charlotte Goshawk. This hawk had been considered for Endangered Species status.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please check the date your membership expires in the top right corner of your mailing label (example: 0109 year 01 month 09). If your membership has expired this will be your last issue of *The Raven*. We would encourage you to renew using the form on the last page.

If you have empty half pint canning jars, please bring them to an Audubon meeting or call Mary Lou at 789-7540. Every year these jars for jelly for the November booth seem to be more expensive and if we only need to buy new lids for the used jars we save money.

"THE RAYEN" ELECTRONICALLY???? One of the major costs to Juneau Audubon is printing and mailing out the newsletter. With most people now having access to email, we would like to know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. We would send it to you in either Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format. If you would like to save a tree, reduce the mail you receive and still be in touch, send us an email with your address and preferred file type (most word process software will read Rich Text), Our address is [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Steve Zimmerman

Summers over, and it's time to begin our monthly meetings. Over the past three months, several issues have been heating up. I want to let Juneau Audubon Society Members know about two of them.

One of the biggest issues the Juneau Audubon Society is dealing with involves the proposed "improvements" to the airport. Nobody wants to sacrifice safety at the airport. Unfortunately, the impacts of some of the proposed changes, especially cutting down all of the trees along the dike trail, are unpredictable and may be counterproductive. Removing the trees will very likely force birds inland to perch, and force them to fly over runways that they have never had to cross before in order to feed. Cutting the trees will not only destroy some of the most important bird habitat in Juneau, but there is a strong likelihood that it will result in an increase in the number of bird strikes with airplanes. JAS has succeeded in making the FAA aware of the potential effects of blindly carrying out such actions, and the FAA has agreed to consider them in the airport environmental impact statement. We are hopeful that the FAA and the City will fully consider the possible impacts of any proposed actions before mandating their implementation.

Another vexing problem is the crusade that the publisher of the Juneau Empire has started. He has begun championing the point of view that any vote to move the legislature will be the fuh of local environmentalists who have questioned big development projects in Juneau. The theory is that other cities and towns in Alaska do not like Juneau because we have not supported the big timber, mining and highway projects that pro-development interests have promoted. Thus, unless Juneau suddenly sees the light, and starts supporting mines, roads, timber harvesting, golf courses, and any other big development project, the rest of the state will vote against keeping the legislature in Juneau. Unfortunately, a lie told frequently often becomes "the truth." Anybody who has been reading the editorial page will note the strident attempt to vilify so-called environmental extremists. This attempt to galvanize public opinion against Juneauites with an environmental ethic comes around every few years, just like the proposed capital move. Rather than trying to unify Juneau against the move issue, however, the publisher and the pro-development interests are splintering the town, hoping to force through the road, the second crossing, and several other projects, using a "save the capital" argument to sway popular opinion against any attempt to consider the environmental impacts of what is being proposed. Not all of us have the time, or want to write letters to the editor. Not all of us have the time, or want to attend endless meetings. Not all of us have the time or want to call the publisher to try to get balance back into the newspaper. But we must study the issues. We must vote. And we must all stand up when the pro-development forces try to demonize the values we live by.



## JUNEAU'S ECONOMY By Jim King

A major portion of Juneau's Tour ship visitors as well as attendants at our rapidly expanding summer camps, also incoming students and faculty at University of Alaska Southeast, plus growing numbers of retirees and professional artists/writers, are attracted here by the natural environment. Our clean air, the natural forest and natural marine waters at our doorstep and our wildlife that so many of us defend, are the essence of this environmental attraction. Juneau's Natural Area Parks, trail system, public overnight cabins and so forth, advocated, defended and often built by volunteers, who special interests sometimes collectively brand as "extreme environmentalists," contribute enormously to this attraction.

One has to wonder why so many members of the Chamber of Commerce and those who advise us from the opinion page of the Juneau Empire fail to understand where this major source of Juneau's wealth comes from.

### Off Road Vehicles Access

The Forest Service is taking comments through September (on expanding access to Off-Road Vehicles (snowmobiles and ATV four wheelers) on more Juneau trails. An ORV Planning Committee has made the following recommendations. (The Forest Service would be interested in your comments even if the September 4<sup>th</sup> deadline has past) Contact: [mscholte-ra:ifs.fed.us](mailto:mscholte-ra:ifs.fed.us) or Pete Griffin, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service: Juneau Ranger District, 8456 Old Dairy Road, Juneau, AK 99801, Fax: 586-8808

RECOMMENDED FOR ORV USE	UNIFIED BUT NO CONSENSUS	RECOMMENDED NO ORV USE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 25 Mile ext to Spaulding Meadows</li> <li>2. Bessie Creek, Cowee &amp; W Yankee B M</li> <li>3. CBJ Lemon Creek West Side</li> <li>4. Lake Creek Trail Improvements</li> <li>5. McGinnis Creek</li> <li>6. Mt. Meek Area</li> <li>7. North Douglas ORV Park</li> <li>8. Road Accessing Spaulding Meadows</li> <li>9. Spaulding Meadows Cabin</li> </ol>	<p><u>No Consensus to Oose to ORVs</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dan Moller (Kowee Creek Drainage)</li> <li>2. Lawson Creek South to Mt. McDonough</li> <li>3. Mendenhall Lake</li> <li>4. Mt. Troy Northwest Side</li> </ol> <p><u>No Consensus to Recommend ORV Use</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Dradge Lakes Unit-North End</li> <li>6. Dradge Lakes Unit- South End</li> <li>7. Eagle-Herbert Rivers Area</li> <li>8. Gastineau Meadows Ace. to Treadwell Ditch</li> <li>9. Montana Creek Trail to Windfall Lake</li> <li>10. Peterson Lake Extension to Spaulding</li> <li>11. Thunder Mountain Flats Area</li> <li>12. West of Mt. Stewart-Access Access Other than Eaglecrest</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Auke Lake Trail</li> <li>2. Backloop Trail</li> <li>3. Blackerby Ridge</li> <li>4. Cascade Creek Area</li> <li>5. Davies Creek Logging Road</li> <li>6. Hidden Valley Area</li> <li>7. Lemon Creek Trail</li> <li>8. Montana Creek Gravel Pit</li> <li>9. Pederson Hill Trail</li> <li>10. Treadwell Ditch Dan Moller to Eaglecrest</li> </ol>

Steller's Sea Eagle Report  
by Steve Zimmerman

The Steller's Sea Eagle that was seen regularly a few years ago has been found again. From 1989 through 1996, this bird could be found dependably at Swede Point on the west side of the Taku River. Then it moved. Although one or two reports each summer confirmed that it was likely still in the area, from 1997 through 2000, nobody could reliably predict where this large member of the eagle family would be seen. Out-of-town birders who came to Juneau hoping to get a look at the bird went away disappointed. Then, on July 31, local fishermen Leon Shaul reported that a bird he felt was a Steller's Sea Eagle had flown over him while he was piloting his boat past Taku Point. Taku Point is couple (3) miles downstream from Swede Point on the opposite side of the Taku River. On August 4, several Juneau birders flew down to Taku Point with Coastal Helicopters to look for the bird. They found it almost immediately, and the word started getting out. On August 8, Judith Fortney and I flew down to look for the bird and also were able to [md it. Judith's husband] put that news on the North American Rare Bird Alert hotline and soon folks from as far away as the east coast began making plans to travel here to see the bird. As recently as August 27<sup>th</sup>, the bird was still being found; in that case by five birders from Washington, Idaho and New York. Although Steller's Sea Eagles have been seen on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, and also on Kodiak Island as well as the Taku River, they are an exceedingly rare bird in North America. Having such a rare bird in our area will likely lead to continued visitations by ardent birders wanting to add this majestic bird to their lists.

### Rare Bird Alert Hotline

Over a year ago, the Juneau Audubon Society created a rare bird alert hotline. This hotline provides an opportunity for local birders to report unusual sightings, and to hear what else has been reported in the Juneau area. If you have seen a rare or unusual bird, or want to find out what other people are seeing in Juneau, call 586-2591.

### EAGLECHAT By Nina Mollett

I'd like to encourage people to join Eaglechat, the Juneau discussion group for birders. When I moved to Juneau from Fairbanks three years ago, I noticed that there was no easy way for newcomers to connect with the birding community. This is not unusual, it reminded me of Fairbanks years ago, before the Alaska Bird Observatory people set up shop at Creamer's Field. In Fairbanks back then, it was hard for a person not in the loop (which was centered in the university ornithology department) to find out, for example, about rare bird sightings. There was no hotline. But some good people started the ABA, encouraged people to participate in bird banding and surveys, set up scopes during migration for schoolchildren to use, and the result was not only more interest in birding but a nice drawing together of the entire birding community.

Meanwhile, I had become involved with Birdchat, the National Birding Cooperative, which allows participants from all over the world (but mostly in the United States and Canada), to talk wild birds to their heart's content through an e-mail listserv. . . . Some of the world's top birders participate, and it was fun, for example, to find out about the first North American sighting of a whiskered tern within hours of its discovery, from my house in Fairbanks. My contribution was that I like to write, and I could describe what was going on in my backyard, boreal owls nesting and boreal chickadees and ptarmigan, and I could describe the way all of Fairbanks turns out for the geese and cranes in May, how construction workers park their trucks by the field and gaze at the newly arrived geese while munching their lunches. The envious readers in New York and California ate it up.

So, I started Eaglechat in April 1999, it was slow at first as discussion groups usually are, but by the following spring it had really taken off. Now we have 62 members, including most of Juneau's birders and a few lurkers who live farther afield. It is intended, first of all, to allow news of a rare bird sighting to get out quickly to anyone interested. And secondly, it is meant to provide a forum for discussion of all things bird-related, from identification problems to rain-resistant birding equipment, from trip reports to flights of fanciful description. Thirdly, discussions of habitat conservation are more than welcome. And finally, recently, it is for all things Uno, who is the young eagle that many of us have been privileged to observe on his Mendenhall Wetlands Nest, growing up, learning to fly and now learning to fish. His habitat is threatened by the airport expansion, but that is another story, and one that we are talking about on Eaglechat.

We are hoping to expand the scope (to at least 60 power) of Eagle chat and would particularly like to invite people in other Southeast communities to join.

The url is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat.Youmayhavetojoinyahoofirst.at> <http://groups.yahoo.com/Orjustsendmeamessage.ninam@alaska.net> and I'll sign you up. The website has archives of all messages, a search feature so that if you want to know everything we've ever said about ravens, for example, it's easy; a calendar which we don't use much, and an area with pictures that people have posted. Please come in and make yourself at home!

## **EXCERPS FROM EAGLECHAT REPORTS**

From: "Bev Agler" Today, 26 August, Sunday, there was a juvenile Wilson's Phalarope at the Mendenhall Wetlands. It was in the tiny slough beyond the Gazebo and the giant log. It was exactly like the juvenile picture in the 3rd ed of Nat Geo, if you want to check it out. Sort of like the picture in the new Sibley Guide to Birds, but it does the exact behavior of running along the bank eating insects that Sibley describes on pg. 194. Nervous picking and darting as he describes it.

There were also 3-4 Stilt Sandpipers. One of which has a sort of droopy wing. The Stilts were juveniles right out of Sibley's pg. 190. They look sort of like the

lesser yellowlegs, but it never takes its bill out of the water, probing the sand rather like a dowitcher.

Merlin yesterday and today. I also saw a female red-winged blackbird yesterday in the grass and lots of barn swallows. They haven't all left yet.

Others reported a peregrine today, a harrier yesterday, Bairds sandpipers today, and a cowbird today.

Date: Tue, 21 Aug 2001 From: "Nina Mollett"

Nice flock of Townsend's Warblers on Basin Road a couple of blocks before the bridge, on the right. Also a flock of golden-crowned kinglets, to left just after the bridge. Generally, the place was jumping this morning, the sky partially blue, with dramatic clouds and a bit of wind ...

Yesterday morning at 7:30 am Larry and I watched Uno fly from his perch on the roost tree across the meadow, back to his nest. At first, his father was sitting right next to him on the roost branch, then flew over back of the nest tree and called. Uno responded by flying over with big, floppy wingstrokes, it was a very rough landing and amusing to watch, he was upside down like a bat for a moment and then dropped down to the branch below the one he was aiming for. So, he doesn't have this flying business down perfectly yet.

I bought two new bird guides, Kenn Kaufman's as well as Sibley's. I really like Kaufman's, it reminds me so much of the Peterson guides with the very clear identification arrows and straightforward approach. I think the touched-up photos are very well done, and anyway Kaufman is such a wonderful author...

He says one thing in his introduction which I was grateful to read from as fine a birder as Kaufman: "Birding is something that we do for enjoyment, so if you enjoy it, you are already a good birder. If you enjoy it a lot, you're a great birder...there is no right way or wrong way to enjoy birding. Watch out for well-meaning experts who insist that you should work on identifying difficult birds or travel to see rare ones. The best approach to birding is the one that you enjoy."

I really appreciated this, because although I've been going out and observing birds for years, I've never gotten particularly good at separating very similar ones or finding rare ones, although I admire people who have those skills. Beyond that, I'm interested in unusual birds and will go somewhat out of my way to see one, but I most enjoy watching the behavior of the fDore common ones wherever I'm living and getting to know what they're really about. Watching this young eagle grow and learn has been particularly rewarding.

'Course, not many places where you can refer to an eagle as "a common bird"!

AUDUBON ALASKA ACTION ALERT  
FOREST SERVICE ROAD LESS POLICY AT RISK

The Bush Administration is on the verge of rolling back the new Forest Service roadless policy that Audubon Alaska and many others worked so hard to support. Please send a letter to the Forest Service stating that you support this landmark conservation policy and want it to stand as written.

Let the Forest Service know that you want these valuable roadless areas, including those in the Tongass and Chugach, protected for their wildlife, fisheries, and recreational values. The public has until September 10, 2001 to provide comments to the Forest Service. Please send your letter to:

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth  
Attention: Roadless ANPR Comments  
P.O. Box 22109  
Salt Lake City, UT 84122  
FAX: 801-296-4090

Last year, the Forest Service received a record 1.6 million comments from the American public, the majority of whom supported this new conservation policy to protect remaining roadless areas of our national forests from commercial road construction, logging, and mining. Audubon Alaska coordinated a letter from over 330 scientists (including 100 Alaskans) to President Clinton asking him to include Alaska's Tongass National Forest in this important policy. After undergoing a comprehensive public review process over three years, the policy was signed on January 5, 2001 and included the Tongass. The policy is scientifically sound and strongly supported by a majority of Americans. Roadless areas are crucial to the protection of our nation's wildlife, fisheries and water resources because they represent the least disturbed habitats in an almost universally disturbed landscape. In Alaska, the national roadless policy will help safeguard the ecological integrity of Alaska's rainforest within our nation's two largest national forests, the Tongass and Chugach. This action will also ensure the conservation and sustainable productivity of our valuable fish, wildlife, and recreational resources in perpetuity for use by future generations of Alaskans and all Americans.

The roadless policy is under great risk of being watered down by the Bush Administration. Please write a letter today telling the Forest Service you want the roadless policy maintained and applied to Alaska.

Please send a copy to me by mail or email. Thank you for your support on this important conservation issue.

John Schoen, Senior Scientist, Audubon Alaska, 308 G Street, Suite 217,  
Anchorage, AK 99501, email: [jschoen@audubon.org](mailto:jschoen@audubon.org)

# ~udubon ALASKA

## NEWS RELEASE

August 21, 2001

Contact: John Schoen, 276-7034, Lloyd Lowry 455-6885, Kris Balliet 258-9922, Jack Sterne 276-4244 x 114

### CONSERVATIONISTS DISAPPOINTED WITH DISTRICT COURT'S DECISION AGAINST LISTING COOK INLET BELUGA WHALES

Washington, D.C. -- District Court Judge James Robertson ruled yesterday against a complaint filed by Trustees for Alaska, on behalf of several conservation groups and a former Native subsistence hunter that sought an Endangered Species Act listing for the small and vulnerable population of Cook Inlet beluga whales. "This action is very disappointing," said Dr. John Schoen, Senior Scientist for Audubon Alaska. The plaintiffs in the case presented evidence from the administrative record indicating that most state and federal marine mammal experts agree that the Cook Inlet population of beluga whales are at risk of extinction. For example, Lloyd Lowry, a beluga expert and former marine mammal coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, has stated that, "because of their low abundance, declining trend, limited range, and susceptibility to catastrophic events, Cook Inlet beluga whales are a high risk population that may be facing a real threat of extinction." Lowry also stated that "these factors make this a textbook case for ESA listing." The judge's decision failed to address any of this evidence.

The Cook Inlet population of beluga whales is genetically distinct and geographically isolated from other beluga populations. While over hunting was the primary cause of its recent decline, the population is now so small that any number of factors could drive the population over the brink of extinction. For example, a mass stranding when belugas are concentrated in Turnagain Arm or off the mouth of the Susitna River could have a major impact on this small population. According to NMFS, Cook Inlet belugas are the smallest marine mammal population not listed under the Endangered Species Act. Kris Balliet, Alaska Region Director for The Ocean Conservancy, believes that a precautionary, ecosystem-based management approach is the best way to ensure that Cook Inlet's beluga whales do not go extinct, particularly as the species' isolated upper Cook Inlet habitat undergoes further development. An ESA listing would ensure the implementation of this precautionary approach.

The groups that filed the complaint included Joel Blatchford, The Ocean Conservancy (formerly Center for Marine Conservation), Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Center For Biological Diversity, and National Audubon Society. They are reviewing the decision and will consider what if any action to take within the next several weeks.

## FEDERAL COURT DECISION A VICTORY FOR SOUND SCIENCE

### Birds and Salmon Both Win in Case to Halt Corps Action Without Scientific Review

Seattle, Washington August 10, 2001 - In what the National Audubon Society hailed as a victory for sound science, a Federal Judge here issued an 18-page order requiring the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before any more government funds are spent on hazing Caspian Terns or cormorants, or destroying their habitat in the Columbia River estuary on the Oregon-Washington border.

In her order, Judge Rothstein also found that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service erred in granting a permit under the MBTA for taking (killing) birds without an EIS. Conservationists' pleas to federal and state officials for such an EIS over the last 3 years were ignored. Noting that there was no sound science to link Terns to salmon declines or to impeding salmon recovery of listed species, conservationists emphasized the need to concentrate on the FOUR H'S that have led to salmon declines and impede recovery: Hydro, Habitat, Hatcheries, and Harvest.

"This is a significant victory for sound science, birds, and salmon," said John Flicker, Audubon President and CEO. "We were disappointed that we ultimately needed to sue the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers, but the end result is what the law required. No action can be taken until we understand how birds and salmon interact and how they will be effected by the Corps's proposed action."

The plan to dislocate the largest Caspian Terns colony was initiated by federal and state agencies in response to the terns consumption of salmonids, over 90% of them hatchery released. The Terns had concentrated at Rice Island because of both deliberate and natural loss of the sandy, relatively predator free islands and beaches they need to breed in the Pacific NW.

After being ignored over the years, in calling for an EIS, Seattle Audubon, American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon Society, and Defenders of Wildlife sued in 2000 to require the COE and FWS to complete a comprehensive EIS before continuing to extirpate Terns from breeding islands in the Columbia River. "This ruling is a victory not only for Caspian terns and cormorants, but also for endangered Pacific salmon," said Helen Ross, Conservation Program Manager of the Seattle Audubon Society.

Despite the presence of these Terns, many of them extirpated by natural and human induced changes from other habitat, Chinook salmon returns to the Columbia have been the highest in over 20 years. The entire Rice Island Tern colony has been displaced to East Sand Island due to habitat destruction and hazing. The Tern colony once numbered close to 20,000 birds, and hosts 30% of the total North American population of Caspian Terns and 75% of the west coast population. Gerald Winegrad, Vice President for Policy of the American Bird Conservancy, stated "The Court's decision is a victory for sound science, for Terns, and ultimately for salmon. An EIS will examine the science of whether these birds are having any effect whatsoever on adult salmon returns, for which we believe there is no current evidence. Why waste hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars on moving Terns around when the FOUR H's need to be addressed for real salmon recovery."

The Federal Judge ruled initially in 2000 in conservationists' favor but the Corps and other agencies still refused to conduct the scientific assessment required under NEPA in an EIS. There were over 2000 pages of certified administrative record in the case. "This federal court ruling is good news and a big victory for Caspian Terns. The Army Corps must stop destroying Tern habitat and hazing Terns until it develops comprehensive information about how this is effecting the terns and the ecosystem," said Perry Plumart, Director of Government Relations for National Audubon. "There is no credible scientific evidence the Caspian Terns are the cause of salmon declines."

Another Tern breeding site at the abandoned ASARCO superfund site was destroyed in 2001 as part of its clean-up. The Corps, NMFS, and state fishery agencies have not re-established or created habitat outside the estuary which is required under their own plan. With the surprising approval of the FWS, a successful experiment to establish a Tern colony on an abandoned barge in Commencement Bay was abruptly halted.

when Washington Fish and Game destroyed the colony by taking all 933 eggs under a general FWS scientific collecting permit. The study was to determine if Terns would breed and fledge young on the barge and to ascertain their diet. This year, Caspian Tern numbers peaked at 16,000 adults on East Sand Island. The Terns diet was 22% less salmonids than last year.

Contact: John Bianchi, National Audubon Society  
212/979-3026  
[jbianchi@audubon.org](mailto:jbianchi@audubon.org)

## NY LEARNS PESTICIDE IS LEADING CAUSE OF BIRD DEATHS

### *Audubon Calls on Other States to Test for Pesticides, Release Data*

New York, NY, June 20, 2001 - A New York State wildlife official has discovered that of birds collected for a study on West Nile Virus, more died from pesticide poisoning than from the virus itself. In response to this early data, the National Audubon Society is calling upon Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia to begin testing dead birds for pesticide poisoning, if they have not already, and to publicly release their findings.

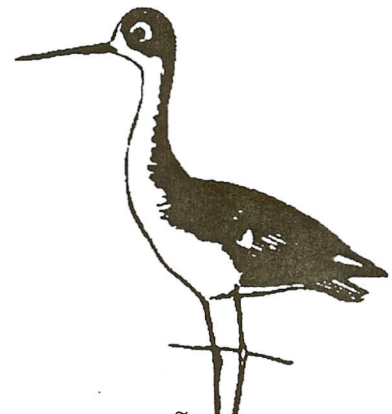
"This data is very troubling," said John Flicker, President of National Audubon Society. "States owe it to their residents to get to the bottom of this."

Last year, prompted by concern about the spread of West Nile Virus, New York State asked counties to report dead birds to its wildlife pathology laboratory. After receiving more than 80,000 birds, Dr. Ward Stone discovered that while the virus was a factor in some of the deaths, the leading cause was pesticide poisoning. Common lawn care chemicals were among the most common toxins.

"Millions of us use pesticides like Diazinon and Dursban at home," said Frank Gill, Audubon's Senior Vice President of Science. "We deserve to know as much as possible about their effect on us. Like canaries in a coalmine, birds warn of danger in our environment. If these chemicals kill birds, what are they doing to our kids?"

In addition to threatening wildlife, pesticides are believed to harm humans. According to Pesticide Watch, pesticides have been linked to a wide range of human health hazards, from short-term impacts such as headaches and nausea to chronic conditions like cancer, reproductive harm, and endocrine disruption.

"State governments are responsible for protecting the public's health," said Audubon President John Flicker. "We think it's important for them to find out what these bird deaths mean." Founded in 1905 and supported by 600,000 members in 510 chapters throughout the Americas, the National Audubon Society conserves and restores natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of humankind and the earth's biological diversity.





## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITS

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments, call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1 145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (eX3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands, see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

Petersburg-Blind Slough 0001 (Reference number 1-2001-0925), Applicant: Mr. Errol Champion, President, Silver Bay Logging, Inc. Location: South of Mitkof Island in Blind Slough, Sumner Strait, AK. Proposal: Moor a 50' x 160' steel camp barge with a 30' x 50' airplane dock/service float. A tanker will transfer domestic water from the Crystal Falls facility. The mooring time required for the camp barge is seven weeks. Purpose: Provide moorage for a camp barge containing camp/living facilities for personnel who will be working on a USFS timber contract. Additional Info.: Up to 2,500 gpd of secondary-treated domestic wastewater will be discharged from the barge. Contact Ms. Valanne Glooschenk at (800) 478-2712, if further info is desired. Comments due September 6, 2001.

### **Ed. Note: I am wondering if this will impact the winter swan habitat??**

Due to vacations and other distractions the numerous Corp permit applications during the summer did not get in this newsletter. The notices are sent to local newspapers and to the Post Office in your town.

# JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## Join Us Today!

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A 1-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*;
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription of *Audubon* magazine;

Yes! I want to join Juneau Audubon and National Audubon Society!

\$20 - 1year Introductory Rate     \$15 - 1year Student/Senior Rate     \$30 - 2year Special Rate  
 My check is enclosed     Please bill me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529    A51  
7XCH

If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above writing in Juneau Audubon only, and send \$10 to: The Raven Editor, PO Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802.

### JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

President: Steve Zimmerman 586-2597  
Vice President: Brenda Wright 789-4656  
Secretary: Deanna MacPhail 789-0651  
Treasurer: George Utermohle 586-3849  
Programs: Open  
Membership: Prill Mollick  
Education: Amy Skilbred 780-4649  
Publicity: Debbie Rudis 789-4260  
Conservation: Chris Kent 463-3494  
Field Trips: Open  
Raven Editor: Mary Lou King 789-7540  
Springfest Coordinators: Judy Shuler 789-9544,  
Kathy Weltzin 789-0288

### JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB PAGE

Be sure to check out our home page on the Internet. It's hosted by the folks that have developed JUNEAU.COM. Our site's URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://www.juneau.com/audubon/audubon1.htm> - add it to your favorites!. Recent editions of the Juneau Audubon Newsletter are posted along with links to the Anchorage and National Audubon sites. If you're interested in Corps of Engineers permits, they are posted with this month's newsletter. We are always looking for pictures, stories or ideas to post on our web site. To contribute, email [ChrisKentatkent@alaska.net](mailto:ChrisKentatkent@alaska.net)

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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JUNEAU, AK 99802

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Juneau, AK 99802

0202



JAMESGKING  
1700 BRANT A RD  
JUNEAU, AK 99801

# THE RAVEN



Vol 28 No 2

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

October 2001

Juneau Audubon October Meeting

Thursday, October 11, 7:30 p.m., Dzantik'I Heeni Middle School Library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

## JUNEAU RAPTOR CENTER ACTIVITIES AND PLANS Report and Program by Sandy Harbanuk

What a difference a year makes! 2001 has been both exciting and exhausting for the Juneau Raptor Center. In the first nine months of the year, we have already treated more birds than we did in all of 2000. More than 40 eagles, plus 4 Great horned owls, have come through the Center, as well a very large number of immature songbirds throughout the summer.

With the promise of land for our new clinic/rehab center and science museum dangling tantalizingly close, we have been immersed in planning. On Thursday, October 11, we'll present our plan for the new Center to Audubon, and hope Audubon members will share your ideas for this community facility.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### University of Alaska Southeast Juneau Campus

EVENING AT EGAN--A fall lectures series is underway Friday evenings at the University of Alaska Southeast. The free, public presentations begin at 7 p.m. each Friday, except Thanksgiving weekend, through November 30. The schedule follows:

**Friday, October 5--**"Radicals in Petticoats: Women Journalists of Victorian England."

Dr. Alexis Easley, UAS Assistant Professor of English

**Friday, October 12--**"Deep Discoveries in Southeast Alaska Caves" Dr. Dan Monteith,

UAS Assistant Professor of Anthropology Barbara Morgan, UAS Biology student

**Friday, October 19--**"Harbor Seal Population Declines in Glacier Bay National Park."

Beth Mathews, UAS Assistant Professor of Biology

**Friday, October 26--**"Other Solar Systems Other Stars." Don Greenberg, UAS Professor of Mathematics and Physics

**Friday, November 2--**N. Scott Momaday 1969 Pulitzer prize for Fiction Author, poet, scholar

**Friday, November 9**—"Brown Bears - Growing up at Pack Creek." Dr. Robert Fagen, UAF, Associate Professor of Biometrics  
Johanna Fagen, UAS Adjunct Faculty in Biology  
**Friday, November 16**—"The Evolution of Tlingit and Haida Art." Steve Henrikson, Alaska State Museum Curator of Collections  
**Friday, Nov. 23**--Thanksgiving. No program  
**Friday, Nov. 30**—"This Note's for You: English Poetry and the Quest for Authenticity." Jim Hale, UAS Assistant Professor of English

**COLD CLIMATE COASTAL CONSTRUCTION**--New UAS construction technology faculty member Marquam George is teaching a class that teaches the details and techniques that create a durable structure in a miserable climate. George, who is a long-time Juneau contractor with particular interest in healthy and durable homes, says, "Learn from my mistakes and not yours."

The class begins October 11 and meets on several Thursday evenings and three Saturdays. For information call George at 465-8774. George also is willing to organize construction classes that meet the needs and interests of local residents. Call him at the same number with requests.

#### **ELECTION OF JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS**

An election of officers will be held during the regular October 11 meeting. The following people have agreed to run:

Steve Zimmerman, President

Deanna McPhail, Secretary

George Utermohle, Treasure

Members are welcome to submit other names for these positions.

#### **JUNEAU AUDUBON BOARD COLUMN By Deanna MacPhail**

Get engaged. Guaranteed results by Valentine's Day!

Now that I have your attention, let me elaborate. It is well known that personal involvement increases one's enjoyment of a particular happening or event. Consider this an invitation to become more involved in your Audubon chapter. We're a small group and we depend upon your ideas and efforts to keep the group vital. We're currently seeking folks interested in contributing their time and talents, especially with regard to Programs and Field Trips. Traditionally, we have a chairperson for each and would welcome those interested in taking on the duties. In addition, ideas, suggestions and volunteers would be rewarded with appreciation and gratitude. You needn't make a life-long commitment, or even an annual promise. But perhaps you might offer to lead a hike, work at the Audubon booth during the Public Market, or make a presentation at one of the monthly meetings.

During the past year we enjoyed a remarkable variety of presentations at our meetings. And if you stop to think about it, they were generally given by members of the community who had been out doing something which interested them, and by no small coincidence, interested us as well. We all like to see pictures and hear someone talk about our natural world. The subject matter need not be exotic or distant, and you certainly aren't required to be an expert in the field. A closer look at some of our local specialties is just as riveting as an escape to the tropics.

Now that most of us are home from our summer wanderings, and not yet launched on our winter trips, why not give some thought to how you might share your time, energy and/or experiences with the group. And for that next trip, tuck in a couple of extra rolls of film or another memory storage device for your digital camera; take some dynamite pictures and bring them back to share with us.

## **SANITARY LANDFILL AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

The news release entitled "**Secretary Norton Designates 15 Sites in 11 States as National Historic Landmarks**" was prepared by the Dept. of Interior and released to national newspapers on August 27th. Rupe Andrew's comments and quotes from the release follow:

Our Secretary of the Interior, "the evil Baroness of Heap-Leach," on August 27th designated the Fresno, (Calif.) Sanitary Landfill as a national historic landmark. This is the kind of place we have previously heard that Norton so much admires. Here is the Monday, August 27th, news release of this national treasure:

"The Fresno Sanitary Landfill was opened in 1937 and closed in 1987. "It is the oldest 'true' sanitary landfill in the United States and the oldest to employ compartmentalized municipal landfill in the western United States, holding a service record of more than 50 years of continuous operation. It is the first landfill to employ the trench method of disposal and the first to utilize compaction. At the Fresno site, the layering of refuse and dirt in trenches, compacting the dirt and refuse, and then covering the filled areas daily to minimize rodent and debris problems represented the technique adopted by the builders of modern society landfills, and thus represented a true sanitary landfill, not simply a modification on older land-dumping methods.

These special sites (the Fresno dump was one of 15 new national landmarks) underscore our heritage and tell stories of periods of events in our history, Norton said. By preserving these unique sites, we share our culture and rich diversity with our children for future generations to learn from and enjoy."

Well, the evil Baroness discovered that this particular national treasure—79 million tons of rotting garbage, leeching paints, solvents, and other hazardous chemicals into the groundwater— also is an EPA superfund site. So far it has cost the taxpayers \$38 million dollars in cleanup costs, and the work has hardly begun.

Maybe Interior will build a Fresno Sanitary Landfill visitor center and assign some rangers for interpretative talks around the campfire. The campfire in this case is the continuous methane fire that burns the dump.

## **CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT—JUNEAU—Stevens Passage 21**

Four Seasons Marine and Tour, Inc., proposes to construct on Colt Island a 100 foot long by 12 foot wide dock connected to a 200 foot long by 8 foot wide gangway connected to shore by a concrete or timber abutment with 6 piles, 3 anchors. They also propose a marine wastewater outfall extending to approx. -4 feet. **Purpose:** to provide moorage for marine vessels and wastewater treatment facility to a tourist industry operation.

## AQUATIC FARM FOR THE CULTURE OF GEODUCK CLAMS AND LITTLENECK CLAMS PROPOSED IN BRIDGET COVE By Mary Lou King

The Narrative Application begins: "This site offers good habitat and easy, year around access via the road system to Juneau. The North Bridget Cove site is located just off the Juneau road system about 38 miles North of Juneau. The location is ideal for access and yet distant enough from the population center to avoid use conflict."

**This access just happens to be on one of Juneau's Natural Area Parks.** The Park is in an extremely beautiful area and heavily used for picnicking, clam digging, seaweed gathering (one of the few places not polluted by human activity on the road system), minus tide walks, hiking, and camping by church and other groups, and numerous individuals. One of the hiking trails to Point Bridget State Park is located in this park. It is a rare day to see an empty parking lot at the trailhead.

When the Forest Service's Eagle River Picnic site is transferred to State Parks, with the accompanying fee for use, then North Bridget Park will become even more popular and heavily used. This area might then be extremely important for providing some essential park amenities that increased use would necessitate.

The Narrative Application further states: "An upland caretaker facility is not required for this site as it is accessible by road. However, a caretaker facility would be preferable... The farm site will cover about 4000 sq. ft. of intertidal area with a mix of Geoduck and Little Neck clams. The Geoduck will be seeded in plastic tubes, open at the bottom and covered at the top with plastic mesh ... The Little Neck clams will be seeded under a plastic mesh tarp... between the tubes. ... Geoduck can be harvested (after 4 years) either by water wands or suction tubes at either low or minus tides and the Little Necks will be harvested with hand rakes."

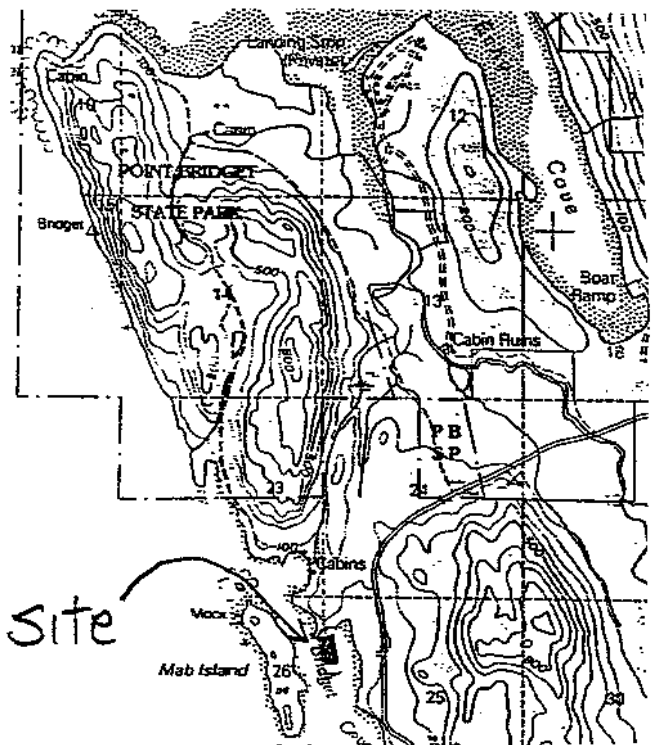
Is this really what we want to do with our parks and public tideflats? Both the State and the CBJ Assembly must give approval before permits could be issued.

For more information or to submit comments  
Contact: Div. Of Governmental Coordination  
PO Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0030

Jennifer Garland 465-3177  
[Jennifer\\_Garland@gov.state.ak.us](mailto:Jennifer_Garland@gov.state.ak.us)

Contact: CBJ Assembly Members  
155 S. Seward Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

Mayor Sally Smith 586-5240 (W)  
[Sally\\_Smith@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:Sally_Smith@ci.juneau.ak.us)



## EXCERPTS FROM EAGLECHAT

**From: "Bev Agler"** --I was out on the wetlands dike trail at noon today, Monday 1 Oct and there were lots and lots ~50+ sparrows in one little stretch (the beginning of the forest). All species, though mostly golden-crowned. Twelve golden-crowned in one binocular view. Certainly enough to make me practice sparrows, which are my nemesis!

Also a peregrine falcon, 2 pectoral sandpipers, and a northern harrier. So migration is still on, contrary to how I felt on Saturday when I walked into the flats and only saw a few pectoral sandpipers and 30 western sandpipers (peeps).

**From: spruceak@yahoo.com**  
**Subject: Sparrows, thrushes at Gustavus too**

There's been a large concentration of golden-crowned sparrows at Gustavus too since Sat., 9/29, and also large numbers of robins, and varied and hermit thrushes during the same time. Presumably these are northern birds flushed out by cooling weather that have "fallen out" in Southeast for a short time until more favorable migration conditions arrive. The warblers have gone, though!

**From: Laurie Ferguson Craig <lauriecraig@gci.net>**  
**Subject: Dike trail closure possible**

**A rumor is circulating that FAA and the airport may announce soon that the airport dike trail will be closed for security purposes.** We need to be prepared with arguments about why that move would be unnecessary. Remember, the trail is on airport property. Here are some thoughts:

1. The hundreds of people who walk the trail are the best security available. We are citizen monitors who are familiar with who uses the trail and where they go. Neither the FAA nor the airport has staff to patrol the trail or airport perimeter but we do it regularly each day. (Will they use the national guard to protect the perimeter?) It is an overreaction to prevent use of the trail and keep the public out.
2. The hunters are our allies. We do not want hunting discontinued from the wetlands. At the most, certain areas might be restricted from shooting -- like directly beneath the flight path -- but hunting (and hiking) are essential traditional uses and there is little threat from either group.
3. FENCE the runway and floatpond immediately. Electrify the fence if needed to detect breaches. The entire east side of the runway and floatpond are completely open to access without a trail, plus the wetlands are open from a boat or other approach from the channel or Douglas so keeping us of the trail leaves the airport more vulnerable.

## JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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**Yes! I want to join Juneau Audubon and National Audubon Society!**

\$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate     \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate     \$30 - 2 year Special Rate

My check is enclosed.     Please bill me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529    **A51  
7XCH**

**If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above writing in Juneau Audubon only and send \$10 to: The Raven Editor, PO Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802**

### JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

President: Steve Zimmerman 586-2597

Vice President: Brenda Wright 789-4656

Secretary: Deanna MacPhail 789-0651

Treasurer: George Utermohle 586-3849

Programs: Open

Membership: Prill Mollick

Education: Amy Skilbred 780-4649

Publicity: Debbie Rudis 789-4260

Conservation: Chris Kent 463-3494

Field Trips: Open

Raven Editor: Mary Lou King 789-7540

Springfest Coordinators: Judy Shuler 789-9544,

Kathy Weltzin 789-0288

### JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB PAGE

Be sure to check out our home page on the Internet. It's hosted by the folks that have developed JUNEAU.COM. Our site's URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://www.juneau.com/audubon/audubon1.htm> -- add it to your favorites!. Recent editions of the Juneau Audubon Newsletter are posted along with links to the Anchorage and National Audubon sites. If you're interested in Corps of Engineers permits, they are posted with this month's newsletter. We are always looking for pictures, stories or ideas to post on our web site. To contribute, email Chris Kent at [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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# The Raven



Volume 28, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2001

## November Meeting

Thursday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.

Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### Photographing Nature with a Digital Camera

About a year ago Bob Armstrong put aside his heavy Nikon camera equipment, purchased a tiny (9 oz) digital camera and proceeded to push it "to its limit" – from extreme macro (mosquito size) to extreme telephoto (1,500 mm) and points in-between. He will describe what he has learned, demonstrate the equipment and show slides of the results.

Sarah Keeney, Water Quality/Mining Organizer for Southeast Alaska Conservation Council will also present an update on the potential re-opening of the Tulsequah Chief mine and upcoming hearings (see page 3).

### Audubon at the Juneau Public Market November 23-25



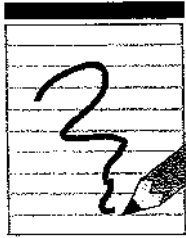
Do you have two hours to spend in Audubon's booth at the Juneau Public Market on Friday, Saturday or Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend?

It's fun, interesting and a good way to be an active Auduboner.

Audubon's booth at Juneau Public Market is our major fund-raising event and a chance for us to be visible in our community.

Please call Kathy at 789-0288 to choose a shift.

Juneau Audubon Society will receive 100% of membership dues for all new members the chapter recruits throughout the coming year. It's an especially good time to invite new people to join.



# Notes from the board

## Newsletter

**Judy Shuler**

It is with more than a little trepidation that I have agreed to take over as Raven editor from long-time editor Mary Lou King. Mary Lou plans to spend more time in other chapter projects, including education where she has already contributed so much. Please thank her for the many years she has spent packing the Raven with information, and insuring that it came out on schedule month after month.

Please forward your suggestions and articles for the Raven to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net). Together we can make it a vehicle for tying together the interests and concerns of our 350+ members in 16 communities from Ketchikan to Skagway.

## New officers

The following officers were elected at the October 11 membership meeting.

President: Steve Zimmerman

Secretary: Deanna MacPhail

Treasurer: George Utermohl

## You can make a real difference

Do you have an idea for a monthly program? Concern for a particular species or habitat? A field trip you'd like to participate in or lead? A computer skill to share? Contact any of the people listed on the back page to fill a vacant chair, join a committee or take an active role in your local chapter in some other way.



*Steven D'Amato*

## Is this your last Raven?

Please check the date your membership expires in the top right corner of your mailing label (The first two digits identify the year, the second two, the month. Example: 0201 means January of 2002). **If your membership has expired, this will be your last issue of The Raven.** We encourage you to renew your National membership on the forms National sends to you. Use the form on the back of this newsletter for new members and support for just the Juneau Chapter.

### **E-Raven?**

The chapter's major expense is printing and mailing the newsletter. Would you like to help save paper and chapter money and reduce the volume of your monthly mail? Send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) if you'd like to receive The Raven in MS Word or rich text (read by most word processing programs).

### **December Raven Deadline**

**Please submit articles for the December issue no later than November 26 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)**

# The Taku Needs You

Sarah Keeney, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

The British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office will hold a series of three important public hearings in Juneau, Whitehorse, and Atlin on the potential re-opening of the Tulsequah Chief mine in northern BC. The Juneau hearing will likely be the first week of December.

Just 40 miles northeast of Juneau, a junior Canadian mining company known as Redcorp Ventures, plans to reopen the Tulsequah Chief Mine and to construct a nearly 100-mile access road straight through the heart of the Taku River watershed. The road would increase access for new industrial-scale logging and make development of 5 other mines along the road corridor economically viable. Prospectors have already staked massive claims along the road corridor because of this road proposal. The mine and access road will likely damage Alaska water quality and harm the five species of wild salmon traversing Alaskan waters to spawn in Canada.

The world-class Taku River watershed contains some of the richest wildlife habitat in North America, supporting large populations of wild salmon, grizzly and black bears, wolves, stone sheep, moose, caribou, mountain goat, and migratory birds. The Taku also has one of the largest salmon runs in both Southeast Alaska and British Columbia; usually, it's among the top five salmon producers in Alaska. These salmon sustain thousands of commercial, sport and tribal fishing families. Annually, Alaskan fishermen catch more than 2 million fish from the Taku River, with a value of more than \$10 million. The Taku is also home to healthy populations of steelhead trout, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, and eulachon.

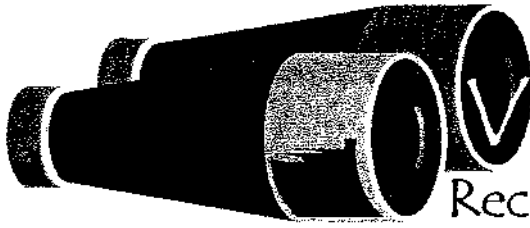
The Taku is the traditional homeland of indigenous people on both sides of the border. The Taku River watershed has supported the subsistence of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) for thousands of years. The TRTFN successfully challenged the province of British Columbia in the courts claiming the province's environmental review was seriously flawed. The BC government appealed this court ruling; we expect a decision by the end of the year. Last summer, after a court decision quashed RedCorps' mining permit, a BC Supreme Court judge ordered the original project review committee to reconvene and carefully consider the TRTFN's concerns. The TRTFN's outstanding concerns include impacts of the mine and road on water quality and sustainability of the livelihoods of TRTFN members. These issues will be the focus of the public hearings this winter.

For the past several years, U.S. federal agencies, the State of Alaska, Governor Tony Knowles, commercial and sport fishermen, Alaska natives, local Juneau residents with summer cabins up the river, and conservationists on both sides of the border have raised serious concerns about the impacts of the mine and road on the watershed and Alaska's fisheries. The Governor and former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt requested an impartial project review by the International Joint Commission, created by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. Canada, however, continues to balk at a bi-national, impartial scientific review. Unfortunately, forces are also lining up in the new U.S. administration to undo the protective policies of the Clinton Administration, and the fate of the Taku hangs in the balance.

Please keep an eye out for details about the date, time, and location of the Taku hearing in the coming weeks, and plan to attend the public hearing. Speak out to safeguard the wild Taku, protect habitat for fish, wildlife, and birds, and to protect million-dollar fisheries and the families who depend on wild salmon.

For more information, call Sarah Keeney at the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council: 586-6942, or email: [sarah@seacc.org](mailto:sarah@seacc.org)

**Please Testify at the December Public Hearing in Juneau**



## Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings

### Haines

#### **Bald Eagle Gathering in Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve**

The 7th Alaska Bald Eagle Festival November 8-11 will feature talks by wildlife experts from Alaska, Canada and the Lower 48; digital and film photo workshops; art exhibits; live eagle presentations; guided tours of the Council Grounds; the Gei Sun Dancers; and more.

Keynote speakers will include Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer; Brian Latta and Janet Lithicum of the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Center; and wildlife photographer and conservationist Gary Braasch.

If you're not able to make the festival, you have through January to witness this great gathering of eagles. But don't expect a quiet time of it. Eagles whistle, call, shriek, and flap from trees, river banks, sand bars, the very sky above.

Further information is available from the Haines Chamber of Commerce or <http://baldeaglefest.org/>

### Sitka

#### **The Whales of Sitka Sound**

During the first weekend in November, Sitka celebrates the abundant marinelife in Sitka Sound with speakers, student art, sea chantey concert, market and whale-watching opportunities during the Sitka WhaleFest.

But you still have plenty of time to see the show along the outer coast of Baranof Island in Sitka Sound. Whale numbers are the highest between September and January, when whales come to Sitka Sound to feed on huge schools of herring which move into deep fjords to spend the fall and winter. Researchers have documented transit times between Sitka Sound and Hawaii as just over a month, so many of these whales present in January and early February still will migrate to Hawaii in time for the peak of the mating and calving activities. More information at <http://sitkawhalefest.org>

### Gustavus

#### **Bruce Paige**

The big early bird migration has already passed however, some of the later migrants and wintering birds are beginning to arrive. Several flocks of Tundra Swans have passed overhead and Ring-neck Ducks and Canvasbacks have been observed. Northern Pygmy Owls have been seen in several locations around Gustavus.

Juneau Audubon Society has members in these communities:  
Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican,  
Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell



## Recent excerpts from Eaglechat

Tonight (Oct. 24) about 5 PM 18-20 Swans landed in the channel in front of Bayview on North Douglas. They spent time on the other side near the wetlands. They were magnificent. They departed just at dark and headed down the channel toward town. <jhauck@gci.net>

Today (Oct. 26) at about 2:45 PM there was a boreal chickadee foraging in the marsh grasses and low in spruce trees along the dike trail about 200 yards past the point where you come down off the dike (just before a slough located on your right). It was foraging by itself and was silent. <paulms@gci.net>

Just returned from my morning walk (Oct. 29) on the airport dike trail and I want to report a most excited sighting! A GORGEOUS SNOWY OWL!! I do not recall ever seeing a snowy owl in Juneau, but one of the long time dog walkers reported this morning that she had seen one fly overhead on the wetlands several years ago.

The owl is actually quite easy to view. Its stark white plumage is unmistakable. Huge yellow eyes with black centers, black spots on its wings and sides and on the crown of its large round head. This is a whoopee! sighting! lauriecraig@gci.net

*Eaglechat was started in 1999 by Nina Mollett to share sightings and chat about all things bird-related. To join in with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or sent Nina an email at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

## The Other Thanksgiving Birds

After the main attraction is consumed, you could take an hour break to join in the Thanksgiving Bird Count.

Thanksgiving Bird Counts were begun in 1966 in Virginia; last year 449 people in the western states, Alaska and Hawaii tallied 149 species of birds.

To participate, choose a circle 15 feet in diameter and carve out an hour-long (precisely one hour) block of time. The location and time are up to you. It's not out of line to pick an area clearly visible from a comfortable spot near a window so long as it's likely to attract birds. Think of your circle as a cylinder reaching from ground to sky, as you want to consider any bird who passes through the entire area above your circle.

Count individual birds only once during the hour, even if they pay repeated visits. Flocks should be counted only once, when you determine the largest number inside your area. If you participate over a period of years, use the same count circle every year.

Send results to the address below. Include your name, mailing address, location of count, temperature, time your count began and ended, weather, habitat type, details about any feeders or bird baths within the count area.

**Dr. John G. Hewston**  
Natural Resources Building  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521



# The Patience of Stones

Richard Nelson

Since the tragedies of September 11, the only way I have found release from the almost unbearable weight of grief and fear is to take myself out into the wild places, where I can find the embrace of peace, where I can see that the world goes on as always, where I can touch my own source and understand that my life depends not just on the good graces of humankind, but also - and ultimately - on my sustenance from the earth itself.

Once again, I ask wild nature to brace up my depleted soul. And in gratitude, I renew my pledge to give something back.

This is why I will continue working to protect the environment even in these dark days. Now, perhaps more than ever, many of us need unhewn, unfettered places to find solace and replenish our spirits, to imagine a sane and reasonable future, to weave our lives together with those of our fellow beings, to understand that we are beholden to - and responsible for - something incomparably larger and more important than ourselves.

I have heard that conservationists all around the country feel overpowered by the situation, as if it had become inappropriate or unpatriotic to speak for the environment; as if our concerns had become irrelevant, measured against the magnitude and urgency of the national crisis. And yet, in the spreading aftermath of terrorism, there are proposals to diminish environmental protections, increase and subsidize resource development, and make more of our national public wildlands available to industry. The most stunning example is an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill, filed by Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma, that would mandate oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Is this a time to move quietly aside? I say, unequivocally, no. I trust we have the integrity and determination not to allow our environment, our natural preserves, and our wildlife to become additional victims of terror, magnifying the dimension and permanency of our loss.

Through many years of volunteer work in conservation, I have come to see that activism fully engages us in the democratic process, that the freedom to express our opinion is a precious gift, and that conservation is a way of speaking out for the American land, perhaps the ultimate form of patriotism.

While our flags are waving and patriotism is a constant subject in public discourse, those of us who care deeply about the environment can add our voices as true patriots - not only supporting our human community but also the earth on which our nation stands.

My commitment to conservation activism and my willingness to work for America's natural heritage has never been stronger than it is now. My love and concern for this country, for our democratic principles, and for people everywhere is equally strengthened.

And as each day's events unfold, confronted by my sadness and my fear, I will look for comfort and balance where I always have: in the beauty of seagull voices, in the shelter of forests, in the power of storms, in the companionship of otters, in the affirmation of moonlight, in the confidence of wrens, in the dignity of mountains, in the tenderness of deer, in the perseverance of tides, in the elusiveness of seals, in the ephemerality of leaves, in the stoicism of bears, in the self-containment of islands, in the willingness of salmon, in the strength of roots, in the jubilation of streams, in the wisdom of ravens, in the patience of stones, in the assurance of dawn.

With profound thanks for all these things, and for the blessed company of humankind, I will offer my hands and my heart in whatever small way they might be of use - and in this, too, I will find hope.

*This article originally appeared on OrionOnline.org, the website of Orion and Orion Afield magazines. Requests to reprint this article may be directed to [editor@orionsociety.org](mailto:editor@orionsociety.org)*

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Volunteer Lobbying

### Sue Schrader

Alaska Conservation Voters (ACV), a statewide coalition of 35 Alaskan conservation organizations and businesses, will offer its Citizen Volunteer Lobbyist Program again during the State Legislative Session beginning January 14<sup>th</sup>.

ACV will bring 4 to 5 conservationists to Juneau during the course of the session to work side-by-side with ACV's Conservation Advocate and her staff as they advocate on behalf of our member groups in the state legislature.

The organization is looking for enthusiastic, hard-working conservationists who can spend 3 to 4 weeks in Juneau (4 weeks is preferable) during the session. Selected volunteers will receive airfare, per diem, housing and training in the ins and outs of state government. Join us for an eye-opening, challenging experience in Alaska's capital.

Learn about the inner workings of state government and hone your skills as an activist as you learn to work with, and influence, public officials and their staffs of our State Legislature and the Knowles Administration. You will learn to analyze and research bills, draft position papers, testify at committee hearings, effectively lobby legislators and their staffs and activate the grass-roots to take action.

**Applications are due December 28<sup>th</sup>.**

E-mail or call: Sue Schrader, Conservation Advocate

Alaska Conservation Voters, P.O. Box 22151, Juneau, AK 99802

phone: 907-463-3366 fax: 907-463-3312 email: [sue@akvoice.org](mailto:sue@akvoice.org)

## Calendar of Events

### Evening at Egan

#### University of Alaska Southeast

Free public lectures begin at 7 p.m. **Fridays** in the campus library

**Nov. 2** - N. Scott Momaday, 1969 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction; poet; scholar

**Nov. 9** - "Brown Bears - Growing up at Pack Creek," Dr. Robert Fagen, UAF associate professor of biometrics; Johanna Fagen, UAS adjunct faculty in biology

**Nov. 16** - "The Evolution of Tlingit and Haida Art," Steve Hendrikson, Alaska State Museum curator of collections

**Nov. 23** - Thanksgiving weekend, no program

**Nov. 30** - "This Note's for You: English Poetry and the Quest for Authenticity," Jim Hale, UAS assistant professor of English

### Partners in Flight Conference

The 3rd Partners In Flight International Conference will be held March 20-24 at the Asilomar State Park Conference Center near Monterey, California. The focus will be on implementing all-bird conservation actions identified by Partners In Flight, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the U. S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. Session chairs and presenters will come from the U. S., Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

Further information is available at the conference web site (<http://www.prbo.org/PIF/NPIF2002.htm>)

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

### Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

A51  
7XCH

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Raven Editor, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

**President:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, stevezimmerman@gci.net  
**Vice-President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, jnoel@gci.net  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651  
**Treasurer:** George Utermohl, 586-3849, norwaypt@gci.net  
**Programs:** Open  
**Membership:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, kingfarm@ptialaska.net  
**Education:** Amy Skilbred, 780-4649, skilbred@aol.com  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260  
**Conservation:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, ckent@alaska.net  
**Field Trips:** Open  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, upclose@alaska.net  
**Public Market Coordinator:** Kathy Weltzin, 789-0288

**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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*Kirsten Munson*

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PO BOX 210106  
AUKE BAY, AK 99821

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# The Raven



Volume 28, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2001

## December Meeting

Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.

Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### Managing for birds, planes, hikers at the Juneau Airport: a unique challenge

Invited speakers include Juneau Mayor Sally Smith, Airport Manager Allan Heese, a representative of the Federal Aviation Administration and local trail user Laurie Ferguson Craig.

View from Airport dike trail



Judy Shuter

## Market Report

Kathy Weltzin, coordinator

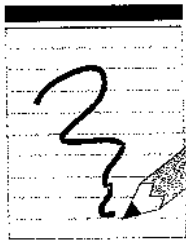
**THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Audubon booth at the Juneau Public Market. People stored things, made things, hauled things, sold things, donated things.

It was a great cooperative venture!

Jam was, as usual, the cornerstone of the booth. Nagoonberry jam had a limit of three to each person and numerous people thanked us for this new plan.

All in all it was a good fund raiser and a good chance to make new contacts for Audubon. Until next year...

- \* Please keep your eyes open for things we could sell at the booth next year.
- \* Erin Chalmers won the fish print in our drawing.
- \* A small amount of jam will be available for sale at the December meeting.



## Notes from the board

Brenda Wright, vice-president

Thanks to Matt Kirchhoff and Bonnie Toleman for volunteering to help the Juneau Audubon Chapter! Matt is Program chair and Bonnie is the field trips committee chair. Please help them in their new roles by suggesting your friends (or yourself) to provide a program for our monthly chapter meetings, or provide your birding expertise or enthusiasm for field trips. Since we can't all visit and explore all the exotic locations, why not share with others?

The Juneau Audubon chapter focuses its energy on local environmental concerns such as the airport expansion and wildlife management plan, the Bridget Cove clam farm, and also the proposed golf course on North Douglas. Volunteers with a special enthusiasm for these issues provide the lead in organizing information for protecting wildlife—especially birds. The Juneau chapter also emphasizes educational field trips. If you would like to help provide help in any of these projects, please contact any of the board or chair persons.

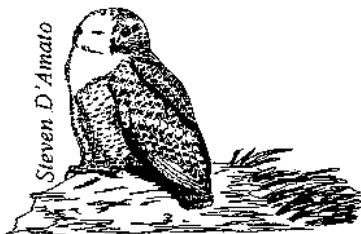
Every time of year has its special rewards when you live in as beautiful a place as Juneau. This period of shortening days is often one of my favorites to get out on the water for a short paddle in the kayak. There may not be multitudes of birds to see, but when the water is calm you can see all of our avian neighbors who stay with us throughout our winter. The golden eye and murrelets are often less wary of a few kayaks paddling slowly in their direction. Often they will wait until you can see them clearly before ducking under the water. The loons, harlequin, grebes, and scoters may be just around the next small point, or in the lee of the next small island. There are few recreational boats out, so the whales and sea lions can often be heard at great distances. Although it will be a long time before the days begin to lengthen, it can still be a wonderful time to enjoy our luck at having such a wildlife full place to live.

Enjoy the season!

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*Brenda Wright's name was inadvertently omitted from the slate of officers elected at the October meeting. Election for vice-president will be held at the December membership meeting.*

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Juneau Audubon Society will receive 100% of membership dues for all new members the chapter recruits throughout the coming year. Or give a bargain-rate holiday gift subscription anywhere in the U.S.—that money will also come back to our local chapter. See details and form on page 9.

### E-Raven?

The chapter's major expense is printing and mailing the newsletter. Would you like to help save paper and chapter money and reduce the volume of your monthly mail? Send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) if you'd like to receive The Raven in MS Word or rich text (read by most word processing programs).

### January Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the January issue no later than December 21 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)

# Claiming our middle ground

Chris Kent, conservation chair

Shortly after the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> we heard the president say that you're either with us or against us in the fight against terrorism. His statements didn't leave governments much room for opinions.

This same sort of labeling is occurring within the editorial pages of the Juneau Empire and in statements made by Alaska's congressional delegation. You're either for development or you're an extreme environmentalist. If we offer opinions that differ, especially alternatives to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, opposing a road out of Juneau, or question the wisdom of a golf course or the continuing industrial clear cutting on the Tongass we are called "extremist."

Our positions are marginalized, labeled as extremist, and not representative. What the opinions of the Juneau paper and the congressional delegation want is to remake the middle ground as their positions. I want nothing more than for my positions to also be seen as middle ground, representative of others and not "extremists."

The latest opinion to appear in the Empire explains that Alaska resources could give America energy and mineral security if only it wasn't locked up and guarded by extremist minority.

Companies are fleeing the unstable third world and need a place to mine, log and look for oil. What kind of security does this opinion protect? Are we protecting the status quo? Are we really making the world a safer, more secure place for all of us to live? Or are we making a more secure source of wealth for corporations?

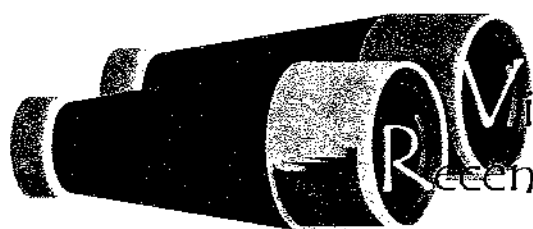
On one point I do agree with the name callers, things have to change. America has to change. America can not afford to continue to use a quarter of the world's resources at the expense of the future's environmental equity and expect the third world not to notice.

As solutions, I think we would find more security if we drove cars that got 50 to 70 miles per gallon instead of protecting massive pipelines, and if we used alternatives to rain forest lumber like bamboo and alternatives to paper. There would be more security if we created products that are completely recyclable and not throw-a-ways. We would have more security if we give more to the world than a culture based on consumerism. The third world needs our support and not exploitation by us to continue our way of life.

Our strength, like a healthy ecosystem, is diversity. A diversity of opinions, and a forum for expressing our thoughts without the viciousness of name-calling. Continuing to use the tactics of categorizing and demonizing those that oppose your opinion leads us away from understanding. It's important for us to tell the Juneau Empire and our congressional delegation that we expect more of them. We should expect opinions to be respected and editorials to be less divisive and most importantly we should expect leadership from our delegation. These goals can not be met if we don't participate and express our positions.

Please check the date your membership expires in the top right corner of your mailing label (The first two digits identify the year, the second two, the month. Example: 0201 means January of 2002). **If your membership has expired, this will be your last issue of The Raven.** We encourage you to renew your National membership on the forms National sends to you. Use the form on the back of this newsletter for new members and support for just the Juneau Chapter.

Is this your  
last Raven?



## Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings



### 2001 Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Mark Schwan

Last year there were 11 Christmas Bird Counts conducted in Southeast Alaska, and 35 across the entire state. Kodiak led all counts with 68 species on count day, with Juneau and Glacier Bay in close second with 65 species. Only 130 species were cumulatively recorded from the 35 counts, and it again shows that throughout much of the state, and especially when you get away from the milder coastal environments, species diversity is quite low. Once again, the Prudhoe Bay count tallied just one species, Common Raven.

We are entering an exciting new era for the Christmas Bird Count, as the Audubon Society is becoming immersed in the new world of information technology. Count data are now accessible as never before and compilers are entering Count results directly into the database via the internet. Historical Count data from 1900 to the present are currently available through BirdSource <[www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org)>, a cooperative project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. This has been a huge task and isn't finished yet, but the implications are very significant. Given the ease in which data will be available for research and analysis, the century-long database will surely begin to show its true worth.

Since the count data are now available on-line, Audubon has decided to change the format of its special Christmas Bird Count issue of American Birds. It will publish only the regional summaries, not individual count results as in the past. But this issue will include more pictorial highlights and most importantly, articles on research involving the CBC data. This issue will be provided to all CBC volunteers paying the five-dollar participation fee.

#### Community Christmas Bird Count schedules

##### **Craig**

Saturday, December 15. Meet the night before to coordinate. For further information contact Marla Dillman at 826-1617

##### **Gustavus**

Saturday, December 15. Contact Bruce Paige at 697-2262 for information.

##### **Juneau**

Saturday, December 15. Volunteers should meet at either of the two McDonalds Restaurants no later than 8 a.m. with appropriate attire and binoculars. People interested in counting in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown restaurant; birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the valley restaurant. Hopefully, our veteran group leaders will again be available to participate. Juneau is fortunate to have a group of dedicated CBC volunteers to lead the charge each year. Although birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate, the veteran, more skilled observers are invaluable in assuring species identification is as accurate as possible and that areas are covered rather consistently from year to year. As always, there will be a potluck after the count to share in the events of the day and to conduct the tally of birds and species seen. The potluck will likely be at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam, but the exact location and time will be finalized and announced when volunteers meet on count day. Contact Mark Schwan at 789-9841.



### Ketchikan

Saturday, December 15. Sign up at a 7 p.m. meeting Dec. 7 at the U.S. Forest Service Discovery Center. Contact Steve Heintz at 225-7628.

### Sitka

Sunday, December 16. Contact Alice Johnston at 747-3931

### Thorne Bay

Saturday, December 22. Contact Ellen Lance at 828-3261.

### Wrangell

Saturday, December 15. Contact Bonnie Demerjian at 874-3665.

## EAGLECHAT



To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.

### Raven at A&P, Tuesday, Nov. 20

In the parking lot just now, a raven was jumping up and down and cawing loudly. Another raven landed beside him, there was a scuffle, and then the challenger flew away. I have a feeling I was seeing the last scene in this battle. A number of feathered observers were sort of discussing this amongst themselves. The victorious raven was clearly very excited after he chased the other one away, he hopped around, strutted, pecked hard at the ground, and found a cup with some coke in that he first drank from ostentatiously, then kicked over. I can overcome fellow ravens! he seemed to be saying. I can strut my stuff! I can even deal with human technology! With paper cups! I just toss them around!!! [nina.mollett@noaa.gov](mailto:nina.mollett@noaa.gov)

### Seeking Swifts

We are seeking information on the occurrence of Black Swifts in SE AK. This species is poorly understood and thought to be possibly declining in the northern part of the range. At the present, we are not sure exactly how far north they nest. However, flocks have been observed in SE AK the summer, mostly in interior river valleys from the Stikine River south. Do you have any observations to report? Are you interested in going out and looking for them? A protocol for searching for nests is being developed by Bob Altman from the American Bird Conservancy. The FS is seeking funding to give logistical support (transportation and training) to volunteers who would be interested in taking a trip to a likely waterfall (or other potential nest site) next summer. Information on Vaux's swift would be helpful as well. Contact: Gwen Baluss, [gwenbaluss@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenbaluss@yahoo.com) 790-7425 or or Don Youkey [dyoukey@fs.fed.us](mailto:dyoukey@fs.fed.us) 790-7424

### NEWS FLASH!!! BLACK THROATED BLUE WARBLER IN JUNEAU, Thursday, Nov. 22

This morning a Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at a house in Tee Harbor. [stevezimmerman@gsi.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gsi.net)

## The swans are here

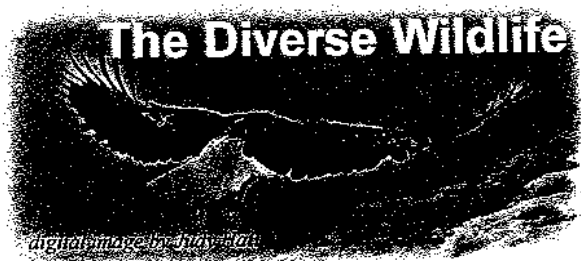
### Barry Bracken, Petersburg

There were 27 trumpeters in front of the Blind Slough Swan Observatory at mid-afternoon on Oct. 31 and 40 on November 4, which is a very high count and fairly early for these birds. There were also four great blue herons, and a variety of ducks and geese in plain view from the observatory.

We should have good waterfowl viewing through the end of November and into early December and even beyond if we don't get a hard freeze. Keep in mind that Wrangell Narrows also offers some exceptional opportunities to view and photograph a variety of gulls and divers. For further information or logistical information on visiting Petersburg, contact Barry Bracken at [bbsea@alaska.net](mailto:bbsea@alaska.net)



Kirsten Munson



# Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

## Beyond but not above Eagles

Judy Hall

The gathering of over 3,000 thousand bald eagles along a few miles of the Chilkat River near Klukwan to feast on spawning chum salmon attracts several hundred *Homo sapiens* to the annual Bald Eagle Festival.

While Novembers' Festival focuses on the eagle—as well it should—participants are treated to displays of other species as well: the trumpeter swan, black-billed magpie, chickadee, raven, belted kingfisher, great blue heron, American dipper, common merganser, Barrows goldeneye, mew gull, glaucous-winged gull, brown and the occasional black bear, river otter, moose, wolf, goat, red squirrel and ermine.

While the breeding population of bald eagles outside Alaska plummeted in the late 1950's, the trumpeter swan also experienced massive population decline bordering on extinction. In 1932, 69 trumpeters, protected in a refuge near Yellowstone, were thought to be the only survivors of their species. The reason: human desire for swan meat and feathered skins for powder puffs. In 1958, biologists discovered trumpeters nesting in a remote region in Alaska. Just as bald eagles from Southeast Alaska were used to replenish eagle populations in California, Alaska trumpeters were used in restorations programs in the Lower 48 as well.

Today trumpeter populations are on the rise. On several lakes in the Yukon this fall, I found a surprising number of these, the largest waterfowl on the planet. An aerial survey conducted in the Chilkat Valley on August 16<sup>th</sup> of this year resulted in a count of 171 swans. During this year's Festival, we spotted 5 trumpeters—including two cygnets—in a far channel of the Chilkat River surrounded by mergansers, eagles and gulls. Some appear to be over wintering in the Valley as well. Last year, 20 trumpeters were counted on the River in January.

Just when Chilkat Valley Stellar's jay head south in fall, the magpies arrive. Visitors to the Preserve get to enjoy magpie antics, especially their brazen actions along with the raven and gull to snatch chum tidbits in full view of the eagle that did all the work landing the fish!

While an eagle can wrestle a 12-pound salmon to shore, dippers are capable of swimming and walking underwater in search of a meal, primarily insect larva. Dippers, referred to as water ouzels by naturalist John Muir, are the only songbird capable of such a feat.

They are also heard voicing incredible soliloquies year round; not just during the breeding season. Last week, along the lower reaches of the Chilkoot River—one drainage east of the Chilkat—I was privy to such a musical treat.

While all other spotting scopes and cameras are aimed toward eagle displacement action on the Chilkat River, I visually combed the mountainside for signs of mountain goat and bear. Clouds made most on-high viewing a challenge. And off-white coats are difficult to discern against pure-white snow.

During last year's festival, I spotted several goat herds making tracks in snow on a ridge visible from the 21-mile turnout. These denizens of mountains meadows and cliffs—related to antelope—appear more like mountain ghosts. Several eagle enthusiasts consented to leave their cameras to take a peek at these incredible mountaineers!

So while it is understandable to be a bit eagle-centric this time of year in the *Valley of the Eagles*, remember, "diversity is the spice of (wild)life!"



## Large scale motorized tours damage Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve habitat

Katya Kirsch, SEACC

### The Threats

In the wake of rapidly growing large-scale commercial tourism, the State of Alaska is revising plans for the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve and the Haines State Forest. Your help is needed to stop large-scale motorized tours that are damaging natural resources in the Preserve.

The Preserve status protects the eagles, and also specifically guarantees protection of the vast wild salmon spawning and rearing activity that provides for subsistence uses in Haines and Klukwan, and the Lynn Canal fishery. Eagles, salmon and traditional use protection are the statutory purpose of this state preserve. The Preserve was created 20 years ago to end the fight over resource allocation near Haines. Surrounding the preserve is a vast state forest open to multiple-use, while the Preserve is dedicated solely to preserve purposes.

However, large motorized tours now threaten the Preserve. Subsistence activities are being displaced and habitat is being damaged. Commercial use is not a Preserve purpose, yet large boats carrying 30 passengers, powered by twin 150 HP jet drive engines, and traveling at high speeds, are causing erosion of banks, displacement of traditional activities and damage to salmon rearing habitat within the Preserve.

The Village of Klukwan has protested the growth of large boat tours and local Native allotment holders have complained of property damage and displacement. Local fish and game officials have expressed concern over habitat damage, but feel intimidated locally. Even former Governor Jay Hammond and the retired legislators who crafted the language regulating commercial use in the Preserve have affirmed the need for continued protection.

On the other hand, local business advocates have branded protectors of the Preserve as "enviro-nazis." Local Parks and DNR officials have been subject to severe pressures. The battle to protect the Preserve is far from won. Without strong public input from people like you, protections will be degraded and the pristine refuge for the bald eagle will be the loser.

#### ***Your help is needed!***

Please contact DNR and tell them large-scale commercial motorized tours do not belong in the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. Such tours are not compatible with the purposes of the Preserve. The Preserve is important for eagles just as the McNeil River Sanctuary is important for grizzly bears.

*If you live in Juneau:* request a hearing on the draft revised plan for the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

Please contact:

Deputy Commissioner Marty Rutherford  
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1400  
Anchorage AK 99501  
marty\_rutherford@dnr.state.ak.us  
Fax: (907) 269-8431

DNR Land Planner Bruce Phelps  
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1050  
Anchorage AK 99501  
bruce\_phelps@dnr.state.ak.us  
Fax: (907) 269-8915

Send copies to:

Bob Leoffler  
Director, DNR Div. of Lands  
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1070  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
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# Gustavus' Sandhill Crane Critical Habitat

**Hank Lentfer**

**O**f all the wonderful things about living in Gustavus the migration of the Sandhill Cranes is my most cherished. The broad, flat, open wetlands near my home attract cranes both coming and going from their breeding grounds in the Arctic. Each spring and fall I linger outside, straining to hear the calls of the first cranes. The migration is predictable yet holds a certain magic. When I heard the first batch this fall I ran from my house and joined up neighbors all standing on porches and in driveways, necks turned skyward.

The migration this fall was more drawn out than usual. The first big batch of cranes arrived on September 10. I heard the last stragglers winging south on October 7. The cranes tend to pile up here awaiting favorable weather before continuing south. At the height of migration I can stand on my porch at night and hear the soft chortle of their voices. If the next day dawns fair, the cranes rise up in small groups and circle, gaining elevation and waiting for others to join. On some unknowable clue the circling cranes straighten out into shifting V's and slide off to the south.

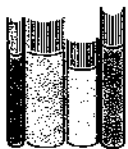
The wetlands here provide both food (mostly grass seeds) and good visibility for approaching predators. The "crane flats" are centered within the Dude Creek Critical Habitat area. The state legislature set these lands aside at the urging of local residents. The Critical Habitat Area borders Glacier Bay National Park on the west, state Mental Health Trust lands on the south and north and private land to the east. A local group, The Gustavus Land Legacy, is working with the Nature Conservancy to purchase the Mental Health and private lands surrounding the crane flats. In addition to protecting crane habitat, purchase of these lands would protect waterfowl, moose and wolf habitat. Parcels are arranged to provide a travel corridor along the beach from park boundary to park boundary. A purchase agreement has been signed with the state and we are negotiating with private land owners. All we need is to raise the estimated \$3-4 million to complete the purchase.

The land, once purchased, will be owned by the Nature Conservancy and managed by a joint committee of Conservancy staff and local residents. Similar to the state's guidelines for the Critical Habitat Area, the primary objective of the Conservancy's lands will be habitat preservation. Public uses such as hunting and berry picking will continue on the lands as long as there is no conflict with the mandate of habitat preservation. The community of Gustavus has been overwhelmingly supportive of the project. Locals residents have contributed almost 60K toward the purchase of the land. We need to raise 100K in a show of local support (including Juneau) as we seek larger contributions from outside funders.

It is hard to conceive of a more direct act of waterfowl conservation than the purchase of these lands. If anyone wishes to make a contribution or would like more information, contact:

Hank Lentfer  
Gustavus Land Legacy  
Box 162  
Gustavus, AK 99826  
697-2221  
wilder@seaknet.alaska.edu

Book  
Review  
Jim King



---

Ken Ross, 2000, Environmental Conflict in Alaska, University Press of Colorado. \$29.95, 382 pp, 81 photos, 19 tables, 18 maps, Acknowledgment for contributions from 140 people mostly Alaskans and a Bibliography of some 740 books, reports and articles. Ken Ross has made numerous trips to Alaska since 1959 and spent two winters in the remote Kobuk region. He is Professor Emeritus in Political Science at Adrian College in Michigan. His research is exhaustive and professional. His writing style is more journalistic than technical so anyone can read it. His chapters deal with: Aerial Polar Bear hunting, Bowhead Whales, spring goose hunting, Chilkat eagles, wolf control, subsistence, atomic explosions, Rampart Dam, Susitna Dam, oil pipeline, oil at sea, ANILCA, Tongass National Forest, Arctic Wildlife Refuge and more. This is an important historical review that can only become more valuable as people study what happened in the first 40 years of Alaska statehood. Some of these issues have been laid to rest but others will be with us on into the next 40 years and beyond. This is an exciting read for us here and now. Mail orders call 800-627-7377. Royalties from sales go to Alaska Conservation Foundation.





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You can give a one-year gift membership to Audubon, including a subscription to the award-winning magazine, for only \$15. **And the entire \$15 will be sent back to Juneau Audubon Society.** Recipients can live anywhere; they do not need to live in Alaska. When your order is received, a gift card will be mailed to the recipient to announce your gift. Just complete the form below.

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**700 Broadway**  
**New York, NY 10003**  
**Attn.: K. Totaro**

2GFFT

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

**Even if the comment date has passed**, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**\*\*Area-wide — Southeast Alaska**, (Reference Number CEPOA-CO SPN 2001-06) Applicant: The Corps of Engineers proposes to issue an alternative permit process for the discharge of dredge and fill material for residential and institutional developments in Southeast Alaska. Purpose: This APP would expedite processing for activities associated with construction of residential, institutional and community structures, including mechanized land clearing, removal of organic overburden, and placement of fill materials to create upland. Contact Dr. Jan Stuart at (800) 478-2712, or by email at [jan.f.stuart@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:jan.f.stuart@poa02.usace.army.mil). More information can be found at [www.poa.usace.mil/reg](http://www.poa.usace.mil/reg).

**Valdez — Mineral Creek 2**, (Reference Number P-1991-0030) Applicant: City of Valdez. Location: At Mineral Creek, beginning 3,000 feet upstream to 1,200 feet downstream of the Egan Bridge. Proposal: The applicant will excavate by bulldozer and front-end loader 25,000 cubic yards of gravel and sand on a yearly basis from the area (52.52 acres) for the next 10 years. The applicant will also discharge material below the ordinary high water mark to reinforce the existing dike that is eroding away. The amount of material could be up to 15,000 cubic yards yearly. The applicant also proposes to place temporary haul out roads and ramps where necessary to get to Mineral Creek. Most ramps will be off of dikes to prevent damage to the natural banks. Each ramp will require 142 cubic yards of fill. All haul out roads would be removed at the end of each season. Purpose: The applicant proposes to remove deposits of gravel from the creek to prevent flooding adjacent residential areas. The applicant also plans to use the gravel for road maintenance. Mitigation: The applicant will include avoidance measures to prohibit work in the creek during active flow and grade work to prevent fish being trapped in excavated areas. Comments due: **December 3, 2001**.

**Wrangell — Wrangell Harbor 92**, (Reference Number M-1976-0017) Applicant: Keith Bloom. Location: Corner of Peninsula Street and Case Avenue, one lot away from the public boat launch ramp, Lot 1 Block 83A. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 38-foot by 38-foot log float, wire wrapped with an 8-foot by 23-foot airplane ramp. The log float would be decked with untreated wood. Two steel piles will hold the ramp in place. A 4-foot by 30-foot metal ramp will access the float from an existing fill area. Purpose: Provide moorage for the applicant's plane. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *May 17, 2001*.

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 540**, (Reference Number 4-2001-1018) Applicant: Barbara Bellanich. Location: 4082 South Tongass Highway #107. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 3,570 cubic yards of fill including 920 cubic yards of armor rock, 2,500 cubic yards of shot rock and 150 cubic yards of D-1 gravel into the intertidal zone. The fill will occupy 0.15 acres. Purpose is to create a building pad for a residence. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: *December 3, 2001*.

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

## Calendar of Events

### **Tulsequah Mine Hearing**

Wednesday, December 5, 7-10 p.m., Treadwell Room, Baranof Hotel  
Room opens at 6 p.m. with reference materials available.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **You can make a real difference**

Do you have an idea for a monthly program? Concern for a particular species or habitat? A field trip you'd like to participate in or lead? A computer skill to share? Contact any of the people listed on the back page to see how you can help.



**Rare Bird  
Alert Hotline  
586-2591**

Juneau Audubon Society rare bird alert hotline provides an opportunity for local birders to report unusual sightings, and to hear what else has been reported in the Juneau area. If you see a rare or unusual bird, or want to find out what other people are seeing in Juneau, call 586-2591

Juneau Audubon Society has members in these communities:  
Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Raven Editor, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

**President:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, stevezimmerman@gci.net  
**Vice-President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, jnoel@gci.net  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, bandmac@gci.net  
**Treasurer:** George Utermohl, 586-3849, norwaypt@gci.net  
**Programs:** Matt Kirchoff, kirchoff@gci.net  
**Membership:** Amy Skilbred, 780-4649, skilbred@aol.com  
**Education:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, kingfarm@ptialaska.net  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260  
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**Field Trips:** Bonnie Toleman, btoleman@alaska.net  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, upclose@alaska.net  
**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathy Weltzin, 789-0288

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# The Raven



Volume 28, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2002

**Monthly Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

## **Life in an Inupiat Village**

**Mike Jacobson**

Mike Jacobson is a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In the 1970's he lived in the Arctic coastal village of Kaktovik for three years. Kaktovik is adjacent to the northern border of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Mike will present a slide program about living in the village— including the spectacular land and wildlife of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

## **Christmas Bird Count Reports**

Most results from the 102nd annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be posted directly on line, and you can track results by region and species for this year and prior years. In Southeast Alaska, Wrangell Island was the first to post results of their count on the internet. To check out this year's count, which continues through January 5, log on to <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

### **Juneau**

Juneau's Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 15. Approximately 35 volunteers enjoyed a beautiful but slightly chilly day for birding. Seventy-five species and approximately 9,500 birds were seen during the day. The day's list was marked by rather good diversity of species but lower than normal numbers for many of the more common, abundant species. All the common species normally seen were found. New high counts were obtained for three species: Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Song Sparrow. Sparrow (numbers in bold face). There were several unusual finds, including both Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, Northern Harrier, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, and two Yellow-rumped Warblers, which had only been seen previous during Count week and never on Count day (species in bold face). There were six additional species seen during the Count week but not on the count day; they are not included in the species total of 75, but are included in the table and designated by CW. Thanks to all those who participated, it was a fine day. *(See complete report on pages 11-12.) Mark Schwan*

### **Sitka**

First-ever CBC sighting of a brant. Total number of species was a rather typical 63. Some 20+ participants included several people new to the Sitka CBC, on a beautiful December day. *Alice Johnston*

### **Wrangell**

1,366 birds were counted. White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow were all listed as unusual species for the Wrangell Island count.

# Notes from the board

**Brenda Wright, vice-president**

The Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) board has been busy this past month with local environmental concerns. The list includes input on the Airport wildlife hazard management plan, the North Douglas golf course, and a shellfish farm at Bridget Cove. In the past month, public meetings have been held and with lots of volunteer help, the board was able to provide information on Audubon viewpoints.

Audubon concerns for wildlife (especially birds and fish) was capably expressed by volunteers like Laurie Ferguson-Craig, Mary Lou King, Steve Zimmerman, Sue Schrader, and Chris Kent. These volunteers, with considerable organization skills and dedicated concern, give time and energy to make sure wildlife is represented in every planning document. Mary Lou King wrote for JAS on the proposed shellfish farm at Bridget Cove. "It would be particularly damaging to the habitat and food source for hundreds of diving ducks and shore birds that feed in this cove." Steve Zimmerman, board chair, provided the airport management board with a letter recommending two changes to the proposed wildlife plan. The letter called for removal of the provision to clear-cut all the trees in the float pond area and to not dredge the ponds adjacent to the float pond. The airport board recommendations did omit the proposal for clear cutting. Public input can help make a difference in management decisions.

As a non-profit/volunteer organization, funding is not available to pay professionals to help express environmental concerns. The airport development issue is viewed as a perfect match for JAS. It involves quality of life issues, safety issues, and issues related to the conservation and restoration of very important local habitat. JAS needs to be a catalyst for organizing public participation. Because of the size of the issues involved, Laurie Ferguson-Craig wrote a grant for funding from the Alaska Conservation Foundation to help support our efforts. This grant is just to deal with the airport issue.

The board has begun work on a strategic plan to help define goals and priorities. There are always more projects available than there is time. So the board has begun this process of developing a strategic plan so that wildlife can best be represented by the amount of time and energy people have to provide. If you have time, energy, concerns, or questions, please contact any of the Juneau Audubon Society board members. Enjoy the season.

*All members are always welcome to attend local board meetings for Juneau Audubon Society. The next board meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. Monday, January 14, at the Sunny Point home of Jim & Mary Lou King. For further information, contact Steve Zimmerman, chapter president, at 586-2597 or [stevezimmerman@gci.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net).*

## **Changes at NAS**

At the Board of Directors Meeting on December 9, 2001, two new policies were adopted: the Audubon Chapter Policy 2001 and the One Audubon Membership Policy.

Information has been posted on the Audubon Web site at [http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/chapter\\_policy.html](http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/chapter_policy.html) for the Audubon Chapter Policy (see #6, #7 and #8 for new items on the Web site) and also at [http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/chapter\\_only.html](http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/chapter_only.html) for information about the new One Audubon Membership Policy.

## **February Raven Deadline**

Please submit articles for the February issue no later than January 25 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)

# Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips

## Recent Sightings

### Record Fall for Sandhill Cranes

**Bill Neumann, Petersburg**

I am part owner of a cabin on the Knig Slough side of Farm Island, on the Stikine River Delta. I arrived at the cabin around noon on Monday, October 1.

The day was overcast, and there was flock after flock of Sandhill Cranes coming over very low--maybe 50 to 200 feet high. In the first hour and one-half I counted at least 1,000 birds. This concentration continued until about 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday morning, around 7:30 a.m., they started coming over again in even greater numbers. I did a count of 1,000 cranes in a little over an hour, and this concentration continued all day. Thick fog and clouds moved in about 10 a.m. that morning. This pushed the birds right down near the ground, and they were flying at no more than 50 feet high. Many flocks came by both sides of the cabin, well below the level of the roof. They were flying maybe 15 to 20 feet from the cabin itself.

Wednesday morning they started coming over again at 7:30 a.m. but this time they were higher. This continued until noon, and that was about the end of them.

All in all, I estimated there must have been from 10,000 to 12,000 birds. I talked with several people from Wrangell who thought there were more Sandhill cranes this year than in past years. I think I have read that the number is about 12,000 that use the Stikine Delta flyway. I felt that seeing this many cranes flying this low might only occur about once every 25 years or so. I have 17 pictures that I took and in them I can count over 800 birds. *A very thrilled bird watcher*

## EAGLECHAT

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

### **Subject: Re: Christmas Bird Count**

I want to invite people who lurk here to speak up more, and especially people who want to tell anecdotes about yesterday or pinpoint good birding spots. For the downtown group, one place we discovered was the bus shelter on Main Street - walk up the wooden stairs and the trees were alive with bohemian waxwings and pine grosbeaks. Also, from top of cemetery walk down left-hand edge, the feeders in the neighborhood below were bringing them in and that's where we found the downy woodpecker and ruby-crowned kinglet hanging out together, and a couple of brown creepers. The dunlin were flocking at the end of the dike near the Yacht Club, there was a yellow-rumped warbler and a killdeer in Gold Creek across the road on the A&P side, and the pine siskins were using a feeder on Basin Road a few houses past the red roadhouse. [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net)

**Subject: Friday afternoon (Dec. 14)**

I saw a small flock, 8-10, of Pine Grosbeaks in the alders just south of the MWWT Plant, near the dike trailhead today about 1:30. Fresh, bright plumage, soft twittering calls. lovely sight.

Also a flock of perhaps 50 crows gathered around a suet feeder on Radcliff. One or two hovered at a time, picking off bits of suet while others waited in line, or under the feeder for fallout. Within minutes the feeder was emptied. happy crows. I'm pretty sure there's a haiku in there somewhere.

suet falls to snow  
hover, each for his own turn  
black, fat, happy crows

OK, OK, I've never tried one before. Just had to. [Deanna\\_MacPhail@envircon.state.ak.us](mailto:Deanna_MacPhail@envircon.state.ak.us)

## **Book Review**

### **Jim King, Past Manager, Yukon Delta, National Wildlife Refuge**

**Audubon Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges—Alaska and the Northwest.** By Loren MacArthur and Debbie S. Miller: A Balliett and Fitzgerald Book, St. Martins Griffin Press, 2000. 274 pp. A pocket size guide book. \$19.95.

Loren MacArthur is a freelance writer specializing in adventure and natural history with experience on all the refuges of Washington and Oregon and those on the road system in Alaska. Debbie Miller is a 25-year resident of Alaska who has written two books on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and with her pilot husband has experience all over Alaska. There is a nice Foreword by Theodore Roosevelt IV whose great grandfather is credited with initiating the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Preface is by John Flicker, President, National Audubon Society. The 9 page Introduction by John Grassy is an excellent overview of the whole NWR system. These accounts describe the century long (almost) history of the development of the system that now includes some 550 units with near 100 million acres.

There are a number of impressive drawings of plants and animals by Mary Sundstrum. The abundant photographs are excellent with the possible exception of the yodeling bear on the cover. The regional and refuge maps are quite adequate.

The book covers 15 refuges in Alaska that are difficult but not impossible for most people to reach and 22 in Washington and Oregon that are more accessible. Under each of the 37 units there is a descriptive introduction, a map, a history, sections on getting there, touring and activities, and a review of what to see, also phone numbers and addresses for refuge managers and Regional Offices. An appendix includes a bibliography of 108 titles.

Including Alaska with Washington and Oregon is a bit of a forced marriage as the refuges are not comparable in size, latitude, accessibility, ecology, wilderness characteristics and so forth but the authors have managed it quite well. This is in fact an excellent guide for determining what federal refuges one might want to visit, how to get there and how to get more information even if ones interest is only in the northern or southern half. The introductory section is worth the price of the book for anyone interested in wildlife conservation history.

There are 9 volumes in this refuge series covering every section of the U.S. If they are all as good as this one, I would recommend anyone living, traveling or vacationing anywhere in the U.S. get the appropriate guide. You might discover special places you never knew existed.



# Project Feederwatch

If you feed winter birds and enjoy watching who comes to your table, you could help gather valuable information on winter bird distribution and abundance.

Biologists will use your observations to track large-scale movements and monitor long-term trends.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada, and the Canadian Nature Federation have joined in Project FeederWatch, a continent-wide, citizen science program to collate backyard observations of feeder birds during winter months.

While more than 15,000 people count birds for Project FeederWatch, creating the world's largest research team studying feeder bird populations from coast to coast, Alaska has only 86 statewide participants. If you live in a smaller outlying community, where data is otherwise not collected, your participation is particularly valuable in providing a more accurate statewide distribution map.

Observations are recorded once every two weeks from November to April. Even though the count period has already begun for this season, you can still join to contribute to this winter's bird count. You select your "bird-count days" and watch birds for all or part of those days. Your data is entered on forms and either mailed to the Cornell Lab or entered online, where it will be summarized and analyzed by the Cornell Lab.

FeederWatchers in Anchorage were instrumental in helping biologists to document bill deformities in Black-capped chickadees which prevent the bird from feeding properly. An active feeder program in Southeast Alaska will help biologists detect rare occurrences, disease and deformities and establish a network to address issues as they arise.

