

# 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 37, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2011

Free Public lecture by Nick Hajdukovich  
Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7pm UAS Egan Room 221



Red Knot Nick Hajdukovich

While working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service this summer, I had the opportunity to spend roughly 30 days camping in a remote group of hills north of Kotzebue called the Kakagrak Hills. Luke DeCicco and I called this place home for most of June and our purpose was to survey for any **Red Knots** in the area. Little is known about the subspecies of Red Knot (*Calidris cantus rosalaari*) that breeds in the area and we were responsible for recording any observations we made on all knots that we found. Before this trip I had never seen a Red Knot in breeding plumage and this job gave me the opportunity to see hundreds. While searching for these elusive birds, Luke and I lugged cameras around and took photos of almost everything that we saw. Along with the 100 species of birds that we found in the area, we also identified and documented many species of butterflies and moths including one moth that was previously known to occur only as far west as central Yukon, Canada. Muskoxen were a common sight from our camp and the local sow grizzly bear with two cubs always kept us on our toes. The experience that I had this summer is one that I will never forget and I hope that my photos and stories will give you a little idea of what it was like.



American Tree Sparrow

## **Tracks & Signs January 22 from 10 a.m. – 12 Noon – West Glacier Trail**

Tracks & Signs will meet at the **West Glacier Trailhead**. The goal is to find some Lagomorph tracks and signs. Is there a difference between browsing and grazing? Do some animals in our area practice eating their own scat, if so why? Come to Tracks & Signs and find out.

Dress for the weather. Children must be accompanied by adult. No dogs please.

## **14th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count -- February 18-21, 2011**

Bird watchers coast to coast are invited to take part in the 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count Friday, February 18 through Monday, February 21, 2011. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers of all levels of birding experience to count birds in their own backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges. **More information is available at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).**

## **White Tail Deer** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick -- Smoky Mountains, N.C.

On Christmas morning it started snowing. While looking out the window, we observed three deer, a mother and two half grown young. They were on the neighbors lawn, just on the other side of our lane. They stayed there for almost an hour. They were feeding on the acorns that were quite numerous from this past fall. With the snow falling, the scene looked as pretty and peaceful as a greeting card.

The white-tailed deer can be found in southern Canada and most of the lower 48 States. They are herbivores, and graze on most available plant foods. When a white-tailed deer is alarmed, it may stomp its hooves and snort to warn other deer. It may also "flag" or raise its tail and show its white underside.

One day, growing up in Connecticut, my brother Pete carried home a small fawn. In his teenage years he spent a lot of time in the woods as he prepared for his scout badges and as he studied birds and nature in general. He had come upon the lone fawn and watched it and listened to the forest sounds for a long time but there was no mother anywhere. Dog tracks near by appeared to indicate that the mother must have been chased away.

The small spotted fawns' tiny hooves made a "click, click, clicking" sound on the tiled floor of our front room. It showed no fear as it curiously walked about the room. Our mother was always fascinated with, and willing to help care for the little wild things that Pete would often bring home.

Since we would not have been allowed to keep it or properly care for it, the county game warden was called and notified about the fawn. A little while later the game warden came and took the fawn to a Deer Farm for injured-convalescing or orphaned animals. We knew that's where it would be safe from predators.

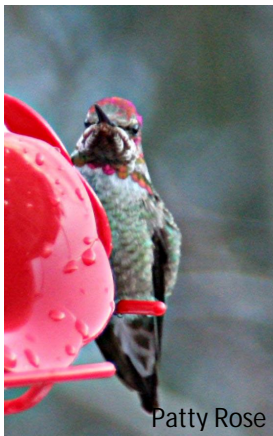
## Juneau's 2010 Christmas Bird Count -- Compiled by Gus van Vliet and Mark Schwan

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count for 2010 was held on December 18.

Weather was cold, with temperatures ranging from the high teens to low 20s. The day saw blue skies, dry, icy conditions, and light breezes in much of the area but with stronger winds and rough water in portions of Stephens Passage, which affected the counts of water birds off of Outer Point. We had 34 participants in the field and several feeder watchers, with a number of field observers also doubling up to catch birds at their feeders. We had one intrepid observer (Merrill Jensen) doing kayak duty and Jeff Sauer led a search team for ptarmigan near the Mendenhall Glacier.



Preliminary results show 70 species for the count day and an extraordinary 17 additional species found during count week. The total count of birds on count day, 7,952, was below average, and was likely driven by low counts of certain marine species due in part to poor conditions in Stephens Passage, and the persistent cold weather leading up to our count period. All the common species that have been seen on the 37 previous counts were found once again, and there were many interesting birds present through our count week, although not all could be found on our count day.



Patty Rose

Highlights included the **Spotted Towhee** which continued to be present at Paul Suchanek's feeder, the **Anna's Hummingbird** that continued to survive at Patty Rose's feeder due to her heroic efforts to keep the sugar water thawed, two **White-throated**



*Harris's Sparrow*

Patty Rose

**Sparrows**, and 9 **Eurasian Collared Doves**. A **Mourning Dove** was reported with details by Larry West, which is a new species to our cumulative CBC list. The **Northern Hawk Owl**, present in our area for a month, was seen during the week, and the **Harris's Sparrow** at Sandy Beach, found by Patty Rose well before the count, continued to be present through the count week but went missing on count day. Deborah Rudis reported a **Peregrine Falcon** in the valley early in the count week. The **Barrow's X Common Goldeneye hybrid**, a most unusual bird found previously by Paul Suchanek, was seen on count day. We had new high counts for **Gadwall**, **American Robin**, **Varied Thrush**, and **White-throated Sparrow**. New low counts were had for **Barrow's Goldeneye** and **Surf Scoter**, likely for reasons stated above.

As usual, the tally of birds and potluck was held at Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam's home. The food contributions were tremendous and it was a great way to end the day. Thanks to all who participated. The results of our count will be entered online to National Audubon sometime in early January.

# Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results,

December 18, 2010

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
Canada Goose	806
Gadwall	<b>57</b>
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	1
American Wigeon	305
Mallard	1,456
Northern Pintail	cw
Green-winged Teal	46
<b>Canvasback</b>	cw
Ring-necked Duck	cw
Greater Scaup	33
Lesser Scaup	2
Unidentified Scaup	216
Harlequin Duck	55
Surf Scoter	<b>157</b>
White-winged Scoter	25
Long-tailed Duck	2
Bufflehead	85
Common Goldeneye	147
Barrow's Goldeneye	<b>68</b>
<b>Common X Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid</b>	<b>1</b>
Unidentified Goldeneyes	53
Hooded Merganser	7
Common Merganser	97
Red-breasted Merganser	41
Unidentified Mergansers	1
Red-throated Loon	2
Pacific Loon	2
Common Loon	6
Yellow-billed Loon	1
Horned Grebe	10
Red-necked Grebe	18
Unidentified Grebes	1
Pelagic Cormorant	11
Great Blue Heron	9
Bald Eagle (112 adults; 6 immatures)	118
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw
Merlin	cw
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	cw
Killdeer	cw
Black Turnstone	35
Dunlin	cw
Wilson's Snipe	cw
Mew Gull	145
Herring Gull	7
Glaucous-winged Gull	1,332
Gl.-winged x Herring Gull hyb.	1
Unidentified Gulls	11
Common Murre	cw
Pigeon Guillemot	cw
Marbled Murrelet	58
<b>Mourning Dove</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>Eurasian Collared-Dove</b>	<b>9</b>
Rock Pigeon	122
<b>Northern Hawk Owl</b>	cw
<b>Anna's Hummingbird</b>	1
Belted Kingfisher	4
Downy Woodpecker	cw
Hairy Woodpecker	3
American Three-toed Woodpecker	cw
<b>Northern Flicker</b>	1
Unidentified Woodpeckers	1
Northern Shrike	2
Steller's Jay	77
Black-billed Magpie	62
Northwestern Crow	311
Common Raven	409
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	95
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Brown Creeper	3
Pacific Wren	12
American Dipper	12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	75
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
American Robin	<b>24</b>
Varied Thrush	<b>11</b>
European Starling	3
<b>American Pipit</b>	cw
Bohemian Waxwing	116
<b>Spotted Towhee</b>	1
American Tree Sparrow	21
Fox Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	13
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>	1
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Harris's Sparrow</b>	cw
White-crowned Sparrow	3
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco (280 Ore; 59 SI; 82 unk)	421
Snow Bunting	4
Rusty Blackbird	16
Pine Grosbeak	10
Red Crossbill	89
White-winged Crossbill	cw
Common Redpoll	8
Pine Siskin	573
TOTAL SPECIES (count day)	70
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	7,952

Cw = Count Week only (Dec. 15-21) but not seen on the count day– **17 species**, which is a record.

Total species for count week was 87

## **KETCHIKAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS-** by Teri Hoyt

December 18th was a beautiful sunny day here with temperatures hovering around freezing and light winds.

Andy Piston again took on the task of organizing the count and compiling the data, and in fact these are still preliminary numbers as this goes to press!

We had a total of 83 species on count day and 90 species tallied for count week here in Ketchikan! There were 25 observers in 15 groups searching our area for birds!

There were quite a few **Varied Thrushes** and **Robins** about and remarkably three **Anna's Hummingbirds** were seen!!

We had a great showing of sparrows again this year with practically very possible variety for our area recorded, including, **Swamp Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow** and even **House Sparrow**!!

A single **Yellow-rumped Warbler** lingered around for the count and a **Purple Finch** was also observed!

The first ever Ketchikan CBC record **Greater Yellowlegs** was made!!!! This bird remained here for several days and I was thrilled to spot this rarity just a quarter mile from my house near Saxman.

Seems as if **Eurasian Collared-Doves** are here to stay as a few small groups were seen in several places on our road system!!

Both a **Brewer's Blackbird** and a **Rusty Blackbird** were found south of town at their regularly visited feeding station.

Although dozens of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen just before count week, none were found during that time period, but a **Glaucous Gull** was discovered! A **Brandt's Cormorant** and a **Pigeon Guillemot** were seen during count week !

Both **Bohemian Waxwing** and **Cedar Waxwing** were found and a **Red-tailed Hawk** and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were also counted!

Overall, it was another successful count by the very dedicated birders of Ketchikan and everyone had a perfectly wonderful winter day enjoying this fun hobby which is so important to add to the CBC data that has been kept for over 100 years!

I hope everyone enjoys a happy and healthy new year and..... keep on birding!!

**Sitka CBC highlights Posted on Eaglechat by: "Matt Goff" Mon Jan 3, 2011**

**12:56 am (**

**The 2010 Christmas Bird Count in Sitka was held on the second day of the new year.**

It was hard to argue with the weather - temperatures were in the 40s, a light rain fell from time to time, and there was a bit of wind, but overall it seemed to be pretty decent compared to some years past. Nearly 70 species were recorded on count day (with not all reports in yet), including several somewhat unusual species.

4 woodpeckers: **Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hairy and Downy** plus a handful of **Northern Flickers** - Downy seems to be much less common here than Hairy, though neither they, nor sapsuckers have been reported very frequently on the bird count.

A **Yellow-billed Loon** near No. Thorofare Bay to go along with the more typical **Pacific and Common Loons**. A **Pied-billed Grebe** (first for count day, previous CW record) seen in No. Thorofare Bay; also several **Red-necked and Horned Grebes**, but no Western Grebe this year. **Spotted Sandpiper** (has shown up on a handful of previous counts) at Halibut Point Rec.



**White-throated Sparrow** (same one as has been around for a few weeks) to go along with more typical **White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song, and Fox Sparrows**.

A flock of about 30 **Phalaropes** (presumably Red-necked - they were reported as black and white shorebirds that landed on the water - as long-time fishermen and island commuters, the observers were familiar with phalaropes from other times of year, but didn't know what to think since phalaropes were not on the provided checklist and they are not super experienced birders generally. I asked about Black Turnstones, but they were certain the birds landed on the water - something I've not heard of turnstones doing - especially when land is available nearby).

A **Western Screech Owl, Merlin, and Sharp-shinned Hawk** (CW) to round out the raptors non-Bald Eagle division (speaking of which - there was a distinct lack of immature **Bald Eagles** noted this year - has that been the case elsewhere?)

Over 40 **Red-breasted Mergansers** - a fairly high count for Sitka. Unless late reports change this - notably lacking were any Hooded Mergansers - present in small numbers most winters over the past 30 years, they've been pretty much absent the last 3 or 4 winters (including this one). 2 of the 3 **American Coots** that have been wintering here were spotted. 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported out Halibut Point Road.

Other interesting-for-Sitka-in-winter birds that have been seen within the last week or so, but not yet during count week include Bohemian Waxwing, Black Oystercatcher, Rock Sandpiper, and Northern Shoveler.

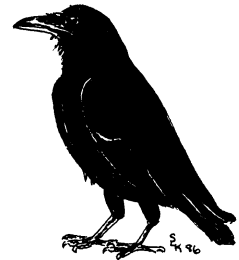
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## Interesting Summaries of two Christmas Bird Counts From Our Canada Neighbors

**Haines Junctions** -- Excellent turnout of 20 people. Large groups of redpolls and white-winged crossbills. The one dipper is back at Pine creek again this count. Two species of ptarmigan seen on Auriol ski trail but Willows are at low elevation as well. Wolf Riedl's feeder has 2 hatch year white-crowned sparrows hanging out. Northern Shrike seen at Libby Anderson's feeder and Todd Heakes had a Boreal owl for count week. A high count of Dark-eyed Juncos of 68. Potluck again at the Freese's home.

Total Number of Birds = 1742, Total Species = 23

**Teslin Christmas Bird Count Summary – 2010** - The 2010 Teslin CBC was held on December 18th; the temperature was -27 C and the weather was mostly cloudy. Feeders within the count area were relatively busy and the highlight of the count was an American Tree Sparrow at Dave & Carolyn's feeder at Morley Bay on the eastern edge of the count circle. Two Snow Buntings seen along the lakeshore were also a surprise; this is the third time this species has been seen on the count and the second time at this location! The number of juncos (20) was also the highest count to date. ED NOTE: Some interesting high numbers -- 209 White-winged Crossbill, 119 Pine Grosbeak, 71 Common Raven



Total Number of Birds = 751, Total Species = 17

For information about the Yukon Bird Club see: [yukonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbirdclub@gmail.com)  
[www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/](http://www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/)

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## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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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\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter news letter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting The Raven by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To choose this option, write your email address here**

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 37, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2011

Free Public lecture by Bob Armstrong  
Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 7pm UAS Egan Room 221

## Bob's Bugs



I will share some of the really exciting experiences I have recently had with insects. This will include the connections with Red-breasted Sapsuckers, rescuing hornworms at the airport, getting yelled at for chasing a Painted Lady, looking for Bruce Spanworm's girl friends and bonding with a mosquito.

Also Kathy Hocker, John Hudson and I have been working on a book about Aquatic Insects in Alaska. I will talk about some of the experiences I've had looking for and photographing aquatic insects. This will include searching for Rat-tailed Maggots,

Phantom Crane Flies, Mountain Midges and the techniques for taking underwater photos of creatures only a few millimeters long.

## Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21, 2011

It's fun, easy, family-friendly, free and open to all ages. This February marks the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Its really easy to participate.

1. Count the birds alone or with friends
2. After at least 15 minutes of watching in one place, report your results online (you can watch longer if you want).
3. Send in your observation to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)
4. You can repeat your count at the same place on each day of the Great Backyard Bird Count, or you can visit other locations. Submit a new checklist for each day that you count.

Go on line and view the Top 10 most commonly reported birds in the Great Backyard Bird Count, the number of reports sent in for your city or state, or even for the whole country! The maps update even as you watch! This event is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

So go out and count birds to help understand trends in populations in North America. Don't forget to have fun!

## **A CELEBRATION OF SWANS April 16 to April 24, 2011 WHITEHORSE, CANADA**

Yukon's premiere bird festival, A Celebration of Swans, brings residents and visitors alike out to great swan viewing areas to welcome spring to the north, arriving on the wings of the several thousand Trumpeter Swans. Also more than a thousand Tundra Swans have been seen at one time in M'Clintock Bay.

### **January Birding Notes for Juneau** By Mark Schwan

As we began the new year, a small cadre of dedicated birders immediately hit the "field" working on their annual lists for 2011. First and foremost for these listers was tracking down birds that had been located at the end of 2010, even prior to the Christmas Bird Count, birds that are rare and might not remain in the area much longer. Fortunately, many of these birds seemed to be staying put, often remaining loyal to an individual feeder. With this as a lead in, here are some of the highlights for January.



*Slaty-backed Gull*

*Nick Hajdukovich*

One **Cackling Goose** was seen on 1/12 at the Wetlands (NH). The **Eurasian Wigeon** found several times at the mouth of Fish Creek and the airport dike was likely the same bird found at the end of last year (PS, PR, NH). **Hooded Mergansers** are always a treat to see and they were present at several channel locations through the month (many obs.). The only **Wilson's Snipe** reported was from the usual overwintering location of

Switzer-Lemon Creek (1/23, NH). The most exciting new find was the **Slaty-backed Gull** found by Gus van Vliet on 1/17 at the mouth of Gold Creek. It had been a couple of years since this species has been found in Juneau.



*Black-billed Magpie and Northern Hawk Owl*

*Mark Schwan*

The **Northern Hawk Owl** near Brotherhood Park continued to be locatable through much of the month (many obs.) and up to three **Short-eared Owls** were seen around mid month near the golf course (NH, GV, GB). A lone **American Pipit** was spotted on the Wetlands on 1/8 (GV). One of the rarest birds in town, the **Spotted Towhee**, continued to make it's home in the brush pile adjacent to Paul Suchanek's feeding station on Douglas Island.

In addition to the towhee, a wide variety of rare to vary rare species were relocated at various feeders around town, although a couple of these species were not associated with feeders. These species included: **American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Golden-crowned sparrow.** Two observations of **Lapland Longspurs** were nice for January, with one found on the Wetlands on 1/16 (PR) and two located on 1/22 (NH), also on the Wetlands. A flock of 20 **Red-winged Blackbirds** was found near Switzer Creek on 1/17 (NH). This flock is most certainly the same group of birds that was reported near Lemon Creek in mid December.



*Harris's Sparrow*

*Nick Hajdukovich*

Contributors: Gwen Baluss, GB; Nick Hajdukovich, NH; Patty Rose, PR; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV). Prepared by Mark Schwan

## **Haines Report** By Georgia Giacobbe

Although conducted on time, the results of the Christmas Bird Count were compiled after the first of the year. Twenty-five residents braved some very cold and windy conditions to conduct the count close to the town center and in the Bald Eagle Preserve. In the Haines Circle, 27 species were found. Highlights included high numbers of the three common gulls—**Herring** (630), **Glaucous-winged** (565), and **Mew** (230) counted that day. Also counted in large numbers were **Bohemian Waxwings** with a count of 132, an all-time high for Haines. Nineteen **Bald Eagles** were spotted outside of the eagle preserve. Other bird species at the top of the list were **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 444; **Pine Siskin**, 340; **Goldeneye**, 96; **Bufflehead**, 61; **Mallard**, 89; **Chestnut-backed Chickadee**, 40; and **Common Raven**, 18;

In the Chilkat Circle (Bald Eagle Preserve), thirteen birders counted 16 species with 173 **Bald Eagles**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, and 77 **Trumpeter Swans**, an all-time high. More species included **Pine Siskin**, 300; **Chestnut-backed Chickadee**, 29; **Black-billed Magpie**, 13; **Common Merganser**, 10; and **White-winged Crossbill**, 11. For the complete count, see [www.Taskshanuk.org](http://www.Taskshanuk.org).

## **The Pileated Woodpecker** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The Pileated Woodpecker is a 16 to 19 inch long, large crow-sized black woodpecker with a bright red crest and white wing linings.

According to one source, the Pileateds declined when pioneers cleared off mature hardwood forests and sometimes shot the birds for sport and food. In the 19th century these birds were commonly offered for sale in city markets, but Audubon considered them tough and extremely unpalatable. By the mid 20th century they gradually increased in numbers again.

The first time I saw a Pileated Woodpecker was several years ago when we were still living in South Eastern Pennsylvania. I heard something that sounded like a Flicker but not anything like what I had heard before. It has such a loud and raucous series in its call. With binoculars I located it, there it was on the top of an old dead poplar tree. I was surprised and delighted. What a majestic sight. Although I had never seen one before I knew instantly what it was.

Here in the Smoky Mountains they are a common sight. They often come through our wooded lot in pairs, chasing each other as though they were “playing tag”, sometimes on a tree trunk they will rapidly sway from side to side. They are a bit of a show off with their amusing antics. They flit from tree to tree and drill into the bark. The loud drilling drumming sounds echo about the neighborhood. They seem to like pecking into old tree stumps looking for food. (Some local folks consider them a nuisance especially when they drill holes on the side of their house or into their roof.)

Last winter we had the rare treat of a pileated that came to the peanut butter-suet log by the front window. His huge body was clinging to the short hanging log as he took large clumps of the peanut butter mixture to eat.

Nature often surprises us with rare visual treats. It teaches us and keeps us wanting to learn more.

## **BIRDERS' EXCHANGE** By Gwen Baluss

Mid-winter is not the best time to go out birding here in Southeast Alaska. But it's a good time to clean house, and maybe shop for some new optics before spring comes. And, in doing so, you can also help bird researchers in Latin America by donating your less-used items. American Birding Association has a program to transfer gently used and good quality equipment -- such as binoculars, tripods, spotting scopes, field guides and backpacks -- into the hands of birders who would not otherwise be able to afford them. Many such donations are already going to birders helping to gather vital information in the winter ranges of migratory birds. For a complete list of desired gifts and more information on making a donation see the website: <http://www.aba.org/bex/>. Or, contact Gwen Baluss at 907- 523- 2895

A banded Red Warbler pauses on his captor's new binoculars before taking off into the forests of Oaxaca State, Mexico.



### **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

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

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To choose this option, write your email address here**

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# The Raven

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 37, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2011

## **Free Public lecture by Dr. Nils Warnock of Audubon Alaska Thursday, March 10, 2011, at 7 p.m. UAS Egan Lecture Hall (Room 112)**

Come and meet Dr. Nils Warnock, the new Executive Director of Audubon Alaska. Nils will talk about Audubon Alaska's projects and plans, and then segue into one of his favorite topics: shorebird migration and conservation. Drawing on his extensive



field research in Alaska and beyond, Nils will focus on the migration of Alaska shorebirds like Western Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Bar-tailed Godwits.

Drawing from his experience tagging and following these amazing birds, Nils will discuss the threats these species face, including loss of habitat, climate change, and a variety of other factors. Please join us on March 10 and stay after the lecture to meet Nils and enjoy cookies and punch.