Because bear can be present even in winter months, everyone feeding birds in Southeast should follow these Alaska Department of Fish and Game guidelines to avoid attracting bear:

- feed birds only from December 1 to April 1
- hang feeders out of reach of bear
- clean up any seed that falls on the ground
- put out only enough seed that birds will eat before sundown

To participate, contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 1-800-843-BIRD, or visit <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw> to learn more about FeederWatch efforts continent-wide. There is an annual fee of \$15 which includes instructions; feeder handbook with tips on keeping clean, safe, predator-free feeder areas; data submission forms; poster; calendar; one-year subscription to Birdscope; and access to FeederWatch OnLine.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Juneau maintains an address list of local birders and Project FeederWatch participants. Contact Michelle at 586-7242, or [michelle\\_kissling@fws.gov](mailto:michelle_kissling@fws.gov), for questions or comments, and to join the list of local FeederWatchers. Also, please report any sightings of injured, diseased or deformed birds to USFWS.

# Plans for Totem Creek Golf Course Moving Ahead

Sue Schrader

## Peterson Creek and 400 acres in North Douglas at Risk

**T**otem Creek Inc., the local group developing the golf course, is moving forward to get their conditional use permit from the City and Borough of Juneau. Once this permit is granted, Totem Creek will line up investors and start negotiations with CBJ for the sale or lease of approximately 400 acres in the Peterson Creek area of North Douglas.

The CBJ Planning Commission will soon hold another hearing on the conditional use permit application, likely in January. CBJ staff have been working closely with the developer, Totem Creek, and the biologists at the AK Dept. of Fish and Game to address the many concerns with this huge project. Now is the time to weigh in with your concerns, too!

### *Major Concerns include:*

#### ◆ Pesticide Use

#### ◆ Health of Salmon Streams

##### *The Details on Pesticides:*

Totem Creek's Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM Plan) calls for using several pesticides – including fungicides, insecticides and herbicides – on the greens, fairways and tees. While Totem Creek has said they want to avoid or minimize the use of pesticides, their pest management plan proposes using hazardous chemicals such as Sevin, Dursban, and 2,4-D.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has told CBJ that several of the pesticides proposed for use are moderately or highly toxic to fish while some are toxic to birds and lethal to beneficial insects, including bees. Pesticide run-off into the surface and ground waters that feed into Peterson Creek is of particular concern, especially to people who draw drinking water from the creek.

##### **Questions to ask Totem Creek and CBJ:**

- **What assurance will Totem Creek give us that they will follow the strict guidelines in the IPM Plan for pesticide application and use?**
- **Who will verify that Totem Creek is following their IPM Plan?**
- **Will Totem Creek be financially able to hire and retain a highly skilled, certified golf course superintendent and competent grounds keepers to safely implement the IPM Plan?**
- **Who will insure that monitoring of surface water and ground water is done and who will verify and interpret the monitoring results so water quality is protected?**

##### *The Details on Salmon Stream Health:*

Peterson Creek is one of very few healthy salmon streams remaining on the CBJ road system. The clean waters of the creek and its tributaries support robust runs of pink, chum and coho salmon and provide spawning and rearing habitat for these salmon species as well as Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout. The benefits of leaving a 100 foot buffer strip of undisturbed trees and other vegetation along salmon streams

are well-documented in the scientific literature. Buffers are important because they: 1) shade streams to keep the water temperature ideal for fish, 2) stabilize stream banks to minimize erosion, 3) add nutrients to the water through leaf litter, 4) act to filter pollutants and sediment out of water running into streams, and 5) provide a sheltered corridor for wildlife. Biologists at the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service uniformly call for *minimum* 100 ft. buffers for the long-term protection of salmon streams.

Despite the fact that the golf course is planned on top of some of the richest fish habitat in the borough, Totem Creek is seeking only 66 foot buffers on the major feeder streams to Peterson Creek and trying to convince CBJ *to waive any buffer requirements* on the smaller tributaries that cross the golf course.

### **Questions to ask Totem Creek and CBJ:**

- **If Totem Creek truly is committed to designing “the most environmentally sensitive course practical”, as they have stated (Juneau Empire 12/5/00), why are they opposed to 100 ft. buffers on all fish streams?**
- **Are we CBJ residents, as a community, willing to risk one of our few remaining accessible, healthy salmon streams that benefit subsistence, sport and commercial fishermen for a project of questionable financial viability?**

Peterson Creek is the source of drinking water for several families with homes near the creek. The quality of the water in the creek is directly linked to what is happening upstream, in the watershed. And 400 acres of that watershed may be turned into the golf course. This richly diverse and complex forest will be bull-dozed, cultivated and paved; clear-cutting of trees will occur on 250 acres, buildings and roadways will consume 65 acres, grasses of the greens, tees and fairways will cover another 45 acres. Concerns regarding the financial viability of the project, the fair market value of this public land, the potential for housing development, etc. will be addressed by the CBJ Assembly once the conditional use permit is grant. Right now, your action is needed to let the Planning Commission know we are concerned about the environmental impacts of this project.

### ***What you can do:***

- Send your questions, concerns and comments to the CBJ Planning Commissioners, c/o CBJ Community Development Department, 155 S. Seward St, Juneau 99801; fax: 586-3365. ***You do not need to wait*** until the golf course is scheduled for a hearing to contact the planning commissioners – ***do it now.***
- Plan to attend and testify at the Planning Commission hearing on Totem Creek’s conditional use permit application. Watch the Juneau Empire for the date and time or contact CBJ Community Development Dept., phone: 586-5230

### ***For more information:***

- For copies of the Integrated Pest Management Plan (describing pesticide use), the Wildlife Management Plan or other documents submitted by Totem Creek to CBJ, contact Teri Camery at CBJ Community Development Dept., phone: 586-5230

**For general information on the project, contact Sue Schrader of the Juneau Audubon Society, work phone: 463-3366, home phone: 789-1269, e-mail: [sue@akvoice.org](mailto:sue@akvoice.org)**



### **Electronic Raven in your e-mail box?**

Printing and mailing the newsletter is one of the major expenses of Juneau Audubon Society. Would you like to help save paper and chapter money and reduce the volume of your monthly mail? Send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) and let us know if you'd like to receive The Raven in MS Word or Rich Text (*read by most word processing programs*).

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

**Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination.** The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call **Chris Kent at 463-3494**.

**Cordova — Orca Inlet 136**, (Reference Number 2-2001-1254) Applicant: John and Barbara Harvill. Location: Spike Island located near the mouth of the Cordova Harbor entrance across from the Old US Coast Guard Docking Facility. Proposal: The applicant proposes to place a floating boathouse 45-feet long by 35-feet wide to be moored using four 12-inch diameter galvanized pipe pilings. The boathouse would be attached to shore by a 3-foot wide by 40 – foot long access ramp from an existing house. The applicant will also install a marine utility line that will cross at the Cordova Industrial Park. The line will cross Block 8 then under the old U.S. Coast Guard Dock then to Spike Island for a distance of 900 feet. Finally, a marine outfall will be installed at a –10 feet MLLW with a 40 – pound concrete anchor. Purpose: The purpose is to expand a support a private residential home on Spike Island. Mitigation: None. Comments due: **January 4, 2002**.

**Cordova — Orca Inlet 137**, (Reference Number 2-2001-1340) Applicant: Alaska Marine Lines. Location: Cordova. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct 4 dolphins and a 40-foot long dock and a 70 - foot long by 30 – foot wide ramp. The structure and supporting pilings will cover 0.1 acres of

intertidal habitat. Purpose: The purpose is to construct a barge loading facility. Mitigation: None. Comments due: **January 14, 2002.**

**Elfin Cove — Elfin Cove 25**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1099) Applicant: Dave Hatchett. Location: Lot 29A of the Gamman Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant proposes construct a 20-foot long by 4-foot wide wood decked, encapsulated foam mooring float that will be connected to a 104-foot long by 4-foot wide pile supported dock. The dock will be connected to shore by a 10-foot long by 3-foot wide ramp. Purpose: Provide moorage for the applicant's boat. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **November 26, 2001.**

**Elfin Cove - Elfin Cove 26**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1255) Applicant: Stuart Glendenning. Location: Lot 22 of the Gamman Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant proposes construct a 50-foot by 8-foot pier attached to a 36-foot by 4-foot ramp leading to a 55-foot by 8-foot float. The pier will be supported by twelve cross - braced posts and stabilized with poured concrete. The float will be supported by three 44 -foot by 12 inch metal pilings. Purpose: Provide moorage for the applicant's boat. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **January 7, 2002.**

**Juneau - Gastineau Channel 485**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1297) Applicant: Jody Vick. Location: 1214 First Street Douglas. Proposal: The applicant proposes to place 200 cubic yards of concrete and 1,470 cubic yards of fill within 0.11 acres of intertidal wetlands for the construction of a 212 - foot long retaining wall that will surround 4, 900 square feet of intertidal area. Purpose: To support an existing structure supported by pilings. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **January 7, 2002.**

**Sitka - St. John Baptist Bay 2**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1158) Applicant: Harlan Bacon. Location: 21 miles northeast of Sitka. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 12-foot by 20-foot boat float to be anchored with two 25-gallon barrels filled with concrete. The float will be anchored in 60 feet of water. Purpose: Provide moorage for the applicant's boat. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **December 27, 2001.**

**Ketchikan - Dall Bay 3**, (Reference Number 2-2001-1240) Applicant: Jeff Turner. Location: In Dall Bay, Gravina Island 12.1 miles southwest of Mountain Point Boat Launch, south Ketchikan. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 12-foot by 50-foot by 3-foot wood float anchored with four 16-inch steel pilings and attached to an 8-foot by 110-foot wood pier by a 4-foot by 55-foot aluminum gangway. The gangway would be attached to a 6-foot by 3-foot by 6-foot concrete abutment located below the high tide line. Purpose is to create a moorage for a recreational cabin. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **January 4, 2002.**

**\*\*Thorne Bay - Tolstoi Bay 4**, (Reference Number 2-2001-1088) Applicant: Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office. Location: Tolstoi Bay near the City of Thorne Bay. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 3,297 cubic yards of fill for a road, a sort yard and to construct a low angle ramp. This fill will affect approximately 0.73 acres of wetlands, streams and tidelands. The proposed work includes the discharge of 1,800 cubic yards of shot rock into 0.37 acre of forested wetlands to construct a log sort yard. Discharge 130 cubic yards of shotrock and place 215-foot by 36-feet of corrugated metal culvert pipe into 0.02 acres of stream corridor and to construct a 2,900-foot access road. Discharge 947 cubic yards of shot rock and 8 cubic yards of rip rap into tidelands to construct a 70-foot by 50-foot barge ramp. Install a 30-foot by 40-foot wooden float and 12-foot by 80-foot wooden access ramp anchored by a shot rock pad that will impact 0.05 acres of intertidal habitat. Install three 528-foot long log standing boom secured by 12 10-ton anchors to create a 5.1 acre log rafting area. Install a single 1,100 - foot long log standing boom secured to 8 10-ton anchors and shore ties to provide a log storage area on approximately 6.8 acres of navigable waters. This portion of the project would be located at the southern half of a 2,00-foot boom currently permitted as part of Sealaska's's LTF at Tolstoi Bay 1 (2-1987-0599). Purpose: The purpose is to construct a Log transfer facility. Mitigation: None. Comments due: **January 3, 2002.**

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

You can make a real difference. Do you have an idea for a monthly program? Concern for a particular species or habitat? A field trip you'd like to participate in or lead? A computer skill to share? Contact any of the people listed on the last page to see how you can help.

### **Rare Bird Alert Hotline 586-2591**

Juneau Audubon Society rare bird alert hotline provides an opportunity for local birders to report unusual sightings, and to hear what else has been reported in the Juneau area. If you see a rare or unusual bird, or want to find out what other people are seeing in Juneau, call 586-2591

*Please check the date your membership expires in the top right corner of your mailing label (The first two digits identify the year, the second two, the month. Example: 0201 means January of 2002). **If your membership has expired, this will be your last issue of The Raven.** We encourage you to renew your National membership on the forms National sends to you. Use the form at the end of this newsletter for new members and support for just the Juneau Chapter. If you are a member of the Juneau chapter only, and are unsure when your subscription expires, contact Mary Lou King at 789-7540 or [<kingfarm@ptialaska.net>](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)*

**Juneau Audubon Society has members in these communities:  
Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell**

## Juneau Christmas Bird Count - Complete Tally

Numbers in bold face indicate new high counts.

Species in bold face indicate first sighting on a CBC count day. CW refers to species seen during count week, but not on count day.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>
Red-throated Loon	2	Rock Sandpiper	CW
Pacific Loon	87	Common Snipe	7
Common Loon	3	Mew Gull	107
Yellow-billed Loon	CW	Herring Gull	9
Horned Grebe	33	Thayer's Gull	1
Red-necked Grebe	26	Glaucous-winged Gull	1,591
Pelagic Cormorant	10	Gl.-winged x Herring Gull hyb.	3
Great Blue Heron	7	Unidentified Gulls	46
<b>Tundra Swan</b>	<b>1</b>	Common Murre	3
<b>Trumpeter Swan</b>	<b>1</b>	Pigeon Guillemot	CW
Canada Goose	462	Marbled Murrelet	108
Green-winged Teal	29	Rock Dove	108
Mallard	2,639	Great Horned Owl	1
Northern Pintail	17	Short-eared Owl	2
Northern Shoveler	1	Belted Kingfisher	1
Gadwall	10	Downy Woodpecker	1
American Wigeon	67	Hairy Woodpecker	2
Greater Scaup	100	<b>Northern Flicker</b>	<b>1</b>
Harlequin Duck	68	Unidentified Woodpeckers	1
Long-tailed Duck	14	Steller's Jay	52
Black Scoter	1	Black-billed Magpie	49
Surf Scoter	550	Northwestern Crow	869
White-winged Scoter	270	Common Raven	432
Unidentified Scoters	23	<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>	<b>1</b>
Common Goldeneye	71	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	95
Barrow's Goldeneye	395	Unidentified Chickadees	6
Unidentified Goldeneyes	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	7
Bufflehead	106	Brown Creeper	<b>12</b>
Hooded Merganser	12	Winter Wren	<b>13</b>
Common Merganser	48	American Dipper	8
Red-breasted Merganser	59	Golden-crowned Kinglet	48
Bald Eagle	110	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	<b>1</b>	American Robin	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Varied Thrush	2
American Kestrel	CW	Bohemian Waxwing	17
<b>White-tailed Ptarmigan</b>	CW	Northern Shrike	2
Killdeer	4	European Starling	31
Black Turnstone	CW	<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>	<b>2</b>



<b>Species</b>	<b>Count</b>
American Tree Sparrow	2
Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	<b>33</b>
White-crowned Sparrow	3
Unidentified Sparrows	1
Dark-eyed Junco	239
Snow Bunting	67

Rusty Blackbird	1
Pine Grosbeak	38
Red Crossbill	326
White-winged Crossbill	4
Common Redpoll	1
Pine Siskin	109
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>9,518</b>

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

### Audubon Society New Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name  
Address  
City/State/Zipcode  
Telephone number

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed          \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to:  
National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

A51  
7XCH

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Raven Editor, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

**President:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, <[stevezimmerman@gci.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net)>  
**Vice-President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, <[jnoel@gci.net](mailto:jnoel@gci.net)>  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, <[bandmac@gci.net](mailto:bandmac@gci.net)>  
**Treasurer:** George Utermohl, 586-3849, <[norwaypt@gci.net](mailto:norwaypt@gci.net)>  
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**Education:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, <[kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)>  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260  
**Conservation:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, <[ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)>  
**Field Trips:** Bonnie Toleman, <[btoleman@alaska.net](mailto:btoleman@alaska.net)>  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, <[upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)>  
**Public Market Coordinator:** Kathy Weltzin, 789-0288

# The Raven



Volume 28, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2002

## February ALMANAC



Brown & black bear cubs are born

Common Raven display courtship behavior

Red squirrels pair for mating



Red fox breed  
Wolves breed  
Beaver mate

Days grow longer



### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### Birding in Gambell, Nome, and the Pribilofs

Kim & Barb Turley

**S**erious birders from all over the country include a visit to Western Alaska in their life experiences. Join Kim and Barb Turley in a slide show sharing their birding adventures in Gambell, Nome, and the Pribilofs.

### Great Backyard Bird Count

Brenda Wright

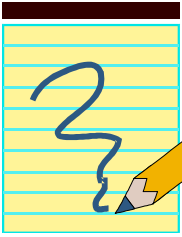
**I**t's fun! It's easy! It is a nationwide effort! Why don't you try it out for yourself?

I am a long time fan of the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>. They have lots of different projects you can join, but one of the most fun, easiest things to do is to contribute to the Great Backyard Bird Count. It is a national effort and you see results as soon as you add your data!

It really can't be much simpler. All you do is look out your window at a bird feeder or take a short walk (within a mile of your home or neighborhood) and keep a tally of the most birds you see of any species at one time. After you have your data, taken any time during the four day period (or every day), you can log onto the web site and deliver your information. The fun starts as you get to see the species lists and numbers of birds observed updated in front of your eyes. They have maps of all the locations where the data was collected and all the species. Last year Juneau was in the top ten locations for species, but places like Sitka, Cordova and Kodiak saw more!

This is your chance to contribute information to a nation-wide study, have fun, and enjoy our birds that stick it out with us though all our seasons. If you do not have easy Internet access you can always mail your information, or share it with the Juneau Audubon chapter. Everything we see helps to understand our most common birds.

*(For more information see page 3)*



# Notes from the board

Chris Kent, Conservation Chair

## Watching the Winter Fills

After picking up another thick packet of monthly Corp of Engineer permit announcements from the Post Office, I asked myself if any, other than me really cares about wetland fills. Do we make any difference by publishing permit information? These are darn good questions. What's the purpose of publishing public notices especially when it's the job of the Corps to make the public aware of current permits.

The answer I have rests on several important needs.

To promote an awareness of activities affecting tide and wetlands, and document permitted fill within Southeast. Knowing what activity is going on where and how it is proposed is valuable knowledge to use in comparing what happens on the ground and what happens on paper.

For example, a construction company proposes to dredge out an intertidal area to create moorage and to use fill to create a breakwater to protect it. On paper, they promise to limit activity to avoid salmon out migration, and limit discharged fill to clean rock. However, in reality, the operator dredges far in the migration window because of equipment breakdowns and uses dredge and other waste rock as fill for the breakwater. Only the breakwater cap is clean shot rock. Dredge spoils are piled on an adjacent fill where weathering and the weight of the fill send loose materials and eroded soils into the tidelands. These examples are what happens on the ground and most of the time in plain sight of the public. Who is to know if permit conditions are met if the public is unaware and regulatory agencies backlogged with permits, inspections and paperwork. An informed public is a questioning public. Knowing that activity will happen and what is proposed creates a knowledgeable response when questioning activities or responding to permit proposals. The local public has the best information concerning conditions and what happens in their neighborhood. Having an interest in what happens to our neighborhoods, I hope the Corps permit listing will give you the impetus to speak.



Documenting the cumulative acreage of fill is, remarkably, something nobody does. Dredge and fill permits are very precise in the amount and location but lacking in habitat description and acreage impacted. I have proposed to agencies that they collect "fill acreage totals" as a crude tool in making cumulative impacts analysis. The response has been "we would like to but don't have the time." The response that I have received from the Corps indicates that this type of information is simply not easily available.

JAS has published wetland permits for several years. We have these documents in electronic format. I would like to create a database of wetland acreage fill by type and by region (city/village) to use as a tool in augmenting our arguments for greater protection and mitigation (the vast majority of permits require no mitigation or mitigation comes in the form of best management practices rather than actions that will enhance or remediate other wetland areas). I have been working towards this goal but need assistance. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me at [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net).

### March Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the March issue no later than February 22 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)

# Great Backyard Bird Count

February 15-18

Why count backyard birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic, they are constantly in flux. The Great Backyard Bird Count, a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, takes a snapshot of North American bird populations.

When you participate you are part of that big picture, whether you identify, count, and report five species coming to your backyard feeder or 75 species during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

## **Your data can help answer many questions**

How will this winter's snow and cold temperatures influence bird populations?  
Where are the winter finches and other irruptive species?  
Will late winter movements of many songbird and waterfowl species be as far north as they were last year?

The data that you collect will be combined with Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch data to give an immense picture of our winter birds. Each year that these data are collected makes them more important and meaningful. So as coordinators see patterns, discover new questions and insights, you'll be updated as well.

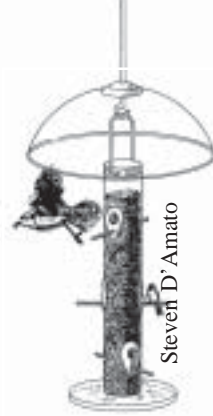
All you need to participate is basic knowledge of bird identification and ideally, access to the internet.

## **Here's what you do**

Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days. You can count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area. Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate--a half-hour or more is even better.

For each species that you see, keep track of the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time. Use a "Tally Sheet" to help keep track of your counts. Be careful not to count the same bird more than once. For example, don't add another Steller's Jay to your tally every time you see one at the feeder. You could be counting the same bird over and over. If you record only the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time, you're sure to never count the same bird more than once.

At the end of the day go to "Submit your bird checklist" on the GBBC web site, at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. Fill out the questions about your location, local habitat, and count duration. Then enter your high counts for each species sighted on that day and location. You can submit one bird checklist for each day that you count or for each new area that you count in.



## **Species you're apt to see in Southeast backyards**

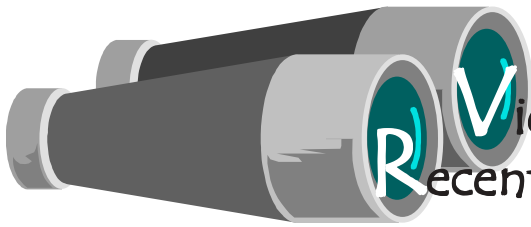
Chestnut-backed chickadee  
Steller's jay  
dark-eyed junco (both Oregon and slate-colored)  
red-breasted nuthatch  
song sparrow  
northwestern crow  
pine siskin  
black-billed magpie

## **Possible but less likely sightings**

hairy woodpecker  
downy woodpecker  
northern flicker  
fox sparrow,  
golden-crowned sparrow  
white-crowned sparrow  
lincoln's sparrow  
rusty blackbird  
common redpoll  
varied thrush  
black-capped chickadee  
red crossbill  
brown creeper  
american tree sparrow

*(List courtesy Paul Suchanek)*





# Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings

## Christmas Bird Count at Mayo, YT

**Cameron Eckert**

We completed our Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 29th. We had 2 field teams and 2 feeder watchers. Everyone taking part in the count noted that there seemed to be little activity of birds on the count day—this was noticed in particular by the feeder watchers, who closely follow the birds that come each day. It was quite warm (-14 C) and windy, and the wind may have played a role in the low numbers.

In any case, we saw only 8 species, down from the last 2 years' counts of 11 and 10. We saw 6 ruffed grouse, 2 downy woodpeckers, 14 grey jays, 156 ravens, 9 black-capped chickadees, 5 boreal chickadees, 19 common redpolls, 46 unidentified redpolls, and 2 pine grosbeaks.

There was a small group of waxwings around Mayo during the week preceding the count (very unusual for this time of year here), but they disappeared before count day and haven't been seen since.

There seems to be an near total cone crop failure of spruce trees within the count area, and we didn't see any of the usual crossbills.

Check out birds of the Yukon at Yukon Bird Club Web Site: <http://www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/>

Contact Cameron Eckert at [ceckert@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:ceckert@yknet.yk.ca).



## EAGLECHAT

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

### **January 24**

#### **Subject: Lots of ducks and shore birds this afternoon ...**

Along Egan between Lemon Creek Exit and 2mi (going into town) at about noon there were large numbers of shore birds and ducks feeding along the tide line near the highway. .... at 50 mph my bird-ID-ing is not very good but I would estimate the total count was over a hundred birds, maybe near two hundred ... [driccio@ptialaska.net](mailto:driccio@ptialaska.net)

### **January 24**

Very quiet on the river trail today; eagles, ravens, several Buffleheads on the river. But over in the oxbow, I saw my first ermine, a wonderful, quick little job. It popped out of a spruce root bole 6 or 8 times to have a look at me. So fast and nimble, with a black-tipped tail. made my day [Deanna\\_MacPhail@envircon.state.ak.us](mailto:Deanna_MacPhail@envircon.state.ak.us)

### **January 24**

#### **Subject: Redpolls**

Today on the wetlands was gorgeous! Soft snow and clearing skies. Great blue heron, eagles — Juan was panhandling from the otters for some tidbits (they did not oblige) — geese, mallards, two types of mergansers, and redpolls. They were conveniently feeding in an alder beside the trailhead by the parking lot. About a dozen. Rosy breasts, white bellies, red topknot. Chattering and flocking together and heading out the trail. [lauriecraig@gci.net](mailto:lauriecraig@gci.net)

## January 23

### Subject: Mergansers and other delights of the Dike Trail

Just wanted to let you know that for at least three days four Hooded Mergansers have been paddling and feeding in the Mendenhall River conveniently close to the Airport Dike Trail at the point just beyond the float pond where the trail turns abruptly away from the river. One handsome male and three females. Watched two females struggle to swallow small fish. Also, upstream from the landing lights we have been seeing common mergansers.

Last Thursday, four large swans flew from the channel east of the dike trail's gazebo to the float pond and landed there, swimming near the south shore of the pond when there was open water (all frozen now). Yesterday many eagles (19) were feeding on something I could not see below the bank of the river upstream of the sewage treatment plant. River was frozen there also.

A pale juvenile shrike seems to be hanging around the trail's forests. Has barring on his chest and wings, tail and head markings are not very black. He seems to be curious and perches fairly close to people and dogs without apparent fear.

Wigeons and scaup and mallards are using the tidal pond in front of the gazebo and several hundred geese confine themselves to the far reaches of the flats and to open water. So food for the eagles is far off from their stump and tree perch sites.

The mama river otter and her three pups spend time at the near end of the float pond, especially in the open water cage surrounding the culvert which is the intake from the river at 16.3 foot high tides. The other day she presented them with a large flounder — dark bars alternating with light areas on the perimeter fins. Kids were being their usual goofball selves and disinterested in food. They are absolute delights to watch! [lauriecraig@gci.net](mailto:lauriecraig@gci.net)

## January 22

### Subject: pine grosbeaks

We just had 10 pine grosbeaks behind our lab in the valley. I know others have been seen lately, but this group included 2 bright red males. Also saw a shrike at the wetlands yesterday. [bev\\_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:bev_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us)

## January 20

### Subject: sanderling

There was a little pack of 150 or so shorebirds at Eagle Beach today. It consisted of mostly Rock Sandpipers (~100), Dunlin (~50), Surfbirds (~5-10) and one lone sanderling. That little white guy sticks out.

Has anyone else been out there lately? Before Christmas there were 500-1,000 birds and today only 150 or so. But there were a lot of people and dogs today. The birds were pretty skittish.

The whale #'s at the Shrine have diminished to 3 last weekend and 3-5 today. They appear to have moved even closer to town. I can see them very well from Tee Harbor and I could only see faint blows before. [bev\\_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:bev_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us)

## January 14

### Subject: Misc. sightings yesterday

1 Tundra Swan and 3 Trumpeter Swans (adults) at the Temsco gravel pit pond

1 Northern Goshawk at Eagle Beach

1 Sanderling at Eagle Beach

125 Thayer's Gulls at Eagle Beach

1 Northern Shrike near Amalga

2 Yellow-billed Loons side by side at Lena Cove

[Gus\\_vanVliet@envircon.state.ak.us](mailto:Gus_vanVliet@envircon.state.ak.us)



# Dogs on Trails

Richard Carstensen



**The mere presence of dog odor, more than actual chases or frightening encounters, is the chief culprit.**

**I**n 1980 my best friend was a dog. At the time I lived with him I would probably not have agreed with what I'm about to write. If you have a dog, I can only hope you'll read this more objectively than I could have 22 years ago.

I first began to notice the impact of dogs on wildlife in the mid-1980s as I led elementary classes and eventually teacher workshops on tracking trips in the snow. Some of these field trips were only minutes on foot from Juneau schools. Others were far from roads or dogs. Where dogs roam from nearby homes, or accompany skiers on trails, it's hard to find sign of wild animals other than red squirrels and porcupines.

But there are a few off-trail wildlife hotspots near Juneau so far undiscovered by skiers or hikers with dogs. Here the tracks of sensitive mammals like weasel, mink, marten, otter, lynx, wolf, deer, snowshoe hare, beaver, shrews, voles and deer mice are found. Only the wolverine seems to flat-out avoid any suggestion of civilization. These other mammals come surprisingly close to buildings and roads in places free of dogs and cats. In one of our best dog-free tracking locations we led successive field trips with groups of 30 kids and continued to see fresh sign.

I feel that a trail-user with a dog - well behaved or not - is more disruptive to wildlife than a party of 10 people or an ORV. The occasional dog-killed mink pup or deer fawn is just the tip of an iceberg, almost a distraction from the more pervasive but less visible dog impact - the displacement of wild things from essential habitat. The mere presence of dog *odor*, more than actual chases or frightening encounters, is the chief culprit.

For 12 years I lived in an off-road cabin 2 miles from the nearest resident dog or cat. Every winter, ermine made nightly mouse-patrols through my pantry, often running across my desk as I worked. Like these weasels, I learned to wince if hikers with dogs appeared. It would usually be days before I found weasel tracks in my woodpile again.

Winter tracking provides the most indisputable evidence of the inverse correlation of sign densities between dogs and wild mammals. Yet summer is a time of even greater impacts. From May through July dogs become nursery pillagers. Prancing pets flash repeatedly into trailside brush hiding ground- and shrub-nesting birds and breeding mammals, scattering grouse chicks and baby hares.

The new Mount Roberts Tram provided an unplanned experiment into summertime dog-wildlife interactions. Prior to tram construction, the Mount Roberts ridge trail was the most popular high-country walk for Juneau residents, many of whom brought dogs. This hike has since lost favor, and those who continue to use Mount Roberts trail must leash their dogs as they pass the upper tram landing.



In that area, precisely where the hordes of tourists congregate, hoary marmots and ptarmigan have become exceedingly tame. You can now sit 10 feet from a grazing marmot in a meadow where, 10 years ago, it would have shrieked and dived for its burrow at your first appearance. A ptarmigan fledged her brood in a ground nest just a step or two from the central trail. I'm not suggesting that such extreme habituation should be a model for human-wildlife interactions. The tram example simply demonstrates that co-existence of people with wild things is far more feasible than that of wild things with our dogs.

Juneau's dog-traveled trails trace streams and beachfront and mountain ridges, almost as if designed to preempt the most critical wildlife habitats. Can we improve this situation? I know several naturalists who own dogs but who have an evolving sense of where and where not to take their pets.

Sandy Beach in winter is a good place for dogs. Really bad places and times include the Boy Scout or Cowee trail and meadows in May, Steep Creek during salmon time, or the Blackerby Ridge flower fields in late June. It requires a strong commitment to wildlife to leave your dog behind on exactly those trails and in those seasons when her nose would be most pleased by enticing feral smells.

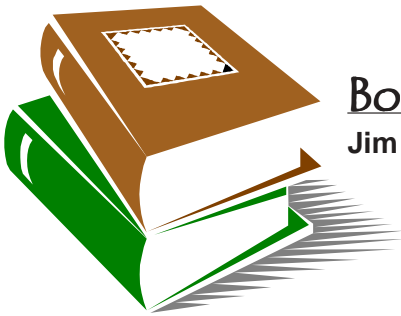
Such awareness and commitment are rare. And in any case, personal restraint by a few people may do little to help wildlife if others continue to bring dogs on sensitive trails.

Community restraint is called for. Can we face the implications of dogs as we plan new trails and other developments? When we speak of outdoor ethics and "leave no trace" travel skills, are we only concerned with the quality of the next human visitor's "wilderness experience?" That experience can be a willful self-deception, that all is well in the backcountry. If I'm right that a dog displaces more wildlife than an ORV, then shouldn't we be zoning for dogs as well as for snowmachines?

I can hear a chorus of yelping at mention of the z-word. But the interesting thing about this particular emerging conflict is that – unlike the golf or ORV debates - it doesn't pit one Juneau subculture against another. Instead it pits two values held by almost every Juneau trail walker, each of whom would profess a strong loyalty to wildlife, and most of whom love dogs. We should be biting our own tails.

**It pits two values held  
by almost every  
Juneau trail walker...**





## Book Review

Jim King

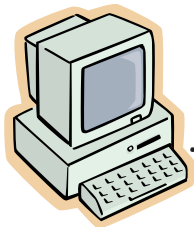
Ehrlich, Paul R., David S. Dobbin and Darryl Wheye. 1988 **The Birders Handbook, A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds.** 785 pp. Simon and Schuster. New York. Paper \$17.00.

This remarkable book is intended as a next step for those who have a bird field guide and want to learn a little, or a lot more, about a bird they have just identified for the first time. It includes the 650 species that nest in North America. Short species accounts occur on the left hand pages and short essays on relevant subjects (displays, nesting, eggs, diet, flying, migration, conservation and so forth) on the right hand pages. Each species account includes cross-references to other essays and references to several current sources for further study listed in a bibliography of some 1600 titles. Though this book was published in 1988 it remains in print for there is no other book of any size or any price that contains anywhere near as much information.

Author Paul Ehrlich, a professor at Stanford, has written over 400 scientific papers and 20 books including The Population Bomb. David Dobkin is a professor at Rutgers and Derryl Wheye is a biologist /writer.

In a unique format this book presents a basic education in ornithology in a painless way. Whether one just wants a few facts on a new bird (number of eggs, number of days incubation) or is preparing to write a technical book this is a good place to start. Casual readers will find they are drawn into learning more than they anticipated. There is a four page section on observing and recording bird biology for those who want to get more serious and perhaps to contribute to one of the many bird journals.

This is a one volume bird library that every bird guide owner should have. I use mine all the time.



## Two small steps toward a paperless home office

1. Receive The Raven electronically. The chapter's major expense is printing and mailing the newsletter. To help save paper and chapter money and reduce the volume of your monthly mail, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request The Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat.

2. Instead of receiving multiple renewal notices from National Audubon, call 1-800-274-4201 and ask to sign up for Audubon's Paper Free Renewal Program. Your membership will be automatically renewed each year, and you'll receive one bill about two months before your membership expiration date. You can still cancel membership at any time.



# Calendar of events

## **Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Fireside Chats**

**7:30 - 9 p.m. Fridays**

### **February 1 - Shuyak Island State Park with Gail Smith**

Northern-most island in the Kodiak Archipelago. This little-known park covers most of the islands's 47,000 acres and offers wildlife viewing, recreation and pristine wilderness.

### **February 8 - Preserving underwater history; a look at Juneau shipwrecks. Underwater slides by John Lachelt**

Wreckage of Princess Kathleen, Princess Sophia and Clare Nevada are a few of the more famous ones you will visit.

### **February 15 - Chameleons of Madagascar's eastern forest with Allison Banks**

People, places, chameleons and lemurs, contemporary music, handicrafts, books and clothing. A personal journey to the rainforests of eastern coastal Madagascar.

### **February 22 - Williamsburg through the seasons with Pamela Finney**

Cultural, economic, political and ecological aspects of life in the 1770's in one of the first permanent European settlements on the American east coast are accurately restored.

## **Rare Bird Alert Hotline**

Juneau Audubon Society rare bird alert hotline provides an opportunity for local birders to report unusual sightings, and to hear what else has been reported in the Juneau area. If you see a rare or unusual bird, or want to find out what other people are seeing in Juneau, call **586-2591**



**586-2591**

Please check the date your membership expires in the top right corner of your mailing label (The first two digits identify the year, the second two, the month. Example: 0204 means April of 2002). **If your membership has expired, this will be your last issue of The Raven.** We encourage you to renew your National membership on the forms National sends to you. Use the form on the back of this newsletter for new members and support for just the Juneau Chapter.



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Special Public Notice 2001 – 13, General Permit 89-4N – General Permitting Procedure For Floating Houses In Navigable Waters Of The United States Within Alaska.** On December 13, 2001, the Alaska District Corps of Engineers published Special Public Notice 2001-13 regarding a General Permitting Procedures (89-4N) for authorization of floating houses in navigable waters of the United States within Alaska. The purpose of this special public notice is to show revisions made to Special Conditions #1 and #16. These conditions cover the moorage conditions and the address and phone number of the U.S. Coast Guard. For more information contact Ms. Susan Hitchcock at (907) 790-4490. This general permit will be in effect until December 13, 2006.

**Whittier — Passage Canal 16**, (Reference Number P-1969-0024) Applicant: Alaska Railroad Corporation. Location: In the vicinity of the Alaska railroad's Whittier Barge Slip. Proposal: The applicant proposes to modify permit number O-1969-0024 by constructing two 34-feet by 60-foot access platforms. The platforms will be supported by galvanized piles and concrete beams.. The platforms will not extend further waterward than the existing sheet pile dolphins. The applicant will also place an additional 1,500 cubic yards of clean fill to increase the total fill for this project to 21,500 cubic yards. The total intertidal habitat to be filled will be .73 acres. Purpose: To increase the ability of the railroad to handle barge traffic. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 8, 2002.

**\*\*Skagway — Taiya Inlet 32**, (Reference Number 2-1997-0732) Applicant: Alaska Power and Telephone Company. Location: Approximately three miles south of Skagway on the eastern shore of Taiya Inlet near the confluence of Kasidaya Creek and Taiya Inlet. Proposal: This is the start of the Otter Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project Number 11588. The purpose is to construct a hydroelectric project on Kasidaya Creek by impoundment and to construct a jetty with heliport to provide access. An impoundment structure will be constructed below the ordinary high water mark of Kasidaya Creek. The structure will be

35-feet long by 30-feet wide. The structure will consist of a concrete core and riprap facings. An earthen jetty/barge ramp will be constructed along the shoreline of Taiya Inlet. The jetty will be 120-feet long by 150-feet wide and will be constructed using 2,500 cubic yards of material excavated from upland project area. The jetty will impact .413 acres of intertidal habitat. Mitigation: None Comments due January 31, 2002

**\*\*Juneau — Favorite Channel 43,** (Reference Number 4-1996-0019) Applicant: City and Borough of Juneau. Location: Lena Point. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 2,500 cubic yards of clean fill into 2.34 acres of forested wetlands for the construction of a 1,100 foot long by 50-foot wide access road and a 8-foot wide by 1,205 foot long walking path. Purpose: Development of an alternative access to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and University of Alaska Fisheries Science Department, Lena Point Research Facility. The entire proposed access road will be 5,109 feet long and the walking path will encircle Lena Point. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 8, 2002.

**Juneau — Gastineau Channel 430,** (Reference Number N-1991-0187) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: Marty Holmberg. Location: Lots B and C 7833 North Douglas Highway. Proposal: The applicant wants permitting for discharging 1,500 cubic yards of fill that was placed into 9,610 square feet of forested wetland area. The fill created a 90-foot wide by 90-foot long house pad and a 24-foot wide by 100 – foot long access road. The applicant also wants to place additional fill into to expand the house pad to accommodate a garage and yard area. The total area impacted will be .38 acres. Purpose: The construction of a residential structure. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 8, 2002

**Angoon — Kootznahoo Inlet 3,** (Reference Number 1-2001-1276) Applicant: Joseph Thompson. Location: Near the Angoon Trading Post. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 24-foot by 32-foot pile supported landing dock that will extend partially below mean high tide water. A 6-foot by 60-foot aluminum walkway and a 20-foot by 60 foot floating dock. The applicant will also construct a 6-foot by 8-foot by 24-foot retaining wall to anchor the landing dock. The landing dock will be supported by galvanized steel pilings. Purpose: General public access from Kootznahoo Inlet to the Angoon Trading Post.. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 8, 2002

**Petersburg — Frederick Sound 55,** (Reference Number 4-2001-1294) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Location: Petersburg Airport. Proposal: The applicant proposes to fill 28,200 square feet (0.65 acres) with 8,950 cubic yards of native material to create a building pad and driveway and install a water line. Purpose: To construct a sand and chemical storage building; improve the turning area of an existing driveway and install a new waterline. This is part of a larger airport expansion project. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 22, 2002

**Wrangell — Zimovia Strait 96,** (Reference Number N-1993-0195) Applicant: Arnold Bakke. Location: Mile 1.5 Zimovia Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to fill 0.29 acres of intertidal habitat with 937 cubic yards of fill to enlarge an existing fill area. Purpose: To create a building pad for a single-family dwelling. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 17, 2002

**Juneau — Port St. Nicholas 30,** (Reference Number 1-2001-0641) Applicant: Robert and Tina Bell. Location: Lots 51A and 51B, Port St. Nicholas Subdivision #2. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 6-foot by 110-foot long walkway that would lead to a 50-foot by 6-foot floating walkway that will provide access to a 16-foot by 24-foot floating dock. The dock will be supported by three galvanized pilings. In addition, the applicant will place two breakwater boom sticks, one 70 foot long and one 50 foot long. Purpose: To provide marine access to property. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 22, 2002.

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

**You can make a  
real difference**

To help protect vital wetlands through creation of a database of wetland acreage fill, please contact Chris Kent at [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)



Juneau Audubon Society has members in these communities:  
Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg,  
Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

## Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

<b>President:</b>	Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, <a href="mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net">stevezimmerman@gci.net</a>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Brenda Wright, 789-4656, <a href="mailto:jnoel@gci.net">jnoel@gci.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, <a href="mailto:bandmac@gci.net">bandmac@gci.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	George Utermohl, 586-3849, <a href="mailto:norwaypt@gci.net">norwaypt@gci.net</a>
<b>Programs:</b>	Matt Kirchhoff, <a href="mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net">kirchhoff@gci.net</a>
<b>Membership:</b>	Amy Skilbred, 780-4649, <a href="mailto:skilbred@aol.com">skilbred@aol.com</a>
<b>Education:</b>	Mary Lou King, 789-7540, <a href="mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net">kingfarm@ptialaska.net</a>
<b>Publicity:</b>	Deborah Rudis, 789-4260
<b>Conservation:</b>	Chris Kent, 463-3494, <a href="mailto:ckent@alaska.net">ckent@alaska.net</a>
<b>Field Trips:</b>	Bonnie Toleman, <a href="mailto:btoleman@alaska.net">btoleman@alaska.net</a>
<b>Raven Editor:</b>	Judy Shuler, 789-9544, <a href="mailto:upclose@alaska.net">upclose@alaska.net</a>
<b>Public Market Coordinator:</b>	Kathy Weltzin, 789-0288

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### Great Backyard Bird Count

**February 15-18, 2002**

*See pages 1 & 3*

# The Raven



Volume 28, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2002

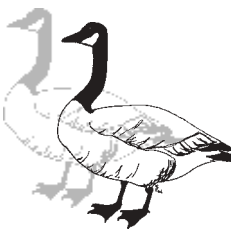
## March ALMANAC



Ravens  
begin  
nesting

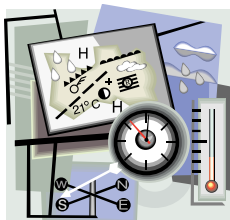
Lynx mate March/early April

Canada  
Geese pair  
for nesting



Sara Lou McDaniel

Vernal Equinox  
10:16 a.m. March 20



### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### The Art of Outdoor Nature Photography Brent Keeney

Brent Keeney, local nature photographer and artist, will give a talk and slide show on outdoor nature photography. A graduate of Cal State, Fresno, and a former photography teacher in California, Brent will show how to use elements of light, color, and composition to improve the quality and impact of your own nature photography.

Recent buzz in Eaglechat (*page 3*) is all about local sightings of redpoll. If you've hung birdfeeders in Southcentral, Interior or Southwest Alaska, you'll recognize the small streaked finches with bright red caps as frequent winter visitors. But they're here in Southeast as irruptives, following unpredictable and irregular population shifts likely due to cone shortage in their home area.



Bob Armstrong

Other identifying characteristics of Common redpolls are a stubby yellow bill and black chin. Males have a pink wash on their breasts. They often appear in frenetic flocks and seemingly move and act in unison.

For detailed description, more photos, drawings and recording of their call, check out <http://birds.cornell.edu/BOW/CORE/>

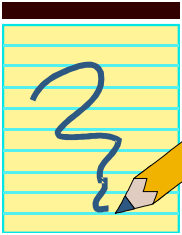


Please complete and return the membership survey form sent to you by mail or e-mail in February. See Notes from the Board on page 2.

### Coming in the April Raven:

Schedule for spring migration birdwalks.

Details on 7th annual Berners Bay cruise May 4



# Notes from the board

Steve Zimmerman, President

**The mission of Juneau Audubon is “to conserve the natural ecosystems of Southeast Alaska, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.”**

The Juneau Audubon Society’s Board of Directors held a strategic planning meeting on February 2, 2002. In keeping with directives from Audubon’s National Office we developed a vision statement, a mission statement, a list of goals, and an action plan to help us attain our goals.

Our vision statement declares that, “We envision a community in Southeast Alaska where environmental stewardship is always a major and meaningful component of planning new and continuing human activity.”

The mission statement affirms that the mission of Juneau Audubon is “to conserve the natural ecosystems of Southeast Alaska, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.”

Working within this context, a list of goals was drawn up which covers four main areas: conservation, education, membership, and finance and administration. In putting together an action plan to reach our goals, the biggest area of concern is the lack of members who have enough time to spend on all of the issues that Juneau Audubon should be involved in.

Since we cannot deal with all of the issues of concern, especially in the area of conservation, board members prioritized the conservation issues we will try to deal with in the following order: airport, beaches and wetlands, golf course, mining, and unplanned issues (e.g. off road vehicles). The board also recommended that we survey the members of the Juneau Audubon Society to see if the issues we are dealing with, and the services we are providing, are viewed as important by the membership.

All members of Juneau Audubon should have received, or should soon be receiving the survey. I request that you take the time to let the board know how you feel we are doing, and what our priorities should be. We are also hoping to find more productive ways to use the experience and skills of our members to help us stay on top of local conservation issues. Researching issues, writing letters, testifying at meetings, and mobilizing concerned citizens takes vast amounts of time. Juneau Audubon is an all-volunteer organization and we do not have any paid staff. Therefore, we need help from our members to do these things. Without it we are not going to have much of an impact on many of the very important conservation issues facing us in Southeast Alaska. So—please respond to the survey, and when you become aware of important conservation issues that threaten birds or important habitat, please think about how you might be able to help Juneau Audubon deal with them.

## April Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the April issue no later than March 22 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)





# Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings



## EAGLECHAT

To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.

### **Subject: Winter bird list**

There have been a few unusual sightings during the December - February period: the Black-throated Blue Warbler was still around for the first few days in December, Gus had a Mountain Chickadee, Paul has been seeing a hybrid Eurasian Wigeon at Fish Creek, there were some late birds on the Christmas Bird count, and there has been a Sanderling hanging out with the shorebird flock at Eagle Beach. If you have seen birds that you think are worthy of inclusion in North American Birds, please send that information to Thede Tobish, [tgt@alaska.net](mailto:tgt@alaska.net).

### **Subject: redpolls - February 17**

The fields at the wetlands are TEEMING with redpolls. We just walked out and were surrounded. There were hundreds and hundreds. If anyone is good at counting sparrows in a field, try these guys, they rise up in swarms here and there...really lovely.

### **Subject: Pygmy Owl - February 18**

Got a good long look at a northern pygmy owl today at around 2:30 p.m. a few miles south of Eagle Beach. It was sitting up high in tree next to the road. It wasn't disturbed by the occasional traffic. Eventually flew off toward the other side of the road - hopefully for a meal.

Saw a large flock of redpolls and some surf birds and black turnstones.

### **Subject: Redpolls and others - February 22**

Redpolls are still frequenting the Refuge tide flats, feasting on hoarfrost-encrusted grass stalks. Hooded merganser and RB merganser with harem at the river.

### **Subject: Re: Red Polls - February 22**

I'm at a mtg and met up with Vern Byrd (FWS in Homer); he said they're experiencing high numbers of redpolls, and he thought it was unusual, or at least, part of their irruptive behavior.

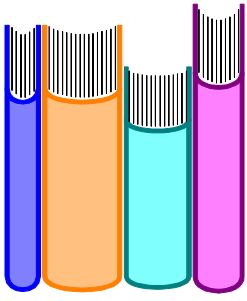
### **Subject: Re: Redpolls - February 24**

The single Redpoll at my feeder outside the kitchen window last Saturday was the first I had ever seen. By Monday there were three, and yesterday there were six! They're so cute! Now, there's a count, to lay alongside your "flocks!" My lone all-winter fox sparrow has now been joined by a friend.

**Goldeneye, both Barrow's and Common, are common winter birds in Southeast waters.**



Sara Lou McDaniel



## Book Review

### **Jim King**

**Brown Bears of Admiralty Island.** 2002 by Friends of Admiralty Island, Box 20791, Juneau, AK 99802, Phone/Fax 907-586-6738 e-mail admiralty\_friends@yahoo.com. Letter size, paperback. 38pp. 71 pictures. \$10 at Juneau book stores.

The Juneau arts community includes a remarkable array of world-class participants many of whom contributed to this lovely little book. It was clearly a labor of love. Contributors include K. J. Metcalf, John Hyde, John Schoen, Cliff Lobaugh, JoAnn George, Bruce Baker, Richard Carstensen, Joel Bennett, Charlie Joseph Sr., John Neary, Ralph Young, Paul Johnson, Butch Laughlin, Kim Titus, R. T. (Skip) Wallen and more.

More than 20 Foundations, businesses and conservationists contributed to the costs of this production.

This is a well written and visual account of the Admiralty bear habitat, bear natural history, bear behavior, bears and spirituality, early day and recent bear advocates, a bit of history, hints on bear viewing, recommendations from Friends of Admiralty Island and so forth.

This great little book was produced by people who cumulatively have hundreds of years of experience on Admiralty Island many in a professional capacity. No one who sees it can fail to be impressed with the quality of the photography, illustrations, writing and bear expertise.

It is a book worth having.



If you joined in February's Great Backyard Bird Count, you can check the latest reports at [http://www.birdsource.com/gbbc/toc\\_page.html](http://www.birdsource.com/gbbc/toc_page.html)

## Steps toward a paperless office

1. Receive The Raven electronically. The chapter's major expense is printing and mailing the newsletter. To help save paper and chapter money and reduce the volume of your monthly mail, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request The Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat or get information about downloading Acrobat Reader free, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

2. Instead of receiving multiple renewal notices from National Audubon, call 1-800-274-4201 and ask to sign up for Audubon's Paper Free Renewal Program. Your membership will be automatically renewed each year, and you'll receive one bill about two months before your membership expiration date. You can still cancel membership at any time.



# Calendar of events

## **Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Fireside Chats**

**7:30 - 9 p.m. Fridays**

### **March 1 - Mother Nature, Moderation, Money and...Salmon with Ben Van Alen**

Learn what Mother Nature, moderation and money have to do with salmon management, enhancement and EVERYTHING IN LIFE.

### **March 8 - Bicycle Touring in Siberia and the Russian Far East with Mike Blackwell**

Biking adventures in Magadan and Lake Baikal Region, Sakhalin and Kamchatka, plus bike touring tips to help you plan your own world tour.

### **March 15 - Going Alone: Journeys in Wild Alaska with Nick Jans**

Juneau author and photographer will show slides and read from his new manuscript, with topics from extreme jet boating to Aurora Borealis to sailing in Prince William Sound.

### **March 22 - Point Adolphus: Wildlife and Human Interaction, Brady Scott and Bob Christensen**

Discoveries by Southeast Alaska Wilderness Exploration Analysis and Discovery (SEAWEAD), a non-profit organization which facilitates research-based cooperative stewardship of wild lands in Southeast Alaska.

**The National Audubon Society website at <http://www.audubon.org/> has a wealth of information, from conservation issues and how you can get involved to wildlife-friendly landscape tips to links to chapters in other states and countries.**



Please check the date your membership expires in the top right corner of your mailing label (The first two digits identify the year, the second two, the month. Example: 0204 means April of 2002). **If your membership has expired, this will be your last issue of The Raven.** We encourage you to renew your National membership on the forms National sends to you. Use the form on the back of this newsletter for new members and support for just the Juneau Chapter.



**Juneau Audubon Society has members in these communities:**

**Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell**

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

**Even if the comment date has passed**, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Special Public Notice 2002 – 02, Announcing new Nationwide Permits.** On January 15, 2002, the Federal Register (67FR 2020-2095) announced the re-issuance of all existing Nationwide Permits (NWP), General Conditions, and definitions with some modification and one new General Condition. The Federal register notice is available for viewing at the COE district offices or on the internet at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/2002nwps.pdf>. As an alternative URL web users can also access the Federal Register at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces140.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html). The COE has also issued final decision documents for the new and modified NWPs. These documents are available on the Internet at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/nw2002dd/index.htm> Comments concerning regional issues should be directed to Mr. Mike Holley or Steve Meyers , Regulatory Branch, ATTN: CEPOA-COR-E. P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898. Comments must be received by March 15<sup>th</sup> 2002.

**\*\*Sheyma — Pacific Ocean 19**, (Reference Number 4-2000-0729) Applicant: Missile Defense Agency, Ground –Base Defense Joint Program Office, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, Alabama 35807-3801. Location: On Shemya Island (Eareckson Air Station). Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a portion of a Missile Defense System test bed. Activity will include land clearing and grading. The applicant will discharge dredged or filled material into 17.44 acres. The Borrow area would be expanded by 1.0 acres, a temporary beach barge area would be expanded by -0.5 acres., a beach staging area would be created filling 1.72 acres, a 2.35 million gallon fuel storage tank would be cited on a 5.25 acre fill, a In-flight interceptor communication system would fill 1 acre, and a satellite communication system will fill 2 acres. A east road fill borrow pit will be expanded into 5 acres. A fuel line will impact 0.02 acres and install a power line will fill 0.6 acres. Additionally there will be fill for a fiber optic line 0.25 acres and a water main will impact 0.6 acres. Purpose: To support the proposed test bed facilities of a ground based defense test bed to defend against ballistic missile threat. A copy of the final EIS may be viewed on the web at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/nmd.html> . Mitigation: None is current proposed. Comments due March 4, 2002.

**Haines — Chilkat Inlet 13**, (Reference Number 2-2001-1362) Applicant: Alaska Department of Natural Resource. Location: Within Chilkat State Park. Proposal: The applicant proposed to discharge 140 cubic yards of riprap /armor rock over .04 acres of intertidal habitat. Purpose: Provide erosion protection for an existing boat launch ramp. Mitigation: None Comments due March 11, 2002

**Juneau — Gastineau Channel 399**, (Reference Number M-1985-0057) Applicant: Douglas Island Pink and Chum. Location: Just North of mouth of Sheep Creek. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install and operate a salmon fry rearing facility consisting of six to eight 40-foot by 40-foot net pens and a 16-foot wide by 100-foot long feed storage float secured by two 7-ton concrete anchors and two 1,000 pound anchors attached to existing rock bolts. The pens would be in 40 feet of water within a area of 3.4 acres. Purpose: The pens would be for the temporary rearing of up to 24 million salmon fry annually. Fry would be in the pen for up to two months. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 22, 2002.

**Sitka — Beaver Lake 2**, (Reference Number 4-2001-1302) Applicant: U.S Forest Service. Location: Approximately 7 miles southeast of Sitka, near Sawmill Creek Campground. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct 5,607 linear feet of pedestrian trail. 4.5 feet high and 2-feet wide. The project will discharge 83 cubic yards of clean fill into 2, 990 feet of wetlands. The applicant proposes to place 36 cubic yards of stepping stones in the lake for 28 linear feet. The combined impact will be .189 acres of filled wetlands. Purpose: To extend the Beaver Lake trail for recreational uses around Beaver Lake. Mitigation: Proposes efforts to reduce impacts by confining trails to specific location through wetlands and bridges to prevent damage to vegetation.. Comments due March 15, 2002

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 522**, (Reference Number 2-1998-1094) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: Bill Smart. Location: Gravina Island along Tongass Narrows. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 6-inch marine outfall to a -12 feet elevation, install a residential septic system, construct a 6-foot wide by 44-foot long steel walkway on four 10-inch galvanized piles, retain a 16-foot wide by 134-foot long steel float in Tongass Narrows and place a 6-foot wide by 60-foot long steel ramp attaching the walkway to an existing float. The applicant also proposes to retain 500 cubic yards of fill placed onto the intertidal zone for a house pad and septic tank. Purpose: To construct a residence . Mitigation: None. Comments due February 22, 2002

**\*\*Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 525**, (Reference Number N-2000-0307) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Location: Ketchikan International Airport, Gravina Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 529,500 cubic yards of fill to construct a 3,200 foot long by 125-foot wide taxiway extension and expand the runway safety area (end of the runway). The fill will impact 46.45 acres of wetlands including tidelands, and streams in conjunction with the taxiway. The taxiway will impact 24 acres of scrub/shrub and emergent wetlands, 2.25 acres of tidelands and 2 streams. The Applicant will also discharge 35,500 cubic yards of overburden from 12 acres of muskeg for expansion of an existing quarry onto 6.2 acres of adjacent muskeg/wetlands. The disposal area will be 100 feet by 2,000 feet. Discharge 6,500 cubic yard of fill onto 2 acres of muskeg wetlands to construct the perimeter road an access control fence. The Ketchikan Airport has currently impacted 205 acres of wetlands on Gravina Island. Purpose: General public access from Kootznahoo Inlet to the Angoon Trading Post.. Mitigation: The applicant will place fill into the tidelands only on lower tidal stages and will reduce the slope of the fill. The applicant will use the overburden on the exposed quarry slopes to restore some function. A sediment and erosion plan will be developed to reduce impacts to North Airport Creek (anadromous stream). The applicant will install ample culverts to maintain hydrologic connectivity. The applicant will pay \$45,000 to Southeast Alaska Land Trust for impacts to tidelands and provide \$123,760 for use in improving fish passage on Schoenbar Creek in Ketchikan Comments due March 7, 2002

**Ketchikan — Ward Cove 34**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1315) Applicant: Robert Holston Jr.. Location: In Ward Cove. Proposal: The applicant proposes to permanently moor seaward of mean high tide one 570-foot long by 150-foot wide wood decked, log and plastic drum float. The float will be connected to shore by a 70-foot long by 25-foot wide aluminum ramp. The ramp will rest on a 8-foot long by 40-foot wide concrete abutment. Purpose: To create a visitor attraction. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 17, 2002

**Kasaan — Saltery Cove 5**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1225) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: Irwin Brock. Location: In Saltery Cove, near Kasaan. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain a structure located seaward of mean high water. The structure is 18-foot long by 20-foot wide, wood deck, encapsulated foam mooring dock, connected to at the top decking with an 14-foot long by 5-foot wide wood skiff ramp. Purpose: To provide mooring for private boat. Mitigation: None. Comments due March 8, 2002

**Hyder — Portland Canal 55**, (Reference Number M-1961-0030) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation, Public Facilities. Location: Seaplane and boat harbor. Proposal: The applicant proposes to dredge 17,800 cubic yards of material near the outlet channel of the boat basin of Portland Canal. Another 2,100 cubic yards of material would be dredged from the large vessel float basin. In addition, the log breakwater at the seaplane facility would be replaced, three concrete anchors would be relocated, and the concrete boat launch ramp would be replaced by discharging 145 cubic yards of fill below high tide line. The new seaplane dock will be anchored by three 12-inch diameter steel pilings. . Purpose: To improve the channel depth so that seaplane and boat facilities are usable at all tidal stages. Mitigation: No in water work during juvenile fish migration. Comments due March 18, 2002.

**\*\*** These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
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*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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**Treasurer:** George Utermohl, 586-3849, [norwaypt@gci.net](mailto:norwaypt@gci.net)  
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**Conservation:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)  
**Field Trips:** Bonnie Toleman, [btoleman@alaska.net](mailto:btoleman@alaska.net)  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)  
**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

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*Sara Lou McDaniel*

# The Raven

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



Volume 28, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2002

## APRIL ALMANAC

Look for hummingbirds around April 10

Bald eagles begin nesting

Migratory waterfowl & shorebirds stop at Southeast wetlands and tidal flats enroute to northern nesting grounds



Red squirrels are born

Black bear emerge from dens  
- take down bird feeders

The hooting of Blue Grouse echoes through the mountains

Marmots emerge from hibernation & mate

*"If spring came but once in a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change!"*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### Steller Sea Lions and Forage Fish in Southeastern Alaska Jamie Womble

Jamie Womble, a graduate student in the School of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, will provide a glimpse into the ecology of these fascinating animals, and prepare us for the sights we'll quite likely see on our annual Spring boat cruise to Berners Bay on May 4th.

### Audubon Science Fair Award

#### Matt Kirchhoff

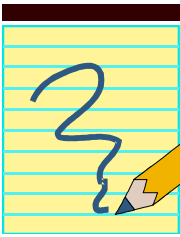
Juneau-Douglas High School sophomore Natalie Hall was recognized by the Juneau chapter for a science fair project that "applies the principles of sound science to an environmental issue."

Natalie's project studied the "effects of fecal coliform bacteria from sewage runoff on Pacific Blue Mussels." Although sewage runoff from subdivisions adjacent to the Mendenhall State Wildlife has been documented, the effects of elevated fecal coliform levels on marine life had not been studied.

Natalie felt that Pacific Blue Mussels might be a good indicator species for studying the possible effects of this pollution. She tested mussels at three sites: The tidelands adjacent to Bonnie Brae Subdivision (high coliform levels), the outfall area for the Auke Bay Sewage Treatment plant (intermediate levels), and a control site in Auke Bay (no coliform bacteria). Natalie found significantly higher levels of gill parasites and significantly lower survival in populations from the more polluted sites.

The judges were impressed with Natalie's study design, her use of appropriate statistical tests, and her poise during the interview. She said: "I think this study is important because it illustrates the effect that fecal coliform can have on one species, and it may serve as an indicator for other species."

As Audubon judge, I felt this project was one of the top 2 or 3 I've judged in recent years. Natalie received a \$100 award from Audubon for her project, and a free Audubon membership. Natalie will be continuing to the state-wide science fair in Anchorage. Congratulations Natalie!



# Notes from the board

Chris Kent, conservation chair

## Information systems for conservation

In an age of information, the knowledgeable can use Internet tools and access facts faster than ever before. You don't have to be an expert to use, explore, and collect information about almost every conceivable subject. How do information systems aid conservation efforts?

The Internet gives us a powerful tool to collect information, a forum for the exchange of ideas and it gives us another point of access to government and congressional members. Information has the power to convince and it should be used to suit the argument.

Alaska's foremost conservationist Celia Hunter believed that knowledge about places and ecological systems lead to a credible and influencing voice for convincing others to protect Alaska's wild resources. Research and study is the most important step in preparing thinking and arguments. Gathering facts and references by using the Internet is relatively easy. If you're fortunate enough to own a personal computer with Internet access, access is just a few clicks away. Without home access to the Internet, the library offers the best of both worlds, high speed Internet connections and a warehouse of accumulated knowledge.

I prefer the electronic medium simply because it is easier to search – try finding a single word or sentence in a large book. Computers make this task trivial. Search engines like Google, FindWhat, HotBot, Alta Vista, Lycos, Mamma.com, AskJeeves, ePilot and Yahoo! literally search hundreds of thousands of pages of published work and bring the results back to you. Government Internet pages are also good places to look for information and find out about what agencies are doing. Most government Internet sites lists a point(s) of contacts.

I have had several good exchanges with agency staff using e-mail. I would caution that using e-mail to flame an agency or vent your anger is not very productive and can be very embarrassing if messages are spread around. Agency personnel respond in a professional and honest manner. I also believe that e-mail is an effective method to petition our governmental officials. I regularly send e-mail about current news articles and legislation and have received written replies.

A favorite task is sending them tidbits of information on subjects where we disagree. Don Young stubbornly believes that global warming is not tied to human actions. Every research article that I find on global warming, I forward the link or complete article to Don's e-mail address. Hopefully, the effort will one day pay off. Listed below are links to sites and search engines that you may find valuable.

<http://www.epa.gov>

<http://www.state.ak.us>

<http://info.dec.state.ak.us/ciimms/>

<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/enri/bmap/index.html>

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Reg/Default.htm>

<http://www.noaa.gov>

<http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/wildmain.htm>

<http://agdc.usgs.gov/data/>

<http://www.earth911.org>



### **May Raven Deadline**

**Please submit articles for the May issue no later than April 26 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)**

Juneau Audubon Society has members in these communities:

Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell



## Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks

Walks last about two hours. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots (hiking shoes for Sheep Creek Valley) and dress for weather. Please watch local media and May Raven for possible schedule changes and additional walks. For further information contact Bonnie at 789-1633 or [btolerman@alaska.net](mailto:btolerman@alaska.net).

- |   |   |                             |   |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>April 20<br/>8 a.m.</b>                  | Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge<br>Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.<br>Leader: Mark Schwan   | <b>May 25<br/>7:30 a.m.</b> | Mendenhall Moraine.<br>Meet at parking lot by Moraine Loop Trail,<br>near Glacier Visitor Center.<br>Leader: Deanna MacPhail                  |
| <b>April 27<br/>8 a.m.</b>                  | Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.<br>Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.<br>Leader: Nina Mollett   | <b>June 1<br/>8 a.m.</b>    | Sheep Creek.<br>Meet at parking lot at Sheep Creek<br>trailhead off Thane Rd.<br>Leader: Gus vanVliet   |
| <b>May 4<br/>8 a.m.<br/>&amp; 1:30 p.m.</b> | Berners Bay cruises with Juneau Audubon<br>Society birders. (Tickets at Hearthsides<br>Books – meet at Auke Bay dock)                                     | <b>June 8<br/>10 a.m.</b>   | South Bridget Cove for plant identification<br>& birding.<br>Meet at South Bridget Cove parking lot out<br>the road.<br>Leader: Mary Lou King |
| <b>May 11<br/>9 a.m.</b>                    | <b>International Migratory Bird Day</b><br>Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.<br>Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.<br>Leader: Paul Suchanek |                             |   |
| <b>May 18<br/>8 a.m.</b>                    | Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.<br>Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd<br>Leader: Steve Zimmerman   |                             |   |

### Seventh Annual

## Berners Bay Cruise

**Saturday, May 4**

**8:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. sailings**

Adults, \$28; Children under 12, \$5 (must be accompanied by adult) Tickets available at Hearthsides Books

### **Another advantage of electronic Ravens**

If you received your April Raven by e-mail, you were among the first to see the complete schedule for spring migration birdwalks and details on our ever-popular Berners Bay cruise.

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request The Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat or get information about downloading Acrobat Reader free, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

Eulachon run upstream to spawn through Berners Bay in late April and early May. Eager predators soon congregate, some in staggering numbers.

Steller sea lions and harbor seals gather at the mouths of the rivers. Gulls increase dramatically, from a few hundred birds to tens of thousands in just three days. Between frenzied feeding, they loaf on adjacent sandbars.

Migrating red-breasted mergansers gather in the hundreds in the bay. Mallards, pintail, and green-wing teal nibble on dead or moribund eulachon. Shorebirds and even songbirds peck bits of flesh from dead fish on the shore and pick loose eggs from the shallows. Northwestern crows hide their booty in the meadow grasses. Nesting ravens feed eulachon to their chicks and store the extras in the trees nearby.

Bald eagles reach a peak of perhaps a thousand as spawning ends and the weary adult eulachon drift downstream. At low tide, sometimes a hundred eagles crowd onto a single sand bar. (Observations from Mary Willson's field studies)



# Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings

## **A Celebration of Swans - Whitehorse**

**April 13 - 28**

Activities include a bird photography workshop with George Calef; program with swan biologist Jim Hawkings, presented on varying dates at Tagish Community Club, Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, Beaver Creek Community Club, Haines Junction Community Centre and Beringia Centre; art contest; birdhouse building; swan-viewing field trips; and open house at Sheep Mountain Visitor Centre, Kluane Lake.

For further information contact Todd Powell at (867) 667-8291 or [Todd.Powell@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Todd.Powell@gov.yk.ca) Their website, <http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/viewing> will have further details after April 1.



## EAGLECHAT

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

**Date: March 16**

**Subject: today's birds**

While running out the road today I flushed a snipe from the small ditches of open water just along the road past Eagle Beach. It flew ahead of me about 5-6 times and would land in a ditch area further ahead. It was also in the same general area later on my return run. The surprise was a flicker that was in some roadside alder and flew across the road - at least a couple of miles past Eagle Beach. (Closer to the rocky area where some folks rock climb.)

**Date: March 20**

**Subject: varied thrushes**

I heard the first varied thrush on Monday. Song sparrows have been singing too. And the redpolls seem all aflutter about something, but then they're always aflutter. NPR Morning Edition is running a story on the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, you can hear it via streaming RealAudio at: <http://search.npr.org/cf/cmn/cmnpd01fm.cfm?PrgDate=03/18/2002&PrgID=3>

**Date: March 20**

**Subject: pine grosbeaks**

I've been seeing several pine grosbeaks over the last few weeks out at Thane. 3 in one group and up to a dozen in the next 2nd group was hanging around my deck, didn't see them go to the feeder they seemed interested in the salmon berry bushes. Fine looking bird. Also a few H-redpolls (I think) & O-juncos. & of course the diehard chickadees. The eagles have been really performing in the big winds we've been having.

**Date: March 22**

**Subject: "Eurasian" teal at Fish Creek**

This PM there was a pair of "Eurasian" teal at the mouth of Fish Creek (along with about 6-8 other teal). The male has a horizontal white bar on the side instead of a vertical white bar at the shoulder like other male green-winged teal. This subspecies of green-winged teal has been split out as a separate species in Europe, and probably will be split in North America too. The birds flew off after a while toward the mouth of the Mendenhall so I guess they could show up anywhere on the wetlands. An apparent "hybrid" Eurasian wigeon that has been around for several months was also in with a bunch of wigeon. I also saw 6 killdeer which have also been around for awhile. There were also about 30 adult herring gulls that have moved in within the last week.

**Date: March 25**

**Subject: trumpeter swans**

This morning I saw my first trumpeter swans of the season. Six swans on the Taiya River flats in Dyea, out of Skagway. I also heard my first blue grouse of Spring today.



## They're coming back

Last fall's late-to-bed bears will soon re-emerge from dens to travel their historic trails between mountain and beach. Right through our neighborhoods.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists, who see interactions between people and bear with troublesome frequency, recommend feeding birds only from December 1 to April 1. Birds in Southeast Alaska have a ready source of natural food in all but the severest winter weather. If your yard has natural cover and source of water, you'll likely attract birds.

If you can not be deterred from feeding birds when bear are out of hibernation, please heed the following advice without fail.

Hang feeders out of reach so that even if bears are attracted to the smell of the seed, they don't get a reward.

If a bear has gained access to one of your bird feeders at some point in the past, expect a return visit. Make absolutely certain that the bear gets no additional positive reinforcements for returning.

Clean up any seed that falls on the ground. Consider scattering a little birdseed on deck rails every day, so that there are never any leftovers. Or fill feeders every day, but put out only a quantity that birds will eat before sundown. Feed shelled sunflower seed. It's a favorite for birds, and there will be no empty or uneaten shells to fall on the ground and attract bears.

### Highlighting Vulnerable Birds

## Alaska WatchList

Alaska Audubon has compiled the Alaska Watchlist for Alaskan birds that need help. The list was developed in cooperation with Boreal Partners in Flight, a coalition of state, federal and private-sector biologists, resource managers and conservationists working together to assess the status and protect birds of Alaska.

Birds on the list include species or subspecies faced with a combination of population decline, small population size, limited geographic range or threats on their breeding and wintering grounds or along migration routes. It's an early warning system for at-risk populations, and thus does not include species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The WatchList helps resource managers, landowners, industry, conservation organizations and others to identify emerging problems and set priorities for action. It is also a tool for educating the public and decision-makers about habitat needs and conservation requirements of Alaska's birdlife.

Species included in the Northern Pacific Rainforest region, which stretches from Southeast through South-coastal Alaska as far as the eastern Kenai Peninsula:

**Red-throated Loon**  
**Yellow-billed Loon**  
**Greater White-fronted Goose**  
**Long-tailed Duck**  
**Black Scoter**  
**Northern Goshawk**  
*(Queen Charlotte)*  
**Peregrine Falcon**  
**Spruce Grouse**  
*(Prince of Wales)*

**Black Oystercatcher**  
**Black Turnstone**  
**Surfbird**  
**Rock Sandpiper**  
**Aleutian Tern**  
**Marbled Murrelet**  
**Kittlitz's Murrelet**  
**Black Swift**  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

For copies of the state-wide WatchList, with details on why particular species are included, contact Audubon Alaska, 308 G St., #217, Anchorage, AK 99501.

## Education Chair Report

Mary Lou King

One of the Juneau Audubon goals is to contribute to the Seaweeek program in schools. This spring we are planning to place a combination of wildlife materials in the Juneau grade and middle schools. Some of the most exciting materials, and I think very useful for students and adults who would like to identify and know more about birds and/or intertidal life, are Discovery Southeast's laminated pocket guides. "Common Birds of Southeast Alaska" by Richard Carstensen, "Intertidal Animals of Southeast Alaska" and a very new "Common Flowers of Southeast Alaska" are the three guides that can be purchased from: Discovery Southeast, P.O. Box 21867, Juneau, AK 99802. Or e-mail [discoveryse@alaska.com](mailto:discoveryse@alaska.com) Ask about a reduced cost for guides ordered for use in schools.

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

**Even if the comment date has passed**, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Port Alexander — Port Alexander 22**, (Reference Number M-1986-0561) Applicant: City of Port Alexander. Location: Port Alexander Inner Harbor. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 5-foot wide boardwalk along the Inner Harbor of Port Alexander. The boardwalk would extend 176-feet from the existing Main Street boardwalk to the south of the existing gravel trail on a filled bulkhead to the north that will continue to the existing boardwalk at First Avenue. Purpose: To replace a gravel trail and to provide access to residents north of Main Street. Mitigation: None. Comments due April 12, 2002.

**Petersburg — Wrangell Narrows 493**, (Reference Number V-1999-0757) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: William Menish. Location: 11 miles South of Petersburg just south of Papke's Landing. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain approximately 680 cubic yards of clean shot rock use to create a 510-foot by 12-foot road placed onto 0.14 acres of wetlands. The applicant also proposes to discharge 653 cubic yards of material to widen the road to 25-feet expanding the fill by 0.153 acres. The applicant will discharge 1,800 cubic yards of material onto 0.49 acres of wetlands to construct additional roadway 810-feet by 25-feet and two 54-foot long by 10-foot wide turnouts. Purpose: To obtain authorization and expand roadway for future residential development. Mitigation: None. Comments due April 1, 2002.

**Petersburg — Wrangell Narrows 506**, (Reference Number 4-2001-1310) Applicant: Donald Sperl. Location: 11 miles South of Petersburg, in the Menish Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 109 cubic yards of material to construct a 77-foot long by 19-foot wide driveway covering 0.034 acres, discharge another 298 cubic yards of material to construct a driveway and parking areas for shop/house covering 0.92 acres. The applicant will also discharge 26 cubic yards of material to create a base for a water tank onto 0.009 acres. Finally, the applicant will discharge material onto another .595 acres to construct a septic system and lawns. Purpose: To construct a private residence and non-commercial shop area, parking lot and lawns. Mitigation: None. Comments due April 1, 2002.

**Ketchikan — Neets Bay 14**, (Reference Number M-1982-0394) Applicant: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.. Location: Neets Bay at mouth of Neets Creek, approximately 30 miles north of Ketchikan. Proposal: The applicant proposes to extend by 230-feet an existing aluminum fish ladder from an intertidal pool to the existing SSRAA Fish Hatchery facility. This action will discharge 8 cubic yards of fill into the intertidal zone and relocate a 140-foot water supply line. The applicant will also excavate 30 cubic yards of streambed at the end of the ladder to create a resting pool for fish. Purpose: To provide an alternative entrance to the fish hatchery below the existing stream gradient. Mitigation: None. Comments due March 25, 2002.

**Ketchikan — Lincoln Channel 0001**, (Reference Number 1-2002-0108) Applicant: Jim Benson. Location: Floats located in Lincoln Channel between Sitklan and Kanagunut Islands. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain two floats (14-foot by 50-foot and 25-foot by 25-foot that are moored with cement anchors at 9 fathoms on a zero tide and secured with two shore lines about 20-foot long. Purpose: To obtain authorization and use a safe mooring site. Mitigation: None. Comments due March 28, 2002.

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 538**, (Reference Number 1-2001-0610) Applicant: Henry Dyson. Location: 5517 North Tongass Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 10-foot by 10-foot concrete pad above high tide line connecting to a 10-foot by 50-foot concrete dock supported by six 12-inch diameter galvanized piling. The secondary dock would be connected to a 120-foot by 10-foot floating dock by 4-foot by 60-foot aluminum ramp. The dock would be supported by six 18-inch pilings. Approximately 0.05 acres of intertidal be filled. Purpose: To create private boat moorage. Mitigation: None. Comments due March 21, 2002

**Ketchikan — Clover Passage 23**, (Reference Number R-1983-0432) Applicant: Knudson Cove Marina LLC. Location: 407 Knudson Cove Road. Proposal: The applicant proposes to modify an existing permit to install a deck area approximately 6,280 square foot. Purpose: To expand business area. Mitigation: None. Comments due April 5, 2002

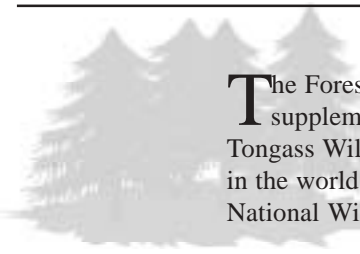
**Ketchikan — Clover Passage 53**, (Reference Number R-2001-1391) Applicant: Dale Pihlman. Location: 16.5 miles north of Ketchikan, Waterfall Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 77-foot by 12-foot float linked to land by a 60-foot by 4-foot aluminum ramp and attach a to it a 40-foot by 60-foot floating workshop. Boom logs will be placed around the floating structures. Purpose: Provide private moorage to an existing family home. Mitigation: None. Comments due April 1, 2002

**Prince of Wales — Port St. Nicholas 33**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1232) Applicant: David Simpson. Location: Lot 32 4.5 mile Port St. Nicholas Road. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct an 80-foot by 8-foot walkway that will be attached to a 10-foot by 30-foot float on four plastic floats. The walkway and float will be connected by a 30-foot by 8-foot ramp. The structures will be supported by butt pilings. Purpose: Provide private moorage for water access. Mitigation: None. Comments due March 26, 2002.

**Prince of Wales — Port St. Nicholas 33**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1232) Applicant: David Simpson. Location: Lot 32 4.5 mile Port St. Nicholas Road. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct an 80-foot by 8-foot walkway that will be attached to a 10-foot by 30-foot float on four plastic floats. The walkway and float will be connected by a 30-foot by 8-foot ramp. The structures will be supported by butt pilings. Purpose: Provide private moorage for water access. Mitigation: None. Comments due March 26, 2002.

**Coffman Cove — Coffman Cove 6**, (Reference Number 2-2001-1356) Applicant: Blue Water Christian camp. Location: Coffman Island, Coffman Cove. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 40-foot by 40-foot floating dock that will be connected to a pile supported pier located above the High Tide Line via a 6-foot by 75-foot access ramp. The float would be secured by 10 – 3,000 pound concrete anchors. The applicant will also install utility line for water, electric and telephone utilities across Coffman Cove. The corridor will cross 2,231 feet of Coffman Cove with both ends trenched into the beach area. The trench on the Coffman Island side will impact 110 square feet of intertidal habitat and the Coffman Cove side will impact 160 square feet of habitat. Purpose: To develop a recreational camp. Mitigation: None. Comments due April 8, 2002

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.



The Forest Service is about to begin the Tongass Wildlands Plan, a forest plan supplement to review Tongass roadless areas for long-term Congressional protection as wilderness. The Tongass Wildlands Plan gives Alaskans the last, best chance to make sure that one of the most rare ecosystems in the world - low-elevation old growth temperate rainforest - is fully represented and protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Forest Service is expected to release a draft Wildlands Plan in mid-April, followed by hearings in major cities. The Plan will detail proposals for additions to Tongass wilderness and LUD II (road-free) areas, and describe the relative contribution of Tongass wildlands to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The public will then have 90 days to comment on the Plan, to urge the Forest Service to permanently protect the remaining Tongass temperate old-growth forest for hiking, fishing, hunting and other Tongass uses. Areas of special interest in the Juneau area include Berners Bay, St. James Bay, Mansfield Peninsula, Point Couverden and Taku Harbor. For more information, contact Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, 907-586-6942, <http://www.seacc.org>

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

<b>President:</b>	Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, <a href="mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net">stevezimmerman@gci.net</a>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Brenda Wright, 789-4656, <a href="mailto:jnoel@gci.net">jnoel@gci.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, <a href="mailto:bandmac@gci.net">bandmac@gci.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	George Utermohl, 586-3849, <a href="mailto:norwaypt@gci.net">norwaypt@gci.net</a>
<b>Programs:</b>	Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, <a href="mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net">kirchhoff@gci.net</a>
<b>Membership:</b>	Amy Skilbred, 780-4649, <a href="mailto:skilbred@aol.com">skilbred@aol.com</a>
<b>Education:</b>	Mary Lou King, 789-7540, <a href="mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net">kingfarm@ptialaska.net</a>
<b>Publicity:</b>	Deborah Rudis, 789-4260, <a href="mailto:akwildlife@gci.net">akwildlife@gci.net</a>
<b>Conservation:</b>	Chris Kent, 463-3494, <a href="mailto:ckent@alaska.net">ckent@alaska.net</a>
<b>Field Trips:</b>	Bonnie Toleman, 789-1633, <a href="mailto:btoleman@alaska.net">btoleman@alaska.net</a>
<b>Raven Editor:</b>	Judy Shuler, 789-9544, <a href="mailto:upclose@alaska.net">upclose@alaska.net</a>
<b>Public Market Coordinator:</b>	Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

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**P.O. BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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*Daniel S. Kilby*

# The Raven

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



Volume 28, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2002

## May ALMANAC

### A season of birth

- ◆ Moose calves born mid-May to early June
- ◆ Fawns born in late spring
- ◆ Wolf pups born May/early June
- ◆ Mountain goat kids born late May/early June
- ◆ One to two eaglets hatch late May/early June
- ◆ Harbor seal pups born May to mid-July

**Sandhill Cranes pass by Gustavus, Wrangell, Petersburg en route to western & northern Alaska.**



**Arctic Terns arrive from Antarctica.**

**Migratory waterfowl & shorebirds stop at Southeast wetlands and tidal flats enroute to northern nesting grounds.**

**Male Steller sea lions defend their breeding territories from mid-May through July. Pups are also born now.**

**Brown bear mate, with peak activity early June.**

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### Seattle to Juneau on a Waterbike **Jack Hodges**

Jack Hodges was the first person to pedal a waterbike from Seattle to Juneau. Come hear Jack's talk and slide show about this epic 44-day adventure!

### May 11 is International Migratory Bird Day

A celebration of special places

Free program on birds  
May 10  
7-9 p.m.

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

Saturday Bird Walk  
May 11

Mendenhall Wetlands



Photo courtesy Stuart MacKay

Weighing only an ounce, this bird can fly over 50 miles per hour. Will it be found in Alaska? See page 6

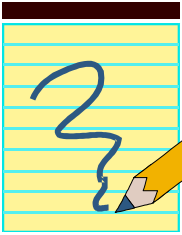
### Science Fair project heads to international competition

Natalie Hale, Juneau-Douglas High School sophomore who received a \$100 award from Juneau Audubon Society this winter for her science fair project, won the Alaska State Science Fair in Anchorage last month. She will travel to an international science fair in Louisville, KY, May 12-18, and her work will be submitted for publication in scientific journals

Natalie's project studied the effects of fecal coliform bacteria from sewage runoff on Pacific Blue Mussels, which could have wide application in use of animals to assess effects of pollution.

*Our apologies for misspelling Natalie's last name in the April issue.*

**Monthly meetings resume the second Thursday in September.  
Watch for details in the September Raven.**



# Notes from the board

Judy Shuler, Raven editor

Many thanks to all of you who returned our February membership survey.

The vast majority of responses ranked expansion of the Juneau airport and associated cutting of trees and filling of wetlands habitat as the most important conservation issue for this chapter to address. Other beach access and wetlands fill issues was ranked second. Among other issues you suggested the chapter address were Berners Bay and east Lynn Canal highway; refuse burning at the Juneau landfill; licensing of hydroelectric projects; archeological damage; effects of exotic plants; water quality; subsistence; visitor education about Alaska bird habitat issues. Land management issues that affect wildlife habitat, including helicopter landings, was also cited.

Nearly all respondents said they were very satisfied with the chapter's mission and general priorities.

Suggestions for the newsletter included featuring a bird each month, with information on identification and viewing locations for new birders; recycling education; habitat issues; and updates on problems and progress in chapter projects.

There was a request for more field trips, in addition to those during spring migration. Please continue to forward your comments and suggestions to any board member, or by mail to Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802.

## Great Backyard Bird Count Results are in

**A**udubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have announced the results of the 5th Great Backyard Bird Count which occurred February 15 through 18.

Close to 50,000 checklists were submitted for a total of almost 5 million individual birds counted from across the United States and Canada, with every state and province reporting in. The total number of bird species reported currently stands at 505, a figure that is sure to grow as rare sightings continue to be confirmed and added to the GBBC database. Count participants included families, individuals, classrooms, and Scout troops. Participants took as little as 15 minutes

Some of the rare and unusual birds included a Gyrfalcon in Massachusetts (a powerful falcon from the Arctic), a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Alaska (a visitor from Asia) and Broad-billed Hummingbird in Georgia (possibly a first for the state). However probably the greatest contribution participants make is by counting the common birds, Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, and Mourning Doves. Maps showing the late winter distribution of all of these species can be seen in the "Results" section of the website, <http://www.birdsource.org>.

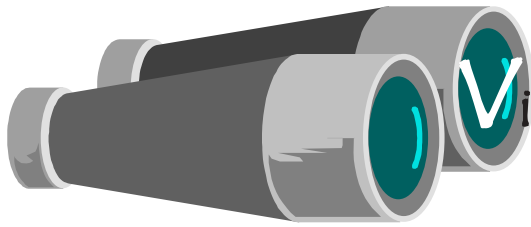


**Do you spend your summer collecting shells or other natural materials, then making hand-crafted items? Please keep the Thanksgiving Juneau Public Market in mind. The Audubon booth is a major fund-raiser for the chapter, and hand-crafted items are a favorite item with shoppers. Contact Kathy Weltzin in the fall and let her know what you can contribute.**

### September Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the September issue no later than August 23 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)





## Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips

### Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks

Walks last about two hours. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots (hiking shoes for Sheep Creek Valley) and dress for weather. Beginning birders are welcome. Please note the June 1 Sheep Creek walk begins at 7 a.m., not 8 a.m. as listed in the April Raven. For further information contact Bonnie at 789-1633 or [btoleman@alaska.net](mailto:btoleman@alaska.net).

**May 4**  
**8 a.m.**  
**& 1:30 p.m.** Berners Bay cruises with Juneau Audubon Society birders. (Tickets at *Hearthside Books* – meet at Auke Bay dock)

**May 11**  
**9 a.m.** *International Migratory Bird Day*  
 Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.  
 Meet at parking lot end of Radcliffe Rd.  
*Leader: Paul Suchanek*

**May 18**  
**8 a.m.** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.  
 Meet at parking lot end of Radcliffe Rd  
*Leader: Steve Zimmerman*

**May 25**  
**7:30 a.m.** Mendenhall Moraine.  
 Meet at parking lot by Moraine Loop Trail, near Glacier Visitor Center.  
*Leader: Deanna MacPhail*

**June 1**  
**7 a.m.** Sheep Creek.  
 Meet at parking lot at Sheep Creek trailhead off Thane Rd.  
*Leader: Gus vanVliet*

**June 8**  
**10 a.m.** South Bridget Cove for plant identification & birding.  
 Meet at South Bridget Cove parking lot out the road.  
*Leader: Mary Lou King*

### Yukon Bird Club spring field trips

For more information call Wendy Nixon at (867) 668-7572.

**May 2** Northern Shrikes and Mountain Bluebirds  
 Meet at the Porter Creek Super A at 6:30 p.m.

**May 8** Schwatka Lake Waterfowl Workshop  
 Meet at the S.S. Klondike at 6:30 p.m.

**May 15** Jackfish Bay Waterfowl and Shorebird Bonanza  
 Meet at the Porter Creek Super A at 6:30 p.m.

**May 21** Yukon River Birds  
 Meet at the Department of Education Building parking lot at 1000 Lewes Boulevard at 6:30 p.m.

**May 23** Walk with the Shorebirds  
 Meet at the S.S. Klondike at 5:30 p.m.

**May 25** Watson Lake Double Header  
 Albert Creek banding station, meet 8 a.m. at Wye Lake picnic site  
 Wye Lake walk, meet at the picnic site at 7 p.m.

**May 26** Birdsong Identification Workshop  
 Meet at the Porter Creek Super A at 7:30 a.m.

**May 27** Migration Happens  
 Meet at the S.S. Klondike at 6:30 p.m.

**May 29** Judas Creek Migration Finale  
 Meet at the S.S. Klondike at 5:30 p.m.

**June 6** Mary Lake Waterbirds  
 Meet at the S.S. Klondike at 6:30 PM.

**June 11** Takhini Beaver Pond!  
 Meet at the Takhini Elementary School parking lot at 7 p.m.

**June 15** Hidden Lakes Nesting Birds!  
 Meet at the S.S. Klondike at 9:30 a.m.

Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell



# EAGLECHAT

To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.

**Date: April 17**

**Subject: Hummers**

Hummers! A sure sign of spring - I had my first male rufous hummingbird at the feeder yesterday.

**Date: Sat, 20 April 20**

**Subject: Saturday Morning Walk**

We had our first Saturday morning bird walk today in Juneau. It was like coming home, as the weather returned to the more usual rain and wind, though the wind calmed through the walk. We had a very small but nice group on the wetlands this morning. We walked out along the river briefly to watch gulls feed, then crossed the flats to hopefully locate a few song birds, which we didn't, then we walked the dike path. We didn't find anything really exciting but it was a nice search and fun to see the gull activity and waterfowl. Here is the species list:

Tundra Swan	American Wigeon	Bufflehead	Greater Yellowlegs	Belted Kingfisher
Canada Goose	Ring-necked Duck	Common Merganser	Bonaparte's Gull	Northwestern Crow
Green-winged Teal	Greater Scaup	Red-breasted Merganser	Mew Gull	Common Raven
Mallard	Lesser Scaup	Bald Eagle	Herring Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Northern Pintail	Common Goldeneye	Killdeer	Glaucous-winged Gull	American Robin
				Song Sparrow

Gulls were feeding on fish in the river, and there were about 20 eagles near the old barge. Several seals were cruising around too.

**Date: April 21**

**Subject: out the road**

At 24.5 mi., I have had a LOT of juncos showing up the last two days, mixed with hermit thrushes, varied thrushes, chickadees and still a few redpolls...Several sapsuckers drumming at each other on poles, trees and the side of a shed...returning pair of kingfishers are courting in front of last years nesting area...

**Date: April 23**

**From: "Steve Lewis" <[steve\\_lewis@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:steve_lewis@fishgame.state.ak.us)>**

**Subject: Speaking of Spring**

This is a great time to hear unsolicited northern goshawk vocalizations. The best time is around dawn but vocalizations may occur at any time during the day. These vocalizations are associated with courtship flights, ritual feedings, and nest building. The AK Department of Fish and Game is continuing a study of northern goshawk ecology here and you folks are my best source of reliable goshawk sightings. So, if you hear or see any goshawks, give me an e-mail or call (465-4345). There are a couple areas that we continue to find evidence of goshawks but not nests so any help with your sightings in the Point Bridget, Amalga Harbor, and Peterson Creek area would be especially appreciated. Even if you think you heard a goshawk, give me a call and we can discuss what you heard.

On other news, I saw an adult male three-toed woodpecker this morning in the Peterson Creek area (along the "A-line" of the proposed golf course on N. Douglas). That seems to be a reliable place to see those birds as I have seen at least one in there every year for the last 4. Listen for a drum that sounds like a door-stopper. There are also many sapsuckers in there making a ruckus. I also heard a Hairy wp drumming.

**Date: April 23**

**Subject: sapsuckers & thunder**

On Saturday I saw 4 hooded mergansers on Twin lakes. On Monday PM I took a walk on the N Douglas beach loop trail & heard & saw a couple of sapsuckers racing around after each other just inside the tree line before the pond. One of them eventually hung out for about 10 min at a particular spot on a hemlock about 30' off the ground, a great view.

**Date: April 24**

**Subject: white fronted geese**

At the end of the dike trail, across the float pond, I saw 4 white fronted geese tonight at about 6:30. Also saw a northern harrier, six species of ducks, including a handsome pair or green winged teals. Watched a pair of yellow legs courting and then mating.

**Date: April 26**

**Subject: Golden-crowned Sparrows**

The first Golden-crowned Sparrows of the year showed up on my back porch this afternoon. According to my records, they are right on time, even if the weather is a bit cold this year.

**Date: April 28**

**Subject: Spring Observation Notes**

At Gustavus, a couple of notable, but not exceptional, records in the last couple of days. April 27: Rough-legged Hawk (dark phase) over the Airport. (early) Canvasback, two drakes, at Gustavus Lake w 12 Ring-necked Ducks (early). Rufous Hummingbird, first Gustavus spring record (very late) April 28: Tree Swallow, 1 at Lower Salmon River. (Avg. arrival date).

**Date: April 28**

**Subject: Saturday Bird Walk**

Lovely morning, clear blue skies, and the birding was spectacular. Highlights:

1. First bird we saw!! a Eurasian wigeon in the river . . . swimming with his friend, an American wigeon. Other birds in river: mallards, bufflehead, Greater Yellowlegs
2. Just before the trail turns, a pair of kingfishers have made a burrow in a dirt mound on the embankment by the float pond, and can be observed flying to and fro. Laurie Craig will talk with airport people about postponing hauling that dirt away.
3. Two golden-crowned sparrows on the path.
4. Nellie and Juan were both on the nest - Juan (according to Laurie) was the one who seemed to be incubating an egg - she says you can tell them apart by the smaller size and more recessed eyes of the male. The eagles have been behaving as if they have an egg for a few days - but some of us are concerned that they don't seem very energetic about building onto the nest, most of which fell off last fall. Doesn't seem like enough room up there to raise a young eagle.
5. DRAMA: In the large first pond to the left, lots of mallards, wigeons, g-w. teal, a few pintails, a few shovelers, three snipe, a tundra swan, a coot AND lo and behold if we didn't see a marsh hawk just sitting in that pond up to the chest off to the left. We finally figured out she must be drowning a duck, just standing there all wet like that. Then she flew over to the muddy shore, abandoning her prey - which we didn't understand at first. Then we saw the teal float to the surface belly-up, and then a moment later an eagle swooped in and took the duck.
6. Thirty white-fronted geese! and a ring-necked duck at the end of the dike trail, in the east pond across the path from gazebo.
7. Gadwall in the pond in front of the gazebo.
8. Most of us stuck to the dike trail, but Deb Rudis and Kim Rivera walked out over the flats (very low tide) toward the river and saw horned larks and pipits. A few of us stragglers on our way to our cars, upon learning this, turned around and walked out a ways, just for a lark, and saw a flock in the distance, but didn't get a good look.
9. The eagles were having a fine morning. We saw an adult and a quite dark immature doing breathtaking aerial ballet.
10. Trip List

American coot (1)	American Robin (10+)	Northern harrier	Song sparrow
Greater yellowlegs	Horned lark	Ruby-crowned kinglet	Yellow-rumped Warbler (1)
Killdeer (1)	American pipit (2)	Northwestern Crow	Lesser Yellowlegs (1)
Common Snipe (3)	Herring gull	Raven (1)	Lapland longspurs (15)
Belted Kingfisher (3)	Bald Eagle	Golden-crowned sparrow (2)	

**Date: April 28**

**Subject: birds and advice**

Saturday I hike out Point Bridget trail. On the way to the trailhead I saw a car pulled over just as my friend saw a hawk. We stopped to look. I was almost positive that it was a red-tailed hawk. The guy in the car in front of me confirmed this. There was also a red-breasted sapsucker in the vicinity.

Here's the species list for Pt. Bridget trail: (\* means the bird was heard but not seen)

Bald Eagle	Bufflehead	American pipits	Common snipe
Canada Goose	Mallards	Violet-green swallows	Blue grouse*
White-winged scoter	Northern Harrier (male)	Varied thrush*	(and one harbor seal)
Red-breasted merganser	Common Raven	Winter wren*	
Harlequin Duck	Yellowlegs (greater?)	Ruby-crowned kinglet*	

This morning I went to Outer Point to look at intertidal creatures. There was a great blue heron by 'the bridge' as I passed by. Here's the list for today:

swans	surf scoter	Black oystercatcher (4	Varied thrush*	American robin
bald eagles	Bonaparte's gull	of them!)	ruby-crowned kinglet*	
white-winged scoter		Red-breasted sapsucker	yellow-rumped warbler	

## Taking Wing Tracking Migration Along the Pacific Flyway

Photo courtesy Stuart MacKay



*The Western Sandpiper's long, slightly down curved bill is perfect for probing mud for invertebrates.*

The Western Sandpiper on the front page was released by a biologist in Mexico in mid-April. It should be in Alaska by the end of May.

Western sandpipers, like most shorebirds, make epic journeys for their size. They winter anywhere from Washington State south to Peru and nest on the tundra near Alaska's North and West coasts. An individual only weighs about an ounce, yet can achieve flight speeds of over 50 mph.

U.S. Forest Service biologists in Juneau, Yakutat, Wrangell and Cordova will be watching for this and other radio-tagged birds through an international shorebird-tracking project, **Taking Wing**. Last year they won national recognition for their participation in the National Forest System program for the management of waterfowl and wetland habitat.

Researchers on the wintering grounds trap the birds in fine nylon "mist" nets, attach tiny radio transmitters, and let the birds continue flying north. Biologists farther up the flight path check estuaries and tidal mudflats each day from the air or on foot using specialized receivers tuned to record each individual frequency. They record any detection of the radio-tagged birds, and the results will be published.

This year about 90 birds will carry tags. Operations have begun in Sinaloa, Mexico. The species under study are Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Short-billed Dowitcher.

Focus of the shorebird project is to track migration along the Pacific Flyway, the birds' route from coastal Mexico to their breeding grounds in Alaska. It is a wide-ranging collaboration between biologists from federal and state agencies, universities and private groups.

Scientists hope to learn more about the timing of migration and the time spent at various stopovers, places where the birds rest and feed along the way. In the Juneau area, Mendenhall wetlands, Eagle Beach, the mouth of the Taku River and Berners Bay will be checked.

Last year the species studied were Long-billed Dowitcher, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Dunlin. There were 52 radio-tagged birds detected at Copper River, five at Yakutat Forelands, five at the Stikine River, and one at Mendenhall wetlands. The Juneau bird was a Short-billed Dowitcher that was banded at San Francisco Bay, recorded at Gray's Harbor in Washington State and nine days later at Mendenhall wetlands.

*Information provided by Gwen Baluss, wildlife technician for the Juneau Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service.*

**I**nternational Migratory Bird Day is held on the second Saturday in May to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. This year's theme focuses on special places birds need to survive throughout their life cycle, including wintering, breeding, feeding and migratory stopover habitats. Important Bird Areas is one example of a program focused on protecting and monitoring these habitats. To learn more visit the website: <http://www.birdday.org/> or <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd/>

It was created in 1993 by Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Now under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird -- its journey between its summer and winter homes. Today, it is celebrated in Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Central America through bird festivals and bird walks, education programs, and Bird Day!

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

**Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.**

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Juneau – Montana Creek 23** (4-2002=0281) Applicant: Richard R. Keen. Location: McGinnis 7 Subdivision, on Wren Drive, in Juneau. Proposal: To fill 15,000 ft. of wetlands with 3,500 cubic yards of sand and gravel and excavating and permanently side-casting the native wetland soil. Purpose: Construct a multi-family residence with attendant features and a landscaping berm. Comments due 16 May 2002.

**\*\*Coffman Cove 11 – (Ref # 4-1999-1447)** Applicant: Federal Highway Admin., Western Federal Lands Highway Div., 610 East Fifth St., Vancouver, WA 98661-3801. Location: Near Coffman Cove, on Prince of Wales Island. Proposal: Improvement of the Coffman Cove Road—Discharge 2 million Cubic Yards fill—realigning, widening and paving appr. 20 miles of road. 56 acres of wetlands and 3 acres of streambed at 85 stream crossings will be filled. Comments due: **24 May 2002 (Contact Steve Duncan at (800 478-2712 for further information)**

**Wrangell –Zimovia Strait 123** (Ref. # M-2000-0875) Applicant: Richard Gildersleeve, Pouch K, Ketchikan, AK 99901. Location ½ mile west of Zimovia Highway, mile 13 near Wrangell, AK. Proposal: Provide ingress/egress access to two lots and to prepare the site for three single-family dwellings, including installing utilities. Total impact include filling with shot rock or grading activities on approx. 5 acres of wetlands; crossing two streams and constructing two floating structures over navigable water. Comments due: 9 May 2002.

**Naha Bay 03 – (2-2002-0206)** Applicant: Delores Cogswell. Location: In Naha Bay. Proposal: Retain wood dock, wood deck, wood walkway. Fill approx. .0064 acre with approx. 45 cubic yards of concrete and rock for septic tank and bury 60 feet of 4 – inch pipe. Purpose. Provide a residence/lodge and wastewater treatment facility. Comments due: 24 May 2002.

**Taku Inlet — Davidson Creek 01– (4-1990-0336)** Applicant: USDA Forest Service. Location: East side of Taku Inlet, approx. 15 miles east of Juneau in Davidson Creek. Proposal: Discharge approx. 32 cubic yards of rock over an approx. 1000 ft area below the plane of the ordinary high water mark of Davidson Creek. Purpose: Construct a step pool for fish passage. Comments due: 9 May 2002.

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

**President:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, [stevezimmerman@gci.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net)  
**Vice-President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, [jnoel@gci.net](mailto:jnoel@gci.net)  
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**Education:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260, [akwildlife@gci.net](mailto:akwildlife@gci.net)  
**Conservation:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)  
**Field Trips:** Bonnie Toleman, 789-1633, [btoleman@alaska.net](mailto:btoleman@alaska.net)  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)  
**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

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**P.O. BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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*Sara Lou McDaniel*

# The Raven

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



Volume 29, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2002

## September Almanac

**Moose breed--  
rut peaks in late  
September/  
early October**



**Marmots begin  
hibernation**

**Shorebirds  
& waterfowl  
pass  
through in  
protracted  
migration**



**Sandhill cranes  
migrate through  
Southeast Alaska**

*On the first three days of last October, Bill Neumann of Petersburg counted an estimated 10,00 to 12,000 sandhill cranes from a cabin on Farm Island on the Stikine Delta.*

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### Adding motion and natural sound

**Nate Johnson**

Take a good helping of bald eagles, toss in a handful of brown bears and add a dash of beaver. Still photographer and wildlife biologist turned videographer, Nate Johnson, will share footage and films in progress, including a music video for kids, "Busy as a Beaver," which was a finalist at the 2001 International Wildlife Film Festival.

### Changes to Juneau Audubon Society By-Laws Proposed

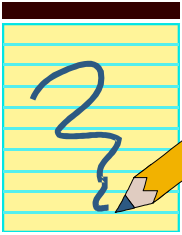
The board of the Juneau Audubon Society is currently considering four changes to the chapter by-laws. If approved by the board, the proposed changes would be submitted to the members of the Juneau Audubon Society for approval at the regular October meeting. The election of new officers for 2002 - 2003 will also be held at that meeting. Please consider attending the meeting, so that there is a large turn out for the meeting. A special program will also be presented that evening.

The first proposed by-law change would allow the Juneau Audubon Society to establish two classes of members: national members and local members. The first class of members (national members) would consist of the members of the National Audubon Society who live in Southeast Alaska. The National Audubon Society has customarily required that all members of its chapters, including the Juneau Audubon Society, be members of the National Audubon Society. Recently the National Audubon Society has changed its membership policies to allow chapters to admit members who are not members of the National Audubon Society. The proposed by-law change would allow the Juneau Audubon Society to admit local members who are not members of the National Audubon Society. Local members would enjoy all benefits of the Juneau Audubon Society but would not benefit from membership in the National Audubon Society. National members would enjoy the benefits of both the National Audubon Society and the Juneau Audubon Society. Membership dues for the local members would be established by the board of the Juneau Audubon Society. Membership dues for national members would continue to be set by the National Audubon Society.

The second proposed by-law change would amend the current by-law provisions relating to the chapter's relationship with the National Audubon Society and to the maintenance and discontinuance of that relationship to conform to the most recent policies adopted on those matters by the National Audubon Society.

The third proposed by-law change would remove the current two-term limit on

*(Continued on page 2)*



# Notes from the board

Steve Zimmerman, President

Welcome back, everybody! By the time you read this, local schools should be in session, many of our summer visitors will have come and gone, and the fall bird migration should be underway.

The Juneau Audubon Society will begin its regular monthly meeting schedule on Thursday, September 12. Meetings will then be held the second Thursday of every month through next May.

There will be several changes among our officers and board members this fall. During the October meeting new officers will be elected. Because my wife and I have begun traveling quite a bit in the fall and winter, I will be stepping down as President. Juneau Audubon's nominating committee has nominated Brenda Wright to be the next President. The committee has also nominated our long-time Conservation Chair Chris Kent to move up to Brenda's position as Vice President. Both George Utermohle (Treasurer) and Bonnie Toleman (Field Trip Chair) will be leaving the board. So, as I write this, the JAS Board is in need of a Treasurer, Field Trip Chair and Conservation Chair. I will be working over the next few weeks to try to find hard working and dedicated Audubon members to fill these chairs.

Unlike the personnel movements described above, many of the things that Juneau Audubon does will be continuing without change. Juneau Audubon members will still be involved in leading nature walks, running the Christmas Bird Count and providing educational materials to local schools. We will still be acting as an environmental watchdog on local conservation issues. Issues such as the cutting of the trees along the dike trail at the airport, permitting of a golf course on North Douglas Island, and proposals for large-scale development in Berners Bay are ongoing. Members need to stay on top of these, and similar issues, and let local representatives know of your concerns.

Hopefully, all members of the Juneau Audubon Society will vote in the very important elections this fall. In addition to electing a new governor and considering a ballot initiative that might move the legislature north, there will be several local offices up for election. Anti-environmental candidates will likely run strong campaigns for Juneau's legislative seats and assembly seats. We should all carefully consider who we cast our votes for this fall. So, there is much think about and do over the next few months. Best wishes to all and I hope to see you at the September meeting.

## Proposed by-laws changes

*(continued from page 1)*

appointed members of the board of directors of the Juneau Audubon Society. Appointed board members are those persons, other than the four elected chapter officers, who serve on the board. Presently the appointed members of the board may only serve on the board for two consecutive two-year terms before they must leave the board for a year. This provision currently prevents experienced board members from serving on the board for more than four consecutive years.

meeting of the Juneau Audubon Society was changed from May to October of each year. The duties of the treasurer was not changed to reflect the change in the date of the annual meeting. The proposed change would bring this provision of the by-laws into conformance with the rest of the by-laws.

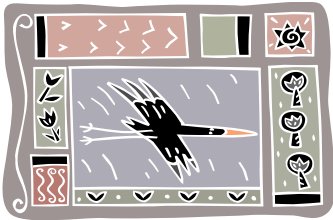
The text of the proposed by-law changes with the current language and the proposed new language begins on page 5.

The fourth proposed by-law change would correct a technical error in the by-laws that arose when the annual chapter

### October Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the October issue no later than September 20 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)





## My favorite bird

### The American Dipper Bob Armstrong

The American Dipper is my favorite bird because it sings in midwinter, and it's the only songbird specially adapted to feed underwater - on aquatic insects.

Some of my most memorable encounters with dippers have been while cross-country skiing along some river, when suddenly I've heard their beautiful song amid the winter silence. Often it seems to go on nonstop for several minutes, reminiscent of the song of a winter wren. But it's not as repetitive as some bird songs. It's almost as if the bird is making it up as it goes along.

Being a biologist, I think about the adaptations such small songbirds have so they're able to feed underwater. They have more feathers than songbirds of similar size to help provide insulation. They have proportionately large oil glands for waterproofing their feathers. They have modified circulation and extra red blood cells to conserve oxygen during dives. They have nasal flaps to close off their nostrils, a "third eyelid" that helps them see underwater, and elongated toes with sharp claws for clinging to rocks.

They're also one of the few birds found on the North Slope in winter, where they depend on spring-fed areas that stay free of ice on arctic rivers. It amazes me that a bird so small could live in an aquatic environment at 40 to 70 degrees below zero where there's no daylight for 2 months at a time—yet they're able to find aquatic insects and small fishes on which to feed.

Dippers are surprisingly tolerant of human presence. Many times I've been hiking and sat down next to a mountain stream to have lunch or take a break, when a dipper has landed on a rock right in front of me then dived down underwater. If the water is clear you can see them with their wings half-cocked, "flying" underwater. In winter I've seen them submerge right in front of a big shelf of ice, seemingly get swept under the ice, and emerge undaunted 50 feet away.

If you see a slate gray bird perched on a rock in the middle of a stream, bobbing up and down—and particularly if you see it jump underwater and begin to feed—you'll know it's a dipper. Their call is a sharp Zeeek! And often you'll hear the call before you see them.

*Check this column each month for a personal interview with one of the many experienced birders in Juneau Audubon. If you'd like to be interviewed, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

## EAGLECHAT



*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

Date: Wed., August 14

From: Gwen Baluss

Re: Warning-- Bears going after bird feeders and suet baskets

Juneau bears frequently hit feeders. I read that 30% of the bears that were shot in town had bird seed in their stomachs. Putting out seed and suet is definitely an attractant. In my opinion you should devise a completely bear-proof feeding system or not put out feeders. I am not sure how to make a feeder totally bear-proof. Maybe some clever eagle-chatter has found a way? I have observed a bear licking seeds off the ground, and heard of them getting feeders that were on upstairs porches. My recommendation for the months that bears are out is to use other means to attract birds to your yard. They enjoy plain old gravel (digestive aids for their gizzards), and native vegetation, especially willows. Good luck.

# JUNEAU\* NESTING SEASON REPORT

June-July- 2002



**Yellow-billed Loon.** Two in breeding plumage at Eagle Beach on July 2 (PS).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Two (in flight) at mouth of Thomas Bay on July 7 (GV).

**Black Brandt:** Five were seen at Eagle Beach on June 5 (PS), and one was seen in Frederick Sound on July 7 (PS).

**Osprey:** One was seen feeding on Mendenhall Wetlands on June 6 (LC). One was seen migrating northwards up Lynn Canal at Eagle Beach on June 9 (GV); two were seen within Thomas Bay and one was seen near Thomas Bay on July 7 (GV, PS).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Large numbers were reported on the Mendenhall Wetlands during July. 13 were seen on July 1 (PS), 18 were seen on July 2 (PS), 27 were seen on July 4 (GV), and 30 were seen on July 6 (SZ). Small numbers continued to be seen through mid-August. 19 Hudsonian Godwits were seen at the mouth of Endicott Arm, on July 11 (GV, PS).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Very high numbers were seen throughout July and August on the Mendenhall Wetlands. High counts were 142 were on July 1 (PS) and 357 on July 2 (PS, GV).

**Wandering Tattler.** One in breeding plumage was seen at Point Bridget on June 21 (PS, RG)

**Red Knot.** One was seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands on July 2 - 3 (PS).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.** 800+ were seen at the Mendenhall Wetlands on July 2 (PS). This is a very large number for Juneau. High numbers of these birds were seen through at least July 7 (SZ, RG).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** One at Mendenhall Wetlands on June 1 (GV), and July 2 (GV, PS, RG), apparently two different individuals.

**Franklin's Gull.** An adult in breeding plumage was seen and photographed at Eagle Beach on June 5 (PS).

**Laughing Gull.** Reported from Yakutat by PS and AD on June 29.

**California Gull.** Two birds were seen at Eagle Beach on June 5 (PS). 20 were seen there on July 17 (PS).

**Black-legged Kittiwake.** Numbers of this species were present at Eagle Beach during much of June-July. The highest reported number was 400+ on July 17 (PS).

**Sabine's Gull:** Three birds, including at least two adults in breeding plumage, were at the mouth of Thomas Bay on July 6; one adult was seen again on July 7 in same locality (GV, PS).

**Marbled Murrelet:** (1500+) within Thomas Bay on July 7 (GV). (1000+) off Eagle Beach and (2600+) east of N. Benjamin Island (~30 miles north of Juneau on Lynn Canal) on July 15 (GV). The largest aggregation noted was (4000+)(!) on Auke Bay on July 20 (GV).

**Kittlitz's Murrelet:** (25+, including two fish-holders) near Wood Spit, mouth of Endicott Arm, on July 11 (unpublished USFWS data, GV, PS). *Endicott Arm apparently is now the*

*southernmost mainland locality for numbers of this species as no sign of the species was found at either Thomas or LeConte Bays during extensive single-day surveys on July 7 and 8 2002 respectively.*

**In addition, one was seen on Auke Bay on July 21 (GV) - this was the first record for GV for the Juneau region, after 15+ years of looking for the species, which underscores the relative rarity of Kittlitz's Murrelets in this area.**

**Northern Flicker:** One hybrid with red malar stripes and a red nuchal crescent was seen near Herbert River (~25 miles north of Juneau) on June 6 (GV). An additional sighting was made at Tee Harbor on July 20 (GV).

**Three-toed Woodpecker.** This species nested along the Eaglecrest Road and young were heard calling on June 24 (PS). The species was still being seen in this area on July 17 (IM).

**Alder Flycatcher:** after frequently checking historical territory sites on a regular basis during the first week or so in June, a bird was finally discovered singing near the Mendenhall Wetlands on June 13 — ranking this species as one of the very latest passerine migrants to the Juneau area (GV).

**Eastern Kingbird:** one near Herbert River (~25 miles north of Juneau) on June 14 (MS, GV) on the warmest day of 2002 with temperature maximum of 82 degrees F. Another sighting was made at Norton Lake on June 17 (RG, DM, PS).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** one at Montana Creek, upper Mendenhall Valley, on July 5 (GV).

**Cassin's Vireo:** one seen at the Mendenhall Glacier Forelands June 22 (GV); two birds were subsequently found at the same locality on June 23 (PS) and June 29 (SZ).

**Warbling Vireo.** Two were seen at the Mendenhall Glacier Forelands on June 2 (DR), and on June 29 (SZ).

**Cedar Waxwing:** One was seen at Auke Bay on June 13 (GV), another was seen in mid-Mendenhall Valley on June 13 (GV).

Two were at the Mendenhall Glacier Forelands on June 23 (GV), three were seen there on June 29, one was seen there on June 30 (GV, RG), and one was seen there on July 18 (PS).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** A singing male was found at the Mendenhall Glacier Forelands on June 30 (GV, PS), perhaps the first breeding season record for Juneau?

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** A singing male at Auke Bay at 6:35 AM on June 11 (GV), perhaps the 13th Alaska record.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** one **juvenile** at an Auke Bay feeder on July 29 - this is the first juvenile ever seen by GV in the lowlands of the Juneau region. Richard Gordon, with 30+ years of intensive birding in the Juneau region, also has never seen a juvenile in the Juneau lowlands (i.e., away from their timberline/alpine breeding grounds).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** a pair of adults with a single fledgling were seen at Montana Creek on July 2 (GV, RG, PS).

**Red Crossbill:** after being absent completely during the winter and spring, this species returned to Juneau in small numbers beginning in the latter half of June and became quite widespread and common in smallish numbers by mid-July (GV, PS), with frequent singing noted. The largest flock found was one with

*(Continued on next page)*

## Nesting season report

(continued from previous page)

80 birds at Auke Bay on July 28 (GV), near the end of the reporting period.

### \*Additional notes:

- Data are also provided for several sites in Southeast Alaska that were visited by GV and PS during a study of Kittlitz's Murrelet.
- The Steller's Sea Eagle has been seen at least twice this year in the Taku River area; once during the summer reporting period. It has been looked for on at least three other occasions without success.

- Paul Suchanek reported hearing a bird that sounded like a Virginia Rail at the Community Garden on July 1, but he was not able to see the bird, nor was he able to hear or find it again.

RA = Robert Armstrong; LC = Laurie Craig; AD = Al DeMartini; RG = Richard Gordon; IM = Ian MacIntosh; DM = Deanna MacPhail; DR = Deborah Rudis; PS = Paul Suchanek; GV = Gus van Vliet; SZ = Steve Zimmerman

## Juneau Audubon Society Proposed By-Law Amendments October 2002

New text underlined and bolded  
~~Deleted material crossed out~~

**PROPOSAL ONE:** Establish local membership class.

### Article II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. **Membership shall consist of two classes: national members and local members. National members are members of the National Audubon Society that have been assigned to the Juneau Audubon Society by the National Audubon Society. Local members are all members who are not national members.** ~~Classes of membership shall be the same as those maintained by the National Audubon Society.~~

Section 3. Annual dues **of local members shall be established by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Juneau Audubon Society. Annual dues of national members of membership** shall be established by the National Audubon Society and shall include those categories that may be set by the National Audubon Society.

Section 4. All classes of members shall enjoy all rights and privileges pertaining to members of ~~both the Juneau Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society.~~

Section 5. Membership dues **for local members** shall be payable at the time of application ~~and shall be effective from the date of election, and in the case of Regular, Family, Student, Sustaining, Supporting, Contributing and Donor members, yearly thereafter. In the case of Life members, dues shall be paid in full in one sum at the time of application and will be accepted as of the time of application.~~

Section 6. Should renewal of **local** membership dues not be paid within 30 days after the time they are payable, a **local** member so in default shall forthwith be considered inactive and ineligible for the privileges of the society until dues are paid.

**PROPOSAL TWO:** Discontinuance of association with National Audubon Society

Page 5



### ARTICLE VIII - COMMITMENTS

Section 1. Neither the Juneau Audubon Society nor its officers or Board of Directors shall enter into any commitments binding on the National Audubon Society without **written** authorization from the latter. In like manner the National Audubon Society shall make no commitments binding upon the Juneau Audubon Society without its **written** consent.

### ARTICLE IX - DISCONTINUANCE

Section 1. **The Juneau Audubon Society may terminate its status as a chapter of the National Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society may terminate the status of the Juneau Audubon Society as a chapter of the National Audubon Society under procedures set out in the 2001 Audubon Chapter Policy adopted by the board of directors of the National Audubon Society on December 8, 2001.** ~~The Juneau Audubon Society reserves the right to terminate its chapter status on six month's notice, given in writing to the National Audubon Society, in which case all allocation of dues by the National Audubon Society to the Juneau Chapter will cease on expiration of the six-months period. The Chapter recognizes the right of the National Audubon Society to terminate the chapter relationship on six-month's notice to the Juneau Chapter, in which case the members of the Juneau Chapter shall continue as members of the National Audubon Society for the balance of the term for which their dues were paid.~~

**PROPOSAL THREE:** Remove limit on terms of appointed board members.

### Article VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The control and conduct of business of the Society shall be vested in its Board of Directors. The Board shall determine the policies of the Society. The Board shall consist of the four elected officers plus the chairpersons of the standing committees. Standing Committee Chairpersons shall be selected by the full Board of Directors, initially half serving for one-year terms and half serving for terms of two years. All subsequent standing committee chairpersons

(Continued on page 7)

September 2002

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Whittier — Passage Canal 33**, (Reference Number M-2001-0059) Applicant: Kenai Fjords Tours. Location: At the Kenai Fjord Dock between the Alaska Marine Terminal and the Marginal Wharf. Proposal: The applicant proposes to build a shore fuel cabinet on the upland with a hose attached to the existing access ramp to the floating dock area. An enclosed cabinet containment container would be placed next to the cabinet on the dock. This is a significant change from the originally permitted dock. The fueling capabilities will not be open to the public. Purpose: To provide a private fuel source. Mitigation: None. Comments due August 26, 2002.

**Cordova — Eyak River 11**, (Reference Number 4-2002-0329) Applicant: Roy Wilson. Location: Pebo Subdivision, Block 1, Lot 1. Proposal: The applicant proposes to place approximately 5,000 cubic yards of fill onto approximately .707 acres of wetlands. Excavated material will be taken offsite. Purpose: To provide for residential development including a septic system, out buildings and areas for storing recreation vehicles. Mitigation: Not requesting to fill the entire area of the wetlands on this lot. Comments due August 26, 2002

**Haines — Chilkat River 19**, (Reference Number 4-2002-0678) Applicant: Lynn Canal Professional Services. Location: Off of the Haines highway at Mile Ten. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 6,500 cubic yards of clean fill into 2 acres of wetlands for the enhancement of an existing wetland. Fill would include approximately 50 cubic yards of riprap in constructing a splash protector down gradient of two 48-inch culverts, and approximately 12 cubic yards of gravel to bed the culverts. The project will involve the re-routing of an existing stream through a culvert into an existing emergent wetland, make a loop, and exit back into the stream's original channel. Material excavated from the wetlands during the channel construction would be used to construct small islands for use by wildlife. The overall intent would be to create approximately 300 linear feet of spawning or rearing habitat. Purpose: To enhance wetlands. Mitigation: None. Comments due August 26, 2002.

**Pelican — Lisianski Inlet 44**, (Reference Number 2-2002-0690) Applicant: Jim Slater. Location: 3.5 miles southeast of Pelican. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct below mean high water one anchor-stabilized pile supported, wood decked float. The float will be 48-feet long by 8-feet wide. The dock will be connected to shore by a 40-foot long by 5-foot wide aluminum gangway and will be secured to shore by one 100-foot long by 8-foot wide pile supported wood deck pier. The applicant will dredge below

mean high tide to remove 100 cubic yards of material and fill 2,400 square feet of wetlands to construct the 400-foot long by 6-foot wide trail to the dock. Purpose: The purpose is to provide moorage for private boats as access to summer residence. Mitigation: None. Comments due August 21, 2002

**Hoonah — Hoonah Harbor 2,** (Reference Number 1-2002-0522) Applicant: Whitestone Logging. Location: Off of Gartina Hwy. Across from City Hall next to Hoonah Cold Storage. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 230-foot by 14-foot pile supported landing dock. The pier would connect to an adjacent pile supported structure via a 40-foot by 10-foot gangway. Purpose: The purpose is to provide commercial access for fuel facility. Mitigation: None. Comments due August 24, 2002

**Sitka — Sitka Sound 149,** (Reference Number M-1978-0016) Applicant: Sheldon Jackson College. Location: At the Sheldon Jackson Hatchery. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct an additional 80-foot long by 10-foot wide raceway and an 80-foot long by 6-foot high containment wall. 520 cubic yards of concrete will be discharged into 0.18 acres of intertidal waters. Purpose: To add to and improve the existing raceways. Mitigation: None. Comments due August 26, 2002

**Petersburg — Sea Otter Sound 19,** (Reference Number M-2001-0045) Applicant: U.S. Forest Service. Location: Near Camp Island on Heceta Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes to replace an existing temporary ramp and float with a permanent structure: a 6-foot wide by 65-foot long float access ramp, a 8-foot by 6-foot concrete and rock shore abutment, a 6-foot by 20 foot treated timber finger float with polyethylene floatation, a float with 2 steel cables to shore as anchors. Applicant will discharge 90 cubic yards of fill to create a boat ramp and approach. Purpose: To provide access to Heceta Island for float equipped aircraft and small boats. Mitigation: None. Comments due August 26, 2002

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 541,** (Reference Number 4-2000-0400) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: George Lybrand. Location: Across from Brown Deer Road, Lybrand properties. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 80,000 cubic yards of fill into 4 acres of cleared and leveled land including 3.4 acres of wetlands and a small stream. The applicant will relocate 500-feet of a stream into a 450 foot constructed rock lined channel and replace an existing log retaining wall on another stream with a sloped rock wall. The applicant has filled 1,200 square feet (0.03 acres) of the proposed 3.4 acre fill prior to permitting. Purpose: To construct a storage and staging area for construction equipment and materials. Mitigation: Removal of the log retaining wall and lowering of a perched culvert to match existing channel. Relocate a stream into a ditch rather than a culvert and restore disturbed areas along the riparian corridor. Comments due August 30, 2002.

\*These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.

## Proposed by-laws changes

*(continued from page 5)*



and appointments shall be for two-year terms, ~~and no member of the Board may be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.~~

**PROPOSAL FOUR:** Correct error in by-laws.

### Article V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 7. The Treasurer shall be the general business manager of the Chapter under control of the Board. Subject to such limitations and control which may be imposed by the Board, the Treasurer shall have custody of all funds, securities, valuable papers and assets of the Chapter, and shall sign all checks and negotiable instruments, subject to countersignature by the President as herein provided. The Treasurer shall maintain full and complete records of all assets and liabilities; shall prepare and submit to the Board and to members at regularly scheduled meetings a financial report showing the

condition of the organization as of the close of business on the last business day of the month preceding such meetings; and shall prepare a statement of condition as of the last day **of June of each in the calendar** year for submission of approval by the members at the annual meeting in **October May**.

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

**Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell**

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

### **Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

**President:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, [stevezimmerman@gci.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net)  
**Vice-President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, [jnoel@gci.net](mailto:jnoel@gci.net)  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, [bandmac@gci.net](mailto:bandmac@gci.net)  
**Treasurer:** George Utermohl, 586-3849, [norwaypt@gci.net](mailto:norwaypt@gci.net)  
**Programs:** Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net)  
**Membership:** Amy Skilbred, 780-4649, [skilbred@aol.com](mailto:skilbred@aol.com)  
**Education:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260, [akwildlife@gci.net](mailto:akwildlife@gci.net)  
**Conservation:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)  
**Field Trips:** Bonnie Toleman, 789-1633, [btoleman@alaska.net](mailto:btoleman@alaska.net)  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)  
**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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*Kirsten Munson*

# The Raven

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

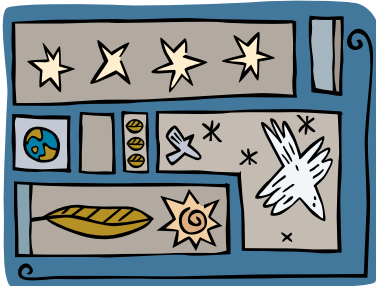


Volume 29, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2002

## October



## ALMANAC

**Trumpeter & Tundra Swan migrate through Southeast Alaska. Some winter in Petersburg, Yakutat, Cordova**

**Black bear begin to enter dens**



*“If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.”*

Loren Eiseley  
**The Immense Journey**



**Important meeting - see page 2**

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

## Changing Views of Brown Bears

**Anne Post**

Anne Post, wildlife biologist at the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and Pack Creek manager, will talk about the bears and other wildlife of Pack Creek, and the unique and important opportunities wildlife viewing areas offer residents and visitors alike.

**“Exterminate Brown Bears”**  
**Daily Alaska Empire**  
**October 21, 1929**

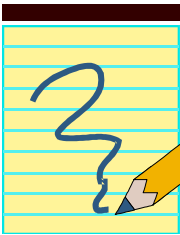
*Brown bears serve no good purpose. They are essentially killers — the bear ought to be exterminated — and the extermination ought to begin at once.*

Our perspective has certainly changed since the publication of this editorial, following the attack and subsequent death of U.S. Forest Service timber cruiser Jack Thayer. But pick up a copy of *Alaska Bear Tales*, and it's clear that bear attacks — however rare or sensationalized — still grab us just as sure as Bart the Bear grabs unsuspecting hikers in popular movies like *The Edge*.

Of course, most of us have bear tales of our own. And while every bit as exciting as *Alaska Bear Tales*, most bear-human encounters are brief, tense and often over before one gets a good look at the other. The Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary, located at the mouth of Pack Creek on northeast Admiralty Island, offers a very different kind of experience.

One of several bear viewing areas statewide, Pack Creek has a long history of use. Chosen as a viewing area by the USFS in the 1930s, the immediate drainage was closed to bear hunting in 1935 and extended to include neighboring Swan Cove and Windfall Harbor in 1984. The sanctuary itself, named for longtime homesteader Stan Price, the “bear man of Pack Creek,” was created by the State Legislature in 1990 and is managed cooperatively by the USFS and ADF&G.

Every summer, up to 25 bears take advantage of the estuary and tide flat, feeding on vegetation and spawning salmon. And after nearly 70 years of human presence, Pack Creek bears have grown accustomed or “habituated” to people, which provides us a unique opportunity to watch them feed, fish, and interact with one another while paying very little attention to us.



# Notes from the board

## Juneau Audubon Society Annual Meeting

New officers will be elected at the October 10 monthly meeting, which is also the annual meeting under chapter by-laws. Plan to attend this meeting to take an active role in the leadership of the chapter as well as enjoy the program.

The following members have been nominated for chapter office:

President:	Brenda Wright
Vice-President:	Chris Kent
Treasurer:	Liz Blecker

Members will also vote on changes in by-laws. The proposed changes were published in the September issue of the Raven.

Juneau Audubon Society is also looking for people to chair the Conservation and Field Trip committees. Both of these committees are a vital part of our chapter activities. Please consider assisting in these or any of the committees listed on the back page of the Raven.

### Another way to help your chapter



In another month the holiday season will be approaching, and with it, Juneau Public Market. The Audubon booth at Public Market is a major fund-raising activity for the chapter, and an opportunity to be a visible part of our community.

Public Market opens the day after Thanksgiving and continues throughout the weekend. Please consider donating an hour or two of your time to staff the booth or donating things to sell. Please contact Kathy Weltzin at 789-0288 and let her know how you can help.

### Website references

- <http://www.audubon.org>
- <http://www.anchorageaudubon.org/>
- <http://www.epa.gov>
- <http://www.state.ak.us>
- <http://info.dec.state.ak.us/ciimms/>
- <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/enri/bmap/index.html>
- <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Reg/Default.htm>
- <http://www.noaa.gov>
- <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/wildmain.htm>
- <http://agdc.usgs.gov/data/>
- <http://www.earth911.org>

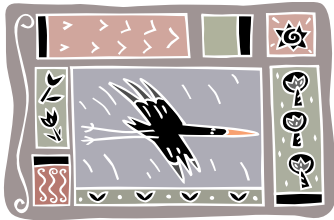
*Birds probably use a combination of stars, the earth's magnetic fields and visual landmarks for orientation during migration. Many birds are able to return to the exact same territory year after year.*



### November Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the November issue no later than October 25 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)





**Winter Wren**  
**Steve Heinl, Ketchikan**

## My favorite bird

*This article is based on an interview with one of the many experienced birders in Juneau Audubon Society. If you'd like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

The winter wren is one of my favorite birds because of its song. It has such a tremendous song for such a small bird. It's like a series of bubbling, tinkling trills. It lasts for at least 10 seconds, and it's very loud for the size of the bird, which is typical of wrens.

In Ketchikan the winter wren is one of the first birds to start singing in the spring. We begin hearing it at the end of February. It's one of the first signs of spring.

I also like winter wrens because they have a lot of character. They cock their tails up and flip them around—a habit that allows them to express themselves, at least to a human observer.

They're secretive in a way. They like to be in the underbrush. But they're also very curious. When you come by, they will come over and check you out—perhaps as close as five feet away. And if you *shish!*, they'll come quite readily. They might pop up out of a pile of logs, look around, chatter, cock their tail up, and if they're agitated, flip their tail around.

What you see is a tiny, dark brown bird that doesn't really have any visible markings. Its tail is so short the bird looks like a little round ball. It will bob around, flit over log piles, maybe land on the ground, then disappear through the undergrowth, almost like a little mouse.

The wren's call is really distinctive, too. It's a double note: *chip-chip, chip-chip*. That's how you usually know a winter wren is there, even when you might not see it.

Winter wrens are found from sea level to timberline. They are most common in the undergrowth of mature forests—“in the deep, dark woods,” you might say—but I've also seen them in five-year-old clearcuts among tall ferns and salmonberry and slash. In winter they might occur anywhere—at the beach, or in residential areas. I've even found them inside old cabins where they come in through openings looking for insects, and maybe spiders.

Once when I was hiking up Deer Mountain near Ketchikan in July, I stumbled across a pair of winter wrens with young that must have just fledged. The adults were very agitated, flitting around and calling. Meanwhile the young ones were balancing awkwardly on branches, making clumsy little hops. They still had fluffy, long, grayish down on the tops of their heads. Moving around the way they were, they looked pretty comical.

I also saw winter wrens when I was working in the Aleutians. Like other resident songbirds there, they were considerably larger than birds of the same species here in mainland Alaska. They were big and pale, and their bills were noticeably longer.

For years it was difficult to see them. They stayed high up on the ridges. We might just hear them singing, and maybe see a silhouette. But in 2000, after the Fish and Wildlife Service had been removing foxes from the island, the numbers of many other birds had increased, and we saw winter wrens clear down on the beach. They acted just like the winter wrens here in Southeast.

Winter wrens are such great songsters, and they have such character, how could you not like them?



# EAGLECHAT

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

**Date: September 18**

**Subject: Cranes**

There were about 250 on the Mendenhall Wetlands last night. I counted 244 from the deck of my house but I probably missed some because there were obstructions blocking my view in a couple of areas.

**Date: September 18**

**Subject: Phalaropes**

Saw a flock of about 25 phalaropes, about a week ago, in Gastineau Channel just south east of Bullion Creek. I've been used to seeing them in lower Chatham Strait but not this close in to the mainland.

Two corvid observations from last summer: While at the NOAA facility in Sand Point in Washington in early August I saw a crow with a mouse in its beak. Then a short while later saw a raven with the same in Juneau near the slide area in Thane. I'd never noticed this type of behavior before.

**Date: September 18**

**Subject: Raven**

Report from Ketchikan Sept. 17. A flying raven knocked a pigeon to the ground, cornered it and repeatedly attacked/pecked at it. Finally pulled its head off and ate the bird! yikes!

**Date: September 18**

**Subject: Cranes!**

About 250 cranes are near the mouth of the Mendenhall. Indeed, at least that many! I was out on the dike trail between 10-noon and saw a very large flock standing near the slough that runs just north of the dredge islands. They flew in a large flock when a hunter walked near but settled back down on the flats a couple hundred yards east. Movement was along the channel and the river.

**Date: September 20**

**Subject: Re: Cranes!**

...and maybe it was that 250 that I saw migrating yesterday! I looked out the window of my office and saw long long v's of cranes, flying over Mt. Juneau, still relatively low so I wondered if they'd just lifted off ....I thought migrating birds, once they got going, would be flying much higher??

It was really cool! Took looking through binoculars to confirm the long necks, long legs, that they were cranes. Probably watched them pass by for a good 10 min.??

**Date: September 20**

**Subject: Brotherhood Bridge trail**

Although you might think that any sensible warbler would be somewhere south of Oregon by now, this afternoon in the light rain there were small mixed flocks of Orange-crowned, Wilson's & a number of Yellow-rumped Warblers, along with many Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Chestnut-backed Chickadees feeding in the alders & willows. Also had nice looks at a busy Brown Creeper cleaning up those pesky bugs on a spruce trunk.

**For more about sandhill cranes,  
see page 7.**



# Department of Interior Recognizes Jim King

## **Distinguished Service Award**

**J**im King received the Department of the Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, in a September ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Interior Secretary Gail Norton presented the award to three U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employees and three partners-in-mission for exceptional support of the Department's mission. Her statement said "they have earned the Distinguished Service Award and the gratitude of all of us who have benefited from their hard work to ensure both the current and future generations enjoy our wild creatures and wild places."

The Distinguished Service Award is granted for outstanding contributions to science, outstanding skill or ability in the performance of duty, outstanding contribution made during an eminent career in the Department, or any other exceptional contribution to the public service. Norton pointed out that King more than meets all of these qualifications.

Jim King has spent the last 50 years championing conservation in Alaska.

He began his career with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a U.S. Game Enforcement Agent, then became the first Refuge Manager of the Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Refuge (now Yukon Delta NWR), and later served as supervisor for Waterfowl Investigations in Juneau, a position he held for 20 years.

He has logged more than 6,000 hours of safe flying, conducting low-level wildlife surveys and inventories throughout the state. He developed a plot-sampling scheme to measure bald eagle populations in Southeast Alaska, which is still used. He designed and conducted the first range-wide census of trumpeter swans in 1968, eventually leading to the removal of the species from the threatened wildlife list.

He received two Superior Performance Awards for his work in helping identify and delineate what today is 76 million acres of National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska, and received the Meritorious Service Award for his many contributions to wildlife conservation.

Even after "retiring" in 1983 with 30 years of service, he returned to the Juneau office as an intermittent rehired annuitant and still serves in that capacity. He remains active in numerous surveys, using his expertise and experience to mentor new USFWS pilots on the safe and efficient flying of wildlife surveys. He originated and successfully promoted the idea of a Safe Pilot Award for Service pilots in 1987.

Jim is also one of the longest standing members of the Citizens Oil Spill Advisory Committee that was formed after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. He remains active in many national conservation organizations, including the Trumpeter Swan Society, where he served as president. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Bald Eagle Research Institute in Juneau. He and his wife, Mary Lou, received the Chevron Conservation Award in 1989 for their long-standing conservation work in Alaska.

He has produced more than 60 scientific publications and popular articles on Alaska.

Alaska Regional Director Dave Allen said, "Jim exemplifies the spirit of the Service's mission, and we greatly appreciate his many contributions. We thank him for his dedication, foresight, and inspiration to others in the wildlife conservation community."

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

**Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.**

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

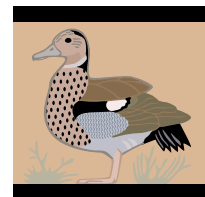
For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Sitka — Sitka Harbor 176**, (Reference Number 2-2002-0671 Applicant: Gus Adams, Baranof Island Housing Authority. Location: Across from Katlian Avenue near the ANB Hall. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 850 cubic yards of shot rock and 500 cubic yards of larger rock for riprap onto 0.1 acres of the intertidal zone below High tide line. Purpose: To fill tidelands to match property lines. Mitigation: None. Comments due October 15, 2002

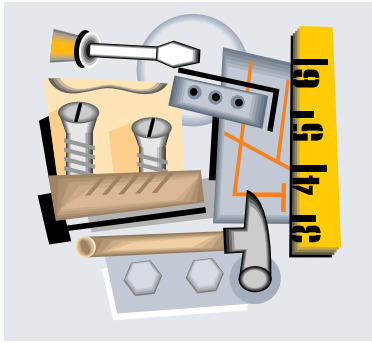
**Ketchikan — Lincoln Channel 0003**, (Reference Number 1-2001-0304) Applicant: David Hashagen. Location: Approximately 52 miles southeast of Ketchikan, on the east side of Lincoln Channel adjacent to Sitklan Islands. Proposal: The applicant proposes to continue to use a 20-foot by 60-foot log float with a plywood deck. The float will be secured with two 500 pound anchors at the -60' level. Purpose: To provide safe moorage for a fishing boat and as a platform for storing gear. Mitigation: None. Comments due October 3, 2002

**Ketchikan — Herring Bay 3**, (Reference Number 2-2002-0768) Applicant: Ron Fitzgerald. Location: Milepost 8, on South Tongass Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a dock float and relocate an existing boat launching ramp impacting 0.91 acres of intertidal habitat. Purpose: The original comment period was to end on September 16, 2002. The comment period was extended. Comments due October 1, 2002.

\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.



# A toolkit for activists



**How to create an effective and persuasive message and identify the best audience for your message.**

**Techniques for attracting and managing volunteers and building public support for your issue.**

**Guidelines for effective lobbying of elected officials and testifying at public hearings (including tips on public speaking).**

**Best practices for getting your message to the media, including choosing a spokesperson, writing press releases, pitching stories to reporters, and when to hold a press conference.**

Seattle Audubon Society's "Activist Toolkit: A Citizen's Guide to Protecting the Environment" is available free on line. The toolkit is designed to assist citizen activists in their work on behalf of the environment, and describes the basic elements of grassroots advocacy from detailed tips on public speaking to practical guidelines on lobbying.. To download the entire Toolkit or just parts of it, go to <http://www.seattleaudubon.org/conservation/toolkit.html>

## More about sandhill cranes

Those showy cranes creating a recent stir in Eaglechat are migrating to winter homes in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Mexico.

Come March, they'll gather some 550,000 strong at Nebraska's Platte River to feed on waste corn in surrounding fields and to wait for favorable weather before migrating back north. Cranes eat roots, seeds, berries, lemmings, earthworms, insects, small birds.

Long legged and long-necked, cranes are among the world's tallest birds. At a distance, a flock could be mistaken for geese if their long legs and very long necks were not obvious.

Sandhill cranes have a wing span of six to seven feet and are 34 to 48 inches long. They're mostly gray; adults have a bold red crown. They are known for trumpet-like notes reminiscent of French horn sounds.

In flight their neck is extended straight, and their wings jerk upward with each beat.



The Great Blue Heron is similar in size to the Sandhill Crane, but the heron has a more slender body. In flight, the heron carries its neck doubled back, with its head against its shoulders, not straight out like the crane. Heron are usually solitary; cranes are often in pairs or flocks.

For more information on cranes, and a chance to hear their call, check out the website for the International Crane Foundation of Baraboo, WI, at <http://www.savingcranes.org/>

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

## Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

<b>President:</b>	Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, <a href="mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net">stevezimmerman@gci.net</a>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Brenda Wright, 789-4656, <a href="mailto:jnoel@gci.net">jnoel@gci.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, <a href="mailto:bandmac@gci.net">bandmac@gci.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	George Utermohl, 586-3849, <a href="mailto:norwaypt@gci.net">norwaypt@gci.net</a>
<b>Programs:</b>	Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, <a href="mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net">kirchhoff@gci.net</a>
<b>Membership:</b>	Amy Skilbred, 780-4649, <a href="mailto:skilbred@aol.com">skilbred@aol.com</a>
<b>Education:</b>	Mary Lou King, 789-7540, <a href="mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net">kingfarm@ptialaska.net</a>
<b>Publicity:</b>	Deborah Rudis, 789-4260, <a href="mailto:akwildlife@gci.net">akwildlife@gci.net</a>
<b>Conservation:</b>	Chris Kent, 463-3494, <a href="mailto:ckent@alaska.net">ckent@alaska.net</a>
<b>Field Trips:</b>	Bonnie Toleman, 789-1633, <a href="mailto:btoleman@alaska.net">btoleman@alaska.net</a>
<b>Raven Editor:</b>	Judy Shuler, 789-9544, <a href="mailto:upclose@alaska.net">upclose@alaska.net</a>
<b>Public Market Coordinator:</b>	Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

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**P.O. BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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# The Raven

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



Volume 29, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2002

## November ALMANAC



**Bull moose shed antlers  
November through January,  
following rut.**

*Look for moose around Berners  
Bay, Gustavus, along the Stikine  
& Taku River valleys and the  
Chilkat Valley.*

**Breeding season for Sitka  
black tail deer peaks in late  
November.**

**Porcupine breed.**

**Mountain goats mate in  
November and December.**

*Alaska's rainforest is home to  
at least 40 species of land  
mammals, more than 200  
species of birds, 5 amphibians  
and a lone reptile, the garter  
snake.*

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School, Room 207\*

### Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary Matt Kirchhoff

**M**anaged by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the sanctuary is world renown for the thousands of walrus that crowd its shores, and the tens of thousands of seabirds that nest on its cliffs in summer. Matt's slide presentation will focus on the natural history of the island and its notable wildlife.

*\*Please note the change of room for this meeting only.*

### Juneau Public Market

**Kathy Weltzin**

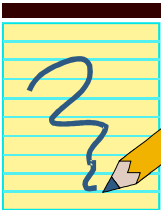
**O**ne of our major fund-raisers is just a few weekends away. We welcome items that we can sell. Things that are made of natural materials or have a nature focus are especially welcome. Here is a chance to turn your creativity into dollars for our organization. Many people look especially for the Audubon booth. We also need people to staff the booth on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

This year the booth will feature natural decorative items, bird feeders, note cards and the ever-popular home-made jellies. Because of the high demand, Nagoonberry jelly will be limited to two jars per person.

Please contact me at 789-0288 to find out how you can be a part of this popular community activity. And plan to come for your own holiday shopping. Public Market opens the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 28, and continues through Saturday and Sunday.



If you buy Audubon jelly this year or have glass jars left from prior years, please recycle jars so they can be used for next year's berry crop. Contact Mary Lou King at [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)



## Notes from the board

**Brenda Wright, President**

Hello members,

**A**s newly elected president of JAS, I attended a meeting of all Alaska chapter presidents at the state Audubon office in Anchorage on October 20. This is an exciting time, as two new chapters are being formed. One is being re-activated in Cordova, the Prince William Sound Audubon Society, and a brand new chapter is organizing in Bethel. It was very informative to hear what activities are being held in all the different chapters and get fresh ideas on how to keep people active and interested in Audubon.

We shared ideas on activities, problems, and opportunities. One of the best suggestions I heard was to be sure and match volunteer tasks with what the volunteer most wants to do! Since we are lucky enough to have great birding experts in our neighborhood, we can offer guided walks all through the spring migration. We also have the marvelous opportunity to visit Berners Bay in the spring to enjoy the concentration of wildlife attracted by the eulachon run there. However, there are lots of other opportunities to spread our enjoyment of birding, wildlife viewing, and natural history throughout the year. If you have any suggestions for new activities, we would love to hear about it. We'd especially enjoy learning of any new activities where you would like to participate as a leader or organizer. How about guided walks in the summer or fall? Please let us know your ideas.

One of the activities sponsored by the state Audubon office is an educational tool called the Audubon Bird Academy. This is a project to give teachers a curriculum that will help encourage lifetime interest in birds and a healthy environment. It follows 4th and 5th grade science, math, and reading standards. It comes with a workbook for teachers and activity books for students. Free workshops to train presenters are offered by Bucky Dennerlein of the Audubon Alaska office. Teachers can contact Bucky to reserve a 2-3 day session of the Audubon Bird Academy September through June. Bucky can be reached by e-mail at [bdennerlein@audubon.org](mailto:bdennerlein@audubon.org). If you would like the Juneau Audubon to help sponsor a program, let us know (\$20/student). Best of all it sounds like a lot of fun!

In local news, the JAS board, especially Kathy Weltzin, are organizing for our big fund raiser of the year, the Public Market. We will have a booth to sell our amazing jams and lots of other goodies. This year the market is November 29-30 and December 1. Please contact Kathy or any board member if you can volunteer to help at the booth. Other activities by the JAS board include advocacy for birds and other wildlife. Mary Lou King wrote comments for JAS on the proposed new dock facility in Auke Bay (near the ferry terminal) and Steve Zimmerman sent comments in for the proposed Cape Fox land exchange (Berners Bay) and the new regulation to limit taking wolves on Douglas Island to the state game board. Our ongoing concerns with the airport environmental statement and wildlife plan and also the golf course on North Douglas are being monitored.

If you have ideas or suggestions, or better yet, want to contribute to JAS activities or committees, please give me or any of the board members a call or e-mail.

Get out there and enjoy!

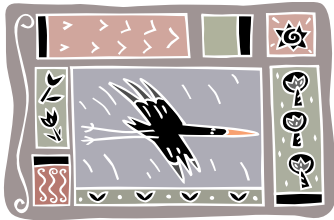
### Board profile



**Brenda Wright**  
*president*

**I** am a lifetime member of Audubon and have always attended the Juneau programs whenever I could. After volunteering for the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society as treasurer for two years, I was interested in volunteering for a local group. I like working with a group that has conservation advocacy as its goal, so when asked to serve as vice-president of JAS, I said yes. Birding is a special treat for me and the mission and vision of Audubon fills a niche for me of a group that is concerned about education and caring for our environment. So since my first gasp of delight at a rose breasted grosbeak in Ohio, to my local delight of the harlequin ducks, I enjoy birding and want to help keep them viable and visible in our community. Since I am a fish biologist and get to work outside frequently, I am lucky to get to do my work and enjoy birding at the same time.





# My favorite bird

## Snowy Owl

Mary Lou King, Juneau

*This article is based on an interview with one of the many experienced birders in Juneau Audubon Society. If you'd like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

Our family has had a permit to take care of injured birds for many years because my husband Jim worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We've taken care of eagles, arctic terns, lots of swans, eiders, emperor geese, mallards, herons—one of my favorites—and a crow that I really enjoyed. We had a kingfisher that would come and land on your shoulder and yak in your ear wanting to have some fish.

Probably my favorite bird would be whichever one I happened to be associated with at the moment! But many years ago we had a snowy owl in captivity while Dad was out of town. When we talked to Dad on the phone I said, "We have a snowy owl, and it's the prettiest bird I've ever seen." Snowy owls are not seen very often around Southeast, but this bird had been found out by the glacier in a weakened state.

It was a big bird, with a lot of white on it. It looked nice and puffy like a pillow, but it was really tough. We kept it in an old mink pen that came with the house.

Wild birds tend not to eat at first, and feeding that owl was quite a challenge. Whenever I came close, the bird would go *click-click-click* with its beak. Finally I got leather gloves and needle-nosed pliers, then I used the pliers to hold out pieces of meat to it. After a day or so it decided I was OK.

Snowy owls nest on the tundra, and they fiercely protect their nests. Other birds build nests near them because the owls keep the foxes away. The owls don't bother the other birds; their favorite food is lemmings. When the lemmings are thick, the owls tend to stay put. But if food is scarce, they spread out. They might migrate clear to California. Jim said sometimes they even end up out on the pack ice and eat birds out there.

The bird we took care of was probably a younger bird that had come a long ways out of its way.

That owl became quite famous. A picture K.J. Metcalf took of it was published, and Bob Armstrong also took one that was used in his *Guide to Birds of Alaska*.

Last year on October 29 (2001) Laurie Craig spotted a snowy owl on the airport dike trail. Thanks to "EagleChat" a lot of eager birders got to see it and take pictures. It sat docilely, but it only stayed for a day. The appearance of a snowy owl in Southeast Alaska is really erratic. Though one year you might see one, it may be years till you'll see one again.

**Proposed by-law changes published in the September issue of the Raven were all approved by the membership at the annual meeting in October.**



*Immature snowy owl/ Bob Armstrong*

### **December Raven Deadline**

Please submit articles for the December issue no later than November 22 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)

# Watchlist 2002 announced

## National Audubon Society

National Audubon's recently announced "WatchList 2002" names 201 species that show either significantly decreasing numbers or restricted range, or are under other threats. They represent more than one-quarter of North American species

"Audubon WatchList 2002 is a warning system that shows us where to focus our attention and resources if we want to help the survival of a vast number of bird species," according to Frank Gill, Audubon's chief ornithologist and senior vice president for science, and author of the comprehensive reference, *Birds of North America*. "It is also a powerful tool that policy-makers, businesses, and the general public can use now to take positive conservation action."

"WatchList is preventative medicine," says Gill. "It will be used first and foremost to enlist federal, state, and local governments to focus their resources towards protecting these birds before they become endangered or threatened - when they would demand more serious action and major taxpayer support to recover."

Based on a stoplight model, WatchList places selected bird species in green, yellow, or red categories, depending on the danger they face. A centerpiece of conservation efforts at Audubon, the WatchList aims to halt the declines of America's birds and to rebuild their populations to healthy, green-light status. Declines come at a time when bird watching is hitting an all-time high in popularity; the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment tallies 71 million Americans participating in 2001, up 250 percent from 1982, making birding the fastest-growing outdoor activity in the U.S.

Even more important, birds are primary indicators of environmental health, and what hurts birds also hurts the people who share the same space. Their declines are telling us about the ecosystems we both inhabit.

WatchList was developed in conjunction with Partners in Flight, a coalition of North American ornithological groups. Audubon is a leading member. For more information see <http://www.audubon.org/bird/watchlist/index.html>



## EAGLECHAT

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

**Date: October 26**

**Subject: Junco Strange Behavior**

There's been quite a number of Oregon Juncos and Slate-colored Juncos in our backyard (Haines) lately. In a corner section of the garden, there is some decaying wood around a flower bed. There's some moss on the wood. I've observed the juncos doing a strange thing. It looks like they get something off the wood or moss with their bill and then put it or rub it on their tail feathers. The birds are very protective of their spot where they do this and when other juncos come near, they chase them away. The juncos do this for at least five minutes at a time, and have been doing this for the last 3 to 4 days. At times it looks like they're sitting on their tail and they practically fall over putting or rubbing whatever they get off the wood/moss onto their tails.

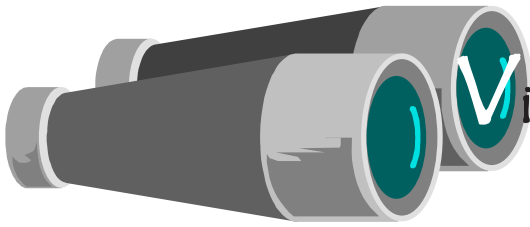
Can anyone tell me what it is that these juncos are doing?

**Date: October 3**

**Subject: Re: odd crows**

there are a flock of chickadees on Thane road that will take sunflower seeds from your hand. They've had this confidence for several years and were initially gentled by some very patient local humans. When they first started this behavior it was common to get mugged for seeds on the way from the door to the car by half a dozen or more landing on your head, hanging from my beard and shoulders, even sitting on the steering wheel as I tried to make an escape after leaving some seeds on the porch rail. Now days they're not quite so gregarious. I've noticed that a few have malformed feet where one claw might be laid across the top of the adjoining toe. I've noticed no bill deformities.

*more EagleChat on page 7*



# Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips

## **Alaska Bald Eagle Festival, Haines**

**November 7-10**

### **Keynote Speaker: Perry Conway**

For over 20 years, Perry Conway has created images which make a visual statement about the value of wildlife and wild places. As creator and producer of the Aerie Nature Series, his educational messages about the natural world and our human relationship with it have reached millions. He has personally given wildlife programs to over a million students, educators and the general public as director of the series.

His photographs and articles have been published in every major wildlife and natural history magazine in North America, including Audubon, National Geographic and National and International Wildlife. He has also won four national awards for his wildlife filmstrips.

### **Other Special Events:**

Photo workshops  
Guided eagle viewing  
Release of wild rehabilitated bald eagles  
Speakers and slide presentations

### **Further Details:**

<http://www.baldeaglefest.org/>

*Up to 3,000 eagles gather along a four mile stretch of the Chilkat River each fall to feed on a late run of salmon. Warm water upwellings in the river keep this stretch ice-free, providing access to the fish when food supplies are exhausted elsewhere. The concentration of eagles typically peaks in mid-November but lasts through February.*



*The 48,000 acre Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was created by the State of Alaska in 1982 to protect and perpetuate the world's largest concentration of Bald Eagles and their critical habitat. Eagles use virtually every portion of the Preserve at some time during the year.*



*Whale numbers are highest in Sitka Sound between September and January. Humpback whales come to the sound to feed on huge schools of herring which move into deep fjords during fall and winter. Researchers have documented transit times of just over a month between Sitka Sound and Hawaii, thus many of these whales present in January and early February will still migrate to Hawaii in time for the peak of the mating and calving activities.*

## **Sitka WhaleFest**

**November 1-3**

### **Keynote Speaker: Shane Moore**

Shane Moore has been making wildlife films worldwide for twenty years since graduating from the University of Montana with a degree in wildlife biology. His work has appeared on PBS, National Geographic, Discovery Channel, BBC and in IMAX theaters. For the last fifteen years he has specialized in filming marine life.

### **Other Special Events:**

Seminars featuring a lineup of world- renowned biologists and researchers  
Art shows  
Market  
Gordon Bok concert  
Sea Chantey concert featuring Don Sineti  
5&10k fun walk/run

### **Further details:**

<http://www.sitkawhalefest.org>

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Valdez — Port Valdez 80**, (Reference Number 0-1977-0133) Applicant: City of Valdez. Location: At the eastern end of the Valdez harbor. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a third boat ramp. The applicant will dredge approximately 1760 cubic yards of material from in 0.228 acres of intertidal habitat. A ramp would be constructed by placing two timber stringers with pre-cast concrete slabs and gravel to create a 220-foot by 12-foot wide ramp. The applicant will also discharge 675 cubic yards of riprap material to stabilize and re-establish the east harbor sidewall adjacent to the ramp. Purpose: Provide a third boat ramp. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **November 8, 2002**.

**Tatitlek — Tatitlek Narrows**, (Reference Number 4-2001-0626) Applicant: Bureau of Indian Affairs. Location: Tatitlek town site. Proposal: The applicant proposes to rehabilitate existing roads and construct new roads filling 2.94 acres of wetlands with 9,950 cubic yards of material. Work would include widening roadways, installing culverts, clearing vegetation, and roadside ditch work. The Copper Mountain Road would be extended south and intersect with the new dock road. A new parking lot will be constructed along School Access Road. Purpose: To create new roads and improve drainage. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **November 8, 2002**.

**Skagway — West Creek 1**, (Reference Number 4-2002-0824) Applicant: City of Skagway. Location: Near Dyea. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct 2,500 linear feet of bank stabilization, bridge abutment protection and or a new dike system along the West Creek. Work will excavate 70,000 cubic yards of fill from West Creek and discharge 30,000 cubic feet of fill into five acres. Of the 5 acres, .7 acres are considered wetlands. Purpose: To create a new stream bed for West Creek. Mitigation: The applicant proposes to leave some of the bank in a natural condition to reduce impacts. Comments due: **October 22, 2002**.

**Skagway — Skagway River 5**, (Reference Number 4-1988-0093) Applicant: David Hunz. Location: Just north of the Skagway River Bridge. Proposal: The applicant proposes to excavate 50,000 cubic yards of gravel riverbed material over a five-year period from 4.44 acres area on the Skagway River. Up to 10,000 cubic yards would be excavated each year. The applicant will also construct a dike, and temporary placement before truck loading. Approximately 1,025 cubic yards of material would be discharged to construct two haul roads and another 100 cubic feet of yards of material would be used in construction of the dike. On completion of seasonal work, the access roads and dike will be removed and the area contoured and sloped to not leave open pits in the riverbed. As mitigation, the applicant will operate during low flow, excavate in 10,000 cubic yards increments and stockpile material in an upland location for further processing. Comments due: **November 1, 2002**.

**\*\*Juneau — Switzer Creek 08**, (Reference Number 2-2002-0842) Applicant: S&S Development. Location: Approximately 6 mile old Glacier Hwy, just east of the K-Mart building. Proposal: The applicant proposes place 210,000 cubic yards fill into 15 acres of tidal marsh and wetlands. The site will serve as commercial subdivision. The fill will be on either side of Switzer Creek, leaving a 50 foot buffer between the stream and the upland fill. The fill would extend to Lemon Creek Manor and to the Juneau Police station. Purpose: commercial subdivision. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **November 12, 2002**.

**This application proposes to fill the area between Kmart, Lemon Creek Manor and the Police Station (15 acres). This would affect upland wetlands because of changes in hydrology and would add to the cumulative effects caused by the fills at Kmart, Lemon Creek Manor and the area around the police station.**

**Sitka — Sitka Sound 173**, (Reference Number O-1980-0314) Applicant: Cove Marina Inc. Location: 4701 Halibut Point Road. Proposal: The applicant requests that the existing marina configuration be authorized, and installation of a new 9-foot by 76-foot pier and replacement of piling within the marina as necessary. Purpose: Increase use of existing marina. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **October 25, 2002**.

**Ketchikan — Ketchikan Creek 5**, (Reference Number 4-1998-0886) Applicant: Otto Roppel, Deer Mount Inc. Location: Ketchikan Lake Sub-Division / Nordstrom. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 55,020 cubic yards of fill including 30,000 cubic yards of rock, 20 cubic yards of rip rap and 25,000 cubic yards of site generated overburden into 16.5 acres of forested and scrub/shrub wetlands and 1 small stream. This project has previous notifications of fill, including a 10-acre fill (5/28/92) under a Nationwide permit, and a 3-acre fill (9/18/98) in the Nordstrom Sub-division. Purpose: to create additional subdivision lands The applicant proposes to set aside 2.9 acres of emergent fen and scrub shrub as green areas. Comments due: **October 24, 2002**.

**Ketchikan — Nichols Passage 14**, (Reference Number 2-2002-0995) Applicant: Gregory Bolshakoff. Location: Nichols View subdivision on South Tongass Hwy. Proposal: The applicant proposes to extend an existing fill area by discharging 275 cubic yards of armor rock and 2,700 cubic yards of fill into 0.25 acres of intertidal habitat. Purpose to construct a house and to extend usable property. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **November 18, 2002**.

**\*\*** These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.



## EAGLECHAT

**Date:** October 2

**From:** gwen baluss <[gwenbaluss@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenbaluss@yahoo.com)>

**Subject:** odd crows

An alert UAS ornithology student informed me that there were three crows with malformed bills at the Auke Bay harbor. Yesterday I saw one of them visiting the open dumpster there. The upper mandible was exceptionally long, and curved, as in a creeper or curlew. The lower looked OK, but looked like it perhaps had been chipped or broken. Deformed bills can result from natural genetic mutations, mutations from contaminants or radiation, disease, physical injury and certain vitamin deficiencies. Given the dumpster/harbor situation, high contaminant load is a definite possibility.

Has anyone else seen birds like this around here?

Meanwhile, a mystery continues in the Anchorage area where many chickadees and a few other species have shown up with bill deformities. More info on this can be found at <http://www.absc.usgs.gov> (then click on "Chickadee Alert") For those interested in malformed crows: Colleen Handel, USGS researcher in Anchorage says that : "This is a new location but not a new species. To date we've received 17 reports of one or more northwestern crows with deformed bills from various locations in Alaska, including Douglas, Ketchikan, Cordova, Valdez, Homer, Nikiski, and Anchorage. Also, yesterday a pilot told me that he saw a crow with a crossed bill at the power annex, on the Taku.

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

**President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, [jnoel@gci.net](mailto:jnoel@gci.net)  
**Vice-President:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, [bandmac@gci.net](mailto:bandmac@gci.net)  
**Treasurer:** Liz Blecker, 586-4210, [lblecker@gci.net](mailto:lblecker@gci.net)  
**Programs:** Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net)  
**Membership:** Amy Skilbred, 780-4649, [skilbred@aol.com](mailto:skilbred@aol.com)  
**Education:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260, [akwildlife@gci.net](mailto:akwildlife@gci.net)  
**Conservation:** Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net)  
**Field Trips:**  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)  
**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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# The Raven

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



Volume 29, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2002

## December ALMANAC

Swans are gathering at Peterburgh's Blind Slough, where 18 swans and over 60 bald eagles were sighted in late November.



*Petersburg Chamber of Commerce /  
Jan Hill*

**CAREFULLY** re-hang bird feeders (some bears just don't see the virtue of a long winter's nap).

**Plan to join the 103rd Christmas Bird Count on December 14.**

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

### Detecting change from aerial photos Richard Carstensen

To study nature is to study change. Aerial photos are wonderful tools for detecting and quantifying change from natural succession or human impact. Richard Carstensen will show two examples, one assessing the loss of "Landmark Forest" (Alaska's greatest big tree stands) on the southern Tongass, and another dealing with changes to salt marsh communities on the Mendenhall Wetlands with glacial rebound.

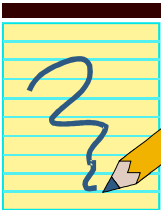
### 103rd Christmas Bird Count Deanna MacPhail

The Juneau CBC will be held this year on **Saturday, December 14**. As usual, volunteers should meet at either of the two McDonalds Restaurants no later than 8 a.m. on count day, with appropriate attire and binoculars. People interested in counting in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown restaurant; birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the valley restaurant. Hopefully, many of our veteran group leaders will again be available to participate. Juneau is fortunate to have a group of dedicated CBC volunteers who bring a high level of skill and interest which provide accurate identification and consistent area coverage from year to year.

Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate and this is an excellent time to improve your birding skills by working with the more experienced team leaders. Even if you are unable to commit the entire day to the count, you are encouraged to turn out for a few hours. Who knows, you might just see something no one else has noticed! And, if you have a feeder at home, be sure to keep count there and turn in your numbers at the end of the day.

There will be a potluck in the evening to share in the events of the day and to conduct the tally of birds and species seen. The potluck will be at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam, who, in spite of previous experience, continue to allow us to gather in their home.

*(continued on page 2)*



# Notes from the board

**Chris Kent, vice-president**

This year I have assumed the position of vice-president. For the last few years I've been the Conservation Chairman. In the conservation position, I was responsible for the majority of comments we made as an organization on conservation issues. This took considerable time and in making the move to vice president, I considered my new responsibilities as less time consuming. In the position as Vice President, I will be supporting Brenda in her role as president and assisting committee chairpersons in their tasks.

One of my thoughts during the November general election was about opportunities. We heard a lot about how this is a resource state and the development of resources will balance the State's budget. To start the process, the new administration is proposing community meetings to identify priorities. It is my hope that Alaskans will voice a concern for the wise utilization of resources and not allow the liquidation of this heritage for the sake of a balanced budget. I consider natural resources as assets and in the analogy of a portfolio, some assets should be protected for the long term while others should be used without jeopardizing the viability of a sustainable return. In balancing the environment against economic development, we must plan for the long term and not for maximum yields. The community meetings are an opportunity to say that the environment is important to us. Please consider either attending these meetings or writing a letter to the Governor on the importance of a healthy environment.

## **Board profile** **Chris Kent**

I learned of Audubon when I was a backcountry trail worker for the U.S. Forest Service. We spent the early morning hours identifying birds for wildlife surveys. Great job! I was the one taking notes and I never did get very good at recognizing birds. But, I learned to write comment letters and have submitted comments on nearly every new wildlife refuge that was created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). I've been published in numerous Environmental Impact Statements. Our past President, Amy Skilbred, invited me to an Audubon meeting and when I mentioned that my hobby was writing letters I was immediately designated as Conservation Chair. My education is in fresh water aquatic biology but my current job is computer related. I look forward to continuing to serve Audubon in my new capacity as Vice President.

## **Christmas Bird Count**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Although Juneau may claim Alaska bragging rights for the most species tallied (75) in last year's count, Kodiak, which topped out at 74, will surely be seeking to overtake us. And we shouldn't get too comfortable with our numbers as Cordova, Sitka and Homer all reported more than 62 species. Both Prudhoe Bay and Nome reported just one species, the Common Raven, but Nome participants did their count on Dec. 15, a day with low temperature reported at minus 29° F.!

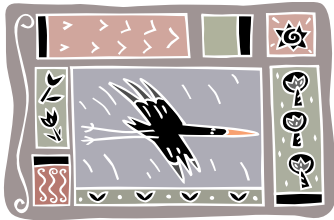
Previous count data are now available on the Audubon website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>.

For more information on this year's Juneau Christmas Bird Count, call Deanna MacPhail, at 789-0651.

### **January Raven Deadline**

Please submit articles for the January issue no later than December 20 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)





## My favorite bird

**Harlequin Duck**  
**Barry Bracken, Petersburg**

*This article is based on an interview with one of the many experienced birders in Juneau Audubon Society. If you'd like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

I like sea ducks, and Harlequins are my favorites. They're the one species we have in front of our house year-round, and they're great fun to watch. They spend a lot of time on the rocks resting, while other ducks like surf scoters and mergansers are out bobbing on the waves.

Except for information gathered in the aftermath of the oil spill in Prince William Sound, Harlequins are probably one of the birds we have the least amount of information about. But we do know they live in some of the roughest waters on earth (some populations overwinter along the Aleutians), and they conserve energy by resting on land.

Harlequins remind me of the important link between marine and terrestrial environments—something that we all need to keep in mind. In Southeast, Harlequins go up into fast moving streams on the mainland to breed. The females stay up there for a long time—nearly a month to incubate their eggs and another month or so to rear the young. When we see the chicks back down in salt water it's September, and they're in full flight plumage.

Male Harlequins leave the freshwater environment and return to salt water after the eggs hatch. This cuts the freshwater population in half and probably leaves more food for the hens and chicks.

I love the compact size and outstanding coloration of Harlequin males. They really earn their name *Histrionicus histrionicus* (Latin for "stage player") and their nickname "rock clowns." They forage in rough, rocky surge areas that other birds can't tolerate. Up in fresh water, young birds even exercise by playing in the waterfalls. They have a higher mortality from this "whitewater rafting" than from predators.

Harlequins have adapted very well to a broad variety of feeding strategies. In streams they eat aquatic nymphs and sometimes salmon eggs in the lower reaches. In the marine environment they eat amphipods, and mollusks like small mussels and clams. They can feed in the most turbulent waters, and they're one of the few ducks able to pry limpets and chitins off rocks, using a little hook on their beaks that can get under the shells and pry them loose.

It's hard to confuse a male Harlequin with any other species of duck. Some people who come to visit think they're seeing wood ducks, but habitat alone would tell you these are Harlequins. Females and immatures are fairly nondescript and can be confused with female goldeneyes or buffleheads, but the presence of males is usually a dead giveaway.

In late summer we often see congregations of several hundred male Harlequins on rocky outcroppings in lower Stephens Passage. I assume these are birds that have come back from breeding areas and are going through their summer molt. They probably choose these resting areas for protection from predators during this vulnerable time.

Harlequins require a pristine marine environment as well as a pristine terrestrial one for breeding. They're a good reminder for us that little changes in one area can have a profound influence over a much broader area—that we need to take care of everything and keep everything in balance.





# EAGLECHAT

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

**Subject: Juneau birding**

Late Nov weather here can be rather grim - wet, dark, and cold! Good birds are hard to find but there are some good spots. Eagle beach for wintering shore birds, Fish Creek and Mendenhall wetlands for ducks, Pt Luisa for wintering ducks, loons, grebes and any hiking into alpine areas (such as the trail up to the cross on Mt Roberts) may offer ptarmigan sightings.

**Date: November 12**

**Subject: Swans**

Swans are migrating through Juneau this morning. A family with three young gray ones were resting on the wetlands at the edge of the channel. The adults were very wary of me and my dog Nahanni despite being quite far away. Then three more adult swans circled the wetlands and landed with the family. I guess the temperature in the Yukon has finally dropped sufficiently to chase these birds south.

**Date: November 12**

**Subject: Swans**

I watched 16 swans, mostly adults with a few immature, at Ward Lake this morning (Ketchikan). My dog and I were the only ones on the trail, and they were aware — and wary — even at a significant distance.

**Date: November 16**

**Subject: SPTO**

A Spotted Towhee has been around the feeders in a North Douglas backyard for several days.

## USFWS wetlands grants

### **Juneau & Gustavus are SE recipients**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will award \$2.6 million to two State of Alaska agencies for projects to protect coastal wetlands in Juneau, Palmer, and Gustavus and on Afognak Island.

Included in that is a \$553,000 grant to purchase private property at the head of the Boy Scout Trail near Eagle Beach.

The grants, awarded under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, will benefit more than 6,000 acres of wildlife habitat within or adjacent to State Game Refuges, State Parks and municipal parks. Financial partners in the projects include Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Great Land Trust, City and Borough of Juneau and The Nature Conservancy.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants are awarded to the states through a competitive process. Established under the 1990 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, the program is funded from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels.

This year, the Service will award \$15.7 million for 21 projects in 15 states. It is notable, given the competitive nature of the program, that all 4 proposals submitted by the State of Alaska will be fully funded. Since 1990, the Service has awarded more than \$120 million in grants to 25 states and one U.S. territory under this program. To date, National Coastal Wetlands Grants have assisted the states in restoring or protecting a total of nearly 150,000 acres of wetlands.



FUN! ADVENTURE! TRAVEL!

# Expand your world as you know it

## National Audubon Board Elections

**Brenda Wright, President**

It's time to select a nominee as the Alaska/Hawaii/Guam representative to the National Audubon Board. This is a role vital to representing chapters on the national level. Each region gets to send one representative to the national board. We would like to hear if you are interested in a three-year term to this position.

Each chapter in our region (Alaska/Hawaii/Guam) can propose one nominee. A past Juneau chapter president, Amy Skilbred, is now our region's representative. The national board meets four times a year in various locations throughout the U.S. Please don't be inhibited by travel costs; the national board can support or defray those costs.

If you are interested in supporting Audubon, especially in providing our viewpoint on a national level, please contact Brenda Wright, president or any of the board members. We'll be happy to give more details on duties and expectations.

## Become a student again

### **What UAS is offering**

It's not too early to look beyond the holidays and think about a winter/spring class at UAS. Here are just a few of the possibilities. For more information see their web site at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/>

#### **BIOL 271 Ecology**

Principles of ecology with emphasis on the organism, population, community, ecosystem and biome levels. Aspects of the physical environment. Field exercises in biological sampling and analyses.

#### **BIOL 375 Current Topics: The Shape of Life**

Readings and discussions on "The Shape of Life," coined after a recent text in evolutionary biology. Interaction of developmental biology, genetics, and evolutionary processes in evolution of animal form.

#### **BIOL 401 Phycology**

Survey of freshwater and marine algae; emphasis on Alaskan species.

#### **BIOL 493 Physiology of Marine Organisms**

Adaptation of marine animals to their environment. Environmental physiology.

#### **BIOL 495 Behavioral Ecology Field Course**

Research skills in behavioral ecology, current issues in the study of behavior.

#### **ENVS 101 Introduction To Environmental Science**

Atmospheric, hydrospheric, lithospheric, and oceanic systems that define the environment and interactions among them; energy as an environmental parameter; effects of physical systems on the biosphere.

#### **ENVS 310 Geographic Information Systems**

Relationship between spatial data and automated thematic mapping; basic use of Arc/Info GIS software.

#### **ENVS 402 Limnology**

Study of continental fresh water systems, focusing on physical, chemical, and biological features.

#### **ENVS 493 ST: Snow Hydrology**

Processes related to snow in mid-latitude areas and how it influences climate, biology, and chemistry. Snow formation in the atmosphere, accumulation and distribution, snowpack metamorphism, avalanche dynamics, snowmelt runoff and chemistry, techniques for measuring snow properties.

#### **GEOL 271 Earth Materials**

Identification of the major rock-forming, metal ore, carbonate and evaporite minerals and the rocks they form. Theoretical and practical aspects of crystallography, mineralogy and petrology.

#### **GEOL 301 Geomorphology**

Landforms and associated soils, including their features, processes, materials and development over time. Understanding interactions between human activities and landforms/soils.

#### **ASTR 225 General Astronomy**

Physical properties of astronomical bodies; earth-based and satellite observation of light, cosmic rays, meteors, stars, galaxies and other extraterrestrial phenomena.

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

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Division of Governmental Coordination  
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Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
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Department of Environmental Conservation  
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**Juneau — Mendenhall River 49**, (Reference Number M-1998-0008) Applicant: Montana Creek Development Company. Location: Montana Creek Subdivision III, Track II. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct 36 home sites. In the process of creating building pads the applicant will fill 0.21 acres of forested and scrub wetlands. This application will reauthorize a previous Corps permit (4-1998-008) that expired on August 3, 2001. Purpose: Allow the applicant to complete the residential subdivision. Mitigation: Applicant is leaving a greenbelt around the Category B wetlands identified in the Juneau Wetland management plan which is located in the center of the subdivision. Comments due: **December 3, 2002**.

**Juneau — Favorite Channel 43**, (Reference Number M-1996-0019) Applicant: City and Borough of Juneau. Location: South Lena Loop Road. Proposal: The applicant proposes to place 15,145 cubic yards of fill into 5.78 acres of forested wetlands for the construction of twenty four 84-foot long by 84-foot wide house pads, seventeen driveways (approximately 20 to 40-foot long by 16-foot wide) and ten driveways 80 to 120 feet long by 16-feet wide. In addition, the proposed project would include the placement of an 400-foot long outfall line within Favorite Channel. Purpose: To create a 48-lot residential subdivision. Mitigation: The applicant will preserve a 54-acre greenbelt adjacent to Picnic Creek, northeast of the project area. The applicant will also have seasonal work restraints around three Bald Eagle nests and secondary treatment of wastewater prior to discharge. Comments due: **December 2, 2002**.

**Sitka — Jamestown Bay 0049**, (Reference Number 4-2002-0025) Applicant: Michael Knauss. Location: 1715 Sawmill Creek Road. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 200 cubic yards of rip rap and 360 cubic yards of shot rock into 1280 square feet of intertidal habitat. An additional 180 cubic yards of fill will be discharged above the high tide line. The project will excavate 120 cubic yards of native beach gravel below mean high water. Purpose: To create a parking lot. Comments due: **November 24, 2002**.

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 549**, (Reference Number 4-2002-0993) Applicant: Chris Biagi. Location: Collins Court, lot 9F. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 2,000 cubic yards of shot rock into 9,200 square feet (0.21 acres) of forested wetlands and create a stream crossing that will impact 0.02 acres of stream channel. The applicant will deepen the stream on the western edge of the property to improve drainage. Mitigation: None. Purpose: Construct a private residence. Comments due: **November 27, 2002**.

**Ketchikan — George Inlet 19**, (Reference Number M-1974-0312) Applicant: Patricia Shaughnessy. Location: George Inlet Lodge, 11728 South Tongass Highway (13 miles from Ketchikan). Proposal: The applicant proposes to expand an existing dock facility by adding a “L” shaped float 160-feet by 16-feet by 20-feet. The dock would be anchored by six 2,000 lb. concrete anchors. Purpose: Expand the current dock to accommodate traffic. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **December 9, 2002**.

**Ketchikan — Behm Canal 72**, (Reference Number 1-2002-0703) **AFTER-THE-FACT**. Applicant: Lawrence Carson. Location: Rudyard Isle Bite on Behm Canal near Princess Bay. Proposal: The applicant request to maintain a 50-foot long 3-log boom-stick float anchored to land with steel cable attached to rock. Purpose: Moorage for logs, vessels and equipment associated with on-going log salvage. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: **December 6, 2002**.

**Ketchikan — Clarence Strait 94**, (Reference Number 4-2002-1110) Applicant: Tiff Vincent. Location: Clarence Straits Subdivision Lot 2, near Coffman Cove. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 580 cubic yards of fill into 0.17 acres of muskeg and forested wetlands. Purpose: To construct a private residence and driveway. Mitigation: None. Comments due: **December 12, 2002**.



## Help for city birds

For most people, birds represent their most frequent contact with wildlife. And urban areas often have habitat critical to migrating birds.

One of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s newest programs, the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds, is a grant and outreach program designed to address a sometimes overlooked area of bird conservation — the need to work with cities to preserve habitat and educate citizens about birds in an urban environment.

When cities sign onto the program, USFWS provides technical assistance and challenge grants ranging from \$10,00 to \$150,000. The treaty city develops and implements bird conservation projects, provides matching dollars and in-kind support and develops further partnerships.

Currently, New Orleans and Chicago are signed on. Future participating cities include Philadelphia, Anchorage and Houston. Audubon chapters including the Orleans Audubon Society, Audubon Chicago, Anchorage Audubon Society, and Houston Audubon Society have been key participants in their respective cities. To learn more visit <http://birds.fws.gov/urbantreaty.html>.

## Speakers wanted (Maybe you!)

Is there a topic you’d like to hear more about? Do you know someone (maybe you!) who traveled and has an interesting story to share? Do you know someone who will be traveling to Juneau who could present an interesting program? We’d like to hear your suggestions for monthly programs, which are scheduled the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Our monthly meetings are a focal point of our chapter activities, and we’d like to appeal to a wide spectrum of interests. Please contact Brenda Wright or any board member with your suggestions.

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) in the U.S. has launched a new website <http://www.nabci-us.org/>. Visit the site to learn more about NABCI efforts in the U.S., the various bird conservation plans and how you can get involved.



Sara Lou McDaniel

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51**  
**7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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**Vice-President:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, [bandmac@gci.net](mailto:bandmac@gci.net)  
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**Public Market Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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# The Raven

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



**Volume 29, Number 5**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**January 2003**

**Monthly Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

## The late great Rampart Dam project

**Jim King**

When the huge Rampart Dam project loomed in the early 1960's, it threatened to eliminate habitat for millions of waterfowl. Retired USFWS waterfowl biologist Jim King led a crew that banded 18,000 ducks during the summers of 1960 and 1961. By 1963 when a report on the Rampart project was due, hunters had returned bands taken in 48 U.S. states, eight Canadian Provinces and 10 Hispanic countries. This generated National interest by sportsmen, game departments and conservationists. Later, when ANILCA was being debated, this data helped generate the political support to create seven waterfowl refuges, including the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Come see Jim's slide show of this biological work, and hear stories about how protection of this key waterfowl area came to pass.

## January Almanac

Porcupines, voles, mice, squirrels will spend the winter chewing on shed moose antlers to acquire the calcium.

Halibut spawn off edge of continental shelf

Brown bear cubs are born

Beaver mate

Common Raven display courtship behavior

### 103rd Christmas Bird Count

**Deanna MacPhail**

Highlights of count: Although we had new high counts for some species, notably 11 Gadwall, 264 American Wigeon, 60 Green-winged Teal, 19 Killdeer, 2 Hermit Thrush, 6 Savannah Sparrow and 359 Red Crossbills, and several species unusual for this time of year, particularly an Anna's Hummingbird, a Spotted Towhee, the Savannah Sparrows and the Hermit Thrushes, our overall number count was down slightly from last year, and the species count was less by one. Still, the 23 birders who turned out to count birds during our first snow fall of the year combined to produce a good representation of birds to be seen from Douglas through downtown out to Pt. Louisa. And for some, the highlight of the day may well have been the potluck gathering afterwards, to compile our numbers. In all, it was a good

effort and those who participated contributed valuable information about our local bird population. Thanks to all.

Details for the Juneau count, and all others will be available online at: <http://audubon.birdsource.org/CBCOutput/> once the data is entered. The count period runs from December 14 to January 5, with each group choosing a single day as the official count day, with the preceding three and subsequent three days designated at the count week. Some groups will not submit their data until after January 5, 2003.

### **Skagway 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bird Count Summary December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

Conditions were good for birding this year. There was some wind in town, but in the woods, all was calm. Skies were cloudy. Nineteen people turned out for this count, plus one feeder watcher. Four of these counters were from Whitehorse. Since no owls have been heard lately, no one volunteered to sit all night in a cold automobile.

Approximately 39.5 miles were covered on foot by groups up to four in number, with another 28 miles driven. Noticeably absent were redpolls. Grosbeaks and waxwings were here in limited numbers, but larger flocks have since begun arriving.

Thirty-one species were recorded, including bufflehead, snow bunting, black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadees, brown creeper, northwest crow, white-winged crossbill, American dipper, bald eagle, barrow's and common goldeneye, pine grosbeak, glaucous and glaucous-winged gulls, mew gull, thayer's gull, stellar's jay, dark-eyed junco, belted kingfisher, golden crowned kinglet, black-billed magpie, mallard, common and red-breasted mergansers, marbled murrelet, common raven, American robin, pine siskin, fox sparrow, European starling, and bohemian waxwing.

For the count week, we also noted a white-tailed ptarmigan, northern hawk owl, hairy woodpecker, and northern goshawk.

For more detail log on at <http://audubon.birdsource.org/CBCOutput/> and check the Skagway count information.