**Tracks & Signs: March 12<sup>th</sup>, Meet at Fish Creek (8.3 mile North Douglas Highway) at 10 a.m. to noon.** Look for River Otter and Beaver sign. Leader Kevin OMalley

**April 9, 10-12, Brotherhood Bridge Trail**

## **POWERPOINT DVD WITH BIRDS IN ACTION LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE**

Bob Armstrong author of *Guide to the Birds of Alaska*, has generously put together a collection of amazing photos of the most common birds in Southeast Alaska. He has given Juneau Audubon permission to give this DVD as a gift to school classrooms in Southeast Alaska. Students will be able to view birds they already know as well as learn to identify many more, see where they live by the habitat in the background of the photos, see how they use their talons, feed their young and many, many more things they can see, discuss and learn about in these photos. The photos only have the name of the bird, so a bird guide, Bob's particularly, will be needed for in-depth knowledge about each bird.

If any of you know teachers in your town who have access to computers with PowerPoint Programs, who would be excited to have and share this DVD with other teachers in their schools; send a request for the DVD to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org) or mail to: Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802.

### **BERNERS-BAY 2011 Cruising for Wildlife**

Juneau Audubon Society will sponsor three 2011 cruises to Berners Bay this year. On Saturday, April 23<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m and April 30<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m and 1:30p.m. The vessel departs Statters Harbor below DeHarts. Audubon members will be on board to act as naturalist guides.

Steller sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles, humpback whale,  
And tens of thousands of gulls are just some of the species  
Observed around this time each year.

Tickets for the 4-hour cruise will be available at Hearthsides beginning the last week of March. Student rates are available for UAS and JDHS Students. **Don't miss it: the Juneau Audubon Berners Bay cruises for 2011, Saturday, April 23<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>.**





## Scouting Trip in the Northern Andes of Central Colombia By Deanna MacPhail

Late Nov. early Dec. I, along with three other birders and a guide from Ecuador, participated in a scouting trip in the northern Andes of Central Colombia. We visited parks, reserves and six preserves managed by Pro Aves, a Colombian organization whose purpose is to protect habitat especially critical to threatened or



near-threatened species. Our interest, along with seeing as many birds as possible, was to evaluate the travel experience for a commercial trip. And it was a very interesting experience. Concerns about safety of travel in Colombia are about the same as any other South American country: pay attention to where you are, where your stuff is, and what you're doing. Common sense and a modicum of Spanish, (sadly lacking in my case, this is why I don't travel alone!), go a long way towards making your trip a good one. We had no negative occurrences of any kind, due to human

behavior. We were, however, completely at the mercy of the weather.



Citron-throated Toucan

the tour companies currently use. It was an together exciting and fun trip, highlighted by quite knowing what we would run across next. preferred mode of travel. So many species, so time.

This was an extremely wet season. Entire hillsides slid onto roads; roads were themselves washed away, and birds are somewhat less likely to forage in heavy downpours. So, I felt right at home spending most days in raingear.

Even so, we managed to see over 400 species and a goodly number of endemics.



White-mantled Barbet

And this was not within the most-traveled birding areas that all-never My little

## February Birding Notes for Juneau

By Mark Schwan

Weather conditions substantially affected birding activities during the month but those venturing out or keeping tuned into opportunities when they arose found a few very noteworthy birds. Two vagrants continued to stay put and one disappeared early in the month. Here are the highlights. Again, the criterion for inclusion is based on a status of rare, or rarer for the winter season on the Juneau checklist. Thanks to those birders submitting observations to eBird, which served as the source for the information herein.



Pine Grosbeak

By Patty Rose

**Hooded Merganser**; perhaps no longer rare in Juneau during the winter, this species seems to be much more obvious here in the winter. There were many observations during the month, with a maximum of four individuals in the lower Mendenhall River on 2/17 (DM). Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen at Auke Bay on 2/5 (GV) and at Point Bridget State Park on 2/6 (PR, PS). There were several observations of **Northern Goshawks** scattered throughout the area. There was one downtown on 2/10 (GV), one at Auke Bay on 2/21 (GV), and one at the glacier forelands on 2/26 (PS). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were hanging tight at the expected locations, with small numbers reported in the Meadow Lane – Radcliffe Road areas (DJ, GV). The **Northern Hawk Owl** that has brought much pleasure for local birders over the past several months, was seen at Brotherhood Park on 2/6 (DJ) and 2/7 (GV) but the bird was not seen after that. **Short-eared Owls** were again locatable near the golf course (PR, GV) and along the airport dike, with a maximum of five seen on 2/12 (GV).



Downy Woodpecker

By Bob Armstrong

**Downy Woodpecker** is not an easy bird to find, and the only reports for the month came from Auke Bay on 2/22 (GV) and from Thane Road where a bird was quite loyal to a suet feeder (RA). An exciting find came on 2/21 when three **Horned Larks** were found along the airport dike (GV). This represents the first known local winter record for this species. The **Spotted Towhee** continued to stay put through the month at Paul Suchanek's north Douglas Island feeder. Rare sparrow accounts included a **Lincoln's Sparrow** on 2/13 near the airport (DJ), and another report of the **Harris's Sparrow** at Sandy Beach, Douglas on 2/13 (PS). Finally, on 2/10, Gus van Vliet found a male **House Sparrow** at the corner of Whittier and Willoughby Streets, downtown. This is the first record for this species in Juneau. The bird was subsequently seen in this same location on 2/12 (GV, PR), on 2/13 (PS), and on 2/16 (DM).

airports (DJ), and another report of the **Harris's Sparrow** at Sandy Beach, Douglas on 2/13 (PS). Finally, on 2/10, Gus van Vliet found a male **House Sparrow** at the corner of Whittier and Willoughby Streets, downtown. This is the first record for this species in Juneau. The bird was subsequently seen in this same location on 2/12 (GV, PR), on 2/13 (PS), and on 2/16 (DM).

**Lincoln's Sparrow** on 2/13 near the



House Sparrow

By Patty Rose

Contributors: Robert Armstrong, RA; Doug Jones, DJ; Deanna MacPhail, DM; Patty Rose, PR; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV.

## **FEBRUARY BIRDING NOTES FROM KETCHIKAN-By Teri Hoyt**

The icy grip of winter continues to keep bird numbers down even here in Alaska's southernmost community.

I'm lucky to live in one of the more sunnier areas of our island; a sort of oasis amidst the surrounding frozen snow covered countryside.

Dozens of **Varied Thrushes** and quite a few **American Robins** have flocked to these snow free grassy spots and even a couple **Wilson's Snipe** have been seen this month.

Several **Hairy Woodpeckers** and a few **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** were found on the sunnier side of trees.

Small flocks of **Bohemian Waxwings** have frequented certain areas in town though out the winter.

A **Greater Yellowlegs** was spotted again on 2-24, most likely one of the few individuals of this species ever to over-winter in Alaska instead of migrating through around mid-April from as far as southern South America!

Still lingering south of town at Herring Cove, the **Brewer's Blackbird** and the **Rusty Blackbird** are always curious to emerge from the brush when seed is scattered.

A few **Tree Sparrows** have been spotted and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** has been hunting near a seed feeder the past few weeks.

A dozen colorful **Pine Grosbeaks** and a rare **Short-eared Owl** were seen in the vicinity of our airport on Gravina Island!

At least one beautiful **Snow Bunting** cooperated for photographers in the Mountain Point area on the 20th of this month.

Three **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen in the same neighborhood a few days before.

I remind myself that Spring arrives just a few weeks from now and I will keep a watch for Trumpeter Swans, some of our first northbound migrants flying low over the channel and anticipate the warmer longer days ahead after enduring another Alaskan winter!

## **Great Backyard Bird Count Results from Alaska**

By Paul Suchanek

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was held all across the United States and Canada from February 17 to 21, 2011. During the count period, bird watchers were encouraged to get out and count birds in their backyards as well as local parks or other favorite birding areas and then submit their counts online at the website: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

During the 2011 count, 458 checklists were submitted from communities scattered across the state of Alaska. On these checklists, a total of 53,370 birds were reported representing 118 species. The most widespread species was Common Raven, appearing on 269 checklists, while Black-capped Chickadee, Black-billed Magpie, Bald Eagle, and Red-breasted Nuthatch rounded out the top five most widely reported species. The top five species for highest number of birds reported, however, comprised a

completely different list: Rock Sandpiper (7,594), Glaucous-winged Gull (5,677), Pine Siskin (3,510), Common Redpoll (2,923), and Surf Scoter (2,849). Rock Sandpiper were counted on only eight checklists of which three checklists from Homer accounted for 7,250 birds - obviously a flocking species! One of the more interesting high species counts was the 1,000 Willow Ptarmigan reported on a checklist from Togiak.



From Southeast Alaska, a total of 138 checklists were submitted with the communities of Juneau (including Auke Bay and Douglas), Sitka, Gustavus, and Haines submitting the bulk of the checklists. The best diversity was reported from Gustavus where a total of 68 species were reported from only 19 checklists, although Sitka reported 65 species from 38 checklists. New to the GBBC for Alaska was Eurasian Collared-Dove, which were reported from Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, and Gustavus. Some other GBBC rarities reported from Southeast Alaska included Eurasian Wigeon (Sitka), Yellow-billed Loon (Douglas), Wilson's Snipe (Gustavus), Horned Puffin (2 - Sitka), American Pipit (Gustavus), Spotted Towhee (Douglas), Lapland Longspur (3 - Gustavus) and White-throated Sparrow (Sitka).

There are now 14 years of GBBC data which are or can be summarized and mapped in a variety of interesting ways at the website. For example, the northern cardinal was the most widespread GBBC species in 2011, it was reported on over 43,000 checklists! Taken together, this checklist information provides an excellent snapshot of February bird distribution in North America and results will be used by researchers in conjunction with Christmas Bird Count counts to better understand wintering bird populations.

### **The Northern Cardinal** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The Northern Cardinal is a welcome sight at the feeders. The brilliant red colors of the Cardinal along with his chant of "Cheer-Cheer-Cheer" will brighten up any winter day. They feed on fruit, insects, and seeds, (especially sunflower seeds). I was surprised Last winter when a male cardinal came and perched on the peanut butter-suet log and ate for a while. The male is bright red with a crested head, a black face and throat, and a stout conical bill. The female is light brown with a touch of red on her wings and crest.

The male and female stay together during the nesting season. During courtship, the male is known to feed seeds to the female beak-to-beak. While the female builds the nest, typically on low tree branches or a bush, the male sings to her. They both feed the young.

Years ago a nest was built on a low branch of an old maple tree. One night something got into the nest. In the morning the nesting materials and several feathers were scattered on the ground. The female was no where to be seen. For over a week the male cardinal came to the branch, or flew around the area, and called throughout the day, with a "chip"- "chip" call. He was mourning the loss of his nesting mate. It was so sad to witness that.

The male and female will sing to each other in delightful song. The male also sings to defend nesting territory with a loud song and angry cries that is meant to warn other male cardinals to stay away. It will attack intruding males. It will fight or peck at its own reflection! It is the oddest thing to watch a cardinal peck, time after time, at a shiny hubcap where he sees his image. It's most amusing to see him peck at (or attack) his reflection in our windows.

It is no wonder that such a beautiful bird is the official state bird of several eastern states, it is often the subject of artists, and is pictured in so many greeting cards.

**(Ed. Note:** Prill lived in Juneau for several years before moving back to North Carolina. Pete Isleib, her brother, who was killed in fishing related accident several years ago, was one of Alaska's best known and admired birder and fisherman. I have asked Prill to let us know about birds where she now lives.

When my children, who grew up in Juneau, first saw a Cardinal, they thought they had found "a red blue jay".)

**From Eaglechat: On Feb 18, 2011, at 5:53 PM, Matt Goff wrote:**

This winter has been one of high Varied Thrush numbers around Sitka. Several times I've seen large loose flocks while wandering around in the woods. It's difficult to count given the forested habitat, how loosely flocked they tend to stay, and their tendency to only move one or two at a time, but I'm sure there's been 40+ (perhaps many more) on more than one occasion. In most past years it seems like there's a few around through the winter, but nowhere near as many as this year. Perhaps they have now started moving inland and/or north.

**Posted by: "Paul Suchanek"  
Fri Feb 18, 2011 5:40 pm (PST)**

I had a flock of at least 7 Varied Thrushes today on the Outer Point trail. It was tough to count them since it was in the forest along the beach, and there could have even been a dozen or more. Seems like this was an early migrant flock.



It was high tide and there was also a massive scoter flock in the bay of perhaps 2000 birds, mostly surfers, but some white-winged and about 5 Black Scoters. I could occasionally hear the calls of the male Black Scoters. Lots of other diving ducks also.

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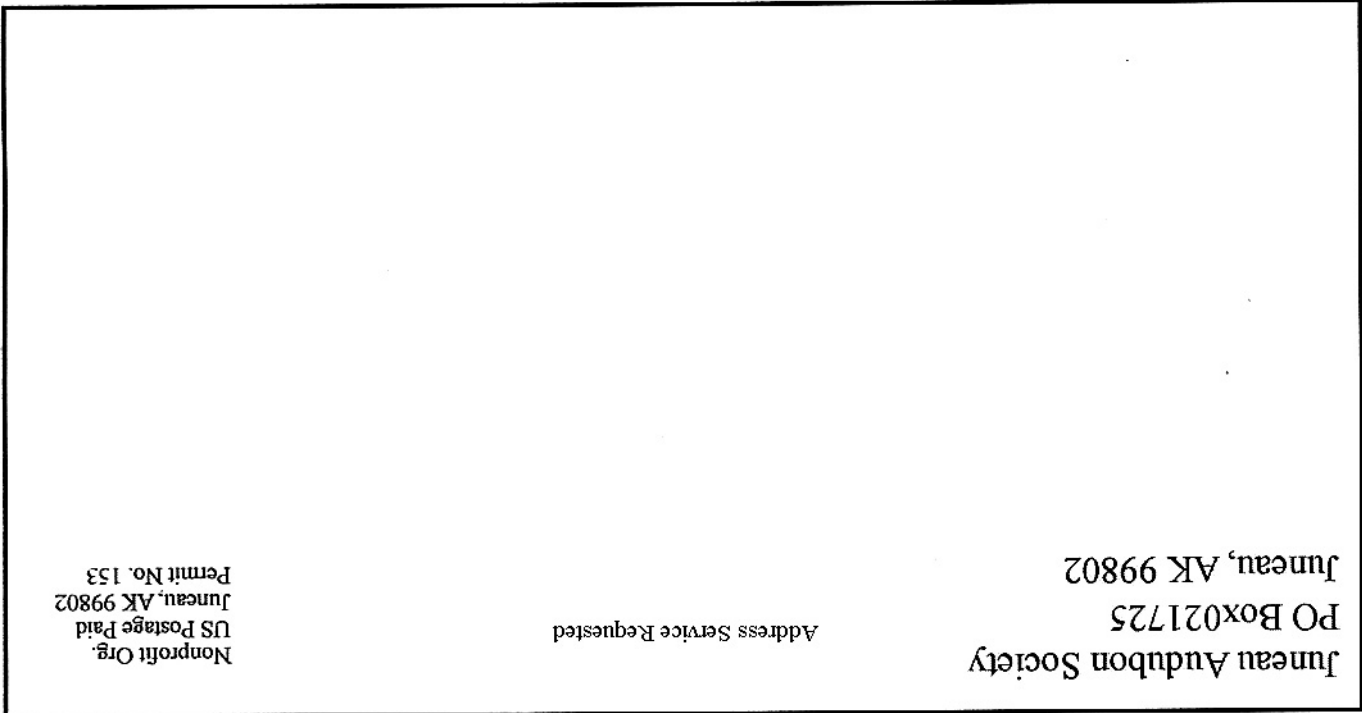
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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 37, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2011

## **Juneau Audubon Society Public Lecture By Nepal Hiking Group**

**Thursday, April 14, 2011 at  
7:00 p.m. UAS Lecture Hall**

A group of avid Juneau hikers traveled to Nepal to walk among the planet's highest mountains. The scenery was spectacular, but equally awesome were the glimpses of the cultural history and human and biological diversity of this small and fiercely independent country wedged between India and China. We will take a tag-team approach to tell the story of our trek, present some snapshots of the people and cultures we encountered, and talk a bit about the flora and fauna we were lucky enough to see. By Alex Wertheimer, Kim Smith





# Juneau Audubon Society



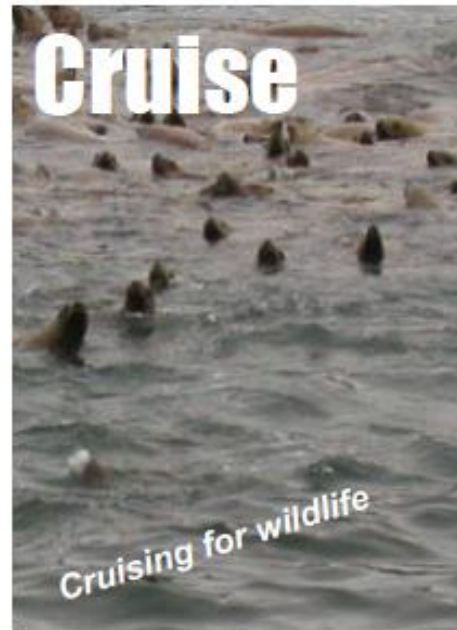
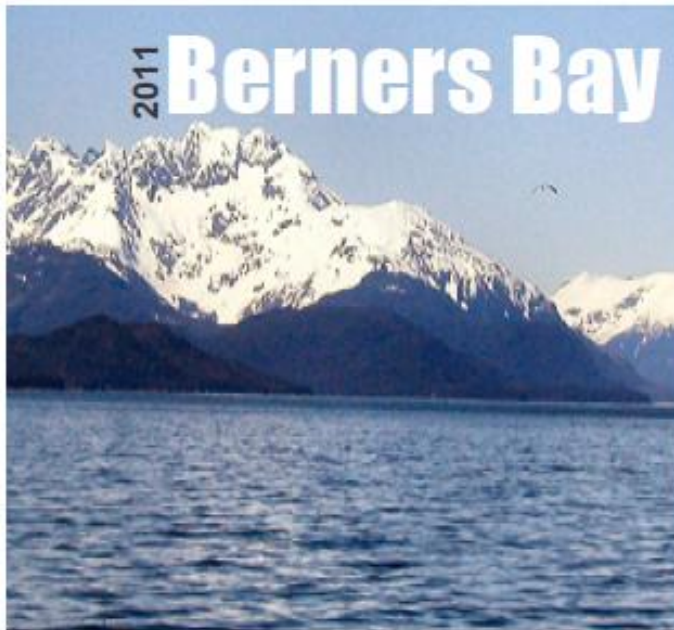
**Saturday, April 23**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, April 30**

**8:30 a.m.**

**1:30 p.m.**



**Adults - \$45**

**Students - \$25**

**Children under 12 - \$10**

*(must be accompanied by adult)*

**Tickets at Hearthside Books**

Vessels depart Don D. Statter Harbor below DeHarts. Boarding begins about 15 minutes before departure. Cruise lasts four hours. Juneau Audubon Society members will be on board as natural history interpreters.

## TRACKS AND SIGNS By Kevin O'Malley

Tracks and Signs will meet at the Brotherhood Bridge Trail (parking lot across from Don Abel) at 10am on April 9th. This will be a good time to pay attention to any seasonal changes and to see how the Mendenhall River has shaped the valley landscape. The valley is a giant track and the rivers, trees and wildlife are evidence of that track. New birds are here and their tracks tell us a stories about migration and niches each bird has when feeding or resting in the Juneau area before their trip north.

Kevin is beginning a **Mystery Track** series in the newsletter.

**What is this mystery track? This track was found on the tide flats and was in a walking gait. If you can identify this track, please respond to Kevin at [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org)**



## SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Happy spring! It's time again for JAS field trips. As usual we have a number of experienced birders and naturalists leading walks and hosting Berners Bay boat tours. We are lucky to have some of our local expert birders willing to share their knowledge. And we are glad to feature again this spring beginners' walks aimed at those who are new to birding or looking to gain skills and tips to learning their birds. Kids and families are encouraged.

Below is the preliminary schedule. Visit our website for more details as the dates approach. We will do our best to get the word out in the newspaper and radio as well. All events are free, except for the Berners Cruises (tickets available at Hearthside Books). Additional questions, please call Gwen at 523-2895. See you in the field!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Leaders/ Naturalists</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Activities/ Notes</b>
4/9	Kevin O'malley	Brotherhood Bridge Trail	10 a.m..	12 p.m.	Tracks and signs
4/16	Paul Suchanek	Fish Creek, Douglas Island	8 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	Bird walk. Search for spring migrants and rare ducks
4/16	Kevin O'malley Deborah Kearns	Fish Creek, Douglas Island	8 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	Instructional walk for beginning birders (Groups will split, and possibly merge later in the morning)
4/23	Mary Willson, Bev Agler, Julie Koehler, Mark Schwan	BERNERS BAY cruise	8:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	Boat from Auke Bay. Arrive at Harbor below DeHarts store 15 minutes early.
4/30	Laurie Craig, Deborah Kearns Patty Rose	BERNERS BAY cruise	8:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	Boat from Auke Bay. Arrive at Harbor below DeHarts store 15 minutes early.
4/30	Gwen Baluss Laurie Craig (more leaders still needed)	BERNERS BAY cruise	1:30 p.m.	5 p.m.	Boat from Auke Bay. Arrive at Harbor below DeHarts store 15 minutes early.
4/30	Kevin O'malley	Auke Village Recreation Area	8 a.m.	9:30	Skill-building birdwalk for those who are more new to birding.
5/7	Gwen Baluss	Juneau Community Garden	7:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Songbird banding and observation. Drop in anytime during posted hours. International Migratory Bird Day
Other IMBD events to be announced					
5/7	Bev Agler	Mendenhall wetlands	8 a.m.	TBA	Shorebird viewing towards mouth of river - bring rubber boots
5/21	(Still needed)	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
5/28	Jeff Sauer	TBA	TBA	TBA	Spring bird walk
6/4	Mark Schwan	Moose Lake	TBA	TBA	Moose lake bird walk-may see less common local species like American Redstart and Warbling Vireo
<i>Watch for Summer schedule in next newsletter</i>					

## Yakutat Tern Festival - June 2-5, 2011

Join us in celebrating terns!

The Aleutian Tern has a limited nesting range throughout Alaska and eastern Siberia and Russia, and very little is known about this species, including its wintering area and migration patterns. The Yakutat area is currently at the forefront of Aleutian Tern research, including studies on population trends, nesting ecology, and migration patterns. The colonies in the Yakutat area appear to be a stronghold for a suspected declining worldwide population. Seeing thousands of Aleutian and Arctic terns as they circle and float over a wild, sandy beach is something you will never forget!