## Notes from the board

Board members are planning a retreat January 25 to review the chapter's strategic plan and develop a budget to implement the plan. As always, participation and input from members is invited and encouraged. For details on the time and location, contact Brenda Wright, president, at 789-4656 or [jnoel@gci.net](mailto:jnoel@gci.net).

### **Board profile**

#### **DeAnna MacPhail, Secretary**

With any luck, a secretary can maintain a fairly low profile indefinitely. This will be a singular departure. My earliest bird memories are anticipation of the arrival of crates of baby chickens to be raised on our small farm; birds ultimately destined for the cooking pot.

My first pet was an elderly black Bantam hen who enjoyed a sublime existence and was allowed the supreme privilege of roosting on the back porch. She was eventually given a proper burial, far from the kitchen.



Notwithstanding my utter lack of any formal training in the family of sciences, I've come to be especially concerned about the welfare of our natural habitat and its health for all life, admittedly with most interest directed towards birds. I would like to think that is not in direct conflict with my employment at the Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

What began as a harmless observation of birds has become, some might say, a grand passion.

**My favorite bird** will return in the February issue.

## **EAGLECHAT**

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

You're invited to eBird!

Tired of keeping your bird records tucked away in old notebooks? Ever wish your observations could contribute to a permanent, long-term database on North American bird populations? Want to help increase our understanding of bird distributions?

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon announce eBird, the anytime, anywhere online checklist project and data management tool. Store your bird records at eBird as a way to manage your own bird sightings. Query the database with questions like, "What year did I see that Northern Lapwing in New Jersey?" and "How has the distribution of Carolina Wrens changed over the last few years?" Birding at South Padre Island? Select the checklist from the Texas "hotspots" menu. Keeping track of your yard or office birds? Add these locales to your "Favorites" list.

eBirding is fun, easy, practical, and when you store your records in eBird, these same records provide useful data to scientists, conservation biologists, educators, and birders just like you. Give eBird a try at the BirdSource web site, <http://www.birdsource.org/ebird>. It's entirely free.

**Juneau Audubon Society is back on the web!** Log on at our new address:

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> and forward your ideas and contributions to the webmaster, George Utermohle.

## **Juneau Fall Migration Report**

**Aleutian Canada Goose.** One seen November 23 on Auke Lake, perhaps only the 2nd record for SE Alaska (GVV).

**Gadwall.** Five were seen at the mouth of Fish Creek on November 8 (SZ).

**Shoveller.** Four late lingerers were on Auke Lake on November 24 (GVV).

**Hooded Merganser.** A female with three half-grown ducklings was seen on Norton Lake on August 2 (DM). Small numbers were seen on Twin Lakes starting on September 17 (2 females—SZ) and extending throughout the fall period. The largest number reported was five (3 females, 2 males) on October 28 (SZ).

**Ruddy Duck.** Two female/immature birds were seen on Auke bay on October 24 (GVV). A single female/immature was seen on Twin Lakes on October 27 (JS) and October 28 (SZ).

**There was a good diversity of duck species seen on Twin Lakes this fall. In addition to several Mallards, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and Wigeon, small numbers of Ring-necked Ducks and Common Mergansers, at least five Canvasbacks, a Redhead, and the above mentioned HOME and RUDU were all seen there during the fall migration period.**

**Osprey.** A single bird was seen at the end of the airport runway on September 11 (LC) and another single was seen at Auke Bay on September 21 (GVV).

**Steller's Sea Eagle.** Although not seen on a regular basis, Juneau's Steller's Sea Eagle was seen in the Taku River area on at least three occasions this summer/fall. The last report was from just below Canyon Island on September 21 (EK: fide LD).

**Rough-legged Hawk.** A dark phase bird was seen near Radcliffe Road parking area on September 21 (BA)

**Peregrine Falcon.** Two were seen near the Alaska State Museum on September 24 (GVV).

**American Coot.** Coots were seen continuously on Twin Lakes, and in the marsh by the Pioneers Home, from September 22 (MS, SZ), through the end of the fall reporting period. An immature bird was seen occasionally in the company of an adult bird during the mid-September period. The maximum number of coots reported was 8 on November 19 (GVV).

**Sandhill Crane.** Unusually high numbers of birds were seen in the Juneau area in mid-September. Sixteen birds were seen flying over Tee Harbor on September 17 (BA). On September 18 approximately 250 birds were seen standing along the Mendenhall River (m.obs.). On September 19, more than 700 were seen at about the 2,000 foot level, flying past the tramway at 11:25 in the morning (GVV).

**Greater Yellowlegs.** Two immatures were seen on November 3—a very late date for Alaska—on the Mendenhall Wetlands (GVV).

**Lesser Yellowlegs.** Following the high numbers of adults reported in early July, this species continued with very high numbers with 300+ on August 1 (GVV) and approximately 200 on August 5 (BA).

**Solitary Sandpiper.** Two were seen in the Dredge Lakes area on August 2 (DM), and two were seen at Fish Creek on August 11 (PS).

**Baird's Sandpiper.** Two birds were seen on August 10 and 3 (BA).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.** A juvenile was seen at Salmon Creek on September 5 (PS). Another bird, possibly the same one, was also seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands on the same day (BA).

**Upland Sandpiper.** A single bird was seen on August 15 - 25 on the Mendenhall Wetlands (PS, GVV, BA), and two were seen there on August 31 (GVV).

**Long-billed Dowitcher.** An unusually large number (90) were seen during September 16 – 28 on the Mendenhall Wetlands (GVV).

**Stilt Sandpiper.** The first sighting was of a single bird on the Mendenhall Wetlands on August 13 (PS), and small numbers were observed for several days thereafter, through September 5 (BA). The maximum number seen was 10 on August 19 (GVV) and 22 (PS).

**Wilson's Phalarope.** A juvenile was seen at Eagle Beach on August 2 (PS, SZ; pictures by PS).

**Bonaparte's Gull.** 600 were seen on November 11 at mile 33—this is a late date for this species—tight flocks were fluttering over a large surface prey patch in humpback whale waters (GVV).

**Ring-billed Gull.** Single birds were seen in Bayview Subdivision (Douglas Island) on August 13 (SZ), and near the Juneau-Douglas Bridge on August 25 (PS). Two birds were seen near the mouth of Fish Creek on September 7 (PS).

**California Gull.** A very late, second year winter bird was seen on November 11 on the Mendenhall Wetlands (GVV).

**Glaucous Gull.** An immature bird was seen at Salmon Creek on August 6 (PS; photo), and at Eagle Beach on November 9 (GVV).

**Slaty-backed Gull.** One was found at the mouth of Salmon Creek on August 8 (IM), August 10 (GVV), and again on August 15 (PS).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull.** An adult bird was seen on August 18 (IM), and on August 22 and 29 (PS) on the Mendenhall Wetlands.

**Barred Owl.** First identified by GVV on August 19, a single bird was seen hunting in the early evenings through August 24, between mile 15.2 and 16.0 along Glacier Highway. On August 25 it appeared to be acting oddly, and was seen sitting on the ground for a long period of time (BA). Photos were taken by PS.

**Northern Pygmy Owl.** One was seen and heard at Point Bridget on September 29 (GVV). Another single bird was heard on October 3 and seen on November 12 and 29 at Auke Bay (GVV).

**Common Nighthawk.** A single bird was seen on August 29 on the Mendenhall Wetlands (GVV).

**Anna's Hummingbird.** A single male was seen at a feeder in Auke Bay from October 10 through the end of the count period (GVV).

**Three-toed Woodpecker.** A single bird was seen near the Herbert Glacier Trailhead on September 29 (LL).

**Bank Swallow.** One bird was seen on September 15 in the company of two Barn Swallows at Mile 25 (GVV). This is a late date for both of these species.

**Pacific-slope Flycatcher.** Three recent fledglings were seen on September 14 at Point Bridget. They were giving incessant begging/contact calls –an example of late-breeding activity by this species in the Juneau area (GVV).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch.** A small and quick, but widespread movement occurred during September 28 – 29, with single birds seen in the Mendenhall Valley and at Auke Bay, Eagle Beach and Point Bridget (GVV).

**Cedar Waxwing.** Five were seen in a flock over downtown Juneau on August 23, and one was seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands on August 25 (GVV).

**Bohemian Waxwing.** A single bird was seen on November 19 in downtown Juneau (GVV).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler.** A late “Myrtle-type” bird was seen on November 18 in downtown Juneau (GVV).

**American Redstart.** A late adult male was seen at Dredge Lakes on September 3 (PS).

**Spotted Towhee.** A single bird was seen at a feeder in Bonnie Brae Subdivision (Douglas Island) from November 11 (BD) through the end of the count period (BA, m.obs.). This is likely the 5th sighting of this bird in Alaska (records compiled by GVV).

**Chipping Sparrow.** A juvenile was seen at Point Bridget on September 2 (PS), and another was seen at Dredge Lakes on September 3 (PS).

**Fox Sparrow.** A late bird, with a very red tail, was seen at a residence from November 8 through the end of the count period (DM).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak.** A young male /adult male in basic plumage, was seen feeding on bird seed at a home in the Juneau Highlands from October 5 – 9 (MM, m. obs, photos by MM). This is likely the 5th or 6th record for this species in Alaska (records compiled by GVV).

**Black-headed Grosbeak.** A female was observed coming to a feeder in Petersburg from September 28 – 30 (DC, KC, video by BH). This is likely the 14th sighting of this bird in Alaska (records compiled by GVV). Another female bird was later reported coming to a feeder in Sitka beginning about November 6. Marge Ward should be sending a report on this bird

**Common Redpoll.** Twenty were seen in a flock on November 10 at 33 mile (GVV).

**Red Crossbill.** Small flocks of Red Crossbills were seen regularly, with singing territorial males, at several locations in Juneau over virtually the entire fall reporting period. On September 29 recently fledged birds were seen at Point Bridget, and a family group with 3 juveniles was seen on October 26 at Auke Bay (GVV). Very few White-winged Crossbills were reported during this period.

**Pine Siskin.** This species became common and widespread during the last half of November with a flock of over 400 birds seen on November 28 at Mile 33 (GVV).

**BA** = Bev Agler; **DC** = Don Cornelius; **KC** = Karen Cornelius; **LC** = Laurie Craig; **BD** = Bruce Dinneford; **LD** = Larry DePute; **BH** = Brad Hunter; **EK** = Ed Kiessel; **LL** = Laurie Lamm; **IM** = Ian MacIntosh; **MM** = Mary McCafferty; **DM** = Deanna MacPhail; **JS** = Jeff Sauer; **MS** = Mark Schwan; **PS** = Paul Suchanek; **GVV** = Gus VanVliet; **SZ** = Steve Zimmerman

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## February Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the February issue no later than January 24 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You September also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Orca Inlet 138**, (Reference Number 4-2002-0873) Applicant: Elmer Gunnerson. Location: 0.5 miles north of Cordova, east of Cannery Row. Proposal: The applicant proposes to excavate 12,000 cubic yards (cy) of native rock adjacent to the project site, an additional 1,000 cy of 12" rock will be discharged in the project site (approximately 3 acres). A wetland area of approximately 22,000 square feet (.5 acre) will be filled in this process. The purpose of this project is to raise a 3-acre low area adjacent to the highway so that the applicant has a level staging area for his heavy-equipment construction vehicles. He also intends to build a new shop area at this site. Mitigation: None. Comments due: December 20, 2002.

**Juneau - Gastineau Channel 489**, (Reference Number 2-2002-1228) Applicant: Neil MacKinnon. Location: 5920 North Douglas Highway. Proposal: The applicant will perform the following work in Gastineau Channel below the plane of the high tide line (approximate elevation +20.8 feet from Mean

Lower Low Water (MLLW). Construct a boat rail system consisting of approximately 85 feet of steel rail and approximately 28 pre-cast concrete ties extending to approximately +8 feet from MLLW. Excavate and side-cast approximately 1.5-cubic yards of marine sediment associated with the proposed pre-cast concrete tie placement. Purpose: to construct a boat haul-out. Mitigation: None. Comments due: December 26, 2002.

**Petersburg - Wrangell Narrows 176**, (Reference Number Q-1983-0100) Applicant: Norquest Seafoods. Location: At the existing facility. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct an 84' X 120' galvanized steel piling with an I-beam foundation upon which to construct a 30' X 100' steel seafood processing barge and 40' X 120' X approach dock. Purpose: To provide a facility to process seafood and freeze seafood products. The result would be production of value added salmon products. Mitigation: Designed the facility on piling rather than proposing to use fill material. Comments due: January 20, 2003.

**Wrangell - Whaletail Cove 3**, (Reference Number 1-2002-1048) Applicant: John W. Clark. Location: Whaletail Cove near Wrangell. Proposal: The applicant proposes to moor a 70' by 80' float house at two possible sites. The applicant prefers to have both options permitted but would like to use proposed Site #1 most of the time because the site provides more protected anchorage. The float house would ground for 4 to 6 hours per day if moored at Proposed Site 1. The bottom substrate is mud and silt. Purpose: To provide single-family housing. No mitigation is planned. Comments due: December 27, 2002.

**Wrangell - Zimovia Strait 148**, (Reference Number 1-2002-0784). Applicant: Lonnie DeLong. Location: South Wrangell Island, Whiskey Cove. Proposal: The applicant proposes to continue the moorage of a float house, which is 80 feet long and 14 feet wide. The float house drafts approximately 5 feet of water and is currently moored between the mean high water (MHW) of 14.8 feet and mean low water (MLW) at 0.0 feet. Attached to the float house are a 11 foot by 10.5 foot ramp; a 3 foot by 14.5 foot walkway; and a 27.5 foot by 2.5 foot walkway. There is an 11-foot by 10.6 greenhouse attached to the float house. Maximum length is 96 feet 4 inches and maximum width is 17 feet including the walkway. The houseboat grounds at tides below 5 feet. The substrate is cobbles covered with Fucus sp. The approximate distance to MHW is 35 feet on the north end and 70 feet on the south end. The float house is moored equal distance between MLW and high tide line (HTL), approximately 250 feet from each. Mitigation: None. Purpose: Moorage for applicant's float house. Comments due: January 8, 2003.

**Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 352**, (Reference Number R-1980-0433) Applicant: Boyer Towing, Incorporated. Location: 3295 Tongass Avenue. Proposal: The applicant proposes to excavate a wedge-shaped trench from an area previously filled with shot rock, an area 30' wide by 55' long (approximately 600 cubic yards of clean shot rock material to be removed), to a sloping bottom elevation of +16' on the upper end and +6' on the most seaward end. The applicant will install concrete block walls on two sides of the trench area and install a fabricated steel abutment supported by steel piling on the landward end of the trench area.. Additionally the applicant will drive two X 3-pile support dolphins with steel caps; and install a lifting structure on the dolphins, and a 20' wide X 3' deep X 90' long fabricated steel transfer bridge between the shoreward trench abutment and the dolphins. Purpose: To provide facilities to accommodate side loading of freight barges. Current facilities only accommodate end loading of barges. Mitigation: None. Comments due: January 3, 2003.

**Ketchikan - Tongass Narrows 550**. (Reference Number R-2002-1058) AFTER-THE-FACT Applicant: Victor Forrester. Location: 2 miles north of the Ferry Terminal, 4831 North Tongass Highway. Proposal: The applicant would like authorization of an existing 48' x 18' x 28" concrete boathouse with an attached 21' wooden treated deck supported by four 4" x 6" x 10' galvanized steel posts. Discharge of poured concrete below the high tide line associated with the boathouse was approximately 52 cubic yards (cy); rock fill discharged below the high tide line was approximately 355 cy. Purpose: This unauthorized structure was present on the property when it was purchased by the applicant. The applicant will use the structure for boat storage. He wishes to receive a permit for the structure so that it is not out of compliance and so that he can get a transfer of the tidelands lease from the original owner. Mitigation: None. Comments due: January 3, 2003.

**Craig - Port St. Nicholas 035**, (Reference Number 1-2002-1068) Applicant: Mike Stidham. Location: Lot 17 Port St. Nicholas subdivision II. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 100' x 8' walkway supported by twelve 12" pressure-treated piles; these piles will be driven to approximately 7'; the longest (at 100', approximate start of MLW) will be approximately 13' above the substrate. The walkway will connect with a 50' x 5' ramp leading to the 20' x 30' pile-held float. Three 10" x 50' galvanized square tubes will hold the float in place. The walkway is fixed to shore with a concrete footing which is above the high tide line (HTL). Purpose: To provide mooring for sport fishing boats. Mitigation: None. Comments due: January 3, 2003

***\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.***

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

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Mail to:  
National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
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Boulder, CO 80322-1001

**A51  
7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:  
Raven Editor, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802*

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**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288

# The Raven

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



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Juneau Audubon Society

February 2003

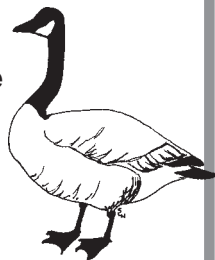
## February ALMANAC

**Black bear cubs &  
wolverine kits are born**

**Wolves & red  
fox breed**

**Red squirrels pair  
for mating**

**Canada geese  
feed in wet-  
lands near  
Egan  
Expressway**



Sara Lou  
McDaniel

**You can be a citizen  
scientist when you join in  
the Great Backyard  
Bird Count**

**Welcome back to  
Prince William Sound  
Audubon Society!**

The newly revitalized Cordova-based chapter has published its first electronic newsletter. The chapter plans to help in organizing this year's Copper River Shorebird Festival and to host field trips throughout the summer. Milo Burcham is president.

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

#### **Mutineers, Mangoes, and Mudskippers: The Natural History of the Pitcairn Island Group** Theresa Svancara and Jeff Sauer

Over 200 years ago a mutiny broke out on the *HMS Bounty*, casting Captain Bligh adrift in the Pacific Ocean. The lead mutineer, Fletcher Christian, sailed the *Bounty* to Pitcairn Island marooning himself along with the other mutineers and some Polynesians taken by force. Descendants of the mutineers still live on tiny Pitcairn Island. Jeff and Theresa visited Pitcairn Island in 1999 while working onboard an eco-tour ship as naturalists. They will share slides of the people and wildlife of Pitcairn Island and the wildlife of two uninhabited islands in the Pitcairn Island group, Henderson and Ducie.

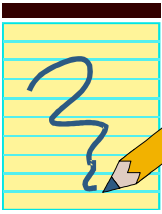
### **Sixth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count** February 14-17

All across the Americas, birds face survival challenges from loss of habitat to introduced predators to diseases like West Nile Virus. The Sixth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 14-17 will focus on the effects of these threats and add vital new information to our understanding of our birds and their environment. You can help by adding your own observations. Volunteers of every age and skill level are encouraged to participate.

Participants are asked to pay special attention to the more than 200 species on the Audubon 2002 WatchList issued last autumn, which lists North American birds in danger or decline. Though you're not likely to see these in your backyard this month, WatchList species for Northern Pacific Rainforest region include Red-throated Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Greater White-fronted Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Northern Goshawk (*Queen Charlotte*), Peregrine Falcon, Spruce Grouse (*Prince of Wales*), Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Rock Sandpiper, Aleutian Tern, Marbled Murrelet, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Black Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher.

The GBBC will also focus on the effects of West Nile Virus on crows and jays, owls, raptors and other birds. There's a wealth of information, and space to enter your sightings at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. The state-of-the-art website was developed by National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, sponsors of GBBC.





## Notes from the board

**Brenda Wright, President**

The Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) Board met on January 25 to discuss current projects and work on our fiscal budget for 2003 and 2004.

JAS has three major sources of income. We receive money from the National Audubon Society for new members, have fund raising events (specifically: The Public Market booth in November and the Berners Bay cruise in spring), and grants and contracts. In the 2002, we applied for grants from the Alaska Conservation Fund to support our advocacy on issues associated with the Environmental Impact Statement and Wildlife Management plan for the Juneau airport and issues with pesticide management on the proposed North Douglas golf course.

Our major expenses in each fiscal year are administration, primarily the newsletter, and to accomplish our goals for education and advocacy. We have a yearly net budget of around \$3000. The JAS board agreed to a 50-50 split for funding between education and advocacy for this year. We will support education by buying environmental education supplies for the elementary and middle school libraries in Juneau, present an award at the high school science fair, provide funding for a designing a display at the Glacier Visitor Center bus waiting area, and submit a grant for watchable wildlife/non-game animals for a project on northern dippers. Our advocacy dollars are not yet allocated, but several projects may be arising in the near future including effects of our incinerator, mining in Berners Bay, urban bears, wetland fill, a road out of Juneau and others. If you have suggestions or would like to help with any of these projects please contact any of the JAS board members.

### **Board profile**

#### **Liz Blecker, Treasurer**

**M**y first involvement with Juneau Audubon was attending the Saturday birding hikes. I joined the organization so that I would get the newsletter to know when the hikes were scheduled! The monthly meeting programs sounded interesting so I started attending the Thursday evening programs, which lead to participating in the Christmas bird count.

Everyone I met was so helpful and willing to share identification knowledge. My enjoyment of birding is directly linked to the knowledge and encouragement I received from the membership.

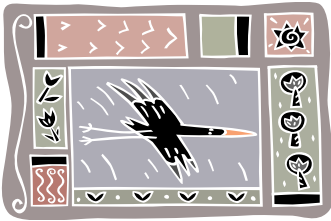
I wanted to give something back to organization. With my accounting background, volunteering to be treasurer was a natural progression.

As a volunteer organization, Juneau Audubon is very lucky that it has few fixed costs. The only annual expense that it has to meet is the cost of the newsletter. But the organization is much more than the newsletter. I view my role as treasure to help the board make financial decisions on how to allocate its financial resources to meet the overall goals of the membership.



#### **March Raven Deadline**

Please submit articles for the March issue no later than February 20 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)



## My favorite bird

**Mallard**  
**Jim King, Juneau**

*This article is based on an interview with one of the many experienced birders in Juneau Audubon Society. If you'd like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

One of my favorite birds is the Mallard. We see some every day from the window of our home at Sunny Point when the tide comes in. In winter they feed along the high tide line, probably eating a combination of seeds, bugs, and little plants. They're pretty versatile feeders. I don't think people pay much attention to them, though hunters like them best. As it gets cold, they go down Gastineau Channel a ways. Mallards are not salt water birds. You usually see them where fresh water is coming down.

In March and April we start seeing courting flights. Then the birds fly around and chase each other. In May we start seeing mamas and their little broods. Sometimes we have as many as 30 to 35 ducklings in 5 to 7 broods right around our place – so we think of them as a regular part of the community.

There are some distinctive things most everyone knows about Mallards—their plumage, for example. In mid-winter and spring the males have bright green heads. No other birds I know of have that bright green head, though green-winged teal have a little green spot. That green head is the males' breeding plumage. As soon as the females start to incubate their eggs, the males go off into flocks and molt all the green, then they become brown like their mates (That's called "eclipse plumage.") It's the middle of November before they start getting really green again.

Mallards also have a little curlicue feather just above the tail. No other duck has that. It's particularly interesting because most domestic ducks derive from Mallards. If domestic ducks have the curly feather in their tail that indicates their ancestry includes Mallards even if the ducks are black, white or tan.

Lots of people think all ducks quack but actually it is only the female Mallard that makes that familiar sound.

I don't shoot Mallards, but I appreciate the support of hunters for protecting the tideflats, so I can't object to hunters getting a few of them.

Not just hunters get Mallards. Bald Eagles get quite a lot of them. We watch that going on from our windows. The eagles go after the babies and sometimes get them. You'd think it would be a good idea for a baby Mallard to dive into deep grass when accosted by an eagle, but surprisingly eagles can get down into the grass like that. So when eagles come over, the mallards all get into the water. They're very adept at diving. In most cases they don't get caught, unless they get trapped in a shallow place, or the eagle gets a lucky shot. Mallards produce big families – up to 10 ducklings every year. A female Mallard may survive 15 to 20 years, so she has a potential to produce 150 to 200 young. Species with high productivity potential like that are the ones that expect to lose a lot of young.



*Mallard family/Bob Armstrong*

In the fall, when there's hunting, hunters don't always kill their targets, so we have a few injured ducks on the flats. And sometimes if we get a really cold, hard winter the birds start getting weak. That's a good time for eagles to catch Mallards and other ducks—it's a time when they don't have much other food, such as salmon, other birds, or mice. The eagles are always testing. Anything that doesn't respond in good shape, usually gets caught.

## My favorite bird

(Continued from page 3)

Mallards are the world's most abundant duck. They're native pretty much all over North America and Eurasia, and they've been introduced in —Australia, New Zealand, other parts of the Southern Hemisphere. There are an estimated 8 to 12 million Mallards in the United States—which sounds like a lot, but with 288 million people, we outnumber mallards by quite a bit.

Mallards have adapted well to humanity. They use city parks if they're treated well. People all over the country feed ducks in city parks and those ducks are often Mallards.

Even around here people may see ducklings in May and June. Mallards often nest quite a ways from the water, so we often see a little parade of mama and ducklings on the road, or making their way to proper water. That's an aspect of mallards that's really fun—and one that formed the basis of that famous story set in Boston that was published at least 60 years ago—*Make Way for Ducklings*. The story takes a few liberties with biology, but I think it's an instance that really happened.

We see Mallards here in Southeast all year long, but we're not always seeing the same ones. According to what we've learned from banding Juneau birds, most of the Mallards we see in summer appear to spend the winter in Washington, Oregon, and California, and there are records of Juneau birds going as far east as Ontario, Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. The birds banded here in winter have gone north into the Anchorage area, the Yukon Delta, and along the Yukon Valley, or to the Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia. So the mallards we are seeing here in winter will be north of the Coast Range and the Alaska Range in summertime.



Kirsten Munson

Log on to the new website for Juneau Audubon Society at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> and forward your ideas and contributions to the webmaster, George Utermohle.

## 2002 Christmas Bird Count Results

### Wrangell

Twenty Wrangell birders set off on December 21 to see how many birds and species they could locate.

Birder numbers were up from last year and so were number of birds counted. The number of species, however, remained the same: 50.

This year 3,948 individual birds were spotted, compared with 2,273 in 2001. This year's greater number of eyes on the lookout was undoubtedly a factor. In addition, this year's ideal weather - sunny, calm and not too chilly, meant that several groups were able to get out in boats to survey waterbirds.

Glaucous-winged gulls were the unsurprising winner for most numerous bird at 635, followed by Barrow's goldeneyes at 459; Mallards, 394; Mew gulls 331; undifferentiated gull species 316; and Common goldeneyes, 196. Other waterbirds seen were Common mergansers, 82; Buffleheads, 137; Harlequin ducks, 94; American widgeons, 47; Western grebes, 43. Smaller numbers of Common, Pacific, Red-throated and Yellow-billed loons, Horned grebes, Pelagic cormorants, Hooded mergansers and Canada geese were reported.

Canvasbacks, Lesser and Greater scaups, and Gadwalls appeared in small numbers. Marbled murrelets were numerous on the water as well as several Common murrelets. Black turnstones turned up on the beaches as well as some undifferentiated sandpipers; just 2 Great blue herons and 379 Northwestern crows.

Among the resident song birds were Chestnut-backed chickadees, 16; Winter wrens, 3; Golden-crowned kinglets, 31; Dark-eye juncos, both Oregon and the grayer Slate colored. Fifty-seven Red Crossbills, 13 White-winged crossbills and 78 Pine Siskins were counted in the treetops. Birders along streamsides counted 8 American dippers. Only 4 European starlings made the count this year, along with only 4 Rock doves (pigeons). Eight American robins are braving the winter this year along with a single Lincoln's sparrow and small numbers of Fox and Song sparrows. Common Ravens made a noisy appearance as did 20 Belted kingfishers. Counters spotted 96 Bald eagles, 92 of which were adults.

In contrast to last year, no woodpeckers or Steller's jays were reported. Glaucous-winged gull numbers were notably higher this year. Lower than last year were Great blue herons. Last year's 19 was flagged as an unusually high count. Also

## **Christmas Bird Count Results**

**(continued from page 4)**

missing entirely for the past two years have been the large rafts of scoters often seen in front of town during the winter months.

Participants clocked 23.75 total hours of birding on count day, covering 46.25 miles. Fourteen of those miles were covered on foot, 7 by car and 25 by boat.

*This year's birders were Kurt Aluzas, Lori Bauer, Melissa Cady, Rod and Lynda Chadwick, Bonnie Demerjian, Bruce and Susan Eagle, Ginny Helgeson, John Lersch, Brian, Sarah and Tiffany Merritt, Marie Oboczky, Diane and Austin O'Brien, Dave and Jason Rak, Carol Ross, and Tom Ward.*

### **Mayo, YT**

We had a beautiful day for the count, with temperatures ranging from -24 to -19 C, a light north wind, and partly cloudy. We had 2 field crews who skied, walked and snowmobiled, 4 feeder watchers, and 1 owling crew. The addition of 2 dedicated bird feeders really upped our total number of grosbeaks this year.

We counted 12 species, which, for us, is high. Highlights were a dipper in the open water in the Mayo River below the powerhouse, 2 boreal owls hooting at night, and lots of crossbills. I've checked below the powerhouse for dippers each CBC for the past 5 years, and this was the first I've seen there. There's lots more open water this year though—a whole stretch of several hundred metres instead of the usual small open spot right where the outlet is. This is our first good spruce cone crop for 3 years, and there are white-winged crossbills everywhere. My count is certainly a minimum count, because I was counting them in an area of dense spruce, and I'm sure there were more. One of our feeder watchers heard a pair of great-horned owls a few days before the count, but not on count day. *Mark O'Donoghue*

### **Our totals are as follows:**

Raven - 202  
Gray Jay - 16  
Black-capped Chickadee - 8  
Boreal Chickadee - 8  
Common Redpoll - 31  
Hoary Redpoll - 1  
Unidentified Redpoll - 28  
Pine Grosbeak - 98  
White-winged Crossbill - 109  
Downy Woodpecker - 2  
Ruffed Grouse - 3  
American Dipper - 1

## In search of amphibians



**Assistants needed:** to work with Richard Carstensen, Bob Armstrong, and Mary Willson on 1) bird surveys on Mendenhall wetlands (February to early May), looking for 'hotspots' of avian activity and 2) amphibian surveys along the Juneau road/trail system (late March into summer) looking for frogs, toads, and salamanders. If you are interested, please send your contact information (email, phone) to Mary at [mwillson@gci.net](mailto:mwillson@gci.net), 789-1412, along with an indication of which project you would like to assist.

### **Training retreat for new and seasoned activists** **March 7-9, Shrine of St. Therese**

**L**earn more about the issues facing Southeast Alaska, gain new skills to help protect important places and practice them in a supportive environment.

Workshop topics include working with media, fundraising, public speaking and giving effective testimony, responding to wise use tactics, commenting effectively on federal and state proposals.

The workshop is free, but there will be a charge of \$40 for meals (starting with dinner Friday and ending with lunch on Sunday).

Call Emily Ferry at SEACC, 586-6942, by February 10 or email her at [emily@seacc.org](mailto:emily@seacc.org).

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Cordova — McPherson Bay 1**, (Reference Number N-1989-0440) Applicant: Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Location: In Outside Bay adjacent to Naked Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes to relocate an existing mooring buoy from site located at Longitude 147° 29', Latitude 60° 38' to a new site located at Longitude 147° 27', Latitude 60° 39'. The purpose of this project is to provide a protected site for the winter season for the barge, which is station during the summer at Port Etches, Hinchbrook Entrance.. Mitigation: None. Comments due: *January 29, 2003*.

**Cordova — Orca Inlet 139**, (Reference Number 1-2003-0003) Applicant: Yale Metzger. Location: Big Point on the southeast shore of Orca Inlet, Lot 3. Six miles south of Cordova. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 5-foot wide by 100-foot long pile – supported dock . The dock would extend 70 feet waterward of the mean high tide line. Purpose: To provide access to the applicant's property. Use of the dock would discourage foot traffic on the vegetation. Mitigation: None. Comments due: *February 18, 2003*

**Pelican— Lisianski Inlet 45**, (Reference Number 1-2002-1129) Applicant: Tanya Kinnard. Location: 4 miles Southeast of Pelican. Proposal: The applicant seeks authorization for the construction of a jetfloat dock system (50' x 10') of pre-assembled durable plastic. The applicant will also construct a 1200 square foot wooden cabin on the adjacent property. Purpose: The purpose of this project is to create a dock for private boat. Mitigation: None. Comments due by *January 27, 2003*.

**Craig— Sarkar Cove 05**, (Reference Number 2-2002-1303) Applicant: Scott Van Valin. Location: Lot 3A in the Sarkar Subdivision. Proposal: The applicant seeks authorization to discharge approximately 36 cubic yards of clean shot rock into .032 acres of the intertidal zone. Purpose: The purpose of this project is to create boat ramp for private use. Mitigation: None. Comments due by *January 30, 2003*.

**Thorne Bay — Thorne Bay 65**, (Reference Number M-2000-1339) Applicant: City of Thorne Bay. Location: Two locations within South Thorne Bay Subdivision along North Road. The first is near the northwestern limits of the subdivision. The other location is at the eastern end of the platted footprint of Jud Road. Proposal: The applicant proposes on the North Road to place

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits**

*(Continued from page 6)*

247 cubic yards of clean fill material in 0.13 acre of wetlands. The purpose of this work is to upgrade the current North Road embankment, from its intersection with Ron's Road to the end of North Road, by reconstructing 0.61 miles of existing roadway, and constructing 0.23 miles of new road to reroute the existing road back into the right-of-way. This work would include installation of a 75' long bridge over an unnamed creek. No fill would be placed below the ordinary high water mark of the creek. The old roadway embankment fill would be partially removed (fill would be reused in new road), and the existing 60" stream culvert would be removed. On the Jud Road Extension the applicant proposes to place approximately 370 cubic yards of clean shot rock and punch-on material in 0.1 acre of wetlands to construct a spur road to connect to the platted, but unconstructed, Jud Road. An existing logging road would be retained to access this area of the subdivision directly off of Kasaan Road. This would provide alternate road access to the eastern portion of the subdivision without the need to construct Thorne Bay Road section "D" over South Lake stream, which is too steep. Purpose: Road construction. Mitigation: During the original subdivision planning process, the Department of Natural Resources identified 107.76 acres of mostly riparian corridor, tidelands, and wetlands as important wildlife, fish, and recreational areas. These areas were excluded from development. Comments due: *February 3, 2003.*

**\*\* These projects, in our opinion, have the potential to impact areas of public interest. If you have site specific information that would help agencies in determining impacts and what if any mitigation is needed, please contact the agencies listed above.**



## **EAGLECHAT**

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

**Date: January 22**

**Subject: recent sightings**

There has been shorebirds at Eagle River beach — they seem to travel between the Boy Scout side and the picnic side and the islands i.e. bird etc. I saw lots of Black Turnstones and Rock Sandpipers there last week and a few Dunlins. Most of the shorebirds on the Mendenhall Wetlands that we have seen are Dunlins plus a few Rock Sandpipers. Also, tallied 14 killdeer at the mouth of Salmon Creek. When I was out at Eagle River beach last week — picnic side — a dog managed to chase off all shorebirds from the area.

**Date: January 22**

**Subject: Bird News From Haines**

Our backyard feeder is being invaded by hundreds of pine siskins everyday. You'd think we had a neon sign flashing "Free Food" above our house. Looks like they'll eat anything and do. We have thistle seed, cracked sunflower seeds, minced peanuts, suet, dry cat food and salmon skin for the juncos, chickadees and Stellar jays. We only put out enough food for the day but we've been putting out more in the early afternoon. By evening it's all gone. The Downey woodpecker still hasn't come to eat at the suet basket yet.

There's been about a hundred Mallards out at Lutak this week along with at least a hundred or more Barrow Goldeneyes (they are soooo gorgeous), lots of Red-Breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads, a few Common Goldeneyes and four Horned Grebes. When we walk up the road by the Chilkoot River (with our ice grippers on because it's a sheet of ice), we are serenaded along the way by half a dozen or more American Dippers. The melody of their beautiful songs make you think of spring not winter. There have also been many beautiful white-winged crossbills in the spruce eating the seeds from the cones.

**Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell**

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

**Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529**

**A51  
7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to: Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership. NOTE: if you wish to join National Audubon Society, please send your check with the membership application to Boulder, CO.*

### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

**President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, [jnoel@gci.net](mailto:jnoel@gci.net)  
**Vice-President:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, [bandmac@gci.net](mailto:bandmac@gci.net)  
**Treasurer:** Liz Blecker, 586-4210, [lblecker@gci.net](mailto:lblecker@gci.net)  
**Programs:** Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net)  
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**Education:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260, [akwildlife@gci.net](mailto:akwildlife@gci.net)  
**Conservation:** Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net)  
**Field Trips:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, [stevezimmerman@gci.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net)  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)  
**Public Market Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288, [kweltzin@alaska.net](mailto:kweltzin@alaska.net)

**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 021725  
JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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# The Raven

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



Volume 29, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2003

## April ALMANAC



Wake-up call: black bear will emerge from dens.  
**Take in bird seed.**



Re-hang hummingbird feeders--bear haven't yet discovered them as a springtime delicacy.

Listen for the hooting of Blue Grouse echoing from the mountains. Lemon Creek valley and the Mendenhall Glacier area are good locations.

Observe Earth Day on April 19 (See page 4)

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

### Safari in Kenya



In November, a group of Alaskans made a three-week wildlife and photography safari to major game parks in Kenya. Their slide presentation will include the lodges, safari vehicles, scenery and wildlife as well as Nairobi, the Kenyan countryside and a visit to a Maasai Village. The game parks visited include Samburu, Amboseli, Masai Mara, Mount Kenya and the Rift Valley including Lake Baringo and Lake Nakuru.

*Note: this program, originally scheduled for March, was cancelled last month because of weather.*

## Centennial celebration

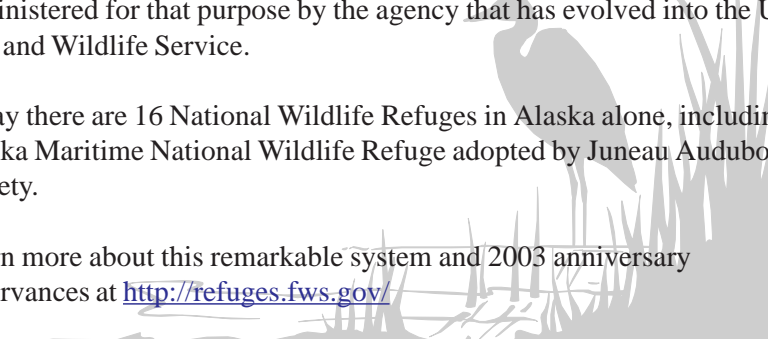
This year marks the centennial celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Pelican Island National Bird Reservation was created by executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt on March 14, 1903.

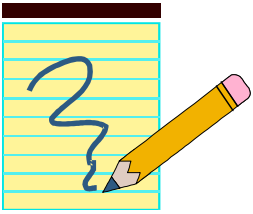
Located in Florida's Indian River, about 45 miles from Cape Canaveral, it became the first refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System. It was the first area of land and water specifically set aside for wildlife alone, and administered for that purpose by the agency that has evolved into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Today there are 16 National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska alone, including the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge adopted by Juneau Audubon Society.

Learn more about this remarkable system and 2003 anniversary observances at <http://refuges.fws.gov/>







## A Message from the board

In the past Juneau Audubon Society has received a rebate from National Audubon Society dues for each member to cover chapter expenses. That money has been used to cover printing and postage for The Raven, which is our single largest annual expense. This year printing and mailing The Raven will cost our chapter about \$1,400.

The NAS is in the process of eliminating direct financial support to chapters. Their contribution to chapters has already been cut 50% and will be gone entirely by 2005. In light of these circumstances, we are evaluating options for communicating with our members.

Among the possibilities are the following:

- Posting much of the information now in The Raven on our website, <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>
- Increasing the number of e-mail subscribers
- Increasing our fund-raising activities to finance The Raven
- Charging members who want to continue receiving a hard copy an additional fee to cover production costs

Without adopting some combination of these options for The Raven, we will be forced to use money that could otherwise fund education and advocacy, such as nature guides for school libraries and addressing local issues like the Juneau airport expansion and development at Berners Bay.

Our role in speaking on behalf of a healthier environment for all living things is more crucial than ever. When you receive a newsletter survey form either in The Raven or by mail, please return it to help determine the best use our financial resources. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Send e-mails to [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org) or [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org).



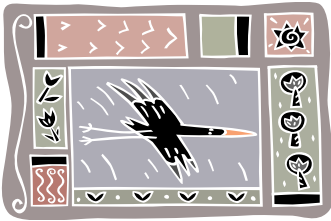
A special word of thanks to Debbie Groves, one of the unseen volunteers for Juneau Audubon Society. If you get a paper Raven, Debbie picked it up from the printer, attached your mailing label, sorted it for bulk mailing, counted it and delivered it to the post office.

It's no small task month after month, and a contribution that is much appreciated. *ed.*



### May Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the May issue no later than April 20 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)



## My favorite bird

### Wandering Tattler

By Rich Gordon, Juneau

**M**y favorite Juneau bird is the Wandering Tattler, here a rarely seen migrant. The Latin species name, *incanus*, means gray. Its medium shade, and subtle white head and underpart patterning, perfectly match the color and pale lichen patterning of the boulders and slate flatrocks where I have observed it locally: on the shore south of Thane, on west Douglas Island south of Outer Point, and near Point Bridget.

It is called “wandering” because it winters sparsely over a vast area from Washington to Peru, Hawaii, and New Zealand, and turns up as far as east Asia. Its “tattler” title reflects its sharp, high piping, richly musical yet penetrating and somewhat hollow calls.

*Incanus* has an almost eerie ability to squat down and disappear among the bumps and hollows of its intertidal boulders. It bobs and teeters its head and body rather like the similar but browner and smaller Spotted Sandpiper. I’ve often watched it adeptly clamber silently about its wet rocks, deliberately extract a morsel, then just disappear into an interstice or just squat and become invisible. Yet its disturbance call is a sharp high *klee-it*, exceptionally jolting and penetrating. On seashores, it favors crustaceans, mollusks, and marine worms.

On the mud flats at the Mendenhall River mouth, I often see its usual rocky shore co-inhabitants: Rock Sandpiper, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, and Surfbird, in numbers. But only twice in 37 years have I seen a Tattler there.

Tattlers breed on alpine mountain streams and ponds. Bob Weeden showed us a nest in the subalpine under Mastodon Dome in the Tanana Highlands. It was a shallow, root-lined hollow on a gravel flat by a stream. The tattler flushed at ten feet, giving a rich *tle-dl-ee-dl-ee*, revealing four greenish-blue, brown-spotted eggs. It then crouched silently nearby with just its head visible.

Just inland from White Pass north of Skagway, I encountered an adult pair—the only time I have ever seen more than one individual all by itself. A covey of active though incredibly tiny chicks darted about, while both adults flew close, screamed loudly, then played hide-and-seek with me among very rough bedrock terrain intermixed with lots of little ponds.

On the breeding grounds, tattlers feed on the abundant insects, including larvae, as well as amphipods and mollusks.

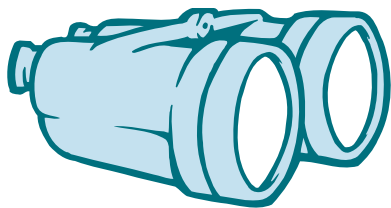
Once in late May, I found one actively probing the gravel along the shore and shallows of Mendenhall Like, perhaps imagining it had already arrived at its nesting home.

*If you’d like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

*Rich Gordon wrote this song in 1953, when he went to Nome, hoping to see one of his favorite birds. But it was 15 years before he got to see his first Wandering Tattler.*

Oh, I’ve wandered far out o’er the tundra,  
I’ve patrolled the lonely beach and shore.  
I’ve climbed up the rockiest headlands.  
I’ll wander the barrens evermore.

Oh, they call me the Wandering Tattler.  
I breed on Bourbon Creek near Nome.  
If you look real hard up the creek bed  
And you’re lucky, you’ll find me at home.



# Spring Migration Bird Trips



**W**alks last about two hours. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots, and dress for weather. Please watch local media, our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> and the May Raven for possible schedule changes.

**Saturday  
April 12  
9 a.m.** Gull identification trip, Eagle Beach  
Meet at picnic table area  
Leaders: Gus VanVliet and Paul Suchanek

**Saturday  
April 19  
8:30 a.m.** Berners Bay cruise  
Depart Auke Bay Boat Harbor 8:30 a.m.  
Members will be on board as interpreters.

**Saturday  
April 26  
8 a.m.** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.  
Leader: Nina Mollett

**Saturday  
May 3  
8:30 & 1:30** Berners Bay cruises  
Depart Auke Bay Boat Harbor  
Members will be on board as interpreters.

**Sunday  
May 4** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd  
Leader: Deborah Rudis

**Saturday  
May 10  
8 a.m.** **International Migratory Bird Day**  
Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd  
Leader: Bob Armstrong

**Saturday  
May 17  
8 a.m.** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.  
Leader: Bev Agler

**Saturday  
May 24  
8 a.m.** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.  
Leader: Steve Zimmerman

**Saturday  
May 31  
8 a.m.** Sandy Beach, Douglas  
Meet at parking lot by picnic shelter  
Leader: Paul Suchanek

**Saturday  
June 7  
7:30 a.m.** Dredge Lakes  
Meet at parking lot by Mendenhall River  
bridge on Back Loop Road.  
Leader: Deanna MacPhail

## Earth Day



Earth Day will be observed at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center **April 19**, with activities between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. You can learn how to participate or get more information from Michelle Warrenchukat at [mwarrenc@fs.fed.us](mailto:mwarrenc@fs.fed.us) or by calling the Visitor Center at 789 - 0097 ex. 35. For an overview see <http://www.earthday.org/>

## 8th Annual Berners Bay Cruise

**Saturday, April 19: 8:30 a.m.**  
**Saturday, May 3: 8:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.**

**T**hese cruises are a great bargain and one of our chapter's major fund-raisers. We've added an April sailing this year in anticipation of seeing more sea mammals in the bay.

Invite your friends and co-workers to take advantage of this great spring get-away, and help insure that we fill all three sailings. Tickets are available at Hearthside Books at the same low price: \$28 for adults and \$5 for accompanied children under 12.

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898. Note: *The COE permits can now be found on line at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/>*

**Even if the comment date has passed**, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

**Division of Governmental Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 110030**  
**Juneau, AK 99811-0300**  
**(907) 465-3562**

**Department of Environmental Conservation**  
**410 Willoughby Ave.**  
**Juneau, AK 99801-1795**  
**(907) 465-5260**

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**McCarthy — Kennicott River 1**, (Reference Number 4-2003-0009) **Applicant:** Mr. Keith Rowland. **Location:** Kennicott River Tracks near McCarthy, Alaska. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to construct a bridge across the Kennicott River using two 90-foot long railcars supported with one center piling set by excavating of 20 feet and backfilling with 300 cubic yards of riverbed material. One short piling would be installed on either end of the bridge on the bank requiring excavation and backfill of 100 cubic yards of material protected by 100 cubic yards of rounded boulders. In addition there would be 900 feet by 12 feet graded in the riverbed on the east side of the bridge for a vehicle trail to connect to the old winter road. The trail would run along the high flow channel of the river that floods for three or more days a year. The road would be constructed by side-casting materials to create the road. The total disturbed area would be 0.06 acre of riverbank and 0.26 acre of riverbed. **Purpose:** To provide access to and from McCarthy across the Kennicott river. **Mitigation:** The applicant will only work in the riverbed when the river is low.  
Comments due: **March 21, 2003.**

**Juneau — Lemon Creek 13**, (Reference Number 4-2002-1100) **Applicant:** SECON. **Location:** Lemon Creek above the Jail facility. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes the placement

of 300 cubic yards of material into .07 acre of the Lemon Creek stream bank. The material would be used as rip rap to armor the river bank. **Purpose:** To stabilize the creek bank before a stream crossing. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due: **April 17, 2003**

**Hoonah — Coho Creek 1**, (Reference Number 4-2002-0750) **Applicant:** Kenneth L. Meserve. **Location:** Tract "C" of the Hoonah Inter-Airport Subdivision. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to discharge 4,800 cubic yards of fill into 1.24 acres of wetlands to create an upland area to construct a recreational vehicle park, a bed and breakfast and motel/restaurant. **Purpose:** To construct a recreational vehicle park. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **April 17, 2003.**

**Sitka — Chatham Strait 96**, (Reference Number O-1981-0519) **Applicant:** Armstrong-Keta, Inc. **Location:** Port Armstrong on the southeast tip of Baranof Island. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to construct a 60-foot wide by 140-foot long incubator building on pilings that would require excavating 23 cubic yards of intertidal material. **Purpose:** To construct a building for incubation of salmon. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **March 20, 2003.**

*(continued on page 6)*

*April 2003*

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

(continued from page 5)

**Sitka— Sitka Harbor 0176**, (Reference Number 2-2002-0671) **Applicant:** Baranof Island Housing Authority. **Location:** 245 Katlian Street. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to discharge up to 1,400 cubic yards of fill material into the intertidal zone. Additional rip rap material would be added to stabilize the fill material. The applicant will also extend the existing outfall on the northeast end of the property another 15 feet. **Purpose:** To fill tidelands to create fastland and extend the property lines. **Mitigation:** The applicant will remove scrap metal material in the tidelands and will avoid eelgrass area located on the northeast portion of the fill. Comments due by **March 26, 2003**.

**Wrangell — Wrangell Harbor 116**, (Reference Number 2-2003-0059) **Applicant:** Wrangell Oil, Inc. **Location:** Etolin Harbor, Wrangell Oil Dock. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to fill approximately 7000 square feet (-0.16 acre) below the high tide line (HTL) in Wrangell Harbor with approximate 3800 cubic yards of shot rock and 400 cubic yards of riprap armor rock. Approximately 30% of the fill would be below the mean high water (MHW). The face of the fill would be stacked rock approximately 16 feet high tapering to 8 feet and have a slope of 1:4 (horizontal and vertical). **Purpose:** To create building pad for a convenience store, warehouse, office and laundry mat facility and associated parking. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **March 21, 2003**.

**Wrangell — Zimovia Strait 150**, (Reference Number 1-2002-1049) **Applicant:** Jesse and Helen Franks. **Location:** Thoms Place near Wrangell. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to retain a 14-foot by 40-foot floating dock anchored by steel cables. **Purpose:** Provide moorage of the applicants' private boats. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **March 18, 2003**.

**Ketchikan — Behm Canal 73**, (Reference Number 2-2003-0158) **Applicant:** Don Hazelquist. **Location:** Pup Island near Ketchikan. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes discharge of approximately 45.1 cubic yards (cy) of fill including approximately 43.5 cy of native soil and approximately 1.5 cy of concrete onto approximately 685 square feet (.016 acre) of wetlands and tidelands to upgrade and maintain an approximately 3.51 acre recreational property. Work would include: Discharge of approximately 1.5 cy of concrete onto approximately 80 sq. ft. of wetlands for (20) 2' X 2' X 0.5' footings to replace an existing 30' X30' pile supported cabin. Excavate and backfill approximately 17.8 cy of native soil to install a septic tank with an approximately 60 sq. ft. footprint. Excavate and backfill approximately 14.7 cy of native soil and beach material for an approximately 395' long X 1' deep X 1' wide trench to accommodate a 4" sewer outfall line terminating at the -4.9' elevation. Discharge approximately 11.1 cy of excess overburden onto approximately 150 sq. ft. After-The-Fact boat haul out installed in 1978 and consisting of approximately 300' of poly rope, and 3 pulleys, anchored by an approximately 300

lb. scrap metal anchor made from a cleaned old generator piston. Install a 4' diameter steel mooring buoy anchored by approximately 65' of 7/7" steel chain and a 3' X 3' X 3' cement block anchor. **Purpose:** Upgrade and maintain an existing recreational property. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **April 10, 2003**.

**Ketchikan — George Inlet 46**, (Reference Number 1-2003-0135) **Applicant:** Charles Reed. **Location:** Bull Island in George Inlet near Ketchikan. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to install a 10-foot by 20-foot treated wood and galvanized metal float supported by 2- 12-foot galvanized steel pilings, a 4-foot by 6-foot welded aluminum gangway, and a 6-foot by 20-foot walkway supported by 4 – 6-inch galvanized steel pilings. **Purpose:** Provide moorage of the applicant's private boat. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **March 21, 2003**.

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 555**, (Reference Number 4-2002-1096) **Applicant:** Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. **Location:** Dog Salmon Avenue, Saxman. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to discharge 2,000 cubic yards of fill including 1,500 cubic yards of shot rock and 400 cubic yards of crushed rock and 100 cubic yards of asphalt onto 0.67 acre of forested wetlands. **Purpose:** Construction of a Public Safety building, parking lot and storage area. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **April 17, 2003**.

**Ketchikan — Refuge Cove 1**, (Reference Number M-1995-0549) **Applicant:** Pat Laheyer. **Location:** Mile 8, North Tongass Highway, in Refuge Cove. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes a time extension to install a 6" gray water sewage outfall line. Place approximately 25 cubic yards of shot rock and riprap for fill and bank stabilization, and construct a four (4) steel pile supported 6' wide x 80' long floating treated wood dock. The outfall line would be installed in a 2' wide x 20" deep trench waterward to an elevation of -4' MLLW and backfilled with excavated materials. This project was originally permitted as permit number 2-950549, on January 17, 1996, and expired on December 31, 1998. The project is being proposed exactly as originally permitted. **Purpose:** To stabilize the bank, install a gray water sewage outfall line, and construct a private floating dock. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **March 26, 2003**.

**Ketchikan — Whale Passage 6**, (Reference Number M-2001-1029) **Applicant:** Whale Pass Community Association. **Location:** Along Forest Service Road 3065, Whale Pass. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to install a 6' X 160' floating dock and 4 steel pilings adjacent to an existing boat ramp. Float would ground on the inside on the fill placed for the boat ramp. Permit 2-2001-1029, Whale Passage 6, was issued on November 1, 2001 to allow the discharge approximately 950 cubic yards of clean shot rock, approximately 100 cubic yards of 18" minimum clean rip rap, and approximately ninety 16' long by 2' wide by 8" deep, pre-cast concrete planks onto approximately 6,400 square feet (0.15 acre) of intertidal area below high tide line, to construct an approximately 180' long by 20' wide boat launch ramp. **Purpose:** Provide a tie-up for

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

(continued from page 6)

boaters using this area. Mitigation: None. Comments due by **April 2, 2003.**

**Craig — Clarence Strait 96**, (Reference Number 1-2003-0076) **Applicant:** U.S. Forest Service. **Location:** Southwest of Kluani Island, approximately 22 miles West of Ketchikan.

**Proposal:** The applicant proposes to moor a 32-foot by 85-foot steel administrative barge and associated docking and helicopter pad facilities. Two anchors would be used to secure the facility in 30-feet of water. There are a two proposed sites – Kluani Island and Clover Bay, 41 miles Southeast of Craig.

**Purpose:** To provide logistical support to the Craig Ranger District from April through October 2003. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by **April 17, 2003.**



## EAGLECHAT

To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.

**Date: March 10**

**Subject: snipe**

Today along the dike trail, low tide, river bottom at the end of runway I watched two Common Snipe engage in what we took to be some stage of courtship behavior. Two birds circled one another, one with its tail fanned up above its back. This happened several times in quick succession before one flew off a short distance. I believe there were three snipe in the area and as they are somewhat cryptic about their sexual orientation, I've no clue as to what combination was doing the circling behavior. The nearby Killdeer was unimpressed.

**Date: March 11**

**Subject: Fish Creek observations**

I went out to Fish Creek about 10:30 this AM and saw my first sapsucker of the season (and got an OK photo) as it was foraging basically at ground level or perhaps 3 feet up (maybe the sap is just starting up the trunk). Waterfowl diversity was excellent as I counted 225 wigeon (including 2 male Eurasians), 10 green-winged teal, 2 canvasbacks, and 3 gadwalls. The most exciting sighting, however, was what I believe to be a hybrid male mallard X pintail. Unfortunately it refused to show its head for a digiscope shot although I have attached a photo of it (just above the arrow) sleeping with a bunch of mallards. Note that its legs are less orange, it lacks the chestnut breast of the other mallards, its back and tail is colored like a male pintail, and the portion of the speculum visible is green instead of dark blue. Although you can't see it, it had a bill like a male pintail. I can't say I've ever seen a bird like this (except in a photo somewhere) although I've seen thousand pintails. There were

Page 7

## Looking for a new vacation idea?



Consider registering for an Audubon camp.

With new and traditional programs in store, a wide variety of offerings are available. You could explore tidal pools along the coast of Maine, take a hike in the Green Mountains or the Rockies, seek out the natural treasures of Chesapeake Bay, or paddle a glacial lake while osprey soar overhead and the call of the loon can be heard in the distance.

To get more information and to sign up, check out <http://www.audubon.org/educate/cw/>

also at least 6 killdeer present down toward the houses stretching toward the boat launch.

**Date: March 19**

**Subject: Spring (I think)**

At the Mendenhall wetlands today at high tide, there were 2 short-eared owls hunting across by Bayview, a dozen or so each of wigeon and scaup and a solitary swan. Just warm and wonderful out there. And on Sunday I heard my first blue grouse hooting out near the glacier.

**Date: March 19**

**Subject: short eared owls**

A knowledgeable friend reports four (4) short eared owls (seen in a group) today on the airport side of the Mendenhall flats. Also a single Trumpeter Swan (ID by size).

I saw what a bird sitting in a cottonwood near Lemon Creek that looked like a hawk owl but could not get close enough to get a good id.



**Marilyn and I were thrilled March 6 to look out the window of our Douglas Island home and see two magnificent Trumpeter Swans.**

*Mike Miller*

April 2003

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

**Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box  
52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529**

**A51  
7XCH**

*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to: Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership. NOTE: if you wish to join National Audubon Society, please send your check with the membership application to Boulder, CO.*

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**Field Trips:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, [stevezimmerman@gci.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net)  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288, [kweltzin@alaska.net](mailto:kweltzin@alaska.net)

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# The Raven

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



Volume 29, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2003

## May ALMANAC

**Arctic Terns arrive from  
Antarctica**

**One to two eaglets hatch  
late May/early June**

**Sandhill Cranes pass by  
Gustavus, Wrangell,  
Petersburg en route to  
western & northern  
Alaska**

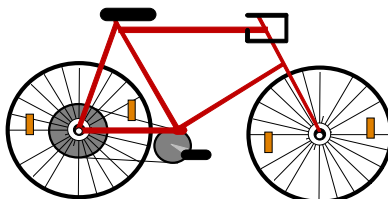
**Moose calves are born  
mid-May to early June**



**Wolf pups  
are born  
May/early  
June**

**May 10 is International  
Migratory Bird Day**

**Mountain goat kids are  
born late May/early June**



### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

### Bicycle Touring in Chile and Argentina: Top to Bottom Mike Blackwell

For the past 15 years, Mike Blackwell, Jim Johnson, and some others have been on a discontinuous, segmented, bicycle tour of the world. In this slide show, Mike and Jim report on their amusing 5000-km excursion from Arica, Chile, on the Peruvian border, to Ushuaia de Argentina, at the end of the road in Tierra del Fuego.

## Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day 2003

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), held the second Saturday in May, celebrates an important and spectacular event in the life of a migratory bird—its journey between its summer and winter homes.

Here are two great ways to celebrate in Juneau.

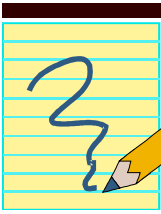
On **Saturday, May 10**, take a bird walk on the Mendenhall Wetlands with Bob Armstrong, author of numerous bird and nature guides for Alaska and an accomplished photographer. For details, see our bird walk schedule on page 4.

On **Thursday, May 15**, attend a program at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Theater from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Gwen Baluss of the U.S. Forest Service will give a presentation about banding neotropical migrants in Alaska and Mexico. There will be a concurrent hour-long program for children in another room at the visitor center beginning at 6:30 p.m. with Kristen Romanoff from Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Further information is available from Gwen or from Michelle Kissling with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Like any day of recognition, IMBD exists to focus attention on a valuable resource—the nearly 350 species of migratory birds that travel between nesting habitats in North America and non-breeding grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S. Migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, observable, and remarkable wildlife that share our world. In Juneau, this includes all of our warblers, many ducks, flycatchers, and our hummingbirds.

*(continued on page 2)*





## A message from the board

**Brenda Wright, president**

**T**he Juneau Audubon Society board met on April 15, 2003. We have several projects that are in progress, including a donation of some fabulous mountain goat photographs to be hung in the visitor's center and near the cruise ship information kiosk, and updates on the golf course issues (courtesy of Matt Kirchhoff and Sue Schrader). We also discussed our use of chapter funds for our Raven newsletter and one of our major fundraisers, the Berners Bay cruises. If you were not on the April cruise, please consider taking the May 3, 2003 cruise! (**Ed. note:** the morning cruise is already sold out, but space may still be available on the afternoon sailing.)

The board decided to continue supporting the bi-monthly contribution to the Southeast Wild column in the Juneau Empire. Please let us know if you would like to contribute an article, or know someone who has a birding or natural history story to share.

We are hoping to promote a Bird-a-thon to raise interest in fall migrations in the Juneau area. Fall is a time of sometimes unreasonable weather, but also a time of interesting birding in our area. Let's start a new tradition of bird walks and awareness as our daylight length shortens and our migrants pass through town with the last of the cruise ship passengers.

We are always on the lookout for interested volunteers to support our committees and board. Please contact any member of the board with suggestions or offers of time.



**Y**our berry-picking hands. Homemade jams and jellies are the highlight of Juneau Audubon's booth at the annual Juneau Public Market on Thanksgiving weekend. And they are a major fund-raiser for our chapter. As you are picking berries this summer, please consider picking a bucket or two to donate to this cause. You can contact Mary Lou King at [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to contribute. Many hands will help insure this holiday tradition continues.

### **International Migratory Bird Day 2003**

*(continued from page 1)*

Our migratory birds need habitat available in both their winter and summer habitats. The International Migratory Bird Day hopes to emphasize our appreciation of our migratory species and lead to increased protection for their habitat needs.

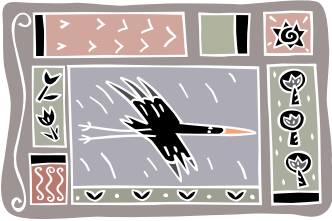
Here are other suggestions for enjoying our migratory birds:

- Take notice of the birds around you
- Point out these birds to someone else
- Create or improve habitat at your home
- Keep your cat indoors—it helps both cat and birds!
- Donate to a wildlife preservation fund or group
- Get involved in community land-use planning
- Teach young people about migratory birds and IMBD

For further information check the official web site at <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd/>

### **September Raven Deadline**

The next Raven will be published in September. Please submit articles by August 21 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)



## My favorite bird

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**Paul Suchanek, Juneau**

*This article is based on an interview with one of the many experienced birders in Juneau Audubon Society. If you'd like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

**A** Ruby-crowned Kinglet was one of the first birds I saw that got me interested in birds in general.

I was in junior high or high school and was walking through the woods on the farm where we lived in southern Minnesota. I knew what Ruby-crowned Kinglets were, and I saw them in the bushes right next to me. Normally you can't see the red crown, but this bird was flashing its crown of red feathers. It was really close—only a few feet away—and I could see it without binoculars. It was really spectacular.

Also, one of the first bird songs I learned was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet's, and that got me going with birding by ear. It's a really strong song for such a small bird, and we hear it a lot around Juneau in the spring. It usually starts with a few chattering notes, then shifts to something like "Pretty-pretty-pretty-pretty me!" It's very ringing, easily heard, and we assume the birds are singing to establish their territories.



Bob Armstrong

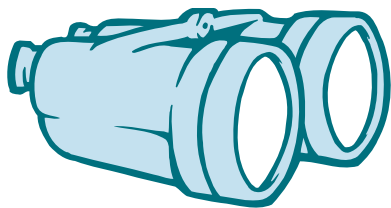
Except for hummingbirds, kinglets are about the smallest birds in this area. They're only about 4 inches long from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail—smaller than most warblers. Kinglets flick their wings a lot (a good tip-off for identification), and they hover as they look for small insects, or insect eggs on the undersides of leaf surfaces. They're pretty much little grayish, olive-green birds, but they have white wing bars, so they look pretty different from any warblers you'd see around Juneau. Also below the bottom wing bar they have a big band of black on the wing. That's a good field mark to distinguish a kinglet from a warbler.

*Golden-crowned Kinglets* are generally found in spruce trees, often really high up, and they tend to move in flocks. Their bellies look pretty white, and the birds have a broad white stripe over the eye. *Ruby-crowned Kinglets* are typically found in deciduous brush and trees, and they often forage fairly low to the ground. They are a little more light olive green color, and they have no white stripe but a white eye ring.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets breed in Southeast's spruce forests, and one interesting thing is that their average clutch size is the highest of any songbird. They often have 7 eggs, and sometimes up to 12. They're pretty secretive. I've never personally seen a nest, and was just reading in an article that their nests can be up to 90 feet high in a spruce or hemlock.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets are one of the first passerine migrants to show up in Juneau. We usually see them in late March. When the migrants move out in fall, you'll see Ruby-crowned Kinglets moving south even into November. Occasionally one is seen on the Christmas Bird Count, but that's pretty rare.

You can also enjoy kinglets because they're such a common bird. You'll see them almost anywhere you go in the U.S. You realize a lot of these birds nest pretty much in the north, then you see them in the southern U.S. in the winter. Seeing a familiar bird like that links the two areas together.



# Spring Migration Bird Trips

**W**alks last about two hours. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots, and dress for weather. Please watch local media or our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> for possible schedule changes.

**Saturday** Berners Bay cruises  
**May 3** Depart Auke Bay Boat Harbor  
**8:30 & 1:30** Members will be on board as interpreters.

**Sunday** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
**May 4** Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd  
**8 a.m.** Leader: Deborah Rudis

**Saturday** **International Migratory Bird Day**  
**May 10** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
**8 a.m.** Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd  
Leader: Bob Armstrong

**Saturday** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
**May 17** Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.  
**8 a.m.** Leader: Bev Agler

## Bird Walk Field Notes

Paul Suchanek



**A**bout 15 birders met out at Eagle Beach on the morning of Saturday, April 12 to work on their gull identification skills. Although the tide stage was higher than expected, it was a beautiful calm morning with brilliant sun. While waiting to determine tide stage and locations of the major gull roosts, everyone got to examine the “view” from each of the wide variety of spotting scopes available. Gus van Vliet also entertained and informed all with a discussion of gull identification fundamentals. Eventually a few participants lacking boots had to retreat due to the tide stage, but most of the group moved closer to a roost of several hundred gulls. Nice comparisons of adult herring and Thayer’s gulls were made and also the class was able to study several age classes of mew gulls. A few Bonaparte’s gulls and glaucous-winged gulls were also present for comparison. In total, several hours were spent examining the gull flock present which constantly changed as gulls moved in or departed. Although no real rarities were spotted, it turned out to be an excellent day for birding as well as for enjoying the beautiful day.

**Saturday** Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge  
**May 24** Meet at parking lot at end of Radcliffe Rd.  
**8 a.m.** Leader: Steve Zimmerman

**Saturday** Sandy Beach, Douglas  
**May 31** Meet at parking lot by picnic shelter  
**8 a.m.** Leader: Paul Suchanek

**Saturday** Dredge Lakes  
**June 7** Meet at parking lot by Mendenhall River  
**7:30 a.m.** bridge on Back Loop Road.  
Leader: Deanna MacPhail



## Berners Bay Field Notes - April 19

Deanna MacPhail

**T**he trip was an all-around success: calm seas, a sell-out crowd and extraordinary activity in Berners Bay. The eulachon were in the bay and just beginning to move up the rivers. Several pods of Steller Sea lions (Paul Suchanek estimated 200 animals) cooperatively fed in the bay, porpoised clear out of the water, and shadowed the two humpback whales that were also in the bay just a few yards from the boat. We cut the engine and watched the goings on for some minutes. I think everyone felt it was quite a show. Jamie Womble delivered much interesting information regarding the fish & mammals. While we were stopped a representative from Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) gave a brief, non-inciteful summary of the Kensington Mine plans and possible access road activity. He said that if anyone had questions, they should contact him or check their web site, <http://www.seacc.org/>.

We saw and think we identified 24 species of birds; not great but not too shabby. Nothing unexpected in the types of birds; I think the favorite may have been the two Black Oyster-catchers on Sentinel Island.

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898. **Note:** *The COE permits can now be found on line at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/>*

**Even if the comment date has passed**, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

**Division of Governmental Coordination**  
**P.O. Box 110030**  
**Juneau, AK 99811-0300**  
**(907) 465-3562**

**Department of Environmental Conservation**  
**410 Willoughby Ave.**  
**Juneau, AK 99801-1795**  
**(907) 465-5260**

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. If you need help on commenting or technical assistance, you can call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Point Lions — Point Lions River 1**, (Reference Number 4-2003-0145) **Applicant:** Native Village of Port Lions. **Location:** Port Lions on Kodiak Island, Alaska. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to discharge 6,300 cubic feet of fill into 1.03 acres of wetlands. **Purpose:** To create a building pad for a 13,250 foot Cultural Center and parking lot. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due: *April 18, 2003*.

**Haines — Chilkat River 18**, (Reference Number 4-1996-0320) **Applicant:** Stanley Jones. **Location:** Haines. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes the placement of approximately 23,085 cubic yards of clean fill material within an approximate 7.34 acre emergent wetland area to create:

- Access Road: 750' x 30' (22,500 sq. ft.)
- Parking Area: 125' x 250' (30,000 sq. ft.)
- Maintenance Pad: 80' x 100' (8,000 sq. ft.)
- Club House Pad: 70' x 70' (4,900 sq. ft.)
- Construction Road including 15 bridge abutments: 7,000' x 15' (105,000 sq. ft.)
- Driving Range Access Road: 450' x 8' (3,600 sq. ft.)
- Driving Range Pad: 135' x 20' (2,700 sq. ft.)
- Equipment Pad at Driving Range: 30' x 40' (1,200 sq. ft.)
- Greens: (see detail drawings): (133,480 sq. ft.)
- Tees: twenty seven @ 20' x 20' (10,800 sq. ft.)

**TOTAL WETLAND FILL AREA:** 319,815 square feet (7.34 acres)

**Purpose:** To construct a 9-hole golf course. Additional information: On April 5, 2002, the Alaska District Corps of Engineers published a Public Notice, CEPOA-CO Number 4-1996-0320, Chilkat River 18, for the placement of fill within an approximate 5.5 acre emergent wetland area for the construction of this project. The application was withdrawn by the applicant pending a final design. The current proposal has been modified to include mechanized land clearing within an additional approximate 3.97 acres of emergent wetland area for on-site borrow material extraction. **Mitigation:** As a result of pre-application coordination, and based on the fact that a portion of the proposed project would occur below the High Tide Line, the applicant has incorporated the following management practices to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment: The proposed borrow areas will be a minimum of 5' from the anadromous tributaries of the Chilkat River in order to retain the naturally vegetated buffers to the streams. **In addition** a narrow 2-3' wide channel will be excavated from within each buffer zone, to no lower than the ordinary water level of the stream at low tide, to prevent fish from being trapped within the excavated areas at low tidal elevations. Comments due: *April 7, 2003*

**Juneau — Montana Creek 24**, (Reference Number 0-2002-0326) **Applicant:** Ambre Willis. **Location:** 4944 Wren Drive, on Lot 1, Block F McGinnis 5B Subdivision. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to discharge fill into .188 acres of Class A wetlands and pond to create an upland area to construct a

garage and office and to remove an open water area. The COE issued permit number 4-2002-0326 (Montana Creek 24) authorizing the placement of fill into .16 acres of Categorized Wetland "A" to construct a single-family residence. The permit was modified on October 23, 2002 with no fill footprint increase. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *May 1, 2003*.

**Juneau — Amalga Harbor 2**, (Reference Number 2-2001-0637) **Applicant:** City and Borough of Juneau. **Location:** Amalga Harbor. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to dredge 12,000 cubic yards of material from a 2 acre area below mean high tide line within Amalga Harbor. The material will be barged to Lynn Canal and discharged. Another 15,248 cubic yards of clean fill will be discharged into 1.52 acres of scrub shrub and forested wetlands for the construction of a 210-foot wide by 210-foot long parking lot, a 70-foot wide by 190-foot long small boaters parking lot and a 25-foot wide by 200-foot long addition to the main parking lot. Additional fill will be placed in the intertidal zone for create a 16-foot wide by 185-foot long concrete beach access ramp. **Purpose:** To improve Amalga boat access and traffic flow. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *April 30, 2003*.

**Juneau — Gastineau Channel 350**, (Reference Number 2-2002-0671) **Applicant:** Salmon Creek Development Company. **Location:** 3139 Channel Drive (next to the freight yard). **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to discharge 1,050 cubic yards of fill material into 4,500-square feet (0.10 acre) of intertidal habitat for the creation of a oil and water separator. **Additional information:** Department of the Army Permit Number 2-1982-0204, Gastineau Channel 350, was issued to Salmon Creek Development Company on November 22, 1982, to dredge approximately 50,000-yds of marine sediment from 2.7 acres of Gastineau Channel and place that material in 2.1 acres of the intertidal zone to construct marine facilities. On December 4, 1984, the permit was modified to authorizing increased quantity of dredged material to 75,000-yds and expanded the dredged area to 4.98 acres. This modification included a permit special condition requiring a confined dredge spoil disposal area. On April 15, 1985, the permit was modified authorizing a revised confined dredge spoil disposal plan. The permit was modified on February 12, 1986, authorizing the construction of a concrete boat launching ramp, staging area, and a mooring float; removal of a barge and construction of two 40' X 60' docks and four timber pile dolphins. A permit modification was issued on June 16, 1986, authorizing the construction of a concrete boat launching ramp, staging area, and a mooring float; removal of a barge and a 16' X 64' steel transfer ramp with two support columns. On April 26, 1989, the permit was modified authorizing dredging of approximately 24,000-yds of material from Gastineau Channel. The permit was modified on November 7, 2001, authorizing driving 4 eighteen-inch steel vertical support piles and 4 twelve-inch batter piles to support a ramp-lifting A-Frame. The current proposal would include the installation of a 400-gallon capacity oil water separator and 15 linear feet of 18-inch diameter culvert that would carry stormwater runoff the existing ditch currently does. **Purpose:** To create a storm water

drainage system. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *April 28, 2003*.

**Juneau — Gastineau 488**, (Reference Number 4-1992-0223) **AFTER THE FACT Applicant:** Marciano Duran. **Location:** 1568 Glacier Highway. **Proposal:** After-the-fact permitting of mechanical land clearing within an approximate 138,831 square foot forested wetland area; the discharge of approximately 20,700 cubic yards of clean fill material for the construction of house pads, driveways and yard areas; and the discharge of approximately 400 cubic yards of clean fill material to relocate two approximate 150' long by 8' drainage channels. (Total wetland impact 3.2 acres). **Additional information:** The entire lot has been mechanically cleared. The applicant is proposing to fill all the wetlands on this parcel in order to provide the future lot owners with yard and storage areas and to landscape for drainage on the moderately steep slope. **Purpose:** The purpose of the project is the construction of a 26-lot subdivision. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *May 7, 2003*

**Sitka — Chatham Strait 80**, (Reference Number 0-1976-0098) **Applicant:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.. **Location:** Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, 1308 Sawmill Creek Road. **Proposal:** To perform upgrades and construct new features to the existing facility. The proposed work consists of the following:

1. Raise the lagoon dike from 10 foot from mean low low water (MLLW) to 11 foot above MLLW by adding approximately one foot of concrete. The upstream face of the dike would be reinforced by adding a geotextile liner, covered with 12" of 2"-minus gravel and capped with 12" riprap rock. The liner and riprap would be keyed into the substrate for re-enforcement. The spillway and fish access point would be redesigned for easier regulation of pool height and pool maintenance. The finished toe-to-toe area of impact would be -0.09 acres filled with -170 cubic yards of rock.
2. Construct a 140-150 linear foot fishway that would be extend seaward of the lagoon dike. The fishway would be made up of 14 pools measuring 10 foot by 10 foot with an approximately 0.65 foot rise between them for a total lift of approximately nine feet. The rock for the fishway would be obtained from intertidal bobble, from blasting of intertidal bedrock and riprap from quarries in Angoon or other quarries. The rock pools would be stabilized with epoxy grout suitable for marine environments. Construction of the fishway would cover (or disturb) approximately 0.07 acres of intertidal substrate with approximately 75 cubic yards of rock (intertidal cobble and imported material).
3. Expand an existing aluminum pool and weir fishway ladder from four foot to eight foot in width replace an existing culvert under the service road near the top of the ladder with a concrete bridge.
4. Construct new "pole" type building to serve as coho and Chinook incubation and house start tank round ponder under cover. Remove two existing linear raceways and

- several “swede” ponds and replace with 20, 16-foot diameter by 4-foot deep round ponds for initial fry rearing.
5. Outside the chum incubation building and along the southeast side of the existing round pond field, replace the existing 4-foot wide by 60-foot long ponding raceways with the two large linear aluminum raceways from item #4 and plumb appropriate for complex.
  6. Install a new 16 inch diameter by 960 foot long water line and intertie to serve the chinook saltwater rearing complex. The pipeline would be buried within the existing fill footprint to a depth of 4 feet, day lighting to Kasnyku Bay just above the HTL and resting on the substrate until reaching the net pens where the pipeline would raise to the water surface.

**Purpose:** To increase the coho smolt production and provide better recruitment of adult chum salmon for the hatchery, and maintain/update the existing facility. **Mitigation:** The applicant proposes to de-water the lagoon before starting work on the dike and would work on the fishway only during low tide. All equipment would be operated from the dike or from intertidal bedrock. Comments due by *March 19, 2003*.

**Ketchikan — Clover Passage 55**, (Reference Number 1-2001-1283) **Applicant:** William Moran. **Location:** Off North Point Higgins Road near Ketchikan. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to construct a 60-foot by 15-foot pile supported floating dock with a 5-foot by 70-foot aluminum access ramp and a 100-foot by 8-foot aluminum pier, and five 16-inch galvanized steel pilings. **Purpose:** To provide moorage for a recreational boat. **Additional Information:** On December 6, 2001 a Nationwide permit 7 was issued for installation of a 212-feet of a 4-inch sewer line. A Nationwide permit 13 was issued for construction of a 150-foot bank stabilization wall below high tide line. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *May 7, 2003*.

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 556**, (Reference Number 1-2003-0271) **Applicant:** US Army, 7<sup>th</sup> engineer Detachment.. **Location:** South of Ketchikan Harbor Wreck Buoy #6. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to re-float a 327-foot by 52-foot by 35-foot sunken World War II era Landing Ship Tank. The vessel would be towed to deeper water and re-sunk. **Purpose:** To provide army training while removing a navigational hazard. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *April 25, 2003*.

**Ketchikan — Nicholas Passage 13**, (Reference Number 4-1999-1036) **AFTER-THE-FACT Applicant:** Harlan Heaton. **Location:** 5 miles south of Ketchikan. **Proposal:** Discharge 95 cubic yards of rock into 0.52 acres of wetlands and streams as follows:

- After The Fact discharge of 62 cubic yards of rock into 0.06 acres of small drainages and one small stream.
- Discharge 22 cubic yards of rock into 0.03 acre of drainage and stream
- Discharge 11 cubic yards of rock into 0.43 acre of remnant and created wetlands

- Excavate 0.6 cubic yards of rock from 44 square feet of a small drainage to replace an 18-inch by 26-foot long culvert. **Purpose:** To develop a site for a private residence and commercial development

**Additional Information:** This is an approximately 32.4 acre site containing 2 small drainages, 1 small stream and approximately 13 acres of wetlands. The applicant purchased the site in February 1990. He subsequently logged and cleared approximately 20 acres. In addition he has quarried portions of the site and cut and filled approximately 4.75 acres for road access and a residence. In September 1999 it was determined that Mr. Heaton had impacted jurisdictional wetlands and streams in the process of his work without prior authorization. A Notice of violation was issued. In November 2001, due in part to the age of the work and a lack comment from the state and Federal resource agencies during our investigation, the Corps determined that impacts to waters of the United States had been minimal and the violation was closed as minor with no further enforcement action required. Mr. Heaton was advised that no further discharge of fill into waters of the United States could occur without prior authorization. In October 2002, Mr. Heaton contacted the Corps concerning additional work and was advised to obtain a jurisdictional determination for the property, which he provided in January 2003. The Corps determined that the upper undisturbed portion of the property is forested wetlands. The jurisdictional determination showed that small bands of created wetlands, caused by Mr. Heaton’s work and drainage patterns on the property, have become naturalized wetlands. Mr. Heaton now wishes to fill the created wetlands and additional portions of the drainages and stream. The 22 cy of drainage and stream fill referenced above represent the amount placed below ordinary high water mark. The applicant’s consultant, Mr. Tim Droke, Drosos Consulting, measured flows above and below the filled portions of the drainages and stream during a 2 -day rain event on January 26, 2003, and reported that the “French drain” system created by the boulders in the channels passed the water with no discernible flow difference in the channel above and below the fill. This Public Notice covers existing impacts and proposed impacts to the drainages, stream, and created wetlands. No work is proposed in the remaining approximately 13 acres of undisturbed wetlands. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *April 10, 2003*.

**Craig — Port Bagial 02**, (Reference Number 4-2002-1084) **Applicant:** City of Craig. **Location:** 5 miles southeast of Craig. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to discharge 2,400 cubic yards of rock and 390 cubic yards of D-1 to create a pad for the expansion of the existing water treatment plant and for a future fish rearing facility. An additional 100 cubic yards of rock will be used in the construction of an 8-foot by 24-inch by 160-foot drainage ditch. **Purpose:** Expansion of the existing water treatment plant for another treatment train and storage and the future use by the Prince of Wales Hatchery Association. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *April 30, 2003*.

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

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**Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529**

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*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to: Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership. NOTE: if you wish to join National Audubon Society, please send your check with the membership application to Boulder, CO.*

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# The Raven

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



Volume 29, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2003

## March ALMANAC

Spring begins!  
March 20,  
4 p.m.



Watch for dramatic  
mating rituals by water-  
fowl, raven, eagles



Kirsten Munson

Check our new website,  
<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>, and think about  
new ways we can use it for  
communication and educa-  
tion.

Plan ahead for a Celebration  
of Swans in Whitehorse the  
third week in April. The M/V  
Taku sails from Auke Bay  
3:45 p.m. Friday, April 18.  
You can sail back on the M/V  
LeConte, departing Skagway  
1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 20.  
Learn more at [http://  
www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/  
viewing/shcos.shtml](http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/viewing/shcos.shtml)

### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

### Safari in Kenya Jim and Judy Hauck

In November, a group of Alaskans made a three-week wildlife and photog-  
raphy safari to major game parks in Kenya. Their slide presentation will  
include the lodges, safari vehicles, scenery and wildlife as well as Nairobi,  
the Kenyan countryside and a visit to a Maasai Village. The game parks  
visited include Samburu, Amboseli, Masai Mara, Mount Kenya and the  
Rift Valley including Lake Baringo and Lake Nakuru.

### New! Mid-April Sailing!

## 8th Annual Berners Bay Cruise

Saturday, April 19: 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday, May 3: 8:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.



*These cruises sell out every year. Tickets are available at Hearthside Books at  
the same low price: \$28 for adults and \$5 for accompanied children under  
12. Purchase tickets early to insure your choice of sailings.*

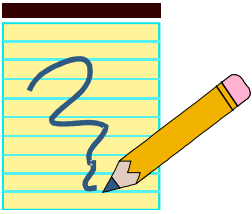
**T**he silvery, oily eulachon that run upstream to spawn are the centerpiece of  
the spring feeding frenzy in Berners Bay. When the run begins, eager  
predators soon gather to gorge.

Nature follows its own calendar, but we've added an April sailing this year in  
anticipation of seeing more sea mammals in the bay.

When the run begins, Steller sea lions and harbor seals gather at the mouths of  
rivers and gulls increase from a few hundred birds to tens of thousands.

As the run progresses, migrating red-breasted mergansers, mallards, pintail,  
green-winged teal, shorebirds, songbirds, crows, ravens and bald eagles all gather  
for the bonanza. The significance of this rich food resource is much greater than  
its short time span might suggest. As in prior years, some of Audubon's top  
birders and biologists will be on board to help put it all into perspective.





# A Message from Audubon Alaska

Stanley E. Senner, Executive Director

## New Approach Needed for the Petroleum Reserve

In January, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a draft environmental impact statement on proposed oil and gas leasing in the Northwest Planning Area of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (the “reserve”). Audubon is deeply involved in this process and encourages your participation too.

When thinking about oil development in the reserve, it is important to first step back and look at the entire Arctic Slope. The complex of oilfields in the central Arctic, starting at Prudhoe Bay, is now one of the largest industrial zones in the world. Audubon has no quarrel with that, provided that high environmental standards are maintained. To the east, in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Audubon argues for complete protection of the entire refuge, including the narrow coastal plain where the Bush Administration wants to drill for oil. In the western Arctic, however, the situation is more complicated.

Most of the western Arctic lies within the 23-million-acre reserve, the largest single block of public land in the U.S. The area has some high oil and gas potential, but it also has tremendous wildlife and wilderness values. Starting in 1998, BLM already has sold oil leases in the northeastern portion of the reserve. Audubon does not oppose additional oil leasing in the reserve’s 8.8-million-acre Northwest Planning Area, provided that the area’s special places and values are protected and all oil and gas activities are carried out with high environmental standards. Based on an 18-month study led by Audubon’s senior scientist, Dr. John Schoen, some of the special areas requiring protection are:

- **Kasegaluk Lagoon**, hugely important for marine mammals, nesting common eiders, and staging brant;
- **Peard Bay**, with nesting spectacled eiders and greater white-fronted geese;
- the lower **Meade River-Dease Inlet** area, with nesting yellow-billed loons and brant, as well as polar bears denning onshore; and
- southern **Ikpikuk River**, a nesting area for peregrine falcons.

Public comments on oil and gas leasing in the Northwest Planning Area are due on March 18, 2003. Letters should be mailed to: Bureau of Land Management (930), Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99513-7599. Audubon will send an action alert to chapter leaders and members throughout the state and invites you to participate. With your help, there is a chance to protect key wildlife values in the reserve and make additional land available for oil leasing. Please stay tuned.

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## Skagway Bird Club takes wing

Buoyed by success of their first-ever Skagway Christmas Bird Count, Skagway birders have formed a formal club.

The 12-member group selected officers and a name, the Skagway Bird Club, at their first official meeting in February. Member and National Park Service biologist Meg Hahr will talk on owls at the next meeting, 7 p.m. March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Library. For additional information on the club or Skagway birding in general, contact one of following members:

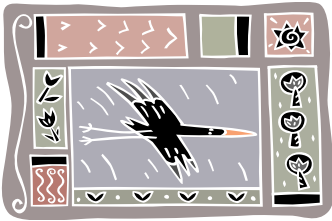
**President:** John McDermott, [mcddyed@aptalaska.net](mailto:mcddyed@aptalaska.net)

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**Secretary:** Meg Hahr, [meg\\_hahr@hotmail.com](mailto:meg_hahr@hotmail.com)

### April Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the April issue no later than March 20 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)



# My favorite bird

## Varied Thrush

Marge Ward, Sitka

*This article is based on an interview with one of the many experienced birders in Juneau Audubon Society. If you'd like to be interviewed about one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net)*

If I had to choose a favorite bird it would be the Varied Thrush, also called either “Oregon Robin” or “Alaska Robin.” What I like best is that they are here in Sitka in winter. They’re so colorful. When you see them perched on branches it’s like having ornaments hanging on the trees. I counted seven in the yard one morning in January, and we also see and hear them in spring in breeding season. Several springs ago we counted well over 100 of them in one of our parks!

Varied Thrushes are an easy bird for people to identify. They look like Robins to begin with, only slimmer. I think of their heads as smaller and more pointed, while Robins seem to me more round.

Male Varied Thrushes have a black band across their chest and are a brighter orange. First-year males have a brown band. And females are just more brown. Varied Thrushes have a dark stripe from the bill through the eye to the back of the neck, and interspersed orange bands on the top of their heads. Patches on their wings are orange and darker, almost like wing stripes. If they fly away from you you’ll see white on the tail.

Here in Sitka Varied Thrushes start singing early. I like to hear them calling in the yard, and you can usually depend on that by February. This year with the mild winter we were hearing them even in January. It’s wonderful to hear them call along the beach. Just when you think winter is never going to end, you hear a Varied Thrush call and then another answers. The only other birds I know that use song like that outside the breeding season are Dippers—and Song Sparrows, usually in the fall. Most other birds start singing in March or April. I also like the Varied Thrush because of the field work I’ve done with fourth graders. They call it the “telephone bird” because its song is a single long whistle on one pitch. I teach it to them first by playing a recording, then they know it right away. That’s a nice opening to getting them to know other birds.

Varied Thrushes are one of four species of thrush that breed around Sitka. The others are the American Robin, the Hermit Thrush, and the Swainson’s Thrush. Varied Thrushes are much shyer than Robins, though not as shy as Hermit or Swainson’s Thrushes. You’ll often see several feeding close to each other. If there are several in a tree, though, each will choose a different branch. I’ve watched them; sometimes they’ll sit there and drink snow melting off the branches.

As soon as they get into pre-breeding, they become pretty secretive. You can hear them singing, but you don’t always catch up with them. The males sing back and forth to each other—it’s a territorial thing. They’ll whistle, and change tempo and pitch a little, too.

Varied Thrushes are ground feeders. To attract them to your yard, scatter seed or bread crumbs or dry oatmeal on the ground. Before I knew much about birds, feeding thrushes was one of the first things that got me interested in them. I used to go buy dry oatmeal at the store. Finally one of the kids packing groceries said, “Boy, you must really like oatmeal!” so I had to explain to him what I was doing. That was before they had commercial birdseed in the stores!

We have a copy of *Birds of America*, a great book published in 1916. Not knowing any better, we started using it years ago to identify birds. Besides giving lots of field notes, sizes, etc., the book tells how, when John Burroughs came to Alaska on the Harriman Expedition in 1899, he met the Varied Thrush for the first time and wrote this poem about it. It’s nice to know things like this. It can add a lot to your enjoyment of a bird—and I think in our area thrushes can really enhance your outdoor experiences. You don’t even have to be a birder to enjoy them!

**O Varied Thrush!  
O Robin strange!  
Behold my mute surprise  
By form and flight I long have known  
But not this new disguise.**

*John Burroughs*

# Update on the Totem Creek Golf Course Project



Prepared by Sue Schrader for Juneau Audubon Society

## What's the current status of the proposed golf course?

In early February, Totem Creek Inc. (TCI), the non-profit group developing the project, submitted additional information to the state and the city. It appears that the state will require **no** review of the project's pesticide use under the AK Coastal Management Program (ACMP). Staff at the city's Community Development Department are finalizing their recommendations to the Planning Commission. March 25 is a *tentative* date for what is expected to be the **final** public hearing on the project by the Planning Commission. At that hearing, we expect the city's conditional use permit to be granted. The next step after that is for TCI to negotiate with the city over the lease or sale of the 400 acre (approx.) site on North Douglas.

## What's up with the pesticide issue?

In early February, TCI released their revised Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, written by their consultant, David Wienecke. While Mr. Wienecke's credentials as a golf course agronomist are impressive, he lives out-of-state and has never visited the site, despite calling his IPM plan "site specific."

TCI has consistently stated their goal to construct and operate a golf course without resort to the use of pesticides. (Note that the term "pesticide" includes herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.) Their documents speak to "limited possible use of pesticides in extreme circumstances." It may be possible for the course to be operated without use of herbicides or insecticides. However, if TCI wants to maintain a "championship-quality," 18-hole course, the use of fungicides is very likely. The IPM plan presents an ambitious schedule of fungicide use that, in essence, includes year-around application.

At this point, TCI wants to keep the use of pesticides open as an option. Additionally, they evidently do not want to have to let anyone or any agency know if they exercise their option to use pesticides. This scenario would mean that folks who use Peterson Creek for drinking water or fishing wouldn't necessarily know when or how much pesticides are being applied up-stream from them.

## What's an "Integrated Pest Management Plan"?

The IPM plan outlines mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical methods of controlling insects, "weeds", moss, and fungus that attack turf. Additionally, It discusses turf management procedures, fertilizer use, pest identification and monitoring, pesticide application, and record keeping.

## What pesticides are listed in the Plan?

The IPM plan lists, for possible use on the course, 9 commercial products containing at least 12 different pesticides. These products (with active pesticide in parentheses) include: the herbicides Roundup (glyphosate), Confront (clopyralid and triclopyr), and Trimec (dicamba, MCPP, MCPA, 2,4 D); the insecticide Sevin (carbaryl); and the fungicides Mancozeb Fore (mancozeb), Broadway Daconil (chlorothalonil), Banner Maxx (propiconazol), Curalan (vinclozolin), and Chipco 26019 (iprodione).

## How toxic are these chemicals?

These 12 pesticides vary in their potential for toxicity. Most have reported toxicities ranging from moderate to high for fish. Most of these chemicals are known or suspected endocrine disruptors and/or carcinogens. Additionally, the "inert" ingredients in these products can also be toxic. For example, one of Confront's inert ingredients, POEA, is highly toxic to fish, and the surfactant contained in Roundup also is highly toxic to fish. ("Inert" ingredients are chemicals that do not actively kill the target organism but are added to a product to enhance its effectiveness.)

## How "good" is the science behind the toxicity reports?

"Goodness" is in the eye of the beholder. There is a huge body of science that provides evidence of the toxicity of pesticides to birds, fish, and mammals. Obviously, the studies do vary in respect to species studied, conditions of exposure, concentrations of pesticides, etc. Much of the basis for concern regarding pesticide toxicity for salmon comes from U.S. Geological Survey research and EPA findings – sources that should be considered "good" by most reasonable critics!

*(Continued on Page 5)*



## **Totem Creek Golf Course Update**

*(Continued from Page 4)*

### **If these chemicals are such a threat to fish and other living things, why does the EPA allow their use?**

If you can grasp the political and economic realities of why cigarettes, a known addictive carcinogen, still are legally can understand why pesticides are so poorly regulated. While the scientists at EPA, U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have extensive data linking pesticides to negative impacts on salmon and their habitat (including pesticide use on golf courses), EPA has been exceedingly slow in updating the restrictions on pesticide labels. In fact, the EPA currently is being sued in Washington State for not consulting with NMFS on the impacts of pesticides to salmon.

### **Isn't the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) taking steps to ensure protection against the use of toxic pesticides?**

The answer depends on how you define "steps." DEC's laws and regulations regarding pesticide use are limited. NO pesticide permit is required for this project under state law. While there are a few legally-required safeguards that DEC could enforce (such as using properly calibrated equipment) assuming DEC had the time, funding and commitment to do so, most of their safeguards are merely recommendations.

One of the most important safeguards to keep pesticides from polluting the approximately 30 salmon streams on the site is the use of "no-application zones" (or buffers). In a July 2002 letter, DEC recommended 100 ft. no-application zones around waterbodies. However, now under the Murkowski Administration, DEC has stated "no objection" to pesticide application as close as **66 ft. or less from fish streams. In some locations, these buffers are much less than 66 feet.**

This project does need a certificate from DEC that the project is reasonably assured of meeting water quality standards, i.e. not polluting surface or ground water. DEC issued this certificate (called a "401 cert," for short) in 1998, based upon a project description that stated "no pesticides will be used during construction or operation of the project." Three years **after** the issuance of this certificate, TCI released their first IPM plan that listed the pesticides they proposed for use.

Juneau Audubon has requested DEC re-examine the project in light of the 12 chemicals proposed for use and the risk they pose of contaminating the fish streams that cross the site. However, undoubtedly due to political pressure to move this project forward, DEC likely will NOT take another look at their 401 cert.

### **But isn't DEC supposed to protect water quality?**

Theoretically, yes, and there are other laws and regulations that, at DEC's discretion, they could use to protect the tributaries of Peterson Creek and the creek itself from potential pollution by this project. It is unlikely, however, that DEC will exercise their discretion to require additional safeguards to this project, given the political realities.

It appears TCI has agreed to do some water quality monitoring. If past experience is any indicator however, we can't count on DEC to carefully review monitoring reports, verify their accuracy, or take enforcement action if water quality standards are violated.

**The bottom line is we cannot depend on DEC to protect the streams and groundwater at this site from pesticide contamination.**

### **How will we ensure that the pesticide use doesn't harm fish, contaminate the water, and pose risks for people who use Peterson Creek for drinking water?**

Although DEC will not step up to the plate, we can ask that CBJ's conditional use permit include some protections. The next opportunity for the public to voice concerns in writing will be during the public comment period prior to the Planning Commission's final hearing on the conditional use permit for this project. Oral testimony will be taken at the hearing also. The written comment period may be as short as 10 days, though Juneau Audubon has asked CBJ to provide the public more time to review the final, updated documents and to get comments submitted. As mentioned above, March 25<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date of the Commission's hearing; however, we do not yet know when the comment period will start.

In Juneau Audubon's view, reasonable requests to make of the Planning Commission as they finalize the conditional use permit include:

- 1) Given that TCI's goal is not to use pesticides, **require that the course be operated without pesticides.**
- 2) If TCI finds, after beginning operations, that pesticides must be used, then allow TCI to come back to the Planning Commission to amend their conditional use permit after telling us specifically which chemicals are to be used and in what amounts.

If the Planning Commission is unwilling to prohibit the use of pesticides, then these additional safeguards should be included in the requirements of the conditional use permit:

*(Continued on Page 6)*



March 2003

## **Totem Creek Golf Course Update**

*(Continued from Page 5)*

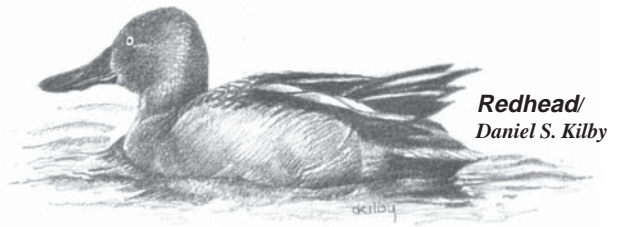
- 1) TCI should shorten their list to include only those chemicals (including “inert” ingredients) that are **least toxic** to salmon and other aquatic life. (Note there is NO mention of toxicity to fish or other aquatic life in the current IPM plan, even though the plan proposes use of “least toxic” pesticides – least toxic to what?)
- 2) A reasonable **notification procedure** should be followed to alert the public, particularly those residents who draw drinking water from Peterson Creek, before pesticides are applied. The treated areas on the course must be posted with a sign prohibiting entry into the area until after the re-entry interval on the label has passed. (Notification and posting is one of DEC’s recommendations – this recommendation should be made legally-binding by incorporating into the conditional use permit.)
- 3) The consequences for not consistently and carefully following the IMP plan should be specified in the conditional use permit.
- 4) A twice-yearly, on-site comprehensive **oversight program** should be performed by a qualified, independent reviewer to examine water quality monitoring reports, pesticide application logs, and turf management practices.
- 5) Careful, thorough **documentation of all applications of pesticides** should be available to DEC, the Dept. of Fish and Game, *and the public*.
- 6) There should be strict adherence to **66 ft. no-application zones**. No pesticide use should be permitted in areas closer than 66 ft. to a waterbody.

**Shouldn’t we believe TCI when they state that this will be one of the most environmentally sound golf courses in the country?**

Juneau Audubon wishes TCI every success in building and operating an environmentally sound course and achieving their goal of not needing to use pesticides. If, however, TCI falls short due to financial problems or any other reason, the citizens of Juneau are risking significant damage to one of our few healthy salmon stream systems that’s readily accessible by road.

If TCI is truly committed to an environmentally advanced course, they will readily agree to operate **pesticide-free**. Doing so may require living with some mold on the turf, but the trade-off is a much better chance at maintaining water quality for the benefit of all who swim in and drink from Peterson Creek.

**For more info, contact Sue Schrader at: [schrader@gci.net](mailto:schrader@gci.net)**



**Redhead/  
Daniel S. Kilby**

## **GLACIER BAY/GUSTAVUS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

**Bruce Paige**

The 30th annual Glacier Bay/Gustavus Christmas Bird Count on December 14 involved 12 observers, eight in the field and four at feeders. The parties went by boat, car, and on foot. Weather was mild, with temperatures from 29-34 degrees F., and nearly unlimited visibility. There was virtually no snow on the ground, and all lakes and saltwater areas remained mostly free of ice.

The mild weather led to a record number of species (73-the previous high was 67!), and a high, but not record number of individuals (9,339). The lack of a boat to traverse lower Glacier Bay and Icy Strait this year probably reduced the number of individual water birds counted significantly.

There were four species observed this year never before counted on the Glacier Bay/Gustavus Christmas Count, including redhead, American Coot, western gull, and Harris’s sparrow. Fourteen species were seen in record high numbers, particularly notable were 76 ring-neck duck (1 was the previous high), 73 lesser scaup (13), and 2380 white-winged crossbills (1231). Six species were recorded in higher numbers in our area than in anywhere else in Alaska, which indicates that ours is an important wintering area for a number of species. A few species missed this year, though usually seen, included great blue heron, northern pintail, and northern three-toed woodpecker.

All in all, it was a great count. Thanks to all!!!!

To help save paper and chapter money, send an e-mail to [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net).

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

The Juneau Chapter of the Audubon Society publishes these permit notices as a service to its members and encourages participation in the public review process. For more information on individual permits or comments call 1-800-478-2712 (Anchorage permits office). For possible permit violations in Southeast Alaska, call the Juneau office at 790-4490. Send your comments to: Regulatory Branch (1145b), P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

Even if the comment date has passed, you can still send your comments to the Division of Governmental Coordination. The State review period on 404 permits usually ends after the COE comment period closes (as a general rule you can add four days to the comment period). It is important that your concerns reference the Coastal Zone Management program (Section 307 (c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972) and the State Coastal management program (Alaska Statute Title 46). You may also comment on the State's Water Quality Certification (Section 401 of the Clean Water Act). Consistency guidelines for the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) on natural resources and habitats can be found in 6 AAC 80.040 to 6 AAC 80.120 and Water Quality standards can be found in 18 AAC 70. Please contact the Division of Governmental Coordination or the Department of Environmental Conservation for more information about applicable laws and project comment deadlines.

**Division of Governmental Coordination**  
P.O. Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0300  
(907) 465-3562

**Department of Environmental Conservation**  
410 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5260

For additional information on regulations and guidelines for fill and dredge activity in marine waters and wetlands see the following: Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) - Placement of structures in waters of the United States; Section 404 and 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230) - Discharge of fill or dredged material into the waters of the United States; Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413) - Transport of dredge material for the purpose of dumping in marine waters. For help on commenting or technical assistance, call Chris Kent at 463-3494.

**Yakutat — Yakutat Bay 12**, (Reference Number 4-1994-0528)  
Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation. **Location:** At the Yakutat Airport, three miles southeast of town. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to fill approximately 15.6 acres of wetlands; about 32 acres of wetlands will be excavated and 108 acres of wetland and mix wetland/upland will be hand-cleared of trees and shrubs. The proposed project will grade and overlay the primary runway at the Yakutat Airport, Runway 11-29 and clear along the runway sides and ends. The existing runway including its Runway Safety Areas (RSA) is about 600 feet wide and 7,750 ft. long and is bounded by lands disturbed by the original airport construction, and beyond those, wetlands. The existing pavement is 180 ft. wide. A strip of land approximately 35 ft. wide along the length of the RSA and on both sides will be excavated to create an Object Free Area (OFA) which would allow an airplane to pass without damage if it were to leave the RSA. Beyond the OFA grading, another strip about 165 ft. width along the length of the runway and on both sides will be hand-cleared to fell the trees and tall shrubs. During clearing, vegetation which is less than 5 ft. in height will be left in place. Additional clearing and change drainage systems at both approach ends of Runway 11-29. An area about 650 ft wide and 100 ft long from the ends of the runway will be converted to approach RSA. At the approach to Runway 11 (the northwest end), an existing 75' access road extends away from the runway. Existing drainage ditches will be filled on either side of this road to create a traversable surface. The ditches to be filled in

are in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) catalog of waters important to anadromous fishes. Beyond the ditches the remainder of the 650' x 1000' approach will be hand cleared. The drainage will be relocated to the perimeter of the cleared area. About 3,180 lineal ft. of drainage ditch/anadromous stream will be filled and about 2,230 ft. of relocated drainage channel will be constructed at the approach to Runway 11. Another 1,000 ft. of drainage channel will be constructed to carry water from the approach to Runway 11 to join the new channel system around the approach to Runway 20. Approximately 1,500 ft. of existing drainage ditch anadromous stream will be reconstructed along the southwest edge of the runway. At the approach to Runway 29, (the southeast end) about 11.6 acres of wetland will be filled to raise its grade in order to eliminate the hazard to aircraft that occurs now during flooding at high water events. The fill will create a surface that could support a plane or rescue vehicle. There is an existing access road within this approach area that is about 29 ft. wide. About 1,000 lineal feet of drainage ditch/anadromous stream will be filled and about 1,900 lineal feet of relocated drainage channel will be constructed. The crosswind runway, Runway 2-20, is only used in the summer and when weather conditions do not require a precision instrument approach. The only work on this runway will be creation of a runway safety area at the approach to Runway 20 (the northeast end). An area about 4.0

*(Continued on page 8)*

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits**

*(Continued from page 7)*

acres will be filled. This area is a 50/50 mix of wetland and upland; the wetland impact is calculated to be about 20 acres. In addition to fill placement, excavation will create a total graded area of about 600 ft. by 750 ft. of traversable approach RSA. About 2,100 lineal ft. of drainage ditch anadromous stream will be filled and about 1,650 lineal ft. of drainage channel will be constructed on the periphery of the new approach. A triangular area between the two runways will be excavated (where berms exist) and hand-cleared in order in order to allow pilots to visually check for the presence of an airplane on the other runway, per FAA standards. Five new culverts (P-1, P-2, P-3, P-4, and P-1S) will be installed in newly constructed drainage channels in order to maintain existing access roads. These would not be installations in anadromous waters, but are designed to accommodate fish passage because fish will eventually occupy the new channels. Water will be diverted into the new channels when construction is completed. **Purpose:** One of the project purposes is to rehabilitate the pavement of Runway 11-29 and increase flight safety by improving compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards. Runway 11-29 is most often used and is equipped for a precision instrument approach. For this reason, Yakutat serves an important role as an alternate airport when Juneau and other southeast airports are inaccessible due to weather. (Standards for clearing are less stringent for Runway 2-20 because it has higher minimum visibility and ceiling heights and is not equipped for precision instrument approaches.) A second project purpose is to raise the grade of a portion of Runway 11-29 in order to eliminate the current flooding hazard in that area during periods of high rain and high water. An additional need is the construction of two new taxiways to the aprons that will allow improved runway access for aircraft as well as rescue, fire fighting and maintenance vehicles.

**Mitigation:** The applicant has incorporated the following mitigation efforts into the proposed project to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment: approximately 6,270 lineal ft. of stream will be relocated; about 6,780 lineal ft. of drainage channel will be constructed and another 1,500 lineal ft. of existing stream will be reconstructed. In addition, ADOT&PF is funding the installation and two years of operation/maintenance for two stream gauges that will be placed in airport drainage channels per request of the resource agencies. ADOT&PF will also replace the existing four ft. diameter twin culverts at the Lost River Rd. with a single larger culvert in order to improve fish passage. Comments due: *February 27, 2003.*

**Juneau — Gastineau Channel 422**, (Reference Number P-1989-0772) Applicant: Franklin Dock Enterprises. **Location:** South Ferry Dock. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes the placement of 10 piling, two approximate 8' wide by 85' long gangways, ~16' wide by 16' long landing floats, one 20' wide by 120' long mooring float and two 16' wide by 140' long mooring floats. **Purpose:** To provide lightering and moorage of small cruise vessels, day boats and yachts within the downtown area of Juneau. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due: *March 7, 2003*

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 302**, (Reference Number U-1922-0022) Applicant: Tanya Kinnard. **Location:** Hansen Float on Water Street. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to modify an existing berthing facility to include a 75' X 12' concrete, pile supported float extension, a 3-pile 12' X 12' dolphin, and a 4-pile fender with a 20' wide X 27' high treated timber face and a stiff leg connection to an existing dolphin. proposed activity would modify an existing permit and the modifications issued as follows:  
2/28/23, 1-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302, (originally 5187.21) issued to Northland Dock Company, maintain an existing wharf at the intersection of Front & Dock Street.  
2/28/23, M-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302 (originally 5187.18) issued to Ketchikan Cold Storage, maintain an existing wharf at the intersection of Water and Front Street.  
3/23/28, N-19220022, Tongass Narrows 302 (originally 5187.42) issued to Ketchikan Cold Storage Company to construct and maintain an extension to an existing wharf.  
12/20/28, 0-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302 (originally 5187.74), issued to The Citizen's Light and Power Company to rebuild an existing wharf and to construct and maintain an extension thereto.  
8/9/76, P-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302 (originally 76-77), issued to The City of Ketchikan to remove an existing wharf and building to construct a new dock and approach.  
6/14/77, Q-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302 (originally 2-1977-0003) issued to the City of Ketchikan to retain and preserve an existing dock extension and fill, remove a dock and parking area and construct additional facilities consisting of two dock extensions, a bulkhead and fill.  
10/27/86, R-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302 (originally N-1977-0003) issued to the City of Ketchikan to: upgrade an existing dock facility, construct a new mooring dolphin, float and two gangways, improve the existing dock with a new corner fender, additional fender piles, new batter pile clusters, and new bent support structures.  
05/31/89, 1-1989-0067, Tongass Narrows 465, Construction of a pile supported parking deck and street access structure; including drilling sockets for steel piling, setting and driving steel piling, and installing steel and concrete super structures. The irregular shaped concrete deck will be 16" thick, supported by 51 steel piles, and approximately 32,800 square feet in area. The project will provide approximately 110 parking spaces in proximity to the city of Ketchikan Berth 2 parking deck. The project will also provide improvements for pedestrian and vehicle access to the existing berth and a scenic overlook for pedestrians.  
4/11/94, 8-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302, Add a pile-supported mooring dolphin and catwalk to an existing permitted dock.  
09/14/94, T-1922-0022, Tongass Narrows 302, City of Ketchikan, Add a 115' X 12' float 'to the end of an existing float. **Purpose:** Allow port to safely handle larger cruise ships and handle increased traffic from smaller support vessels.  
**Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *February 24, 2003.*

*(Continued on page 9)*

**Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 487**, (Reference Number O-1992-0500) Applicant: Dale Pihlman. **Location:** 4743 North Tongass Highway. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to modify an existing permit to allow installation of a 40' X 60' floating workshop. Shop float would be secured to existing pile-supported float with 3/4" chain and to an existing approximately 10 Ton submerged boulder by 3/4" chain and 5/8" cable. The applicant was issued a Department of the Army permit number 1-1992-0500, Tongass Narrows 487 on March 17, 1994, to: Drive 7 steel pilings, install approximately 605 linear feet of 12' wide floats and a float access ramp. Modification M-1992-0500, Tongass Narrows 487, was issued to Dale Pihlman on June 26, 1996, to: place approximately 1,170 cubic yards of fill material, consisting of shotrock with riprap facing and capped with a concrete surface, over approximately 0.06 acre of intertidal substrate. Modification N-1997-0500, Tongass Narrows 487, was issued on October 30, 2002, instead of 7 steel pilings and 605 linear feet of 12' wide floats and a float access ramp, the applicant is authorized 3 steel pilings, 148' of 12' wide floats and a float access ramp and 240' of log boomstick breakwater anchored by (3) 6,000 pound concrete block anchors.

**Purpose:** On site carpenter shop for boat building project.  
**Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *February 20, 2003*.

**Ketchikan— Ward Cove 35**, (Reference Number 1-2003-0002) Applicant: C & O Marine. **Location:** Ward Cove near milepost 5.5 on the North Tongass Highway. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to place a 3-log boom stiff leg with concrete

anchors and six shore ties. **Purpose:** Provide barge storage for company barges and customer owned barges. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *February 24, 2003*.

**Craig — Port St. Nicholas 31**, (Reference Number M-2001-1032) Applicant: Daryl Morris. **Location:** Mile 12 on the Point Saint Nicholas Road. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes a permit modification to construct a pile-supported dock. The dock would access a previously permitted float. The dock would be approximately 5-foot wide by 80-foot long and would connect to the float by way of a hinged 4-foot wide by 50-foot long ramp. **Purpose:** Provide access to a previous permitted floating dock for private boat storage. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *March 5, 2003*.

**Craig — Port St. Nicholas 36**, (Reference Number 1-2002-1310) Applicant: William and Jennifer Whicker Morris. **Location:** Lot #85, Point Saint Nicholas Subdivision. **Proposal:** The applicant proposes to install 12 pressure treated pilings, 8-10 feet deep. These pilings would support a 6-foot wide by 110-foot long walkway. The walkway would lead to a 50-foot by 6-foot floating galvanized steel ramp, which would provide access to a 16-foot by 40-foot floating dock. The dock would be supported by two galvanized piling and would be constructed from red cedar and polyfoam flotation. In addition, one breakwater boom stick, approximately 100 foot long, are proposed to be anchored seaward and west of the dock. **Purpose:** Provide access for a charter boat operation. **Mitigation:** None. Comments due by *February 17, 2003*.



## EAGLECHAT

*To share sightings and chat about all things bird-related with 60+ like-minded local members, log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat> or e-mail Nina Mollett at [ninam@alaska.net](mailto:ninam@alaska.net) to get signed up.*

**Date: February 16**

**Subject: weekend sightings**

A birder from Anchorage/Tennessee found a ring-necked duck (female) on Twin Lakes. He did some owling and heard two northern pygmy owls near the parking lot for the boy scout camp. Also there have been 500-1500 shorebirds at Eagle Beach. Last weekend there were black turnstones, rock sandpipers and dunlin. This weekend only rocks and dunlin. Also a male and female hooded merganser at Twin Lakes last weekend and a female this weekend.

**Date: February 17**

**Subject: Possible Virginia rail at Gustavus.**

Two local birders reported seeing a lone Virginia rail along the Salmon River late this afternoon. Their digipics didn't turn out, but they got excellent looks close up through a spotting scope, and had no doubt about it. This would be the first record for the species at Glacier Bay/Gustavus.

**Date: February 18**

**Subject: High tide and voles**

Eagles pluck voles from the water when the tide floods the wetlands. Apparently they swim and are easy to snatch from the rising tide. The airport maintenance crew reports that at certain high tide times there are so many voles on the runway that the workers must sweep the pavement with the giant rotating brooms! One of the reasons is to remove the food source that attracts ravens and eagles to easy pickings on the runway. Some air taxis note that voles run into their hangars on the high tides, too.



Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

**Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box  
52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529**

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### Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

**President:** Brenda Wright, 789-4656, [jnoel@gci.net](mailto:jnoel@gci.net)  
**Vice-President:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net)  
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**Programs:** Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net)  
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**Education:** Mary Lou King, 789-7540, [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)  
**Publicity:** Deborah Rudis, 789-4260, [akwildlife@gci.net](mailto:akwildlife@gci.net)  
**Conservation:** Matt Kirchhoff, 586-5816, [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net)  
**Field Trips:** Steve Zimmerman, 586-2597, [stevezimmerman@gci.net](mailto:stevezimmerman@gci.net)  
**Raven Editor:** Judy Shuler, 789-9544, [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)  
**Public Market  
Coordinator:** Kathleen Weltzin, 789-0288, [kweltzin@alaska.net](mailto:kweltzin@alaska.net)

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# The Raven

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



Volume 30, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2003

## September Almanac

### *Fall migration*

**Shorebirds & waterfowl pass through Southeast Alaska to wintering grounds, more leisurely and less concentrated than in spring.**

**Sandhill cranes travel the Pacific Flyway from breeding grounds in the Bristol Bay lowlands, Alaska Peninsula and Cook Inlet-Susitna Valley to their wintering grounds in the Central Valley of California**

### *A long winter's nap*

**Marmots begin hibernating**

### *Breeding season*



**Moose rut peaks in late September/early October in Chilkat and Stikine River valleys.**

### **Monthly Meeting**

Thursday, September 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

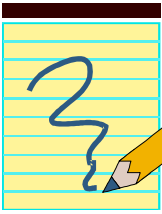
### **Berners Bay John Hudson**

**O**nly forty miles by road from Alaska's capital city, Berners Bay is Juneau's background wilderness playground. This easily accessed yet wild area is known for its spectacular beauty, solitude, and abundant wildlife populations including wolverine, moose, wolves, humpback whales, and more. John Hudson of Friends of Berners Bay will present images of the bay by Juneau's finest photographers. Learn about the bay's earliest inhabitants, the Auk Kwaan, the area's rich mining history, and the incredible wildlife feeding frenzy that occurs each spring during the hooligan spawning run. John will also discuss various development threats to the bay.

### **Annual meeting and election of officers**

**J**uneau Audubon Society holds its annual meeting to elect officers in conjunction with the public meeting on October 9. Our by-laws instruct the president to appoint a nominating committee of three members to nominate two or more members for each vacancy. Our officers serve a term of one year, so all officers need to be elected each year. Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are accepted for all positions.

Our present officers have agreed to serve another term. They are Brenda Wright, president; Chris Kent, vice-president; Liz Blecker, treasurer; Deanna MacPhail, secretary. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, would like to be on the ballot as an officer, or are willing to volunteer for any of our standing committees. Our standing committees include membership, program, field trip, education, conservation, and newsletter.



## A message from the board

### National Audubon Society regional director election results

We are pleased to announce the election of Steve Zimmerman, local Juneau Audubon Society member and past president, to the post of National Audubon Society Regional Director for the Alaska/Hawaii/Guam Region. Steve will represent our region's local conservation concerns on the National Audubon Society board.

Steve included the following in his candidate statement:

“With over three decades of professional involvement in scientific and regulatory issues in both Hawaii and Alaska, I can be a strong voice for focusing Audubon's resources on the issues that are most important to our 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> states. These appear to be challenging times for conservation causes across the country. I have the time, dedication, and zeal to try to help counteract the rising tide of anti-environmentalism. Audubon, with its emphasis on science and education, is perhaps the best group to lead that effort and I look forward to energizing the national board in confronting attempts to weaken protection for ecosystems, particularly those in Hawaii and Alaska.”

We look forward to Steve's representation and his reports back to us on the events occurring at a national level. Congratulations and Good Luck Steve!

### Raven goes (even more) electronic



Information previously published in the monthly newsletter, such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits of particular significance, recent bird sightings and results of bird counts, will now be posted on our website, <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>. A shorter version of The Raven, with the monthly meeting program, upcoming chapter events, important environmental issues, special features, and messages from the board, will continue to be sent to all Juneau Audubon members either by e-mail if you have requested that version, or by regular mail.

This change is due in part to shrinking financial support from National Audubon Society. In the past Juneau Audubon Society has received a rebate from National Audubon Society dues for each member to cover chapter expenses. That money has been used to cover printing and postage for The Raven, which is our single largest annual expense. Direct financial support to chapters has already been cut 50% and will be gone entirely by 2005.

To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org).

### October Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the October Raven by September 19 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)



## THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

*Wendell Berry*

## Migration documentary garners wide praise

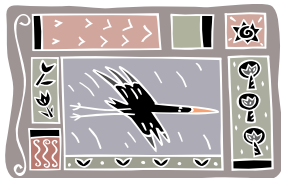
The stellar reviews of “Winged Migration,” a new documentary film that explores the mystery and spectacle of bird flight, have not been limited to avid birders.

The film offers a bird’s eye view of epic migrations throughout the world through cameras mounted on the birds themselves and ultra-light aircraft flying along with the birds. Filmmaker Jacques Perrin used five field crews totaling more than 450 people. Produced by Sony Pictures Classics, it has been nominated for an academy award.

Audubon Nebraska’s Sanctuary Director Paul Tebbel and his staff at the Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary assisted filmmakers with unparalleled views of Sandhills, one of the film’s featured species.

For more information on the film see <http://www.sonyclassics.com/wingedmigration/home.html>

Juneau Audubon Society begins our active fall/winter season this month. Our role in speaking on behalf of a healthier environment for all living things is more crucial than ever. You can be a part of this vital effort by taking an active part in your chapter. Contact any of the officers on page 4 to learn more.



**My Favorite Bird** returns next month.

**Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell**

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

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<b>Vice-President:</b>	Chris Kent, 463-3494, <a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, <a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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<b>Raven Editor:</b>	Judy Shuler, 789-9544, <a href="mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org">raven@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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# The Raven

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



Volume 30, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2003

## October Almanac

Black bear begin to enter dens in late October. **But many linger longer; don't re-hang feeders until December.**

**Trumpeter & Tundra Swan migrate through Southeast Alaska. Some winter in Petersburg, Yakutat and Cordova.**

**Silver salmon spawn in Steep Creek near the Mendenhall Glacier, piquing the interest of bald eagles and bear.**

**Bald eagles begin to gather in the Chilkat Valley north of Haines, first by the hundreds, then the thousands. Numbers peak in early to mid-November.**



### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

### Public cabins by kayak Steve Kocsis



**J**uneau area public cabins include several that can be reached by kayak. This summer Steve Kocsis and his wife traveled to four of them in a double kayak: Blue Mussel, West Turner, St. James and Berners Bay cabins. All are in areas rich in wildlife and scenery. He will cover the planning, photos and experiences of these local journeys. Steve will also share his favorite local kayaking spots and future cabin destinations.

As fall rains return, it's a perfect time to plan next summer's outings.

### Juneau checklist revised

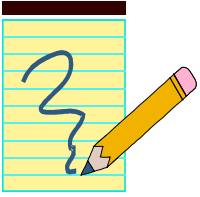


**T**he Juneau Bird Checklist has been revised for the first time in five years, thanks to the efforts of Rich Gordon, Steve Zimmerman, Gus van Vliet, Paul Suchanek, and Mark Schwan. They made numerous updates--many new species were added and seasonal status for many of the birds was revised. Copies will be available at monthly meetings and Juneau Public Market (see page 2). You can also print it off our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

### Annual meeting and election of officers

**J**uneau Audubon Society will elect officers at its October membership meeting in conjunction with its annual meeting, as prescribed by chapter by-laws. Our officers serve a term of one year.

Our current officers have agreed to serve another term. They are Brenda Wright, president; Chris Kent, vice-president; Liz Blecker, treasurer; and Deanna MacPhail, secretary. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted for all positions. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as an officer, or are willing to volunteer for any of our standing committees. Standing committees include membership, program, field trip, education, conservation, and newsletter.



# From National Audubon Society

## 2020 Vision - creating a culture of conservation

*“We envision a world where humankind accepts the obligations of being part of nature, especially the obligation of stewardship. We seek to shape a culture in which the violation of nature is socially, politically, and morally unacceptable. In short, we seek a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.”* Preamble, Audubon Strategic Plan, June 18, 1995

2020 Vision would implement two of the 10 major components of the 1995 Strategic Plan, a network of Audubon Centers and the use of education to achieve a culture of conservation.

Its primary objective is to broaden, diversify, and increase the number of people who care about the protection of birds, other wildlife, and habitat. Its goals include the establishment of one thousand Audubon Centers by the year 2020, with each center providing at least one in four children in its community with a direct experience in nature each year. In the process of establishing these Centers, thousands of acres of land will be protected and restored, and hundreds of thousands of new people will join Audubon and the conservation movement.

Audubon has a long history of educating people about the environment. The 2020 Vision builds on this tradition, with a network of Audubon centers and chapters and a coordinated public policy, science, and education agenda in every state. Learn more about this ambitious plan at <http://www.audubon.org/local/>.

**It's not too soon to plan for Juneau Public Market**

Juneau Public Market is one of Juneau's major community-wide events. It attracts a large and varied audience that cuts across the spectrum of the community. For many years our chapter has rented and staffed a booth to sell the ever-popular home-made jams and jellies, books, ornaments and other nature-related items. The funds we raise help support the chapter's education and conservation activities. Participation in Public Market also affords us an opportunity to be a visible part of our community.

Public Market opens the day after Thanksgiving in Centennial Hall and continues throughout the weekend. You can help by donating an hour or two of your time to staff the booth (a great way to see your friends!), or by making or donating things to sell. Please contact Kathy Weltzin at 789-0288 and let her know how you can help. If you have empty one-half pint canning jars you can recycle for the booth, please call Mary Lou King at 789-7540 to arrange for a drop-off or a pick-up. She would also welcome anyone who would like to come to her house to help make jelly.

Last year we also provided a table where children could make their own craft items from pine cones, rocks, moss and other gleanings we provided. Thanks to a generous donation of space from Juneau Public Market, we plan to offer this popular activity again. Call Mary Lou at 789-7540 to help.

### November Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the November Raven by October 23 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)



To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org). **NOTE:** if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.



## My favorite bird



### Sandhill Crane

Laurie Craig, Juneau

*From an interview with Marge Hermans*

*Sandhill crane filled September skies over the Mt. Roberts tram in downtown Juneau last year. Photos by Bob Armstrong.*



**M**y favorite bird has to be the Sandhill Crane, because of my associations with it. About once a year I see or hear Sandhill Cranes here in Southeast. They remind me of wonderful times living in the Interior in the mining community of Kantishna near Mt. McKinley. In late August the tundra there is a blaze of red and yellow; you can feel the cold, crisp air and a little bit of frost; and the cranes move by the hundreds and thousands on the McKinley River Bar. The McKinley River is between Wonder Lake and Mt. McKinley, and is a very braided river. The cranes rise above it in huge kettles—thousands of birds, rising higher and higher.

I love watching them fly. Cranes are very distinctive. They're big. They fly with their long necks extended (not tucked in like herons) and their long feet behind them. When they land, their great wings are spread out, their legs are out, and their giant feet are braced to land.

Their calls are a far-off, alluring sound like the distant train whistles I remember hearing when I was growing up. Those were times when I had to stay put. The trains were leaving, and I'd wonder where they were going and what they'd learn that I wouldn't get to learn because I couldn't go. With the cranes I got to go, because it was autumn, and it was the time of year for us to move on too, because the park road leading to our home closed for the winter.

I've seen cranes at Creamer's Field in Fairbanks, where there is a feeding program in an attempt to keep migrating birds away from the airport. Here in Southeast, Gustavus has flocks of them in September on the flats. And in June 1960 I saw some cranes flying northward in the late evening. I could hear their distinctive call. They circled and landed on the flats by the Mendenhall Peninsula.

In June 2001 I watched two groups of cranes on the wetlands for 12 days. They stopped near the river where the Dike Trail turns. They spent all their time feeding in that one particular area. When people would walk out on the flats, they'd just move away. But the eagles didn't like them, and when an eagle would fly by and scream, the cranes would scream, and they'd all fly away; but before long they'd be back, doing what they had been doing before. A few years ago I saw one in the meadow by Sunny Point. They're so tall, if they're there you'll see them. Some seem to drop out of the flock for a few days, then they must find their way back somehow to their destination and their family.

I'm not a very experienced birder. I like big birds like cranes that I can figure out, and maybe that's how many birders start out, being interested in birds they can recognize. So I love cranes, even though I don't see them very often. For me they signal the end of summer, the beginning of winter—the excitement of a change in the seasons. They remind me of a time of year, a time of life, and an incredibly beautiful place.

*If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net) to set up an interview.*



Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

## Audubon Society Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

**Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529**

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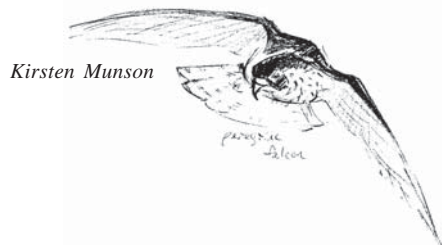
If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to: Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership. **NOTE: if you wish to join National Audubon Society, please send your check with the membership application to Boulder, CO.**

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Volume 30, Number 3**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**November 2003**