The Yakutat Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Forest Service, and local community members and businesses are collaborating on planning the 1st Annual Yakutat Tern Festival for 2011.

Participants of the festival will enjoy:

- Bird walks and natural history field trips
- Art exhibits
- Scientific seminars
- Educational events for kids and adults
- Native cultural presentations

For more information see the website:

<http://yakutatternfestival.org>

or Call Yakutat Ranger District 907-784-3359



Aleutian tern on its nest under beach grass.

## Juneau Birding Notes for March 2011

Along with the many nice days and increasing light as we passed through the spring equinox, the birds were providing obvious signals that migration time was upon us. Sapsuckers began drumming, Winter Wrens, Varied Thrushes, and Song Sparrows started to sing, and the more adventurous birders sought out, and found, a variety of calling owls. Here are a few more noteworthy observations for the month.

One to two **Eurasian Wigeon** were frequenting the Fish Creek Delta from 3/15 – 3/25 (PS) and three were found along the airport dike trail on 3/24 (GV). Two to three **Northern Shovelers** were found along the airport dike from 3/15 to 3/20 (PS, PR, GV). **Hooded Mergansers** were again widely observed through the month at various channel locations (many obs.). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported from Auke Bay on 3/7 (GV). Only one **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was reported during the month, a bird seen on Meadow Lane near the Mendenhall River on 3/3 (DJ).

Nick Hajdukovich put in some dedicated owling effort during the month and it paid off, with his highlight locating and observing two **Western Screech-Owls** up Basin Road on March 24. He returned on March 26<sup>th</sup> and three individuals were located (NH, GV) and one bird was very nicely photographed (NH).



Nick Hajdukovich

A single **American Pipit** was near the airport dike trail on 3/18 (NH). The **Lincoln Sparrow** frequenting a feeder on Meadow Lane through the winter was still present (DJ). A **White-throated Sparrow** appeared at the downtown cemetery/highlands area on 3/8 (GV). Last fall we had an unprecedented number of these birds in the Juneau area, so it wasn't totally unexpected that someone would find one that perhaps overwintered here. The **Harris's Sparrow** overwintering at Sandy Beach was again seen periodically through the month (PR, PS). Finally, the invading **House Sparrow** was again seen in downtown Juneau on 3/16 (GV, NH).

Contributors: Nick Hajdukovich, NH; Doug Jones, DJ; Patty Rose, PR; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet (GV). Compiled by Mark Schwan

## **BIRDING NEWS AND EVENTS FOR APRIL IN KETCHIKAN-** By Teri Hoyt

Spring arrived here with crocuses already blooming and the moon being closest to Earth in years; it looked huge and extra bright! Scores of **American Robins** are moving through, and increasing numbers of **Fox Sparrows** are now seen scratching in the woods. Large flocks of **Surf Scoters** along the waterfront are a sure sign of Spring as are the rafts of hundreds of **Western Grebes**.

A few **Hermit Thrushes** have been here since last month. **Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers**, and **Red-Breasted Sapsuckers** are busy in the trees, and the **Northern Flickers** are calling! Two adult **California Gulls** were spotted on March 6th, a bit earlier than usual for our area. Most of the birds I reported in the last edition of the Raven have remained throughout March, officially surviving the winter season here!

Ketchikan celebrates spring migratory birds during the entire month of April with our annual **HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL!!**

The numerous activities and events are sponsored by the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center and the Ketchikan Visitor's Bureau.

There will be **three birding walks** at Ward Lake; April 2nd with Cheryl Fultz, April 9th with me, Teri Hoyt, and on the 30th with Andy Piston. Additional walks are planned in the downtown area with Jim Lewis on the 16th and an excursion along the south tongass shoreline on the 23rd with Steve Heintl.

Again, **lots of fun is planned for the kids**, including coloring contests, making art paper mosaics, several bird feeder projects, creating garden stones and even decorating and flying model airplanes! There will also be a couple **art shows** during the month and a live bird presentation with Tammy Sivertsen from the Ketchikan Community Tribal Center and Eagle Center on the 8th. The **Friday Night Insight** programs at the Discovery Center feature guest speakers covering a wide range of topics.

Evon Zerbetz will share her **Natural History of the Raven** on April 1st and Jim Lewis will share some tips for photographing wild birds on the 15th. Steve Heintl and Andy Piston will discuss **bird breeding** with their program; **Feathered Rearing: Nest and Egg**, April 29th. There is even a show on **gardening with wild plants** with Shawna Hee. **For more information** please contact the Discovery Center at 228-6220. Surely these fun events will be enjoyed by many residents and visitors alike!

Local birders are still awaiting the arrival of the first Rufous Hummingbird as spring progresses and the woods begin to fill with bird songs in our area!

## **HAINES BIRDING REPORT**

By Georgia Giocobbe

As early as March 4, the first signs of migrations appeared in Haines. Both a **Varied Thrush** was heard singing in Haines, and a **Yellow-Shafted Flicker** was also sighted. Several days later, a large numbers of **gulls** as well as **seals, eagles and ducks** were been feeding on **Lanternfish** in Lutak Inlet. A pair of **Red-Breasted Margansers** were also seen in Lutak. Photo by Ann Puffer. By March 10, Lutak Inlet was alive with wildlife. In the morning at 10 am there were literally thousands of gulls **Mew Gulls** and **Herring/Thayer gulls** feeding on **Lanternfish** and possibly **squid**. There were also about 20 **Harbor Seals** and **Steller Sea Lions**, plus about 50 **Barrow's Goldeneyes** and 3 **eagles**. By the first day of spring **Snow Buntings** were seen flying up the Chilkat River. A few days prior, **Winter Wrens** arrived and started singing. Several days into spring, there were several sightings in Lutak Inlet: **Red-**



**Breasted Mergansers, Common Mergansers, a small raft of Surf Scoters, Redpolls, White-Winged Crossbills, and Eagles.** And by March 26 **Rufous Hummingbirds** started to arrive! They are a bit early, usually arriving anywhere between March 31 and May 2. And just yesterday, on March 30, an odd sighting was called into the radio station of a crow with a white tail feather near Haines Assisted Living. Will need to follow up and see if that bird stays around.

## **WRANGELL BIRD REPORT** by Bonnie Demerjian

Melting snow and rising temperatures stir the spirits of not only humans, but birds, too. Song sparrows, Dark-eyed juncos and Varied thrushes are making the brush a lively place these days with their song. Small flocks of robins began to show up the third week of March though they are too busy scratching up a living to be singing yet. A few Eurasian collared-doves have overwintered in Wrangell and pairs now seem poised to breed. Their cooing adds a new sound to the usual Southeast Alaska mix. Bald eagles and sea lions are congregating around town in anticipation of the return of eulachon to the Stikine River. Wrangell birders are keeping a sharp eye for Golden eagles after two sightings in February.

Observers have noticed a number of crows with facial lesions that may indicate avian pox. Young birder Kaylauna Churchill took this photograph of an infected crow. Kaylauna is 12 years old and has been interested in birding for three years. She posts her observations to eBird nearly every day and lately has been hand feeding Steller's jays.



In celebration of spring and the massing of eagles on the river, the Stikine River Bird Festival will showcase Wrangell's birds during the last weekend of April. Beginning April 28, guest speakers will include Bob Armstrong on bird photography, John Hudson on dragonflies and Alaska artist Linda Infante Lyons. Lyons says one of her first memories is of an Audubon painting of a Roseate spoonbill. Today her love of birds is reflected in images of the natural world painted in magical realistic style reflecting her childhood home in Chile. The Sitka Raptor Center will also be part of the festival.

A bird walk, Breakfast with the Birds, on the Muskeg Meadows Golf Course is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. The golf course layout features a number of different habitats from beach to pond, wide-open greens, old growth and second growth forest, so participants may encounter a variety of species on this walk. Charter boat operators are offering special tours of the Stikine River, including a plein air art class, during the festival. A concert of American music by the Wrangell Community Chorale wraps up the festival on May 1. The schedule can be viewed at:

<http://www.stikinebirding.org> Photo credit – Kaylauna Churchill **Raven newsletter – April 2011**

## YUKON BIRD CLUB

### *Field Trip Schedule and Yukon Birding Events - Spring, Summer & Fall 2011*

*All events free! Dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring binoculars if you have them. Non-members, visiting birders and beginners welcome! For more information, contact Jenny Trapnell tel. 668-3918*

**NEW! Wednesday 13 April.** Learn all about Yukon's migratory bird species at a bird identification workshop: "Birds of Spring or What is that LBJ??" with Ione Christensen and Lee Kubica, at the Whitehorse Public Library, 2071 Second Ave. 7:30 p.m.

**April 16-April 24 : Celebration of Swans at Swan Haven Interpretation Centre.** Biologist Interpreter on staff. For information contact Environment Yukon's Wildlife Viewing Program (667-8291)

<http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/CelebrationofSwans.php>

**Tuesday 19 April:** Explore spring at **Hidden Lakes** with Ione Christensen. Meet at 6:30 at the Whitehorse Fish Ladder, near the dam. (2 hrs)

**Thursday 21 April: North Alaska Highway Shrike and Bluebird tour** with Helmut Grünberg. Meet at the Porter Creek Super A at 6:30 pm. (~3 hours).

### **Spring Comes Early in the Smokies.**

Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

In late February, and first week of March the temperatures moderated a little and bright yellow Forsythia bushes and Daffodils were in bloom. Maple trees were budding with bright red leaf buds. Pussy Willows were early blooming. Plump gray squirrels with mouths stuffed with brown nest building leaves were climbing to the highest tree branches to fasten their nests.

Bluebirds were checking out the bluebird housing market. Flocks of migrating Robins were scrounging around for food across lawns and were flipping over dead leaves as they were looking for something to eat.

I remember in Juneau one of the early signs of spring was the sound of the Varied Thrush. It had an eerie long one-note to its call, and others answering it with the same kind of long one-note but in different musical tones. (It sort of reminded me of a child playing a flute as though he or she were trying to get that one note just right.)

An early sound of spring here is the Rufous Sided Towhee. Their call is a slurred "chewink" or "drink". Their song to any one listening is "drink your tea" sometimes it's "your tea" with the last note trilled. While feeding, towhees are often noticed by their noisy industrious scratching with both feet in a kind of backwards hop to expose seeds and insects hidden beneath leaf litter. Towhees were once wrongly blamed for pulling up new corn. In North



Carolina they were once denied protection and listed as game birds for 25 years. The breeding habitat is brushy areas across eastern North America. They nest in low bushes or on the ground under shrubs. Females build nests in an open cup of grass and twigs lined with finer materials. The eggs are creamy white and brown spotted. They are common victims of Brown Headed Cowbirds that will sometimes lay eggs in towhee nests. As many as eight cowbird eggs have been found in a towhee nest. Towhee parents often raise young cowbirds. Towhees seem unable to recognize impostor's eggs. The Eastern male is black on the head, back and breast. The sides are rusty with white belly and white patches on the wings and at the corners of the tail. The female has the same color pattern as the male, but where he is black she is a rich brown. In this area I usually see and hear them in late March or early April. But soon after a January snowstorm they were quite visible among other birds, getting bird seed on the ground where seeds had fallen from the hanging bird feeders. They were a lovely bright colorful contrast to the white snow background.

## Science Fair 2011

Juneau Audubon Society sponsored four special awards at the science fair held on March 12. As usual the students did an excellent job and it was difficult to choose among the students who had chosen to be considered by Juneau Audubon.

Our winners this year of a \$50 check were Lia Domke for her project "The effects of Methyl Farnesoate on the Molting Biology of Juvenile Red King Crabs (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*)" and Amalia Tamone for her project "How Do Chemicals Leached from Plastics Affect mortality of Brine Shrimp (*Artemia salina*)". We also gave out two student tickets for our Berners Bay cruise to Kieran Poulson-Edwards "Observing Dippers and Comparing the Amount of Turbidity" and Kevin Sigler for his project "How Restoration affects the Abundance of Juvenile Coho Salmon in creeks in the Juneau Area".



Next year we encourage you to go to the Science Fair and encourage the students to keep up the great work. Thanks to Kevin O'Malley and Brenda Wright for judging the projects.

## **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

President: Mark Schwan,	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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### **BOB ARMSTRONG'S POWERPOINT DVD WITH BIRDS IN ACTION**

Bob Armstrong author of *Guide to the Birds of Alaska*, has generously put together a collection of amazing photos of the most common birds in Southeast Alaska. He has given Juneau Audubon permission to give this DVD as a gift to school classrooms in Southeast Alaska. Students will be able to view birds they already know as well as learn to identify many more, see where they live by the habitat in the background of the photos, see how they use their talons, feed their young and many, many more things they can see, discuss and learn about in these photos. The photos only have the name of the bird, so a bird guide, Bob's particularly, will be needed for in-depth knowledge about each bird.

If any of you know teachers in your town who have access to computers with PowerPoint Programs, who would be excited to have and share this DVD with other teachers in their schools; send a request for the DVD to [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org) or mail to: **Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802.**

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send  
\$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725,  
Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter news letter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time,  
money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**

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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 37, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2011

**The next regular Juneau Audubon meeting will be next October.**

## May and June 2011 JAS Field Trips

All programs are free and all ages welcome! End times are not listed for bird walks; this will be decided by leader and group. Most routes take about 1.5 to 2 hours. but its good to allow extra time in case there are lots of birds. Questions call Gwen at 523-2895

Date	Time Start	End	Leaders	Place and Activities
May 7	7:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	Gwen Baluss Tana Ellis	Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day Songbird banding demonstration, Juneau Community Garden. Stop by to see birds up close.
May 8	1 p.m.	4 p.m.	Gwen Baluss Özgür Didrickson	Welcome back the Arctic Terns, our champion long-distance migrants. Visit the breeding colony near photo point trail. View the birds through spotting scopes, ask questions of experts. Bird art and prizes.
May 14	8 a.m.		Bev Agler	Shorebirds and more at Mendenhall wetlands. Meet at the Airport Dike trail parking area. Wear boots suitable for mud flats.
May 21	7:30 a.m.		Gwen Baluss	Moraine Ecology Trail (from parking lot near Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center) Emphasis on bird song, especially warblers.
May 28	7:30 a.m.		Jeff Sauer	All the summer migratory songbirds should be back for this walk on the Mendenhall Wetlands airport dike trail. Meet at the parking area.
June 4	7:30 a.m.		Mark Schwan	Moose lake trail. Area hosts less-common local species like American Redstart and Warbling Vireo.
June 11	7:30 a.m.		Paul Suchanek	Sheep creek valley hike. This is a good area for deciduous-loving species such as MacGillivray's warbler.
June 18	2 p.m.	2 p.m. next day	Various	Bioblitz! This is a community citizen-science effort to count all species in a local area. Base will be UAS Auke Lake campus. For more info see <a href="http://acrc.alaska.edu/acrc_education/news_events/blitz_se_alaska.html">http://acrc.alaska.edu/acrc_education/news_events/blitz_se_alaska.html</a>

## SUMMER SATURDAY WILD TRIPS

July 9, 8:00 a.m. Mt. Roberts Tram and hike up the trail

August – To be announced

September 3, 9:30 – Eaglecrest for berries

Go to Juneau Web for details <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

## Juneau Audubon Society Needs You!

This is our last newsletter until September. The JAS board will publish its next newsletter in September and our next public meeting will be on the second Thursday in October. That is the meeting where we elect our officers for the year and then have a group slide show. As this newsletter is published, we just had our Berners Bay cruises and are beginning our spring Saturday morning birding field trips.

As the JAS board takes a bit of a summer break, there is the realization that we will have several vacancies on the board come fall. So, if you have enjoyed what JAS does for our community and the region, then please consider making a donation, of your time, to help maintain the chapter's goals and activities. To use a cliché, step up to the plate for a year or two, or three, and help maintain our chapter, which has a long and respected history in our state. Over the course of the summer, please feel free to contact any of the board members to find out more about serving on the JAS board. Thanks. Mark Schwan, JAS president.

## Juneau Birding Notes for April By Mark Schwan

April is always an exciting time, as spring migration displays the wonder that it truly is. As the month progressed we witnessed the arrival of many old friends such as **Trumpeter Swans, Greater Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers, Tree Swallows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Golden-crowned Sparrows**, just to name a few.



*Hybrid White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrow by Nick Hajdukovich*

This article will just include a few observations, and readers are encouraged to visit [eBird.org](http://eBird.org) to

view all the observations entered therein, as once again the most active birders in Juneau are putting their sightings in eBird. With that, here are a few highlights.



*Sandhill Crane by Mark Schwan*

One **Redhead** was spotted on the Wetlands east of the Mendenhall River on 4/16 (PS). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were reported from the Scout Camp trail on 4/17 (PS, BA), near Temsco on 4/19 (GV), and at Fish Creek on 4/20 (PS). One **Sandhill Crane** flew over the lower Mendenhall River on 4/27 (MS, SZ, HZ). Two **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were seen along the airport dike on 4/26 (PS) and also near the mouth

of the Mendenhall River on the same day (PS). Another golden-plover found on the wetlands on 4/28 (NH) also appeared to be a **Pacific**. One **Caspian Tern** was seen near the Scout Camp trail on 4/25 (PS).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued to be found, with various reports from town to Auke Bay by several observers. Nick Hajdukovich kept up his productive owling when he found two **Western Screech-Owls** up Basin Road on 4/23. A single female **Mountain Bluebird** was found near the golf course west of the Mendenhall River on 4/26 (NH), and subsequently seen by several birders later that day, but the bird was not locatable the next day. Then, a male and female were found next to the golf course on 4/30 (PR). Finally, the **House Sparrow** seen previously in downtown was again seen late in the month (4/27, SZ).

Contributors: Bev Agler, BA; Nick Hajdukovich, NH; Patty Rose, PR; Mark Schwan, MS; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV; Steve Zimmerman, SZ; Helena Zimmerman, HZ.

#### **BIRDING NEWS FROM KETCHIKAN-By Teri Hoyt**

Our hummingbird festival was a huge success with great attendance at the various activities and a few notable birds sighted! The first reported **Rufous Hummingbird** was seen on March 28th.

Spring has been a bit slow warming up and many migrants have been arriving a couple weeks later than usual. In just the last couple of weeks **Townsend's Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Orange Crowned Warbler** have been singing in the woods.

Minus tides at mid-month didn't attract many shorebirds although I had some great close views



Banded Black-bellied Plover at the mouth of the Mendenhall River in Juneau April 28 by Nick Hajdukovich

of 11 **Black-bellied Plovers** at Herring Bay and quite a few **Greater Yellowlegs** are around the area.

April began with a beautiful **Spotted Towhee** at a feeder north of town! It's the first record for our island and has been seen roughly a dozen times on mainland areas of Alaska. I was excited to see this bird here as it reminded me of the many hikes I have enjoyed in the chaparral of the Santa Monica Mountains!

**Tree Swallows** and a few **Violet-green Swallows** arrived a little early this year at Ward Lake and along the Ketchikan Creek.

There was an **Aleutian Goose** spotted on the 8th on a grassy area in town. It's smaller size, wide white neckband with a dark lower border and browner breast sets this Canada Goose sub-species apart from its cousins also feeding nearby! The stormy squalls on April 21st brought the amazing spectacle of literally flock after flock of **Canada Geese** and other waterfowl noisily flying overhead migrating north for the season. Last night, on the 28th, I heard at least a dozen flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** flying through the star studded sky. These sights and sounds are my favorite part of Spring!!!

Lots of **Fox Sparrows** are here and each day increasing numbers of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** arrive with a few **White-crowned Sparrows**, **Lincoln's Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows**.

Although there is evidence of **Eurasian-Collared Doves** breeding on our island, a very active nest was discovered here on the 27th, firmly establishing the breeding data for this relatively recent (2007) invasive species whose impact on local species remains to be seen!

I'll be spending my summer working my 5th season on a boat as a naturalist for AllenMarine Tours and tending to my vegetable and flower gardens, and of course, hiking and birding when I get a chance!! I wish all the Raven readers a fabulous summer enjoying the amazing nature we are so lucky to have surrounding us!!

### **BIRDING NEWS FROM WRANGELL** by Bonnie Demerjian

The photo was taken by David Butler on Mallard Slough, Stikine River.

They are **Western sandpipers**.

As of this writing, Wrangell is gearing up for the Stikine River Birding Festival on the last weekend of April. Many thousands of **Snow Geese** and **Sandhill Cranes** have been passing over town and are now resting and feasting on the river



delta before continuing to their breeding grounds. The **Snow Geese** will be traveling north from Alaska's Wrangell Island to Russia's Wrangell Island.

An abundance of eulachon in the Stikine this year has kept masses of **Glaucous-winged, Herring, Mew** and **Bonaparte's** gulls busy for nearly a month. The eulachon run occurs in two phases with the larger, earlier episode occurring in late March. At that time 2,000 or more Bald eagles, the largest springtime concentration of these birds in the world, mass on the river islands. As of the last week in April, hundreds were still feeding, as were large numbers of Steller's sea lions, harbor seals and a few humpback whales in front of town.

Despite what seems like a late, cold spring, migrating songbirds are beginning to appear, only a few days later than last year. The first **Yellow-rumped Warblers, Savannah Sparrows,** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows** arrived the last week of April and we're hoping to see a few more species for our annual bird walk on April 29. Maybe the presence of photographer Bob Armstrong, here for the birding fest, will lure them to be counted.

### Haines Birding Notes By Georgia Geocobbe



The snow has been gone, the weather has warmed, but we still await most of the green spring. In the meantime, the birds have been bringing us the arrival of spring. Recently along River Road, 14 species appeared including **Black-Bellied Plovers, Golden Plovers, Western Sandpiper, Pintails, Mallards, American Wigeons, Shovelers, Green Wing Teals,** plus **Ravens, Gulls, and Eagles.** Singers included **Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrush, American Robins, Pine Siskins.** Just before Easter on the outskirts of town at 6<sup>th</sup> and Dalton Streets, a **Wilson's snipe** was seen. Earlier in the month, April 13 and 14 about 75 **Snow Geese** and 100 **Canada Geese** flew up the Chilkat River. In the beginning of the month, along the waterline in Lutak Inlet, some beautifully colored **Harlequin Ducks** arrived back

for the summer. And to signal the beginning of spring with song, **Fox Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** came back to serenade.