**Monthly Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Common Room

## **Bird Connections: Stories of migratory birds in Southeast Alaska** Gwen Baluss

Gwen is a wildlife biologist with the Forest Service and specializes in bird surveys on the Juneau Ranger District.

~~~~~  
**Juneau Public Market** has become a holiday tradition for shopping and seeing friends. And one of the first stops for many shoppers is the Juneau Audubon Society booth for the ever popular home-made jams and jellies. The booth also stocks books, ornaments and other nature related items. This year there will be some brand-new items as well. The funds we raise help support the chapter's education and conservation activities. By participating in Public Market we also become a visible and active part of our community.

Public Market opens the day after Thanksgiving in Centennial Hall and continues throughout the weekend. You can help by donating an hour or two of your time to staff the booth (a great way to see your friends!). And it's not too late to make or donate things to sell. Please contact Kathy Weltzin at 789-0288 and let her know how you can participate.

- ❖ If you have empty half pint canning jars you can recycle, or we would also like any blank, card sized envelopes that we could use for the pressed flower note cards to sell in the booth, please call Mary Lou at 789-7540.
- ❖ Sewers, you can help with a new product at the Audubon booth in Juneau Public Market this year. Whether you can provide simple sewing or want to get a little more creative, please call Kathy at 789-0288.

**Thanks** to Peter Metcalfe, Manager of Centennial Hall for the November Public Market, for the very generous gift of the use of half of the Miller Room, we will again this year have craft ideas for kids. Using natural materials, there will be wreath making, rock painting, and creative ideas with cones. Bring your kids and encourage your friends and neighbor's to bring their kids and join in the craft making fun. A one dollar donation for craft materials will be appreciated.

To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org). NOTE: if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.

## Notes from the Board:

To everyone who came to the October meeting, I must extend my sincere apology. Due to a misunderstanding, Juneau Audubon did not have a space scheduled. I am sorry for everyone who attempted to attend the meeting. Since we were not able to meet, we will hold our Annual Meeting and election of officers at our November meeting in the common room at DZ middle school.

Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers in conjunction with the public meeting in November. Our by-laws instruct the president to appoint a nominating committee of three members to nominate two or more members for each vacancy. Our officers serve a term of one year, so all officers need to be elected each year. Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are accepted for all positions.

Our present officers have agreed to serve another term. Our present officers are Brenda Wright, president; Chris Kent, vice-president; Liz Blecker, treasurer; Deanna MacPhail, secretary. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, would like to be on the ballot as an officer, or are willing to volunteer for any of our standing committees. Our standing committees include membership, program, field trip, education, conservation, and newsletter.

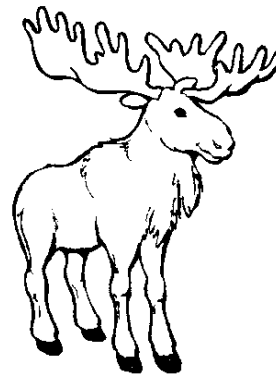
Brenda Wright, president Juneau Audubon Society Chapter

## November Almanac

Moose begin to shed their antlers in November and continue through December.

November is breeding month for porcupines.

The mountain goats mating season peaks in late November and early December. The only time the male is dominant over the female is during the peak of the mating season.



### November Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the December Raven by November 21 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)

For more news about our local chapter check our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

The web site for National Audubon Society has a wealth of information at <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

# My favorite bird

## My Favorite Bird - Storm-petrels - Deb Rudis, Juneau

### *From an interview with Marge Hermans*

My favorite bird is storm-petrels. They are one of the most common marine birds in Southeast Alaska, but they're mainly pelagic, so unless you're offshore on the water, you don't see them.

Only two species of storm-petrels are found in the North Pacific--fork-tailed and Leach's. One of the best places to see them is off St. Lazaria Island, part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge about 15 miles from Sitka.

Storm-petrels are small birds. Their bodies are about 7 inches long, and their wingspan is about 14 inches. I've rarely seen them during the day, but they have a beautiful pearly gray underside. They're a very handsome little bird.

Storm-petrels nest on St. Lazaria in burrows that they dig themselves using their feet, which are webbed like a duck's, and their bill, which has a hook on it. They're also nocturnal. At night they fly offshore, departing and returning after dark and calling constantly, bringing food for their chicks. (Each pair has only one chick.)

Storm-petrels have a very distinctive feeding behavior. They hover and dip for food, pattering on the water when they're feeding. They have a very highly developed sense of smell, and are able to find food on the water's surface. They often feed where there's waste material on the water, like fish oil, or small fish and zooplankton that come up to the surface at night: then they bring the food back to the chick and regurgitate it.

Studies involving contaminant analysis of eggs have shown these birds pick up contaminants more than inland feeders. There are not huge concentrations, but it's interesting that things like pesticides and organic chemicals are there. Perhaps they're carried in particulate matter in the air, and picked up by the zooplankton the birds feed on. Even though there is data going back to the 1970s, the values have not decreased since then.

Population estimates for both species of storm-petrels on St. Lazaria are 270,000. If you walk on the island, there are burrows everywhere, so there's hardly a place you can put your foot. *[Ed. note: Visitors are discouraged from going ashore since this is an ongoing research area, and foot traffic could cause burrows to collapse.]* The burrows are very long. Sometimes when you put your hand in them you can't stretch your arm to the back. They also twist and turn a lot--probably to protect against predators. It's amazing to think how many centuries these birds have nested there. You can see that from the thick accumulation of organic material on the islands.

I did some field work on St. Lazaria one time, and my co-worker and I camped in a tent. About 11 p.m. (This was in June) the storm-petrels suddenly started flying. Seeing them is like watching thousands of bats flying around: they have a very stiff wing flap pattern. We could hear them calling in these funny-pitched, little laughing squeaky voices, and suddenly they were all banging into the walls of the tent. I suppose they weren't used to having this strange object around within their flight pattern.

The chicks are little gray fluff balls, usually fat because they are well-fed. They usually fledge by late September and are able to fly out to sea.

*If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net) to set up an interview.*

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive the Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**  
**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:**  
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**Membership Data Center**  
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**Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

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 \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.  
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**Volume 30, Number 4**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**December 2003**

**Monthly Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, December 11 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

**“Chasing chucaos in Chiloe’, Chile”**  
**Mary Willson**

*Mary is an active ornithologist and ecologist who splits her research between SE Alaska and Chile.*

Part tourist fare, part natural history, part conservation biology, this talk features the south-temperate rainforest of Isla Grande de Chiloe’, in south-central Chile, and Darwin’s “odd little bird”, one of the tapaculos endemic to Latin America. Based at the biological station of Senda Darwin, Mary Willson (a migratory “bird”) will talk about her home away from home and what she and her research team have learned about protecting endangered forest birds on Chiloe’. The boot-sucking mud and rain there would be familiar to Southeasters, but the plants are Gondwanan (with relatives across the southern hemisphere) while the birds are Latino (except for shorebirds from breeding grounds in North America)- an engaging mix of features. And the chucao is one of the cutest birds in the world- ya gotta love ‘em!

## **Audubon’s 104th Annual Christmas Bird Count**

The **Juneau** CBC will be held this year on Sunday, December 14, the first day in this year’s count period. This is perhaps the first time our local count has been on a Sunday, so take note. As usual, volunteers should meet at either of the two McDonalds Restaurants no later than 8 a.m. on count day, with appropriate attire and binoculars. People interested in counting in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown restaurant; birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the valley restaurant. Veteran leaders will direct the day’s effort in the count area. Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. Even if you are unable to commit the entire day to the count, you are encouraged to turn out for a few hours. Certainly the more eyes is always better, and novice birders always have the chance of pointing the more experienced birders toward something unusual that otherwise would have been missed. People who have feeders at home are encouraged to keep count there and turn in their numbers at the end of the day. There will be a potluck in the evening to share in the events of the day and to conduct the tally of birds and species seen. The potluck will again be at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam; information regarding the potluck will be available on count day. Previous count data are now available on the Audubon website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>. For information on this year’s count, contact either Mark Schwan at 789-9841 or Gus van Vliet at 789-5624.

**Gustavus/Glacier Bay:** Sunday, December 14, contact Bruce Page 697-2262 for the time and the place to meet. Bruce says they had a record high bird count last year however the conditions were more favorable than it looks like they might be this year.

**Craig:** Saturday, December 20, contact Marla Dillman 826-1617 for the time, place to meet and which area of the circle to look for birds. This year the Boy Scout Troop has volunteered to help with the count. Marla reports that the Trumpeter Swans are back in the Big Salt Estuary. There have been 16 adults and 4 juveniles around for several days.

(Continued)

**Ketchikan:** Saturday, December 20. There will be a short program related to this event at the Discovery Center at 7pm on Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>. This program will talk about the count, local birds, and have registration for the various coverage areas. Interested parties can contact Cathy Tighe at 228-4134 for more information or to register early.

**Haines:** The count will be coordinated by Tim Shields and Dan Egolf, call 766-2876 or come by the Alaska Back Country Outfitter on Main Street for details on when and where the count will take place.

**Sitka:** Saturday, December 14, contact Alice Johnstone 747-3931 for details.

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## Notes from the Board

Juneau Audubon Society Board Meeting Notes

Brenda Wright, President

The Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) Board met in October to discuss current projects and work on our fiscal budget for 2003 and 2004.

JAS has three major sources of income. We receive money from the National Audubon Society for new members, have fund raising events (specifically: The Public Market booth in November and the Berner's Bay cruise in spring), and grants and contracts. In the 2002, we applied for grants from the Alaska Conservation Fund to support our advocacy on issues associated with the Environmental Impact Statement and Wildlife Management plan for the Juneau airport and issues with pesticide management on the proposed North Douglas golf course.

Our major expenses in each fiscal year are administration, primarily the newsletter, and to accomplish our goals for education and advocacy. We have a yearly net budget of around \$3000. The JAS board agreed to a 50-50 split for funding between education and advocacy for this year. We will support education by buying environmental education supplies for the elementary and middle school libraries in Juneau, present an award at the high school science fair, provide funding for a designing a display at the Glacier Visitor Center bus waiting area, and submit a grant for watchable wildlife/nongame animals for a project on northern dippers. Our advocacy dollars are not yet allocated, but several projects may be arising in the near future including effects of our incinerator, mining in Berner's Bay, urban bears, wetland fill, a road out of Juneau and others. If you have suggestions or would like to help with any of these projects please contact any of the JAS board members.

## Juneau Audubon Joins Community Tide Gauge Project

**On October 30 the Juneau Audubon Society joined the Community Tide Gauge project on Merchant's Wharf downtown. Deanna MacPhail and Brenda Wright painted our number (22) and a lovely silhouette of the raven logo on the sidewalk.**

### **January Raven Deadline**

*Please submit articles for the January Raven by November 21 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)*

*For more news about our local chapter check our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>*

*The web site for National Audubon Society has a wealth of information at <http://www.audubon.org/>.*

*Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell*

# My favorite bird

**Dark-eyed Juncos – Marlys Tedin, Sitka**

from an interview with Marge Hermans

I like all birds, but I really like the juncos because they hang around most of the year. They're easy to identify, and it's really fun to watch their antics.

When they first come to the feeder in the fall, they want plenty of space between one another, but later on in the winter, they're not so fussy about running someone else off. They might get as close as 3 inches while they're feeding. In the spring they are more aggressive again, and they'll chase one another off, but when the weather is cold they seem to be more tolerant.

I think you get them coming back year after year. They come down off the mountains and come looking in the same place—kind of like, “Bring the family. Here's lunch!”

It's always interesting to see how many slate-backed juncos come to our feeders as opposed to Oregons. It seems as though about one out of eight or nine will be slate-backed.

The Oregon juncos have a black mantle, and the males are darker. The slate-backed are more gray all over, with no definite mantle on their heads. I think they nest farther north, and some seem to migrate vertically, moving up the mountain in spring and summer.

We've had some come that had more white feathers. Some even look like a different bird.

We enjoy watching juncos in our back yard. Besides the usual feeders, I make feeders out of gallon milk jugs. I make a good-sized hole in the side then use a heated nail to make holes in the corners.

It seems as though juncos will eat most anything. We put out the standard bird seed mix, including sunflower seeds and millet, though they don't seem to like the bigger red millet, or milo, until later in the year. They'll eat peanut butter, too, even without suet and seed mixed in. It doesn't seem to bother them. You can see them cleaning their bill on a branch afterward.

Juncos will also feed on alder cones. They don't hang upside down on the branch like siskins. They perch on a branch and walk, sometimes clear out to the end, to a cluster of cones. Then they'll reach out and take the seeds. But most of the time you'll see them feeding down low or on the ground. It's really fun to watch them. The more you watch the more things you see.

*(Ed's note: For an interesting study on what kinds of seed different kinds of birds come to at feeders., see an article in the 1994 Birdscope from Cornell University – available at <http://birds.cornell.edu/publications/birdscope/Autumn1994/spt94084.htm> )*

***If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net) to set up an interview.***

To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org). NOTE: if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.



Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive the Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:**

**National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
PO Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

       \$20 (1-year introductory rate)        \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)        \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

       My check for \$        is enclosed        Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

       \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
or paper copy \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Raven

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



<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Volume 30, Number 5**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**January 2004**

## **Monthly Membership Meeting**

Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

## **Millipedes to Murrelets— new opportunities for research in Southeast Alaska**

**Matt Kirchhoff**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has received funding from Congress to expand survey, monitoring, and research activities to include the world of nongame—any species that is not hunted, trapped, or fished. Matt Kirchhoff, nongame biologist for Southeast Alaska, will show slides describing some of the project ideas the Department has so far received from agencies, universities, and nonprofit organizations like Juneau Audubon. Ideas have been intriguing, from proposed surveys of slugs, earthworms, and dragonflies, to research on the biology of birds and bats. Your response to the proposed project ideas, as well as any new ideas, will be welcomed.

## **2003 Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results**

**Mark Schwan**

Juneau's Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday, December 14. Twenty-four volunteers enjoyed a brisk but otherwise fine day for birding. Sixty-three species and just over 9,000 birds were seen during the day. The day's list was marked by rather low numbers of some of our more common waterfowl, and overall diversity of species was down compared to many years. This was likely due to the early arrival of winter this year, but also our birding party sizes were small and coverage in some areas was below optimum. I heard from several people that holding the count on Sunday precluded them from participating. Finally, the count was conducted when hunting season was still in progress, which likely displaced birds from the refuge wetlands. These are all things to consider for next year. On the other hand, because of Alan and Ann Doty's offer to take a group on their boat to outer Auke Bay, an area was covered that is almost always missed. Seven species of birds were seen that would have otherwise gone uncounted.

## **Worth looking forward to:**

### **Great Backyard Birdcount**

**Feb. 13-16**

<http://www.birdsource.org>

### **Berners Bay Cruises**

**April 17**

**May 1**

*See future Ravens for details.*

The 23 common species seen on all previous 30 counts were seen again; these include mostly waterfowl that over-winter here, along with our familiar resident species. New high counts were obtained for only one species: Surfbird. The best bird of the day was a lingering Yellow-rumped Warbler, found by Steve Zimmerman; this species has only been recorded on one previous local count day, and one other time as a Count Week (CW) bird. A Black-capped Chickadee was seen two days before the count day and therefore can be listed as a CW species, as can Bonaparte's Gull, as Larry Edfelt saw 10 on the last day new species could be added. There were six other species seen during the remaining days of the Count Week but which were missed on Count day. See full count at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

The potluck after the day's birding activities was great; thanks to everyone for their generous contributions. Also, thanks to Gus van Vliet for conducting the evening tally, collecting the participant fees, and reviewing a draft of the results, and thanks to all those who participated on the count; it was a fine day.

***For CBC results from other communities, see future issues of the Raven.***

## **Perspective from the National Board**

**Amy Skilbred**

As I leave the National Audubon board, I reflect on six years of exciting and interesting times and tremendous change at Audubon. Audubon has streamlined and is focused on implementing its strategic plan. Audubon has gone from regional offices, TV programs and books (all of which were superb, but kept National Audubon removed from its members) to state offices in 26 states and a thriving centers program that is educating our children. Audubon is driven by a positive vision for our future. Its citizen science program engages thousands, and grassroots activists are growing in numbers and influence.

As Audubon shifted resources toward opening state offices and centers, the focus was intense, as it needed to be to bring our ambitious strategic plan to fruition. As we look forward to more state offices and centers across the country, this focus continues to engage Audubon resources. During this transition, several national board members continued to promote public policy, chapters, and science to senior staff and other board members. Audubon has not forgotten them. In the past two years, Audubon's focus on citizen science, Important Bird Areas, grassroots activists, and the critical roles played by chapters has increased and become more defined.

The board is now giving its attention to the relationship between chapters and the national organization through an *Ad Hoc* Chapter Committee. The committee's objective is to find ways to better align the work of Audubon chapters, state offices and national programs around shared conservation goals. Over the past several months the committee has engaged Audubon chapters in a dialogue about areas of concern to chapters so that Audubon and our conservation mission is strengthened. The committee has contacted chapters through letters, meetings, the internet, and telephone and welcomes additional ideas and concerns. Some of the priority issues for chapters that have come to light from these exchanges are: organizational communications, financial relationships between chapters and national, and how chapters fit with state offices and new local Audubon centers. The work of this committee will extend into 2004 and its recommendations incorporated in the 2005 Audubon budget process.

Audubon is attempting to develop a new model for national and state organizations working with chapters, and we are looking for your help, guidance and input. I urge you to assist by thinking about the issues raised and communicating your thoughts to Lynn Tennefloss and the committee at [ltennefloss@audubon.org](mailto:ltennefloss@audubon.org). The work of this committee can only be as good as the input from all chapters.

September was my last National Audubon board meeting. Alaska will be capably represented at future board meetings by Steve Zimmerman, who is from Juneau. Steve was recently elected by the chapters in this region and will begin his duties at the January board meeting.

## **From the Conservation Chair**

**Sari Saunders**

Below are sites to check for information on a few issues of recent concern. Questions, comments or information to contribute? Contact Sari Saunders at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org).

### **Switzer Creek Wetlands (behind Kmart building)**

Still no confirmed movement (after contact with the Corps) on consideration of permits for development of this land or nearby properties, though rumors abound. Good sites to check for information on this or development of other wetlands include:

- Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) public notice site (N.B. last updated 06/27/03): <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/dgc/PublicNotices/PNsearch.html>
- For general info, try the DNR's ACMP site at <http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/>
- Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices (also good for general information on permitting requirements when development will involve wetlands or navigable waters) <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/default.htm>

### **Mendenhall River Wetlands (site of proposed new high school)**

See permit application materials on Army Corps of Engineers site (above); applicant is CBJ. Comments can be submitted to the Corps until Dec. 23 '03

## **Juneau Second Crossing**

Check for updates on development of options for a second bridge over Gastineau Channel at <http://secondcrossing.alaska.gov> You can also email Sam Kito, professional engineer and Transportation and Development Manager for CBJ, at [sam\\_kito@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:sam_kito@ci.juneau.ak.us) (ph. 586-0753).

## **Juneau Access Initiative**

Refer to the website of the Alaska Department of Transportation. Here you can look at the Draft EIS (completed 1997) and its reevaluation (Jan. '03). Many of you have received the recent newsletter on alternatives, studies, and schedules. Supplemental DEIS (deemed needed after the reevaluation of the original EIS) is expected in June '04.

[http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/juneau\\_access/index.htm](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/juneau_access/index.htm)

## **Greens Creek Tailings Disposal**

You can read the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) at <http://www.greenscreekeis.com/>. The Forest Supervisor signed off on Alternative C, which allows expansion of the tailings facility and requires carbon additions to the tailings for the purpose of long-term chemical stability and maintenance of water quality.

# My favorite bird

## **Greater Yellowlegs**

**Steve Zimmerman, Juneau**

*From an interview with Marge Hermans*

I'm not sure I have a favorite bird, but the Greater Yellowlegs is one bird that I always look for because to me it signifies the arrival of spring. We live on the shores of Gastineau Channel, and I've tracked Greater Yellowlegs there for about a dozen years. The earliest I've seen them arrive is April 3; the latest is April 18.

I often hear them when the tide is out on the wetlands. Their voice is a strong, rapid *tew-tew-tew*. It's one of the more common sounds on the wetlands, and stands out above the sounds of other birds.

Greater Yellowlegs eat primarily fish, and you'll often see them feeding along the beach or in wetland ponds. They have long legs, and they can wade out into fairly deep water. Often when they're feeding they'll turn their heads back and forth, perhaps as a way of finding food. They can run fast enough to catch a fish, and sometimes you'll see them do that, too.

It's not difficult to tell Greater Yellowlegs from other shore birds. Their bright yellow legs can be seen in almost any light. What's more challenging is to tell Greater Yellowlegs from Lesser. It's hard to see the difference in size if they're not standing side by side, but the Greater Yellowlegs has a longer, stronger bill about one and a half times its head width. The bill is also slightly upturned, and the bird has more barring on its sides. The Lesser Yellowlegs has a thinner, pointy, pin-like bill about the same length as width of its head.

Greater Yellowlegs vigorously defend their nesting area, which is often in a muskeg. They'll often stand in the top of a tree and give their loud, strident *tew-tew-tew* call over and over and over again. I've heard that along the road up to Eaglecrest. I would try not to disturb them, but I've read if you get close to their eggs they will dive-bomb you.

In winter Greater Yellowlegs migrate south, traveling over a fairly broad area, typically to California or parts of South America. We don't usually see them much after October, but last winter one did overwinter here. It was seen between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of January, and there were other reports in February and March—a very rare sighting for our region. Look for yellowlegs feeding in the float plane ponds along the airport Dike Trail, or in sloughs around the gazebo

*If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net) to set up an interview.*

To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org)

Each membership supports Audubon's efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become a vital part of our chapter and receive Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

### National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

To support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to

Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (You will receive 9 months of The Raven newsletter).

I prefer : \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Raven \_\_\_\_\_ paper Raven A51  
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**Vice-President:** Chris Kent, 463-3494, [vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
**Secretary:** Deanna MacPhail, 789-0651, [secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
**Treasurer:** Liz Blecker, 586-4210, [treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
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# The Raven

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Volume 30, Number 6**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**February 2004**

**Monthly Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

## Bicycle Touring Around the North Atlantic

For the past 10 years, Jim Johnson, Mike Blackwell, and some others have been bicycling to the End of the Road. In this slide show, they describe their excursions in Labrador, Newfoundland, Iceland, Scotland, Finland, and Northern Norway.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

**Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology invite everyone to join the seventh annual Great Backyard Bird count.** From February 13-16, 2004, bird enthusiasts are invited to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a project developed and managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. government, and with participation from Bird Studies Canada for the first time.

Instructions for participating can be found at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) <http://www.birdsource.org>. Whether you spend a few minutes or several hours counting birds, GBBC participants will help scientists determine the status of birds continent wide. The Great Backyard Bird Count is a terrific way for individuals, families, schools, and community groups to contribute to a better understanding of birds. At the same time, the project will teach participants how to turn their backyards into real, useful habitat for birds.

Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800/ 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call 607/254-2473), 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or Audubon at [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org) <<mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org>> or 215/355-9588, Ext 16, Audubon Science Office, 545 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974.

**The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (in cooperation with the Juneau Libraries)** is presenting free evening workshops (plus a tracking session in partnership with Discovery Southeast):

March 3 - Interpreting Animal Tracks

March 10 - Landscaping for Wildlife

March 24 - Citizen Science (will feature eBird, Christmas bird counts, etc.)

March 31 - Alaska's Wildlife Watch - an introduction to viewing

April 7 - Birding for Beginners

**For more information contact Karla Hart, Watchable Wildlife Program Coordinator, 465-5157.**

**10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Alaska Bird Conference March 16-18 in Anchorage:** an excellent scientific program with workshops that include Shorebird and Loon & Grebe working groups, an "All-Bird, All-Habitat" workshop, Education and Outreach session, and Kittlitz's Murrelet workshop. Contact Stan Senner at [ssenner@audubon.org](mailto:ssenner@audubon.org) for information.

## Notes from the Board

February 2004 Juneau Audubon Society Board Meeting Notes

Brenda Wright, President

We are happy to announce, thanks to help from Jamie Womble- Audubon volunteer and sea lion researcher- we are supporting an educational series of lectures on Berner's Bay wildlife and birds this spring. We hope to have a series of lectures on this ecological treasure in our "backyard". The lectures will incorporate topics on predator aggregations in Berner's Bay as the eulachon congregate to go up river to spawn, information on eulachon biology, sea lions and other sea mammal concentrations in Berner's Bay, and importance of eulachon to natives. We hope you will be able to join us for this special series of lectures at UAS and our April public meeting. We are planning 2 cruises in April and 2 in May to enjoy the wildlife spectacle in Berner's Bay.

Please join us at our next public meeting.

## From the Conservation Committee

The conservation committee seeks to inform members of and involve them in conservation and management issues within the Region and their local community. Below are some issues that have recently grabbed the attention of members of JAS. If you see an issue that interests you, please consider attending a meeting, following a topic, participating in advocacy activities, or just providing information to your fellow JAS members. Questions, comments or information to contribute? Contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org).

**1. Mendenhall Refuge Citizens Advisory Group (MRCAG) is currently seeking members.** Here is a great opportunity to be involved in the management of this valuable resource and land base. The purpose of the group is to advise, from the publics' perspectives, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) on the management of the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge. The group focuses on the protection of habitat, primarily for birds and anadromous fish, and recreational opportunities provided by the wetlands. Ongoing issues include: airport expansion, possible second crossing, pollution run-off into the wetlands, and harassment of wildlife by dogs (see below too). The **public is encouraged to attend** meetings and present any issue regarding the wetlands about which they are concerned. Next meeting will be Fe 23 2004, 7-9 p.m., Mendenhall Mall library. **To become an official member**, one attends a meeting, asks to join, and fills out an application. Current members then vote on acceptance of the application.

**2. Dogs** – If you have been reading the Empire lately, you'll know that regulation of dog recreation in our area is a hot topic of concern for all users (dog people and non dog-people alike) of our trails and recreation areas. CBJ Parks and Recreation has a Dog Task Force with three subcommittees (wildlife, education, and parks/off leash) examining facets of this issue. You can see minutes of their meetings, meeting schedules, etc. online at: <http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/dfp.php>, and comments can be sent to [Kim\\_Kiefer@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:Kim_Kiefer@ci.juneau.ak.us).

**3. Waterfront development downtown** – There is a public notice, on the Corps of engineers website (<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/default.htm>, application [2-2003-1562.pdf](#) by Aniakchak, Inc.) for a permit application to put in fill for an access ramp and install 48 galvanized steel piles on the waterfront just south of the bridge, on Juneau side. You can see an existing berm there, near the ADFG buildings (look to your right as you cross the bridge from Douglas). The application is associated with a planned residential condo development.

JAS is likely to submit comment on this development (deadline is Feb. 5 2004). Concerns raised to date include: (1) impacts on fish habitat (2) bird use of this tidal area (3) future erosion of the infrastructure, which might require more fill and maintenance (3) oil and fuel runoff from the parking area (4) aesthetic quality of the downtown waterfront (5) apparent disregard for careful planning or judicious use of coastal development areas. Note that the latter 2 issues do fall within the mission and objectives of the Alaska Coastal Management Plan (see Sec. 46.40.020. Objectives of the plan at <http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/Clawhome/statutes/46.40.doc>). Although the project is already flagged to be examined for effects on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), we have no specific information on bird use to provide in our commentary. **We need your input** – do you go birding downtown and have observations or counts from this area? If so, please contact a Board member!

**4. Wetland alteration** in Lemon Creek - Permit application posted to Corps website (<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/default.htm>, document [4-2003-0778.pdf](#); applicant is CBJ). The request is to “excavate and side-cast...organic soil material from approximately 5.42 acres of wetlands...diverting the flow of two streams to a sediment-settling basin (pond).” This project will occur on Lemon Creek behind Costco and is associated with development of a source of sand and gravel. Deadline for public comments is Feb. 3 2004.

**5. Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP)** - The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is updating this plan. The draft update supports construction of the highway between Juneau and Skagway, a road connection via Bradfield Canal, a road across Baranof Island to reduce the length of the Sitka ferry links, and road shuttle ferry connections to the proposed Bradfield Road from both Ketchikan and Wrangell. Photographs, maps of the proposed road and ferry linkages, and the **Schedule of public meetings** between Jan 26 and Feb 6 can be seen at the website: <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/newwave/SATP/Update/index.htm>

Note that **public comments** are requested by Feb. 23, 2004 to be included in the record. Members of JAS have mentioned that the proposed system of connecting ferries and roads may increase the inconvenience and time involved in ferry travel in SEA, as one will take a ferry “hop”, then have to get off on a road, and then have to wait an indeterminate amount of time to catch another ferry to one’s final destination. There is also concern about the impacts on lands adjacent to new roads, including potential harvesting. For those interested in the ecological impacts of roads, I have a (somewhat up to date) reference list that, although not specific to this ecosystem, would provide a starting point for reading. Consider the potential for the following impacts, among others, of roads: loss of habitat, fragmentation of habitat, edge effects of all types that extend into the adjacent habitat, introduction of exotics, increased or decreased dispersal of various organisms, vehicle collisions with organisms, disturbance to organisms from traffic and human access, soil movement and erosion, changes to hydrological processes...

### **March Raven Deadline**

Please submit articles for the March Raven by February 20 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)

For more news about our local chapter check our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

The web site for National Audubon Society has a wealth of information at <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell



## Southeast Alaska 2003 Christmas Bird Count Results

### SITKA by Alice Johnstone

Sitka's Christmas Bird Count was held Sunday, December 14 with 20 people in 10 parties in the field. This included two boats on the water covering areas north and south of town. It was a mild, pleasant day with calm winds. We found 62 species and 5525 individual birds, about average for the Sitka count. We had high counts of Rock Pigeons with 116 birds, 17 Belted Kingfishers, 21 American Dippers, 33 Song Sparrows, 46 Pine Grosbeaks and 225 Pine Siskins. The population of European Starlings has tripled with 299 birds counted and a previous high count of 109.

The numbers of birds usually very common in the winter, Chestnut-backed Chickadees 25, Varied Thrush 9, both Oregon Juncos, Dark-eyed 50 and Slate-colored 18, were way down.

Only two species were added during count week, Trumpeter Swan and American Coot. The most unusual birds seen were three Black Oystercatchers, a Spotted Sandpiper and a Golden-crowned Sparrow. The Hummingbird and the Brown Pelican which had been seen in the area before the count were not spotted.

Alice Johnstone, compiler for many years, announced this will be the last year that she will compile the count and if no one steps forward to take over there will be no bird count in Sitka next year. Several people volunteered to fill the gap.

### KLAWOCK by Marla Dillman

|                                                                          |                                                  |                           |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Artic Loon                                                             | 166 Canada Geese                                 | 9 Barrows Goldeneye       | 7 Widgeon              |
| 1 Common Loon                                                            | 75 Mallard                                       | 67 Bufflehead             | 21 White-winged scoter |
| 1 Double-crested Cormorant                                               | 5 Harlequin Duck                                 | 7 Hooded Merganser        | 2 Scaup                |
| 1 Pelagic Cormorant                                                      | 39 Common Goldeneye                              | 304 Common Merganser      | 18 Duck species        |
| 28 Trumpeter Swans                                                       | 9 Barrows Goldeneye                              | 32 Red-Breasted Merganser | 8 Domestic duck        |
| 100 Bald Eagle: 84 Adult, 16 Immature                                    | 27 Swans: 19 Adult, 9 Immature                   | 135 Glaucous-winged Gull  | 1 Mew Gull             |
| 9 Herring Gull                                                           | 88 Gull species                                  | 3 Great Blue Heron        | 11 Rock Dove           |
| 11 Belted Kingfisher                                                     | 1 Red-breasted Sapsucker                         | 2 Woodpecker sp           | 260 Northwestern Crow  |
| 79 Common Raven                                                          | ,74 Dark-eyed Junco                              | 28 Chickadee              | 2 American Robin       |
| 78 European Starling                                                     | 7 Varied Thrush                                  | 25 Common Redpolls        | 39 Song Sparrow        |
| 108 Other Bird sp                                                        | <b>Totals: 36 species, 1776 individual birds</b> |                           |                        |
| <b>Total Hours: walking-5; driving 2 =7 hours</b>                        |                                                  |                           |                        |
| <b>Total Distance: walking-5.5 miles; driving- 26.5 miles =32 miles.</b> |                                                  |                           |                        |

Participants: Eli Atland, Ryan Baxter, Willie Brand, Holly Brand, Patrick Quigley, Jeff Whicker, Nicky Whicker, Dylan Castle, Tyler Thain, Tanner Thain, Austin Nickerson, Christian Vaughan, Francis McKinley, Jesse Taylor, Korovin Ellis, Erin Ellis, Jeremiah Jacobson, Louie Whicker, Kelly Nickerson, Kim and Brant Baxter, Kim and Garry Brand, Jen Whicker, Mary Castle, and

Di Thain. Other participants included Barb Stanley, John and Adell Bruns, Tim Paul and Wyeth Sheets.

Weather: Saturday December 20 was overcast and 33 degrees, there were light winds. There was very little snow on the ground.

#### **KLAWOCK LAKE/RIVER** by Adell Bruns

I have started on the Christmas Bird Count on Klawock Lake and my home bird feeder on the Klawock River. The lake is surveyed by kayak and I am out on it weekly (daily if possible). Due to lack of historical data, there is no way to make any guesses about trends, yet. Hopefully, this will be a regular thing barring weather conditions.

The lake is inland about 2 miles from the sea, so frequently we get an odd sea bird seeking fresh water. . .the Cormorant this year is an example. Here at the house, we have had a lone Varied Thrush that decided to stay the winter, and one was seen in an old growth spruce, in a side channel stream on the lake. In the town of Craig, their Christmas Bird Count showed 6 Varied Thrushes, so it must be the trend here. We have had six major floods this fall, over 3 feet rise in the river, so the dipper birds have moved out, I hope temporarily. In addition, Canada Geese and Trumpeter Swans don't mix well, so our usual pair of four to five has moved temporarily. I know with the cold snap that they will be back at the lake outlet, it is sometimes the only open water available and we get up to 20 swans there.

There were 208 individual birds counted with 23 species. A comparison of the only other count done in 1999, shows Goldeneyes down from a total of 102 Barrow's in 1999 to 8 Barrow's and 39 Common Goldeneyes seen in 2003. 45 Mallards, 25 Common Redpoles were new species this year along with 1 Great Blue Heron, 2 Buffleheads, 1 Double Crested Cormorant, 9 Canada Geese, 1 Varied Thrush.

If you have any questions, I can be emailed at [artist@puddleart.com](mailto:artist@puddleart.com).

#### **WRANGELL** by Bonnie Demerjian count results tallied and reported by Tom Ward

Calm waters and dry skies made for ideal birding weather for Wrangell's Christmas Bird Count. Boaters were able to scan the shores and waters of Zimovia Strait while those on foot had a mild day during which to enumerate Wrangell Island's resident birds.

Fourteen observers counted a total of 4026 birds this year, up slightly from last year. As usual this time of year, waterbirds outranked land lubbers. Fourteen Common loons and thirteen loon species were recorded. Fewer grebes of any species were noted this year than last, only 12 in all as compared with 65 last year. The large rafts of Western grebes common in the Strait didn't show up for this year's count. As in the past, Barrow's goldeneyes led the ducks in terms of numbers, 518 this year, followed by Mallards at 364 and Buffleheads. Other ducks spotted were American widgeons, Greater scaups, Harlequins, Common goldeneyes, and surf scoters. 279 Common mergansers and 10 Hooded mergansers also made the list. Observers reported 61 Black turnstones, the largest number of any shorebird species. Other single-digit numbers were seen of Surfbirds and Common snipes. Unusual for this season were reports of one Spotted sandpiper and 5 Killdeer. 64 adult Bald eagles and 4 immatures were reported as well as an unusual recording of a Sharp-shinned hawk. Glaucous-winged gulls led the list of gulls, with 681 counted. Small numbers of Bonaparte's, Mew and Herring gulls were also seen.

761 Common Murres were sighted this year, up from just 5 last year but only 13 Marbled murrelets made an appearance, compared with 120 last year. The corvids were represented by 339 Northern crows, 139 Common ravens, one Black-billed magpie and 12 Steller's jays. Chestnut-backed chickadees, Golden-crowned kinglets, Brown creepers and Winter wrens were noted this year as were 3 American dippers, 14 European starlings and a single Varied thrush. 99 Dark-eyed Oregon juncos were counted but only one Slated-colored. A handful of song sparrows brightened the air with their occasional winter song, as well as a lone Fox sparrow. Pine siskins and Red crossbills rounded out the 2003-04 Christmas Bird Count.

### Glacier Bay/Gustavus Christmas Bird Count By Bonnie Demerjian

| Species                | Total Species | Total                     |               |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Red-throated Loon      | 1             | Short-eared Owl           | 1             |
| Pacific Loon           | 4             | Northern Pygmy-Owl        | 1             |
| Common Loon            | 11            | Belted Kingfisher         | 2             |
| Horned Grebe           | 8             | Three-toed Woodpecker     | 1             |
| Red-necked Grebe       | 2             | Hairy Woodpecker          | 2             |
| Pelagic Cormorant      | 6             | Red-breasted Sapsucker    | 1             |
| Trumpeter Swan         | 19            | Steller's Jay             | 5             |
| Canada Goose           | 399           | Black-billed Magpie       | 14            |
| Green-winged Teal      | 4             | Northwestern Crow         | 64            |
| Mallard                | 336           | Common Raven              | 50            |
| Northern Pintail       | 5             | Chestnut-backed Chickadee | 98            |
| Gadwall                | 28            | Black-capped Chickadee    | 2             |
| American Wigeon        | 25            | Brown Creeper             | 5             |
| Harlequin Duck         | 6             | Winter Wren               | 3             |
| Oldsquaw               | 9             | American Dipper           | 2             |
| Black Scoter           | 70            | Golden-crowned Kinglet    | 44            |
| Surf Scoter            | 67            | Horned Lark               | 4             |
| White-winged Scoter    | 146           | Northern Shrike           | 1             |
| Common Goldeneye       | 8             | European Starling         | 2             |
| Barrow's Goldeneye     | 136           | American Tree Sparrow     | 1             |
| Bufflehead             | 93            | Song Sparrow              | 5             |
| Hooded Merganser       | 2             | White-crowned Sparrow     | 1             |
| Common Merganser       | 16            | Dark-eyed Junco           | 52            |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 188           | Snow Bunting              | 20            |
| Bald Eagle             | 24            | Pine Grosbeak             | 25            |
| Northern Harrier       | 1             | Red Crossbill             | 7             |
| Northern Goshawk       | 1             | Pine Siskin               | 27            |
| Blue Grouse            | 1             | Other (sp.)               |               |
| Greater Yellowlegs     | 1             | NUMBER OF SPECIES         | 68            |
| Sanderling             | 80            | NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS     | 3571          |
| Dunlin                 | 820           | DATE (DECEMBER)           | 14            |
| Rock Sandpiper         | 200           | TEMPERATURE (F)           | 30-34         |
| Common Snipe           | 1             | SNOW COVER (INCHES)       | 0-2"          |
| Mew Gull               | 91            | NUMBER OF OBSERVERS       | 20            |
| Herring Gull           | 1             | FRESHWATER                | prtly frzn    |
| Thayer's Gull          | 1             | ESTUARINE SALTWATER       | open          |
| Glaucous-winged Gull   | 294           | WEATHER                   | cldy/flurries |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | 15            | WIND DIRECTION            | se            |
| Common Murre           | 2             | WIND VELOCITY (MPH)       | 5-35          |
| Pigeon Guillemot       | 8             |                           |               |
| Marbled Murrelet       | 1             |                           |               |

PARTICIPANTS: Carole Baker, Allison Banks, Jenni Burr, Andrea Byrnes, Abigail Calkin, George Jensen, Lynn Jensen, Mary Kralovec, Barb Mahoney, Mossy Mead, Jamie Ogilvy, Bruce Paige, Sharon Paige, Laura Ross, Rose Salazar, Jim Sarraco, Chad Soiseth, Julie Vathke, Shelly Webb, Rita Wilson.

# My Favorite Bird

## *Chucao tapaculo* – Mary Willson, Juneau

*From an interview with Marge Hermans*

About 12 years ago, I was working on a research project about seed dispersal in the rain forest in Chile. I was crawling around on the forest floor looking for seeds and seedlings. Here came this little bird. It was looking to see what I was doing, and it was very curious. It walked all around me, looked at me from one side, then looked at me from the other side. It was very tame—which was unusual because this was not an isolated place like an oceanic island. I'd been hearing this bird—it has a very loud call—but this was my first introduction to it.

The bird was brown on top with an orange breast and eyebrow. It had black and white bars on its belly, gray flanks, a brown back, and big feet. It had big, black eyes and carried its tail up over its back like a wren.

Then we found a fledgling that had just hopped out of its nest. It had adult plumage, but it also had an incredible “headdress”—very long down sticking out all around its head and hanging down over its eyes. It was utterly captivating, and I knew I had to work on this bird.

That turned out to be not so easy. Chucaos run very fast through the understory (which is very thick). It's almost impossible for a single person to follow one. So we have to work in small groups to find their nests. We were trying to determine the birds' nesting success in light of immense changes to its original habitat.

When Darwin visited this part of Chile (Isla Grande de Chiloé, about 1,000 km south of Santiago) in 1834-35, it was almost entirely forested. Since then, especially in the early 1900s, the forest has been disappearing very rapidly. People are farming, and raising cattle and sheep, so they make a lot of pasture. They're also cutting timber to be made into chips that are exported and turned into fiber. So the forest is seriously fragmented.

*Chucao tapaculos* have a very limited geographic range. They're found only in the southern temperate rain forest within a radius of a few hundred kilometers, on the Chilean mainland and the big island of Chiloé nearby. Our question was what it will take for populations of chucaos to survive in this very modified landscape.

As cavity nesters, chucaos do OK in fragmented forest. The problem is, they don't come out into the open at all, so they can't get out of a small patch. Where can young birds set up new territories? How can they find mates? We found the birds need corridors connecting the forest fragments with thick understory along streams or fencerows.

Chucaos are the most versatile nesting bird I've ever encountered. They usually nest in cavities—in the ground, or in a tree or stump or log; or behind a clump of bromeliads (epiphytes) on tree branches. Sometimes they make open nests like a robin's, or they build a nest with a complete roof and a pretty good-sized entrance hole in the side.

Chucaos eat all kinds of invertebrates in leaf litter—cricket things, worm things, and other things I can't identify. Sometimes they'll follow in your footsteps and pick up things you disturb. Occasionally they'll eat fallen fruit, or catch little fish or tiny frogs.

Chucao nestlings are preyed upon by rats and a small native wild cat called a guiña. Mink have been introduced in the area and could potentially be a big hazard. Adult birds and chicks large enough to run around are preyed on by owls and hawks.

*If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net) to set up an interview.*

To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org). NOTE: if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive the Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:**

**National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
PO Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$20 (1-year introductory rate)* \_\_\_\_\_ *\$15 (1-year student/senior rate)* \_\_\_\_\_ *\$30 Basic renewal*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.**

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or paper copy \_\_\_\_\_**

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# The Raven

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



<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Volume 30, Number 7**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**March 2004**

## **Monthly Membership Meeting**

Thursday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.

Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

**Carrie Bucki**, a researcher with the University of Alaska Reindeer Research Program, will present a slide show titled: **Alaska's Reindeer Industry: Round ups, Research and Rangifer**

Reindeer have played a strong role in shaping the history of Alaska, particularly along the western coast. Alaskan Natives and others have been raising reindeer for over one hundred years both behind fence and on large, remote grazing areas. Reindeer are well adapted to thrive in northern climates and have provided meat, hides, antlers, and many other useful products to the people of Alaska. The reindeer industry has enriched Alaska's history and is an economic source for rural Alaska that has largely been obscure, even to many Alaskan residents. Join Carrie for a discussion about man's interactions with reindeer in Alaska, including history, research, management, and their unique ecology.

## **ALASKA AUDUBON STAFF RECEIVES TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Staff of the Alaska State Office in Anchorage was recently honored by National Audubon with an award recognizing their accomplishments for conservation, and the principles they demonstrate in working together effectively as a team. The Juneau Chapter joins with National Audubon in congratulating Stan Senner, John Schoen, Bucky Dennerlein, and Rebecca Downey for this well-deserved award. Here is some excerpts from various endorsers of their nomination for the award:

"I am pleased to nominate the Alaska State Office for an ACE Team Award this year. ....they represent an outstanding blend of efficiency, effectiveness and team spirit. They are a small work group that is producing some very impressive conservation results. From a conservation perspective they continue to be our local leader and voice in the drive to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, they are the clear leader in finding innovative solutions on the National Petroleum Reserve (NPRA) issue, which, while less well known than ANWR, is critically important to wildlife. Our Alaska team has clearly shaped the entire national debate on NPRA. They are poised this year to do the same for the Tongass Forest in Southeast Alaska, the largest temperate rainforest in the Western Hemisphere. Funding is already largely secured to mount this new and important conservation effort."

"The team works very well with our DC office, our Development Department, and the Science Department."

Ann Krumboltz, the Executive Director of the Seattle-based Brainerd Foundation said it best...."your Alaska office really kicks butt up there...they are one of our best grants. No they are our best grant."

"From a wildlife and habitat perspective, Alaska is the crucial arena on our national scene. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented team representing Audubon in that critical part of the natural world."

We at the Chapter level are indeed fortunate to have this kind of leadership working for us in Alaska. Good work team!

## Notes from the Board, March 2004

Brenda Wright, President Juneau Audubon

Juneau Audubon Society Board meet on February 3, 2004 to discuss conservation and education projects. Our conservation chair, Sari Saunders, is presently working hard to organize comments on the SE Alaska transportation plan, Kensington Gold mine Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the proposed land exchange of Cape Fox lands near Ketchikan for Tongass National Forest land in Berner's Bay (next hearing scheduled for March 10). If any members have information or input or time to volunteer to help with an Audubon comment or letter please contact Sari or any board member at [juneau-audubon-society.org](http://juneau-audubon-society.org).

JAS is sponsoring a set of three natural history lectures this spring centered around the concentration of birds and wildlife in Berner's Bay. This extravaganza of wildlife is timed around the annual hooligan (eulachon) and herring spawn in early spring in Berner's Bay. The lectures will begin with the April 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30 public meeting at DZ. We will also have two lectures (free and open to the public) at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center on April 23 and April 30 (7pm).

Our fun, educational, and fund-raising cruises to Berner's Bay will occur on April 17 and May 1 this year. We hope you can join us for one of three cruises and enjoy the marvelous wildlife congregations at Berner's Bay. Tickets will be available at Hearthside Books.

Our local bird enthusiast and advocate, Steve Zimmerman, was elected as the Alaska/Hawaii/Guam representative to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors last fall. Steve attended a national board meeting in late January. JAS would also like to thank another long-time supporter and volunteer, Amy Skilbred. Amy agreed to represent JAS on the SEACC board..

We are still looking for more help and volunteer efforts for the JAS board and committees. If you have time and energy to spare, we could use help with membership, publicity, SE Wild newspaper column coordinator, and public market booth coordinator. Please contact any board member or our web page if you would like to volunteer or would like more information on your local Audubon Society.

### **Clips from the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. Let us know what interests and concerns you in Juneau and around Southeast. Comments? Contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org).

**1. Kensington Mine Gold Project.** Evaluation of and commentary on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Kensington Mine Gold Project is currently a high priority for Juneau Audubon. The Berner's Bay area has always been a focus of conservation and education efforts of JAS. The Conservation Committee will focus its remarks on: (1) impacts on bird life that have not been adequately identified or assessed, particularly those species dependent on the eulachon run; (2) concerns regarding the construction of a tailings "storage" facility (TSF) in Lower Slate Lake (under the proposed action, Alternative B); (3)

limited examination of cumulative effects associated with other potential developments, such as the Juneau Access Project; (4) the importance of the area for natural history education and fundraising through Audubon's spring, public cruises. As a member of SEACC, JAS will also try to support and coordinate with the Council's efforts. JAS members who would like to contribute ideas or data (e.g, bird lists from the area) for the Society's comment on this document are encouraged to send material to any JAS Board member.

You can read, download, or request a paper copy of the DSEIS at [www.kensingtoneis.com](http://www.kensingtoneis.com). This website also has information on the history of the project and the EIS process. The Forest Service is responsible for the EIS review and a decision on a course of action (alternative). State agencies involved in permitting mine projects include the DNR (the lead agency for this purpose), DEC, DF&G, and D of Law. The DNR has a website with interesting information on the Kensington Gold Project at [www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/Kensington](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/Kensington).

A public, informational meeting was held in Centennial Hall on Feb 24. There was criticism of the meeting format. Many hoped to be able to air their concerns, hear the concerns of others, and have questions answered by the proponents, consultants, or forest service personnel in a venue like a public hearing (see also Juneau Empire, front page Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>). **If you have comments on the DSEIS (due Mar 8 2004) or the procedures for evaluation of the DSEIS, they should be sent to:**

Steve Hohensee  
Tongass Minerals Group  
8465 Old Dairy Rd  
Juneau, AK

**2. Waterfront development in downtown Juneau.** The proposed development of a set of private condominiums on the downtown waterfront, along with waterfront development issues in general, has caused a lot of furor recently. For a bit of background, see Juneau Empire front page, Feb. 22 "Waterfront condo concept under fire". There have also been Opinion pieces that voice concerns about and positive aspects of the development in the Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> and Feb 25<sup>th</sup> paper. The most intriguing piece on the general issue of waterfront development has been by Jan Van Dort (associated with condo development), on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. I would characterize the letter as bizarre (at best). It appears to suggest that if variances had been granted to allow for previous architectural renderings of the hotels being built by the bridge, the owners would not have been forced to build the (perhaps less attractive) versions we are now getting. I'm not sure if this is due to lack of imagination on the part of the architects or if the owner is trying to make a, "If you don't let me do what I want, I'll show you and make something really ugly!" statement. Judge for yourself!

In any case, JAS did submit comments to the Corps of Engineers regarding the initial development application for the condos. The letter was also forwarded to members of the CBJ Assembly and the Planning Commission. Interested members can contact me for a copy. There was to be a public hearing on this development but it was cancelled. Keep your eyes peeled for further notices regarding this and for potential changes to the development application (e.g., building on fill rather than pilings).

**3. Draft Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan.** Although comments on this plan were due Feb 23 '04, it is still worth becoming aware of the plan and its particulars for future iterations of the development process. Photographs, maps of the proposed road and ferry linkages can be



seen at the website:

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/newwave/SATP/Update/index.htm>. Also, if you go to SEACC's website, [www.seacc.org](http://www.seacc.org), you can find suggestions for how to take action, express your opinion, and contact your political representatives. There are questionnaires available here which you can fill out and send to DOT or SEACC.

**4. Neighborhood Concerns re: Lemon Creek.** \*This is a synopsis of information that was provided to Mendenhall Refuge Citizens Advisory Group and is passed on for information only\*

In Jan., Daniel Collison, president of Lemon Creek Neighbors (LCN) presented concerns to the Mendenhall Refuge Citizens Advisory Group about possible development projects in Lemon Creek valley. These projects include a 50-unit apartment complex, 2 gravel quarries, and an ATV park. In the 1990's, Lemon Creek was designated an impaired water body under the federal Clean Water Act and a "Total Maximum Daily Load," (TMDL) recovery plan was drafted to guide city, state, and federal officials in cleaning up Lemon Creek. A TMDL identifies the maximum amount of pollutants that can be present in a water body without it being considered impaired. Sedimentation from gravel extraction is a primary concern and LCN feels the new projects could compound this. LCN is hoping that the city will purchase or trade for the private land adjacent to the Creek and then protect the existing vegetated buffer to mitigate erosion and decrease the sedimentation problem. Daniel Collison can be contacted at [lemoncreekneighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:lemoncreekneighbors@yahoo.com).

**5. Wolves of Douglas Island.** On **March 10** the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee will discuss (among other issues) the possible rescinding of protection for a small population of wolves on Douglas Island. **Voices for Douglas Island Wildlife** wants the Committee to take 'no action' on the issue (i.e., make no recommendation to the State Board of Game). **Voices** requests folks indicate support by attending the meeting, giving public testimony at the meeting, or sending an email or letter (to Kathy Hansen, Chair of the Committee, by March 5 [10<sup>th</sup> at latest] at [seafa@gci.net](mailto:seafa@gci.net)). For more info, contact Jenny Pursell and Tom Lee at [voices4DIW@planet-save.com](mailto:voices4DIW@planet-save.com). Meeting is March 10, 6:30 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Dept. of Fish and Game Headquarters Bldg., 1255 W 8th St. (near Juneau side of bridge).

**6. Marine Protected Areas.** There has been renewed vitality in efforts to establish a state administered Marine protected area encompassing north Shelter Island...

Some informational material that members might find interesting as this discussion develops, includes a background paper, called *Marine Protected Areas in North America*. This paper was produced by Dovetail Consulting out of Vancouver, B.C. for the Workshop on Marine Protected Area, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico, in Nov 1999. The material can be accessed through the marine protected area library of the NA Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC - essentially an environmental component of NAFTA), through a link on Dovetail's Projects page (<http://dovetailconsulting.com/>).

### **March Raven Deadline**

Please submit articles for the March Raven by February 20 to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)

For more news about our local chapter check our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

The web site for National Audubon Society has a wealth of information at <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Juneau Audubon Society has members in Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

## REPORT ON THE NATIONAL AUDUBON BOARD MEETING

By Steve Zimmerman

In December, 2003 I was elected to be the Regional Director for Alaska, Hawaii and Guam on the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society. During January 23 – 25, 2004 I attended my first Board meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Two concepts that were stressed at that meeting, and which may be of interest to members of Juneau Audubon, were Alignment and Development.

**Alignment.** Prior to attending the meeting, I had heard that the role of chapters is being diminished. This does not seem to be the case. Audubon President John Flicker and others at the meeting consistently stated that local chapters are the basis of Audubon, and they are the incubator for grass roots activism. Developing stronger chapters remains a very important goal for National Audubon. Chapters are, however, one part of a larger Audubon strategy to develop a culture of conservation in the western hemisphere. The intent is to connect people with nature and to awaken in them a desire to protect our natural heritage. The development of Audubon Centers, and programs like Important Bird Areas, Backyard Bird Counts, Audubon Adventures, Audubon at Home, and numerous science-based campaigns, is being done to create a grass roots that will advocate on behalf of the natural world.

Because it is impossible for a centralized National Audubon office to coordinate all of these activities for approximately 500 chapters, it was decided in 1994, that National Audubon should decentralize and build a network of state offices that will manage field operations in each state. Accordingly, state offices have been developed in 26 states (including Alaska) with others to come on line. National Audubon feels that the state offices will be the force that can align the many activities that are being carried out in each state and can maximize the impact that Audubon has in each state.

**Development.** In the past, the Audubon Magazine paid most of the operating costs for National Audubon. Because of higher publication, mailing and salary costs, and competition with other natural history publications, these days are gone. Like most other environmental non-profits, National Audubon has moved from being a subscription-funded organization to being a donor-funded organization. Philanthropy has been found to be a more effective way to raise money and to connect people with Audubon. Thus, fund raising (dubbed “development”) has become a major focus for Audubon. In this regard, chapters are being expected to raise more of their own funds, and state offices are expected to eventually raise all of their operating funds.

### REMI NDER - UPCOMI NG EVENTS:

**The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (in cooperation with the Juneau Libraries)** is presenting free evening workshops (plus a tracking session in partnership with Discovery Southeast):

March 3 - Interpreting Animal Tracks

March 10 - Landscaping for Wildlife

March 24 - Citizen Science (will feature eBird, Christmas bird counts, etc.)

March 31 - Alaska's Wildlife Watch - an introduction to viewing

April 7 - Birding for Beginners

**For more information contact Karla Hart, Watchable Wildlife Program Coordinator, 465-5157.**

**10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Alaska Bird Conference March 16–18 in Anchorage:** an excellent scientific program with workshops that include Shorebird and Loon & Grebe working groups, an "All-Bird, All-Habitat" workshop, Education and Outreach session, and Kittlitz's Murrelet workshop. Contact Stan Senner at [ssenner@audubon.org](mailto:ssenner@audubon.org) for information.

## **My Favorite Bird – Common Raven – Mark Schwan, Juneau from an interview with Marge Hermans**



Ravens are a fascinating species, very successful over a wide variety of habitats. They're found across the whole Northern Hemisphere—in deserts and forests, active at sea level and at 20,000 feet elevations. From a human standpoint, ravens crop up through a wide range of times and cultures. We find parallels including them in creation myths beginning with many ancient societies, and they've received special regard in stories and legends throughout history.

Ravens seem to be very intelligent, like corvids in general. They're very social during the non-nesting seasons, when they move into city centers and we see them stealing dogfood or scavenging from pickup trucks and dumpsters. Yet they're very wary. You can get only so close before they become really skittish, and they'll move away, for example, if you approach and point a camera at them.

Ravens are songbirds. They don't have a pretty song like, say, warblers, but I enjoy listening to all the different sounds they make. A friend of mine studied that aspect of ravens in Fairbanks, recording as many different raven sounds as he could. He found in excess of 30 distinct, recognizable vocalizations, some of several syllables. We think some can be linked to behavior, such as alarm calls, courtship sounds, appeasement sounds, etc.

Ravens also are quite the acrobats in the air. You'll see them dive, and tumble, fold their wings up and do somersaults, or rotate their bodies in free fall, then break out of it like sky divers. Sometimes two birds will fly side by side, perhaps as part of courting. They'll dip and close their wings, turn upside down, and make a *cloak-cloak* sound. Ravens are often very aggressive, yet you'll also see them being very gentle with one another, as when two birds might sit side by side and one will clean the feathers on the back of the other's neck.

Ravens can be confused with Northwestern Crows, but there are several ways to tell these species apart. Ravens are considerably larger than crows, and their bills are larger in relation to the head. In profile, the upper bill is a lot more down-curved to the tip of the beak, while crows' bills are straighter. Ravens have shaggy throat feathers, and sometimes, depending on the posture, you can see individual feathers sticking out on a raven's throat.

You'll seldom see more than 10 ravens flying around together, whereas crows often travel 30 or 40 together in a tight flock. In flight, ravens have a "wedge-shaped" tail, shorter on the sides and longer at the center. A crow's tail looks longer, and it is more rectangular, and squared off at the end. Ravens have a slower wing beat than crows, and their vocalizations are more guttural, while crows sound more nasally and higher in pitch. (The exception would be raven young-of-the-year, which often sound like crows!)

You can't really distinguish male and female ravens by appearance, but older birds have glossier body feathers that are often iridescent purple and dark green. Young birds have body feathers that are duller black. Their first couple of years if you get close to one feeding you'll also see they have a red mouth lining. As the birds get older and approach maturity at 3 or 4 years old, the lining gradually turns paler and eventually becomes black.

Ravens molt gradually over the whole summer, so they always retain their ability to fly. In mid-summer they can look pretty scraggly as you see birds with missing tail or primary wing feathers. But by fall each bird will have a complete replacement of feathers.

Ravens are predators as well as scavengers. Besides scavenging on urban garbage and carcasses at salmon streams, they eat such other things as bugs or berries, and they prey on other birds' eggs and young. We've even seen some hawking for small mammals almost like Northern Harriers on the Mendenhall Wetlands. Like owls and some hawks, ravens cough up pellets of indigestible material, so in one instance in northern Alaska, researchers who found a communal roosting site were able to study what the birds were eating by analyzing the pellets.

In spring and summer, mature ravens become secretive and move away from town to nest, so the birds you see around town then are juveniles and non-breeders. By mid-summer, when the young of the year have fledged, the mature birds move back into urban areas, and you'll see them there throughout the fall and winter.

*If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net) to set up an interview.*

## **FREE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

Juneau Audubon Society, US Forestry Sciences Laboratory, and with cooperation from the State Department of Education, have offered the following free materials to school libraries in Southeast. So far 11 schools have requested and received these materials. If you know of a school in your town that has not received copies and would like to have these materials in their library, let me know. Send request to: Mary Lou King, 1700 Branta Road, Juneau, AK 99801 or [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)

**Video “Coho Monitoring in the Tongass” (6:30) and “Riffles and Pools – Studying Juvenile Salmonids in Alaska” (13:54) both on the same video.** Produced by folks at the Juneau Forestry Services Laboratory. Very good video shots of the small fish and shows what the scientists are doing to learn more about salmonids.

**Video (approx. 15 min.) “Learning More About Birds”** By Mary Lou and Christine King. This video was produced to be viewed by 4<sup>th</sup> graders as a part of their bird study during Seaweed in Juneau. It starts by learning how to identify birds with good shots of many of the birds common to Southeast Alaska. The last part of the video talks about taking a field trip and how to treat birds.

**Soft cover 8 ½ x 11 inch workbook “Birds in Alaska’s South Coastal Environment”**

This 35 page workbook is supplied to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Juneau public schools as a part of the spring Seaweed program. It is designed with 11 different activities so that teachers in Southeast Alaska can reproduce any one or all to be used by their students.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a> to request the Raven in rich text (read by most word processing programs) NOTE: if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.</p> |
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Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive the Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:

National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
PO Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
or paper copy \_\_\_\_\_

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Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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# The Raven

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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>



**Volume 30, Number 8**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**April 2004**

## **BERNERS BAY NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE SERIES**

The Juneau Audubon Society will present a series of lectures on the natural history, culture, and ecology of Berners Bay in addition to the annual spring cruises to Berners Bay. Lectures are free.

**Here Come the Hooligan: Springtime in Berners Bay**  
**Jamie Womble**

April 8, 2004 7:30 pm @ Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

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**Berners Bay: History, Culture, Ecology, and Recreation**  
**John Hudson**

April 23, 2004 7:00 pm @ Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center



**The Birds of Berners Bay**  
**Brian Marston**

April 30, 2004 7:00 pm @ Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center



**Audubon Spring Wildlife Cruises to Berners Bay**

April 17, 2004 8:30 am

May 1, 2004 @ 8:30 am and 1:30 pm

\$35/adult; \$5/children cruises depart from Auke Bay Harbor

Tickets may be purchased at Hearthside Books

## SPECIAL NOTE: May Audubon Meeting and Program: May 1 UAS Lecture Hall 7-8 pm Social 8:15-9 pm

The May meeting and Program (a talk and slide show by noted Author and Lecturer, Richard Nelson) will take place on Saturday, May 1st, in the Lecture Hall in the new classroom wing at UAS (ground floor, next to the library). **THIS EVENT WILL REPLACE THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MAY MEETING ON MAY 13th**, and will be the last meeting before we break for the summer. Check elsewhere in this newsletter, or on the web, for information regarding the May 1st event, as well as other Juneau Audubon activities surrounding Berner's Bay.

### **Notes from the Board, March 2004**

Brenda Wright, President Juneau Audubon

Its definitely time to be gearing up for spring. Our field trips schedule is looking great (thanks to Steve Zimmerman and all the leaders). We have two great cruises lined up to enjoy the bird and wildlife marvels at Berners Bay on April 17 and May 1 (tickets available at Hearthside Books). And last but not least, 3 exciting lectures centered on the natural history in and around the eulachon run in Berners Bay. The lectures are 4/8 at our scheduled public meeting and 4/23 and 4/30 at the Glacier visitor center at 7pm. We sure hope you can join us for some or all of these fun activities.

We get interesting e-mails from people who will be visiting Juneau on the cruise ships. There has been an increase in requests for locally guided bird walks. If you know any one who might be interested, or already has a business in guided walks, please have them contact the board.

I want to share with you some other news from our Canadian neighbor on an initiative to protect and manage birds in the boreal forest. Just this past winter, the Boreal Conservation Framework proposed a new approach to balancing conservation and economic development: the establishment of a network of large interconnected protected areas. Of the 298 bird species that have some of their breeding grounds in the boreal forest, at least 40 species of land birds and several species of ducks are already experiencing population declines in part due to habitat loss from logging and oil and gas development. For more information on how you can help protect the boreal forest, please go to the Boreal Songbird Initiative website at [www.borealbirds.org](http://www.borealbirds.org).

For those of you thinking of checking out birding sites in other locations, I have some information I'd love to share from Verde Valley: Birding and nature festival April 22-25 and Crane Watch 2004 in Kearney, NB.

Please let us know if we can entice you to volunteer for a committee, a board seat, or have a program you'd like to present.

### **Clips from the Conservation Committee (Sari Saunders):**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. Let us know what interests and concerns you in Juneau and around Southeast. Comments? Contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org) or any other Board member.

**1. Kensington Mine Gold Project.** The date has been extended to **April 7<sup>th</sup> 2004** for submission of comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Coeur Alaska's



Kensington Mine Gold Project. You can still read, download, or request a paper copy of the DSEIS at [www.kensingtoneis.com](http://www.kensingtoneis.com) (or contact the Juneau Ranger District of the US Forest Service). Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) has highlighted some of the salient details of the “preferred” Alternative development option on their website (<http://www.seacc.org/TakeAction/Kensington.htm>).

Juneau Audubon submitted comments that emphasized concerns regarding the special nature of avian and wildlife communities, and the complex of habitats provided in the Berner’s Bay region. We noted deficiencies in the analysis of the DSEIS with regard to post-development monitoring plans, fragmentation of terrestrial habitat, cumulative impacts of other developments in the region, and use of indicator species. We also noted the important role of Berner’s Bay to groups like Audubon for education and tour purposes. If you would like to see a copy of the letter, please contact Sari.

Send your comments on this document to:

Steve Hohensee  
SEIS Team Leader  
Tongass Minerals Group  
8465 Old Dairy Rd  
Juneau, AK  
shohensee@fs.fed.us

**2. Spring Birds – watch your glass!** A recent Associated Press article interviews an ornithologist from Muhlenberg College, PA who estimates that collisions with glass kill up to 1 billion birds a year in the U.S. alone. Scientists for the National Audubon Society are starting to take more careful note of the issue. In newer structures, architects are starting to use glass with patterns, so windows are not completely clear. Food for thought as birds start migrating back to the area and you begin your spring cleaning. For more information on what you can do around your home to minimize bird strikes, go to [http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwd/articles/bwd00/ja00/window\\_strikes.html](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwd/articles/bwd00/ja00/window_strikes.html)

### **3. Permit applications to Corps**

**a. Highway improvement.** There is a new permit application by the Dept. of Transportation to the Corps of Engineers requesting permission to place fill below the high tide line and into wetlands of Favourite Channel. The project is associated with highway improvement. See posting POA-2004-184-4.pdf at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/default.htm>. Interested or concerned persons can submit comments by **April 15<sup>th</sup> 2004** to the Corps at the letterhead address on the public notice or to Mr. Randal P. Vigil at [randal.p.vigil@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:randal.p.vigil@poa02.usace.army.mil).

**b. Development of freight facilities on Channel Drive.** This permit application by Salmon Creek Development proposes to dump rip-rap and non-organic soil material (?) into about 0.09 acre of the intertidal zone. The purpose is to increase yard space for freight operations. Specifically, an existing launch ramp would be filled to match surface grade of the existing work pad. Installation of an oil-water separator is specifically mentioned in the proposal. Comments are due by **April 15<sup>th</sup>** as above.

**c. Spuhn Island Development.** Spuhn Island is the small island that sits directly in front of you when you are standing at the end of Fritz Cove Road. About 2/3rds of the island was privately owned, and was recently sold to a developer who plans to develop 63 residential lots on the island, including 3,472 feet of 10’ wide road for utilities and vehicular access. The fill would be discharged on uplands, wetlands, and in U.S. waters.

A development of this magnitude anywhere would have impacts, but these potential problems are magnified by the fact that this development is on an island. Everything must come and go by boat. How will up to 63 households get on and off the island to commute to work, and where they’ll park their boats and cars on either end? How will sewage and garbage produced on the island be treated or transported? How will fuel be transported, and what contingencies are there for chronic oil spills? How will the

development affect waterbirds and land birds that use of the area, including nesting eagles? These are the kinds of questions the Corp of Engineers and the City Planning Department should be able to answer satisfactorily before the clearcutting and roading begins.

If you'd like to comment, the application can be viewed at

[http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN\\_Scanned/March/POA-2003-1473-4.pdf](http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN_Scanned/March/POA-2003-1473-4.pdf)

For more information, contact John C. Leeds at 907-790-4490, or by E-Mail at [john.c.leeds@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:john.c.leeds@poa02.usace.army.mil). Comments are due April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks 2004

*Walks last about two to four hours. If you have them, bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots recommended for most walks and dress for weather. Beginning birders are welcome. For further information contact Steve Zimmerman 586-2597, [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org)*

- April 10**      **Fish Creek**  
**8:00 a.m.**      Meet at the parking lot just before Fish Creek at 8.3 Mile North Douglas Highway  
*Leader: Paul Suchanek*
- April 17**      **Berners Bay Cruise**  
**8:30 a.m.**      Note: The Berners Bay cruises will be leaving from the Don Statter Harbor in Auke Bay (located below DeHarts Store). Look for the Allen Marine vessel. Boarding 15 minutes before departure
- April 24**      **Point Bridget Trail** (Three miles to beach)  
**8:00 a.m.**      Meet at the Pt. Bridget State Park trailhead Mile 38 Glacier Highway  
*Leader: Paul Suchanek*
- May 1**      **Berners Bay Cruises**  
**8:30 a.m.**      Note: The Berners Bay cruises will be leaving from the Don Statter Harbor in Auke Bay (located below DeHarts Store). Look for the Allen Marine vessel. Boarding 15 minutes before departure  
**1:30 p.m.**
- May 8**      **Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge**  
**9 a.m.**      Meet at parking lot end of Radcliffe Rd  
*Leader: Bob Armstrong*
- May 15**      **Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge**  
**7:00 a.m.**      Meet at parking lot end of Radcliffe Rd  
*Leader: Steve Zimmerman*
- May 22**      **Native Plants and Birds—South Bridget Cove**  
**10:00 a.m.**      Meet at turnout Mile 37.4 South Bridget Cove  
*Leaders: Mary Lou King and Pat Harris*
- May 29**      **Norton Lake**  
**7:00 a.m.**      Meet at second parking lot Mendenhall Glacier (Moraine Trailhead)  
*Leader: Deanna MacPhail (Rubber boots recommended)*
- June 5**      **Dredge Lakes**  
**7:00 a.m.**      Meet at parking lot at Back Loop Bridge  
*Leader: Mark Schwan*

**June 12**      **Amalga Marsh on the Amalga Trail (Eagle River)**  
**8:00 a.m.**      Meet at parking lot just across the Eagle River Bridge Mile 27.9 Glacier Hwy.  
*Leader: Gus VanVliet*

## **My Favorite Bird – Yellow-billed Loon – Laurie Lamm, Juneau** from an interview with Marge Hermans

It's always hard to pick a favorite bird, but I would choose the Yellow-billed Loon. I've always liked loons, maybe because I grew up in Minnesota, where the state bird is the Common Loon.

What I like about the yellow-billed is that every time I see it—which is not very often—it catches me off guard. It surprises me—like getting an unexpected gift.

I've seen Yellow-billed Loons out on the water—from ferries and a smaller boat—near Auke Bay, and in the Haines and Skagway area. Yellow-billed Loons look almost exactly like Common Loons, but their bill is straw yellow instead of dark, and they hold the tip of the bill up at a higher angle. It's the pale bill that sets them off. Once you see that, you know the bird can be nothing else.

It says in the literature that we're more likely to see Yellow-billed Loons here in the winter, but I've usually seen them around May or June, which is when I'm out on the water. When you're on a boat, you get a pretty quick view. You can't really sit and observe the birds. You just see them, and usually they dive down.

The first time I saw one, I was working for a local tour operator. We had just left Auke Bay to go on a tour out around Shelter Island. I was about to point out Admiralty Island and just as I turned to look out the front window, I saw a Yellow-billed Loon. I was so surprised I gasped—and everyone on the boat stood up. “Oh!” I said. “It's a Yellow-billed Loon!” Almost simultaneously, everyone on the boat sat down. I don't think there was a birder in the group. I guess a Yellow-billed Loon was not that exciting for people hoping to see whales—but it was very exciting to me!

Yellow-billed Loons are pretty much a coastal bird. The *Birder's Handbook* says they are found in “small numbers and limited breeding habitat in North America.” It sounds as if they leave Southeast in summer to go to their breeding grounds. So seeing them is kind of the luck of the draw and keeping your eyes open. Some people might see them from shore in the winter, but they probably stay farther away from shore in spring or summer. You might need a spotting scope to see enough detail to identify them.

One reference I read said the call of the Yellow-billed Loon is a lot like that of the Common Loon. When I listened to a short recording of the call, though, I didn't think it sounded so much like a Common Loon. It sounded to me like a bird trying to be a wolf! Unfortunately, I haven't heard it in the wild yet, since I've been inside a large boat on the few occasions when I've been lucky enough to see one of these fascinating birds.

*If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at [marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net](mailto:marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net) to set up an interview.*

To get all your chapter news on line, send an email to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org). NOTE: if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.

national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive the Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

### National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:

National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
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Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

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\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
or paper copy \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Raven

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



<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Volume 30, Number 9**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**May 2004**

## **LISTENING TO ALASKA'S LAND AND PEOPLE: A PERSONAL JOURNEY**

Over the past forty years, anthropologist and nature writer Richard Nelson has lived in the villages, towns, and back country of Alaska. Join him for an evening of slides and stories about the importance of native traditions, the beauty and wildness of our northern land, and the ways that humans have woven themselves deeply into Alaska's environment. Richard Nelson will explore the intricate connections between Alaska's native cultures and wild lands, and he will remind us that both are among our most vital and vulnerable treasures.

Please plan to join us on May 1st, in the large lecture hall at UAS campus for what promises to be an inspiring presentation by Alaska's Writer Laureate (1999-2001), and one of Alaska's best known authors and conservationists.

The lecture hall is located on the ground floor of the new classroom wing, immediately adjacent to the library. The doors will open at 6:30, and the talk will be 7-8 pm. Tickets can be picked up at Hearthside Books the week before the talk (free, but 2 per customer, please). We expect demand for seats to exceed availability, so if you have tickets, please plan to be seated by 6:50 PM. After then, empty seats will be given to those waiting without tickets.

Following the talk, a reception with complimentary refreshments will be held in rooms 221-222, upstairs from the lecture hall, from 8-9:30. You are invited to stop in and meet Richard Nelson, mingle with other Audubon supporters, and meet members of the boards of the local Chapter and State Office.

Richard Nelson's Talk is being generously hosted by the Juneau Audubon Chapter and the Audubon Alaska State Office.

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**The Birds of Berners Bay** program by Brian Marston on April 30, 2004 7:00 p.m  
@ Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

## **Clips from the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. Let us know what interests and concerns you in Juneau and around Southeast. Comments? Contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org) or any other Board member.

**1. Spuhn Island Development.** A reminder that comments are due **April 23, 2004** regarding the permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers, and by **May 14, 2004** to the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

Spuhn Island is the small island that sits directly off the end of Fritz Cove Road. About 2/3 of the island was privately owned, and was recently sold to a developer who plans to develop a residential subdivision with 63 residential lots on the island. Work will include discharge of approximately 3,472 cubic yards (cy) of fill materials onto a 1.11-acre area (48,608 square feet) that could include both uplands and waters, including wetlands, of the United States. The fill will be used for trail construction with embedded electrical conduits. Approximately 2,420 cy of fill materials will be discharged into 0.77 acres of wetlands. Two 18-inch diameter culverts will be placed across the trail.

Issues to consider should this island become a densely-populated, residential development: (1) movement of all materials to and people to and from the island; (2) density of residents' boats (and cars?) around the island; (3) removal and treatment of sewage and garbage produced on the island; (4) transport of fuel (and contingencies for chronic oil spills); (5) effects of the development on waterbirds and land birds, including nesting eagles, that use the area.

The application to the Corps can be viewed at [http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN\\_Scanned/March/POA-2003-1473-4.pdf](http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN_Scanned/March/POA-2003-1473-4.pdf)

For more information, contact John C. Leeds at 907-790-4490, or by E-Mail at [john.c.leeds@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:john.c.leeds@poa02.usace.army.mil). Comments are due April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This project is also being reviewed for consistency with the **Alaska Coastal Management Program** (see <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/pic/pubnotfrm.htm>). Comments in this context are due at the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) by **5:00 PM on May 14, 2004**:

Sandy Harbanuk, ACMP Project Specialist  
Alaska Coastal Management Program, OPMP  
302 Gold Street, Suite 202, Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: 907-465-8791 Fax: 907-465-3075  
Email: [sandy\\_harbanuk@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:sandy_harbanuk@dnr.state.ak.us)

**2. Glacier Highway & Trailhead Improvements.** Opportunity to comment through Alaska Coastal Management Plan

### **This project involves:**

- Highway reconstruction and one trailhead improvement at Breadline Bluff, and 2. Trailhead improvements at Peterson Creek, Windfall Lake Rd, Herbert River, and a Kayak Launch Site north of Eagle Beach. DOTPF will construct shoulders on the highway and a drainage ditch on the eastern side. The highway will be widened to 34 feet from the beginning of the project to the Amalg Rd intersection. The remaining length will be widened to 30 feet.

### **The work will include:**

- Placing approx 2,830 cubic yards (cy) of fill material into approx. 0.5 acres of waters of the U.S. below the high tide line, including wetlands.
- Placing approx. 8,600 cy of fill into approximately 5 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands.

- Replacing 144 culverts in waters of the U.S.

For the public notice, see: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/pic/pubnotfrm.htm>. The project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Written comments should go to the OPMP (see address above) by **5:00 PM on May 11, 2004**.

**3. Things to watch for over the summer.** Although we will not be able to send out reminders over the summer months, I encourage everyone to watch for news from the following groups or on the following issues.

- a. Planning for the development of the new high school (should it occur) in the valley – Be aware of impacts on wetlands and riparian zones associated with the Mendenhall R.
- b. Waterfront development – Watch for more news on the proposed development near the ADFG on the downtown side of the bridge.
- c. Dogs and wildlife/integrated trail use – We can expect more comprehensive proposals and opportunities for comments on these from the CBJ Dog Task Force (watch their website at <http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/dfp.php>). Particularly as the spring migration season is upon us and more user groups are hitting the trail system, integration of all types of recreational use (not just dog activity) is worthy of attention.
- d. Juneau International Airport Expansion Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Watch for further news on when the Draft EIS will actually be released (was expected April 2004). Some useful information is available at <http://www.jnu-eis.org/>. Note that a more comprehensive version of the bird report is also available (contact JAS or one of the authors).

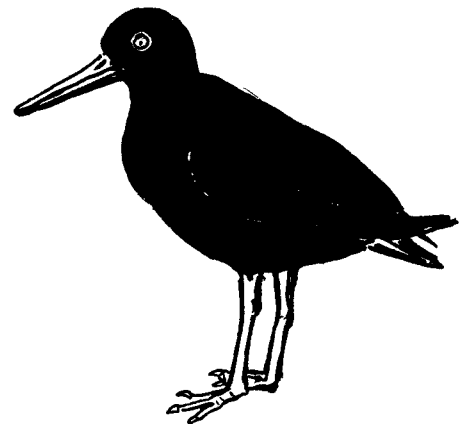
## **REPORT ON THE APRIL 17 BERNERS BAY CRUISE By Deanna MacPhail**

The first of three planned cruises to Berners Bay took place Saturday morning, April 17. It was a sold out trip. Every year we make our best guess as to when we might experience the eulachon run. We weren't the only ones hoping to encounter the spring phenomenon. As we headed to the bay, we met with two Humpback Whales that lolled about on the surface and gave us an unusually close-up view of the wonderful creatures. Closer to the bay we were surrounded by a large group of playful Dall's Porpoise that entertained us for some time.

In the bay, Steller's Sea Lions were gathered in small numbers. We were clearly on the early edge of the eulachon run. We tallied a moderate number of bird species, perhaps the favorite being a pair of Black Oyster Catchers.

Mary Willson, Steve Zimmerman and Laurie Craig provided natural history insight as we moved through the various areas.

The next two cruises will be on Sat. May 1. Ticket sales are brisk and we anticipate another sold out day.





## Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks 2004

*Walks last about two to four hours. If you have them, bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots recommended for most walks and dress for weather. Beginning birders are welcome. For further information contact Steve Zimmerman 586-2597, [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org)*

- May 1**            **Berners Bay Cruises**  
**8:30 a.m.**        Note: The Berners Bay cruises will be leaving from the Don Statter Harbor in Auke Bay  
**1:30 p.m.**        (located below DeHarts Store). Look for the Allen Marine vessel. Boarding 15 minutes  
                         before departure
- May 8**            **Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge**  
**9 a.m.**            Meet at parking lot end of Radcliffe Rd  
                         *Leader: Bob Armstrong*
- May 15**          **Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge**  
**7:00 a.m.**        Meet at parking lot end of Radcliffe Rd  
                         *Leader: Steve Zimmerman*
- May 22**          **Native Plants and Birds—South Bridget Cove**  
**10:00**            Meet at turnout Mile 37.4 South Bridget Cove  
                         *Leaders: Mary Lou King and Pat Harris*
- May 29**          **Norton Lake**  
**7:00 a.m.**        Meet at second parking lot Mendenhall Glacier (Moraine Trailhead)  
                         *Leader: Deanna MacPhail (Rubber boots recommended)*
- June 5**           **Dredge Lakes**  
**7:00 a.m.**        Meet at parking lot at Back Loop Bridge  
                         *Leader: Mark Schwan*
- June 12**          **Amalga Marsh on the Amalga Trail (Eagle River)**  
**8:00 a.m.**        Meet at parking lot just across the Eagle River Bridge Mile 27.9 Glacier Hwy.  
                         *Leader: Gus VanVliet*

### **From Eaglechat Digest Number 744**

Date: Sat, 17 Apr 2004 20:13:29 -0000

Subject: Jackpot in Cowee Meadows

Good morning everyone! I spent a great few hours out at Cowee Meadows this AM

- 26 Mountain Bluebirds (1 in the meadow with the cabin, 25 in the main meadow - even got pictures!)
  - 12 Horned Larks
  - 8 Lapland Longspurs
  - 4 Townsend's Solitaires
  - 1 Golden-crowned Sparrow
  - 3 Northern Harriers
  - 1 Merlin
  - 1 Yellow-shafted Flicker (probably the same one Paul Suchanek saw yesterday)
- Matt

**Subject: Fish Creek field trip results** - Saturday AM, April 10 – Leader Paul Suchanek

There was a good turnout this AM for the Audubon field trip to Fish Creek with about 20 participants. It was somewhat foggy and drizzly early on with slowly improving conditions. A nice list of about 35 species was sighted including a male Eurasian wigeon which was not very cooperative in showing itself, although most eventually got pretty good scope views. Excellent views were had of the "eurasian" or "common" teal which shows little of the horizontal white bar along its side. This bird has been overwintering in the area but is often hard to find.

Great blue heron, Canada goose (heard only), Eurasian wigeon (1 male), American wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged teal (1 male "Eurasian" subspecies), Mallard, Northern pintail, Surf scoter, White-winged scoter, Common goldeneye, Barrow's goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted merganser, Common merganser, Bald eagle, Sharp-shinned hawk, Merlin (heard only), Wilson's snipe, Greater yellowlegs, Mew gull, Glaucous-winged gull, American herring gull (1 probable Thayer's also), Belted kingfisher, Red-breasted sapsucker, Golden-crowned kinglet, Ruby-crowned kinglet, American robin, Varied thrush (heard only), Chestnut-backed chickadee, Steller's jay, Northwestern crow, Common raven, Fox sparrow, Song sparrow

## **My Favorite Bird – Queen Charlotte Goshawk – Steve Lewis, Juneau**

from an interview with Marge Hermans

There are a lot of different birds I enjoy, but if I had to choose a favorite it would be goshawks. I've been working on them for about 10 years, in Utah, Idaho, and Southeast Alaska, so I spend a lot of time thinking about them.

I find goshawks especially interesting partly because they're a predator, so they're out there hunting. My fascination is their whole interaction with smaller birds—how they hunt, and how they catch things to eat.

In Southeast Alaska goshawks live in the big forest, among beautiful old trees, where they can usually find birds and small mammals such as squirrels to eat. But they're so secretive I never even saw one before I started working on them. I wonder how often they see you when you're walking in the woods, but you don't even know they're there. Often they're just sitting and scanning the area. That's how they hunt.

The thing I like most about goshawks is seeing them fly in the forest. Imagine a raven-sized bird flying through the woods, tucking its wings in and turning sideways to go between branches and tree trunks. Their wingspan is about two feet across, but it's like they fly down into a little valley, swoop up, and tuck their wings in. The momentum carries them over the branches and they go sailing through, then as they come down they flare their wings and swoop. It's like aerial acrobatics.

I've always wanted to watch one make a kill. I've never seen it, but from stories I hear, they're pretty tenacious. Once they lock onto something, they seldom give up. I sometimes feel bad for little squirrels and birds. They don't really stand a chance against a goshawk.

Goshawks are not hard to identify. Most people can tell they're a raptor because of their shape. Their wings are short and rounded, which gives them maneuverability in the forest, and they have a long tail typical of accipiters that acts as a rudder to drive and steer in the woods. The subspecies we have here is the Queen Charlotte Goshawk, found from Southeast Alaska south to the Olympic Peninsula.

Adults are dark blue, almost black on the back. Their chest looks light gray, and they have a distinct white eye stripe. If you get a really good look, they have bright red eyes. The color can vary, but in adults it can be a deep blood-red. Juveniles have a brown back, dark but not black. Their front is a white background with many dark brown teardrop-shaped marks. The only other accipiter you might confuse them with in Southeast Alaska is a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, but the sharp-shin would be much smaller than a goshawk.

For the most part, if you approach a goshawk near its nest you will hear the goshawk alarm call. That's a *kak-kak-kak-kak-kak*. It definitely sounds like a large

bird pretty insistently telling you to *Get out!* The next thing that is coming is a swoop at your head.

Juveniles also make a wail call, a kind of high-pitched incessant whistling. They are begging for food, and sometimes the female will make the same call to encourage the male to come and bring food.

The best way to see a goshawk is to keep your eyes and ears open as you walk through the forest. We've found a number of nests because people spotted them or heard birds along trails and told us about them—at Point Bridget, Eagle River, and the Treadwell Ditch Trail. People also see goshawks on the Mendenhall Wetlands, especially in the winter in trees around the ponds. They typically hang out around edges, where there's a concentration of food. You might see juveniles in the fall when they've just left the nest and are sort of independent but haven't quite figured out the whole hunting thing yet.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned about 10 years ago to list Queen Charlotte Goshawks as endangered, but a decision has not yet been made about that. We are waiting on the judge's ruling as whether or not more information is needed. We do know that goshawks nest in large forests in big trees with open canopy and that they hunt in the same type of areas. They can't hunt in new growth after clearcutting for maybe 80 or 90 years. Listing them as endangered would have pretty far-reaching implications on timber harvest. They're definitely a bird you can learn about in the news.

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**Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair - Audubon Award Winner**  
Andrea Doerflinger was the winner of this year's Audubon award, for her study examining the relationship between prey density and abundance of Steller sea lions. Andrea received a \$100 cash award and 1-year membership to the Juneau Audubon Society. **CONGRATULATIONS ANDREA!**

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**\*\*\*\*\* JUNEAU AUDUBON TAKES A SUMMER BREAK WITH NO MEETINGS AND THERE WILL BE NO JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST NEWSLETTERS. THE NEXT MEETING AND NEWSLETTER WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER.**

To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request the Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat, contact [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org). NOTE: if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive the Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:**

**National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
PO Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

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**PO BOX 021725**  
**JUNEAU, AK 99802**

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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Volume 31, Number 1**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**September 2004**

**THERE WILL BE NO AUDUBON MEETING IN SEPTEMBER -- MEETINGS WILL START IN OCTOBER**

## **New Audubon Lecture Series**

The Audubon meetings will have a different look this coming year.

The revamped program will feature 6 lectures, or slide programs over the course of the fall and winter. The programs will start in October, end in April, and will skip the month of December.

We will also be meeting in a larger venue, tentatively Egan Auditorium at the UAS campus, to accommodate a larger group of people in a venue better suited to presentations.

Although the talks may be preceded by brief announcements or business, we will advertise these programs to the community as a free lecture series, open to all people regardless of whether they are Audubon members or not. Given the popularity of the Fireside talks (two shows, often filled to overflowing), we think there is high public demand for the kind of quality nature talks Juneau Audubon presents.

Due to last minute class shifts at the University, we currently don't know what evenings and rooms will be available there, but we should have that nailed down in the next few weeks (at least in time for the October newsletter). We also plan to print a schedule and program description for the entire series on cardstock, and include it in the October newsletter. We'll be posting it in all the usual bulletin boards and advertising in the newspaper to get a good turnout at these events.

We hope you'll appreciate the new format, and become regular attendees at the monthly Audubon Lecture Series. As always, your feedback is welcomed. Comments and suggestions on future program topics, scheduling, and/or venues should be directed to Matt Kirchhoff, Program Chair, at 907-586-5816 or [kirchhoff@gci.net](mailto:kirchhoff@gci.net).

## Notes from the Board

Brenda Wright, president

Hello and welcome back from an extraordinarily sunny summer!

With so much great weather, we hope you had time to enjoy all your favorite outside pursuits. Now that it is September, it is time to begin our schedule of presentations and meetings. The Juneau Audubon Board has decided to change our schedule of meetings and also where we will meet. We would like to expand the opportunity for the community to share our great slide shows and lectures. We want to provide quality enjoyment for more of Juneau's community,

So we are proposing to amend our by-laws and instead of monthly meetings from September through May, we will have fewer, but larger Audubon sponsored events. (Please see the proposed change to our by-laws following this article).

**There will be no public meeting in September 2004.** Our program chair, Matt Kirchhoff, is lining up a group of very interesting programs. We will plan on having Audubon sponsored lectures October, November, January, February, March, and April. We will have all the details for the speakers and the locations in the October newsletter.

Our annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the October public meeting. We will vote on the proposed by-law amendment and elect Juneau Audubon officers. Election will include president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The current officers, Brenda Wright, Chris Kent, and Liz Blecker have agreed to another term. Deanna MacPhail, our secretary, will be doing some traveling and feels it would be good for another person to take on this job. Please call any board member if you are interested in being nominated for any of these positions.

In the meantime, if you would care to volunteer to make jam, help at the public market in November, write letters for conservation causes, or get involved with other Juneau Audubon volunteers, please contact any board member. Updates on schedules and bird news can be found on our web page: [www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENT** to Juneau Audubon Society By-laws

Juneau Audubon Society Board would like to propose the following amendment to the by-laws  
Change:

Article III-Meetings of Members

Section 1. Regular meetings of members shall be held monthly, September through May.

To

Article III-Meetings of Members

Section 1. Regular meetings of members shall be held *between* September *and* May.



## **Recent Rare Bird Sightings in Juneau** **By Steve Zimmerman**

On a recent birding trip to Hyder, a friend from Fairbanks told me that he wished he lived in Juneau because, "Juneau gets all the good birds every year." Although that is a bit of an exaggeration, birds that are very rare in Alaska do show up every year in Juneau. 2004 has been no exception. Starting with a Great Egret that was seen during the first week of January this year, Juneau has produced a steady list of birds that are only rarely seen in Alaska. Foremost among these include a Ross's Goose found by Paul Suchanek on May 10 which stayed around for several days in the company of a Snow Goose on the Mendenhall Wetlands; and a male, singing Dickcissel that was found at the beginning of the airport trail on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Dickcissel is not just rare in Alaska, it had never even been seen in the state before! Another very unusual sighting, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, was found by Rich Gordon near the 26-mile marker out the road on June 30. Although Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are very occasionally seen in eastern, interior Alaska, there had never a multiple-person sighting in Juneau. Amazingly, even though Rich was not able to actually see the bird, he made the identification based on the bird's call. Rich graciously alerted others so that many of Juneau's birders could get their first chance to see or hear this bird in Alaska. Other birds that the University of Alaska Museum lists as being rare in Alaska, that have been seen in Juneau so far in 2004 include, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Sora, Wilson's Phalarope, White-rumped Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Barred Owl, Western Screech-owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Common Nighthawk, Mourning Dove, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cassin's Vireo, Mountain Bluebird, Tennessee Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Leave it to Paul Suchanek to find animals that many of us would otherwise miss. Not only did he find many of the above listed birds, he also discovered a new dragonfly for the state! In mid-August he found a Spot-winged Glider in the Point Bridget area and he was able to photograph one on August 18. Until Paul found it, this species had never been seen north of Vancouver Island.

As I write this in late August there is still plenty of time for more rarities to be found. During our first meeting in October I hope to be able to be able to update you with a few new species that have been added to the 2004 list.

**Name That Bird** By Marge Hermans

- \* This shy, secretive bird, about 6 inches long, lives along streams, lakes, ponds, and bogs.
- \* It is classified as "uncommon" in Southeast Alaska.
- \* It occasionally wades in the water to capture insects, mollusks, crustaceans, or small fish.
- \* It often "teeters" when walking.
- \* It nests on the ground beneath logs, roots, or stumps, or in mossy banks.
- \* It is a member of the wood warbler family.

Can you name it?

## **Clips from the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. Let us know what interests and concerns you in Juneau and around Southeast. Comments? Contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org) or any other committee or Board member.

**1. Kensington Gold Project (aka Kensington mine)** – Check the CBJ website ([http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documets/STF\\_MIN04-03.pdf](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documets/STF_MIN04-03.pdf)) to read the application by Coeur Alaska, Inc. for an allowable-use permit for an underground mine (i.e. Alternative B of the supplemental Draft EIS presented to the Forest Service for the Kensington Gold Project). This CBJ permit addresses local interests as opposed to state or federal interests that are dealt with through other regulatory policies and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Note that this application went before the CBJ Planning Commission Aug 31 and the **Commission approved the allowable-use permit** (see also Juneau Empire, Sept 1).

Alternative B is expected to produce gold over a 10 year period and have a construction schedule of approximately 16 mos. Should the life of the mine extend beyond this, some additional review processes will be undertaken. For example, the current proposal for tailings storage will accommodate 10-yrs worth of tailings; if greater storage capacity is required, the project will undergo further environmental review under NEPA. Also, reclamation procedures have not been detailed. This will take place after a record of decision (ROD) is issued by the Forest Service. Background, analysis, findings, and recommendations of the CBJ staff regarding various components of the development are given at the above site. Also see [www.kensingtoneis.com](http://www.kensingtoneis.com) to follow the permitting process.

Of particular interest in the report by the CBJ is the analysis of the applications of enforceable policies of the Juneau Coastal Management Program (JCMP). It is noted that the project is inconsistent with several of the Habitat policies of the JCMP, due primarily to projected loss of productivity of Lower Slate Lake and filling of wetlands. However, the “significant public need” for the development is also cited, as is the fact that no feasible and prudent alternative poses less impact.

JAS has previously submitted comments regarding this development during the review period of the DSEIS and the comment periods of the ACMP and other applicable, enforceable policies. Watch for the following: review of the project under NEPA (is the project compliant with various applicable state and federal environmental regulations), Final Supplemental EIS, and Forest Service ROD to be expected around November,

You can see the ordinance providing for the current approval process of mines located in the rural mining district and subject to federal and/or state environmental review, also on the CBJ website at [http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/ATT\\_MIN04-03.PDF](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/ATT_MIN04-03.PDF)

**2. Spuhn Island Subdivision** - The State has determined that the project, as amended by a number of alternative measures proposed by the State, is now consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) and the affected coastal district’s enforceable policies. For background on the proposal for a subdivision on Spuhn Island, off the end of Fritz Cove Rd, see materials posted on the CBJ Planning Commission’s website (a quick search under Spuhn gives it all!). The work being reviewed under the ACMP included development of a trail to provide ATV access to support a residential subdivision on the Island. This involves discharge of some fill into uplands, waters, and wetlands:

There are some interesting notes here and things to watch for in the future as this development proceeds. During the approval process by the CBJ, the developers agreed to modify their original proposal to include some additional facilities. These include: (1) moorage (1 or 2 docks) for 30 vessels

on the Island. This will likely have to be reviewed through the Corps and/or ACMP; and (2) permanent parking to accommodate vehicles and boat trailers of lot owners. This also may involve ACMP review.

**3. CBJ Dog Task Force** – You can read the latest recommendations of the committee re: education, leash and off leash times/places, and other aspects of dog recreation in Juneau at:

<http://www.juneau.org/parksrec/DTF/pdfs/DTF-FInal-Recommendations-June-24.pdf>

There were a variety of issues associated with dog recreation that sparked this committee. Among them was concern of some community members that dogs were negatively impacting wildlife, particularly nesting and foraging birds in local wetlands. A public meeting is being held Sept 9, 7 p.m. at Centennial Hall.

**4. A-J Mine** – The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has tentatively determined to reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the CBJ A-J Mine in Juneau. Although the mine is inactive, effluent is discharged into Gold Creek. The draft permit places conditions on the discharge of pollutants from the mine, to ensure protection of water quality and human health. You can read the draft permit, fact sheet, and other information at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/WATER.NSF/NPDES+Permits/DraftPermitsAK>  
**Comments are due** September 8 at:

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Attn: Director, Office of Water,  
Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130,  
Seattle, Washington 98101

The State must also certify that the NPDES permit will comply with sections of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Comments regarding the draft permit can be sent to:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Industrial Wastewater Section  
555 Cordova St  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**5. Identifying conservation priorities on the Tongass** – Here is a positive note about a State initiative in our own back yard. Audubon Alaska is working to coordinate a conservation strategy for the Tongass. The work is being done in coordination with scientists and planners from academia, the US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, AK Dept of Fish and Game, and others. Individuals from many agencies are working to ensure that new data and mapping techniques are available and utilized in this initiative.

## WEB SIGHTS OF INTEREST

Please join us for schedule updates and links to other bird organizations at our web page: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> and enjoy all the bird news in our neighborhood at [Eaglechat@yahogroups.com](mailto:Eaglechat@yahogroups.com)

Answer to **Name That Bird:** Northern Waterthrush

# The Raven



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**Volume 31, Number 2**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**October 2004**

## OCTOBER PROGRAM



**Please join us for the first Juneau Audubon 2004 Lecture series, to be held Thursday, October 14, from 7:30-8:30 in the Egan Auditorium on the UAS campus (downstairs, in the new classroom wing).**

All six talks in this year's series (monthly, October-April, except December) will be given by notable experts in their fields, with topics covering natural history, adventure travel, outdoor photography, and birding around the globe. You'll be enthralled by the excellent speakers, so come early and get a good seat.

The series kicks off this October 14th with a presentation by Dr. Steve Zimmerman titled:

### **The Natural History of the Northern Fur Seal in the Pribilof Islands**

The remote Pribilof Islands are home for several hundred thousand breeding Northern Fur Seals. In early years, prior to active management, overexploitation drove these seals to very low numbers. How are the seals doing today? Dr. Steve Zimmerman, who managed the fur seal program for 15 years on the Pribilofs, will show slides and offer commentary on the biology, population dynamics, and management activities that have shaped the survival of these fascinating animals in modern times.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Glacier Bay 4<sup>th</sup> Science Symposium (October 26-28)** An exciting three day conference is planned in Glacier Bay. The first keynote address will be: "Multiple viewpoints provide a greater understanding of Glacier Bay ecosystems" by Gary Davis, Chief Scientist, Ocean Programs, NPS. To see the full program go to: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/symposium.htm>

**See Page 4 for UAS Juneau programs scheduled for Friday Evenings at Egan**

## **NOTES FROM THE BOARD**

### **Election of Officers/Board news/Avian Web -- by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society President**

Come join us for the first of this year's lecture series, a great talk by Steve Zimmerman on the Pribilof Islands and it is also our annual meeting to elect Juneau Audubon chapter officers. We are electing president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. If you are interested in being an officer or helping with any of our standing committees on conservation, membership, newsletter, or public market just call or e-mail any of the officers listed in the newsletter. We also want your help in revising the bylaws from reading "monthly meetings" to "regularly scheduled meetings from September to May."

Birds in winter? What kinds of fun things are happening with birds in southeast in winter? Where do you go to observe birds in winter? Try our public lecture series. In the meantime, if you like keeping lists of the birds you see or enjoy sharing bird stories with your friends, please think of the Raven newsletter too. We are trying to get some news from every community in southeast to share in our newsletter. If you would like to get involved, just e-mail [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org) or write us at PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. I know lots of you have digital cameras now, so feel free to send a few photos too. Bill Neumann (Petersburg) shared some astounding pictures of dozens of hummingbirds on a single feeder from his SE AK summer home this year!

For other fun bird activities check out some Internet web sites. Do you like to keep track of the birds you see in your yard or while you are out for a walk? Check out eBird (<http://www.ebird.org/content/>). Just a few simple clicks and you can enter your observations into a national database on birds. By sharing your lists you increase our knowledge of bird populations and migration routes and the bonus is to learn more about your own favorite birds. Ever wonder where our rufous hummingbird spends winter? Opportunity abounds on the Internet for us to participate in studies to increase our knowledge about birds. The Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology (<http://birds.cornell.edu/>) has Project Feeder Watch, The Great Backyard Bird Count, and other projects for you to join. The birds you see out of the kitchen window might just help explain migration timing or how avian diseases spread. Do you think you might go so far as to volunteer in some exotic location or even in the Tongass National Forest or St. Lazaria Island outside Sitka? Look at American Birding conservation programs/volunteer opportunities (<http://americanbirding.org/>).

On a slightly different note, remember the smoky skies this summer? The boreal forest in Alaska and Canada has been burning. Although it is part of the natural cycle for the boreal forest to burn, there is a need for information on its effects on birds. Our Canadian neighbor has a new project to protect and manage birds in the boreal forest called the Boreal Songbird Initiative ([www.borealbirds.org](http://www.borealbirds.org)). There are at least 298 bird species that have some of their breeding grounds in the boreal forest.

Other sites on the Web that might be of local interest include The Trumpeter Swan society ([www.trumpeterswansociety.org/](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/)), Copper River Shorebird festival ([www.cordovachamber.com](http://www.cordovachamber.com)), or Stikine Tidal Flats Wildlife viewing area ([http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/recreation/wildlife\\_viewing/stikineflat.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/recreation/wildlife_viewing/stikineflat.htm)). And do not forget to check out our parent organization, National Audubon Society ([www.audubon.org/](http://www.audubon.org/)). Your local Juneau Audubon Web page has a local bird checklist, lecture schedules, guided bird walk schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org/](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/)).

## **NATIONAL AUBUDON SOCIETY BOARD MEETING By Steve Zimmerman**

The Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society (NAS) held its third and final 2004 meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania during September 17 – 19. There were several items on the agenda, but the item of most interest to local chapters in Alaska, Hawaii and Guam was the report of the Ad Hoc Chapter Committee. This committee was formed by the NAS Board in 2003 to deal with a deterioration in chapter-NAS relations. Comprised of NAS Board members and NAS staff, representatives from Audubon state offices, representatives from a diversity of small and large Audubon chapters, and including a member of the Take Back Audubon (TBA) movement, this large committee is seeking solutions to problems that could affect the relationship between NAS and its chapters. Its charge is to find ways to strengthen the partnership between members, chapters, state offices, staff and NAS to promote effective conservation at local, state, regional and national levels.

Several changes have been suggested in the form of draft recommendations. The draft recommendations will be sent to all chapter presidents in September. During the September – November period, these recommendations will be discussed with chapters and feedback will be requested by December 1. Using this feedback, the committee will finalize its recommendations so that they can be presented to the NAS board at its January, 2005 meeting for approval. Major recommendations include:

Doing away with annual dues share reimbursement to chapters, and replacing it with new sources of chapter funding. The key concept is the creation of a chapter grants program that will be administered by state offices using funds that will initially be provided by NAS. Over time it is hoped that new money can be raised to replenish and expand the pool of funds for chapter grants. Chapters will be able to apply for funding to implement basic programs in their strategic plan, to develop conservation programs, to develop educational outreach programs, to undertake special state projects or partnership projects with state offices, or to develop other capacity building programs. Chapters that do not have state offices will be asked how NAS can best support their work in the absence of a state office.

Developing a new membership policy. The committee reviewed a number of proposals for recognizing the different membership relationships between National members and Chapter members, but did not come to a final conclusion. During the comment period the committee will be seeking input from chapters regarding the following three membership structures: Automatic joint membership, optional shared membership, or separate membership. Details on these structures will be provided to chapters.

Developing collaborative fundraising guidelines. Fundraising must be coordinated so that conflicts regarding who solicits which donor are avoided, and so that donors know the attributes of each entity within Audubon (national, state, center or chapter) that they might wish to contribute to.

Developing partnership projects. Projects to create partnerships between chapters, state offices, centers and the office of NAS Chapter Services will be developed to strengthen common ties within the Audubon family. Opportunities for chapters and state offices to fund raise together for cooperative ventures will be encouraged.

Developing criteria for chapter evaluation and certification. Annual chapter reports, to be reviewed by state offices, will still be the basis for annual recertification of chapters. National Measures of Success are being reviewed by NAS, and may be used to evaluate the success of NAS-chapter partnerships.

## Clips from the Conservation Committee:

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. Let us know what interests and concerns you in Juneau and around Southeast. Comments? Contact the Chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org) or any other committee or Board member.

**1. Kensington Gold Project (aka Kensington mine)** – You can read the notice of decision (here an approval) regarding the allowable use permit granted by the CBJ Planning Commission for gold mine development and production within the rural mining district at Berners Bay at [http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/NOD\\_MIN04-03](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/NOD_MIN04-03).

Another useful source of information on the history of permitting associated with different components of the Kensington Project can be seen on the Alaska Coastal Management Plan website at

<http://www.alaskacoast.sate.ak.us/Projects/kensingt.html>.

Expect a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) on Kensington to be released by Nov. 19.

**2. Cape Fox-Berners Bay land swap** – The bill that would authorize Cape Fox Native corporation to trade approximately 1700 acres of land near Ketchikan (mostly logged) for approximately 2600 acres in Berners Bay –even larger amounts of land would be swapped by Sealaska Corp.- is currently dead due to lack of quorum for voting in Congress. Watch to see if this is reintroduced (by Sen. Lisa Murkowski). Note that if this waterfront land in Berners Bay were transferred to private ownership from the current federal (i.e., public) ownership within the Tongass National Forest, mining activity (i.e., Kensington Gold Project) would not be subject to the review process required for industrial projects on federal land.

**3. Yankee Cove** – Yankee Cove Development Co. has requested permits to dredge, discharge material, and build structures within Yankee Cove for the purposes of creating a year-round moorage facility. You can view the permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers at [http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN\\_Scanned/September/POA-1986-106-O.pdf](http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN_Scanned/September/POA-1986-106-O.pdf)  
The facility would include a 20'x80' dock connected to the seawall by aluminum gangway. Comments are due at the Corps office on Oct. 9.

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### **EVENING AT EGAN, UAS JUNEAU**

#### **October 15**

Southeast Alaska Prehistory:  
Integration of Oral Tradition & Science  
Rosita Worl, Asst. Prof. of Anthropology

#### **October 22**

Merging Fiction and Fact in 21st Century Drama  
PJ Paparelli, Artistic Director for Perversance  
Theatre

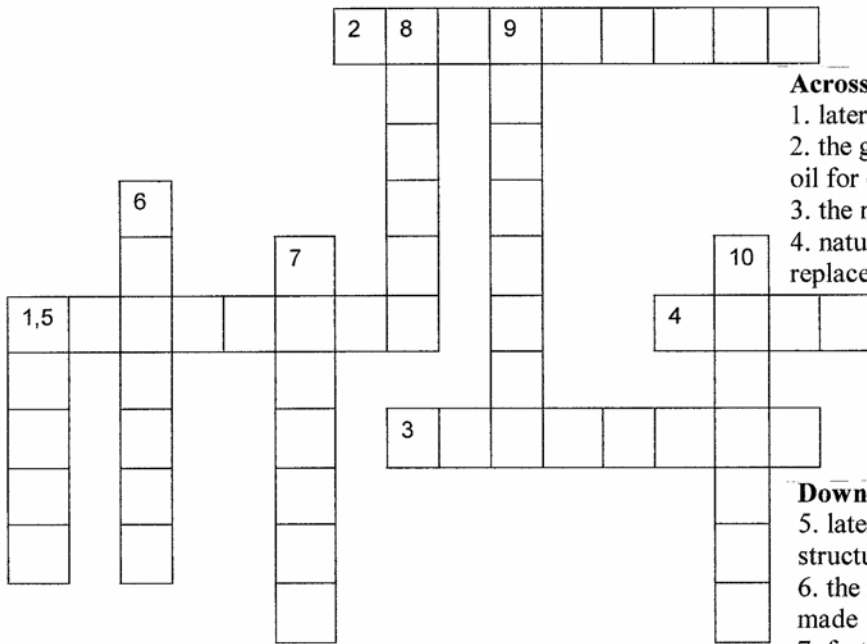
#### **October 29**

Overview of Glacier Bay Ecosystems  
Featuring panelists from the Glacier Bay Science  
Symposium  
including Dr. Alexander Milner, Dr. James Bodkin, & Dr.  
Ross Powell

#### **November 5**

Bats: Studying Noises in the Night  
Matthew Heavner, Asst. Prof. of Physics

### Birdlife Crossword - Feathers



#### Across

1. lateral branches off the barbs of a feather
2. the gland at the base of the tail that provides oil for cleaning and maintaining feathers
3. the major source of color in birds' feathers
4. natural process in which birds periodically replace their feathers

#### Down

5. lateral branches off the central support structure of a feather
6. the inert substance out of which feathers are made
7. feather coat
8. the central support structure of a feather
9. what birds are doing when they are applying oil to their feathers
10. another name for body feathers

### SITKA REPORT By Kathleen Everest

#### Here Come the Clowns – to Sitka

What birds are also called “sea mice,” “squeakers,” “rock ducks,” “lords and ladies,” “ladybirds,” “white-eyed divers,” “painted ducks,” and “totem-pole ducks?” Only small, court-jester Harlequin Ducks with oddly painted faces and feather costumes could have so many stage names! On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Marge Ward reported she has seen three batches with about 100 ducks per batch on different days in two different areas. Marge also noted these Harlequins may be early in Sitka this year, and their numbers are finally increasing after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989.

#### Feather-Weather-Forecast in Sitka

On a gray day September 27<sup>th</sup>, Marge spotted a lone, gray Wandering Tattler and noted this sandpiper is in town later than usual. But, is winter coming soon since Marge also saw the first Varied Thrush early this year on September 28<sup>th</sup>, down from the mountains looking for an easy meal? This “Alaska Robin” likes fruit such as apples so make some available.



## LATE SUMMER NOTES FROM KETCHIKAN

As an exceptional warm summer transforms to invigorating and colorful Autumn, watch for feathered visitors passing through returning to winter havens south. Amidst the bustle of tourist traffic near the tunnel, a fork-tailed storm-petrel walked across the dock and flew out across the channel, a rare sight!! A few juvenile Franklin's gulls have been seen several times along the waterfront in past weeks. An amazing 57 Lapland longspurs, along with pectoral sandpipers, long-billed dowitchers and an osprey were reported at the airport recently. The road that runs the perimeter of the runway is usually very productive for birds with more open area than found on Revillagigedo island.

The new 3rd Avenue bypass road above town opened with sweeping views of the channel and promises good vantage points to greet returning migrant waterfowl next spring!

Do get out and enjoy the glorious Autumn days to delight in the surprising vibrantly colored muskegs and alpine slopes before winter arrives!

Submitted by: Teri Goucher  
Ketchikan, Alaska 907-225-5974

## Haines Report—More Than Just Eagles Submitted by Georgia Giacobbe

I must admit up front that I am a novice bird watcher in Alaska as I just moved here approximately 1 ½ years ago. But in that short time, I have observed that the Chilkat Valley is more than just the Valley of the Eagles. During my summer stay at Chilkat Lake, I observed 11 common loons in a cove one rainy morning, an unusual sighting for me to see that many loons gathered in one spot. And yes, the eagles are now gathering on the Chilkat River. Approximately 100+ have been observed gathering as of September 18 on the McClellan Flats along with the competitive gulls and ravens. As of that date, they had not gathered farther up the river yet.

### Answers to Feathers Crossword

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. barbules  | 6. keratin  |
| 2. uropygial | 7. plumage  |
| 3. pigments  | 8. rachis   |
| 4. molt      | 9. preening |
| 5. barbs     | 10. contour |

## **Mary Lou King**

Author, educator, conservationist, spruce root creations, and weaver.

In the mid 1960's, an educational field trip program at the Auke Bay elementary school known as Seaweek was expanded to all public grade schools in Juneau. Seaweek was a series of field trips to rich intertidal beaches. Students examined insects, small fish, birds, plants--anything and everything. The scientific community of Juneau is larger than average due to government offices and as Seaweek expanded so did the pool of volunteers to interact with the students. Mary Lou was a major motivating force in expanding Seaweek to all public elementary school students. She also helped to modify and upgrade the teacher's guides and student activity packages. Along with greater involvement with public schools came recognition of a need for more public beach access as close as possible to saltwater beaches near town. Taku Conservation Society volunteers, led by Mary Lou, identified existing public access routes and then improved or built new trails to the beach. Because the new trails were not included in any Juneau trail guides, Mary Lou wrote "90 Short Walks Around Juneau". It is a favorite of visitors and locals. Not only does it have maps but also comments on trail difficulty and best times to travel or enjoy. Mary Lou donates the profits from this book to Taku Conservation Society and Trail Mix.

In the last decade, a fish trap was discovered near the mouth of Montana Creek as it joins the Mendenhall River. It was probably 900 (?) years old. Mary Lou likes to do spruce root baskets, hats, and other challenging projects. She decided to make a replica of the fish trap in natural materials. Her replica is over 4' long and is a work of art! She gave it to the River Bend elementary school since the original had been found nearby. It is on permanent display in the River Bend School library.

She frequently writes articles for the Juneau Empire, not only for Audubon-intertidal or alpine plants- but also for Trail Mix and others. She is our best group leader for plant and berry walks sponsored by Juneau Audubon. Mary Lou is very talented in many ways unknown to me, but in every way she supports learning and growing.

## **Brenda Wright**

Mary Lou is a doer. Most of us procrastinate or wait until we have all the facts before acting. But not Mary Lou, she just does it. She would make statements like "I don't know anything about writing a trail guide or putting out an Audubon newsletter but I'm gonna do it. Sometimes I would hear her say something like "Well no one else will teach these kids about birds so I might as well do it!" Educational material appears in schools, access to neat places gets established, and a very controversial report on the Mendenhall Wetlands gets published, all because she just does it.

## **Bob Armstrong**

Ed Note: This was not the Editor's idea, but thanks for the nice words Brenda and Bob

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive the Audubon magazine and our Raven newsletter.

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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 31, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2004

## Aurora's of the Alaska Range...a Photographic Journey by Norio Matsumoto

Thursday, November 11,  
7:30-8:30 PM  
UAS Egan Auditorium

Come see the breath-taking slide images and video of Japanese nature photographer, Norio Matsumoto. Norio will be in Juneau briefly as he prepares for his next photographic expedition to the Alaska Range.

Each winter, Norio spends months camped on glaciers in the heart of the Alaska Range, enduring frigid temperatures, winter storms, and isolation...all in pursuit of the "perfect" photo. His very survival requires meticulous planning, amazing patience, and impressive determination. The rewards are in his stunning photography.

There is one showing only, and seating is limited, so mark your calendars and come early. You will not be disappointed!

This free presentation is part of Juneau Audubon's "**Celebrate Nature**" series.

**BOARD NEWS** by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society president

November!

This month we prepare our goodies for the public market, one of our two major fundraisers for the year. Time to make jam, create some crafts, and volunteer to help at our booth. It's a fun way to see many of your friends and help support Juneau Audubon during Thanksgiving Day weekend. If you can volunteer to help, please contact any board member or Ellen Anderson, booth coordinator, at 789-1412.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, have you heard of the Thanksgiving Day bird count? No, not the cooked one in the oven. This is a simple bird count that only lasts for one hour and is confined to a circle of only 15 feet! This is the kind of bird count I do as I sit by my window and visit with friends and family. It is organized by Humboldt State University and the information is collected from all western states. You can pick any one hour period on Thanksgiving Day. Give it a try, it is simple and easy. The form is available on Page 7, at the public lecture, and on the Juneau web page.

Your local Juneau Audubon web page has a local bird checklist, lecture schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org/](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/)).

## **BEARS, FRUITS, AND BEAR GARDENS** By Mary F. Willson

If you walk up the old logging roads in the Neka Valley south of Hoonah on Chichagof Island, one of the first things you (as an observant naturalist) might notice along the edge of the road are small clusters of tiny plants that look like salmonberry or wild black currants. Every so often there might be a cluster with miniature devil's club leaves. If you take this walk in late summer, you'd probably also find deposits full of seeds of blueberry, currant, salmonberry, devil's club, and maybe some of watermelon berry, elderberry, or highbush cranberry, often along with some whole berries and even leaves. Making the obvious connections, you'd deduce that the clusters of tiny plants probably came from the deposits full of seeds. Those deposits sometimes have fish bones (and tapeworms!) too, but the majority of the deposited material in late summer and early fall is derived from fruits of the forest. Bears like to use these old logging roads, and a single stretch of road might accumulate a few thousand scats in one season. The little clusters of young plants we call "bear gardens".

The fruits have been designed by evolution to be consumed by vertebrates, which digest the fruit pulp (most of it, anyway) and evacuate the seeds, either by defecation or regurgitation. While the seeds are in the vertebrate digestive tract, they are moved about the landscape before being deposited at some distance from the parent plant. In other forests, many studies have shown that seeds carried away from the parent plant are more likely to survive, germinate, and grow than are those deposited near the parent. So, in general, dispersal of seeds is advantageous. In some cases, just a few seeds are carried really far, but these can be very important in colonizing new areas (or areas devastated by fire, opened up by landslides, or torn up by logging operations).

Many kinds of vertebrates perform this service of seed dispersal for the plants in return for a lunch of sweet or oily fruits. Birds are regular seed dispersal agents, including waxwings, thrushes, some warblers, crows and ravens. But here in Southeast Alaska, bears may be at least as important as birds in carrying seeds around the countryside. Bears eat lots of fruits, even during the salmon season. They deposit lots of seeds (as many as 5000-10,000/scat) with a nice load of manure. And they often carry seeds a considerable distance. And on top of all that, bears are very numerous on our landscapes.

Several aspects of the mutualistic relationship between brown bears and forest fruits have been explored by colleagues and students associated with me. A post-doctoral colleague (Anna Traveset) and a student (Teresa Bermejo) from Spain found that germination by bear-passed seeds was usually pretty good, that manure composition affected seed germination and seedling growth (scats with animal bones were best—probably a source of minerals), and that high concentrations of seeds in bear scats could lead to secondary scattering of seeds by seed-hunting rodents. A graduate student (Laura Patten) determined how long seeds stayed in bear digestive tracts (just a few hours) and combined that information with data on hourly monitoring of movements of brown bears carrying ADF&G radio collars, in order to estimate that bears could carry seeds an average of about 650-1000 yards, but sometimes 1.5 miles or more. Although some of these seeds would be deposited in places unsuitable for germination or growth, many would land in potentially good sites. From the plants' perspective, the process is a bit like a lottery—they have to produce a lot of seeds to ensure that some of them will be successful.

From the bears' perspective, the fruit crop constitutes a food resource of major importance. In most of Southeast Alaska, fruits and salmon both contribute to the process of putting on fat for hibernation. But some bears are reported (by ADF&G) to spend the whole year in the alpine zone, where fruits may be the main source of food in fall. Bears in their winter dens live off the fat deposited in fall, and female bears depend on that fat for energy to nurse the winter-born cubs. When the berry crops fail, many cubs may die young.

Thus, the relationship between bears and fruiting plants is reciprocal – both parties gain something important from the interaction. Clearly, the interaction is ecologically significant to the landscape and wildlife of Southeast Alaska.

### **From Petersburg By Don Cornelius**

The tawny fluff-ball of a cat sat placidly in the live trap I had borrowed from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Nuts, I thought, I had caught Eddie, one of my neighbor's three cats. Several years ago, when he was leaner and younger, Eddie used to vault clear to the top of my bird feeder until I ringed it with nails to stop that trick. This day he fell for a can of tuna in the live-trap under the deck.

I packed Eddie home and explained that he and his two companions were frequent visitors to my feeder. Any help would be much appreciated. They were sympathetic, but “when Eddie and his companions are kept indoors, they go ballistic.” So, back home I searched the internet and came up with a website for CatStop at [www.catgoods.com](http://www.catgoods.com). CatStop is a bib that attaches to a cats collar and reportedly keeps it from catching birds. I presume it prevents the cat from snatching the birds in midair with it's paws. I offered to buy one for each of my neighbors cats, but they refused my offer—they would buy the \$7.95 bibs themselves. They ordered them that day and now Eddie and his house mates are the most bizarre looking cats in the neighborhood. Fortunately, the bibs don't seem to bother the cats. I don't know how successful they are -- once when visiting another neighbor I heard a clunk on the window as a Savannah sparrow struck the full-length pane. As the sparrow struggled to hop into a nearby bush, Eddie leaped on the porch like someone had struck a dinner bell. Fortunately a wrap on the window chased Eddie off, but I wondered if he has simply modified his technique to take advantage of another pitfall facing our neighborhood birds.

As I write this I wonder if feeding birds, thus drawing them into communities with cats and windows, is a selfish idea. Does my daily pleasure take a toll on our avian friends?

Has anyone else has had any experience with the CatStop bibs? I've considered ordering up a bunch to donate to our local Humane Association—to be distributed with cats that are adopted through them. But, maybe there are better alternatives. Certainly the internet offers lots of suggestions, but what really works besides keeping cats indoors—which many cat owners don't want to do? If anyone has any ideas, e-mail me at [doncorn@gci.net](mailto:doncorn@gci.net) and I'll pass them along.

### **Report From Haines By Georgia Giacobbe**

The birds have been active this October in Haines. I was given third party reports of trumpeter and tundra swan at Mosquito Lake. My husband witnessed a flock of approximately 100 snow buntings flying by at 2.5 mile on Haines Highway earlier in the month. A drive out to Mud Bay on Saturday the 23rd revealed about three to four buffleheads, about six common loons, and several other diving ducks (binoculars were not strong enough for me to make a good identification). And now the eagle update—as of Saturday the 23rd the eagles were spread out along the Chilkat River from the McClellan Flats past Klukwan. A couple were spotted at the Tsirku where Clear Creek empties into the river. The largest concentration seemed to be north of the Council Grounds at 19 mile and below Klukwan, too numerous to accurately count. They were competing with the late Canadian fisherman. Hopefully the number of eagles won't pass their peak before the Bald Eagle Festival scheduled for November 17-21.

### **Sightings In Sitka by Kathleen Everest**

October 2004

Roads are rare in southeast Alaska, and sometimes the sun seems to be rare. Similarly in the last month, birders in Sitka have sited some rare species for this area or time of year. Rare bird sightings are not only fun, they are food for thought concerning the subtle changes that could be taking place.

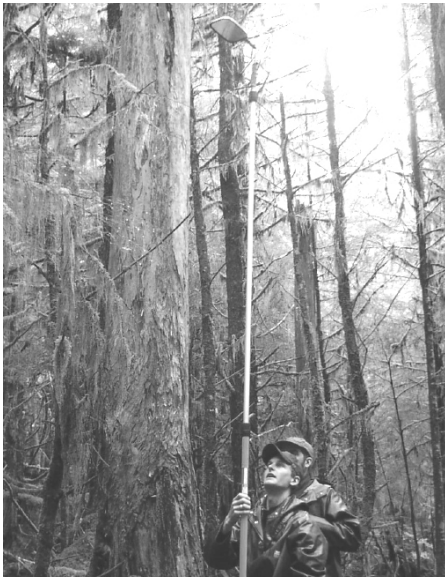
Kitty LaBounty had two Red Breasted Nut Hatches for two months at her feeders, and their presence is fairly rare in Sitka. Kitty also saw another bird that was tentatively identified as an American Gold Finch. He was definitely out of his territory as Gold Finches are not even listed in Guide To The Birds of Alaska (1990).

October 4, Marge Ward spotted the first predictable Common Loon coming through, but like Kitty, Marge sited a rare bird for this time of year – one American Coot on Swan Lake. The last two weeks, six to eight Ring Necked Ducks have also been seen on Swan Lake, and Marge notes that 15 years ago these ducks were never seen in Sitka.

Alaska, however, is home for Golden Crown Sparrows and Marge has seen these sparrows feeding with juncos off and on since September. October 2, Marge saw one Black Oyster Catcher, alias “Sea Crow,” and then she saw eight more on October 15 at Halibut Point Recreation Area dressed in black feathered costumes with red bills and feet for Halloween.

We can anticipate the next report and what rare birds may be seen coming through Sitka.

### **RESEARCH ON BIRD NESTING SUCCESS IN COASTAL BUFFERS ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND** By Dave Sperry, a graduate student at Humboldt University



*Dave Checking the Occupancy of a Pacific-slope Flycatcher Nest*

The association between declines in songbird populations and forest fragmentation has received a great deal of attention in the last few decades. In the Pacific Northwest, timber harvesting has resulted in removal of large expanses of old-growth forest, fragmenting original forest and increasing the amount of forest edge. Recent forest management practices have focused on protecting and maintaining habitat quality for terrestrial wildlife, including migratory and resident species of birds. Specifically, the 1997 revised Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan included an increase in the no-harvest buffer zone along all marine coastlines from 152.4m (500ft) to 304.8m (1000ft) to promote conservation of wildlife habitat.

In 2003 and 2004, I conducted research on Prince of Wales Island to evaluate differences in reproductive success of breeding birds within narrow and wide coastal buffers. I worked in seven study sites within the Staney Creek and Polk Inlet areas. Preliminary analyses of reproductive measures have produced some interesting trends. Five of seven species I monitored were more likely to successfully produce young in wider buffers. Although we have not determined yet if nest concealment differed between narrow and wide buffers, previous studies have shown that reproductive success was positively correlated to the amount of vegetative cover around nests.

Along with examining differences between treatments, I also documented differences in nest site location among species. Cavity-nesting species, such as Red-breasted Sapsuckers and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, nested closer to the harvest edge than the coastal edge. Tree mortality due to increased sunlight and changes in soil composition may have been higher along harvested edges and therefore, cavity-nesting species were able to find dead or dying trees suitable for excavation. Open cup nesting species, such as Pacific-slope Flycatchers and Swainson’s Thrushes, were more likely to nest closer to the natural, coastal edge. Food availability or nest concealment may be the mechanism behind nest site



selection of these species. This information on nest site selection and reproductive success may help influence future forest management decisions.

Although the results presented here are preliminary, the increased buffer width implemented under the 1997 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan benefits both migratory and resident bird species. This research was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tongass Monitoring Program. If you have further questions or comments regarding my research, please email me at [dms45@humboldt.edu](mailto:dms45@humboldt.edu).

## **Clips from the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. Let us know what interests and concerns you have in Juneau and around Southeast. If you have comments or would like to become involved in the Conservation Committee, please contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org), or any other committee or Board member.

**1. Board of Game meeting** – The state Board of Game (BOG) will meet from Nov 2-5<sup>th</sup> in Juneau. There are a number of proposals that have been submitted that affect Southeast, either specifically or because they are statewide proposals. **Proposals involving the Juneau area** include suggestions to allow hunting in Dredge Lakes, allow archery hunting near the Juneau road system and Mendenhall Lake area, and allowing bear baiting in the Juneau area. Community members should be particularly aware of Proposal 67. **The Board of Game has requested a review of all areas currently closed to hunting and trapping, and controlled use areas statewide, to determine the need for these closures. After publication of the proposal for public comment, the Board may repeal or modify said closures.** Thus, locations in Unit 1C (which includes Juneau) and other Units in Southeast that are now closed that the BOG may open for hunting at their discretion at the end of the public testimony period of the meeting, would include (among others): (1) areas between the coast and ¼ mile inland of Glacier Highway to Peterson Creek, portions of Douglas highway, Mendenhall Loop Road, and Thane Road; (2) areas adjacent to Mendenhall Lake and the glacier visitors' center; Auke Lake area (for taking of waterfowl). No specific changes to these closures have been posted for consideration. **Ketchikan area** a strip ¼ mile on each side Tongass Hwy system; **Hyder** portions of Salmon River drainage; **Anan Creek area**; **Haines area** a strip ¼ mile wide both sides Lutak Road between Mi 7 & Chilkoot Lake & Chilkoot River bridge to end; **Wrangell area** strip ¼ mile wide both sides Stikine Hwy. City limits to FS boundary; **Petersburg area** ¼ mile both sides Mitkof Hwy Mi 0 to Crystal Lake, Petersburg Creek drainage closed to black bears, Blind Slough area; **Sitka area** ¼ mile both sides all State hwy's; **Admiralty Island, Chichagof Island, Baranof Island** each have one or more closed to brown bear hunting areas.

The Board is asking for the option to open areas across the state at its discretion, with no further requirement for public notice or scrutiny within a community of the specifics of these openings. The possibility of increased danger to the public and potential for inadequate analysis of impacts to wildlife is of concern to JAS. The proposals can be viewed online through a link at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/gprop.php>. The public may still submit written comments until the meeting date, and the meetings are open for public testimony. Attn: BOG Comments, AK Dept. of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, PO Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526 (see the BOG website for information on the procedures for presenting testimony).

**2. Douglas Island Wolf Management Plan** – The wolf subcommittee of the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee formed in March 2004. Stakeholders with often opposing views on wolf and deer conservation have worked hard within this framework to develop jointly a management plan for deer and wolves on Douglas Island. JAS supports the process of consensus undertaken by these community

groups, but is still concerned that, with the compromises made, wolves are unlikely to maintain a population on the Island. There are a number of proposals regarding Douglas Island wolves being considered by the Board of Game at its Nov. meeting (see website noted above). However, the latest plan, developed by the consensus-based wolf subcommittee is not available within the online materials.

**3. Cascade Point Dock** - CBJ Planning Commission did approve the Conditional Use Permit to Goldbelt Inc. for the ferry dock at Cascade Point within Berner's Bay (associated with the Kensington Mine project). There are 20 conditions of approval for the permit, some of which are associated with the Juneau Coastal Management Plan (JCMP). The CBJ staff report and the 20 conditions cited for permit approval can be read at [http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/STF\\_USE04-42.PDF](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/STF_USE04-42.PDF). The public comment period on this project (as for the Kensington Mine) through the Alaska Coastal Management Plan ended on Oct. 22, so we await a decision on compliance with enforceable policies of the ACMP by the AK Department of Natural Resources.

**4. Kensington Gold Project** – As with the Cascade Point dock, the public comment period regarding compliance with the ACMP ended Oct. 22. A Record of Decision (ROD) is expected from the Forest Service on this project early in Nov. There will be a period of time available for the public to review the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the ROD and comment (appeal the decision) should there be grounds for this.

**5. Mixing Zones in Salmon Streams** – The AK Dept of Conservation (DEC) is considering allowing mixing zones in freshwater streams in which spawning occurs. Mixing zones are zones where wastewater from industrial or sewage-treatment plants is discharged into the water to be diluted. Current standards do not allow mixing zones in fish spawning areas and the DEC wants to change the rules to allow mixing zones in these areas as long as they "do not adversely affect spawning, incubation or rearing in rivers and streams." The DEC indicates that the burden of proof would be on the industry or group discharging the pollutant to prove that no harm will come to fish populations using the zone for spawning or rearing. The DEC envisions three situations where mixing zones could be allowed in spawning areas: (1) the pollutant does not necessarily affect fish or fish spawning (e.g., a colorant); (2) the discharged can be timed to avoid impacts on fish spawning, eggs... (3) adverse effects can be offset by habitat improvements or other measures. Information is available at [www.state.ak.us/dec/water/wqsar/trireview/mixingzones.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/water/wqsar/trireview/mixingzones.htm) and public comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. Nov. 1.

**6. Downtown waterfront development**– If you recall, in the spring, JAS submitted comments regarding a proposal by Aniakchak Inc. for a condominium development on the downtown waterfront. This proposal has again reared its head, in modified form. The development now proposed is a dock to be used for a marine retail business. The square footage is 1' below that for which a CBJ Conditional Use Permit would be required. A decision will be reached regarding ACMP compliance by Nov 11. The public can examine the proposal and public notice through the ACMP public notice site (<http://notes3.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/?Open>, then search for Aniakchak under Archived notices). If you'd like to see a copy of JAS' comments on the initial project, please let me know.

**7. Juneau Access Project (aka The Road)** – The supplemental Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Juneau Access project should be released in mid Nov. After this, there will be public hearings regarding the document and the project. Watch for notification of hearings in the Juneau Empire and online. The project homepage has links to the initial DEIS and other background information at: [http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/juneau\\_access/index.html](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/juneau_access/index.html).



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**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 31, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2004

The Celebrate Nature Lecture series will resume on January 13th. (But do join us for the December Christmas Bird Count!)

## **JANUARY PROGRAM: Cruising the Bering Sea-- Adventure on the Wild Side**

For the January program, Dr. John Schoen, will share images and observations from his 2004 cruise in the Bering Sea. From Nome to Dutch Harbor, he and a group of Audubon travelers visited several of Alaska's remotest islands and experienced firsthand their spectacular scenery and wildlife. John will describe his perceptions of this wild, infrequently visited part of Alaska, and describe the natural history, and the conservation concerns, facing the incredibly rich Bering Sea ecosystem.

The talk will be Thursday, January 13, in the UAS Egan auditorium (new classroom wing) from 7:30-8:30 PM

## **JUNEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

The National Audubon Society will be conducting its 105th Christmas Bird Count this year. The society estimates that more than 55,000 volunteers will count birds during this year's count period. Last year, more than 63 million birds were counted. In Juneau, Christmas Bird Counts began in the mid 1960s, and have been held annually since 1976. Our count area is contained in a circle with a 15-mile diameter, centered over northern Douglas Island. This year's count will be held on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. If we have a "typical" count, we will have 25 to 35 people participate, locate about 65 species, and count from 9,000 to 10,000 individual birds on our count day.

As always, anyone with an interest in birds and birding is welcome. Volunteers will assemble in small groups to identify and count all birds seen in their portion of the count area. Each group will be led by an experienced birder, so volunteers need not be expert on bird identification. The more eyes the better. Birders should have binoculars and be prepared for any type of weather.

Volunteers, age 19 or older, are also asked to pay a \$5.00 participation fee. The count fees collected during each CBC help to cover the cost of generating materials for compilers, producing the annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC website and database. The effort to develop this website has been substantial and it is now a great resource. All paying U.S. participants will receive a copy of *American Birds: Summary of the CBC* published once per year after the conclusion of the CBC season. This summary issue contains articles on the many ways that CBC data has shown us early winter

bird population trends, as well as information about those that participate in the CBC. Participants can choose not to receive this publication if they so desire.

People wishing to participate should meet at either of the two McDonald's Restaurants on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> by 8:00 A.M, and yes, the downtown establishment will be open on Saturday (We didn't know last year that they aren't open on Sundays during the winter). Those interested in counting downtown, in Douglas, or on north Douglas Island, should meet downtown; those interested in working in the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley, and Auke Bay areas should meet at the valley location. Groups will be assembled as quickly as possible and be on their way to begin the count. Normally, counting is over by 3 to 3:30 pm., or earlier if it has been a rough day. There will be the traditional potluck dinner later that evening, beginning at 5:30 P.M., at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam, at 12090 Cross St. near Auke Bay. After dinner, Gus van Vliet will lead the group on the tallying of all birds seen during the day. For more information please call Mark at 789-9841.

## **KETCHIKAN REPORT AND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PLAN**

**By Terri Goucher**

Ketchikan's location often results in more late season sightings of certain southbound species, especially in the wake of autumn storms many birds appear at new areas. A mourning dove remained in the Saxman area a couple weeks until November 7<sup>th</sup>, a month later than previous sightings. In town, Steve Heintz reported a female Western Tanager and heard, then saw an evening grosbeak.

Other late October sightings include 2 American coots and a pied-billed grebe at Ward Lake. About 23 red-breasted sapsuckers were very active in a relatively small area at the lower Mahoney Lake. Northern pygmy-owls have been heard calling both north and south of town recently. A juvenile sandhill crane visited the Saxman neighborhood for a first November record! Three individuals of the cackling subspecies of Canada geese were seen at Mud bight. A few golden-crowned sparrows, a white-crowned sparrow, and a tree sparrow have been visiting feeders. A chipping sparrow was north of town on November 12<sup>th</sup>; the latest of the three records for Ketchikan!

**The Ketchikan area Christmas Bird Count will be December 18<sup>th</sup>.** There will be an organizational meeting at the Discovery Center December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Contact Cathy Tighe at 228-4134 for more information. Remember to look around all count week to perhaps discover any unusual birds to add to the final results!

Although our cooler days continue to lose daylight hours, wintering bay ducks are increasingly gathering to mark the beginning of a new birding season to enjoy!!

## **SKAGWAY BIRD CLUB REPORT (SBC) By Meg Hahr**

We had our monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and selected Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> for the Skagway **Christmas Bird Count** (same day as Juneau I believe). We would love to have help from Southeast birders too, and several of us have spare bedrooms that we might have available for out of town birders who will be in the area and would like to participate. SBC member John McDermott is hosting a party that evening for all CBC participants. (983-3103) Any questions? Contact me - Meg Hahr (907) 983-9228 (w) 983-2036 (h) or Elaine Furbish (907) 983-2049

The SBC meets monthly during winter and we are very interested in sponsoring natural history programs for club and community members. If any Juneau or other Southeast birders are planning on visiting Skagway this winter or passing through while heading into the interior, we'd love to see you at one of our meetings. Anyone interested in giving a presentation at one of our meetings or leading a field trip in the area, should contact me. We'd especially like to improve our gull and waterfowl identification skills!

### **FROM PETERSBURG By Don Cornelius**

I rarely mark bird sightings on my calendar, but October 22nd was an exception. And it wasn't even a sighting. I stepped outside at 11:30 PM as Petersburg lay quietly enveloped in fog. Then I heard them -- coming across Wrangell Narrows and seemingly low -- the unmistakable sound of trumpeter swans. I stared into the fog, but all I could see was the reflected glow of city lights. I traced their path as they passed directly over my head, and then on in the direction of the Stikine River. However, I would have needed radar to see them that night.

My mind wandered. What if they need to land? How long could they stay aloft if all of southeast Alaska was engulfed in this fog? Where had they started? Where would they rest? Maybe the Stikine Delta would be open. Maybe they were headed for the lakes in British Columbia where I've seen them during a past November. The trumpeting faded in the distance and quiet recaptured the night.

I basked in the glow of the moment as my mind wandered back to another October night in the early 1970s. I was living in Anchorage, and winter had begun seizing its grip on southcentral Alaska. Here again I stepped outside and gazed towards the night sky.

Passing overhead I saw a flock of ghostly white silhouettes, low-flying swans perfectly illuminated by the city lights against the backdrop of a chill black night. And then I saw another, and another. Flock after flock eerily passed low over the city, filling the skies with their glowing forms. Although it doesn't seem reasonable, I don't remember any sounds that night -- like the swans were simply ghosts passing silently over the city -- a stark contrast to the urban landscape.

They were vacating the Susitna Flats as the last open water froze -- headed towards Turnagain Arm, Prince William Sound and points south. To this day, the image of those glowing silhouettes remains one of my most memorable bird sighting -- an experience I savored once again this past October night.

Several days later I received a call. A friend had been out to Blind Slough. The swans are back for the winter.

**Petersburg's Christmas Bird Count has tentatively been set for Saturday, December 18th.** Contact Bill Pawuk at 772-3985 for details.

### **HAINES REPORT By Georgia Giacobbe**

Hanging out in Haines this month are a lot of birders. Naturally the bald eagles have drawn them to town and you can find them lined up with their cameras with long-range telephoto lenses and tripods at the pull-outs before and after 19 mile and at the Council Grounds as well. This was before the "official" start of the festival on November 17. It's almost embarrassing to show up with just a good set of binoculars. However, the day I went out, the eagles were not the only attraction. A loud and boisterous

raven pranced along the cement parking barrier and proceeded to call and “talk” to all who were setting up their cameras and binoculars. The bird seemed like a trained bird planted there to amuse everyone during their extended eagle watching and picture taking. Also hanging out in Haines have been the diving ducks wintering over, some sharing the Chilkat River with the eagles, and flocks cruising up and down Lutak Inlet. One Sunday, I was able to identify at least a dozen male and female common golden eyes, female white winged scoters, a few male and female buffleheads, and mallards, too.

**The Christmas Bird Count will take place in Haines on December 18, 2004.** Once again, Tim Shields and Dan Egolf (766-2876) will coordinate the counting. Alaska Back Country Outfitters will be the rallying point for the count. They hope to count at two locations in Haines if they get enough volunteers.

**REPORT ON GLACIER BY SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM** By Nancy Waterman  
Glacier Bay is all about change...and what a laboratory it is for studying the dynamics of change.

Many Juneau folks presented and attended the National Park Service and USGS Alaska Science Center, Science Symposium featuring Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, October 26-29, 2004, Centennial Hall in Juneau. <http://www.nps.gov/akso/symposium.htm>

The National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey will jointly publish results presented at the Science Symposium. According to Scott Gende, the publication will be available in Spring, 2005. For more information on publications, contact either John\_Piatt@usgs.gov or Scott\_Gende@nps.gov.

### **OWL STUDY** By Michelle Kissling

As daylight shortens and the autumn rains commence, most Alaskan birds migrate south to warmer climates for the winter months. But don't put those binoculars (and birding skills) on the shelf just yet! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Michelle Kissling) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Steve Lewis) are launching a study to investigate seasonal distribution and abundance of forest owls throughout Southeast Alaska – and we're asking for your help!

Very little is known about the natural history, distribution, and abundance of forest owls in Southeast Alaska. Our 3-year study will gather information to design a Southeast Alaska –wide owl monitoring program. One of our objectives is to document seasonal distribution by gathering observations from you – the public!

There are 8 species of forest owls known to occur in Southeast Alaska, and 7 of these species are suspected or known to breed here. While owls are assumed to breed in our region in late winter / early spring (Feb – Apr), many are thought to occur throughout the entire year. Three characteristics are helpful when identifying an owl – size, presence of ear-tufts, and sound. Some of the more common forest owls that are known to breed in Southeast Alaska include (ordered from largest to smallest):

Great Horned Owl – This species is the largest forest owl to occur commonly in Southeast Alaska, and the only large owl to have ear-tufts. It's loud, deep, resonant hooting can be heard at great distances. Territorial hooting consists of 3 to 8 notes – HOO, HOO-OO, HOO, HOO. A mnemonic, or useful phrase to help remember the rhythm, is “Who's awake? Me too.”.



Barred Owl – This is a medium-sized owl with dark brown eyes and no ear-tufts. This species is undergoing a rapid western expansion, and only within the last 25-30 years has this species been documented in Southeast Alaska. Hooting of Barred Owls is usually more emphatic, and not so deep, than that of a Great Horned Owl. A reliable mnemonic for this species is, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?”.

Western Screech-Owl – This is the only small owl in Southeast Alaska that has ear tufts. These birds are strictly nocturnal, spending the day concealed in vegetation or cavities, with eyes closed, body feathers compressed, and ear-tufts raised to blend with tree bark. Song is a series of hollow whistles on one pitch, accelerating in tempo (like the rhythm of a small ball bouncing to a standstill).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – Similar in size to the Northern Pygmy-Owl, the Northern Saw-whet lacks eye-spots and ear-tufts. This species is crepuscular, meaning that it is most active during late evening and early morning. Hooting is a mellow, whistled note repeated mechanically in endless succession – usually 100 to 130 times per minute! It is higher pitched, and much faster than the Northern Pygmy-Owl. This species was named after its non-territorial call, which sounds like a saw being sharpened.

Northern Pygmy-Owl – This is a very small owl, about the size of an American Robin! These birds have false eye-spots on the back of their heads, lack ear-tufts, and are commonly seen hunting during the day. Unlike most owls, this species is diurnal, meaning that they are active during the day rather than at night. The song of this species is a single, mellow whistle – HOO – repeated every 1 to 2 seconds. It is usually slower than the Northern Saw-whet Owl.



*Northern Pigmy Owl Photo By Paul Suchanek*

Rare or uncommon forest owls that are encountered in Southeast Alaska include the Boreal Owl, Great Gray Owl, and the Northern Hawk Owl. The Short-eared Owl and Snowy Owl also occur in this region, but are commonly associated with open habitats (e.g., Mendenhall Wetlands), and are not considered forest owls.

To take advantage of opportunistic observations made by the public, we are creating the Southeast Alaska Owl Network. We are currently recruiting one volunteer in each community of Southeast Alaska to conduct owl surveys near their home once per month and to compile information about owl sightings in their area. All sightings (both visual and aural) will be documented on an observation card. This is an attempt to standardize information throughout all of Southeast Alaska. Volunteers also may have opportunities to participate in surveys and other aspects of our research. No survey experience is required – just a good ear and a motivated spirit! We will provide training materials to all volunteers, and will be available for questions throughout the survey period.

We are currently taking names and contact information from interested volunteers. In January, more detailed information will be mailed to you describing listening station criteria and protocol. If you're interested in volunteering or learning more about the Southeast Alaska Owl Network, please email us at [michelle\\_kissling@fws.gov](mailto:michelle_kissling@fws.gov), or telephone Michelle Kissling at 586-7242 for more information.

**Answers to Name That Bird:** 1. blue grouse, 2. bald eagle, 3. Steller's jay.

## **BIRD WALKS IN WINTER?**

One of our members, Virginia Harris, would like to find other birders in downtown Juneau to try noon walk bird walks this winter. If interested, please contact [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org).

## **NATIONAL AUDUBON RELEASES “STATE OF THE BIRDS”**

On Tuesday, October 19, The National Audubon Society released the “The State of the Birds”, a report documenting the health and abundance of North America’s birds. Appearing in the October issue of *Audubon Magazine*, “The State of the Birds” paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30% of America’s bird species are in “significant decline,” a situation that signals seriously degraded environmental conditions in the habitats these birds call home.

The bottom line: the state of the birds in 2004 is not sound. In particular, a disturbing 70 percent of grassland species; 36 percent of shrub-land bird species; 25 percent of forest bird species; 13 percent of wetland species; and 23 percent of bird species in urban areas are showing “statistically significant declines.”

According to “State of the Birds,” these declines are abnormal. Not part of the natural, cyclical rise and fall of bird populations, “statistically significant declines” are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

Audubon’s President John Flicker sees a clear message in this report. “Like the canary in the coal mine warning the miner of danger ahead, our birds are an indicator of environmental and human health,” he said. “Birds signal that we are at risk next.”

But, Flicker also sees a clear path out of trouble. “People may have created these problems, but people can solve them, if we act now,” he stated. To that end, Audubon is now addressing the findings of “State of the Birds” in its conservation agenda at the legislative and policy making level, and in the states where the greatest conservation challenges exist.

Compiled by Audubon Scientist Greg Butcher, “State of the Birds” analysis makes the case for private and public action. Based on the report’s findings, Audubon is advocating for improved grassland, forest, and wetland protection, stronger pollution controls, partnerships with private landowners, and backyard habitat programs for homeowners.

“State of the Birds” summarizes the status of nearly 700 birds species native to the continental United States, focusing on the condition of species in each of five habitat types: grasslands, shrub lands, forests, wetlands, and urban areas (the fastest growing habitat type in the U.S.). Written using USGS Breeding Bird Survey and Audubon’s WatchList - cross-referenced with Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count data, the report will be issued on a yearly basis, and will inform Audubon’s conservation agenda, identifying key areas requiring immediate action.

Birds not only serve as reliable indicators of environmental conditions, they also contribute greatly to the U.S. economy. Keeping birds - and their home habitats - in good condition is not only a good

conservation policy, it is also good business. The worth of birds beyond their aesthetic and conservation value is something that is beginning to be more fully appreciated, a situation that has created allies for bird conservation in small and large business, and local governments - entities that have been historically unlikely conservation partners.

“According to the U.S. Forest Service, 70 million Americans - one-third of all adults in this country - call themselves birdwatchers. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service notes that they contribute at least \$32 billion in retail sales, \$85 billion in overall economic output, and \$13 billion in state and federal taxes, creating 863,406 jobs,” continued Flicker. “Birds also contribute to the bottom line in more subtle ways, providing free pest and weed control, distributing seeds, and pollinating flowers and crops. American businesses and communities simply cannot afford to ignore the state of the birds.”

A digest of the report was published in the October issue of *Audubon* magazine and a further analysis is available on the Audubon website, [www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds](http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds).

### **Name That Bird – for The Raven** By Marge Hermans

About 53 species, or 16%, of the bird species found in Southeast Alaska live here year- round. Can you identify these Southeast residents, all “Common” year-round?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Eat insects, buds, and flowers most of the year. Have special bacteria in their gut that help them digest spruce needles, one of the few foods they can find in winter.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Often survive winter by capturing occasional ducks and gulls to supplement their usual diet of fish.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Use a special pouch in their throat to carry off extra food and cache it so they can eat it later. May imitate the call of a hawk to chase other birds from feeders.

**A new book, “Southeast Alaska’s Natural World,”** has been published by Juneau Audubon members Bob Armstrong and Marge Hermans. It will be available in bookstores and from the authors at various holiday events in Juneau. It’s 8-1/2”x11,” softbound, 224 pages, with 40 lively articles and 350 of Bob’s color photographs, covering topics from American dippers to slime molds. About a third of the book is about Southeast birds; the rest is about insects, mammals, plants, and other topics the authors think are particularly interesting in our region. Some of the articles describe research by local scientists, and some include Bob’s “Recollections” about various wildlife encounters. Cost is \$29.95.

### **Clips From the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. We are always keen to have new members who would like to follow an issue in the community and help keep other JAS members informed. If you have comments or would like to become involved, please contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org), or any other committee or Board member.

**1. Board of Game meeting** – To see a summary of the proposals that were before the Board and actions taken by the Board at their meeting Nov 2-5, go to:

<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetsum/groadsumm1104.pdf>. With respect to some of the proposals on which JAS commented: the proposal to allow bear baiting in the Juneau area failed; the proposal to allow archery hunting in the area around Mendenhall Lakes failed; the wolf management plan for Douglas Island was adopted with amendments, establishing a bag limit of 3 wolves per year on the Island; the proposal to finalize review of all controlled use and closed areas in Region 1 (statewide proposal) carried with amendments.

**2. Yankee Cove Dock** - CBJ Planning Commission did approve the Conditional Use Permit to Yankee Cove Development for a development of a wharf and adjoining ramp for landing craft at Yankee Cove (by Adlersheim Wilderness Lodge). This approval is subject to 17 conditions. These include, for example, requirements regarding wood treatment, the need to keep floating structures from grounding during any tide (to prevent damage to intertidal areas), restrictions from any mining-related uses of the facility (e.g., associated with the Cascade Point facility which will be approximately 8 miles north), restrictions on timing of in-water work to avoid effects on salmon populations, restrictions to minimize aesthetic impacts. The staff report and permit conditions can be read at the CBJ site, [http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/STF\\_USE04-50.PDF](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/STF_USE04-50.PDF).

**3. Kensington Gold Project** – The Final Environmental Impact statement and Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD) for the mine, and associated developments, are expected to be released around Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a public comment period post release. JAS will consider whether to submit comments at that time; if any members reading that material would like to have their concerns submitted through JAS, please contact a committee or board member. JAS continues, along with other community groups, to weigh the potential role of economic opportunities afforded by mine development relative to the ecological and economic costs of industrial development in Berner's Bay (associated with Alternative B). Please let me know if you'd like to see a copy of comments submitted by JAS on the earlier SEIS.

**4. Housing and Subdivisions** – Recently, the nature of housing availability in Juneau has been back in the news (see Juneau Empire Nov 9 – City eyes plan for cluster housing). Applications for changes in allowable housing densities around Montana Creek were submitted earlier this year. The CBJ is now working on two new development ordinances, the cluster/conservation subdivision ordinance, and the cottage housing ordinance, associated with density, open space, and design of subdivisions. There will be public meetings regarding these development issues on Nov 22, at Mendenhall River Elementary School Library, 7 p.m., and on Nov 29 at Auke Bay Elementary School Library at 7 p.m. (see [http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/Cluster\\_Cottage\\_Mtg.htm](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/Cluster_Cottage_Mtg.htm)). The CBJ staff report on proposed changes to zoning in the Montana Creek area can be seen at [http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/MAP2004-0304\\_06stf.pdf](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/MAP2004-0304_06stf.pdf). Note that some of these changes would abut General Commercial zoning against what is currently Natural Parkland (CBJ comprehensive plan).

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a national member, you will become an important part of our chapter and receive Audubon magazine and Raven newsletter.

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**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
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Volume 31, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2005

## **Juneau Audubon Society January Nature Lecture series**

Thursday, January 13,  
7:30-8:30 PM  
UAS Egan Auditorium

### **Cruising the Bering Sea-- Adventure on the Wild Side**

Join us as Dr. John Schoen shares images and observations from his 2004 cruise in the Bering Sea. From Nome to Dutch Harbor, he and a group of Audubon travelers visited several of Alaska's remotest islands and experienced firsthand their spectacular scenery and wildlife. John will describe his perceptions of this wild, infrequently visited part of Alaska, and describe the natural history, and the conservation concerns, facing the incredibly rich Bering Sea ecosystem.

## **Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Winter Lecture Series**

**WINTER HOURS Thursday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Friday, January 7** First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

### **Repeat Photography: Studying Successional Change by Retaking Historical Photographs**

In summer 2004, as part of an on-going cooperative agreement with the USFS, Kathy Hocker, Richard Carstensen and Terry Schwarz relocated and re-took a number of historic Juneau-area photos, ranging from century-old views of the Mendenhall Glacier, to 1920s mining camp photos, to 1940s photos on Mt. Roberts. In this talk, Kathy and Richard will discuss these changes and also share tips on the use of digital photography to re-take historical photos.

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**Friday, January 14** First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

### **Mendenhall Glacier -- Admiralty Island:**

#### **A Personal Reflection of People, Politics and the Gift of Recreation.**

KJ Metcalf, who gave the first Fireside program in 1962, will tell stories of people and places during his 42 years living in Juneau and Angoon.

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**Friday, January 21** First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

### **Islands Beneath the Sea: Seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska**

Dr. Tom Shirley, Professor of Invertebrate Biology, Juneau Center, School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences University of Alaska Fairbanks will present information on the biology and geology of five previously unexplored seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska that were studied during August 2004. Undersea photos and videos of the seamounts and associated deep-sea organisms will be shown.

**Friday, January 28** First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

**Electricity from Nugget Creek**

David Stone & Scott Willis will present historical photos, maps, and details of the history of Juneau mining and hydropower through the former Nugget Creek Power plant, located near the present site of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center.

**February**

**Friday, February 4** First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

**What's Happening to the Glaciers of Southeast Alaska?**

Over 90 % of the glaciers in southeast Alaska have thinned and retreated over the past 50 years, some of them quite dramatically. However, a few are bucking the regional trend and are growing despite global warming. Dr. Roman Motyka will explore the response of SE Alaska's glaciers to climate change and other factors. He will highlight recent findings about the glaciers in our own backyard including Mendenhall Glacier.

**Friday, February 11** First show at 6:30 pm Second show at 8:00 pm

**Berners Bay: More Than Just a Bay**

Along the east side of Southeast Alaska's Lynn Canal, the rugged, glacier-adorned peaks of the coastal mountains give way to a place of outstanding biological diversity, rich cultural and historical significance, diverse recreational opportunity, and scenic beauty -- Berners Bay. Situated just 45 miles north of Juneau, Berners Bay exhibits a range of ecosystems: snow-capped alpine peaks rising above the Juneau Icefield; old-growth spruce and hemlock forest; glacial rivers flowing through steep-walled valleys; and freshwater marshes, saltwater estuaries, sandy beaches, and rocky bluffs. John Hudson will present photographs by some of Juneau's best photographers as he tells the story of Berners Bay's past, present, and uncertain future.

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**Berners Bay/Kensington Mine Update By Kat Hall, SEACC**

A lot has happened on the Berners Bay front during the past 6 weeks! In early December, EPA wrote a letter to the Forest Service re-affirming its support of Coeur's mine plan on the Lynn Canal side, which the agency fully-permitted in 1998. EPA prefers this alternative to a mine in Berners Bay, and ranked it as the least environmentally damaging plan. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in a similar letter, rejected the Forest Service's conclusion that a Berners Bay mine wouldn't harm Steller sea lions and humpback whales. NMFS cited potential adverse impacts to Berners Bay's marine resources and began a formal review to assess these impacts.

EPA and NMFS have been holding strong so far in assessing the mine's impacts and protecting Berners Bay's resources. This is great news for the bay!

Unfortunately, the Forest Service, despite the fact that NMFS has not completed its review, went ahead and released its decision in support of the mine on Christmas Eve. This kicked off a 45-day period in which organizations or individuals may appeal the decision. The deadline for filing an administrative appeal is on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Coeur and others in the mining industry view the Forest Service's decision as a green light and hope to begin construction in 2005. However, this mine is a *long way* from being a "done deal!" Coeur has not obtained any of its final permits, and there are a number of outstanding legal issues. SEACC has taken the lead on a campaign opposing the mine in Berners Bay and needs your help now more than ever.

## What You Can Do

- If you'd like to help out on this issue during the next several months (e.g. by writing letters, participating in events and rallies, and providing general community support to SEACC), or if you'd just like to stay informed, please contact Kat Hall ([kat@seacc.org](mailto:kat@seacc.org), 586-6942).
- Write a letter to the editor of the Juneau Empire in support of Berners Bay. E-mail to [letterstotheeditor@juneauempire.com](mailto:letterstotheeditor@juneauempire.com). Letters should be 400 words or less. Be sure to include your name, town, and phone number. Contact Kat for more details and talking points.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Board News by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society President

Hello and a very healthy New Year to you all.

I hope you all had a fun time participating in your local Christmas bird count. Its always fun to hear how many and what kinds of birds were found in all the communities in southeast. Are any of those same people interested in helping to organize local efforts for the Great Backyard Bird Count? It will begin on February 18, 2005. We can supply posters or you can find all the information you might need on the web at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> We would like to encourage every community to put an article in your local newspaper about this fun opportunity.

Its time to gear up for several conservation issues. Do you have interest and energy to volunteer to write a letter or review comments? We would love to have your help with our response to the Kensington mine/Berner's Bay issues, commercial uses and eagle baiting in the Eagle Preserve in Haines, and the upcoming release of the Juneau Airport environmental impact statement (due out in March). If you are interested in helping, please contact me at 789-4656 ([president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)) or Sari Saunders, ([conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org)).

In 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct several studies of Bar-tailed Godwits on Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge needs 3-6 volunteers to assist with these studies. Contact information: Brian J. McCaffery U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Phone: (907) 543-1014 Fax: (907) 543-4413 e-mail: [brian\\_mccaffery@fws.gov](mailto:brian_mccaffery@fws.gov)

The National Audubon membership newswire included some web pages for Tips for Greening Your Holidays. These are great suggestions for the entire year.

Make your holidays green, and be sure to recycle, reuse, and remember Mother Nature by following these simple guidelines at [ww.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/Holiday\\_Greening/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/Holiday_Greening/index.html)

[http://www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/Holiday\\_Greening/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/Holiday_Greening/index.html)

Your local Juneau Audubon web page has a local bird checklist, lecture schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)).

**\*\*\*\*\*If you would like to save paper and receive your copy of "The Raven" by email, send your request to: [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)**



## **Ketchikan's Christmas Bird Count Results By Teri Goucher**

December 18th was mild with a high temperature near 50 degrees but stormy conditions, gusty winds, and two foot breakers along the coast undoubtedly affected birding here.

Over 4500 birds representing 49 species were tallied by 21 participants. Count week had more agreeable weather, which increased our species count to 54 including Canada geese, brown creeper, red crossbill, and common redpoll. It is unfortunate that the Clover Pass segment of our road system is outside the CBC count circle because a pygmy owl, sharp-shinned hawk, and two American pipits were observed there according to Andy Piston.

Count day numbers were strong for Steller's jays, siskins, and varied thrushes; about 1180 long-tailed ducks and two Bonaparte's gulls were seen along the waterfront.

Ketchikan had a good variety of sparrows on count day. Song, white-crowned, golden-crowned, Lincoln's and fox sparrows were seen in one yard near Saxman. A savannah sparrow was found count week and a tree sparrow was also seen in town recently.

Single sightings of a robin, surfbird, Wilson's snipe, and a Glaucous gull added to the species count. Twenty-six adult and two immature eagles were seen around the Ketchikan area.

Each day is a new and sometimes challenging opportunity for birding!!! Happy New Year!

## **2004 Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results by Mark Schwan**

Juneau's Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 18. Forty volunteers braved the mild but very wet day to participate in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Christmas count in Juneau. Seventy-one species and a record high 14,210 birds were seen during the day.

The 23 common species seen on all previous 31 counts were seen again; these include mostly waterfowl that over-winter here, along with our most familiar resident species. New high counts were obtained for seven species (numbers in boldface in table): Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Northwestern Crow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin. A Harris's Sparrow was seen the day before the count, so it can be included as a count week (cw) species. It has been 10 years since the last Harris's Sparrow was present during a Juneau Christmas Count. There were no exceptionally rare species found on count day, but owing to the open water at Twin Lakes and the marsh adjacent to the Pioneer's Home, several species were still lingering that are rarely seen during our local count. These included American Coot, Ring-necked Duck, and Northern Shoveler. There were six additional species located during our count week put the count week total at 77 species.

The CBC results will be viewable at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> once they are entered online. Anyone with an internet connect can view all the current and historical counts. The database is becoming very impressive.

Thanks to all the volunteers that gave their day to the count, the group leaders for their efforts, and to Gus van Vliet for conducting the tally at the potluck and keeping track of count week birds.

|                          |              |                           |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Pacific Loon             | 1            | Glaucous-winged Gull      | 2,632        |
| Common Loon              | 2            | Gl.-winged x Herring hyb. | 2            |
| Yellow-billed Loon       | <i>cw</i>    | Unidentified Gulls        | 77           |
| Horned Grebe             | 31           | Common Murre              | 8            |
| Red-necked Grebe         | 20           | Pigeon Guillemot          | 3            |
| Pelagic Cormorant        | 9            | Marbled Murrelet          | 64           |
| Great Blue Heron         | 12           | Rock Dove                 | 66           |
| Canada Goose             | <b>1,098</b> | Northern Pygmy-owl        | 1            |
| Green-winged Teal        | <b>125</b>   | Belted Kingfisher         | 5            |
| Mallard                  | 2,112        | Downy Woodpecker          | 1            |
| Northern Pintail         | 29           | Hairy Woodpecker          | 1            |
| <b>Northern Shoveler</b> | <b>2</b>     | Unidentified Woodpeckers  | 1            |
| Gadwall                  | <b>29</b>    | Steller's Jay             | 44           |
| Eurasian Wigeon          | <i>cw</i>    | Black-billed Magpie       | 50           |
| American Wigeon          | 123          | Northwestern Crow         | <b>1,814</b> |
| <b>Ring-necked Duck</b>  | <b>2</b>     | Common Raven              | 382          |
| Greater Scaup            | 32           | Chestnut-backed Chickadee | 91           |
| Lesser Scaup             | <b>16</b>    | Unidentified Chickadees   | 15           |
| Unidentified Scaup       | 72           | Red-breasted Nuthatch     | 5            |
| Harlequin Duck           | 97           | Brown Creeper             | 4            |
| Long-tailed Duck         | 9            | Winter Wren               | 13           |
| Black Scoter             | 1            | American Dipper           | 12           |
| Surf Scoter              | 680          | Golden-crowned Kinglet    | 59           |
| White-winged Scoter      | 108          | Ruby-crowned Kinglet      | 1            |
| Unidentified Scoters     | 25           | Unidentified Kinglets     | 7            |
| Common Goldeneye         | 155          | American Robin            | 3            |
| Barrow's Goldeneye       | 285          | Varied Thrush             | 5            |
| Unidentified Goldeneyes  | 91           | Bohemian Waxwing          | 80           |
| Bufflehead               | 152          | Northern Shrike           | <i>cw</i>    |
| Hooded Merganser         | 5            | European Starling         | <i>cw</i>    |
| Common Merganser         | 206          | American Tree Sparrow     | 1            |
| Red-breasted Merganser   | 124          | Fox Sparrow               | 5            |
| Unidentified Mergansers  | 35           | Song Sparrow              | 20           |
| Bald Eagle (all)         | 140          | White-crowned Sparrow     | 3            |
| <i>immatures</i>         | 15           | <b>Harris' Sparrow</b>    | <i>cw</i>    |
| <i>adults</i>            | 125          | Unidentified Sparrows     | 1            |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk       | 2            | Dark-eyed Junco (all)     | <b>425</b>   |
| Northern Goshawk         | <i>cw</i>    | <i>Oregon form</i>        | 275          |
| Merlin                   | 1            | <i>Slate form</i>         | 56           |
| <b>American Coot</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <i>unknown form</i>       | 94           |
| Killdeer                 | 8            | Snow Bunting              | 11           |
| Rock Sandpiper           | 125          | Pine Grosbeak             | 19           |
| Common Snipe             | 2            | Red Crossbill             | 111          |
| Mew Gull                 | 159          | White-winged Crossbill    | 45           |
| Herring Gull             | 7            | Common Redpoll            | 22           |
| Thayer's Gull            | 1            | Pine Siskin               | <b>1,967</b> |

## **Report from Haines By Georgia Giacobbe**

Last month's newsletter went to press the same week as the Bald Eagle Festival held in Haines from November 17 through the 21st. It turned out to be one of the wettest festivals on record. The weather was also warm, which encouraged the eagles to spread out and not to concentrate in an area for viewing. The actual count (of eagles) was difficult to determine but estimates are approximately 1500 to 2000 during the time of the festival. The number of bird viewers and festival participants was down slightly, however the Juneau Raptor Center once again sponsored a catamaran and brought 114 people from Juneau to attend. After the festival, the eagles started dispersing and by December there were still chum salmon in the Chilkat River at 14 mile on the highway, but the eagles had left. Other November sightings: Dan Egolf was in the pass up by Kelsaw Lake and spotted numerous ptarmigans all spinning their legs and leaving erratic tracks in the snow. Dan also spotted a golden eagle at the same location.

The rainy weather slacked up a bit for the "first" Christmas bird count on December 18. Numerous volunteers including Audubon members, Lynn Canal Conservation members, and just bird lovers in general showed up for the count. This was held at the radius near town. A second count was scheduled for December 26 with the radius centered at Wells Bridge, in the Bald Eagle Preserve. Appears that no birds will remain uncounted in Haines.

## **Petersburg By Don Cornelius**

On December 18th, seven Petersburg birders braved over 2 1/2 inches of rain on their binoculars to count 6,579 local winged residents. An even 50 species contributed to this tally. This is as close as you can get to bulls eye for the past five-year average of 49.6 species.

Comparing this data with counts over the previous five years, one thing is obvious -- the number of birds in most species with more than a few individuals is all over the map. The tidal stage, local distribution of feed, disturbance by boats, weather all contribute to the species totals. On my daily walks along a particular stretch of shoreline I may see a handful of scoters (all three species), harlequins and long-tailed ducks or a handful of hundreds. However, I unscientifically spotted some possible trends. In 1987, the first year Mitkof Island counts are recorded on the Audubon website, a measly 485 glaucous-winged gulls were recorded. Gulls are famous for responding to food delicacies like noncompliant cannery discharges. Petersburg is no exception. Since 2000, the number of this species has steadily risen from 554 in 2000 to this year's tally of 2752.

In 1987, a mere 7 rock pigeons were observed in town. Thanks to a local lover and feeder of anything wearing fur or feathers, the number of ex-rock doves has also risen. This year counters recorded 265 hungry members of this introduced species. It will be interesting to see how pigeons fair now that their food source may be gone. A decade ago their scouts discovered, then brought their 60 or so closest friends to our bird feeder. The smell on our roof, among other indignities, ultimately forced us to stop feeding birds for several years.

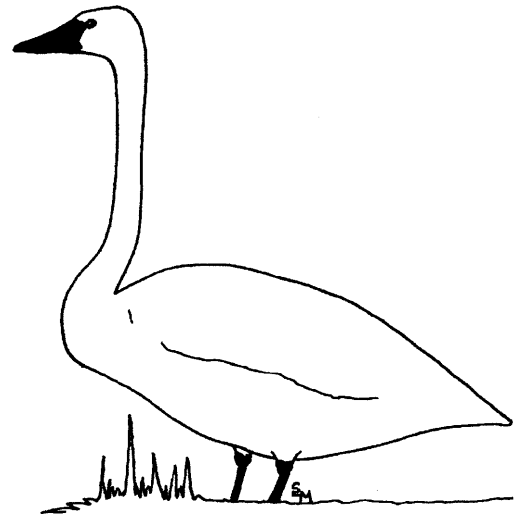
One species that seems low were a mere 21 Black Turnstones. This contrasts with numbers ranging from 60 to 360 in other recent counts. Of course, the 2 1/2 inches of rain may have been a factor in counting this well camouflaged shorebird. A month ago I saw flocks numbering closer to 100 shorebirds, a mixture of the turnstones and rock sandpipers. A quick flight across Wrangell Narrows and they're out of the count.

While writing this, I stepped outside on a warm clear December evening. Over on Kupreanof Island I could here a great horned owl calling. We didn't record any owls this year. Guess it could have been 51.

## **Glacier Bay/Gustavus Christmas Bird Count, Bruce Paige, Count Compiler, 12/29/04**

Over the years, the Glacier Bay/ Gustavus Christmas Count has been held in 0 degree temperatures, a 65 mph gale, and with up to 44 inches of snow cover. The 34th annual Christmas Count on Saturday, December 18th took place in nearly optimal conditions. The temperature was a count record high of 47 degrees F,. The day was calm so the ocean surface was flat and though there were intermittent rain showers, visibility was good. On top of this, fresh water surfaces were all open, and the absence of snow cover made it easy to walk about. Sixteen observers took advantage of the conditions to cover numerous routes and to watch bird-feeding stations during the day, and noted **7171** birds of **71** species (second highest number of species ever!).

The mild weather and lack of snow cover may have allowed birds to disperse around the area to forage rather than concentrating at feeding stations. Some species counts were somewhat lower than expected as a result. Also, the lack of a boat to cover the Beardslee Islands and Lower Glacier Bay, resulted in low numbers of many waterbirds. Even with these limiting factors, fourteen species were seen in record high numbers. These include trumpeter swan (32), sharp-shinned hawk (3), merlin (3), killdeer (5), dunlin (1515), glaucous gull (1), northern flicker (2), black-billed magpie (59), red-breasted nuthatch (47- the previous high was only 5!!), golden-crowned kinglet (49), song sparrow (17), white-crowned sparrow (2), and dark-eyed junco (242). One species, a juvenile glaucous gull, was new to the count. This individual had been in the Salmon River area for at over a month. A greater yellowlegs was seen for only the second year, but two years in a row. Three mountain bluebirds were found near Pt. Gustavus, also the second record for the count. The formerly endangered Trumpeter swan continues to overwinter in increasing numbers. Dunlins appear to be staying well into the winter as well, whereas they were nearly absent in December until recently. The red-breasted nuthatch invasion that began last August, has continued with unprecedented numbers remaining in the area. Every one of the feeding stations seems to have a cluster of regularly visiting nuthatches. All in all, it was a very successful count, and the following observers deserve thanks for their great participation; Allison Banks, Abigail Calkin, Nat Drumheller, Ernie King, Tanya Lewis, Barb Mahoney, Sean Neilson, Jamie Ogilvy, Sharon Paige, Rose Salazar, Chad Soiseth, Phoebe Vanselow, Julie Vathke, Shelly Webb, and Julie Williams.



**DEAD SISKINS FOUND** By Deborah D. Rudis, Environmental Contaminants Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 3000 Vintage Blvd. #201, Juneau, Alaska 99801, 907/586-7648 fax 907/586-7154

In December, we had an outbreak of salmonellosis in a flock of siskins at a feeder in North Douglas. Dead siskins were also collected at a feeder in the neighborhood of the Pioneer Home. We do not have lab results back from those carcasses to date. Another incident of dead siskins was reported from Back Loop Rd.

Salmonellosis is caused by a salmonella bacterial infection, typically transmitted among birds through ingestion of contaminated food and water from fecal discharges. Pine siskins are particularly susceptible to salmonellosis due to their dense feeding groups and ground scavenging behavior. They are the most frequent species of songbird found dead from Salmonellosis outbreaks at bird feeding stations in the US. This infection can cause sudden death or the disease can have a more prolonged infection course over several days. Salmonellosis is highly contagious in bird flocks.

Those who feed birds need to be conscientious about sanitation and food quality to prevent infectious disease problems that may be due to exposure of the birds at feeding, watering, or congregation sites under one's control. The information below presents details on precautions against disease. If anyone has more than one siskin or other bird die near or at their feeders, please follow these guidelines and close down your feeding stations. If salmonella is found the only option is to remove feeders and waterers for several weeks to disperse the birds and lower disease transmission in order to stop the die-off. Please contact me at the information above if you have additional questions. If you remove dead birds, use proper sanitation such as disposable rubber gloves and wash your hands after handling birds or potentially contaminated feed & feeders.

Here are two web sites with information on salmonella and bird feeding: Technical info in Chapter 9 of the Field Manual of Wildlife Disease on the NWHC website at:

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/pub\\_metadata/field\\_manual/chapter\\_9.pdf](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/pub_metadata/field_manual/chapter_9.pdf) . An information bulletin on control of diseases at bird feeders is at:

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/whats\\_new/fact\\_sheet/fact\\_birdfeeder.html](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/whats_new/fact_sheet/fact_birdfeeder.html) .

People who feed birds cannot ignore the disease issue. Eight relatively easy steps can be taken to prevent or minimize disease problems at feeders.

- 1. Give them space** - Avoid crowding by providing ample feeder space. Lots of birds using a single feeder looks wonderful, but crowding is a key factor in spreading disease. If birds have to jostle each other to reach the food, they are crowded. This crowding also creates stress which may make birds more vulnerable to disease.
- 2. Clean up wastes** - Keep the feeder area clean of waste food and droppings. A broom and shovel can accomplish a lot of good, but a vacuum such as you might use in your garage or workshop will help even more.
- 3. Make feeders safe** - Provide safe feeders without sharp points or edges. Even small scratches and cuts will allow bacteria and viruses to enter otherwise healthy birds.
- 4. Keep feeders clean** - Clean and disinfect feeders regularly. Use one part of liquid chlorine household bleach in nine parts of tepid water (a 10 percent solution) to disinfect. Make enough solution to immerse an empty, cleaned feeder completely for two to three minutes. Allow to air dry. Once or twice a month should do, but weekly could help more if you notice sick birds at your feeders.

5. **Use good food** - Discard any food that smells musty, is wet, looks moldy or has fungus growing on it. Disinfect any storage container that holds spoiled food and the scoop used to fill feeders from it.
6. **Prevent contamination** - Keep rodents out of stored food. Mice can carry and spread some bird diseases without being affected themselves.
7. **Act early** - Don't wait to act until you see sick or dead birds. With good prevention you'll seldom find sick or dead birds at your feeders.
8. **Spread the word** - Encourage your neighbors who feed birds to follow the same precautions. Birds normally move among feeders and can spread diseases as they go. The safest birdfeeders will be those in communities where neighbors cooperate with equal concern for the birds.

Just because bird feeding is not problem-free does not mean that it is bad or should be stopped. It does mean you have an ethical obligation not to jeopardize wild birds. What is called for is intelligent bird feeding. Follow the precautions listed above, and you can continue to enjoy feeding healthy wild birds.

**Editor's Note:** The following comments were taken from Eaglechat Digest Number 917

**Subject: Re: The ethics of bird feeding From: Paul Suchanek**

I've always assumed there are both positive and negative impacts to bird feeding, but I don't spend much time thinking about the issue as in the grand scheme of things, the habitat loss and changes (think global warming on a grand scale and filling in a wetland on a small scale) caused by the 6+ billion (and rising) people on earth affect bird populations much more directly and most often negatively. Birds constantly have to deal with risks of disease and predation. If those who intentionally feed birds keep a bit more in touch with the natural world and perhaps keep their yards a bit more bird friendly, I'd rate it a positive especially if they follow the guidelines in a previous Eaglechat message. Personally I don't mind seeing bears in my back yard but I certainly wouldn't want to intentionally feed them - they can be obnoxious guests. If someone doesn't want to feed birds but is concerned about bird populations, I'd heartily endorse donations to any (or all) of many organizations trying to save bird habitat in lieu of bird seed purchases - they need habitat more than extra food!

**Subject: Birds at the Dump, From: Laurie Ferguson Craig**

Today as I was driving to town another thought occurred: is the dump a new opportunity for disease to spread throughout the bird population? Since the incinerator shut down and garbage is being landfilled there have been massive numbers of gulls—hundreds—concentrated at the dump along with ravens, crows and eagles. These birds are actively feeding as garbage is being emptied from vehicles and trucks despite Waste Management personnel on loaders on the spot. If you are a typical homeowner and leave your garbage at the curb for pickup, this scenario is probably an unfamiliar world for you. With a small household we generate such small amounts of trash that we take it to the dump ourselves on an infrequent basis. We go on Wednesdays when we can also recycle plastic jugs, steel cans, cardboard glass and aluminum.

This mountain of covered garbage has grown noticeably in the past couple of months. The bird use is actually very distressing since they are completely absorbed in devouring garbage. I scanned the flock to see if any were trapped in soda pop can plastic rings but none were. As people who care about birds and their well being we should be doing more about this situation. Until we can get better control of our garbage, please be aware that everything we throw away ends up in a giant pile at Lemon Creek. Before disposing of them please cut up pop can rings that might harm birds. Anyone with ideas to help protect birds should post ideas for us all.

As a hopeful thought: two guys from Waste Management told me we could cut our trash volume by 50 percent if we instituted residential recycling. Are there any heroes out there ready to tackle this? I'd welcome an open discussion on how to reduce our troubling trash disposal situation and protect wildlife at the same time.

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

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If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to  
Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 31, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2005

The Juneau Audubon Society  
Presents

Jill Fredston

Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM  
at Centennial Hall

Jill Fredston has rowed more than 25,000 miles of the Arctic and sub-arctic coastline-- *backwards*.

With her oceangoing shell she has disappeared every summer for years exploring the rugged shores of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Spitzbergen, and Norway.

Fredston is the author of Rowing to Latitude: Journey's along the Arctic's Edge, which won the 2002 Outdoor Book Award for Literature. An excellent speaker, she will be in Juneau to present a slide show and talk entitled,

**A View of Alaska from Just Above Waterline.**

Admission is free. Jill's trip to Juneau is supported by contributions from Juneau Audubon, Hearthside Books and the Juneau Rowing Club. Books will be available for sale and individual signing after the event. For more info, please call 586-5816

## **New Venue for February program!**

As you will all hopefully notice, the February installment of our "Celebrate Nature" lecture series is in a new location—Centennial Hall.

We have had a tremendous response to the Previous lectures at UAS Egan Auditorium site, and were regularly drawing more than 125 attendees to this great facility.



Unfortunately, the University has scheduled classes in it for every weeknight this semester, and it is unavailable for public use on weekday evenings.

Because Jill's airline ticket had already been purchased for the Thursday date, we shifted her talk to Centennial Hall. But for the remaining two talks in the lecture series (March and April) we have the option of scheduling Centennial Hall or changing the lectures to a Saturday or Sunday evening. The board would like your feedback on this question. Please weigh in with an E-mail to the program chair, Matt Kirchhoff, at [mkirchhoff@hotmail.com](mailto:mkirchhoff@hotmail.com), or call matt at 596-5816.

Thanks for your Patience with this late location change. We hope to see you in Centennial Hall on the 10th for Jill's talk. It will be a good one!!

## **BOARD NEWS by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society president**

Hello and a very healthy New Year to you all.

I hope you all had a fun time participating in your local Christmas bird count. Its always fun to hear how many and what kinds of birds were found in all the communities in southeast. Are any of those same people interested in helping to organize local efforts for the Great Backyard Bird Count? It will begin on February 18, 2005. We can supply posters or you can find all the information you might need on the web at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> We would like to encourage every community to put an article in your local newspaper about this fun opportunity.

Its time to gear up for several conservation issues. Do you have interest and energy to volunteer to write a letter or review comments? We would love to have your help with our response to the Kensington mine/Berners Bay issues, commercial uses and eagle baiting in the Eagle Preserve in Haines, and the upcoming release of the Juneau Airport environmental impact statement (due out in March). If you are interested in helping, please contact me at 789-4656 ([president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)) or Sari Saunders, ([conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org)).

In 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct several studies of Bar-tailed Godwits on Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge needs 3-6 volunteers to assist with these studies. Contact information: Brian J. McCaffery U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Phone: (907) 543-1014 Fax: (907) 543-4413 e-mail: [brian\\_mccaffery@fws.gov](mailto:brian_mccaffery@fws.gov)

The National Audubon membership newswire included some web pages for Tips for Greening Your Holidays. These are great suggestions for the entire year. Make your holidays green, and be sure to recycle, reuse, and remember Mother Nature by following these simple guidelines at [www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/Holiday\\_Greening/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/Holiday_Greening/index.html)  
[http://www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/Holiday\\_Greening/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/Holiday_Greening/index.html)

Your Juneau Audubon web page has a local bird checklist, lecture schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)).

## Winter Fireside Series Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

**February—First Show 6:30 p.m. Second show 8:00 p.m.**

### **Friday, February 4: What's Happening to the Glaciers of Southeast Alaska?**

Over 90 % of the glaciers in southeast Alaska have thinned and retreated over the past 50 years, some of them quite dramatically. However, a few are bucking the regional trend and are growing despite global warming. Dr. Roman Motyka will explore the response of SE Alaska's glaciers to climate change and other factors. He will highlight recent findings about the glaciers in our own backyard including Mendenhall Glacier.

### **Friday, February 11: Berners Bay: More Than Just a Bay**

Along the east side of Southeast Alaska's Lynn Canal, the rugged, glacier-adorned peaks of the coastal mountains give way to a place of outstanding biological diversity, rich cultural and historical significance, diverse recreational opportunity, and scenic beauty -- Berners Bay. Situated just 45 miles north of Juneau, Berners Bay exhibits a range of ecosystems: snow-capped alpine peaks rising above the Juneau Icefield; old-growth spruce and hemlock forest; glacial rivers flowing through steep-walled valleys; and freshwater marshes, saltwater estuaries, sandy beaches, and rocky bluffs. John Hudson will present photographs by some of Juneau's best photographers as he tells the story of Berners Bay's past, present, and uncertain future.

### **Friday, February 18: Southeast Alaska's Natural World**

Bob Armstrong and Marge Hermans will highlight their favorite topics and stories about various creatures and unusual aspects of nature in Southeast Alaska. In addition to many beautiful images, they will present a variety of natural history information, findings by researchers in the Juneau area, and Bob's recollections of unusual wildlife encounters. Bob and Marge will also talk about the ins and outs of putting this information into their recently published book "Southeast Alaska's Natural World".

### **Friday, Feb 25: Rainforest Wolves: Predator-Prey Dynamics in Southeast Alaska**

Come hear Dr. Dave Person of the ADF&G talk about the Alexander Archipelago wolf of Southeast Alaska. He will discuss the natural history and ecology of wolves in our region and present information gleaned from 13 years of experience studying wolves, and their interactions with deer, habitat, and people.

## March

Friday, March 4

First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

### **A Tectonic Masterpiece - The Geologic History of Southeast Alaska**

Learn how, through the eons, plate tectonics has worked to create the fascinating and complex geologic terranes that became a mineral rich

Southeast Alaska. Chris Dewitt will talk about how the magnificent peaks, fiords, and islands that surround us are reflections of the massive forces of nature that drive the earth's crustal plates. Interactions between colliding crustal plates resulted in large scale

folding, thrusting, faulting, and subduction. These, in turn, created the rough foundation that glacial ice has sculpted into the landscape we see today.

## **Director of Bird Conservation Hired in State Office**

Audubon's Alaska State Office recently expanded from four to six staff. One of these new positions -- Director of Bird Conservation -- was created to lead a statewide Important Bird Area (IBA) project. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and private donors have committed a multi-year grant to help fund the position.

According to Audubon Alaska executive director Stan Senner, "We are excited about the chance to identify IBAs throughout Alaska and about the person we've hired to do the job."

Dr. Iain Stenhouse, a native of Scotland, completed his B.Sc. in Biology at the University of Paisley, Scotland, in 1992. His honours research and thesis focused on foraging habitat selection in breeding winter wrens. In 1998, he completed an M.Sc. in Biopsychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), Canada, focused on the habitat use and breeding success of Leach's Storm-Petrels.

In 1998, Iain's research attention shifted north. In conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), he spent four summers on Southampton Island in the eastern Canadian Arctic, where he carried out his Ph.D. research on the reproductive and behavioral ecology of Sabine's Gulls. In 2003, CWS and MUN worked together to create a postdoctoral fellowship for Iain, focused on the status and conservation of Ivory Gulls. This project involved carrying out aerial surveys for Ivory Gulls breeding in the Canadian High Arctic, and writing a recovery strategy for this species.

In addition to the IBA project, Iain will be responsible for updating the Alaska *WatchList*, which highlights declining and vulnerable bird populations in Alaska. Essentially, the *WatchList* is an early warning system that focuses attention on at-risk populations before they are in jeopardy of extinction.

Much of this work will involve collaboration and cooperation with a range of partnering organizations and communities, and Iain looks forward to working closely with scientists, conservationists, and other stakeholders to help Audubon achieve further lasting contributions to bird conservation in Alaska.

## **FROM AUDUBON NEWSWIRE, VOL. 3 NO. 1**

### **Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Invites Everyone to Go Out and Count Birds!**

New York, NY, Tuesday, January 18, 2005 - During the weekend of February 18 through 21, people across the North American continent are urged to look at the birds in their backyards and report them over the Internet as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. This count allows people to celebrate their birds, and whether counters are novices or experts, their participation is vital in helping North America's birds.

"In addition to counting the birds in your own backyard, this remarkable event gives you the opportunity to visit some of our most special places and wild lands," says Bob Perciasepe, Audubon's chief operating officer. "In this way, the Great Backyard Bird Count reminds us that North America's birds consider the whole continent to be one great big backyard; and in a sense, it is our backyard as well."

This is the eighth year of the popular event, developed and managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners. This year's theme, "North America's Great Backyard," was chosen as a way to celebrate the unique beauty and birds found across the continent. People are encouraged to enjoy the birds around them by going out into the "Great Backyard" during any or all of the count days and noting down of the highest numbers of each bird species they see. People then report their sightings over the Internet at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

To read the complete press release, visit [http://www.audubon.org/news/press\\_releases/](http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/). Any questions or ideas are welcomed; contact Pal Green at [pgreen@audubon.org](mailto:pgreen@audubon.org).

### **Audubon Ad Hoc Chapter Committee Recommendations**

New York, NY, Tuesday, January 18, 2005 - The Audubon Ad Hoc Chapter Committee, chaired by Southeast Regional Director Bill McQuilkin, has completed their recommendations to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. Over the last two years, the Committee has worked to identify and address priority National-Chapter issues and find new ways to strengthen and empower the Audubon grassroots network, develop a greater Chapter-National partnership, and promote conservation outcomes.

The Committee's recommendations will be discussed at the January Board Meeting in Naples, Florida, and a copy is now available online at [www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom/](http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom/).

### **GUSTAVUS REPORT-- December 19-January 19-- By Nat Drumheller.**

[natdrumheller@hotmail.com](mailto:natdrumheller@hotmail.com)

In the month since the Christmas Bird Count, weather conditions have varied greatly with temperatures ranging from 45 above to 11 below. Currently, there is over two feet of snow, and it is still falling. During this period, a number of unexpected birds were seen in the Gustavus area, with at least four first records for January. The highlights follow:

A **Harris's Sparrow** was observed on 12/21, the last day of the CBC count week, along the wooded shore of Bartlett Cove.

**Mountain Bluebirds** were observed on **three** occasions in January with two near Point Gustavus on 1/4 (same location as three observed on the 12/18 CBC), one female in town on 1/13, and one male singing in town on 1/17. The first January records for the area.

A single **Horned Lark** was observed on the beach east of Point Gustavus on 1/4, a first January record for the area. This was a different subspecies than others seen in the Gustavus area by this observer in that it had chocolate brown upperparts, a yellow throat, white above the eye, and brown on the breast below the dark breast band, while others have been paler with white throats.

A single **Black-legged Kittiwake** was observed on shore among a flock of Mew Gulls at the mouth of the Salmon River on 1/5. A first January record for the area.

One **Lapland Longspur** was observed near the Salmon River on 1/4 and five were seen on the beach west of the river on 1/11. The first January records for the area.

A single male **Redhead** was observed on the Salmon River on 1/11.

A **Greater Yellowlegs** is over-wintering along the Salmon River. It has been reported several times over the month with the last known sighting on 1/16.

A **red Fox Sparrow**, the eastern subspecies, is over-wintering in town and has made daily appearances at a backyard feeder since 11/30.

Two first year **White-crowned Sparrows** were observed in the beach grasses near the Salmon River on 1/11.

**American Robins** were reported twice in January, both times in the neighborhood of the golf course, with six on 1/2 and four on 1/17.

On 1/15, fifty-one **Trumpeter Swans** were counted in the mouth of the Bartlett River- a traditional wintering spot.

**Northern Flickers** have been reported through the period with the last report being of a single bird near the golf course on 1/16.

**American Tree Sparrows** have been seen throughout the period with an unusually large flock reported in the grasslands near the town dock with forty observed on 1/3 and thirty on 1/15.

Although **Three-toed Woodpeckers** are year-round residents, it is worth noting that a mixed flock of woodpeckers was encountered in the forest along Bartlett Cove on 1/2 with five Three-toed

Woodpeckers observed drumming, displaying, and removing bark from trees, two Hairy Woodpeckers observed removing bark from trees, while additional woodpeckers could be heard drumming nearby.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** continue to be abundant in the area and at least one or two **Sharp-shinned Hawks** continue to terrorize local feeders.

Thanks to Bruce Paige for sharing observations and records information and to Phoebe Vanselow for sharing observations.

## **KETCHIKAN REPORT- by Teri Goucher**

January had some record breaking cold temperatures and brought some birds around to make unusual winter appearances in Ketchikan.

Large numbers of Red-breasted Sapsuckers were seen on two different occasions. One day 14 birds were seen along the road system and then a couple weeks later 16 were found in a two mile area north of town. Normally 1-5 individuals are spotted during an entire winter with a previous high record of 7 sapsuckers in one day!

American Pipits continue to show up on area lawns with 3 birds found together early in the month.

A Savannah Sparrow was observed for the first mid-winter record of that species in the Ketchikan area!

A lone female Purple Finch was seen near the high school and a single Hermit Thrush was found for the second January record. A few Yellow-billed Loons were seen in the channel and large numbers of Long-tailed Ducks continue off the Ketchikan waterfront.

A Northern Shrike was seen hunting Juncos in a yard near Saxman and a few Sharp-shinned Hawks are around.

We wonder what other winter weather surprises may occur, hopefully continuing to bring interesting birds as our daylight thankfully increases!

## **HAINES REPORT By Georgia Giacobbe**

Regrettably, there is not a great deal to report from Haines since December because the weather has been so poor for birding. As many in Juneau can relate, we have been busy digging out from several snow storms. The second Christmas count held on the 26th of December yielded minimal results, with a few scattered species and 110 eagles remaining at that time. On New Years Day, my husband and I spotted two pine grosbeaks that we had never seen before, outside our dining room window. Tim Shields, who coordinated the Christmas count, has heard the call of pygmy owls out at 7 mile on Mud Bay Road. He claims that hearing those calls was “out of the normal time” for them to be here. Also out of normal time, the Trumpeter Swans who normally migrate through our area have been wintering over more the last few years, and have become more widespread. Several of us spotted a dozen along the Chilkat River two weeks ago where you normally would be spotting eagles.

### **WRANGELL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT By Bonnie Demerjian**

High winds, lashing rain and thick clouds that kept daylight to a minimum - all these made it a tough day for birders during Wrangell's 2004 Christmas Bird Count. Total birds seen for the count reflected these less than ideal conditions. Observers counted only half as many birds this year as compared with last. Despite the fact that Wrangell's waters were scanned with more than usual thoroughness, just 2808 individuals were spotted representing 36 species.

Topping the number of individuals seen were Barrow's goldeneyes. Also high among ducks were Mallards, Buffleheads, Common and Red-breasted mergansers. Smaller numbers of Harlequin ducks, Canvasbacks and Common goldeneyes filled out the duck species. Handfuls of Red-throated and Common loons, Red-necked and Western grebes, Pelagic cormorants also made the list.

Glaucous-winged gulls predominated, with smaller numbers of Mew and Herring gulls. A few Common murre were sighted along with 68 Marbled murrelet.

Wrangell's shores are well patrolled by Northern crows. Five hundred fifty two made the count, as did Common ravens, Great blue herons, Belted kingfishers and 49 Bald eagles. There were no sandpipers or other shorebirds reported this year.

Chickadees have been in short supply around town this winter and only 11 made the count, along with the usual Dark-eyed juncos, a scattering of Song sparrows, Northern flickers, Steller's jays, Winter wrens and a solitary Varied thrush and American dipper.

Sixteen observers braved the gales this year, many bouncing around in boats, unlike their feathered friends who wisely kept out of the weather and thus out of the count.

### **Clips from the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. We are always keen to have new members who would like to follow an issue in the community and help keep other JAS members informed. If you have comments or would like to become involved, please contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org), or any other committee or Board member.

**1. Kensington Gold Project** – The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the mine and associated development has now been released. As approved in the Record of Decision by the Forest Service, development of the mining operation will continue with Alternative D. The Forest Supervisor has also approved an amendment to the Forest Plan for modification (mostly enlargement) of three old growth habitat reserves, based on recommendations from a separate task force. Note that there are other permitting agencies that will need to finalize their decisions on various permit applications, e.g., Army Corps of Engineers, AK Dept of Natural Resources through independent analyses.

JAS submitted comments earlier to the Forest Service on the Draft SEIS. Most of the concerns we voiced at that time have been responded to in some manner through reference to the mitigation measures within the document, indication that cumulative effects can not be analyzed further without knowing the extent of future projects (e.g., the road to Haines), and reference to legal requirements (or lack thereof) for some analyses. There was some encouraging response regarding our comment on use of adaptive management approaches during implementation and monitoring of the development.

The comments of all organization and responses to these make for informative reading. They decipher some of the finer points of the impact statement. They can be found in Appendix L of the Final SEIS (JAS' comments are within the subsection of environmental organizations). The easiest way to find the latest report and all previous reports and information, is to go the website maintained by the US Forest Service at <http://www.kensingtoneis.com/>. If you have a strong interest in learning about this stage of the process or commenting on this latest document, SEACC (of which JAS is a member) is very active in analysis of the material. You can contact them through their website, [www.seacc.org](http://www.seacc.org). Individuals can, of course submit “substantive comments” during the appeal period. These must go to Denny Bschor, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Region 10, P.O. 021628, Juneau, AK 99802-1628.

**2. Asphalt plant near Eagle Beach** – DOT applied for a conditional use permit to run an asphalt plant on State property [the right of way (ROW)] just north of Eagle Beach picnic area. This plant would be used in the project to resurface and widen the highway between Tee Harbor and Amalga Harbor from May to Sept of 2005 and/or 2006 (expected operation is 30-45 days during this time period).

Temporary, specific projects are allowed outside industrial zones (such as in this case, where the zoning is Rural Reserve). The staff report for this permit application cites noise, pollution and as concerns.

The report cites recreation as the primary use of the area and indicates mitigation will be undertaken to limit impacts on recreation of the picnic area. JAS is concerned that there was no mention of the critical and intensive use of the tidal flats and beach by birds, particularly migrants in the early paving season.

The application was approved by the Planning Commission at their meeting Jan. 11. For information on the conditions of the permit, go to the planning commission's site

<http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/index.php>

or see the staff report on the application at:

[http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/STF\\_USE4-70.PDF](http://www.juneau.lib.ak.us/plancomm/documents/STF_USE4-70.PDF)

**3. Spuhn Island appeal** – the CBJ Assembly has heard an appeal regarding the residential development of Spuhn Island (note minutes of the meeting were not available online at time of writing, but check <http://www.juneau.org/assembly/minutes/>). The appeal was brought by the Smuggler's Cove Neighborhood Association, which was concerned about the increased congestion at the end of Fritz Cover road. There has been ongoing discussion of provision or designation of parking spaces for new residents on the Island, e.g., at Auke Bay marina. JAS has previously submitted comments to the CBJ Planning Commission, and to the AK DNR regarding compliance of this project with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. The outcome of the appeal will not be finalized until Feb. 7.

Note also that there is currently an application to begin work on installation of a utility line from the end of Fritz Cove Road to the north end of Spuhn Island. The project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and comments are due to the DNR by Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. One can view the relevant information by going to the ACMP public notices site at <http://notes3.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/PNByCatActive?OpenView> and then looking under the category of Public Notices: Coastal Consistency review.

**4. Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan** – We are awaiting the imminent release of the Supplemental Draft EIS on the plan to develop a road between Haines and Juneau, along Lynn Canal. The conservation committee expects to focus some effort on this document and the issue in general. Watch for release and comment due dates! You can look at material on the plan through the DOT website at:

[http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/newwave/SATP\\_FINAL/index.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/newwave/SATP_FINAL/index.shtml)

though I don't think it has been updated in some time. SEACC also has some analysis of the issues associated with building the road, and links to other relevant documents and sites, through their website.

**5. Board of Forestry meeting** - The Alaska Board of Forestry (through the Division of Forestry in the AK Dept. of Natural Resources) will meet in Juneau second week of Feb. (at the Goldbelt Hotel). This board advises the state on forest practices issues and facilitates discussion and resolution of forest management issues on state land (check the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/boards.htm>). The board also reviews all proposed changes to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and its regulations (i.e. a similar role to the Board of Game that met recently in Juneau). There is a public comment period scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 8.

**6. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminder** – Just a reminder that many of the projects of interest to JAS members in Southeast Alaska often involve permitting through the US Army Corps of Engineers. These permits are required if work is to be done in navigable waters of the United States, or if persons will discharge (dump, place, deposit) dredge or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands. You can check the public notices site of the Corps to examine staff reports associated with permit applications, and to determine dates by which comments must be received by the Corps.

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PNNew.htm>

**Juneau:** There are no current applications in Juneau, but you might want to look at the last permit application associated with Spuhn Island development, Harris Harbor work, or construction near Montana Creek.

**Tenakee: POA-1950-19-0.** DOT. Replace float & pilings at seaplane facility

**Tenakee: POA-1978-149.** USDA Forest Service south of Crab Bay. Access and product transfer for the Finger Mtn Timber sale.

**Petersburg: POA-1986-182-7.** City of Petersburg. Upgrade and expand capacity of municipal water treatment plant.

**Wrangell Narrows: POA 2004-1719.** Ben Gross. Falls Creek subdivision. Fill for garage, storage bldg.

**Wrangell: POA 2003-331-M.** City of Wrangell. Fill 2.48 acres to protect native burial sites and provide a buffer zone between the Heritage Harbor and the burial sites

**Thorne Bay: POA 2004-1661-2.** Peter Fama. Place fill for building pad, driveway & dock



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SEND REQUEST TO: [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)**

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**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

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Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 31, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2005

**Audubon's Celebrate Nature Lecture Series moves to a new night.**

## **BIRDING IN BOLIVIA**

**On Saturday, March 12th**, plan to join Juneau Audubon's intrepid birders, Deanna MacPhail, Paul Suchanek, Liz Blecker, and Bev Agler as they explore Bolivia's towns and countryside in search of birds and adventure! The event will be held at the **UAS Egan Auditorium, from 7:30-8:30 PM. Admission is free!**

Our Celebrate Nature lecture series has been very successful this winter, due in large part to the excellent speakers we've arranged. Last month, Jill Fredston's talk drew over 275 people! This March and April, our lecture series will move to a new night, Saturday, and move back to the UAS Egan Auditorium. We hope the public will continue to enjoy these fine lectures and slide shows. They are a real treat during these winter months!

## **NEW JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY NOONTIME BIRD WALK BEGINNING IN MARCH** By Virginia Harris

Join us for birding in downtown Juneau at lunch on Wednesdays beginning in March. We will tune our eyes and ears to the pulse of Juneau's downtown bird scene.

We will meet at noon in the lobby at Rainbow Foods (224 4<sup>th</sup> st.) beginning on Wednesday March 2 and loop out from there. We will keep an eye on the greenbelts and feeders and the waterfront and parks.

Please contact Virginia Harris at 586-7559 or Beth Peluso at 957-1050 for more information. We look forward to meeting you in March. Please—no dogs.

### **US Forest Service Friday nights at the Glacier Visitor Center 6:30 & 8:00 p.m.**

March 4—A Tectonic Masterpiece-The Geologic History of Southeast—Chris Dewitt

March 11—What New Technologies are Teaching Us about Brown Bear Ecology

March 18—The Grizzly Maze—Timothy Treadwell's Fatal Obsession

March 25—The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—Debbie Miller

## **BOARD NEWS by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society President**

Hello and Happy Birding, I hope you all had a fun time participating in your Great Backyard bird count. It's always fun to hear how many and what kinds of birds were found in all the communities in southeast Alaska and all over the north American continent. If you want to check out the results go on line to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> It was calm for the first three days of the count in Juneau, but then we got some good snow flurries and squalls for the last day. I noticed of the 84 reports from Alaska, all reported a bald eagle.

Its time to get ready for our spring hooligan (euchlacon) cruises to Berner's Bay. This year our trips will be on April 16 and 30. We try to plan the trips to coincide with the greatest numbers of marine mammals and/or seabirds. Its luck of the draw whether we hit the peak of the run, but we hope you will join us. The tickets this year are \$35/adult and \$5/child.

Do you have time to write a letter? We would appreciate some help on letters concerning Berner's Bay, road vs. ferry access for Juneau, commercial uses and eagle baiting in the Eagle Preserve in Haines, and the upcoming release of the Juneau Airport environmental impact statement (due out in March). If you are interested in helping, please contact me at 789-4656 ([president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)) or Sari Saunders, ([conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org)).

Now is your chance to influence choices for NON-Game research conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Please review it's draft Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). The public review period begins on February 18th and ends April 4, 2005. You may access the draft strategy and submit comments at the CWCS public web site. <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/ngplan/>

Check your Juneau Audubon web page for the local bird checklist, lecture schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)).

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON BOARD MEMBERS MEET WITH ALASKA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE DIRECTOR By Matt Kirchhoff**

Juneau Board members Sari Saunders and Matt Kirchhoff met with Tom Atkinson, Executive Director of the Alaska Conservation Alliance, to learn more about how the conservation alliance functions, and how it might better serve conservation groups like Juneau Audubon. ACA is located in Anchorage, and is comprised of 45 different conservation groups (including Juneau Audubon). Tom also serves as the executive director of Alaska Conservation Voters (ACV) which is the sister organization to ACA. Both organizations have separate boards, but their functions are closely related. The ACV is a 501(c)4 organization, which allows direct lobbying on legislation, and support of progressive conservation-minded candidates for political office (some may remember this as the old Alaska Environmental Lobby). ACA is a traditional 501(c)3 organization, which has restrictions on direct lobbying, but can provide education and information on issues to the public. Tom was encouraging Audubon's active participation in ACA and ACV to ensure that issues important to us were highlighted, and they could devote resources to them. For example, they are helping train and support progressive candidates for election to the Juneau Assembly, as well as statewide offices. Juneau Audubon pays annual dues of 300 dollars a year to help sustain the organization. For more information, Audubon members can check their website at [www.akvoice.org](http://www.akvoice.org). To have your Chapter weigh in on issues important to you, please contact Sari Saunders, our conservation chair, at [scsaunde@mtu.edu](mailto:scsaunde@mtu.edu)

## **WINTER BIRD SURVIVAL** by Bruce Paige

January of 2005 came in and went out like a lamb, but the middle of the month managed a stretch of below zero temperatures and three feet of snow cover anyhow. Birds that had lingered since fall under the illusion of finding a winter “Camelot”, suddenly discovered otherwise. The first ever January observations of redhead duck, horned lark, lapland longspur, greater yellowlegs, mountain bluebird, water pipit, and fox sparrow all were made in Gustavus early this past month. The question is how many of these individuals that made it through the bitterly cold conditions will successfully forage with so much ground under snow. If the red-breasted nuthatches are any indication (early in the winter there were 5-8 nuthatches at every feeding station- now 1-3 remain) getting through even a mild winter is not easy. Consider the day length for feeding is only a few hours this time of year, then birds must survive the 18 hour nights of wind, freezing rain or snow..... Not too many of us would like to give it a try, I’d bet!

I’ve actually followed chickadee flocks at twilight many times to see where they spend the night. Do they pile into tree cavities together for warmth? It doesn’t seem so, as most nights I’ve found they sought out dense vegetation, such as spruce, that shed most of the rain and snow, and break the wind. It’s possible they huddle together among the inner branches, “shivering” while burning fat reserves for warmth. Other species use different techniques to survive our winter. Ptarmigan will bury themselves in the snow, where temperatures are somewhat moderate and they are safe from predators, except perhaps a passing wolverine, coyote, or wolf. The ptarmigan flock then “pops up” anew each morning. Rock sandpiper flocks crouch together on the exposed shores. Many waterfowl and waterbirds have downy undercoats that are so good at retaining body warmth, their owners hardly notice the SE Alaska cold. It is truly amazing that some of the tiniest birds, like the winter wren and golden-crowned kinglet make it through the winter, but after the coldest spells, there they are, busily feeding in the brush and treetops. Our hardy January birds are a constant reminder that winters do pass night by night and soon the days are longer, warmer, and full of Spring promise!

## **THEY’RE NOT “JUST” CROWS** by Bonnie Demerjian, Wrangell, AK

Each week when I submit my FeederWatch results online, I get an alarmed message about my crow report- “An unusually high number! Are you SURE you counted correctly?” Yes, I mumble. There really *are* a lot of them. Forty-six last week. That’s because we live on the waterfront. When those Northwestern crows aren’t stuffing themselves silly on birdseed, they’re cruising the beach for mussels, clams and anything else they can find. I’ve long ago quit trying to battle them; this is their territory too. But just recently I found a way to make their daily breakfast stop useful to science.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has several Urban Bird programs; one of these is Crows Count. The project focuses on understanding group sizes among corvids: crows, ravens, magpies and jays. Some corvid species live in family groups during the spring and summer nesting season. Crows in particular roost together in a small area in often spectacular numbers but, aside from knowing that the size of these groups changes, little else is known about the subject. Because corvids are some of the most easily recognized birds and because they are bold and vocal around humans, they make ideal study subjects.

Crows Count seeks to help scientists answer the question, “How do crow group sizes change with the seasons?” To participate all I have to do is find a study site (my deck), record simple habitat information, count the birds and record their behaviors and mail in the report to the Cornell Lab of

Ornithology. Instructions and necessary forms can be downloaded from the Lab's website for the project: [http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/urbanbirds/About/ubs\\_CRCAboutEN.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/urbanbirds/About/ubs_CRCAboutEN.html)

Chances are most crows we'll see in Southeast Alaska are Northwestern crows (*Corvus caurinus*). This crow ranges along the west coast from Southern Alaska to Washington. It rarely strays from tidewater except when spawning fish and eulechon enter coastal rivers. Then it has been recorded as much as eighty miles upriver. Along these shorelines it forages for marine invertebrates. During winter, when the lowest tides are at night, the Northwestern crow responds by concentrating near human habitats such as parking lots, wharfs, marinas and landfills.

During non-breeding season the Northwestern crow congregates in large flocks that commute twice daily between feeding and roosting sites: once at dawn and again in the late afternoon following flight paths called flyways. They may roost together at night for protection from predators, though this has not been confirmed.

As anyone who has tried to sneak food into their feeder knows well, crows use sentinels - alert birds perched high and watching for impending danger. They might also be scouts for feeding opportunities as I learned one day after being away from home for several weeks. My feeders were long empty but within minutes of stepping outside to fill them I heard a familiar "caw caw" and I knew I would soon have company for dinner.

Besides marine invertebrates, Northern crows will also eat seeds, fruit, fish, carrion and garbage. They are a major predator and scavenger on seabird colonies where they prey on eggs and nestlings. They are known to cache food such as clams, cormorant eggs and fish plucked at low tide. They store and cover each item in the ground, then retrieve it, usually within the next twenty-four hours.

Despite their seeming abundance, Northwestern crows have been identified as a priority landbird species by the Landbird Conservation Plan for Southeast Alaska because their strict adherence to the coast may leave them vulnerable to ocean pollutants such as oil spills and industrial waste dumped into estuaries and coves.

So, the next time you send in a birding report, don't mentally groan "only crows". They still have a lot to teach us and we have more to learn.

### **Gustavus Report -- January 20-February 23 -- By Nat Drumheller,**

The period wrapped up with the Great Backyard Bird Count from 2/18 through 2/21. This was the third year running that Gustavus participated in the count. Participation and effort were up over the last two years, as was the number of species observed over the four days. As of the writing of this report, 69 species have been tallied. The weather for the count was mild with morning fog on the first three days and snow and wind on the last day. Highlights from the count include **2 Lapland Longspurs**, **5 Rusty Blackbirds**, **5 Ring-necked Ducks**, and **2 American Robins**. Species that were considered lucky finds included **1 Northern Goshawk**, **1 Blue Grouse**, **1 Yellow-billed Loon**, **1 Double-crested Cormorant**, **20 Black-legged Kittiwakes** and **1 Great Horned Owl**.

A personal highlight during the count came at the end of the third day. I was tired from three days of non-stop birding and had just spent thirty minutes trudging through wet snow along a dike in an open,

wet meadow without seeing or hearing a single bird. I stopped to rest and admire the scenery and noticed a Northern Shrike watching me from the top of a small spruce. The shrike flew to a nearby cottonwood and started to sing. It sang for several minutes, while I stood watching and listening, before it flew off.

Other birds seen in the area in the days leading up to the count that were not observed during the count were 1 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 2 **Horned Larks**, 1 **Western Screech-Owl**, 1 **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1 **Fox Sparrow**, and 14 **American Pipits**.

**Common Redpolls** were abundant throughout the period and could be found just about everywhere in all weather conditions.

On a final note, just today, 2/23, **45 Red-throated Loons** were reported off the Gustavus dock.

Thanks to all GBBC participants and to Bruce Paige and Phoebe Vanselow for sharing observations.

### **LATE WINTER NOTES FROM KETCHIKAN by Teri Goucher**

February has already shown early signs of spring in Ketchikan. Fuzzy pussy willows are budded and a few blooming crocus have added color around town.

Our local channels have been busy with the usual scoters, goldeneye, murre, murrelets, bufflehead, cormorants, a few loons, Red-necked grebes, mallards and Canada geese.

Hundreds of common mergansers and long-tailed ducks remain off the waterfront.

The woods are awakening with active golden-crowned kinglets, juncos, chickadees and a couple downy woodpeckers, flickers, and sapsuckers. A record number of 31 common redpolls were seen near Ketchikan Creek, the most since 1984.

There have been high numbers of siskins this winter and thankfully no reports of any sick or dead siskins or redpolls locally. A few white-winged crossbills were seen and there were several interesting reports of red-crossbills coming to feed at birdfeeders. There were single sightings of savannah sparrow, northern shrike, red-tailed hawk, and a killdeer.

A rare anna's hummingbird was seen north of town for a couple days early in the month.

As spring approaches we eagerly await the exploding growth of plant life and the exciting rush of migrating birds.

### **SKAGWAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER By Andrew Cremata**

Skagway's 2004 Christmas Bird Count saw a decrease in overall numbers from 2003 but the highlights included above average weather, some unusual species, and a fabulous dinner of homemade pizza from the oven of John and Lorna McDermott.

Near the McDermott's home on the Dyea Road, two participants were nearing the end of a full day with the light of day drawing to a close. As they made their way over a grassy slope they came upon a symphony of common merganser's bathing, sleeping and frolicking on the bank of the Taiya River. A quick head count determined their number at 84 and just as the tally was complete they all sprang into

flight and swooped back and forth and away, over the ebbing tidal flats with the spectacular Chilkat range as their backdrop.

It was a fitting end to the days observing which included some help from seasoned Whitehorse birders, some of Skagway Bird Clubs finest, and some new faces that took in the experience for the first time.

Some other highlights included the spotting of a goshawk near Skagway, 50 mallards on the Dyea Flats, and a brown creeper that crept up beside a birder who was using Mother Nature's facilities.

Skagway's bird count presents a unique set of circumstances due to the large area that must be covered by a limited amount of people with little time. Still, the pleasures of the count were evident when bright, cold-kissed faces met at the McDermott's. All compared notes and tallies on a large board while enjoying the company that ultimately guarantees success for all involved.

## **REPORT ON SICK AND DEAD PINE SISKINS AND REDPOLLS**

More than 100 birds, mostly Siskins, are believed to have died in the Juneau area. Other sick and a few dead birds were reported in Gustavus. The following quoted material came from an article by Tony Carroll in the February 17, Juneau Empire:

"Recently a Juneau resident saw about 30 dead birds in one month. Sometimes he saw as many as three or four a day, he said.

Deborah Rudis, environmental contaminants biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Juneau, agreed that people with feeders could be doing more harm than good. She said a salmonella bacterial infection is most likely to blame for dead siskins and redpolls reported in the area.

An outbreak of salmonellosis, from salmonella bacteria, was determined to be in flocks of siskins visiting Juneau-area bird feeders.

Salmonella can be spread in feeders where large numbers of birds converge, she explained. Birds don't care where they leave their droppings and the droppings that spread the bacteria can get mixed in with feed.

"We received calls from individuals in north Douglas, the airport neighborhood, Back Loop and near the Pioneer Home," she said of dead siskins. "Most recently we have received reports of dead siskins and redpolls at 16 mile."

**If you do feed birds**, then it is very important to keep the area and the feeders as clean as possible. Clean and disinfect feeders regularly - Use one part of liquid chlorine household bleach to nine parts of tepid water. Make enough solution to immerse an empty feeder completely for two to three minutes. Allow to air dry. Once or twice a month should do, but weekly could help more if you notice sick birds. **If you do find sick and dead birds, call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 907-586-7240. They are monitoring the spread of disease and may wish to have you send the birds to them for testing.**



## **Clips from the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. We are always keen to have new members who would like to follow an issue in the communities and help keep other JAS members informed. If you have comments or would like to become involved, please contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org), or any other committee or Board member.

### **1. Juneau Access, a.k.a. The Road** – The website

[http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/juneau\\_access/index.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/juneau_access/index.shtml)

provides links to the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, about which there were recent public meetings and hearings in Juneau (Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>). The SDEIS evaluates a number of “Reasonable Alternatives” to provide transportation within the Lynn Canal corridor to and from Juneau. These include the State’s preferred alternative, a road along the east side of the Canal, and a number of other options (some of which are primarily ferry-based). Audubon will submit comments regarding this document and analyses therein. If you would like to contribute, please contact the conservation chair. We’d be happy to include members comments in our letter. If you’d rather submit material independently, comments must be received by Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>. These can be sent in writing or via email (see link on the webpage).

Some issues that JAS members may want to consider are impacts on bald eagles (there is an entire Appendix R on this), indirect and cumulative effects (Appendix U), reduced connectivity between nearshore and upland habitats for wildlife (some coverage in wildlife technical report, Appendix Q), loss of wildlife to road kill, and impacts to wetland habitats (Appendix O). Dispersal of non native, weedy plants (and other organisms) is also an issue of concern. Roads provide a mechanism for rapid transfer of non native species into new habitats. Modification of the habitat adjacent to the road in terms of temperature, moisture, compaction, and other factors (i.e., creation of “edge effects” that extend adjacent to the road) plays an important role in establishment of these species. There are limited data specific to this part of the coastal temperate rainforest to assist in evaluating the loss of habitat from edge effects along the road, and the potential rate of establishment of invasive species.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminder** – Just a reminder that many of the projects of interest to JAS members in Southeast Alaska often involve permitting through the US Army Corps of Engineers. These permits are required if work is to be done in navigable waters of the United States, or if persons will discharge (dump, place, deposit) dredge or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands. You can check the public notices site of the Corps to examine staff reports associated with permit applications, and to determine dates by which comments must be received by the Corps. <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PNNew.htm>

**Ketchikan – POA-2003-401-4** Extend North Point Higgins Rd---Comment Period ends March 11

**Ketchikan – POA-1922-22-33** City of Ketchikan—construct 3,700 sq. ft. new deck and steel pile dock—  
Comment Period ends March 7

**Petersburg – POA-1998-998-M** Construct 25 ft extension to Rose Ln W Subdivision Rd—Comment Period ends March 11

**Petersburg – POA-2005-111** – 11 miles south of Petersburg – construct three driveways to lots for prospective homeowners – Comment Period ends March 7

**Petersburg – 2004-1390-4** – Mile 9.25 – Retain fill for 2 private residences, plus additional fill and beach access road.

**Metlakatla – POA-2004-1038-4** – Public Health Service – Construct 6 units of staff housing and health center –  
Comment Period ends March 21