Meanwhile, at 2.5 mile on Haines Highway, the birds have been telling us that spring is early. A Red-headed Flicker has been pecking at the corner of my house instead of the nearby telephone pole. A female Wilson's warbler has been flicking around the trees, and a Varied Thrush was pecking at the ground amidst a flock of Stellar's Jays. And speaking of arrivals, thousands of gulls followed the arrival of the eulachon up the Chilkat River. At this writing on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, they have passed 2.5 mile and continue heading up the river.

As noted last month, a **Northwestern Crow** with a white tail spotted near the senior village. Confirmation photo by Ron Horn



**Red-bellied Woodpecker** By Prill Mollick  
Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker back is narrowly barred with black and white and has a red crown and nape. The female has red on the nape only. It is named for the usually small patch of pale reddish-orange feathers on the abdomen. Despite the name, the red on the belly is not often visible. Its white rump is visible in flight. Their range is the eastern United States and parts of southern Canada.

From several trees away he noisily announces his coming to the peanut-butter suet log with a “chack” or shrill “Twank” also described as a high pitched coughing “cha” “cha” sound or “kwirr” “kwirr”. It is a frequent visitor to the peanut-butter suet log. It often takes large gulps before flying away. Its usual diet is insects, fruit, and seeds. Nuts and seeds taken in fall may be stored in bark crevices and eaten during the winter.

Nesting in cavities 5 -70 feet above ground, with 3-8 eggs which are incubated by both parents for about 14 days. Young leave the nest 24 to 26 days after hatching and remain with parents. Parents continue to help feed the young for up to 10 weeks. Red bellied Woodpecker nests in some areas are invaded by starlings.

For some reason, known only to him, he sometimes drills or taps on the rain gutter. (One source suggests that the drilling is to attract a mate or claim nesting territory.) The loud drilling sounds like a jack-hammer and can be heard throughout the house. I would think it would dull its beak.

**Berners Bay Cruise, April 23, 2011** By Mark Schwan



We had a terrific morning out on the water for our first cruise. The Allen Marine staff worked closely with the Audubon volunteers to maximize our time in Berners Bay, as well as finding wildlife to see outside the bay. As it turned out, the bird activity in Berners Bay was very low. From surveys of the bay in prior days, it was known that the eulachon had not entered the rivers yet and herring had arrived but were not yet spawning. Given the marine mammal activity in the northern part of the bay, eulachon could have been starting to stage there. There were scattered humpback whales in the bay and south of the bay. There were several large groups of Steller sea lions swimming in the northern part of the bay and the Benjamin Island haul out site was busy. Harbor seals were frequenting Slate Point. Good numbers of gulls were seen on the distant northern shore near the mouth of the Berners River, and gulls were along the shore south of Cascade Point. Few loons were present and scoters were very scarce. Migrating Bonaparte's Gulls were common, but only outside the bay. We stopped at Aaron Island on the way home and located two Black Oystercatchers.

The highlight of the morning was the group of killer whales spotted just west of the northern boundary to Berners Bay. There were perhaps six to eight individuals. People on board got terrific views. Gus van Vliet forwarded pictures of two animals to Graeme Ellis, a long-time whale researcher in British Columbia, Canada. Graeme was able to identify both animals by comparing the individuals to photographs of orcas in their catalogue. These were transient killer whales, and one of them, known as T034, was first identified in 1980, 31 years ago! We had a similar situation last year on our first cruise, where photos of one of the transient orcas we encountered was identified from photographs by Graeme Ellis. Graeme said that his group now receives photographs from a variety of people in our region, however, it would be great to get more people contributing photographs to help them in their studies. They prefer to get photographs that show the left side of the dorsal fin and saddle patch, and if possible to photograph every animals present in an encounter. Here is the link to their website that describes their research and links to their photographic catalogues.

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/species-especes/cetacean-cetaces/projects-projets-eng.htm#HW>

### **BOB ARMSTRONG'S POWERPOINT DVD WITH BIRDS IN ACTION**

Bob Armstrong author of *Guide to the Birds of Alaska*, has generously put together a collection of amazing photos of the most common birds in Southeast Alaska. He has given Juneau Audubon permission to give this DVD as a gift to school classrooms in Southeast Alaska. Students will be able to view birds they already know as well as learn to identify many more, see where they live by the habitat in the background of the photos, see how they use their talons, feed their young and many, many more things they can see, discuss and learn about in these photos. The photos only have the name of the bird, so a bird guide, Bob's particularly, will be needed for in-depth knowledge about each bird. A second DVD *Beavers in Alaska* by Bob with incredible photos of beavers in action, is also available.

Send request for DVDs to: [raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org) or mail to: **Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802.**

## MYSTERY TRACKS



The answer to last month's Mystery Track question is Northwestern Crow. According to *Common Tracks of Southeast Alaska's Trails and Beaches* by Richard Carstensen, Northwestern Crow's tracks are 3" long and Raven is similar but track is 5" long. Also note the toes 2 and 3 are close together always on the inside of the NW Crow's foot. This will tell us if it is the right or left foot. Which foot of the Northwestern Crow would the track have been?

This month's Mystery Track is actually two tracks of an animal here in Juneau. How many toes does it have on each foot? This will classify the critter. The photo shows both a front and a rear foot. What kind of information can the substrate tell you?

E-mail answers to the monthly Mystery Question to Kevin at [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org).



## SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS: WINTER SEASON—December 2010 to February 2011

Sub-regional Compilers:

Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

There is also an extensive list of all the fall bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

### **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

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## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send  
\$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725,  
Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter news letter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time,  
money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@j](mailto:membership@j)**

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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 38, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2011

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011**

**Election!** Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers in conjunction with the public meeting in October. Our four 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. At this writing, the candidates for 2011-2012 are: no one for president, no one for vice-president, Patty Rose for treasurer, and Julie Koehler for secretary. Mark Schwan, who has served as president for the past three years is stepping down. Jeff Sauer, who has been president and served more recently as vice president, is also stepping down but will serve as the programs chairperson on the board. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as a candidate for any of the officer positions. It goes without saying, but it is critical that the chapter find people to serve as president and vice president. Anyone wanting to know more about these positions please call Mark Schwan at 789-9841 or any other board member.

Moreover, if anyone is interested in joining our board in one of our non-officer positions, we need help, as we currently have one vacant committee chair. Gwen Baluss, who has served as field trips chair, has offered to take over conservation, which is great because the conservation chairperson takes the lead for the chapter on important environmental issues as they arise. This means that the field trips is open. The person in this position organizes the spring birding field trips, the Saturday Wild events, and assists on setting up the Berners Bay cruises.

**Program in October:** There will be another announcement in the October issue of the Raven prior to our business and public meeting in October, but we plan to do our fall group "slide show" again for our public program. This is where we ask everyone to bring about 10 images to share with the group. These can center on something special you did during this past summer, or something you did some time ago, or share whatever you might think the audience would find interesting or fun. There is no theme, just bring some images to share with the group. We will have a traditional slide projector as well as a computer and LCD projector.

## Juneau Birding Notes, Spring and Summer 2011

by Mark Schwan

It seemed like a rather ordinary spring and summer for birding in the Juneau area, but as usual, with the small cadre of local dedicated birders, some interesting birds were found. This short article only highlights a few of the records from May through August. For a much more complete picture of the seasonal status of birds in Juneau, readers are encouraged to visit eBird.org and search the observational information therein. Also, Steve Heinel and Andy Piston, of Ketchikan, continue to do a wonderful job collecting and reporting on bird observations throughout Southeast Alaska. Their quarterly reports can be found at the Juneau Audubon Society website, under regional birding information. With this in mind, here are a few of the more interesting Juneau observations.

The only **Cinnamon Teal** report this year was of a single male seen at the mouth of the Mendenhall River on May 15 (MS, PR, RG). A very nice find for Juneau was the **Western Grebe** located near shore at Pt. Bridget State Park on August 6 (PS, BA). Juneau is perhaps the best place in the state to find a **Sora**, so a bird calling at the Community Garden through late May was no huge surprise (GB, many obs). One other bird was found at Moose Lake on May 30 (BP). A briefly heard **Upland Sandpiper** on August 17 (GV) was our only local report. Paul Suchanek found a great godwit duo when he discovered a **Bar-tailed Godwit** keeping company with a **Hudsonian Godwit** out on the Wetlands on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Other birders got to see and photograph these striking birds. No Red Knots were found this spring, however, on August 21, and again on August 23, a single juvenile **Red Knot** was found along the airport dike (PS, BA, CW, PR, GV). Fall records are even rarer than spring records for this species.

**Stilt Sandpipers** made a relatively strong showing this August with individuals and small flocks found at a variety of locations throughout the Juneau area (many obs.). The maximum number seen at one time was 21 birds at the Fish Creek Delta on August 20 (PS). Very rare on inside waters, 2 **Red Phalaropes** near the mouth of the Mendenhall River on May 16 was quite exceptional (RG). An immature (first-cycle) **Black-headed Gull** was picked out from a group of Bonaparte's Gulls and Thayer's Gulls at Eagle Beach on May 11 (MS). The bird was briefly relocated the following day by a visiting birder/photographer (EW). There have been two prior reports of this species in Juneau. Another unexpected find was the **Ancient Murrelet** seen from the beach of Pt. Bridget SP on August 6 (PS, BA).

More records for **Willow Flycatcher** have come from the Juneau area than any other locale in the state, so the bird found at Pt. Bridget SP on July 6, carried on the tradition (PS, MS, DM). The only **Hammond's Flycatcher** report came with a "fall" observation along the airport dike on August 28 (CW). Likely the hottest songbird observation this season was the briefly seen and heard **Cape May Warbler** near Auke Bay on May 26 (GV). Finally, the **House Sparrow** located this past winter downtown, was found again on May 5 (GV) and July 2 (CW).

Contributors: Bev Agler, BA; Gwen Baluss, GB; Rich Gordon, RG; Deanna MacPhail, DM; Bruce Paige, BP; Patty Rose, PR; Mark Schwan, MS; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV; Edwin Winkel, EW; Charlie Wright, CW.

# HOW SOME JUNEAU AUDUBON BOARD MEMEMBERS SPENT THE SUMMER

## Alaska Landbird Monitoring System – broad scale sampling on the Tongass. By Gwen Baluss

The 2011 season marks the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the ALMS in Alaska, a state-wide study that includes the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. Participants expect the first analysis in the next couple of years. The purpose of the study is to detect possible large population shifts of the common land bird species, and to refine habitat associations for key species. Examples in our area include **Hermit**, and **Varied Thrushes, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Winter Wren**. The method is to visit randomly-selected locations around the same date every other year, to count every species seen and heard, and note the habitat. Observers are trained in identification and distance estimation. The Tongass goal is to sample in 8 or 9 locations per year.



*Describing Golden-crowned Sparrow Habitat  
Tana Ellis photo*

While the study results could yield an interesting picture of bird populations, as a data collector for the Tongass I can report a few observations from this season. These are anecdotal impressions, but interesting none the less.



*Olive-sided flycatcher, an uncommon local species,  
breeding habitat found on an ALMS block.*

The productive cone crop that led to high numbers of **siskins** and **crossbills** in the spring was reflected in the summer; places that usually have a scattering of finches had more groups. Attempting to count a constantly moving group of crossbills can be quite a challenge.

It also seemed to be a good year for woodpeckers. One block, near Windfall Lake on the Juneau trail system, an area of about a half mile squared, yielded at *least* 6 **Red-breasted Sapsucker** nests, a **Hairy Woodpecker** nest, and a pair of



American three-toed woodpeckers. A rare find was a three-toed nest on the Mansfield peninsula, Admiralty Island.

It felt like a bust year for the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. A tiny species that tends to have large nest clutches (up to 12!), they can have high fall mortality when the weather is poor. The current cool and wet conditions are probably not helping their cycle.

Sometimes we detect species that are less common. We added two incidences of breeding season **Sandhill Cranes** to our list, in muskeg areas of Zarembo and Kupreanof Islands. In the past, a chick was seen on the Cleveland Peninsula, and June birds have been detected on Prince of Wales and Kosciusko Islands. I believe the incidence of nesting cranes may be more widespread than our regional bird lists would suggest, perhaps because they prefer large open peat bogs that are away from frequent human traffic. **Golden-crowned Sparrows** are known by birders to sometimes dwell in subalpine habitat, but have been rarely documented on previous regional bird studies.

Occasionally birds show up in unexpected habitats. **Mew Gulls** were again using a clearcut area without any lake or ponds in June on the Yakutat Forelands. Normally wood-dwelling **Winter Wrens** were singing from rock cracks far above tree line above Juneau's Lemon Creek. Crossbills and siskins were just as likely to be seen eating worms in alder stands as cones in hemlocks. More bird-watching on the forest, from visitors out birding for fun to professionals doing studies, are sure to yield more information, and give us a better baseline to track changes.

## **How I spent My Summer**

Brenda Wright, Membership Chair

Now that I am retired from my full time job, I am able to be a trail guide for Gastineau Guiding. During my career, my favorite part of my job was getting to walk in the woods. Guess what? Now I get to do my favorite thing and still get paid for it!

The visitors that come to Juneau and want to see our forest and wildlife up close and personal are terrific fun to spend some time with! I learn many interesting things from them and hopefully they enjoy our forest ecosystem a little better for having experienced it first hand.

In all my spare time.... I did get a little fishing and some berry picking done. Hope you had a fun summer too.

## **Birdwatching Northeastern Ohio**

. Jeff Sauer, Vice President

Of the US destination-birding locales, Ohio has not in the past made the hotspot list. It has not been, let us say, a birding hotspot like Florida, Southeast Arizona, southern Texas, or several places here in Alaska. That, however, might be changing. In May I had a chance to check this out. I was, for other reasons, planning to be in Ohio, and so scheduled a few days to go birding in Northern Ohio, southern Michigan, and at Point Pelee on the northern shore of Lake Erie, in Ontario. With my brother, camping gear, and a car, we first hit the Ohio's western shore of Lake

Erie. It is not all that attractive, mostly farm country now, with a swath of forest along parts of the shore. But these places, like Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, and the Black Swamp Birding Observatory, were, at least at this time of the year, (May 14<sup>th</sup> for us) simply amazing.

The birds were amazing. And the people were almost as amazing. First the birds. This can best be explained by the “Big Sit,” that we happened to stumble upon at Magee Marsh. For 17 years now, as a fund raiser for the bird observatory there, is a guy who sits on a step ladder in a clearing along the edge of the woods, and counts everything he can see during daylight hours (May 14, 2011). This year was typical: 96 species from this one spot, including 22 species of warblers. With him on the ladder and always a few people milling around, it was great to just hang there, because they were all calling out stuff as it appeared. And if you asked where the bird was, or needed help identifying that particular warbler, the sitter or some other birder, would always gladly help. It was a free lesson in eastern birds, and in particular eastern warblers.

Besides the clearing area there was boardwalk that runs for a half mile or so, in the swampy woods. On the boardwalk and in nearby clearings there were birders, hundreds and hundreds of them. Most were extremely knowledgeable, and the atmosphere was friendly, helpful, with real camaraderie. Mixed in with everyone else were several commercial birding tour trips. Jon Dunn was there with a group, and Ken Kaufmann was there (he lives in the area now, and his wife is head of the bird observatory). The boardwalks were full of birders, and at points packed. We hung at one point on the boardwalk where a **Connecticut Warbler** had been seen. We stayed in that spot for 45 minutes. There were a couple hundred birders jam packed in, wanting to see this particular warbler, watching and waiting. I had never birded with such a crowd before. But it was fun. Eventually with all those experienced eyes, the suspect warbler appeared. But, also, while waiting for the bird all kinds of other stuff was seen and called out. My brother and I spent a full day there at Magee Marsh. Of note for me that day along that half mile were three warblers: **Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler**, along with good looks at an **American Woodcock**.

My brother and I managed to hit Magee Marsh on a peak spring migration day. These birds are migrating up this flyway on their way to Canada to breed. Many of them stop before crossing Lake Erie at this spot, hence the hot birding spot. On the other side of the lake in Canada is the famous Pt. Pelee, where many land after crossing the lake. After a day and a half on the Ohio side we drove a few hours around the west side of Lake Erie to Pt Pelee. Unfortunately for us the weather turned to heavy rain and the much anticipated Pt Pelee was a bust. Blowing cold rain was not conducive to birdwatching, and the birds were either not there or hunkered down, not to be seen in any numbers.

Overall, the birding in this area warrants several days. It includes Northwestern Ohio: Magee Marsh Wildlife area (an Ohio state refuge), Ottawa Natl. Wildlife Refuge (adjacent); In Ontario, Pt. Pelee; and then a few hours north in Michigan is **Kirtland’s Warbler** territory (nests near Grayling Michigan, winters in the Bahamas, and is seldom seen in between; Michigan Audubon leads day trips to see this rare and endangered bird). The trip was interesting, fun, and inexpensive. At the Juneau Audubon October meeting I hope to share some images of the trip and more detail of how, what and where.

## Gustavus and Glacier Bay, So Close, and Now, not So Far

Mark Schwan, President



Sometimes we forget to enjoy places right in our “backyard.” This summer, with the new ferry service to Gustavus, Debi and I decided to take our car and camp at Bartlett Cove for a few days and play tourist in the area. We lucked out with great weather. On one of the days, we took the day cruise up the west arm of the bay to Tarr Inlet and Margerie Glacier. The company that has the contract for the day cruise offers a good deal for “locals” and

Juneau residents qualify as locals. If there are two of you taking the trip, you both can go for the price of one ticket. Other cost-savings measures include that it costs nothing to camp at the Bartlett Cove campground, which is very nice, and if you do take your car on the ferry, you get a driver-goes-free discount. All of this means you can visit a world-class destination for reasonable costs.

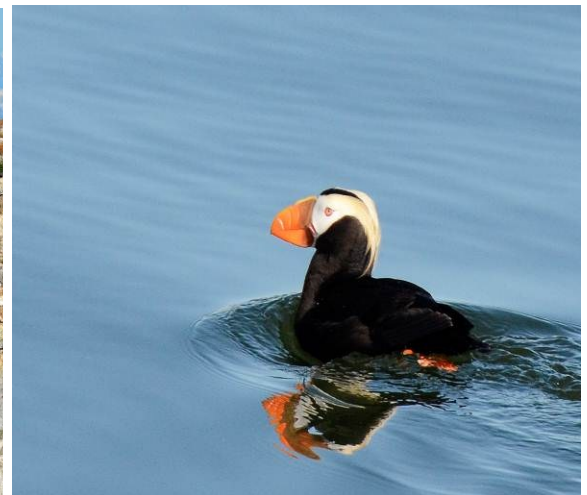


*Kittlitz's Murrelet in Tarr Inlet*

If you are traveling with a companion, the day cruise up the bay is hard to pass up. The birding and overall wildlife viewing opportunities in Glacier Bay and Icy Strait are truly exceptional, even for those that are not on multi-day back country wilderness excursions. So, next summer, think about a quick visit.



*Cormorants and Kittiwakes at South Marble Island*



*Tufted Puffin at South Marble Island*

## Wrangell Raven Report – September, 2011 By Bonnie Demerjian

Wrangell hosted its second annual Bear Fest during the last week of July. Speakers discussed all aspects of bear ecology, genetics, conservation and management. Attendees also learned about the bear's role in transporting nutrients into the forest via salmon carcasses. Other events included nature photography workshops, music, a marathon and film festival.

Observers were treated to a flock of about **200 Red-necked Phalaropes** in front of downtown Wrangell in late July. The birds were also reported on the Stikine River. A large flock of about 1000 was spotted near Tebenkof Bay, lower Chatham Strait, in late July.

Eurasian collared-doves continue to multiply here and now number in the 20s or more. They have been observed feeding with both **Rock Doves** and **Band-tailed Pigeons**. A single bird was reported up the Stikine River at the border in June.

Bill Neumann reports seeing a large (2000-4000) mixed flock of **Barn Swallows** with some **Bank Swallows** at his cabin on Knig Slough on the Stikine. The birds started showing up at dusk in mid-August, at first about 200-400. Each evening more appeared until "there was a cloud filling the whole valley, wing tip to wing tip. It was solid with birds." The Knig Valley is about ½ mile wide and 1-2 miles long. On August 28 they were all gone. He has **Cliff** and **Barn Swallows** that nest at his cabin and says the birds seemed to wait until his birds were ready to leave. He says he took hundreds of pictures but because he is still at his cabin, will send them later in the month and so will be included in October's report.

Bill loves to feed **Rufous Hummingbirds**, as do many of us, but he certainly attracts them in greater numbers than some of us are accustomed to see. He reports that with his home-designed feeders, he fed about 60 birds this summer at his cabin and used 120 pounds of sugar. This isn't a record, however. In past years he has fed over 100 hummers who sipped up 135 pounds of sugar.



*Rufous Hummingbirds at Bill Neumann's Stikine River feeder,  
Photo by Bill Neumann Bonnie Demerjian*

Despite the dismal past month, not to mention the rest of the summer, a few warblers are still around. **Orange-crowned** and **Townsend's** were spotted last week as was the occasional **Rufous Hummingbird**. Our summer visitors might have the right idea, though. Migration is looking better and better.

## **Chuck Will's Widow** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

Chuck Will's Widow. What an odd name for a bird. But it tells you its name. Although I had never heard one before, it told me what it was. In early June, about the time of the dawns early light. The air was still. The nights Katydid's had stopped their rasping sound, and the daytime cicada had not started their buzzing. The silence of the woodland was broken by the loud persistent call of "Chuck Will's Widow", "Chuck Will's Widow". It was repeated several times.

They are reddish brown finely marked with black, throat and chin are brown. Male has white on outer tail feathers. They are 11 to 12 inches long, have large flat heads and an enormous mouth. It captures food in its wide gaping mouth, both moths, small birds, and large insects caught in flight and swallowed whole.

For a daytime courtship routine, the male confidently struts or sidles up to the female with his body plumage puffed up, wings drooping, and tail outspread; moves with jerky actions and a few calls for good measure. (How could she resist such adoring drama?)

They are nocturnal and usually rest on the ground during the day. Their coloring makes them nearly invisible to predators. For nesting the eggs are laid directly on a depression of leaf carpeted ground on the forest floor. Incubation is about 20 days, young leave the nest about 17 days after hatching.

They are found mostly in the southeastern states during summer months and winter in southern Florida and many depart for the tropics and subtropics by late September.

## **Juneau's August Saturday Wild**

Chiska Derr led about 15 folks on the very interesting Saturday Wild Lichen walk. It was a beautiful day out by the Glacier. The short walk along the trail introduced those of us on the walk, to a multitude of lichens. She identified many that were on the trail, beside the trail on the ground, on the bushes and on the trees.

Thanks Chiska for a very interesting and informative walk!



**Posted on Eaglechat by: "Paul Suchanek"**

**Sep 5, 2011 4:19 pm (PDT)**

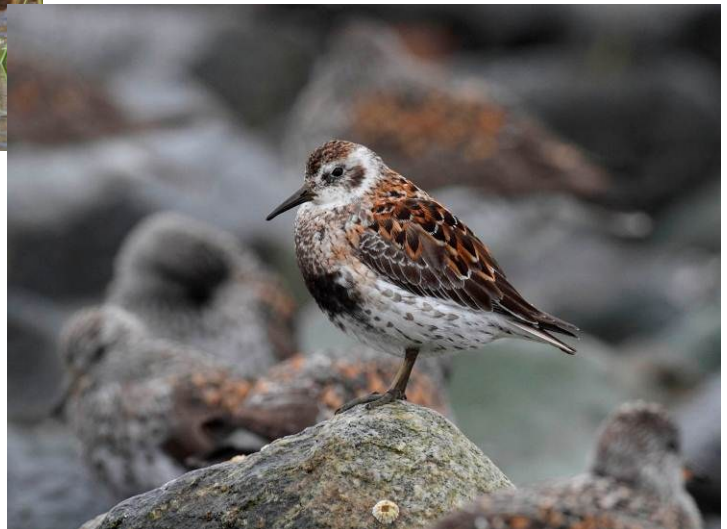
This afternoon (Monday 9/05) there was a juvenile **Pied-billed Grebe** on the pond near the parking lot at Fish Creek (no need to go over the foot bridge). It generally stayed out in the open near the middle of the pond (although they sometimes can be hard to see). Patty Rose also spotted a **Western Tanager** which was flycatching from snags in the near right hand side of the pond along with some **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. There were also lots of gulls lower down in the creek although I didn't spot any unusual ones save for some **California Gulls**. Way out on the far side of the channel at the sand bars there was an adult and a juvenile **Caspian Tern**. A lingering **Stilt** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** were also reported from the Airport Dike trail today although I didn't see them (or look for them).

**Spring shorebirds around Juneau.  
Photographs by Edwin Winkel**

Edwin Winkel, a photographer from the Netherlands, specializing in birds visited Juneau again this past May. He kindly provided these photographs for our newsletter. They are terrific pictures and highlight some of our great shorebirds that can be seen in Juneau.



*Solitary Sandpiper, Mendenhall  
Wetlands, May 11, 2011, Edwin Winkel*



*Rock Sandpiper, Portland Island, May  
12, 2011; Edwin Winkel*



*Marbled Godwits, Mendenhall Wetlands, May 14, 2011; Edwin Winkel*



*Killdeer, horse stables, May 10, 2011; Edwin Winkel*

## **WEB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*\*New Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute, you can contact him

at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org>> )

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### Alternatives for SE Transportation System

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Southeast Region Planning, has developed a Scoping Report as part of the process for the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP) update. This Scoping Report can be found on the Alaska DOT&PF Website at the following address: <http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/satp/index.shtml>

The purpose of this document is to present a set of alternatives for the transportation system in Southeast Alaska that the department is considering. The public is invited to review and provide comments, suggestions, and ideas. Deadline for comments is November 4, 2011.

#### Marie Heidemann

Non-Motorized Planner

Alaska DOT&PF - Southeast Region, P.O. Box 112506, Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506

Phone: (907)-465-1775, Email: [marie.heidemann@alaska.gov](mailto:marie.heidemann@alaska.gov)

### Juneau Residents: Municipal Election October 4th.

There is an initiative to Amend the Code of the City and Borough of Juneau by Adding a Tax of \$.15 Per Bag on All Plastic Shopping Bags Provided by Retailers at the Point of Sale.

Please exercise your right as a citizen and vote in the upcoming Municipal election on October 4.

We hope you are willing to vote and make your choices known.  
Thank you!

### Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

President: Mark Schwan,

Vice-President: Jeff Sauer,

Secretary: Julie Koehler,

Treasurer: Patty Rose,

Programs:

Membership: Brenda Wright, 789-4656,

Education: Kevin O'Malley,

Conservation

Field Trips: Gwen Baluss,

Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540,

At-large: Mark Anderson,

At-large: Merrill Jensen,

Public Market:

Web Master: George Utermohle,

[society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)

[president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)

[vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org](mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org)

[secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org)

[treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org)

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[field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org)

[raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)

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[at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org)

[public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org)

[webmaster@juneau-audubon-](mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-)



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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 \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

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**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**

Juneau Audubon Society  
PO Box 021725  
Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Juneau, AK 99802  
Permit No. 153

# 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 38, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2011

## **OCTOBER MEETING: ELECTIONS AND GROUP SLIDE SHOW,**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, at UAS Egan Building, Room 220, 7:00 p.m.**

The October meeting will be a combined short business meeting, election of officers, and group slide show- social event. All are welcome and encouraged to bring images to share with the group. You need not be a member of Audubon to attend; anyone can participate in the slide show, however, only members may vote in the election. Please note the meeting room; this is not the room we normally have our monthly meetings.

**Election!** Juneau Audubon Society will hold its annual election for the four officer positions. Our officers serve a term of one year; so all officers need to be elected each year. As stated in last month's newsletter, we currently do not have any candidates willing to run this year for either president or vice president. We have our incumbent treasurer, Patty Rose, and incumbent secretary, Julie Koehler, willing to run again for their positions. We are still hoping to find individuals for the presidency and vice presidency. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting prior to the election.

**Program:** Once we have completed the short business meeting and election of officers we will do our group slide show. This is always lots of fun. We ask people to bring about 10 to 15 images to share with the group. These can center on something special you did during this past summer, or something you did many years ago, or whatever you might think the audience would find interesting or fun. There is no theme, just bring some images to share with the group. We will have a traditional slide projector, just in case someone actually brings real slides, but will also have a laptop computer and LCD projector. People with digital images should bring them on a CD or small media storage device that can be connected to our laptop via a USB port. We plan to have refreshments. Thanks and hope to see you there.

## **Thank you from Mark Schwan, the Juneau Audubon President**

This is my last newsletter as president of the chapter, so I'll take this opportunity to sincerely thank the other board members for their hard work and dedication to Juneau Audubon. There are people on the board that have been committed to the chapter for many years, and they deserve a huge thank you from all our members. I have thoroughly enjoyed these past three years and leave the office with some trepidation given we have no candidates for the office, but as Mary Lou King says, "we always make do somehow."

I plan to stay on the board and assume the field trips chair, which has come open due to Gwen Baluss' move into the conservation chair. Jeff Sauer, one of our past presidents on the board and our current vice president, will assume the programs chair, so thank you Jeff. The vice president position is one that we consider a "training position" for the presidency, but Jeff moved over to that office three years ago after his presidency, given we had no "trainees" at the time. We are still in that situation. Long-time board members Mary Lou King and Brenda Wright will continue on the board as newsletter editor and membership chair respectively. Kevin O'Malley will stay on doing educational activities and Merrill Jensen has stated he will continue as an at-large board member, so that is all excellent.

But the board needs help all the time, so please consider joining the Audubon Board or just giving some assistance to board members in your area of interest. This would be very helpful, and can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. It does not take much time, we make new friends, and we can do our part in helping to keep our environment a good place for our birds, other wildlife and for us.

With help, the board can continue to successfully complete the tasks and functions the board must do to maintain a viable chapter. So it is with this in mind, I thank those non-board members who have volunteered their time over the past year to lead bird walks and Saturday Wild events, present programs, and help with the Public Market. Thank you all.

Mark Schwan

See you "down the road."



## **Eagle Feather Collection Permits**

Juneau Audubon Society has a US Fish & Wildlife permit to actively collect eagle feathers. We send all the collected feathers to the US Government's Eagle Repository in Colorado. The feathers are distributed to native Americans, educational and scientific requests, and requests from the general public.

If you would like to participate, you will need an official copy of the Juneau Audubon Collection permit. Please e-mail [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) to request a copy of the permit. If you already have a permit, please turn in your feathers by sending an e-mail or call 321-4739.

Thank You!  
Brenda Wright

## **Juneau Audubon Booth at the Public Market- November 25-27**

We are going to need volunteers at the Public Market to help sell our wonderful jellies and jams again this year. There will be a sign up sheet at the October public meeting or you may e-mail [public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org) to volunteer your time.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for other items to be sold at the market, please send an e-mail. Let Mary Lou 789-7540 know if you have saved your half pint canning jars to be refilled with the jelly for the booth.

Thanks

## **Juneau Bird Report for September** by Patty Rose

During September, Juneau had a bit less rain and more clear days than during August, new snow dusted the mountaintops, and a nice stream of migrating birds passed through the area.

The southbound raptor migration produced some interesting observations. A **Swainson's Hawk** soared in circles high above the wetlands on September 1 (PR). **Golden Eagles** were seen from the trails above the tram, including a juvenile on September 10 (MS) and an adult and a juvenile on September 11 (PR, BA, MS). An **Osprey** was seen at that location on September 10 (MS), one was seen at the Airport Dike Trail on September 25 (GV), and one was seen near Auke Bay on September 24 (GV). **Peregrine Falcon** observations included two from the trails above the tram on September 10 (MS) and 11 (MS, PR, BA), one on the West Juneau waterfront on September 17 (PR), one on the Mendenhall Wetlands near Fred Meyer on September 20 (DR), and one at Sunny Point on September 27 (GV).

Mark Schwan reported three species of doves in his Auke Bay neighborhood--Mourning Dove, Eurasian-Collared Dove, and Band-Tailed Pigeon. A single **Mourning Dove** first appeared on

September 13 and was seen a few times after that. On September 24, while watching for the Mourning Dove, a **Band-Tailed Pigeon**, conspicuous with its bright yellow bill and legs, landed briefly in a mountain ash tree. This species has been reported only a few times previously in Juneau.

Paul Suchanek identified a juvenile **Pied-Billed Grebe** at Fish Creek on the pond near the parking lot on September 5. It stayed through September 8 and was seen by many observers (PS, PR, GV, MS). On September 23, Gus van Vliet saw a flock of 150 **Sandhill Cranes** at Sunny Point, and Brenda Wright saw a flock, perhaps the same one, at Tee Harbor (BW). The first **American Coot** reported in Juneau this year was at Twin Lakes on September 29 (GV).

Notable shorebirds for September included single **American Golden-Plovers** at the Airport Dike Trail on September 5 (GV) and at Eagle Beach on the scout camp side on September 25 (MS), a **Solitary Sandpiper** in the Moose Lake area on September 1 (PS) and two along the Airport Dike Trail on September 5 and 9 (GV, PR, MS), and a lingering **Stilt Sandpiper** on the Airport Dike Trail on September 5 (MS, PR).

**Northern Flickers** showed up in September at Auke Bay on September 4 and 13 (GV), at



Lemon Creek on September 5 (PS), at Outer Point on September 8 (PS), at the North Douglas Powerline Trail on September 10 (MS), and at Eagle Beach on September 22 (MS).

Unusual songbird sightings included a **Black-Capped Chickadee** at Sandy Beach on September 17 and again on September 25 (PR) and a pair of **Townsend's Solitaires** near Gastineau Peak on September 11 (MS, PR, BA). A **Common Redpoll** was seen at Point Bridget State Park on September 7 (PS).

Thanks to those who contributed to this report. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Patty Rose (PR), Deb Rudis (DR), Mark Schwan (MS), Paul Suchanek (PS), Gus van Vliet (GV), and Brenda Wright (BW).

## WRANGELL BIRD REPORT By Bonnie Demerjian

The mournful trills of **Sandhill Cranes** have filled the day and night skies over Wrangell this past week, a sign, if one was necessary, that autumn is here. The birds have been stopping over on the Stikine River flats, where they are sought by hunters and birders alike. Fall warblers – **Yellow, Orange-crowned** and **Wilson's** – are still moving through. Considerable numbers of juvenile **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** are still feeding around town. A few **Trumpeter Swans** have also been reported.

A Red-tailed hawk has been spotted by several observers the last weekend of September. The Stikine River's lower islands provide excellent habitat for **Short-eared** and **Great-horned Owls**. One observer followed a Great-horned owl's nesting success over the course of the summer. Whether they were pushed or jumped, late in the season two owlets fell from their nest and were seen walking about. One died later but the other survived and was later observed once again in the treetops.

Last month's Raven report from Wrangell included mention of the huge flock of **Cliff, Bank and Barn Swallows** that Bill Neumann observed on the lower Stikine. His photos only hint at the 360-degree mass of 2000-4000 birds that appeared each evening for a week before disappearing entirely August 27.



Mixed swallows at rest, from left: **Adult Barn Swallow**, two juvenile **Bank Swallows** and juvenile **Cliff Swallow(????)**. Photo by Bill Neumann

Two unusual late season birds were a female **Evening Grosbeak** that appeared at a local feeder for several days. Middle school birder Kaylauna Churchill observed the bird in her grandmother's yard for several days and photographed it on September 24.. Kaylauna submits regular observations to Alaska eBird.



Another rare sighting was of a **Western Kingbird** seen and photographed by Bill Niendorff at Petroglyph Beach on September 17.

### **WHITE HUMMINGBIRD** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

A White Hummingbird has been a frequent visitor at a hummingbird feeder in our area. A local family had the rare experience of having a white ruby-throated hummingbird appear with the other hummingbirds.



Bird watchers from several states have reported occasionally seeing white hummingbirds at various feeders.

Albinos are more rare than white leucistic ones, but the white ones are still quite rare. Leucistic means lack of pigments.

A full albino has no pigment and has all white feathers and its eyes, beak, and legs are pink or reddish. The partial albino or leucistic white hummingbird shows black eyes, feet, and bills. Their white feathers are mixed with other shades of tan, gray, or brown.

Through the years, some bird experts have caught and banded the white hummingbirds hoping to track their movements and migration. Little information is available to note if they have returned to the same area the following year. Their white feathers may be harder for them to escape predators. They don't seem to survive long.

# MYSTERY TRACKS

Hey folks-- try and pick out all the different tracks and identify what animal made them?

Oh ! Which ones came first?

E-mail your answers to the monthly Mystery Question to Kevin at [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org).



## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

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\*\*\*\*\*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The US Forest Service has just begun the process of updating the plan for the **Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area**, a favorite Juneau location for birdwatching and wildlife viewing. Do you have conservation concerns? Contact Juneau Ranger District at 586-8800 or see for more information on how the public can comment.

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/MGRA/MGRA\\_CommentSheet\\_ForElectronicResponses\\_Sept12-2011.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/MGRA/MGRA_CommentSheet_ForElectronicResponses_Sept12-2011.pdf)

Scoping has begun for a potential hydroelectric plant (by the company Juneau Hydropower) located above **Sweetheart Creek south of Juneau**. This is a favorite area for Sockeye salmon fishing, and near Port Snettisham, a globally recognized Important Bird Area for its numbers of Marbled Murrelets, loons, and other sea birds. For more information see <http://184.154.226.3/~juneauhy/JHI%20sweetheart%20scoping%20document%20final%2008-8-11.pdf>

### Alternatives for SE Transportation System

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The purpose of this document is to present a set of alternatives for the transportation system in Southeast Alaska that the department is considering. The public is invited to review and provide comments, suggestions, and ideas. Deadline for comments is November 4, 2011. **Marie Heidemann** Non-Motorized Planner Alaska DOT&PF - Southeast Region, P.O. Box 112506, Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506 Phone: (907)-465-1775, Email: [marie.heidemann@alaska.gov](mailto:marie.heidemann@alaska.gov)

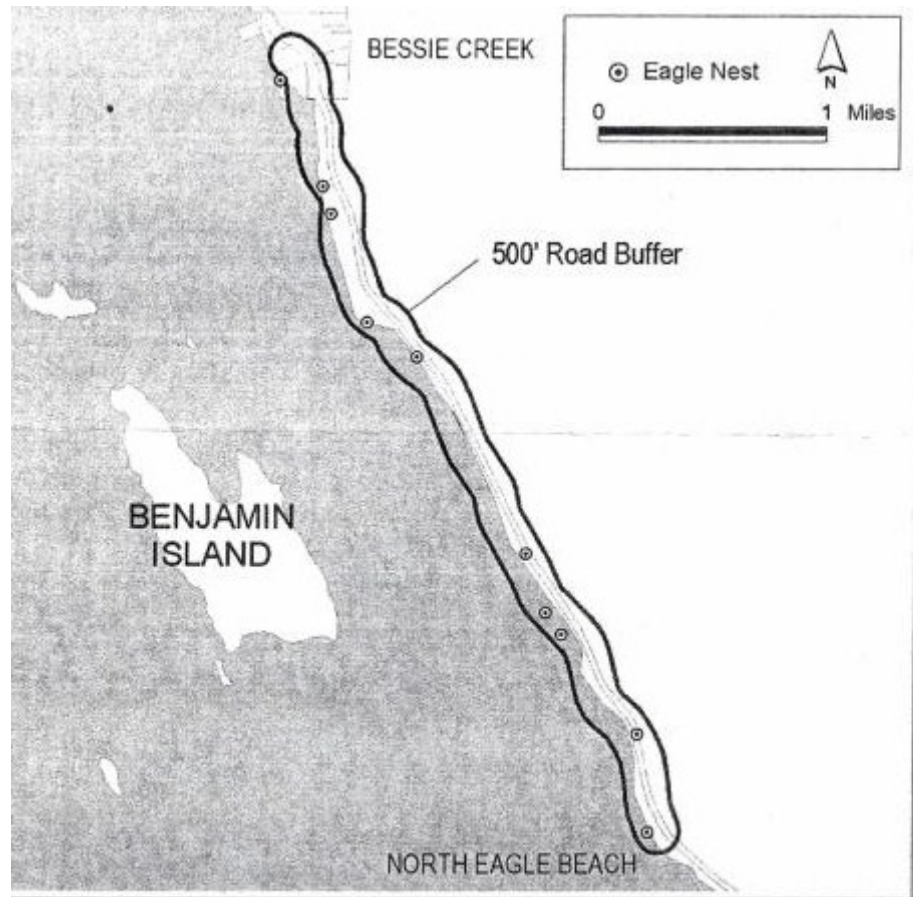
### PUBLIC NOTICE\* POA-2010-774, Trucano, Lemon Creek, Juneau

Purpose: Obtain sand and gravel from Lemon Creek for commercial Sale  
Please contact me for any further information

Heidi Firstencel, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Alaska District, Regulatory Division  
Juneau Field Office Supervisor  
8800 Glacier Highway, Suite 106  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907-790-4492

[http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN\\_Scanned/2011%20September/POA-2010-774.pdf](http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN_Scanned/2011%20September/POA-2010-774.pdf)

**Juneau – The  
Alaska  
Department of  
Transportation’s  
Plan to widen  
Glacier Highway  
from Eagle Beach  
to Bessie Creek.** A  
hearing was held by  
the Planning  
Commission last  
week, however, if  
you have questions  
about how the eagle  
nests are to be  
protected, contact:  
U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service:  
780-1160



A Variance to widen and straighten the roadway between North Eagle Beach Kayak Launch and Bessie Creek within 330 feet of 11 eagle nests, including potential damage to 7 nests by fly rock from blasting.

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Secretary: Julie Koehler,  
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[treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
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[education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
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[field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
[raven@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
[at-large\\_a@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
[at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
[public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org)  
[webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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Juneau Audubon Society  
PO Box 021725  
Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
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Permit No. 153

# The Raven



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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 38, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2011

## **NOVEMBER MEETING: Slacker Cycling: A Bicycle Trip Through Exotic Western North America. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, at UAS Egan Building, Lecture Hall, Room 112, 7:00 p.m.**

Mike Tobin will share slides and stories about a summer-long 4400 mile bicycle trip through the deserts of the Great Basin and up the Rocky Mountains. He will explain the intricacies, or lack thereof, of slacker cycling. Beginning in late April in Salem, Oregon, and ending in September in Prince Rupert, BC, he cycled through Oregon, Nevada and Utah, then up the Rockies from Colorado through Wyoming and Montana to Alberta and British Columbia. Watersheds traversed included those that flow into the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of California, the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic and the Arctic Oceans. Spouse Jenny Pursell joined for the Utah and Colorado portions. Secondary highways were used when possible.



Bike touring puts one close to the landscapes, wildlife, people and history of the West and people of all ages are doing it! The Adventure Cycling Association ([www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org)) has route and gear suggestions, information about organized tours, and publishes bicycle specific maps for many routes in the US and some in Canada. Mike will briefly discuss gear for those interested.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Please check your address label for your membership renewal date. If you are expired for more than 3 months, this is your last newsletter. Both the national Audubon membership and local only Juneau Audubon membership renewal information is found on the last page of the Raven.

**If you choose not to renew, thanks for your support in the past!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Twentieth Thanksgiving Bird Count: November 24<sup>th</sup>** by Brenda Wright

All right! Bring out your pencils and your envelope and stamps! Its time to participate in a non-electronic count of birds for JUST ONE HOUR on Thanksgiving Day. Its the perfect opportunity to enjoy the wonderful odors of your favorite holiday meal, or if later in the day, time to recuperate from the great meal you had.

The official bird count form is available on our web page. The URL for the count form is <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/Birds/Thanksgiving%20Bd%20Cnt/TBC%20Form2011.pdf> or you can contact me via e-mail and I will e-mail you a copy: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)

The instructions are simple and are included on the count form. Choose a bird feeder or other area you would like to observe, but the count area is just 15 feet in diameter. Count the birds for 1 hour (try not to count birds twice) and that's it. The address to send your count form is on the form. This is the first year you can submit your count on line by emailing: [thanksgivingbirdcount@gmail.com](mailto:thanksgivingbirdcount@gmail.com) Any one that sends in a count form will receive a newsletter with the results early next year.

Have a great Holiday and add your bit for citizen science.

**November 25 - 27 Visit the Audubon Booth** at the Community Public Market in Juneau's Centennial Hall. We will have Jelly, ornaments, books and much more. Volunteers are also needed to work in the booth. Contact Brenda for times to work: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)

**December 17 – Juneau Christmas Bird Count and potluck**

## MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW JUNEAU AUDUBON PRESIDENT

### **Julie Coghil**

Walking out of the Audubon meeting last month, I heard a familiar sound overhead. It was a dark October night, with the moon lurking behind clouds. I waited. I could hear them approaching. Finally: 20 swans!

I'm fairly new to Juneau and I'm new to the Juneau Audubon Board. I've lived all my adult life in Alaska, mostly in Interior. As I step into the role of president, I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of the longtime board members who are the mainstay of the Juneau Audubon Society.

Birds--hearing them, seeing them, identifying some of them, realizing they're out there--enhance my enjoyment of the outdoor world. Year-round I've found Juneau to have great birds. Sometimes I see them when I'm out and I frequently find them at home. The last few days of October provided three good bird encounters: a three-toed woodpecker while hiking, a Sunday morning swan resting with our resident mallards and, on Halloween, a merlin checking out the chickadees at our feeder.