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to  
Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the  
**Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.**

**Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
or paper copy \_\_\_\_\_**

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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 31, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2005

**CELEBRATE NATURE SERIES APRIL 9, 7:30 P.M.  
EGAN LECTURE HALL, UAS**

## **ACCESSING WILDLIFE PARKS AROUND THE WORLD INDEPENDENT TRAVEL ON A BUDGET**

**This is the final talk in our Celebrate Nature series this year. It's going to be special—don't miss it!**

Biologists Steve Lewis and Michelle Kissling enjoy their time off traveling to some of the world's greatest wildlife parks and reserves. Recent itineraries included southern Africa, Southeast Asia, Central America, Ecuador, and Alaska's own Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Accessing remote landscapes to maximize wildlife viewing opportunities without joining a tour group can be an expensive and difficult task. They will share their experiences and tips on how to travel independently and responsibly in less-developed countries. Steve and Michelle will discuss conservation challenges and myths as they provide information on costs, logistics, and biggest bang-for-your-buck destinations. Whether you're an experienced birder or an amateur wildlife viewer, please join us on April 9 at 7:30pm at the Egan Lecture Hall, UAS.

### ***Berners Bay Cruises – 2005***

Saturday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

***Adults - \$35 Children under 12 - \$5 (must be accompanied by adult)***

**Tickets at Hearthside Books**

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON NOONTIME BIRD WALK** By Virginia Harris

We meet at noon in the lobby at Rainbow Foods (224 4<sup>th</sup> st.) every Wednesday and loop out from there. We will keep an eye on the greenbelts and feeders and the waterfront and parks. Please contact Virginia Harris at 586-7559 or Beth Peluso at 957-1050 for more information. We look forward to meeting you. Please—no dogs.

Things were quiet in downtown neighborhoods on our first walk, so we aimed for the waterfront for some marine activity on March 2. We were pleased to spot porpoise and seals and agreed on the challenge of various Glaucous-winged Gull plumages. We were glad to put aside plumage puzzles and a cormorant in the middle distance.

Our next walk was to Cope Park on a breezy Wednesday with light rain. We heard kinglets and a Chestnut-backed Chickadee at the top of town and dropped down to the park under the heron rookery on Goldbelt. A mixed flock of crossbills flew into alder above Gold Creek, which kept us busy with a show of olives, rusts, and an occasional flash of white wing bars.

The next walk was a sunny Wednesday loop up the steps of Starr Hill to a back yard feeder that had been busy a few weeks ago with Slate-colored and Oregon species of Dark-eyed Junco. There were Oregons this day and kinglets in the woods at the start of the Mr. Roberts trail. We found siskin in the brush along lower Basin Road and heard Steller's Jays in the distance.

With our start at Rainbow, we have a chance to share updates about our recent activities and upcoming events. Traffic has stopped to ask about what we were doing and we returned with an explanation and an invitation to join next week.

Song Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos are singing in downtown and dippers are regular in Gold Creek near Northern Light Church on lower flow volumes. A heron was recently seen in a stand of spruce near the Governor's Mansion.

Hope to see you on one of our walks.

(Ed. Note) As I enter these articles in the newsletter, there are a dozen crossbills, one an especially vivid orange, six healthy looking siskins, several juncos and a song sparrow all feeding together. And flying overhead, two ravens frantically gathering sticks and moss, high up in trees, and carrying them to the nest they are building in a tree a couple hundred feet from our house. Bird watching is such great fun, especially if you can do it while sitting at your computer.

### **HELP NEEDED**

Spring has appeared and so has the pesky plant *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard). The annual spring pull has been scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We would greatly appreciate a few hours of help from all who can squeeze this event into their schedule. There is a lot of work to be done at the downtown site behind the Fireweed Place and just below the Gov'ners mansion. We could use help from anyone and everyone! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Lance Lerum, USDA 790-7479

## ***Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks 2005***

*Walks last about two to four hours. If you have them, bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots recommended for most walks and dress for weather. Beginning birders are welcome. For further information contact Steve Zimmerman\_586-2597, [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org)*

- April 9 Area: Airport Dike Trail. Meet at Radcliffe Road  
Time: 8:00 am.  
Leader: Steve Zimmerman
- April 16 Area: Berners Bay boat trip.  
Time: Vessel leaves at 8:30 am from the transient float in the Don Statter Harbor in Auke Bay. Be there 15 minutes before sailing time.
- April 23 Area: Airport Dike Trail. Meet at Radcliffe Road  
Time: 8:00 am  
Leader: Mark Schwan
- April 30 Area: Berners Bay boat trips (2)  
Vessel leaves at 8:30 am and 1:30 pm from the transient float below the Harbormaster's Office at Don Statter Harbor in Auke Bay. Be there 15 minutes before sailing time
- May 7 Leader: Gwen Baluss
- May 14 Area: Mouth of the Mendenhall River. Meet at Radcliffe Road  
Time: 8:00 am  
Leader: Paul Suchanek
- May 21 Area: Mouth of the Mendenhall River. Meet at Radcliffe Road  
Time:  
Leader: Bob Armstrong
- May 28 Area: Norton Lake. Meet at Moraine Ecology Trail parking lot (near the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor's Center).  
Time: 7:00 am  
Leader: Bev Agler
- June 4 Area: Sandy Beach (Douglas). Meet in parking lot near picnic shelters.  
Time: 7:00 am  
Leader: Paul Suchanek
- June 11 Area: Dredge Lakes (Moose Lake side). Meet in parking lot by the bridge over the Mendenhall River on the Back Loop Road.  
Leader: Matt Brooks
- June 24 Plant/Minus Tide Walk time place announced later—Pat Harris/ML King

*Alaska Conservation Foundation Presents*  
**Celebration for the 25th Anniversary of the**  
*Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act*  
*(ANILCA) July 6 and 7, 2005, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska*  
*Register before March 31, 2005 to ensure your place at the conference and the Jimmy Carter Luncheon!*

Please join us in celebrating Alaska and commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This extraordinary event includes a day and half long conference where you will have the opportunity to learn about Alaska conservation issues and how this remarkable piece of legislation, which protected over 100 million acres of land, has affected Alaska and the nation. For additional information and to register for the conference, please visit Alaska Conservation Foundation's website at [www.akcf.org](http://www.akcf.org). Questions can be directed to Shari Showalter, the event coordinator, at (907) 646-9000

**Sandhill Crane Gathering in Nebraska**

Every spring at this time Central Nebraska experiences a spectacular invasion. Hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes migrate up from the South. These birds spend about three weeks feeding in Nebraska before they move on to their northern nesting grounds, often in Alaska. Check out (<http://www.horizontours.com/cranes3email.htm>) for pictures and tour opportunities.

**BOARD NEWS** by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society President

Hello and Happy Spring,

This is always such a fun birding time. Every morning as I awake and realize it is light outside (already!); I can't wait to hear what bird might have started singing. Varied thrushes and song sparrows are joining the juncos and even one brave winter's wren. Spring bird walks begin in April and hopefully this year there will be Audubon sponsored activities throughout the summer. But now it is time to get the nest boxes cleaned out and put up and time to get your tickets for our cruises to Berner's Bay.

The visits to Berners Bay are always a fun way to get to see our neighborhood from the water. We might see lots of marine mammals, but maybe not. No one can exactly predict the peak of the hooligan run. This year, with all the proposed changes with mine development and Juneau road access, it seems an especially good time to visit Berners Bay while it is still wild. I hope you will join us.

Do you have time to help Juneau fourth grade students learn about birds? This year Seaweed spring wetland study will be April 25-29. They are looking for volunteers for 2-hour increments from 8:30-3:00 for every day that week. Birders help the students look through binoculars and identify common birds. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at 789-4656 ([president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)).

The Juneau Airport environmental impact statement may be out in April. If you are interested in helping with responding to the EIS or any other conservation issue, please contact Steve Zimmerman or Sari Saunders, conservation chair ([conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org)).

Check your Juneau Audubon web page for the local bird checklist, lecture schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)).

## UNUSUAL BIRD LOCATION

Kim Kirby wrote: “On a recent walk at Ward Lake, February 16, I stopped to use the outhouse and was really surprised to see this fellow standing on the floor, there is no way in or out except through the spring loaded door. Maybe somebody propped it open and then it closed with this guy inside... We chased him out and he seemed to fly off just fine. I am thinking he is boreal owl but am open to expert opinion.”



Mary Lou, Can't say I've ever located a good bird in an outhouse. I will let him know it is a screech-owl. Paul

### **Spring on the Stikine River** By Bonnie Demerjian, Wrangell

We're all familiar with the autumn concentration of bald eagles on the Chilkat River, but did you know that the Stikine River supports the world's second largest gathering of bald eagles? They will arrive in April to feast on eulachon, popularly known as hooligan, a small oily fish that spawns on the sandy river bottom. The eagles gather in numbers estimated to be from 1000 to 2000, perching in bare-branched cottonwoods and atop gnarled roots strewn along sandbars. At low tide they pace the mud flats and feed on eulachon that become stranded in shallow pools. The birds begin gathering in Wrangell as early as February, restlessly biding their time perched in trees as they wait for ice to leave the river and the run to commence. Steller sea lions and harbor seals are also attracted to the fish.

Besides bald eagles, the intertidal wetlands of the Stikine River serve as an important staging area for up to three million shorebirds each spring. Twenty-two species have been documented but the most numerous are Western sandpipers representing over ninety percent of the arriving shorebirds. Western sandpipers banded in Peru and Mexico have been located on the Stikine River. The grass flats and tidal sloughs are also important spring and fall refueling stops as many as 15,000 snow geese, on their way to Wrangell Island in Siberia. A partial Stikine River bird checklist can be found on the web at [www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/forest\\_facts/resources/fauna\\_flora/chklststkn.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/forest_facts/resources/fauna_flora/chklststkn.html)

Wrangell's Garnet Festival is held the third week in April each year to capitalize on the Stikine's attraction to birders. The festival is named for the garnet deposits at the mouth of the river. This year Alaska Airlines is offering discounts to Wrangell between April 14 and 24 for festival attendees. Local charter boat operators offer tours of the river flats for birders and several Forest Service cabins are well located for observing arriving birds at close hand.

### ***KETCHIKAN SPRING*** by Teri Goucher

Spring has arrived, although snow squalls and chilly nights continue to challenge early avian migrants tempted by recent warm days.

The last week of February brought our first robins with flocks up to 23 individuals on area lawns earlier than usual. Fox Sparrows are showing up a bit early as well, and 60 were spotted near the airport on March 20<sup>th</sup>. A Purple Finch was seen north of town and a Snow Bunting was seen along a mountain

road. Ruby-crowned Kinglets are here and singing! Swans are always thrilling to see, and 5 small flocks of Trumpeter Swans flew over the Vallenar area on nearby Gravina Island. A pair of Tundra Swans remained at Ward Lake several days marking the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for that species in Ketchikan. The first male Rufous Hummingbird was seen at a residence 17 miles north of town on March 16<sup>th</sup>, shattering previous arrival date records. Other early dates for this harbinger of Spring are 3-21 in 2003, and 3-20 in 1996.

The next weeks will be exciting as longer, warming days urge migrating birds to their summer ranges. The forest awakens with bird song while flocks of waterfowl fly overhead and beaches become crowded with shorebirds. Make time to enjoy this brief explosion of birding opportunities! Who knows what new record breaking species may visit this Spring!!

### **Gustavus Report** By Nat Drumheller [natdrumheller@hotmail.com](mailto:natdrumheller@hotmail.com) 2/24 to 3/21

The weather during this period was mild with temperatures mostly in the 30's and 40's. The last week was clear and colder with a low of 18 degrees on the morning of 3/21.

The previous Gustavus report ended with forty-five Red-throated Loons observed off the town dock. The next day, 2/24, twenty-five **Pacific Loons** were seen at that location by the same observer.

On 2/27, a juvenile **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen in town.

A small number of **Ring-necked Ducks** continued to be seen on a pond near the airport with four on 2/27 and three on 3/8.

**American Robins** were seen in ones and twos from March 1st on, but no flocks have been reported. The first singing robin reported was on 3/14.

On 3/3, the first singing **Varied Thrush** in Gustavus was reported.

On 3/3 and 3/5, one **American Pipit** was observed along the shore south of Bartlett Cove where one had been seen in the previous month.

**Red Crossbills** made their first appearance of the winter at a backyard feeder with two observed on 3/6 and four on 3/7. (Although these were the first Red Crossbills reported, **White-winged Crossbills** have been common through the winter.)

Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen near the school on 3/4 and a lone Rusty Blackbird was observed singing on 3/8. These birds had been seen in the same area on several occasions over the previous month.

On 3/12, a **Western Screech-Owl** was heard, and on 3/16 another was heard at a different location.

A **Great Horned Owl** was heard in the Rink Creek area on 3/13. This is only the second Great Horned Owl reported this winter. The other has been heard regularly through this winter at Bartlett Cove.

A **Barred Owl** was reported by three separate parties on the night of 3/16. One was heard at 10:00 p.m., one at 11:00 p.m., and one at 12:00 midnight. The owl heard at 10:00 was moving in the direction that the two later reports came from, so it was possibly the same bird.



One **Lapland Longspur** was observed in the rye grass east of the town dock on 3/16 and a male in breeding plumage was observed in the rye grass west of the Salmon River on 3/19.

**Common Redpoll** numbers had dropped by the end of the period, although there are still some around. Sixty-one redpolls were counted at a backyard feeder on 3/12. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continue to be fairly common.

Thanks to Allison Banks, Bruce Paige, Chad Soiseth, George and Lynne Jensen, Greg Streveler, and Phoebe Vanselow for sharing observations.

### **Petersburg Bird Feeder Blues** Don Cornelius

Feeding birds, I thought -- what a pleasant way to commune with nature without leaving the comfort of my favorite easy chair. Just build a feeder, toss out some seed and watch the flocks descend like snow on a January day.

Well, not quite. The first living creature to find our feeder, a week before the first juncos, was a cat -- a cat that led a long procession of multi-hued felines over the years.

But cats have not been our only scourge. If low tide occurs in the early morning hours the murder of crows that frequent Petersburg environs descend on the shoreline to terrorize the local invertebrates. But when high tide occurs close to dawn, Petersburg crows are not about to sit around telling Norwegian jokes while patiently waiting for the next low tide. No, they go elsewhere.

One such elsewhere is my homemade bird feeder. One crow would be fine -- maybe even three -- but when I hear that caw, caw, caw from a local crow scout, I know I'll soon see 50 or more of the black beauties covering our feeder and leaving our deck a fecal-strewn mess.

Don't get me wrong. I love the intelligence of the corvids. I just don't like how they use it. I've found that crows do not like the sound of clapping hands -- maybe they think I'm an out-of-control middle-schooler with a box of firecrackers. It works for five, maybe six minutes, but who has the patience to guard their feeders all morning. So, some days, I feed crows.

Worse than the crows are rock pigeons, ex-rock doves. My initial reaction to a pair of them descending on our feeder was, welcome friends, there's plenty for all. The next day they arrived with five of their closest friends and the next day each of these friends brought their relatives. It wasn't long before my first look at the dawning day revealed a power line packed with hungry pigeons all staring at my bird feeder. It didn't matter how much seed I put out, it was always gone long before any other bird had a crack at it.

When our roof began to smell like a sewer outfall I stopped feeding birds for two quiet years. And still a few pigeons occasionally showed up to see if I had changed my mind. When I finally put out that first handful of seeds it didn't take long for them to arrive. But this time I declared war.

I haven't seen a pigeon in our yard for awhile now, but I know they're out there lurking behind the bushes. I'll be ready when they come, just as I am with the crows and cats -- a paranoid wreck of a bird lover -- guarding, ever guarding. I'm ready. Come on -- try me.

**JAS Award Winner  
2005 Southeast Alaska Regional  
Science Fair**



Congratulations to Jill Carlile, the winner of the Juneau Audubon Society's award at this year's regional science fair. Jill won \$100 and a year's membership to JAS for her project entitled, "The effects of ambient air temperature on food consumption by Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*)". Her abstract is below.

JAS presents the award for a poster that indicates an interest in conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Criteria for selection include: careful definition of the scientific question, consideration of appropriate field or analytical techniques, critical thinking about results, and awareness of both positive aspects and limitations of the study. Judges also look for an understanding of natural history and broader conservation issues related to the topic studied.

Jill is a sophomore at JDHS. Although she says she has hasn't been much of a birder in the past, this project, along with her family's recent purchase of a nice pair of binoculars, has piqued her interest. Next year she is planning to go on a semester-long exchange to Chile, and says it will be interesting to observe the various species of birds there. Jill enjoys rock and ice climbing as well as skiing, snowboarding, and hiking.

**The effects of ambient air temperature on food consumption by Pine Siskins (*Spinuspinus*) by Jill Carlile**

To determine how ambient air temperature affected food consumption by Pine Siskins, daily average air temperature and food consumption of Siskins was measured over a 60-day period. A bird feeder filled with sunflower hearts was placed inside an elevated enclosure to keep squirrels and larger birds away. The high and low air temperatures as well as the food consumption were measured once a day at 9:00 pm AST from December 5th 2004 to February 3rd 2005. The mass of food consumed was measured as using a Harvard Trip Balance. The temperatures were measured using an electronic thermometer. During the project, the average ambient air temperature, as measured with an electronic thermometer, ranged between -12.65 and 5.55 °C.

The hypothesis for this project was that as the temperature drops, the Pine Siskins will consume less food. This hypothesis of a positive linear relationship between food consumption and temperature is supported by statistical tests on a linear model. Although this linear relationship was shown to be significant, a statistically significant non-linear regression model accounted for even more variability in food consumption, suggesting that the hypothesis was correct down to a point. At about -5.1° C the relationship became negative.

These results could be applied in further bird studies and contribute to our understanding of bird physiology as well as general biology. Because this study suggests that Pine Siskin feeding behavior is in part dictated by ambient temperature, it could be used as an indicator in studies on global warming.

### **Crossbill Morning**

Text and photo by Joe McCabe  
March, 2005  
Juneau, Alaska

During a few frenzied hours on the morning of Sunday, March 13, our backyard near Twin Lakes became, what seemed to me, the center of the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) universe. From about 9am until about 11am, a very large number (too many to count) of Red Crossbills descended upon the nearly barren floor of our wooded backyard to gobble up all the hemlock cones that had been laid bare by the melting snow. The colorful little critters made wonderful photo subjects. They were quite unfazed by my big camouflaged lens, flash, tripod and wild, uncombed hair. One handsome red male took up a perch on my front tripod leg and watched curiously for a few minutes as I photographed his companions! I'm told by my birder friends that it's unusual to see them cavorting freely on the ground so I feel lucky to have had a chance to photograph and observe these guys and gals.



## Male Red Crossbill



Female Red Crossbill

The opportunity to intimately observe and photograph these birds while feeding was an interesting experience. The Crossbills' bills are highly specialized for removing seeds from between the scales of conifer cones. There seems to exist a bit of a disagreement as to just how these birds use their crossed bills to remove the seeds from the cones. In doing a bit of Internet research, I came across three descriptions of how the bills are used. According to eNature.com ([www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)), the Crossbills hold the cone with one foot, insert their closed bills between the cone and scales and pry apart the scales by opening their bills thus enabling the Crossbills to use their flexible tongues to remove the seeds from the cone. Cornell's "All About Birds" site (<http://birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds>) describes a different method of seed extraction: since a bird's biting muscles are stronger than the muscles used to open the bill, Crossbills place the tips of their slightly open bills under a cone scale and bite down whereupon the crossed tips push the top and bottom scales apart, exposing the seed inside for easy extraction. Seattle Audubon Society's BirdWeb (<http://www.birdweb.org>) notes that Crossbills start at the bottom of a cone and spiral upward, prying open each scale and removing the seeds with their tongues. The bills can cross in either direction, and the direction of the cross dictates the direction that the bird spirals up the cone.

From my observations on that Sunday morning and from an examination of my photographs, I offer a competing theory regarding the use of the Crossbills' specialized

bill. First a couple of caveats: I'm a beginning birder so my observation skills might not be as highly developed as more experienced folks and I'm a photographer first and observer of behavior second (until I have what I consider some quality images then I relax and start observing for the sheer sake and joy of observing). Having laid down those caveats, it certainly appeared to me that the Crossbills often used their bills in a scissor type action to scoop seeds from both the upper and lower sides of a scale, with the top part of the bill scooping the seeds from the top of the scale and the bottom part of the bills scooping the seeds from the bottom side of the scale. The Crossbills then used their tongues to gather up the seeds that had been pushed out the sides of the cone and/or that had ended up covering their bills. The fact that the Crossbills often had seed-covered bills after they had been diligently attending to a cone reinforces, to me, that they were using their bills as scoops not just pry bars. My observations and photos do confirm that Crossbills hold the cone in place with one foot. Sadly, I was unaware that Crossbills may remove the seeds in a spiral fashion so I wasn't looking for that behavior and neither did it strike me that that was indeed what the Crossbills were doing. Hopefully, they'll pay another visit to our backyard and I can try and catch that behavior.

The image below shows what I think is the "Scissor Bill" method of seed removal.



Female Crossbill demonstrating the "Scissor Bill" seed removal technique. Note foot holding cone.

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and  
\$10 to: Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the  
**Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.**

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
or paper copy \_\_\_\_\_

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***Berners Bay Cruises – 2005***

Saturday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Come and join Audubon naturalists on a cruise past the end of the road. Wildlife drama is just beyond Echo Cove. The yearly eulachon run may arrive any time in April and that means large congregations of marine mammals and birdlife in Berners Bay. We won't know until we get there if our timing is good for seeing sea lions, whales, seals, or thousand's of gulls, but we'd love to have you join us. It's a fun way to see our neighborhood from the water. Many changes are proposed for Berners Bay. This is a special opportunity to visit while it is still wild.

Cruises last 4 hours. Vessels depart Statter Harbor at Auke Bay (pier to left of boat ramp). Boarding begins about 15 minutes before departure.

***Adults - \$35      Children under 12 - \$5 (must be accompanied by adult)***

Tickets at Hearthside Books

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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

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Juneau Audubon Society

May 2005

**There are no regular Audubon Meetings or Newsletter until September**

## ***Spring Migration Bird Trips & Nature Walks 2005***

*Walks last about two to four hours. If you have them, bring binoculars and/or spotting scope, bird guide, rubber boots recommended for most walks and dress for weather. Beginning birders are welcome. For further information contact Steve Zimmerman\_586-2597, [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org)*

May 7 Area: Mouth of the Mendenhall River: Meet at Safeway Parking area for car pooling  
Time: 7:00 a.m.  
Leader: Gwen Baluss

May 14 Area: Mouth of the Mendenhall River. Meet at Radcliffe Road  
Time: 8:00 am  
Leader: Paul Suchanek

May 21 Area: Mouth of the Mendenhall River. Meet at Radcliffe Road  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Leader: Bob Armstrong

May 28 Area: Norton Lake. Meet at Moraine Ecology Trail parking lot (near the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor's Center).  
Time: 7:00 am  
Leader: Bev Agler

June 4 Area: Sandy Beach (Douglas). Meet in parking lot near picnic shelters.  
Time: 7:00 am  
Leader: Paul Suchanek

June 11 Area: Dredge Lakes (Moose Lake side). Meet in parking lot by the bridge over the Mendenhall River on the Back Loop Road.  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Leader: Gus VanVleet

June 24 Plant/Minus Tide Walk, South Bridget Cove, 37.4 Mile Glacier Highway  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Leaders: Pat Harris/Mary Lou King



**ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE:** Juneau Audubon Society is helping to sponsor the next AK Bird Conference. The dates are Feb. 7-9, 2006 at Centennial Hall, Juneau. If people have questions/comments, they can contact me at 780-1168 or by email at [michelle\\_kissling@fws.gov](mailto:michelle_kissling@fws.gov).

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON BOARD NEWS by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society President**

Hello and Happy Birding,

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Berners Bay cruises. We always peer into our crystal ball and choose dates for the cruise that might yield the highest number of birds and other wildlife. Well, we certainly had a first this year: the original sailing on April 16<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled because of high winds! Luckily the harbormaster caught our captain before we left the dock. He had a report of 8 foot seas in Berners Bay right as we were about to leave the dock. So we took a vote on whether to try the next day or sail around Douglas Island. The majority wanted to try again on Sunday, so that is what we did. Only about 12 people could not make it back on Sunday and word of mouth worked to get the boat completely filled again. The Sunday cruise was in warm, sunny conditions. We got to see oyster catchers, twice, saw sea lions on Benjamin Island and also a group of about 80 cooperatively feeding in Berners Bay at Slate Cove. We saw whales coming and going and even got a short escort by some Dall's porpoise. Everyone was glad we got to go to Berners Bay finally.

So in between our two scheduled excursions the eulachon (hooligan) started up the rivers on 4/23. Our trips on 4/30 were not able to see many birds in Berners Bay because the majority of the birds were up the rivers. It was a sunny day and although pretty windy in the morning the afternoon trip was a lot calmer. The later trip got to see all the gull species and lots of marbled murrelets. Our captain ducked behind Mab Island and so we got to see a few goldeneye, harlequin, and mergansers too. It was such a lovely day and everyone enjoyed the scenery. Sure hope we are able to visit Berners Bay again next year, but not by road!

Juneau Audubon is trying to provide more activities on each Saturday this year. After the initial 8 weeks of migrant bird walks we will try to do several low tide and plant walks, maybe even alpine flowers above the tram in July. Please keep an eye on the weekly schedule in the newspaper and the web page for updates on activities and meeting places. ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)). You can also get your local bird checklist and past newsletters on the web page.

The Juneau Airport environmental impact statement is out. If you are interested in helping with responding to the EIS or any other conservation issue, please contact Steve Zimmerman or Sari Saunders, conservation chair ([conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org)).

## **AUDUBON ALASKA BOARD MEETING By Steve Zimmerman**

In 1997 The National Audubon Society reorganized into state offices and established Audubon Alaska as its state office in Alaska. Working with local Alaska chapters, Audubon Alaska advocates for the conservation of Alaska's natural ecosystems and has led comprehensive scientific studies to document the resources at stake in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR), and the Tongass and Chugatch Forests. Audubon Alaska is guided by a board of directors which meets twice annually. The most recent meeting of that board was held in Cordova during April 29 – May 1.

All Audubon state offices have to be self sustaining and one of the major topics of the meeting was how to keep raising the funds necessary to support the office and its six paid staff. There are presently 26 Audubon state offices. Audubon Alaska is one of a very small number that are fully self sustaining. The board was also brought up to date on the status of Audubon-supported lawsuits to require BLM to develop more wildlife-sensitive alternatives for leasing in the northeast and northwest sections of NPRA. Audubon studies to synthesize scientific information on the Tongass National Forest and to fine-tune habitat models for deer, bear, murrelets and other species were described. Education programs to help develop a culture of conservation in Alaska were detailed and an updated list of watchlist species (birds that are vulnerable or declining) was provided to the board. A review of the 3-year strategic plan was completed and proposed changes were approved. The board also elected officers: Matt Kirchhoff was re-elected as Chair of the Board and Steve Zimmerman was re-elected Secretary. Both are members of our Juneau Audubon Chapter.

### **Distribution of Bats in Southeast Alaska and Their Use of Bridges as Night Roosts by Bonnie Demerjian, Wrangell, AK**

There are some other aviators overhead besides birds and Oregon State University grad student Julie Boland will be in Southeast Alaska this summer studying them. She will travel north to assess the presence and distribution of bat species while also trying to determine if bats in the region use bridges as night roosts.

Earlier studies in the Pacific Northwest show that bats utilize the undersides of bridges to rest during their nighttime foraging. Bridges surfaced with asphalt in particular are warm harbors, radiating stored heat from daytime sun. Boland will also attempt to learn whether the age and density of forest surrounding the night roosts influences bat use.

She will capture bats for study using mist nets and other traps suspended over water, flyways and outside buildings, mines and caves. Using hand-held nets she will seek to capture bats under identified bridges. Boland will take tissue samples from bats for DNA analysis, will analyze guano and make recordings of echolocation calls.

Though beyond our range of hearing for the most part, we may still be fortunate enough to spot these reclusive creatures with their odd, fluttering flight some evening at twilight. Boland hopes her research will aid in understanding and appreciating the bats of Southeast Alaska.

### **Spring Arrives with the Sandhill Cranes** Bonnie Demerjian, Wrangell

The uncanny cry of sandhill cranes broke the still afternoon peace over Wrangell last week. The disturbance was welcome, though; their appearance certifies that spring has really arrived. Our only glimpse of them will be far overhead as they make their way to the Stikine River Delta to refuel before setting out for points north: Gustavus, Yakutat, the Copper River Delta and on to their nesting grounds on the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, the Kenai Peninsula and upper Cook Inlet.

The birds we see winging over Southeast Alaska are one of two populations of lesser sandhill cranes residing in Alaska. The larger one, about 500,000, is the Mid-Continent Population (MCP) that winters in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and northern Mexico. They take an interior route north to nest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Tanana Valley and Yukon Flats. "Our" sandhill cranes, about which less is known, belong to the Pacific Flyway Population (PFP) and number about 20 - 25,000. The PFP is believed

to follow a coastal route during migration, using the above-mentioned staging areas after passing through the Coastal Range from interior British Columbia. In spring they are heading north through eastern Oregon and Washington from their winter home in California's Central Valley. But, there is speculation that another smaller group of cranes follows the British Columbia coast rather than using the interior route. These birds also winter in California but take a more westerly route through Oregon and Washington. Biologists speculate that there thus may be two separate PFP populations, an "eastern" (interior route) band and a "western" (coastal route) band. It may also be that the "western" cranes breed in Southeast Alaska. Anecdotal evidence places breeding sandhill cranes in scattered muskegs of our region. To learn more about these different populations, in particular to ensure habitat protection, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game began a project in 2000 using satellite telemetry to track movements of lesser sandhill cranes from their summer range in upper Cook Inlet.

As scientists slowly accumulate information about these fascinating birds, we'll continue to thrill to the harsh calls of sandhill cranes conversing in family groups as they funnel north and south each year. Most of us will never see their enormous marshy nests or view their elaborate wing-swept courting dances, but the trilling sound of their voices tunes us into the cycle of the seasons. And if it turns out that they really do summer here with us, well, that's a gift.

To view maps of sandhill cranes nesting areas and migration routes in Alaska and see photos of capture for banding and satellite telemetry go to: [www.wildlife.alaska.gov/management/waterfowl/crane/crane.cfm](http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/management/waterfowl/crane/crane.cfm)

## **APRIL REPORT FROM KETCHIKAN-By Teri Goucher**

Glorious warm days have certainly encouraged birders to get out and enjoy the best weeks of spring migration!

Ketchikan's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Hummingbird Festival April 12-17 providing many fun activities for the public.

Gwen Baluus did bird banding at Ward Lake which offered close up views of birds in the mist net.

The Southeast Alaska Discovery Center had displays of homemade hummingbird feeders, bird art by high school students, and hand beaded hummingbirds. There were children's bird programs and live birds from the Deer Mountain Eagle Center.

Many people flocked to the center for Steve Heint's excellent slide presentation about Ketchikan's bird migration. Steve also led a bird walk along several beaches and used a scope for amazing bird viewing.

Andy Piston led a group around the airport where 43 species were observed, including 3 harriers, 2 kestrels, yellowlegs, killdeer, phalaropes, sandhill cranes and many flocks of waterfowl flying north. Undoubtedly, many new birders were inspired by this year's Hummingbird Festival!

Other interesting birds arriving lately are: red-winged blackbirds and savannah, golden-crowned and white-crowned sparrows. March 27 marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> earliest sighting of a band-tailed pigeon. By April 22<sup>nd</sup> the first orange-crowned, Townsend's and yellow-rumped warblers were here and singing and the first tree swallows arrived. Many raptors were seen with soaring eagles during a lunch hour, including 6 red-tailed hawks, 2 merlins, 2 sharp-shinned hawks and a kestrel! Recently a single osprey was found locally as well.

Shorebirds are just arriving here; western and least sandpipers, dunlin, dowitchers, semipalmated and black-bellied plovers are foraging on local beaches.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge Ketchikan's birding experts, Steve Heinl and Andy Piston for their many bird sightings and data which have added tremendously to my reports!

I wish you all a fantastic summer enjoying our beautiful and unique corner of the planet!!

## **APRIL 23 AUDUBON BIRD WALK REPORT (From Eaglechat) By Mark Schwan**

This morning we had terrific weather and a great group of 15 birders to check up on spring migration in Juneau. We spent most of our scheduled time walking the airport dike trail, but a few of us chose to extend the outing and go check out the mouth of the Mendenhall River and the open spaces along the way. We were joined by Rich Gordon and subsequently crossed paths with Matt Brooks and a birding companion. We certainly found nothing comparable to the Steller's Eider but by morning's end we had tallied up about 41 species. Below is the list of species seen from the dike trail, followed by additional species seen away from the dike.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the walk.

### **Seen from dike trail:**

Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Short-eared Owl  
Mallard  
American Wigeon  
Common Goldeneye  
Canada Goose  
Bufflehead  
Lesser Scaup  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Mew Gull  
Glaucous-winged Gull  
Herring Gull  
Northwestern Crow  
Common Raven  
American Robin  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Fox Sparrow  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Lapland Longspur

### **Additional species during "side trip" to river mouth:**

Horned Grebe  
Cackling Goose (probable, after group discussion)  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Green-winged Teal  
Northern Pintail  
Northern Shoveler  
Barrow's Goldeneye  
Greater Scaup  
Surf Scoter  
White-winged Scoter  
Black-bellied Plover  
Surfbird  
Black Turnstone  
Ruddy Turnstone (seen by Matt and Rich)  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Dunlin  
American Pipit

## **Hummingbirds, Hawks, and Other Sightings in Haines By Georgia Giacobbe**

I wrote this Haines report with great difficulty today because the weather has been so sunny and warm that it took a great deal of restraint to sit down inside and write on a computer. The birds must have known it all along though, because we have had early spring arrivals. The Varied thrushes have been sited 2 weeks earlier than usual; the Robins about 10 days earlier than what's average. The Rufous Hummingbirds arrived a week earlier, too, and we had to scramble to set up the feeder. Pam Randles has observed nest building activity by Northwest Crows, Bald Eagles (of course), Belted Kingfishers, American Dippers, and even a Peregrine Falcon. Other interesting sightings are Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings out in the Mud Bay area and Red Crossbills about 1.5 to 2.5 mile Haines Highway. Earlier in the month, several individuals sited a Mountain Bluebird just perched on the barbed wire fence near the tank farm, definitely a rare sighting. And several of us, including the bird watching challenged, have seen several "Marsh Hawks" (Northern Harriers) soaring and diving at the flats just a bit north of McClellan Flats. Add to that four violet green swallows, a couple of Canada Geese, and a juvenile Kestrel, and I would say these are positive signs of the bird population in Haines. Pam Randles Birdathon still scheduled for May 1-7 will show us more.



*Pam Randles's Bluebird Photo*

## **Petersburg: Of Sandhill Cranes and Rufous Hummingbirds By Don Cornelius**

Local folklore holds that migrating hummingbirds travel to Petersburg on the backs of sandhill cranes. Apparently some former observer of natural phenomenon noticed that the two species arrive at about the same time each spring. Obviously the tiny rufous hummingbirds are too small to make the trip on their own, so it didn't take much logic to draw the conclusion. In a small town, folklore - like rumors, flies fast, But it still amazes me when I hear from residents with deep roots in this community for whom this is still their understanding of bird migration.

Today our local public radio station, KFSK, is the keeper of this scientific information. The first sighting of each species is broadcast as local residents report in. In fact, so tied to Petersburg are these species, that spring newscasts include historic information that on this date the first hummingbird (or sandhill cranes) were seen in whatever year.

While hummingbirds are local nesters, the cranes are merely passerbys. But what a passerby. One migration pattern is for the cranes to fly over Petersburg announcing their arrival with that wonderful guttural rattling call. Then, directly in front of town, the Vs break up as the cranes begin circling on updrafts over Wrangell Narrows. The circling birds spiral upwards until satisfied with their altitude, they reassume their V-formations and head northerly up Petersburg Creek.

It's a pattern I've witnessed yearly for the 20 years I've resided here. That is, until 2005. While friends a little south of my house report plentiful crane sightings this year, I only saw one flock flying past, but not over, our community. It seems either something has been slightly different about the 2005 migration pattern, or my personal behavior pattern. Despite how much time I spent outside, maybe I was inside at just the wrong moments all spring. Or was I. If the cranes didn't fly directly over my part of town before circling to gain altitude, how could the hummingbirds get here? Ah, maybe they took the ferry.

## **Gustavus Report -- March 22-April 30 -- By Nat Drumheller**

The weather during this period was mild. The last week of March was cool with some hail and light snow. I was out of town for the first half of April, but was told that it was cool, wet, sunny, windy, and calm. The last week of April was sunny and warm with a high of 68 degrees reached at our home. Although there were some notable early spring arrivals, the migration did not hit full stride until the last week of April. Following is a list of some of the "first arrivals" for Gustavus during the period:

Two **Lesser Scaups** were seen for several days prior to 3/22 on a pond near the airport. The first **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reported this year was heard on 3/23 in the Good River neighborhood. At least five other saw-whets were heard through the period.

A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was heard and seen singing in town on 3/24.

A **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen on 3/26 north of the Park Road.

On the beach west of Dude Creek, a lone **Savannah Sparrow** was seen on 3/28.

Also on 3/28, the first **Black-bellied Plover** was observed on the beach west of The Good River.

"Multiple" **Rufous Hummingbirds** were observed at a feeder in town on the evening of 4/5. By 4/9, hummingbirds were being seen at five feeders in town.

Although at least one **Greater Yellowlegs** attempted to ride out the winter here, three were reported along The Salmon River on 4/6.

A **Wilson's Snipe** was heard winnowing on 4/9 in the Rink Creek neighborhood. A female **American Kestrel** was also reported on 4/9, and the first **Bonaparte's Gull** on 4/10.

**Tundra Swans, Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Brants, and Sandhill Cranes** began showing up in the middle of April. The geese and Brants continued to be seen in good numbers through the period. A few **Cackling Geese** were observed in mid-April. The largest numbers of cranes came through on the evening of 4/21.

On 4/17, one **Eurasian Wigeon** was observed on the beach.

**Short-eared Owls** became more numerous over the Gustavus grasslands in mid-April with a report of 3 or 4 owls seen together on 4/17.

On 4/20, the first **Western Sandpipers** and **Least Sandpipers** were observed along with one **Short-billed Dowitcher** and seventy-nine **Black-bellied Plovers**. Numbers of these species, especially Western Sandpipers, swelled along the Gustavus beaches over the coming days with several other species showing up such as **Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Surfbird, and Pectoral Sandpiper**. One **Pacific Golden-Plover** was seen. **Dunlins**, which over-wintered here, were numerous. **Sanderlings**, which also were here over the winter, became less numerous through the period. Sanderlings that were here as of 4/30 were still in winter plumage.

Two **Caspian Terns** were seen near the town dock on 4/22, and one on 4/25.

On 4/23, the first **Yellow-rumped Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrows, and Golden-crowned Sparrows** were reported.

On 4/24, the first **Orange-crowned Warblers** and **Townsend's Warblers** were reported. Also on 4/24, impressive flocks of **American Pipits** and **Savannah Sparrows** were seen along the beaches.

The first **Tree Swallows** and **Hermit Thrush** were seen on 4/25 as well as a flock of fifty-three **Horned Larks**.

Two **Emperor Geese** were observed with seventy-nine Brants on the beach near the town dock on 4/28 by Bruce Paige. This is only the third record for this species in Gustavus.

On 4/29, **Violet-green Swallow, Arctic Tern, and Blue-winged Teal** were added to the observed arrivals in Gustavus.

On 4/28, while Emperor Geese were being admired at the town dock, I was busy at a pond at the town gravel pits trying to find the source of a low chirping sound. I was sure it was a rare bird. Turned out to be **Boreal Toads**. There were a couple dozen of them mating at the surface of the water and “singing”.

Thanks to Bruce Paige, Theresa Sirstad, Phoebe Vanselow, Lewis Sharman, and Nate Borson for sharing their observations. By Nat Drumheller natdrumheller@hotmail.com

**We need volunteers to help with our goal to try to provide outdoor educational activities for all ages on Saturdays. Steve Zimmerman has done a great job getting and then scheduling leaders for bird walks during April, May and June. Now we need to fill in the blanks for July and August. If you would be willing to lead a Saturday activity or if you know of any activity that is already planned by any agency, organization, nonprofit, etc., that could be considered “outdoor educational”, please let us know. You can call me, Mary Lou King 789-7540, or for more information see <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> or e-mail [saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org)**

## **Saturday Wild** *Summer 2005*

### **July**

2 \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_

16 \_\_\_\_\_

23 \_\_\_\_\_

30 \_\_\_\_\_

### **August**

6 \_\_\_\_\_

13 \_\_\_\_\_

20 \_\_\_\_\_

27 \_\_\_\_\_

**Coordinated by Juneau Audubon Society**

Join us any Saturday or every Saturday, weather or not, as we explore the wild side of Southeast Alaska.

## Clips from the Conservation Committee:

Dear Members,

The Conservation Committee has had an active year. We have followed issues as varied as development proposals on Spuhn Island, proposals regarding game management to the State Board of Game, and release of the Juneau Access Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Many thanks to all the members who provided thoughtful input regarding these issues. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to receive copies of submissions that Juneau Audubon has made.

The Conservation Committee is always keen to have new members who would like to follow an issue in the community and help keep other JAS members informed. If you have comments or would like to become involved, please contact me, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org), or any other committee or Board member.

**Sari Saunders Chair**

A few things to watch over the summer months:

1. The long awaited **Juneau Airport Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (DEIS)** has now been released. This statement covers airport developments that are proposed to occur during the 2005-2015 period. You can view the document online at:

<http://www.jnu-eis.org/>, though its approximately 1000 pages! You might try the summary (a mere 100 pages). Public meetings are expected to be held on June 1 and 2, 2005 so watch for notices. Public comments must be received by the consulting firm that produced the EIS by June 30, 2005. You can also submit comments online through a link at the above website. Steve Zimmerman has been following this process for the past number of years, and will be heading up the Juneau Audubon comments on the DEIS. Please contact Steve or me if you would like to contribute comments and concerns through JAS.

2. Public notices from the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, Alaska district can be viewed at:

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PNNew.htm>. Here you can see the permit applicant and date by which public comments must be received. You can also link to all the documentation associated with the permit application. Anyone who plans to work within navigable waters of the U.S., or dredge or fill U.S. waters, including wetlands, must apply for a permit through the Corps. Often public comments can be submitted online for these developments.

3. Ordinances regarding dog leash laws and the Dog Task Force of the City and Borough of Juneau are in a state of flux (see Juneau Empire April 26 2005). You can follow the ongoing efforts of the Dog Task Force through their website at: <http://www.juneau.org/parksrec/dfp.php>. These proposals represent an effort meet concerns regarding wildlife, particularly staging and nesting birds (e.g., at the Mendenhall wetlands), safety needs of (nondog and dog) folks recreating, and needs of the dogs themselves.

**(Ed. Note: I think it is very important for folks with concerns for birds, to comment on these proposals. As currently written in the proposals, the Airport Dike would change from “on leash” to “on leash or voice control” and the Mendenhall Wetlands would not change from “off leash”. I thought dogs were supposed to be on leash on bird refuges except dogs used by hunters to retrieve birds during hunting season.**

4. Due to changes to the Alaska Coastal Management Plan, amendments to community-level plans, such as the **Juneau Coastal Management Plan (CJCM)** are also required. The CBJ hired a consultant to help with this process, which must be completed by July of this year, for the CJCM to retain its influence on management of coastal land and resources. You can read about the policy, the process, and timeline for amendment on the website of the consultants, Laroche and Associates, at: <http://www.larocheandassociates.com/Projects/juneau/juneau.htm>.

5. As always, check the **SEACC** website at [www.seacc.org](http://www.seacc.org) for recent developments in conservation issues around Southeast.



## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to  
Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the  
Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Volume 32, Number 1**

**Juneau Audubon Society**

**September 2005**

## **The first Juneau Audubon evening meeting will be in October**

### **Board news** by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society president

Have you experienced Saturday Wild yet? Juneau Audubon has been sponsoring guided walks this summer. We have lead bird walks for years in April through June. This year we expanded the idea to every Saturday. We've gone from low-tide beach walks to alpine flowers to chasing dragonflies and mushrooms. Come join us on a Saturday Wild walk and tell us what you think about this idea. The schedule for **Saturday Wild** and the **Wednesday at Noon Downtown Bird Walks** (another new opportunity offered this summer) are on the second page of this newsletter, on the web page and in the Around Town column of the Juneau Empire. We want to encourage more interest in nature of all types so come take a walk or lead one!

We hope you can join us at our annual meeting to elect the Juneau Audubon chapter officers in October. We are electing president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. If you are interested in being an officer or helping with any of our standing committees--conservation, membership, newsletter, web page, or public market (if you have half pint canning jars to recycle for Audubon jelly call 789-7540)-- just call or e-mail any of the officers listed in the newsletter.

Upcoming events include the Alaska Bird Conference here in Juneau in February 2006. Check out the link to the event on the Juneau Audubon Society website. Your local Juneau Audubon web page also has a local bird checklist, lecture schedules, guided bird walk schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org/](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/)).

**Ed. Note: Each of the folks from Juneau, who signed with their address on the Berners Bay Boat Trips and at the beginning of the Saturday Wild Walks, will receive a complimentary copy of this issue of the newsletter. If you are interested in supporting or knowing about other events sponsored by Juneau Audubon or National Audubon, a membership form for joining our group, is on the back of this newsletter. If you join National Audubon you will receive our newsletter and the National Magazine. If you choose to join just Juneau Audubon you will only receive this newsletter.**

### **SATURDAY WILD By Carol Thilenius, Leader Minus Tide Walk, July 23**

What fun the Audubon walks have been! Thanks for getting me involved. Even though I am no expert, it is fun to share what I can. The low tides at South Bridget and Outer Point provided wonderfully rich habitats for invertebrates, algae, edible plants, etc. The participants were enthusiastic and many had special interests which they shared. Bob Armstrong's introduction to the dragon flies in the Eaglecrest bog was a special treat. It was nice to see people new to Juneau getting acquainted with the local folks as well as the special natural areas.

I had thought these walks were for members only and focused on birds. I am glad to find such a welcoming group taking such a diverse look at the local scene. There are so many interesting people here I hope they will share their expertise on future walks. Keep up the good work so we can all keep having fun.

# September 2005 **Saturday Wild**

**September 3**

**Woodpecker watch**

9 a.m., Peterson Creek

Meet at end of North Douglas highway

Leader: Beth Peluso

**September 10**

**Birds & views**

10 a.m., Boy Scout trail to Eagle Beach

Meet at Boy Scout trailhead

Leader: Virginia Harris

**September 17**

**Habitat quality & wildlife diversity**

9 a.m., Mendenhall Glacier moraine ecology trail

Meet at flagpole in parking lot by visitor center

Leader: Gareth Hummel

**September 24**

**Downtown Juneau geology**

9 a.m., downtown

Meet at Heritage Coffee on S. Franklin St.

Leader: Chris DeWitt

Saturday Wild is coordinated by Juneau Audubon Society

Join us any Saturday or every Saturday, weather or not, as we explore the wild side of Southeast Alaska. For more information on these free community walks, see [http:// www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org) or e-mail [saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org). Programs will also be announced through local news media. No dogs, please.

**Wednesday Noon Walks:** The Wednesday walks downtown continued through a rainy July and into August. We visited the heron rookery several times to watch the progress of the nestlings until they fledged. Most of the time they just hung around looking like soggy dinosaurs, but we did see parents feeding them several times. There were three nests with three to four young in each, an encouraging sight after Skip Gray's film of the eagle incident in which all of the young in one nest were taken by an eagle. We also visited Gold Street above downtown, a great place for warblers and fox sparrows, as well as the occasional hairy woodpecker. Another route took us up to Basin Road, which has some warblers, and lots of golden-crowned kinglets and chickadees. Many of the people attending the walks have been novice birders or have never birded at all, which is great fun. For most of July and August, many travelers stopped by for the walk, hailing from everywhere from Rhode Island to Australia. Some of the walks have turned into mini-tours of Juneau itself as well as the bird life.

I plan to continue the walks in the fall since the interest remains steady. We meet at Rainbow Foods at noon every Wednesday, and wrap things up by 1:00. Join us if you're downtown!  
Beth Peluso 957-1050

## **SATURDAY WILD, AUGUST 13, MINING MUSEUM REPORT By Nancy Waterman**

The Historic District at the end of Basin Road hosts the Last Chance Mining Museum, open from mid-May through mid-September for daily tours: 9:30AM-12:30PM and 3:30PM-6:30PM. The August 13 Audubon hiking group met at the museum and then visited the 1901 dam site at the base of Snowslide Gulch, the USGS sites where water quality/quantity have been measured for many years, and the CBJ well-head area. The creek dynamics and rich foliage were often the focus of conversation. Basin Road was the longest road in Alaska and now it is the backbone of a trail system that provides glimpses of history as well as access and protection for Juneau's primary drinking water system. The Basin is an important part of our 'backyard' and easy to visit.

## **STANLEY SENNER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AUDUBON ALASKA**

Published: Anchorage Daily News, August 14, 2005

Stanley Senner has enjoyed a fulfilling career advocating for public lands in Alaska and for the past six years has been in charge of Audubon Alaska, the state office for the National Audubon Society. In May, Senner was awarded the Charles H. Callison Award for outstanding achievement in conservation at Audubon's national board meeting in Park City, Utah. The Callison award is given annually by the national board and recognizes one volunteer and one professional who have made exceptional contributions to the organization and its mission.

Senner's professional work with the organization did not go unnoticed. He leads, manages and raises funds for the six-person Anchorage office and its education, science and policy programs. He developed Alaska's first "Watch List" of declining and vulnerable bird populations and has helped initiate such science-based conservation projects as the identification of "Important Bird Areas" in Alaska and the Bering Sea. He is an avid birder and ornithologist, and his is the voice you hear when calling the Anchorage Bird Hotline... (To see the total article go to: <http://www.adn.com/outdoors/story/6815559p-6707306c.html>)

## **ALASKA'S TRUMPETER SWANS**

In a Juneau Audubon Society meeting, Jim King suggested the need for an analysis of the years of Trumpeter Swan data. Matt Kirchhoff, board member and ADF&G Employee, mentioned that he was in the final process of putting together proposals for non game program grants and advised the following day was the last to submit any ideas. Matt and Jim worked out a proposal to fund the following study:

### **REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS OF THE LONG TERM SURVEY DATA FOR ALASKA TRUMPETER SWANS**

Mark Lindberg, Professor, Department of Biology and Wildlife, and Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks and the researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, have initiated an analysis of the long term survey data for Alaska Trumpeter Swans, which was primarily collected by Jim King and Bruce Conant, US Fish and Wildlife Service biologists stationed in Juneau. Doctoral student Josh Schmidt and his advisor, Mark Lindberg, are examining state-wide swan counts dating back to 1968 and other survey data to determine trends in population size of trumpeters and factors that may affect how fast swans increase or possibly decrease in abundance. Trumpeter Swans have expanded their range in Alaska during the last several decades, which may be related to climatic change. Preliminary results indicate that rates of growth and expansion may be slowing in more recent years. This work is funded by the State Wildlife Grant program administered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The work will be completed in 2007.

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT (ANILCA)

A celebration took place July 6-7, 2005, in Anchorage to commemorate 25 years of ANILCA that created over 100 million acres of national parks, national wildlife refuges, and national forests in Alaska. Former President Jimmy Carter who signed ANILCA into law spoke to the conference attendees. Jim King of Juneau participated in the gathering and the following is an excerpt from his and co-author David Cline's presentation.

### *Winter Refuges for Wild Swans*

Half of North America's Tundra Swans and 80% of the world's Trumpeter Swans nest in Alaska. They are part of the avifauna of two national forests, 10 national parks, 10 state refuges/parks and 13 national wildlife refuges. Swans from these 35 protected areas can no longer winter in the temperate estuaries of the U.S. and Canada which historically was their first choice. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Tundra Swans were grossly reduced and Trumpeters nearly exterminated. Their partial recovery during the 20<sup>th</sup> century depended on learning to feed on agricultural lands. In England and Japan, farmlands with visitor centers have been developed to attract wild wintering swans and people into a close, mutually beneficial association. The swans pay their own way by luring people to gift shops and teashops. This is an opportunity we have not tried in North America. To ensure the permanent presence of these most massive of the world's flying creatures in Alaska's protected wild lands, we must not leave them entirely at the mercy of agribusiness for their winter sustenance.

### **HAINES REPORT By Georgia Giacobbe**

Way back in the beginning of summer, just after the last issue of *The Raven* went to press, Pam Randles organized the first annual Birdathon in Haines. A total of 14 people comprised 3 teams, who ranged all over the valley from Mosquito Lake and Porcupine to Mud Bay and Lutak. Altogether 78 species were sighted, with the Alaska Nature Tours team winning with 64 species. Of special interest, the following species were sighted – Marbled Murrelet, Trumpeter Swan, Rusty Blackbird, Rufous Hummingbird, and Blue Grouse – all on the Audubon Watch List

Among other species sighted by the Birdathon participants were:

|                                               |                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a loon, a grebe, and a heron                  | guillemots and murrelets              |
| 20 species of ducks, geese and swans          | eagles, merlins, and red-tailed hawks |
| killdeer, yellowlegs, snipe and oystercatcher | 4 gulls and a tern                    |
| rock doves and barred owls                    | hummingbirds and kingfishers          |
| 3 woodpeckers including a rare flicker        | 2 flycatchers                         |
| jays, magpies, crows, and ravens              | 2 swallows                            |
| pipits, dippers, chickadees, wrens            | 2 kinglets                            |
| 3 thrushes                                    | 4 warblers                            |
| 8 sparrows                                    | 2 blackbirds                          |
| siskins and crossbills                        |                                       |

The sightings continued into the summer by this writer, especially at Lutak and out at Chilkat Lake. A very large group of surf scoters made their home at Lutak. A Great Blue Heron, several Trumpeter Swan, and at least 5 Common Loons stayed at Chilkat Lake throughout the summer, but no young were seen. Several Sapsuckers were well known in June, and a Hairy Woodpecker made an appearance. Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches made their rounds of the birdfeeders at the cabins and Pine Siskins joined them. At least a dozen Arctic Terns plied the lake for bugs and fish. A Belted Kingfisher regularly made its rounds at Clear Creek at the entrance to the lake, and the hummingbirds lined up at the feeders and hanging flower baskets at the cabins, leaving approximately the first week in August.

## **Gustavus Bird Report May 1-August 28, 2005**

All in all, it was a fairly quiet spring and summer with few rarities. Cedar Waxwings failed to be observed this summer after last summer's influx and three observed nests. Red-breasted Nuthatches were around in small numbers, but nothing like the invasion of last fall. Still, there were some noteworthy birds:

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling from tall rushes in a pond near the airport from 5/23 through 7/6. This is only the second Virginia Rail to be found in Gustavus, with the first being in February of 2003. This summer's rail always gave the same type of "ticket" calls with only the frequency of the calls altering. At night, the rail called at an almost frantic pace with three to four seconds between calls for extended periods of time. It was hard to not feel sorry for this lonely bird.

One day after the Virginia Rail was discovered, a **Sora** was heard calling from sedges in the same pond. The Sora was heard from 5/24 through 6/10. It called occasionally during the day and frequently at night when it would sometimes call repeatedly every one to two seconds for fifteen minutes at a time.

Higher than usual numbers of **Brants** continued to be seen on the Gustavus beaches through May with one flock of over two hundred on 5/4. In addition to the two **Emperor Geese** seen with Brants in late April, four more Emperor Geese were seen with Brants during May. That is more than all previous sightings for Gustavus.

A male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was reported on the beach east of town on 5/6.

**Golden-Plovers** almost went unobserved this spring with only one Pacific Golden-Plover and one unidentified Golden-Plover reported. In mid-August, small mixed flocks of up to twenty Golden-Plovers, mostly American with some Pacific, began showing up on the beaches and were seen into late August.

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were on the beach west of the Salmon River on 7/7. Three were on the same beach on 7/9 and 7/10. Black-bellied Plovers are common here in the spring and fall, but are unexpected in July.



*Hudsonian Godwit Photo by Nat*

Godwits (Hudsonian and Marbled) were seen on at least seven dates through the summer with twenty-six **Hudsonian Godwits** seen on the beaches west of town on 5/4.

**Red Knots** were seen on the beaches east of town on several dates in May and one was observed on 8/19 providing the first fall record for Gustavus.

One **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was observed on the upper beach east of town on 8/24.

**California Gulls** were seen with mixed gull flocks on several occasions in August. There were few records for this species in Gustavus previously.

On 6/9, two **Sabine's Gulls** were on the beach at the mouth of the Good River in a mixed gull flock that was mostly young kittiwakes.

In the week prior to 6/19, Yumi Arimitsu, working for USGS on a shore-nesting bird survey in Glacier Bay, counted thirty-seven **Aleutian Terns** in Adams Inlet in Glacier Bay's east arm. Four Aleutian Tern nests were observed. Two nests had two eggs, and two nests had one egg.

**Caspian Terns** were a regular sight on the beaches near Gustavus and in Glacier Bay this summer. They were often seen resting with Black-legged Kittiwakes and other gulls. Record numbers were observed with thirty-seven on 6/22, thirty-nine on 7/19, and thirty on 7/25. Juvenile Caspian Terns were observed on at least three dates in late August.

One **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen on the beach west of town on 8/15.

For the third straight summer, small numbers of **Black-capped Chickadees** were observed in Glacier Bay's west arm in July and August. Prior to 2003, there were only one or two sightings of Black-capped Chickadees in the Glacier Bay/Gustavus area.

A **Brown-headed Cowbird** male and female were seen through May and June near some farm animals in the middle of town. The female was seen riding on a horse's back on several occasions. On 7/25, a female cowbird was inside the Alaska Airlines building walking among a crowd of people. A man commented that earlier in the day, this very bird had been walking along with his backhoe while he was digging a ditch and that the bird would land on the machinery while it was operating.

Thanks to Bruce Paige, Jessica Tipkemper, Yumi Arimitsu, and Phoebe Vanselow for sharing their observations. By Nat Drumheller, [natdrumheller@hotmail.com](mailto:natdrumheller@hotmail.com)

### **SUMMER SIGHTINGS IN THE KETCHIKAN AREA by Teri Goucher**

Ketchikan enjoyed many beautiful warm days between the rainy spells. Making the most of every break in the weather is a year round endeavor for us here in the rainforest!!

The usual summer birds graced us with songs and sightings. Loons calling on lakes, warblers and thrushes singing, and swallows soaring are all seasonal pleasures!

A few records of Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird and Least Flycatcher occurred near town. High on Mahoney mountain a Rock Ptarmigan with a brood of chicks and Gray-crowned Rosy-finches were found. Ring-billed, Franklin's and California Gulls were seen amidst the other gulls locally.

A juvenile Stilt Sandpiper on 8/23 at Traitors cove is a first record for the Ketchikan area.

Most male Rufous Hummingbirds departed by June with a few females and immatures remaining until mid-August.

Fall warblers are heading south now and a Tennessee Warbler was seen in Hyder the last week of August.

Often interesting birds move through our area this time of year, so keep looking on those nice days and even on not so nice days!

## **Message from the Conservation Committee**

Dear Members,

I hope everyone has had a terrific summer, and enjoyed the spectacular surroundings of Southeast AK (or further afield). One visitor we had laughingly said, "Did you know you had a glacier in your back yard?" Members of JAS do, of course, realize this. As a group, JAS strives to increase awareness of the outdoor environment, understanding of the ecosystems we inhabit, and the impacts that human (and non human) activities may have on our surroundings.

The conservation committee offers a great opportunity for individuals to learn a little more about development in our back yard, and the policies and legislation that direct these activities. One can participate in a number of ways, for example, by following a specific issue of interest and keeping other members informed, helping gather information on a variety of issues, researching or writing comment letters, or representing JAS at public meetings. Please contact me or any other JAS Board member if you have an interest in becoming more involved in this committee.

As a short update on summer activities and upcoming events:

### **Support for Acquisition of In-holding for Point Bridget State Park**

JAS submitted comments to the AK Department of Natural Resources in support of acquisition, for the Park, of the only privately-owned in-holding within the boundaries of Point Bridget State Park.

### **Airport DEIS**

The long-awaited Draft Environmental Impact Statement associated with the proposed expansion and improvements to the Juneau International Airport was released in the spring. Steve Zimmerman has been following this issue for the past few years and spearheaded the writing of comments regarding the DEIS. The document and some related information can be accessed through the website:

<http://www.jnu-eis.org/>

### **Amendments to the Alaska Coastal Management Plan and the associated DEIS**

The ACMP provides for stewardship of coastal resources in the state. It is linked to the federal coastal zone management program, which is overseen by NOAA and legislated through the Coastal Zone Management Act. The ACMP, through the Alaska Coastal Management Act, its subsequent standards, and also guidelines for district coastal management programs, e.g., CBJ program, provide enforceable policies associated with coastal development.

In June , 2005, the AK DNR submitted to the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) a request to amend the ACMP. This has received preliminary approval from NOAA. The amendment requires a NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) process EIS be completed to examine the issues associated with and implications of the alternatives. NOAA is expect to release the DEIS in about a month, and there will be public meetings in Sept. associated with that document, and the usual comment period (probably 45 days).

The implications of amendment of the ACMP and its governance of coastal development are potentially far-reaching. JAS hopes to focus concerted attention, along with assistance from the state office and other collaborating organizations, on understanding and evaluating these changes.

A comprehensive overview of the ACMP and the current state of affairs can be found at:

<http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/OCRM/06-02-05/AKProgramAmendment-050602FINAL-lr.pdf>

Timelines and issues from the federal perspective are at:

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/czmalaska.html>



## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

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\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to  
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\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the  
**Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.**

**Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 32, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2005

## **CELEBRATE NATURE SERIES, OCTOBER 13, 7:30 P.M. Rooms 221 and 220 above Egan auditorium in UAS LIBRARY**

### **CLIMBING MOUNT (MCKINLEY) DENALI**

What it takes to climb Denali now compared with 90 years ago. Michael Hekkers used Hudson Stuck's book "The Ascent of Denali," published in 1914 as a guide for his 1999 Muldrow Glacier- Karsten's Ridge climb of Denali. He will show slides and compare some of the hazards, equipment and food from the first climbs with his trip.

#### **NOTES FROM THE BOARD- October 2005**

##### **Election of Officers/Board news -- by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society President**

Come join us for the first of this year's lecture series and our annual election of Juneau Audubon chapter officers. We are electing president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. If you are interested in being an officer or helping with any of our standing committees on conservation, membership, newsletter, or public market just call or e-mail any of the officers listed in the newsletter. There is a new candidate for vice-president this year. Jeff Sauer has agreed to run for office. Our present officers are Brenda Wright, president, vice-president, vacant, Liz Blecker, treasurer, and Steve Lewis, secretary. Any one who is a member of Audubon is eligible, so please come and vote for your choices. Just wanted to be sure and thank our former vice-president-Chris Kent. He has served on the Juneau Audubon Society board for many years in various capacities and he will be missed.

Our Saturday Wild! walks have been popular all summer. We are looking for new ideas and more people to lead walks. Please let us know if you enjoyed any of the outings and would like to lead one next year. I personally especially enjoyed the plant/mosses and dragon flies.

The Juneau board is supporting the Lynn Canal Conservation group in their efforts to reduce the impacts of jet boat tourism on the Bald Eagle Preserve in Haines. There is a concern that jet boat activity may affect the spawning salmon areas that attract so many eagles in the fall. I hope you are all able to travel to Haines this fall to enjoy the yearly spectacle of hundreds of eagle concentrated in a small area.

Check out your local Juneau Audubon Web page for local bird checklists, lecture schedules, guided bird and Saturday Wild! walk schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org/](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/)).

# Saturday Wild

## October 2005

- October 8 Macaulay Salmon Hatchery**  
10 a.m., 2697 Channel Dr.  
Meet at the hatchery  
Leader: Rich Mattson
- October 15 Treadwell Historic Trail (Co-Sponsored by Juneau City Museum)**  
10 a.m., Sandy Beach  
Meet at picnic shelter at Sandy Beach.  
Leader: Jim Geraghty  
(walk co-sponsored by Juneau-Douglas City Museum)
- October 22 Wildlife in Art**  
10 a.m. & 11 a.m., Alaska State Museum  
Meet at museum lobby  
Leader: Steve Henrikson
- October 29 Digiscoping & macrophotography**  
10 a.m., Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center  
Meet at glacier overlook shelter  
Leader: Bob Armstrong

*Special thanks to all leaders of our October walks.*

### **Saturday Wild is coordinated by Juneau Audubon Society**

Join us any Saturday or every Saturday, weather or not, as we explore the wild side of Southeast Alaska. For more information on these free community walks, see <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> or e-mail [saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org). Programs will also be announced through local news media.

### **WEDNESDAY DOWNTOWN BIRD WALKS—Beth Peluso**

As long as people keep coming, I plan to continue walks at least through Oct., stop by if you're downtown! Rainbow Foods, noon-1:00. We usually leave about 5 after.

**Wednesday September 21, 2005 (Report from Eaglechat)** Surprisingly good weather for the Wed. walk. We checked out the neighborhood around the Governor's mansion. The robins are in full force still, with the occasional varied thrush. At least one varied thrush singing. We heard starlings singing,

heard a song sparrow singing and saw another, saw several juvie white-crowned sparrows, saw chickadees, heard some juncos, and heard a pine siskin. Also ravens and numerous crows.

Two exciting sightings: a merlin zipped overhead, and I swear I saw an osprey go by! Do they migrate through here ever? It was a large raptor, long wings decidedly not buteo-shaped, white underneath with a noticeable crook on the front of the wings, even when it was flapping instead of gliding. It wasn't a long look, but the little warning bells in my head said not an eagle...

### **DOWNTOWN JUNEAU GEOLOGY— SATURDAY WILD Walk, September 24, 2005 By Virginia Harris**

Approximately 12 of us joined the geology trip lead by Chris DeWitt, Supervisor of the Mineral Information Center, Bureau of Land Management in Douglas.

We had to do a little work at the start to get everyone in the right place heading the right direction, though. Chris had to hustle to Heritage on Franklin from his start at the uptown coffee shop. Brenda, our favorite JAS president, joined us later after a start at Rainbow Foods.

Once together in the coffee shop, Chris provided handouts and a quick introduction to Southeast geology, including an overview of the accretional and tectonic history of the area. He related this to our local geology—Gastineau Channel, Douglas Island, downtown Juneau, and the geology that created the local gold deposits.

After our inside orientation, we headed uptown taking advantage of what we could learn from outcrops, surrounding topography, building material, and gravel in parking lots and rock in drainage areas. A photographer and writer from the Juneau Empire were part of the group and there were good conversations throughout the walk.

I found it interesting to learn that gold occurred inside pyrite, “fools gold”, at the Treadwell mine. I appreciated being shown that there is a difference in the topography between Douglas Island and mainland side of Gastineau Channel. The faults of the accreted material of the mainland are steeper than the faults of the Douglas Island rock. We learned about past fault activity along Gastineau Channel and how glaciers followed these areas of relatively weak rock. Chris provided background to recent local information about asbestos at the city-owned Stablers Quarry, Auke Bay.

Chris is interested in doing more geology field trips and we look forward to joining him again. Thank you Chris and for your interest and thank you for taking the time to share your knowledge and enthusiasm with us. And, thank you walkers for all the good questions and conversations throughout the trip.

### **OBSERVATIONS FROM MATT BROOKS**

Just wanted to let you know that the Forest Service kayak rangers had at least two sightings of Tufted Puffins in Tracy Arm over the summer. I'm not sure of dates, however. Rich Gordon also saw one down there a few weeks ago, but his was a juvenile. Plus the one Mark Schwan and I saw last summer....Intriguing....

## **SEPTEMBER NOTES FROM KETCHIKAN-** By Teri Goucher

There were unfortunately not many interesting sightings to report this month. Perhaps some unusual birds may have slipped by our local birders!

There were a couple of Mourning Doves seen mid-month, one on each end of our road system. Although rare in S.E. Alaska; individuals of this species have occurred nearly every year here mostly between late August until the beginning of October. A maximum of three were seen 9-19-98.

A juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk was spotted north of town and is most commonly seen this time of year. Red-breasted nuthatch is another species most common in the fall. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels may show up during our autumn storms.

American Robins are fairly common in September but are mostly gone by early October with a very few wintering in our area!

Fall is still a great time to spot unusual birds migrating though S.E. Alaska; so do keep looking!!

## **Gustavus Bird Report August 29-October 2, 2005**

It was an exciting month to be out birding on the Gustavus beaches. The weather was a mix of everything except cold. The temperature never dropped below thirty-five degrees until October 2, when it dipped below freezing.

Some birds were fairly common during the month. **Sandhill Cranes** were a familiar sound and sight as they passed through the area in the thousands. The high-pitched voices of the juveniles could be heard among the noisy adults. **Steller's Jays** dominated the local bird feeding scene with over a dozen jays at some feeders. A few people took down their feeders out of frustration. Hawks and falcons were abundant. It was not uncommon to see two or three species at a time hunting over the beach grasslands. **Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons** were regulars. There were several **American Kestrel** sightings, and at least one **Northern Shrike** was observed.

Of the more unusual birds seen over the period, many were shorebirds. **American Golden-Plovers** and **Pacific Golden-Plovers** continued to be seen in good numbers through the middle of the month with a high count of thirty-two in an evenly mixed flock of American and Pacific on 9/8. A single Pacific Golden-Plover was seen as late as 10/2, the day of this writing. After the area's first fall record in August, five **Red Knots** were seen with twenty golden-plovers on 9/2. **Baird's Sandpipers** were observed early in the month on three dates. **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** were seen on 9/1, 9/3, 10/1, and 10/2. These were always with or near Pectoral Sandpipers. After an initial sighting on 8/24, **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** continued to be seen on Gustavus beaches with almost daily sightings of one or two birds from 9/1 through 9/7.

There were a few interesting sightings that were not shorebirds. A **Common Nighthawk** was seen over the golf course on 9/1. There were six **Horned Larks** near the beach on 9/7 and twelve on 9/16. Two **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen feeding on dead salmon near the boat harbor on 9/15. An inland form of **Fox Sparrow** was frequenting a local feeder for the later part of the month. A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was circling near town on 10/2.

Thanks to Bruce Paige and Phoebe Vanselow for sharing their observations. By Nat Drumheller, natdrumheller@hotmail.com

## **Petersburg Report By Don Cornelius**

We're having bird feeder problems this fall. But, not the usual variety. Birds are hogging the food from the squirrels.

With the paucity of wildlife around urban Petersburg, we've welcomed a couple of red squirrels that honed in on our bird feeder. Unlike squirrels I've known in other areas, these guys don't take over, however. Rather they come in for short periods, entertain us, and then they're gone. Everybody had the chance to eat at our diner.

That day has vanished. It started when a friend told us stories about the fun he had putting peanuts out for his resident squirrel -- a squirrel that departed or died when his neighbor cut down the trees on the adjacent lot. However, after several years of squirrel stories we decided to dip into our bank account and buy some all-too-expensive peanuts.

The squirrels enjoyed them for several days until the bird hogs arrived. It started when two Steller's jays found the peanuts. True to their instincts, the jays filled their jowls with peanuts and headed to neighboring yards to stash their treasure before returning for another beakful.

They're so cheeky that they'll even take peanuts off a hat sitting on my wife's head. One is so spoiled it took off with a small peanut, decided it wouldn't do, so flew back, returned the small peanut, and selected a larger one.

However, two jays have now morphed into about four times that many on some occasions. We gave up on the peanuts except for occasional treats and now we can't keep sunflower seeds on the feeder -- the other food item favored by the squirrels. Our feeder is currently nonstop jay action from dawn to dusk. While we still enjoy the constant flashes of blue feathers out our window, we miss the squirrels.

The only thing that clears the feeder off faster than the jays is the deer, but that's another story.

My next project is to design a bird-proof squirrel feeder and install it out of the deer's reach.

### **From: Audubon Newswire - "News on Audubon Happenings" Volume 3, # 16**

#### **Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon Launch New Version of eBird**

Ithaca, NY, September 16, 2005 - The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon announce the release of eBird 2.0, an updated version of the powerful Internet-based program currently used by thousands of birders. eBird is a free, user-friendly way for birders across North America to record, archive, and share their observations at any hour of the day. It is also an important tool for conservation, providing researchers with a comprehensive picture of the abundance and distribution of birds. The data come to life via eBird's colorful new interactive maps. In addition to a completely new look and feel, eBird 2.0 has a streamlined data entry process and a suite of new output tools geared toward the interests of today's birders. On customized "My eBird" pages users can now view their life, state and county lists - all generated automatically as individual reports are entered. Begun in 2002, eBird is growing and changing as it builds a strong base of dedicated observers. eBird already supplies data to researchers across the country, and new ways to extract and interpret information will increase its value as a tool for bird conservation. In the coming years, eBird may have a role to play farther south in gathering information in the Caribbean, Central and South America. To view eBird 2.0, go to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) <<http://www.ebird.org>>.

**VOLUNTEER HELP, ITEMS TO SELL, AND RECYCLED 1/2 PINT CANNING JARS** will all be needed for the November 25-27 Audubon booth in

Centennial Hall. Call: Ellen Anderson, 789-1412 or Mary Lou King, 789-7540 if you would like to donate or help.

### National Audubon Society Membership Application

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National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to: Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 32, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2005

## Juneau Audubon's **Celebrate Nature** Lecture Series 2005-2006



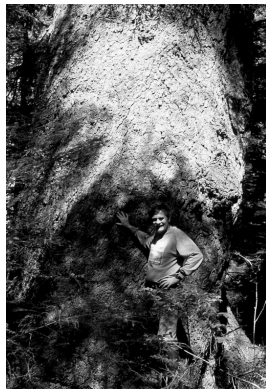
**Friday November 4th**

**David Hancock - Bald Eagles of the Pacific Northwest,**

This is an **Evening at Egan** lecture, sponsored by UAS.

Egan Auditorium 7:00 PM. (note the day and time!)

Join noted ornithologist, conservationist, and writer, David Hancock, as he shares over 50 years of experience observing and studying the bald eagle of the Pacific Northwest. David Hancock has published numerous scientific articles, and scores of books on birds, but eagles are his specialty. He is an excellent photographer and travels widely from his home in British Columbia giving invited lectures. This is a program you'll not want to miss!



**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**John Schoen - Treasures of the Tongass**

UAS Egan Auditorium, 7:30-8:30 PM

Have you ever wondered where to go to find the biggest trees, the best salmon streams, the most bears, or the most murrelets in Southeast Alaska? Join Dr. John Schoen, senior Scientist with Audubon Alaska, as he describes innovative research by Audubon, the Nature Conservancy, and other cooperators to find and photograph the watersheds of highest ecological value in southeast Alaska. You'll want to see and save these special places.



**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Jamie Womble & Kevin White - Going to Gondwanaland**

UAS Egan Auditorium, 7:30-8:30 PM

The southern super-continent known as Gondwanaland included most of the landmasses which make up today's continents of the southern hemisphere. Jamie Womble and Kevin White have visited a variety of exotic places in the southern Hemisphere, including the Andean Altiplano, Patagonia, New Zealand, and KwaZulu Natal. Come see slides and hear stories of their adventures in these faraway, exotic locales.



## **Catamaran Boat Trip to Haines for Eagle Festival: Sandy Harbanuk**

The Bald Eagle Festival is Nov. 9 - 13, Wednesday to Sunday. The day trip via catamaran is on the Saturday, November 12. It departs Auke Bay at 7:30am (boards at 7am) and gets to Haines around 10am - if there are whales or sea lions sighted along the route they stop to get a better look, so the arrival time isn't exact.

Upon arrival in Haines, people can either go straight out to the Bald Eagle Preserve on a bus with a naturalist, or visit the American Bald Eagle Foundation for a morning program with live birds. A second, noonish departure for the Preserve does a bit of touring, again with a naturalist on board, and everyone is at the release site for the release of rehabilitated eagles at 1:30pm - looks like probably 3 eagles this year.

The catamaran boards at 3pm for the return to Juneau. It departs promptly at 3:30pm.

Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are provided for free aboard the catamaran, and there will be snacks for sale to benefit the American Bald Eagle Foundation. There's a nice little market near the Foundation in Haines (3 minute walk), where they do good sandwiches and have homemade pastry and breads (good coffee!). Mountain Market.

The Foundation has hot coffee, tea and hot chocolate, and I think, cider, all day but no food available other than cookies. It's a nice trip no matter the weather, but if it's a sunny day, the scenery is spectacular - sometimes it's sunny there when it isn't here, so there's a good chance.

The cost of the trip is \$80 for adults and \$55 for kids under 10. There's a 10 percent discount for groups of eight or more.

My phone number is 586-2207, and I work from home, so I can be reached day or evening at that number.

**THE 11TH ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE** will be held from 7-9 February 2006 in Juneau, Alaska.

Call for abstracts and details regarding the conference can be found at [www.abc2006.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.abc2006.juneau-audubon-society.org). For more information, please contact Michelle Kissling by phone at 907-780-1168 or by email at [michelle\\_kissling@fws.gov](mailto:michelle_kissling@fws.gov).

**From: Paul Suchanek <[paulms@gci.net](mailto:paulms@gci.net) -- Eaglechat@yahoogroups.com**

**Subject: Fish Creek revisited**

This AM, I went back out to Fish Creek and the pied-billed grebe was still there as well as the slaty-backed gull (which was on a sandbar on the Mendenhall Wetlands side of the channel). In a classic case of hiding in plain sight, I first heard a single killdeer but upon carefully searching the slough area at the mouth of Fish Creek found that there were at least 14 in the flock.

# Saturday Wild



November 2005

**November 5**

**Juneau's own Valley of the Eagles**

10 a.m., Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center  
Meet at glacier overlook shelter  
Leader: Mike Jacobson

**November 12**

**Alaska Bald Eagle Festival, Haines**

Catamaran charter departs Don D. Statter Harbor near Auke Bay harbormaster's office at 7:30 a.m.; return sailing departs Haines 3:30 p.m.  
*Cruise sponsored by American Bald Eagle Foundation. Tickets available at Hearthside Books & Wee Fishie Shoppe.*  
*Adults, \$80; children under 10, \$55.*

**November 19**

**Who lies beneath, who sings above**

Historic gravesites, plus a popular winter birding spot  
Co-sponsored by Juneau-Douglas City Museum  
10 a.m., Evergreen Cemetery  
Meet at Glacier Avenue entrance.  
Leaders: Marie Darlin & Beth Peluso

**November 26**

**Juneau Public Market**

Centennial Hall  
Visit the Audubon booth in the main ballroom; bring your children to the holiday crafts workshop.  
*Public Market is open Nov. 25-27.*

**Saturday Wild is coordinated by Juneau Audubon Society**

Join us any Saturday or every Saturday, as we explore the wild side of Southeast Alaska. For more information on these free community walks, see <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> or e-mail <mailto:saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org>. Programs will also be announced through local news media.

*Special thanks to all leaders of our November walks.*

## **BOARD NEWS** by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society president

November!

This month we prepare our goodies for the public market, one of our two major fundraisers for the year. Time to make jam, create some crafts, and volunteer to help at our booth. It's a fun way to see many of your friends and help support Juneau Audubon during Thanksgiving Day weekend- November 25-27. If you can volunteer to help, please contact any board member or Ellen Anderson, booth coordinator, at 789-1412.

It is also time for the Thanksgiving Day bird count. This is not about the cooked one in the oven. This is a simple bird count that only lasts for one hour and is confined to a circle of only 15 feet! This is the kind of bird count I do as I sit by my window and visit with friends and family. It is organized by Humboldt State University and the information is collected from all western states. You can pick any one hour period on Thanksgiving Day. Give it a try, it is simple and easy. The form is available at the public lecture and on the Juneau web page.

The Juneau Audubon Society board welcomes your comments and suggestions. We are proud to be sponsoring the Alaska Bird Conference here in Juneau in February. We'd love to hear from you on education, conservation, or public events. Please feel free to offer opinions to any of the board members. Hope to see you at the public lecture series=Celebrate Nature. More information is available on our Juneau Audubon web page ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org))

**THANKSGIVING BIRD COUNT** Dr. John G. Hewston, Natural Resources Building, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521, (707) 822-5288

The annual Thanksgiving Bird Count is rapidly approaching and will take place November 25<sup>th</sup>. I am trying to increase the number of bird counters taking part and to off-set the number dropping out each year. Of the various methods I have tried, the most productive has been through newsletter editors, columnists and others who can spread the word. This year I have asked my friend and fellow birder to contact you via the internet in the hopes of spreading the word even further. Last year we finally broke that 500 barrier and received 570 counts.

Thanksgiving Bird Counts are to take place on Thanksgiving Day, and to last for only one hour! The counter chooses the time that best fits his/her schedule. Some folks have called it a welcome break from the holiday activities. The count is to be made in a 15-foot diameter circle, the location of which also is determined by the participant. Such count circles are usually located around whatever attracts birds....feeders, bird baths, cover, etc. Most participants select a count area visible from a comfortable spot near a window. This is one winter count which can be made in comfort regardless of the weather. However, some counters do go outdoors and make their counts in favorite bird areas or on water areas. The same count circles should be used each year.

The count circle can be considered a cylinder, since birds passing through or over the area can be counted (as long as they pass through the upward circle/cylinder). Do not count those flocks of geese or the soaring hawks, eagles and gulls seen way up there. Limit the height to where you can be sure they went through the circle. Count individual birds only once! Some may pay repeated visits during the

count hour, so don't count them every time. Fifteen visits by the same bird is only one bird. To count flocks of birds, make a count each time and use only the highest count made for your actual tally.

(ED. Note: The tally form to use to record each count has been posted on the Juneau website. (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/Birds/Thanksgiving%20Bd%20Cnt/Thanksgiving%20Bird%20Count%20Form.doc>)

Last year 553 participants turned in 570 count reports and tallied 168 species in the eleven Western States, plus Alaska. The most numerous species were: House Sparrow (3,829), House Finch (3,027), Dark-eyed Junco (2,634), Mourning Dove (1,206), California Quail (968), Black-capped Chickadee (812), American Goldfinch (801), White-crowned Sparrow (724), Steller's Jay (546), and Starling (521). The Pine Siskin dropped from third place in 2001 to 16<sup>th</sup> in 2002 and on down to 20<sup>th</sup> in 2003. Counters should send in reports even if no birds were seen during the count hour.

This count is not as well known as is the annual Christmas Count or Breeding Bird Survey, but was begun in 1966 by Dr. Ernest Edwards and the Lynchburg Bird Club in Virginia. It slowly spread across the nation. I took over coordinating and compiling the count in 1992 for the Western States, Alaska and Hawaii. Thanks for any help you can provide.

## **PRELIMINARY 2005 TRUMPETER SWAN COUNTS**

Preliminary results from the 2005 Trumpeter Swan census, announced at the Trumpeter Swan Conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa, indicate there may be as many as 35,000 Trumpeter Swans with as many as 70% nesting in Alaska.

## **GOLFING WITH OWLS By Bonnie Demerjian, Wrangell**

My birding partner and I have been scouting our owling route, a part of the Southeast Alaska Owl Network survey, since January. So far, we've not heard or seen a single owl. Perhaps we should be netting them instead. A 40-foot-high net surrounds the driving range at Wrangell's Muskeg Meadows golf course. This summer a Northern pygmy owl found its way into it. Golf course employee Glenn Landmesser was patrolling the perimeter of the net picking up golf balls early one August morning when her dog spotted the owl snared in the net's mesh. After containing her puppy, Glenn carefully clipped the tightly wound mesh from around the bird's neck and wings, then placed it in a quiet room to recover. That gave arriving golfers a rare chance to view this diminutive owl close up. A few hours later, the bird began trying its wings and it was released.

Muskeg Meadows has proved to be a surprising birding spot since its construction in the 1990s. It boasts a variety of habitats: old and second growth forest, clearcut, beach, ponds, streams, wetlands and, of course, muskeg. A large number of standing dead trees make it a hot spot for woodpeckers. This past summer a pair of Bald eagles raised their family in sight of one fairway. A pond attracts Mallards, teal, American wigeons and Great blue herons as well as several kinds of warblers, swallows, sparrows and even an occasional Red-winged blackbird, while beach only a few hundred feet away attracts saltwater ducks and shorebirds. The expanse of green attracts raptors as well. One memorable day not long ago I spotted an immature Northern goshawk, a Sharp-shinned hawk and a Northern harrier all in an hour's walk. The golf course's proximity to the Stikine River delta puts it in the path of migrating Sandhill cranes and Snow geese.

Wrangell birders usually rise earlier than golfers so sharing the course isn't generally difficult. Birders may even have attracted some new converts here. As a matter of fact, a bird is featured on the sign announcing entrance to the golf course: a raven with a golf ball in its beak – not an uncommon sight. Birds and golf can coexist very well and do at Muskeg Meadows.

## **GUSTAVUS BIRD REPORT October 3 - 24, 2005** By Nat Drumheller

Following are the highlights for the three week period.

It continued to be an amazing season for **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**. They were observed in the upper beach grasses around town on at least nine dates during this report period with **seven** counted in one flock east of the Salmon River on 10/17, while three more were seen west of the river on that same day. Their prolonged presence provided an opportunity to become, at least a little bit, familiar with their vocalizations and plumage patterns.

**Pacific Golden-Plovers** were seen on the beaches throughout the period. **Sixty** were counted west of town at the mouth of Dude Creek on 10/3 with a late **Semipalmated Plover**. This flock appeared to linger, being observed with the Semipalmated Plover in the same area through 10/18. The number of Pacific Golden-Plovers dropped gradually through the three weeks with only five observed on 10/24.

**Black-bellied Plovers** were seen in small numbers on the beaches throughout the period.

A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was observed at the beach near the mouth of the Salmon River on 10/15 after a cold, clear night with north winds.

Small numbers of **Western Sandpipers** were observed later than normal with two as late as 10/9.

**Dunlins, Sanderlings, and Rock Sandpipers**, three species known to spend the winter on Gustavus beaches, began to increase in numbers with high counts to date of about 30 Dunlins, one hundred Rock Sandpipers, and over two hundred Sanderlings.

A variety of owls were seen including a **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, a **Northern Hawk Owl**, and single **Short-eared Owls** on at least two dates. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard on four nights.

**Northern Goshawks** were seen on numerous dates. Light-colored **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen on two dates. A juvenile gray **Gyrfalcon** was pursued and harassed by a Peregrine Falcon as it flew east along the upper beach on 10/16. An adult **Golden Eagle** was circling over the upper beach and flying east on 10/20.

**Steller's Jays** continued to be abundant in Gustavus. Residents with bird feeders lamented that birds normally common at their feeders were either absent or few while jays remained numerous.

Late this month, **Trumpeter Swans** and **Snow Buntings** made their first appearances of the season, and **Northern Shrikes** became more common.

Thanks to Bruce Paige and Phoebe Vanselow for sharing observations.

## **KETCHIKAN'S BIRDS OF OCTOBER-By Teri Goucher**

This month had several storms that brought an astonishing variety of birds to our island!

Local birders were well rewarded as were Joe & Mary Staab who visited here a few days from Seward for birding.

Seasonally the hillside neighborhood in town has a great selection of colorful shrubs, bountiful fruit trees, berry laden mountain ash, and well stocked feeders.

Amongst the many flocks of Robins, Starlings and Cedar Waxwings, there were some unusual birds enjoying the fall feast. Several sightings of a Black-headed Grosbeak and up to three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred throughout the month with two at a time being seen. The Black-headed Grosbeak has one other record locally and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak has made an appearance in the state only five other times!

Our latest date for a Vaux's Swift to soar by happened on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There were several Mourning Doves around and a beautifully glossy male Brewer's Blackbird remained in this neighborhood quite a few days. One feeder hosted a Mourning Dove, a Brown-headed Cowbird and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak together at the same time!

South of town, coastal Mountain Point is an open grassy area broken up by shrubs and young alders has proven to produce excellent birds and October was no exception. Two Rusty Blackbirds were found on Alaska Day and on the 19<sup>th</sup>, an immature Nashville Warbler was spotted. There are only 3 records of this warbler, mostly from the South Central region of our state.

A Kestral was spotted very early in the month, several Sharp-shinned Hawks, and reports of at least 5 Northern Pygmy-Owls were seen or heard around the island.

Several Yellow-rumped Warblers remain along with a few Orange-crowned Warblers and Yellow Warblers.

Sparrow's numbers are still strong as Song and Fox Sparrows are commonly found. A few Savannah, Lincoln, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and White-throated Sparrow are still frequently seen.

Considering the relatively limited amount of time spent birding in the field, Ketchikan was lucky to discover such a great variety of birds this October

## **SKAGWAY BIRD REPORT -- By Meg Hahr ([meg\\_hahr@hotmail.com](mailto:meg_hahr@hotmail.com))**

With the typical wet and windy fall weather we've been experiencing in Skagway, good birding opportunities have been fleeting. The Skagway Bird Club held its first meeting since the spring on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Club members reported seeing the not-so-common Common Snipe in several back yards downtown. A grebe carcass was discovered at Upper Dewey Lake and the observer speculated that it may have been carried and consumed there by an eagle. Coincidentally, the crows headed south along with summer seasonals and the last cruise ship at the end of September. Black-billed Magpies have returned to Skagway for the winter, and Steller's Jays have become more abundant and emboldened as well. A lone Rock Dove was spotted building a nest on a window ledge at the Skagway School. Hairy Woodpeckers, American Robins, Slate-colored Juncoes, and a solitary Fox Sparrow have been frequenting feeders in town. Along forested roads and trails, Chestnut Backed Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrushes, Three-toed Woodpeckers, and Common Ravens have been spotted. A northern Hawk Owl was seen perched in a tree along the Klondike Highway on 10/8. American Dippers have moved down from the mountains and taken up residence along lower Pullen Creek.

Northern Harriers have been observed on their southward migration. Bald Eagles, Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, Belted Kingfishers, Common Mergansers, and Mew and Glaucus-winged Gulls remain active throughout the upper Taiya Inlet. One Red-tailed Hawk and a Long-billed Dowitcher were seen in Dyea near the Taiya River. On 10/20 a Rock Sandpiper was seen and photographed near the mouth of the Skagway River.

Thanks to the following individuals for sharing their observations: Andrew Cremata, Joanne and Andrew Beierly, Mike Konsler, Jeremy Simmons, Gary and Janilyn Heger, Michael Yee, Jessica Medlin, Charlotte Jewell, John McDermott, Gary Brummett, Debbie Sanders, Deb Boetcher, and Elaine Furbish.

### **HAINES REPORT: Georgia Giacobbe** [dngeorgia@skycasters.net](mailto:dngeorgia@skycasters.net)

The summer tourist season may be over for Haines, but the valley is welcoming the fall and winter visitors of the feathered kind. The tourists are no longer lining the roadway along the Chilkoot River in order to spot bear. But for the birding enthusiast, there remains throngs of gulls, terns, and ducks of several varieties. On one drive on October 16, this writer spotted Herring, Mew, and Thayer Gulls scattered among the diving ducks of several varieties. An occasional Marbled Murrelet swam among the smaller rocks. While traveling along Haines Highway toward the border, a resident around 26-Mile has noted several Trumpeter Swans with cygnets at 5-mile, a few Spruce Grouse along the road, and possibly a Red-tailed Hawk. And of course the Bald Eagles are gathering. The late September and early October chum salmon run encouraged an early gathering of the eagles at the Klehini River. Now the eagles have arrived in time in numbers on the Chilkat, especially at the first pullout on the Council Grounds. Some 50 eagles can be seen taking off at once when something startles them.

So the eagles are cooperating in numbers for the upcoming Bald Eagle Festival. The festival is not entirely about eagles, but the other birds and wildlife in the valley are included as well. This year, in addition to the usual photography workshops and slide presentations, the festival photographer of the year is Glenn Browning, who will be teaching a 35 mm photography class and conduct a taxidermy demonstration during the festival. Taxidermy is his specialty and is a unique addition to the other scheduled events. The Bald Eagle Festival is scheduled for November 9-13 and additional information can be found at [www.baldeaglefestival.org](http://www.baldeaglefestival.org).

### **Clips from the Conservation Committee:**

The Conservation Committee welcomes involvement from all members. We are always keen to have new members who would like to follow an issue in the community and help keep other JAS members informed. If you have comments or would like to become involved, please contact the chair, Sari Saunders, at [conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org), or any other committee or Board member.

**1. Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) on proposed amendments to the Alaska Coastal Management Plan** – NOAA has now released its DSEIS on amendments proposed by the state of AK to the ACMP. This is an examination of legislation and regulations, adopted by the State of AK between 2003 and 2005, that made revisions to the federally-approved Coastal Management Plan (because it's currently federally approved the State can acquire federal funding for implementation of the ACMP and the State can use the current policies for consistency with Federal policies). The State hoped, among other things, that the amendments would limit duplication of permit reviews and thus improve timing of review. The changes have also limited local involvement and made the program management primarily a state responsibility. There are a number of revisions to state standards, which alter certain definitions

of areas of applicability of the ACMP, e.g., “coastal habitat” would no longer include wetlands and intertidal zones, but would now have to contain a measurable quantity or percentage of seawater.

NOAA review partly involves determining whether the amendments affect the ACMPs status as a federally-approvable program. NOAA evaluates the impacts of three alternatives: Approve Alaska’s request, Take no action, and deny Alaska’s request in terms of the physical environment and socio-economic considerations. In short, the preferred alternative, based on NOAA’s analysis is Alternative 1, to approve the request of AK to incorporate the legislative revisions and regulations as amendments to the ACMP.

I have a copy of the DSEIS on cd, if you would like to see it. All materials are also available on the web at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/pcd/up.html>

Public hearings will be held in Juneau on Oct. 31. Please do forward any comments you have to me, should you like to participate in responses to the DSEIS submitted by JAS. If you would like to submit personal comments, these must be sent by November 7, 2005 to Helen Bass, Coastal Programs Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, NOS/NOSS, SSMC4 N/ORM3 Rm. 11207, 1305 East-west Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20904 OR via email to [Helen.Bass@noaa.gov](mailto:Helen.Bass@noaa.gov)

**2. ACMP review of Falk Tour Dock in Auke Bay** – The DNR has posted a public notice re: a dock project within Auke Bay that is currently being reviewed for consistency with the ACMP (see above!). The project involves construction and installation of a 400 foot x 12 foot concrete float to be anchored with steel piles to provide additional moorage facilities for our boats within Statter Harbor. There are also existing gangways and connecting docks that will be removed and replaced, and there is associated upland development to make a staging area for bus passengers. To examine this notice more carefully, go to <http://notes4.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/?Open> and then search within “category” then “public notices” and then look for Juneau notices (they are alphabetical). Comments must be in writing and be submitted by 5 p.m. Nov. 22, 2005 to Office of Project Management and Permitting, 302 Gold St., Suite 202, Juneau, AK 99801 Attn: Ben White, ACMP Specialist. For information on current, enforceable policies of the ACMP, see their website at <http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/>.

**3. ACMP consistency review notices** – in general, it is always worth checking the public notices posted on the ACMP site (see above). For example, in addition to the notice above regarding the dock, there are 2 current public notices up for comment within the Juneau area. These include a request to modify the site and nature of aquatic farm operations within Bridget Cove (see Manning Aqua Farm Amendment using process outlined above) and a request to construct a private floating dock (see Windham Bay Holdings Float).

**4. Pesticide spraying and other issues** – as always, I suggest you check SEACC’s website periodically ([www.seacc.org](http://www.seacc.org)) to keep up to date on other issues in our area. One event of current interest involves the spraying (aerial, by helicopter) on managed forest land of pesticides to reduce competition by salmonberry and alder. The permit in question is being requested by Klukwan, Inc. for lands on Long Island, near Prince of Wales. Comments are due at the DEC by Oct. 31, 2005. They can be emailed to Sandra Woods [swoods@dec.state.ak.us](mailto:swoods@dec.state.ak.us)



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\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to: Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
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# The Raven



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

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 32, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2005

## Juneau Audubon's **Celebrate Nature** Lecture Series 2005-2006



**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Jamie Womble & Kevin White - Going to Gondwanaland**

UAS Egan Auditorium, 7:30-8:30 PM

The southern super-continent known as Gondwanaland included most of the landmasses which make up today's continents of the southern hemisphere. Jamie Womble and Kevin White have visited a variety of exotic places in the

southern Hemisphere, including the Andean Altiplano, Patagonia, New Zealand, and KwaZulu Natal. Come see slides and hear stories of their adventures in these faraway, exotic locales.



**Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Mark Hickey - Journey to the White Continent**

UAS Egan Auditorium\*, 7:30-8:30 PM

Spend an evening in the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica. King penguins, black-browed albatrosses, southern right whales, elephant seals and lots of ice – all up close and personal. Mark Hickey will present his

beautiful digital images, and describe his 18-day expedition cruise to the white continent at the height of the Antarctic summer. Photographers and naturalists alike will not want to miss this show.

**BOARD NOTES FOR DECEMBER** by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society president  
Hopefully by the time you read this Southeast's theme song will have moved on from our present favorite: "Soggy Shoes"! If it is still raining, just look forward to the coming solstice. Increasing daylight is just around the corner.

The Juneau Audubon board is happy to be a sponsor of the 11<sup>th</sup> Alaska Bird Conference and Workshops to be held in Juneau February 7-9, 2006. The conference offers contributed papers and also special lectures. This year Bob Armstrong will give a public lecture "Photographing Alaska's Birds: 45 Years Worth" on February 7 at 7:30pm. There will also be a public lecture on February 10 featuring David Quammen, author and adventurer. I hope you are able to attend

one of these outstanding opportunities. There is more information on the conference available on the web at [www.abc2006.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.abc2006.juneau-audubon-society.org).

The Juneau Audubon board always appreciates suggestions for improvements or changes. Please contact any of us at our web page. Your local Juneau Audubon web page has a local bird checklist, lecture schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)).

Seasons Greetings and we hope you can participate in the annual Christmas bird count in December in your neighborhood

## The 2005 Juneau Christmas Bird Count By Mark Schwan

The Juneau CBC will be held this year on Saturday, December 17, the first Saturday during the designated count period, of December 14 through January 5<sup>th</sup>. The count period is the time during which the individual bird counts can take place. As usual, volunteers should meet at either of the two McDonalds Restaurants no later than 8am on count day, with appropriate attire and binoculars. People interested in counting in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown restaurant; birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the valley restaurant. As always, there will be a potluck after the count to share in the events of the day and to conduct the tally of birds and species seen. The potluck will be at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam.

Last year there were 35 Christmas Bird Counts conducted in Alaska and 12 in the Southeastern region. Kodiak led all Alaskan counts with 78 species on count day, with Juneau and Glacier Bay tied for second most with 71 species. For the 12 counts in Southeast Alaska, 203 participants counted slightly more than 50,000 birds on their count days. More people participated in Sitka's count (54) than in any other Southeastern count.

We are entering an exciting new era for the Christmas Bird Count, as the Audubon Society is becoming immersed in the new world of information technology. Count data are now accessible as never before and compilers are entering count results directly into the database via the internet. Count data are now available online, at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>.

For more information on this year's Juneau Christmas Bird Count, you can call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841.

Results and participation for counts held in Southeast Alaska last December and January:

| <b>Count Location</b> | <b>Species Recorded</b> | <b>Birds Counted</b> | <b>Participants</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Chilkat               | 14                      | 227                  | 4                   |
| Craig-Klawock         | 21                      | 795                  | 2                   |
| Glacier Bay           | 71                      | 7,296                | 11                  |
| Haines                | 29                      | 1,464                | 15                  |
| Juneau                | 71                      | 14,210               | 42                  |
| Ketchikan             | 49                      | 3,903                | 15                  |
| Mitkof Island         | 50                      | 6,598                | 7                   |
| Sitka                 | 59                      | 8,481                | 54                  |
| Skagway               | 36                      | 800                  | 24                  |
| Tenakee Springs       | 29                      | 2,317                | 8                   |
| Wrangell              | 36                      | 2,798                | 10                  |
| Yakutat               | 61                      | 1,488                | 11                  |

# Saturday Wild



December 2005

**F**or over a century, volunteers have been collecting information on the birds in their communities in a holiday tradition, the Christmas Bird Count. Data collected over the years provides a valuable resource for learning more about bird behavior and bird conservation. Thanks to new information technology, data is available as never before. Learn more at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>. This one-day annual event is an opportunity to meet other local volunteers, hone your birding skills, and take part in a seasonal tradition.

**December 10**

## **Christmas Bird Count 101**

Meet at 10 a.m. at McDonald's Restaurant, downtown or valley. This is a chance to learn how the annual Christmas Bird Count works, why it matters, and what birds will likely be seen on count day. You can practice your identification and count skills, then decide if you'd like to participate in the official count on December 17. **Sightings on Dec. 10 will NOT be recorded as part of the annual CBC.** Bring binoculars, bird guides, DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Leaders: Mark Schwan & Paul Suchanek

**December 17**

## **106<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count**

Meet at 8 a.m., McDonald's Restaurant downtown or in valley (*Meet at downtown restaurant to count downtown, Douglas & North Douglas Island.*  
*Meet at valley restaurant to count Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas.*) Bring binoculars, bird guides, DRESS FOR THE WEATHER. Participants are invited to a pot luck following the count at the home of Mark Schwan & Debi Ballam. Call 789-9841 for more information.

### **Saturday Wild is coordinated by Juneau Audubon Society**

NOTE: starting in December, Saturday Wild will go on a winter schedule of two walks per month. Weekly walks will resume in the spring. For more information on these free community walks, see <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> or e-mail [saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org). Programs will also be announced through local news media.

*Special thanks to Mark & Paul and all leaders and participants in the CBC.*

## **From: Paul Suchanek *Eaglechat* Point Bridget Observations - 11/19**

Took advantage of the small break in the rain today to go out and bird in Point Bridget State Park. Highlights included a pygmy-owl on the edge of the muskeg near the trailhead, a female or juvenile male king eider out in the bay with about 20 white-winged and 3 black scoters, and 2 yellow-billed loons. Not much in the way of land birds as I didn't even see any jays, sparrows, crows, or magpies, however, there was a lingering hermit thrush and ruby-crowned kinglet along with a flock of about 40 white-winged crossbills.

## **PETERSBURG KRILL MYSTERY** Don Cornelius

In early October the shoreline at the mouth of Wrangell Narrows was lined with thousands of gulls of multiple persuasions, but primarily Glaucous-winged. A couple of days later it was at least a thousand sea ducks, mostly surf and white-winged scoters and harlequins. Local canneries had pretty much reduced their output of ground up fish wastes so I knew what I'd find when I walked down to the beach. Krill -- or euphasids would be stranded along the shoreline and swimming just offshore -- a feast for waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds, ravens and crows.

It's a common occurrence at the north end of Wrangell Narrows. In past years I've seen dead krill at least a foot deep in places. Considering their tiny size, that's a lot of dead critters. In querying a more knowledgeable friend as to what causes these die offs or strandings, he suggested it might be just their exoskeletons after the invertebrates molted. So I poked some recent arrivals and they wiggled. So much for that theory.

I wondered if they spawn and then die. An internet search suggested no, euphasids can live for two years at mid latitudes and six years at high latitudes. Females can carry several thousand eggs in their ovaries and produce multiple broods each year.

Yet periodically I'll go down to the beach and there the feasting birds will be. Krill spend their days in deep water and migrate to shallow water at night. The proximity of strong upwelling currents at the mouth of Wrangell Narrows to the high densities of krill in Frederick Sound could contribute to these die offs as those that end up near shore could easily be stranded by falling tides.

One thing is for certain, the periodic arrival of krill along the shores of Wrangell Narrows makes for some wonderful birding and, I suspect, some healthy birds.

A couple of interesting observations in November include an immature cliff swallow on the sixth and a pair of rusty blackbirds around the same time.

**Petersburg's Christmas bird count is scheduled for December 17th. Contact Bill Pawuk at 772-3985 for details.**

## **AN UNCOMMON GRACKLE** By Bonnie Demerjian, Wrangell

November seems to be a month of birdy surprises around Wrangell. Just when most birds have fled the country leaving us with our faithful few, up pops an unusual species. A few years ago it was a Western meadowlark, then an Anna's hummingbird. This year several feeder watchers have reported that among the Steller's jays a Common grackle is also hustling for seeds. While not rare in Southeast Alaska the Common grackle is considered a casual visitor and is not known to breed

anywhere in the state. The Common grackle is truly common in the eastern and central part of the United States and has been reported in Canada north to Hudson Bay and west to northeastern British Columbia. Since its range is expanding it may one day breed in Alaska, though since it prefers open areas with scattered trees, it may never favor our region.

Common grackles are large (11 – 13.5 inches in length), iridescent blackbirds with yellow eyes, a sharp black bill and a long tail that is often keel-shaped in flight. They are opportunistic feeders stalking invertebrates, mice, birds and lizards and even wading in water to catch small fish. In winter they turn to plant food. The clearing of eastern forests and increase in agriculture there boosted their survival rate by providing winter forage. It is now one of the most abundant breeding birds in North America says the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The appearance of our grackle reminds us not to give up hope while our feeders draw their daily grind of juncos or jays and proves, after all, my personal birding mantra, “You never know . . .”

**Wrangell’s Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 17. The count organizer is Bonnie Demerjian who can be contacted at [bonniede@aptalaska.net](mailto:bonniede@aptalaska.net) or at 970-874-3665.**

#### **NOVEMBER NOTES FROM KETCHIKAN**-by Teri Goucher

Our weather was a bit wetter and warmer than usual this November allowing Autumn migrants to continue lingering in Ketchikan. There were interesting birds seen around the northern area of the road system.

A flock of 18 magnificent Trumpeter Swans flew low over Ward Lake on 11-4. A lone Short-eared Owl was spotted at North Point Higgins School the next day. One yard with many apple trees was lucky to attract many warbler species, including Tennessee, Nashville, Townsend’s and Wilson’ the past few weeks. In town a Snowy Owl was seen for more than a week by many in the hillside neighborhoods.

Amazingly on 11-14 a **White Wagtail** was spotted by Steve Heint and Andy Piston from their office adjacent to the waterfront. They promptly found this “accidental” again in a gravel lot and got some photographs. This is a first record for this species in Ketchikan and possibly a first sighting for all of S.E. Alaska. Sometimes luck provides unique birds even for experts!

Two Snow Buntings were seen around the island and a Red-winged Blackbird was also found this month. The Mountain Point area again provided a haven for birds, including more unusual species such as; Western Meadowlark, Swamp Sparrow and both an adult and juvenile Northern Shrike. There still have been quite a few sightings of Hermit Thrush, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warbler well into November.

**Ketchikan’s Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 17.** The CBC has compiled valuable data for over a century and is traditionally a fun day enjoying nature every December! **For more information contact Andy Piston at 225-9677.** Andy will be giving a slide presentation about area birds including recent rarities on 12-16 at the Discovery center.

Everyone should get out there and enjoy Autumn birding before winter arrives!

## **HAINES REPORT** By Georgia Giacobbe

Although many activities are planned and enjoyed at the Bald Eagle Festival, the real attractions are still all the eagles that gather on the Chilkat River. During the height of the festival, the week of November 7<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Valley was filled with snow, the best backdrop for viewing them. The largest gathering was at about 20 mile on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Two mature eagles and one immature eagle were released at 19 mile that day at the annual Eagle Release, well attended that day. They hopped out of their carriers and flew off and joined the wild eagles without incident. They may even have returned to Juneau later. The total count of eagles is estimated to have been between 3,000 and 3,500 in the Valley this year. Next month a **Christmas Bird Count is planned, but date not set yet.**

## **GUSTAVUS BIRD REPORT--October 25 - November 20, 2005 .** By Nat Drumheller, natdrumheller@hotmail.com

The 35th Glacier Bay/Gustavus Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 17. Contact Bruce Paige, count coordinator, at 907 697 2262 if interested in participating.

During this report period, there was snow cover for about twenty-four hours and a low temperature of 17 degrees.

A variety of owls continued to be reported. **Northern Hawk Owls** were seen in the State Critical Crane Habitat west of town on 11/2, 11/4, and 11/6, with two observed there on 11/10. Sightings of **Snowy Owls** between November 14 and 19 provided an incentive to get out on the local beaches in the rain and wind. Single Snowy Owls were reported at five locations. Sadly, one Snowy Owl was observed battling with a Bald Eagle along the road inside Glacier Bay National Park. The eagle departed as a person came upon the scene and the owl was later observed at the location sitting inside the forest with a nasty wound to the head. **Short-eared Owls** were seen hunting the beach grasslands throughout the period with up to four at one time near the Salmon River. Also during this period, a **Great Horned Owl** was heard, **Northern Pygmy-Owls** were seen on two dates, and a **Western Screech-Owl** was found dead at Bartlett Cove.



*Northern Saw-whet Owl photographed in Yakutat this fall*

**Dunlin** numbers grew steadily through the period. Five hundred and ten Dunlins with fifty **Rock Sandpipers** were counted on the beach near Dude Creek on 10/29. On 11/6, a flock near Dude Creek was estimated to contain eleven hundred Dunlins and two hundred Rock Sandpipers. On 11/13, there appeared to be fifteen to seventeen hundred Dunlins with about two hundred Rock Sandpipers and fifty **Sanderlings**, but an accurate count was not possible as the birds were spread out on the beach and very active.

**Snow Buntings** became more common along the beaches with as many as seventy in one flock observed. **American Tree Sparrows** began showing up in small numbers during this period.

**Steller's Jays** are still common at the local feeders, but their numbers seem to be dropping, and people are starting to see some of the more common feeder birds return.

Some rarer sightings were: single **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** with single **Pectoral Sandpipers** on 10/27 and 10/28, a juvenile **Gyrfalcon** on 10/25, a **Eurasian Wigeon** on 10/28, two **European Starlings** on 11/8, and a male **Mountain Bluebird** 11/10.

Some observations that were late for the season included: a male **Blue-winged Teal** on 10/28, an **American Golden-Plover** on 10/29, a **Black-bellied Plover** on 11/1, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on 11/12, a **Ruby-Crowned Kinglet** on 11/13, and a **Savannah Sparrow** on 11/15.

Thanks to Bruce Paige, Lexa Meyer, Jeff Duckett, Rebecca Duckett, Rusty Yerxa, Lauri Ross, Kim Ney, Phoebe Vanselow, Melanie Heacox, and Neil Barten for sharing their observations.

### **FROM AUDUBON NEWSWIRE – NOVEMBER 18**

Like Climbing Into Their Nests (Review of the best binoculars for birding - Greg Butcher quoted and Audubon Equinox HP included in round-up of binoculars)

<http://select.nytimes.com/search/restricted/article?res=FA0F12F63E5A0C738DDDA80994DD404482> (registration and payment required)

For 30 Years, a Political Battle Over Oil and ANWR (Stan Senner, executive director of Audubon Alaska, discusses the battle to prevent drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5007819>

### **FREE PUBLICATION**

To launch their colorful new magazine the **National Wildlife Refuge Association** is offering complementary one-year introductory memberships. Benefits include *Wildlife Refuge* magazine, electronic updates and alerts, and the knowledge that you're helping to ensure a sound future for America's wildlife. To join visit [www.refugenet.org](http://www.refugenet.org) and click on the "Free Membership" button or write to the National Wildlife Refuge, Association, 1010 Wisconsin Ave. NW Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007.

This is an organization worthy of support by Alaskans as we have more than 77 million acres of Refuges in our own state. Juneau Audubon Society is still listed as an official "Friend of Alaska Maritime NWR" which includes Forester Island near Ketchikan, Hazy Islands north west of there and St. Lazaria Island west of Sitka.



## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001. You will receive the National *Audubon* Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

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