Outgoing president Mark Schwan will host the Christmas Bird Count potluck again this year. Perhaps the recent big-screen birding movie, "The Big Year," will encourage new participants. I hope to see you there, at our Audubon programs, or out enjoying the world.

A Parks and Rec hiker crosses the bridge at the end of Perseverance Trail on 17 Sept 2011. The landslide, which caused Gold Creek to run muddy, was a popular hiking destination this past summer. Photo by Julie Coghill



## December's Mystery Track

This critter is a master at the sense of touch.

Oh and this photo was taken in the Cleveland Metroparks.

E-mail your answers to the monthly Mystery Question to Kevin at [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org).

**Juneau Bird**

**Report for October by Patty Rose**

October is the month to watch the skies for flocks of high flying **Tundra Swans**. Several of these flocks, which can be heard even from afar making sounds "like baying hounds," according to the Sibley Guide to Birds, or "whooping or yodeling," according to National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America, were spotted in Juneau this month.

On October 4, Gus van Vliet observed a flock of 70 **Snow Geese** flying over Gastineau Channel. Paul Suchanek reported seeing the first **Yellow-billed Loon** of the season from the North Douglas Highway near False Outer Point on October 23. A **Western Grebe** was seen from the Outer Point Trail on October 17 (PS).

The tail-end of the southbound raptor migration produced a **Rough-legged Hawk** on the Mendenhall Wetlands near Sunny Point and Temsco October 15 - 19 (GV, PS, PR, MS), an **Osprey** near Sunshine Cove on October 28 (PS), and **Peregrine Falcons** on the Airport Dike Trail on October 2 (GV) and at the mouth of the Mendenhall River on October 8 (PR). Although not a rarity, a **Bald Eagle** that was banded and tagged at the Juneau International Airport was seen in the Chilkat Valley in October. The bird has green wing tags bearing the number 88.

The first **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** of the year showed up on October 8 near the mouth of the Mendenhall River (PR). On October 24, two more were seen at the mouth of the Mendenhall River (PS) and from the Airport Dike Trail at the end of the runway (PS, GV). Other notable shorebirds for October included two late **Black Oystercatchers** at Point Bridget State Park on October 3 (PS) and late **Western Sandpipers** at the Boy Scout Beach on October 2 (PS, BA, LL, PR), at Eagle Beach State Park on October 6 (PS), and at the mouth of the Mendenhall River on October 24 (PS).

Rare gulls included an adult **Slaty-backed Gull** at Fish Creek on October 4 (PS) and Adult **Ring-billed Gulls** at Gold Creek on October 8 (PS, BA) and at the mouth of the Mendenhall River on October 9 (PS).

Observers reported seeing **Northern Flickers** from the Airport Dike Trail on October 1 (BA, PR) and October 2 (GV). **American Three-toed Woodpeckers** were seen from the Scout Camp Trail on October 2 (PS, BA, LL, PR), from the Outer Point Trail on October 23 (PS), and on the road to Eaglecrest on October 29 (JC).

A late **Western Wood-Pewee** was seen hawking insects from the tree tops at Sandy Beach on October 3. Also at Sandy Beach, a pair of **Black-capped Chickadees** first located in September continued through November 2 (PR, BA, MS). An early **Snow Bunting** was seen in the dunes at Eagle Beach State Park on October 23 (PS).

The only **Blackpoll Warbler** reported for the month was at Twin Lakes on October 16 (PR). A very late **American Redstart** was seen at Sandy Beach on October 29. Several species of common warblers lingered into October--the latest observation of an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was October 29 in West Juneau (PR), the latest **Yellow Warbler** was October 24 at Sandy Beach (PS), the latest **Townsend's Warbler** was October 1 at Sandy Beach, and the latest **Wilson's Warbler** was October 23 on the Airport Dike Trail (PR).

A **White-throated Sparrow** at Auke Bay on October 5 (GV, MM) was the only rare sparrow reported for the month. Mark Schwan saw 10 late **Red-winged Blackbirds** at the Pioneer Home marsh on October 3 (MS).

These observations come from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Julie Coghill (JC), Laurie Lamm (LL), Molly McCafferty (MM), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Paul Suchanek (PS), and Gus van Vliet (GV).

### **Wild Turkey** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The male wild turkey is a large bird, 36 to 48 inches long, it has a bluish head with no feathers, and red wattles. His feathers are a metallic bronze, and barred wings. The female is smaller, paler in color, and more slender. Only male turkeys display the ruffled tail feathers, fan like, when he displays it for courting. A male gobbles in the spring to attract a mate, fanning out his tail, strutting and dragging his wing tips on the ground. Their gobble has a distinctive sound that can be heard a mile away.

Females lay 4 to 17 eggs, and feed their chicks after they hatch but only for a few days. Young turkeys quickly learn to fend for themselves as part of mother/child flocks. Males take no role in the care of young turkeys.

We often see the hens with young turkeys sometimes in large flocks and sometimes just a few together. They are usually seen either in the fields or crossing the road. They have the ability to fly, but they seem to prefer to get around by walking or running.

Although the wild turkey feeds and forages on the ground, they typically roost in trees over night. Their habitat is a mixture of woodland and open clearings. They feed on nuts, seeds, fruits, insects, and salamanders.

The wild turkey is a game bird, and occasionally during hunting season, a local hunter will have his picture in the paper displaying the large male turkey that he shot.

The large size of the wild turkey appealed to J.J. Audubon as an inviting game bird. He wrote about the wild turkey explaining the best way to bag a bird for the table. He even adopted a wild turkey for a pet, however his hunting dog grabbed it by accident. The pet turkey survived the close call, only to be fatally shot later by another hunter.

Happy Thanksgiving. It is good to give thanks.



## **Juneau Audubon On The Web:** [www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)

The Juneau Audubon Society has had a presence on the world wide web since the late 1990's. The JAS web site has been a source of information about Audubon events, conservation issues, Southeast Alaska birding, and outdoor nature activities since it was established.

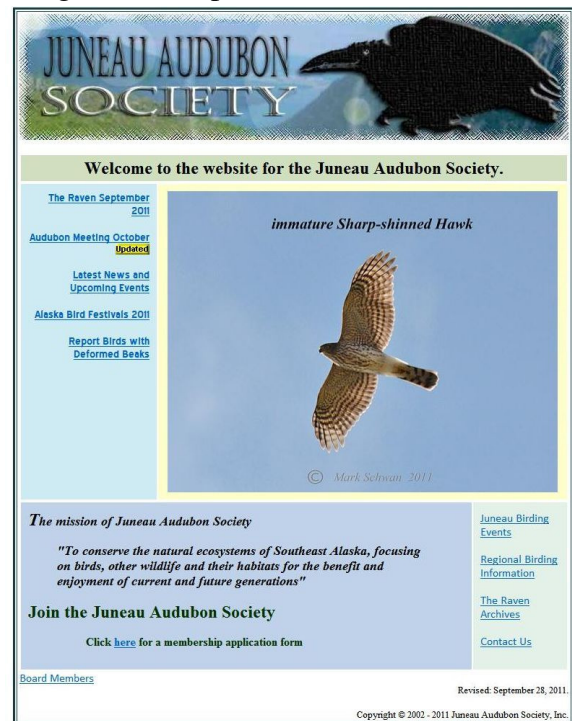
Each month the JAS web site averages 200 – 270 hits per day. Visitors to the JAS web site are frequently looking for information on recent Juneau Audubon events and the latest edition of the Raven. However, the most popular information on the web site is the information on birding events, areas, and observations in Southeast Alaska. The various bird checklists available on the site are quite popular.

In addition to providing information on current Juneau Audubon events and happenings, the site maintains archives of The Raven newsletter, regional bird observation reports, and seasonal bird count data.

The JAS web site also provides practical information on how to become a member of JAS and the National Audubon Society, how to contact the officers and board members of Juneau Audubon, and when and where the next Audubon meeting or field trip will be held.

The JAS web site often displays photographs of Southeast wildlife and nature on the home page. If you have a digital photograph of Southeast wildlife or nature that you would like to share on the web, you can send it to the Juneau Audubon webmaster at [webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org). The picture should be resized to no more than 540 pixels in width. Photographs deemed appropriate for the web site may be used on the home page but there is no guarantee that a submitted photograph will be used.

Please visit the JAS web site regularly. The content of the web site is frequently updated.



Check out our new changes and organization of the site  
Send your comments or suggestions to [webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org)

## **OTHER WEB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*\*** New Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

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**SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY**

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>. The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/>> )

**Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

President: Julie Coghill	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Vice-President: Jeff Sauer,	<a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org</a>
Secretary: Julie Koehler,	<a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Treasurer: Patty Rose,	<a href="mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org">treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Programs: Jeff Sauer	<a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Membership: Brenda Wright, 789-4656,	<a href="mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org">membership@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Conservation: Gwen Baluss	<a href="mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org">conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Public Market:	<a href="mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org">public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Web Master: George Utermohle,	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send  
\$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725,  
Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money  
and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email:** [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)

Juneau Audubon Society  
PO Box 21725  
Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

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Permit No. 153

# 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 38, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2011

## DECEMBER JUNEAU AUDUBON PROGRAM

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, at UAS Egan Building, Lecture Hall, Room 112, 7:00 p.m.**

**Bob Armstrong will present a program on wildlife photography and how to get good photos without disturbing the wildlife. His program will include many wildlife photos including birds that might be seen during the Christmas bird count.**

### **The 2011 Juneau Christmas Bird Count** By Mark Schwan

**The Juneau Christmas Bird Count 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>. This marks 112<sup>th</sup> year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Count statistics from last year are pretty amazing. More than 62,000 people participated, with approximately 52,000 in the field and 10,000 watching feeders. There were 2,215 counts completed and more than 61 million birds counted. Given the amount of long term data accumulated, and the efforts of researchers to computerize the information, the Christmas Bird Count data represent a truly incredible resource. The term “citizen science” which is used now for a variety of projects where volunteers help gather scientific information likely owes its origin to the long-running Christmas Bird Count.

Here in Juneau, this will be our 39<sup>th</sup> count. For those that don't know, the Christmas Bird Counts take place in a designated area comprised of a circle with a 15 mile diameter. Here in Juneau, the center of our count falls over north Douglas Island. The circle area takes in much terrain that we are never able to cover, but we rather consistently count in the same areas within the circle each year.

As usual, we will have two meeting places to stage on the morning of the count. Volunteers should arrive at 8 a.m. on count day. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas

should meet at the A&P (Foodland) coffee/eating area at the front of the store. Birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the McDonald's restaurant across from the Nugget Mall. Again, please arrive at 8 a.m. and be prepared for the weather and bring your binoculars. We will have our area leaders arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate birders to the different areas at our staging location on count day. Therefore, it is important for all leaders and birders to be there in a timely manner, so we can hit the road when it gets light.

There will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam. This is always a great way to end the day, as we share in the events of the day, eat some wonderful food, and conduct the tally of birds and species seen. For those needing directions to Mark and Debi's house, we will provide a handout on count day. Let's have a great turnout and a terrific count! For more information on this year's count, you can call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841.

### **Christmas Bird Counts planned in Southeast Alaska**

December 14, 2011 – January 5, 2012

<b>Count name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact person(s)</b>	<b>Phone number</b>
Chilkat	December 17	Dan Egolf*	766-2876
		Tim Shields	766-2354
Craig-Klawock	December 17	Victoria Houser	826-1614
Haines	December 17	Dan Egolf	766-2876
		Tim Shields	766-2354
Glacier Bay	December 17	Nat Drumheller	697-2166
Juneau	December 17	Mark Schwan	789-9841
		Gus van Vliet	789-5624
Ketchikan	December 17	Andrew Piston	225-9677
Mitkof Island	December 17	Bill Pawuk	772-3985
Sitka	January 1	Victoria Vosburg	747-7821
Skagway	December 17 **	Elaine Furbish	983-2049
		Dawn Adams	983-3302
Tenakee Springs	December 30	Beret Barnes	736-2226
Wrangell	To be announced	Joe Delabrue	874-7523
		Carol Ross	874-2156

\* Forms and information available at the Back Country Ski Shop

\*\* Website for more information: [sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub](http://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub)

**January's Tracks and Signs Program** will be for advanced and novice wildlife trackers (birders this includes birds).

Naturalist Kevin O'Malley will point out tracks and sign made by mammals and birds in the Mendenhall lake area. **The walk will begin at 10 a.m. at the West Glacier Trailhead** (past skater's cabin). **Everyone is invited.** The program is free. Be sure to dress for the weather.No dogs please.

### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS** By Julie Coghill, Juneau Audubon President

December brings the Christmas Bird Count. It's tradition at its finest: If you're away from home, you can probably find one; if you're home you're probably familiar with the drill. Even in remotest North Dakota, my mother organized and executed a count each Christmas, sometimes as sole participant. Most of mine have been in Fairbanks. A few comparisons:

- Juneau has more daylight.
- Fairbanks has more moon- and starlight.
- Both can be extremely cold.
- Juneau has kayaking options.
- Fairbanks has driving options.
- Both have excellent skiing/snowshoeing options.

Overall, the outstanding difference is that Juneau has salt water, high mountains, providing more species and more individuals. Once in Fairbanks we spent an agonizingly slow day, eventually coming up with 7 species: common raven, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee, common redpoll, pine grosbeak, hairy woodpecker, and a dark-eyed (slate colored) junco. Three were lone individuals: the magpie, woodpecker, and junco.

Arriving at the tallying potluck, we felt skunked. But everyone had a slow day that year and we were on the high end for number of species. Whatever your level of participation, enjoy the tradition.

### **NEW BIRD FOR ALASKA BIRD LISTS**

Can getting a new bird for your Alaska List be any easier than this????

This is the Evening Grosbeak birdwatchers observed while looking out Jim and Mary Lou King's front door in Juneau on November 26.



*Evening Grosbeak by Molly McCafferty*

## PUBLIC MARKET THANK YOU!



Juneau Audubon had another successful Public Market. This is one of our two big fund raisers. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to set up, sell our wares, and clean up after. A really big **Thank You** to Patty Rose, our treasurer, for all the work involved in dealing with the money.

Thanks also to these volunteers: Patty Rose, Kevin O'Malley, Stephanie Mosher, Mary Willson, Bev Agler, Gretchen Bishop, Paul Suchanek, Steve and Helena Zimmerman, Ellen Anderson, Carol, Nancy Waterman, Doris Kirchofer, Jeff Sauer, Linda Nicklin, and Brenda Wright who not only took charge of the

booth this year but also helped make a lot of the jelly and many other things.

We would also like to thank Mary Lou King, the chief jelly maker plus all those who helped her make the jelly. She would also like to thank all those friends who helped weave frogs and deer, make pressed flower note cards, and bird ornaments from beach shells.



### Eagle Feather Collection Permits

Did you know you can collect eagle feathers for Juneau Audubon? Actually, we have a permit from US Fish & Wildlife Service to pick up naturally shed eagle feathers. The feathers are sent to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado and distributed from there. Anyone may request eagle feathers, but there is a law stating that native Americans get priority in their requests. Next in priority is education and research, and then the general public. Each request is allotted 6 feathers. The program is designed to reduce poaching of eagles.

Alaska is the home for the majority of bald eagles in the US, but we are not number one in donations to the National Repository. Eagles are protected under several different laws and so you may not keep eagle feathers for yourself but you could help us send more to people who would like to have them. The repository usually has a three year waiting list for feathers.

So if you would like to help out by collecting eagle feathers, please contact Brenda Wright at 321-4739 or [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) for a permit.

## Juneau Bird Report for November by Patty Rose



*Long-Eared Owl by Patty Rose*

November produced some interesting rare bird observations. Highlights included a **Long-Eared Owl**, Juneau's second record, located by Bev Agler and Laurie Lamm near the gazebo on the Airport Dike Trail on November 19 (BA, LL, GV, JS, TS, PR, SZ, HZ, MH). Another highlight for November was an **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** seen on the Scout Camp Trail on November 9 (MA, AS). A beautiful adult **Evening Grosbeak** was identified by Mary Lou King at her Sunny Point feeding place November 24 - 27 (MLK, JK, m. obs.).

On November 2, a **Double-Crested Cormorant** was observed on Auke Bay (GV), and two were on Auke Lake on November 13 (GV). Observations of **Yellow-billed Loons** included one from

the Outer Point Trail on November 10 (PS), and one on Auke Bay on November 12 (GV). Gus van Vliet observed a **Western Grebe** on Auke Bay on November 2 (GV), and Paul Suchanek saw one near the mouth of Fish Creek on November 10 (PS). A **Redhead** at the Gold Creek delta on November 26 was the month's only rare duck observation (PS, PR).

**Rough-legged Hawk** observations included one at Brotherhood Park on November 11 (PR, PS, BA) and one on the Airport Dike Trail on November 19 (HZ, SZ, JS, TS, PR). A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was spotted. A **Western Screech-Owl** November 24 perched for about an hour on a house in the Tee Harbor area and was observed being mobbed by a flock of Steller's Jays (BW, JS).

A **Black-capped Chickadee** first located in September at Sandy Beach was heard November 2 (PS). Another individual started visiting a West Juneau feeder on November 6 and is still present (PR, GV).

A **Mountain Bluebird** visited Sandy Beach on November 12 and was observed feeding on the beach and perching on pilings and brush (fide GV). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was seen on Douglas Island in the Bayview Subdivision on October 28 (SZ), and the observation was not noted in last month's report.

The first **Palm Warbler** of 2011 was seen on the Airport Dike Trail on November 13 (BA, PR). Late observations of common warblers included an **Orange-crowned Warbler** on November 5



*Western Screech-Owl by  
Brenda Wright*



at Sandy Beach (PR) and a **Wilson's Warbler** last seen November 13 on the Airport Dike Trail (GV, PR, BA).

A single **Snow Bunting** was reported November 5 on the Airport Dike Trail, and eight were seen at that location on November 20 (PR, BA, LL, MH). A flock of 50 **Snow Buntings** was at Point Bridget State Park on the sand dunes at the mouth of the river on November 9 (PS).

This information was compiled from observations submitted to eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Mark Anderson (MA), Mary-Claire Harris (MH), James King (JK), Mary Lou King (MK), Laurie Lamm (LL), Patty Rose (PR), Jeff Sauer (JS), Mark Schwan (MS), Andy Smoker (AS), Paul Suchanek (PS), Theresa Svancara (TS), Gus van Vliet (GV), Brenda Wright (BW), Helena Zimmerman (HZ), and Steve Zimmerman (SZ).

### **Wrangell Report** by Bonnie Demerjian

A flock of 16 Trumpeter swans made their usual autumn appearance at Pat's Lake on November 17 though the lake was nearly frozen. A few days later when it solidly froze they had departed, perhaps for warm springs on the Stikine or Iskut rivers.



*Evening Grosbeak – Bonnie Demerjian*

Wrangell birders were treated to the sight of an **Evening Grosbeak** on October 21. The bird, which appears to be a juvenile, was voraciously feeding on berries, continuing to feed while being photographed at close distance. This was the second Evening grosbeak seen here this year, the first showing up on September 25. (BD, CR)

**Western Grebes** usually show up in waters near town this time of year. A flock of around 40 was reported from the north end of Zarembo Island while small numbers have been sighted at Petroglyph Beach and the ferry terminal this month. A single **Red-necked Grebe** was spotted at the beach on November 9. (BD) **Pacific and Common Loons, Marbled Murrelets, Common Murres and Pelagic Cormorants** are also around. (CR, BD)

The number of **Eurasian Collared-doves** continues to grow from last year. A flock of fourteen frequents several feeders on the north end of town. A **Northern Goshawk** lurked near feeders in town attempting to snag one of the doves on November 10, but apparently had no success. A long-dead juvenile was found on the ground in the same area. A third, at Nine-Mile, was spotted last week. (BD, JM)

A few **Black-billed Magpies** generally show up in winter here and this month four were reported scavenging the beach around 2-Mile. (WM, DO)

Observers at a local feeder were amazed to see a **Northern Shrike** land and begin to feed, all the while sharing the feeder with several other small birds, its usual fare. The bird grazed a window, thus accounting for it allowing itself to be held by Dan Churchill. (JC, EC)



*Northern Shrike – Jan Churchill*

A **Western Meadowlark** made a surprise visit to a feeder on Case Avenue on October 30. (MC)

The recent high winds may have been the reason why observers have found dead birds lying in the street and sidewalks. A Pine siskin, several Dark-eyed juncos and a Varied thrush were all found this way. (GG, BD)



*Barred owl – Mark Robinson*

A small flock of **Bohemian waxwings** found welcome crab apples still on trees at the post office in mid November. (CR)

Mark Robinson captured a photograph of a **Barred owl** resting in daylight at 8-Mile. A **Northern pygmy owl** has appeared at a feeder in town to check out the foraging Dark-eyed juncos. (CR)

JC=Jan Churchill, EC=Emil Churchill, MC=Marlene Clarke, BD=Bonnie Demerjian, GG=Gail Gross, WM=Walter Moorhead, DO-Diane O'Brian, MR=Mark Robinson, CR=Carol Ross

## **Haines Report** By Pam Randles (Welcome Pam, our new reporter from Haines)

November has seen record breaking snows this year. As of Nov. 28, we have had 130" fall and 70" on the ground. But that has not stopped the eagles from gathering.

Many hundreds of **Bald Eagles** are gathered along the Chilkat River to feed on the late salmon run. The Takshanuk Watershed Council does a weekly count of eagles, but has not been able to do it for three weeks due to snowstorms. Two banded eagles from a study by Steve Lewis, USFWS, have been seen here by several observers. They are eagle 88 and 24, both banded at the Juneau airport. Feeding alongside the eagles are ravens, swans, gulls and mergansers.

**Black billed Magpies** have moved into town for the winter. Feeders are hosting the usual suspects – **Steller's Jays, Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, Red-Breasted Nuthatches** and

juncos. The Juncos are **Dark-eyed Juncos** of both the Oregon and Slate Backed subspecies. **Barrow's Golden Eyes** are seen in rafts along the coastline.

**Haines will be conducting its Christmas Bird Count on December 17.** For more information, contact Tim Shields in Haines.

### **The Tufted Titmouse** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The Tufted Titmouse is a small bird with black eyes, round bill, gray crest, light orange or buffy sides, and gray face. They are a soft silvery gray above, white below, with a small black patch just above the bill. They quickly dart in and out of the bird feeders. Although they will eat insects and fruit, the sunflower seed seems to be their favorite. When a titmouse finds the seed it wants it takes it to a perch and cracks it with its bill. Titmice sometimes stash seeds under bark crevices. They often flock together with chickadees, and nuthatches. They are regular visitors to feeders. We see them in this area year round.

It's amusing to watch them at the birdbath. They wait and take turns with other birds. At first there is the approach by standing at the edge of the birdbath and visually checking it out. Then they step into the water. With wings slightly raised outward the head is plunged into the water and quickly brought up causing some water to roll over its back as it pops back up out of the water. It fluffs out the tiny side and abdomen feathers which causes it to look quite plump. It will dip and shake all the feathers and wings several times before flying away to dry off and preen.

A few years ago I fashioned a plastic one quart milk jug with a round port hole on opposite sides and hung it near the front entrance. I half filled it with sunflower seeds, especially for the acrobatic chickadees and tufted titmice to use. During the day they frequent that jug for those seeds. One winter evening upon entering the house after sundown, I discovered a tufted titmouse was roosting inside that jug. He had claimed it for his personal night roost, and used it quite often. (Nothing like "Breakfast in bed")

**Ed note:** Last month Prill's article was on wild turkeys. I think one of the most amazing and exciting success story is the return of the wild turkey after near extinction. These wild birds were photographed in her brother's yard in North Carolina.



## MYSTERY TRACKS

Who do you think lives down this 6 x 6 ½ black hole? Can you see its tracks in the snow?

This mammal is one of our so called hibernators although it also lives at sea level.

Does anyone know of anywhere else in the country this critter lives at sea level?



## Road kill Kevin O'Malley

Ten students stand over a dead porcupine but it is the blindfolded girl that everyone is watching. “What is your nose telling you,” I ask the fourth-grade student from Auke Bay elementary school. She responds, “It smells like something is dead.” The rest of the class is silent. The class’s body language shows me they are both grossed out and intrigued by the rotting carcass. One student’s stomach is uneasy and he walks away. It is a seminal moment for the whole group.

Taking away our vision is a way to develop and utilize our other senses. Humans rely on visual cues so much that using senses like touch, hearing and smell can help us make new connections with nature. When the blindfold comes off the student, the class expects an, “Oh that’s gross!” Instead, the girl is curious and examines our find as her eyes adjust to the afternoon light. Following her example, the other students forget their squeamishness and focus. The once uncomfortable fourth-graders are now a group of naturalists that want to know more about the mystery in front of them.

I am as excited as the kids about our find, but I have to remember to ask questions about our ecosystems lesson. Where will the porcupine’s nutrients go? What breaks this animal down? What will happen to the flesh of this animal when we come back here in the spring? A student whispers “bones”. For a second I day-dream about the perfect skeleton and the lessons it will provide. Then I realize the porcupine will not make it until then.

For years, Discovery naturalists have harvested road-killed critters and relocated them to our outdoor classrooms. A decomposing carcass exemplifies fourth-grade lesson objectives on the energy cycle and decomposers. It doesn’t take long before the F.B.I., or fungus, bacteria and invertebrates, move in and begin to redistribute the food energy the porcupine once gleaned from a spruce tree. Recently however, the students and naturalists aren’t the only ones benefiting from the practice. Over the past few years the coyotes behind Auke Bay have discovered my late-fall tactics and have made me rethink my approach to this lesson. In the fall of 2010, a different class headed out to look for the porcupine I placed the night before. As the class arrived at the fresh road kill we were amazed to see that the animal had been delicately chewed apart and its guts spread out in a 30-foot radius. What stood out on the porcupine carcass were the surgically precise cuts on



David

the hind leg. Even for a coyote dissecting a porcupine is tricky business. This surprise provides a new ecological mystery and is the lesson for our young naturalists. As we looked around for answers the student's senses heightened. I asked the students, "How did this porcupine die? Then what happened? Can you find any signs?" The kids scoured the site, weaving around the trunks of the even-aged spruce and hemlock forest.

The coyotes taught this fourth-grade class that there is another piece to this puzzle. Now in the body of the carnivorous scavengers, we wondered where the energy would go next. Referencing our pre-hike classroom session, the students realized some of the critter's nutrients will return to the soil and fertilize the spruce the porcupine thrives on. Will another carnivore hunt the coyote? Will this coyote be scavenged someday too? Hopefully we'll find more clues on our next hike.

It's a 5-minute walk back to the school. A student tells me, "This is the best field trip I have ever done." I am thrilled, and reassured that scooping up stinky dead stuff on the side of the road is worth it. Back in the classroom I always reveal the porcupine's road-side origin. They usually stare at me incredulously for a moment but then seem thankful for the learning the relocation provided. On our next hike, the first place they'll want to visit is the porcupine site. It will likely be covered with snow, but I bet we'll find some coyote tracks to follow.

### **Go SeaBC Birding with a Boater this December!**

Have a friend with a seaworthy sailboat, sportfish or trawler? Convince them to take you out for a sail or motor for the inaugural "SeaBC" Sea Bird Count! It's like a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) or backyard bird count, but where you count birds at sea. Choose your weather day in December and count all the birds you see for a few hours or an entire day.

The SeaBC was created to raise awareness among boaters from around the world to record their seabird observations. The organizers are a group of long-distance sailors from around the world who are also birders. Several of the cruising rallies (such as the ARC, Caribbean 1500 and Baja Ha-Ha) are encouraging participation by their fleet boats.

The central clearinghouse for the data will be Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird website.

For additional information and tally sheets, go to [Facebook.com/Birding.Aboard](https://www.facebook.com/Birding.Aboard) and select "SeaBC/Resources", or email info <at> [birdingaboard.com](mailto:birding@birdingaboard.com).

You may be a landlubber, but if you know birds, team up with a boating friend to add to the count! Or count from this winter's yacht charter or cruise!

**CORP PERMIT APPLICATION PETERSBURG** Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date December 23 of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact **Ms. Serena Sweet** at (907) 753-2819, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at

APPLICANT: Ms. Mary Flor, Post Office Box 262, Petersburg, Alaska 99833

AGENT: Ms. Tracey Reid, Reid Brothers, Post Office Box 1187, Petersburg, Alaska 99833

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within Section 23, T. 60 S., R. 79 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Petersburg C-3; Latitude 56.6596° N., Longitude 132.9146° W.; Lot 15.5 W.; near Petersburg, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to provide residential access.

PROPOSED WORK: Construct an access road measuring 1844-foot long by 17-foot wide toe-to-toe (14-foot wide driving surface) and an access driveway measuring 516-foot long by 14-foot wide toe-to-toe (12-foot wide driving surface). An additional 30-foot long by 12-foot wide parking pad would be constructed at the end of the access driveway adjacent to the last 30-feet of the proposed driveway. A total of 5,301 cubic yards of fill material would be discharge into 0.9 acres of palustrine wetlands habitat. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-3), dated November 2011.

## OTHER WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\*New Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY**

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

## **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

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Secretary: Julie Koehler,

Treasurer: Patty Rose,

Programs: Jeff Sauer

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Conservation: Gwen Baluss

Field Trips: Mark Schwan

Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540,

At-large: Linda Nicklin

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Web Master: George Utermohle,

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[webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org)

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send  
\$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725,  
Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time,  
money and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**

Nonprofit Org. US Postage Paid Juneau, AK 99802 Permit No. 153	Address Service Requested	Juneau Audubon Society 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 38, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2012

## **JANUARY JUNEAU AUDUBON PROGRAM**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, at UAS Egan Building, Lecture Hall, Room 112, 7:00 p.m.  
Naturalist Guiding in Southeast AK on the cruise ship Disney Wonder**

**Doug Jones, Naturalist and accomplished wildlife photographer, will present a program describing his summer experiences on the Disney Wonder cruise ship.**

During the summer of 2011 a group of ten Juneau naturalists and biologists were offered the opportunity to travel on the cruise ship Disney Wonder and give presentations on our home here in Southeast Alaska. The US Forest Service agreed to supply a person for any weeks not committed by other local naturalists. Doug Jones ended up being the US Forest Service employee doing presentations to passengers onboard the Disney Wonder for seven weeks last summer. Doug will describe his experiences on the cruise ship last summer including birds he saw and observations on how the experience worked from his perspective.



### **MESSAGE FROM OUR JUNEAU AUDUBON PRESIDENT JULIE COGHILL**

Birding came of age in 2011 by making it to the big screen with "The Big Year."

I'm not a lister, so I will never have my own big year. Instead, I note encounters and experiences. My highlights of this past year both involved black oystercatchers.

Paddling out of Amalga Harbor, I noticed my companion quietly looking off to the right. I glided up and saw what was captivating her: a black oystercatcher and a harlequin on the same rock. We were close and the four of us--two kayakers, one shorebird and one duck--shared time and space. My other memorable black oystercatcher encounter was in the Beardslee Islands in Glacier Bay. Paddling along a shoreline we passed almost 200 oystercatchers. Considering that my husband and I once made a detour from Glennallen to Valdez--an extra 250 miles--when we heard two oystercatchers were there, finding hundreds of oystercatchers is a treat.

For 2012, I would like to wish you all a good year of birding, in whatever ways matter to you.





## Eagle Feather Collection Permits

Did you know you can collect eagle feathers for Juneau Audubon? Actually, we have a permit from US Fish & Wildlife Service to pick up naturally shed eagle feathers. The feathers are sent to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado and distributed from there. Anyone may request eagle feathers, but there is a law stating that native Americans get priority in their requests. Next in priority is education and research, and then the general public. Each request is allotted 6 feathers. The program is designed to reduce poaching of eagles.

Alaska is the home for the majority of bald eagles in the US, but we are not number one in donations to the National Repository. Eagles are protected under several different laws and so you may not keep eagle feathers for yourself but you could help us send more to people who would like to have them. The repository usually has a three year waiting list for feathers.

In 2011 members of Juneau Audubon Society collected 1,111 bald eagle feathers and shipped them to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado. Thanks for your help! Please contact Brenda if you like to have a copy of the collection permit.

So if you would like to help out by collecting eagle feathers, please contact Brenda Wright at 321-4739 or [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) for a permit.

## Juneau's 2011 Christmas Bird Count By Mark Schwan

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count for 2010 was held on December 17. We lucked out on the weather, but birding was rather quiet, with a paucity of passerines making for a rather uneventful count.

Thirty field observers found 66 species and 10,973 individual birds on count day, plus an additional five species were located during the other days of our count week. All the common species that have been seen on the previous 38 counts were found once again. Highlights included a Rock Ptarmigan and Rough-legged Hawk during count week; a record count for Pacific Loons, as many birds continued to linger around the Auke Bay harbor facilities; and a new high count for Mew Gull. We also nabbed the Black-capped Chickadee that had been regularly visiting Patty Rose's feeder, and had six Lapland Longspurs on the wetlands. This species had never been found on count day before and had only been found during one prior count week, in 1997. Finally, Gus van Vliet, Molly McCafferty, and Mary McCafferty located a



Hoary Redpoll on count day. This was a new species for our cumulative count list. See the table for all the results. Species in bold face are unusual or rare; numbers in bold face but not the species indicate new high counts.

As usual, the tally of birds was led by Gus after the potluck at Mark and Debi's home. The food contributions were again terrific and it was a fun way to end the day. Thanks to all who participated. The results of our count will be entered online to National Audubon in early January.

**Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results**  
**December 17, 2011**

<u>Species</u>	<u>2011 Count</u>		
Canada Goose	665	Mew Gull	399
Gadwall	29	Herring Gull	4
American Wigeon	68	Glaucous-winged Gull	2,309
Mallard	1,860	Unidentified Gulls	37
Northern Pintail	2	Common Murre	78
Green-winged Teal	40	Marbled Murrelet	104
Greater Scaup	272	<b>Eurasian Collared-Dove</b>	<b>1</b>
Lesser Scaup	1	Rock Pigeon	134
Unidentified Scaup	52	Northern Pygmy-owl	3
Harlequin Duck	46	Belted Kingfisher	2
Surf Scoter	1,624	Downy Woodpecker	cw
White-winged Scoter	97	Hairy Woodpecker	1
Black Scoter	8	Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	1
Unidentified Scoters	243	Unidentified Woodpeckers	1
Long-tailed Duck	142	Northern Shrike	4
Bufflehead	136	Steller's Jay	38
Common Goldeneye	212	Black-billed Magpie	34
Barrow's Goldeneye	239	Northwestern Crow	263
Unidentified Goldeneyes	132	Common Raven	308
Hooded Merganser	6	<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>	<b>1</b>
Common Merganser	67	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	95
Red-breasted Merganser	71	Brown Creeper	2
Unidentified Mergansers	2	Pacific Wren	1
<b>Rock Ptarmigan</b>	<b>cw</b>	American Dipper	7
Red-throated Loon	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	39
Pacific Loon	<b>218</b>	Unidentified Kinglets	2
Common Loon	2	European Starling	cw
Yellow-billed Loon	1	American Tree Sparrow	18
Unidentified Loons	8	Fox Sparrow	cw
Horned Grebe	45	Song Sparrow	21
Red-necked Grebe	17	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Unidentified Grebes	1	Dark-eyed Junco	150
Pelagic Cormorant	23	<b>Lapland Longspur</b>	<b>6</b>
Great Blue Heron	5	Snow Bunting	94
Bald Eagle	152	Red-winged Blackbird	<b>24</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Pine Grosbeak	11
Northern Goshawk	1	Common Redpoll	14
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	<b>cw</b>	<b>Hoary Redpoll</b>	<b>1</b>
Black Turnstone	8	Pine Siskin	43
Dunlin	62	Count Day Species	66
Unidentified Sandpipers	158	Total Individuals	10,973
Wilson's Snipe	2	Additional CW Species	5

## RESULTS OF THE KETCHIKAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT-By Teri Hoyt



15 Lesser Canada Geese Counted

Photo by Jim Lewis

Ketchikan's CBC was on December 17th amidst the halcyon days of winter, it was a beautiful sunny day with calm winds! This year marked interesting variations in the number of individuals for each species recorded compared to our past CBC data.

**A total of 6538 birds were seen, representing 76 species with additional 7 species found during count week.**

Count week species include: **Pied-billed Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, American Pipit, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Bonaparte's Gull, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and Wilson's Snipe.**

We had very high numbers of **Pacific Loon (530), 402 Western Grebes,** and 10 **American**

**Wigeon,** the most ever for a count day. There was a lone **Yellow-billed Loon** seen and a single **Brandt's Cormorant.** **Pelagic Cormorant** numbers were about double our usual number while **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers were quite low this year.

Although no **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were recorded on a Ketchikan CBC count until 2001, they have been tallied every year since as they are somewhat regularly found here during winter hunting near feeding stations. Surprisingly 2 **Northern Goshawks** were seen as well!

Gull rarities include a **Glaucous Gull** and a **Slaty-backed Gull.**

For the second year in a row, my daughter and I found a **Greater Yellowlegs** at the same beach as last year, which is only the second local winter record ever!

Only four **Great Blue Herons** were seen. Nine **Northern Flickers,** a single **Hairy Woodpecker,** two **Downy Woodpeckers,** and a sapsucker was seen only during the count week.



2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Slaty-backed Gull Photo by Jim Lewis

We recorded above average numbers of **Steller's Jays (37),** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadees (68),** and four well camouflaged **Brown Creepers** were spotted! Ketchikan tallied only 12 **Varied Thrushes,** five **American Robins** and we had the lowest number of **Dark-eyed Juncos** in ten years, additionally a all time low number of 9 **Pine Siskins!** A single immature female **Purple Finch** was discovered, a rarity for our state!

For the third year in a row a **Anna's Hummingbird** was documented on count day and in fact several have been seen near heated feeder areas this winter.

A wide variety of sparrow species were found including: **Lincoln's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow** and even a **Savannah Sparrow!** We recorded 46 **Song Sparrows,** an all time high number for our CBC!

Five **House Sparrows** were added to our tally as they were the past four years, and as nests have been found the past few summers, this species seems firmly established in our town.

Looks like the **Eurasian Collared-Dove** will continue to thrive in Ketchikan as well with two active nests observed this past summer, 15 were found on count day. Amazing that this invasive species was never recorded in Alaska prior to 2006!

Ketchikan has gathered our best CBC data ever these past five years thanks to our experienced birders....keep up the good work gang!! Thanks again to our CBC organizer Andy Piston and along with Steve Heintl, their expertise ignites the passion for all birdwatchers in Ketchikan. I wish everyone the best in 2012!!!

## MISTERY TRACKS

This is one of the largest members of its family its larger cousin lives in the sea.

It would I am sure eat a marmot November's answer to the Mystery Track.

Who's skull is this?



## MICE By Jim King

Do Bald Eagles prey on mice? This year they do.

In November I watched from my window, that faces the tideflats at Sunny Point, as an eagle glided down and picked up a mouse skittering across the dried vegetation. The mouse had been headed for higher ground as the tide came in. The eagle caught it with its right hand talon and transferred it to its beak without landing. I think the mouse was swallowed as the eagle flew on but could not see that for sure.

On Christmas Eve there was about 2 inches of snow on the tideflats as a large tide moved in. I watched as an eagle landed at the edge of the snow about 100 feet from my window. As the eagles usually perch on logs or stumps I wondered if this bird was anticipating that mice would have to run across the snow to escape the rising water. Its timing was perfect and within 2 or 3 minutes it was able to take 2 or 3 steps and catch a mouse with its beak. It put one foot on the animal, pulled off and swallowed the head then immediately picked up and swallowed the body. I assumed it did not want to have a struggling mouse in its gullet. The eagle did not move on but within 5 minutes repeated this action from the same spot. It then flew off.

I have seen eagles catch mice opportunistically a few times in the past, but never before in what appeared to be such a planned hunt. Is this a big year for mice on the tideflats?

## Whooping Crane Sightings in Western N. C. By Prill (Isleib) Mollick

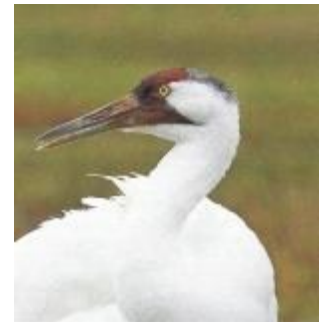
Some local birders have had an exciting few days here in western N.C. They've seen a pair of Whooping Cranes in the next county. Whooping Cranes are some of the world's rarest birds. Upon reporting them, a local birder received information from the International Crane Foundation about the identity of the birds.



The International Crane Foundation is part of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership's Monitoring and Management Team and responsible for monitoring the Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Migratory Population. The Whooping Cranes have been seen in Clay County, North Carolina, since mid December.

A tracker was sent and identified the cranes as being 3.5-year-old male, #28-08, and 1.5-year-old female, #5-10. She is the fifth chick hatched in 2010. They've been together all summer and fall and spent most of their time at Marathon County, Wisconsin.

No. 28-08 has wintered in eastern Tennessee for the past couple of years and he was expected to turn up there with his new female friend. It would be unexpected if they decided to continue south, so they may winter at the Clay County, N.C. location or perhaps they will head back towards the eastern Tennessee area. Aside from ecological factors it may depend on the behavior of the people who observe them.



When young eastern whooping cranes make their first southward migration, they follow closely related sandhill cranes, older whooping cranes, or an ultralight aircraft which leads the birds south from Wisconsin, across Tennessee and Alabama into Florida. After that first guided migration, they are on their own to select a route and a wintering area.

These birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act. It is recommended that when folks are observing whooping cranes in the wild to give them respect and distance. Either on foot or in a vehicle do not approach within 600 feet. Remain concealed and do not speak loudly enough for the birds to hear you. Also do not report cranes to the media as attention focused on them can potentially be negative.

**Added note:** In Georgia one whooping crane was shot out of the air by vandals, and that neighboring Alabama had not one but two whoopers downed by gunfire. This simply reiterates how much care needs to be taken in public discussions regarding this magnificent bird.

**Note from Leslie Slater**, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

<http://alaskamaritime.fws.gov>

Always a pleasure to read your newsletter. If you think it's appropriate (as I was prompted by the wild turkey photo in the December newsletter), I'd recommend telling your readership to watch, "**My Life as a Turkey**". It's part of the PBS series, "**Nature**". Fascinating.

## **OTHER WEB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*\*\*** **New** Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

## **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

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## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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 \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me A51 7XCH

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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send  
\$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725,  
Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time,  
money and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**

Nonprofit Org. US Postage Paid Juneau, AK 99802 Permit No. 153	Address Service Requested	Juneau Audubon Society 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 38, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2012

## **FEBRUARY JUNEAU AUDUBON PROGRAM**

**Thursday February 9, at UAS Egan Bldg, Glacier View Room 221/222, 7:00 p.m.**

### **History and Future of the Mendenhall Wetlands**

Richard Carstensen will give perspectives from 3 decades of research on Juneau's most important and controversial fish and wildlife habitat. How can an understanding of succession and developmental changes contribute to better management decisions and to imagine the wetlands future?

Richard Carstensen is a Juneau naturalist since 1977; an instructor and researcher for Discovery Southeast since 1988. From 1996 through 2009, his principle research interest was Tongass-wide forest issues and biogeography. More recently, his focus has been closer to home - a watershed-based study of the CBJ, and a deepening fascination with integrating human and natural history.

Since the mid-1980s, Richard's research projects on the Mendenhall Wetlands have mostly revolved around the Juneau Airport. Just as dairies dominated the wetlands from the 1890s to World War II (subject of the Feb 4th talk for Juneau City Museum), aviation has dominated since the great war.

Oblique View Over the Incipient Juneau Airport in About 1934





## **Tracks and Signs Program** By Kevin O'Malley

The February 25th JAS Tracks and Signs will meet at 10 a.m. at the Sunny Point parking lot (west side of highway) with access to the wetlands. This walk will explore a wetland habitat and the critters that frequent it.

### **This is February's Mystery Track....**

What part of the animal are we looking at? What is a typical sign of this animal browsing? If you were this animal imagine trudging through the snow "yarding" for food.



## **Juneau Audubon Celebration** By Jeff Sauer

We are planning a celebration for early March for all Juneau Audubon members and guests. Three Juneau Audubon board members are to receive awards from National Audubon and we are in the process of planning the awards dinner and celebration. The Juneau Board Members are:

**Mary Lou King:** to receive the Great Egret Award. To qualify for such an award the person has to have 20 years of service to an Audubon chapter and contributed significant efforts to such chapter. In fact, Mary Lou King has been on the Juneau Audubon board continuously for twenty seven years. And she has made incredible contributions of her time to our chapter. This award is long overdue. And of course Mary Lou is an institution in Juneau, one of those incredible volunteers that Juneau has.

**Brenda Wright:** to receive a Presidential Recognition Award. Brenda has been on the board for eleven years and was president for several years. She is one of our institutional knowledge - go to persons, because she knows the workings of the chapter so well, and has done so much for so many years.

**Mark Schwan:** to receive a Presidential Recognition Award. Mark has been our President for the past three years, ending last fall. He has been on the board for many years and like Brenda is one of our go to people, as to how the chapter works, and to help when something needs to be done. In particular during his three years as president Mark was a "catch all" president, meaning that he could, and did, do nearly everything, whatever needed to be done for the chapter.

The plans for the celebration will be worked out during the next few weeks, but in general we plan on a pot luck, like dinner at a local hall, on March 8th, 9th or 10th. We will have the awards celebration, dinner, and some slides of local wildlife (including birds) and where and how they were photographed. We are looking for all members, past officers and board members to help us celebrate. More details will be in the March Raven newsletter.

## **Juneau Audubon at the forefront of Borough Eagle Ordinance**

Jeff Sauer Vice President Juneau Audubon

Juneau Audubon has been very active as to borough eagle ordinance issues in the past few weeks. First, last fall we submitted written comments and oral testimony at a Planning Commission meeting to set conditions on a variance for DOT concerning road blasting near eagle nests, for next spring-summer, during their road widening project at the North Eagle Beach Kayak Launch (out to Bessie Creek). DOT fought certain conditions including wanting no restriction on blasting dates. The borough originally recommended what had basically become the norm, which was to prohibit rock-hillside blasting within 330 feet of active eagle nests during certain periods of time (active nest times). Heavy equipment usage would not be prohibited, only blasting. Juneau Audubon supported this recommendation, which we thought to be a reasonable and workable condition. It was nothing new. But the agenda item was pulled from the commission and came back weeks later with the blasting condition removed from the city recommendation. Juneau Audubon testified against the changed recommendation. The variance was granted minus the condition.

This winter the borough sent to the planning commission a proposal to totally eliminate the borough eagle ordinance. This ordinance has been on the books for some 24 years, and at a minimum has been used by the borough for 10 years to have some minimal control over development around eagle nests. There is a history of at least 10 years of variances granted and reasonable conditions set by the Planning Commission as to development around eagle nests. The system has worked. Juneau Audubon, and others, submitted written comments, and then gave oral testimony against the move to eliminate the ordinance. The Planning Commission agreed, voting unanimously to recommend to the borough assembly that the eagle ordinance not be eliminated.

One of the issues is a mix of both federal and borough law. The feds of course have made killing eagles illegal. And the Fish and Wildlife Service has a permit that developers can obtain (\$500 permit) which if they follow will provide some immunity from federal prosecution if the permit conditions are followed, but an eagle is still "taken." The federal permit, however, is not mandatory. It is a totally voluntary permit. And, it costs \$500. Thus, the ordinary citizen, or small developer, is unlikely to pay \$500 for a permit that they do not have to get. Thus, for many small developments the borough is it as far as protection regarding eagle nests and local development. For instance, if the borough eliminates its eagle ordinance there would be no control whatsoever as to development around eagle nests for many small projects. A citizen could clear cut their lot right up to and around an eagle nest. The borough over the years has instead placed reasonable conditions as to development around eagle nests. Juneau Audubon

feels that the eagle ordinance is beneficial, has worked in the past, and in some cases is the only control of development close to eagle nest. As this issue of the Raven newsletter goes to press we will be testifying before the borough assembly (01.30.12) to continue to try and stop what we see is an ill-conceived attempt to eliminate some minimal protection of eagles and their nests in the borough. Bald Eagles are a part of what makes Southeast Alaska a unique place to live and visit. We all should be vigilant to give reasonable protection to them. \*\*\*\*\* **Last night's Borough Assembly meeting, where six of us testified to keep the Eagle Ordinance, the Assembly declined to adopt the proposal to eliminate the eagle ordinance and in fact did not vote on the proposal but remanded the issue to the Planning Commission. That was what we wanted.**



### **Eagle Feather Collection Permits**

Did you know you can collect eagle feathers for Juneau Audubon? Actually, we have a permit from US Fish & Wildlife Service to pick up naturally shed eagle feathers. The feathers are sent to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado and distributed from there. Anyone may request eagle feathers, but there is a law stating that native Americans get priority in their requests. Next in priority is education and research, and then the general public. Each request is allotted 6 feathers. The program is designed to reduce poaching of eagles.

Alaska is the home for the majority of bald eagles in the US, but we are not number one in donations to the National Repository. Eagles are protected under several different laws and so you may not keep eagle feathers for yourself but you could help us send more to people who would like to have them. The repository usually has a three year waiting list for feathers.

In 2011 members of Juneau Audubon Society collected 1,111 bald eagle feathers and shipped them to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado. Thanks for your help! Please contact Brenda if you would like to have a copy of the collection permit.

So if you would like to help out by collecting eagle feathers, please contact Brenda Wright at 321-4739 or [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) for a permit.



### **Audubon Alaska Makes the List for "Pick. Click. Give." Campaign**

When you register for the Permanent Fund Dividend, think Audubon! In 2012, for the first time, Audubon Alaska will be eligible for the state of Alaska's "Pick. Click. Give." donation program. As part of the application process for online PFD registration, there is a list of nonprofit organizations to which

Alaskans can choose to donate some or all of their dividends. Although Audubon Alaska is part of the National Audubon Society, we raise all of our own funding to support the science-based habitat conservation we do across the state. So when you register, look for Audubon Alaska on the list. (We're lucky Audubon starts with an "A"!)

Beth Peluso, Communications Manager, Audubon Alaska, (907) 276-7034 FAX (907) 276-5069

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT



The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

### It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

**1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count.**

You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.

**2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time.** You may find it helpful to print out your check list to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist. (Juneau checklist available from the Juneau Audubon Society web page <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/Birding%20Events.html>)

**3. When you're finished, enter your results**

**<http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/input>.** You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count. It will remain active until the deadline for data submission.

**Stationary Count:** This is a count made in one area, such as your backyard, where you remain in one place. In this case, simply report the highest number of each species seen together at one time, as usual.

**Traveling Count:** This is a count made over a distance, such as birding on a trail. In this case you will count new birds of each species as you move along, but only if you can be relatively certain you did not count them previously. You'll add the numbers for each species at the end of your walk.

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON PRESIDENT REPORT Julie Coghill**

Spring approaches rapidly as our daylight increases noticeably. Before long our first of spring birds will start to arrive. I've been out of doors a fair amount: shoveling, some skiing and snowshoeing, more shoveling.

Being out, even when shoveling, is an opportunity to observe nature. Snowshoeing down from the tram, I heard and saw an avalanche. Along Sheep Creek, frozen in mud, a perfect wolf track.

Another delightful discovery: the new cabins and ski track at the Eagle Beach State Park Recreational Area. Recently I've enjoyed that area with friends who don't want to carry gear into other cabins, and have been able to share some bird knowledge. Beautiful ducks in the creek? Common mergansers. Noisy flock feeding in alders? Pine siskins and common redpolls.

Enjoy the rest of winter, get out whenever you can, and encourage others, also, to enjoy and experience our natural world.

### **Juneau Birding Notes for January, 2012** By Mark Schwan

January is always an interesting month for birding. Weather and short days are problematic, and the weather this month certainly was what it is supposed to be, i.e. wintery. But, the most avid birders in town hit the trails and shorelines, or maybe, hit the berms is more appropriate, and energetically birded, hoping to get a jump on their new annual lists for 2012. Given the enthusiasm but overall lean circumstances, some interesting birds were still found, although no "shockers" such as the King's Evening Grosbeak late last year.

Although Juneau seemed to be left out of the Snowy Owl invasion, we did have an interesting influx of waterbirds to our inshore waters. Large numbers of Pacific Loons, **Common Murres**, **Long-tailed Ducks**, and Marbled Murrelets were almost ever-present in and around the harbors at Auke Bay. A massive flock of **Pacific Loons** showed up in Gastineau Channel near Douglas.



Long-tailed Ducks with one Common Murre in the Auke Bay Boat Harbor.

There were disturbing reports of die-offs of murrens and murrelets in northern Lynn Canal and to a lesser extent near Sitka. In the Juneau area, only one murre and one murrelet were found exhibiting suspect behavior, and no birds (to this author's knowledge) turned up dead in the Juneau area. The presence of all these birds near the harbors and shorelines around Juneau offered up outstanding photographic opportunities, and it was fairly commonplace to see some big telephotos in use, targeting these beautiful birds. With that, here are some of the more noteworthy observations during the month.

Several interesting waterfowl hybrids were again found by Paul Suchanek. Two **Mallard X Northern Pintails** were found on 1/13; one at the Salmon Creek delta and one at Eagle Beach. The **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid** continued to be seen along North Douglas in Fritz Cove, on 1/9, 1/15, and 1/24 (PS). A single **Western Grebe** was seen at the Fish Creek Delta on 1/9 and 1/16 (PS). The only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** report came from Auke Bay on 1/13 (MS). There were several reports of **Northern Goshawks** during the month. One bird was found along the airport dike trail on 1/2 (PR, BA). Another was spotted near Nine Mile Access to the wetlands on 1/9 (PS); yet another at Fish Creek delta on 1/16 (PS), and another at Auke Bay on 1/17 (MS). The best raptor of the month was the **Rough-legged Hawk**, first reported from the wetlands on 1/13 (MS), and subsequently seen over the next five days in a variety of nearby locations (PS, PR, BA, GV, LL).

A single **Killdeer** was found at the Fish Creek delta on 1/16 (PS), two were found there on 1/18 (MS) and again on 1/23 (PS). Single birds were also found along the airport dike on 1/16 (LL) and on 1/28 (PS, BA). The only reports of **Wilson's Snipe** came from the wetlands near Sunny Point on 1/14 (MS) and another bird seen two miles north of downtown in Gastineau Channel on 1/27 (GV). One to two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were repeatedly seen all month in the Auke Bay area (MS). It continued to be a good winter for **Northern Pygmy-Owls**, with birds repeatedly seen during the month near Auke Bay and the UAS campus (GV, MS). There were several reports of **Downy Woodpeckers**. Two males were found near the golf course on 1/13 (MS); one bird was found near the Fish Creek delta on 1/16 (PS); and one other bird was seen along the airport dike on 1/28 (PS, BA). The only thrush reported during the month was a single male **Varied Thrush**, found visiting a feeder near the airport on 1/28 (MS).

A real surprise was the **Yellow-rumped Warbler** spotted near the Gold Creek delta on 1/2 (GV). Interesting sparrows were far and few between during the month. Only two reports came in for **American Tree Sparrow**, with three seen along the airport dike on 1/3 (GV), and one enigmatic individual visiting a feeder near the airport on 1/28 (MS). A single **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed on New Years Day at a Douglas Island residence (PR), and another individual visited Paul Suchanek's feeder on Douglas Island for several days beginning 1/23. Twenty-one **Red-winged Blackbirds** were seen along lower Lemon Creek on 1/2 (GV). This number was quite exceptional! Finally, six **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** were visiting town on 1/27 (GV). These birds are year-round residents up in the alpine but only very rarely do they come down to sea level. When we have severe winters, with lots of snow, these birds sometime come down to lower elevation in search of food.

Contributors: Bev Agler, BA; Laurie Lamm, LL; Patty Rose, PR; Mark Schwan, MS; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV.

### **BOB ARMSTRONG'S REPORTS**

I have attempted to determine what is attracting all the birds to the Auke Bay harbor. I “think” many of them are feeding on juvenile fish, probably capelin. This gull was in a feeding frenzy with Common Murres and Pacific Loons. The Long-tailed Ducks appear to be feeding on tube worms as this is the only food I have seen them with.



Doug Jones photo



Bob Armstrong photo

### **A Raven's Tale or a Dog's Tail** By Bob Armstrong

While skiing at Mendenhall Lake with my dog Nola a raven landed near us and seemed to delight in having Nola chase it. I told Nola to stop chasing the raven but the bird continued to follow us. When I stopped to talk to a friend the raven started pulling Nola's tail. It then stood nearby and called. Some of the calls actually sounded like a dog barking. Then it grabbed a stick with its foot and rolled in the snow.



## Skagway Christmas Bird Count By Elaine Furbish

The Skagway CBC was held on Saturday, 17 December 2011. Thirty people participated in Skagway's 2011 CBC, including 6 people from out of town. Twenty-five birders walked or drove routes to search for birds, and 7 people watched feeders (some people did both). The weather on count day was mild, with temperatures from 36-37 F near sea level, and 23-25 F at the Klondike Highway pass. Winds averaged about 20 mph from the south near sea level, but were calm at the pass. Very little snow was on the ground, except at higher elevations.

Thirty-eight species of birds were recorded on count day, with one additional species (**Common Redpoll**) reported during count week. This ties the highest number of species from one of our previous counts (38 on count day for CBC #109 in year 2008).

The variety of upland species seemed low, with the complete absence of Bohemian Waxwings, Crossbill sp. and Pine Siskins. The residents of Skagway pointed to low food sources as the probable cause: absolutely no Mountain Ash berries were present in town, despite a good berry set at the end of the summer. **Varied Thrushes, Northwestern Crows, Eurasian Collared-Doves** and **Stellers Jays** were observed gradually eating out the berries earlier in the autumn - a new behavior for the **Varied Thrushes** and **Northwestern Crows** in our area. While less obvious, the pine and spruce cone set may have been low, affecting the Crossbills and Siskins.

A high variety of water birds more than compensated for the scarcity of land birds. Species seen that are not regularly recorded during our count included two species of Loons, **Horned Grebe, Common Murres, Long-tailed Ducks** and two species of Scoters. Seven **Pacific Loons** and 4 **Common Loons** were seen, whereas only one individual of one species of Loon had ever been recorded during our past counts. Three **Horned Grebes** were observed, a new species for Skagway. **Common Murres**, first observed in Skagway during year 2008 with 21 individuals, were out in force with 120 individuals seen this year. Skagway residents reported unusual weather in the 3 weeks prior to the CBC: 5 multi-day fronts from the south with unseasonably warm temperatures (41-48 F) and sustained winds at 30-40 mph with gusts at 50-60 mph. These warm, strong blows from the south probably encouraged many water birds to venture farther north than they normally would range in mid-December.

For the second year, the Eurasian Collard-Dove was reported for our count. These birds have established a bench-head in Skagway, with 4 individuals observed over the summer.

The birders had fun seeing other animals, too: mountain goats, porcupine and river otters. Wolf tracks were seen up on the Chilkoot Trail. And one birder who hiked to lower Reid Falls was very surprised to find musicians sitting on snow-covered rocks playing bluegrass music next to the frozen waterfall!



A detailed list of the Skagway CBC results can be found at the Skagway Bird Club's web site at: [sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub](https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub)

Bufflehead	Goshawk, Northern	Loon, Common
Chickadee, Black-capped	Grebe, Horned	Loon, Pacific
Chickadee, Boreal	Grosbeak, Pine	Mallard
Chickadee, Chestnut-backed	Gull, Glaucous	Magpie, Black-billed
Chickadee, sp.	Gull, Glaucous-winged	Merganser, Common
Creeper, Brown	Gull, Herring	Merganser, Red-breasted
Crow, Northwestern	Gull, Mew	Murre, Common
Dipper, American	Gull, Glaucwing x Herring	Murrelet, Marbled
Dove, Eurasian Collared	Gull, sp.	Nuthatch, Red-breasted
Duck, Long-tailed	Hawk, sp.	Owl, Northern Pygmy
Eagle, Bald - adult	Jay, Steller's	Raven, Common
Eagle, Bald - juvenile	Junco, Dark-eyed (oregon)	Redpoll, Common
Eagle, Bald - unknown	Junco, Dark-eyed (slate-colored)	Robin, American
Goldeneye, Barrows	Junco, Dark-eyed (form unknown)	Scoter, Surf
Goldeneye, Common	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Scoter, White-winged
		Woodpecker, Three-toed
		Wren, Pacific (Winter)

### Wrangell's Christmas Bird Count Submitted by Bonnie Demerjian

Wrangell's Christmas Bird Count took place on December 17. The day's calm weather allowed boaters this year to scout local waters and find a generous number of water birds. Nineteen participants tallied a total of 5284 birds and 54 species. Because of the ability of boats to get around the sometimes-turbulent Point Highfield and into the Eastern Passage this year, counters found a whopping 1,914 **Barrow's Goldeneyes** mixed with over 300 **Common Mergansers**. Other water bird species included large numbers of **Mallards**, **American Wigeon**, **Greater Scaup**, **Bufflehead** and three species of scoters. Three species of **grebes: Horned, Red-necked** and **Western** also made the count.

Boating participants were also able to count 115 **Common Murres** and 40 **Marbled Murrelets**. A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were spotted on Pat's Lake during count week. Shorebirds included **Black Turnstones**, **Surfbirds**, **Rock sandpipers** and a single **Killdeer**.

There were no surprises among land bird species. **Black-billed Magpies** usually show up in small numbers during Wrangell winters and this year three made the Christmas count. Two **Eurasian Collared-doves** were counted, down from a summer high of 16.

## Wrangell January sightings

Recent snow has brought more birds to local feeders. **Dark-eyed Juncos** have been notably



Northern Pygmy Owl With Song Sparrow – Juneau  
Photo by James Levison Nov. 2011

absent prior to the snow and are still only seen in small numbers. A few **Common Redpolls**, not at all common in most years, have showed up this month.

A flock of over 30 **Pacific Loons** have been sharing Heritage Harbor with several sea lions for the past month.

Observers, including one on the Stikine River delta, have reported more **Northern Pygmy owls** in December and January.

## Haines Audubon Report By Pam Randles

Our winter eagles seem to be moving on as the salmon run slows down. Eagle 88 was seen moving south. However we have had a **Great Blue Heron** that has been hanging around.

**Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, Dark-Eyed Juncos (Oregon and Slate), Steller's Jays, Magpies, Ravens** and our resident eagles all seem to be braving the storms. **Golden-Crowned Kinglets** and **Red-Breasted Nuthatches** also seem to be able to handle the snows.

On the ocean there are rafts of **Goldeneyes**. **Glaucous-Winged Gulls** in their winter plumage are easy to age this time of year. There are quite a few **American Dippers** on the Chilkoot River chattering away and diving into frigid waters.



The Takshanuk Watershed Council is forming a bird observatory in Haines. Haines birders have been noticing changes in migratory species in recent years, so the bird observatory will initially focus on migratory songbirds. In April, Danielle Kaschube from the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes, California, will be giving a bander training. The next step after that will be to secure a station permit. On March 10, there will be a fundraiser to support training and set-up costs. The fundraiser will feature a Mexican dinner and auction, as well as locally filmed videos. The Haines quilters are making bird bags, so they will surely be lovely.

### **Mourning Dove** by Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

It was just outside my old college dorm room window, that I first heard mourning doves. Their early morning sad ‘cooing’ sound was better than an alarm clock.

Mourning doves are a graceful, slender, and small-headed dove. The gray-brown tapered tail is long and pointed with white tips on feathers. The mournful cooing of the mourning dove is a soft, low pitched, drawn-out call that sounds like a lament.

The Mourning Dove is a common native dove and is most numerous and widespread in North America. According to R.T. Petersons ‘Western Birds’ maps, they are a rare fall visitor in Alaska. We see them in this area year round. They are a game bird and are the target of many hunters. It’s interesting to note that John Audubon shot as many as a hundred birds in a day, and he liked eating them. He even wrote notes about good recipes for them. Some were used as models for his paintings.

The Mourning Dove bobs its head as it walks. When suddenly taking off, their wings make a startling loud whistling sound. Their flight is fast and straight.

They tend to feed busily in flocks, sometimes large flocks, and forage for seeds usually on the ground in the open and often under bird feeders. I have also observed them barely clinging to the edge of a small hanging bird feeder, almost upside down, as they were trying to get seeds. Some seeds fall to the ground for other birds to feed on. Mourning Doves often swallow seeds whole. Then go and rest a while to digest the seeds.

They are sloppy nest builders making a flimsy platform with a hap-hazard pile of pine needles, twigs, and grass stems, balanced precariously on a branch, unlined and with little insulation for the young. It’s a wonder the eggs or young ever stay on the nest especially during stormy weather.

**Ed note:** Mourning Doves are rare visitors to Alaska.

Mourning Doves  
Bob Armstrong Photo.



## OTHER WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\*New Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

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At-large: Linda Nicklin

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Public Market:

Web Master: George Utermohle,

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\$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 A51 7XCH

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# The Raven



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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 38, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2012

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON SPECIAL CELEBRATION AND AWARDS EVENING**

Please join Juneau Audubon for a special evening of food and celebration.

**March 24th 5:30 p.m. DIPAC hatchery (next to Juneau Empire)**

We are honoring four past / present board members who will be receiving **National Audubon awards.**

Pot Luck dishes appreciated. We will supply some entrees, veggie trays, cheese trays, fruit, and celebratory cake

\*\*\*We would also like to extend a thanks to Jeff Sauer. He has made this celebration possible, has been on the board a long time and has also served as president. In addition, when he wasn't busy being president of Audubon he served on the SEACC board.

Honorees are:

**Dr. Steve Zimmerman** to receive the Great Egret Award. This award is given in recognition of Steve's significant long-term contributions to the chapter, state, and national level of Audubon. He served on the board of Juneau Audubon for eight years, including three years as president. He served on the state Audubon Alaska board for six years, including four years as board chair. And Steve Zimmerman served on the National Audubon Society board for six years. Throughout these years Steve Zimmerman has been an incredibly active and dedicated volunteer, making significant impacts on Juneau conservation and natural history education issues, the very important state-wide Alaska conservation issues, and lastly national issues dealt with by National Audubon. Steve Zimmerman's love and knowledge of birds combined with his dedication and effectiveness have contributed greatly to the Audubon cause.

**Mary Lou King** to receive the Great Egret Award. To qualify for such an award the person has to have 20 years of service to an Audubon chapter and contributed significant efforts to such chapter. In fact, Mary Lou King has been on the Juneau Audubon board continuously for twenty seven years. And she has made incredible contributions of her time to our chapter. This award is long overdue. And of course Mary Lou is an institution in Juneau, one of those incredible volunteers that Juneau has.

**Brenda Wright** to receive a Presidential Recognition Award. Brenda has been on the board for eleven years and was president for several years. She is one of our institutional knowledge - go to persons, because she knows the workings of the chapter so well, and has done so much for so many years.

**Mark Schwan** to receive a Presidential Recognition Award. Mark has been our President for the past three years, ending last fall. He has been on the board for many years and like Brenda is one of our go to people, as to how the chapter works, and to help when something needs to be done. In particular during his three years as president Mark was a "catch all" president, meaning that he could, and did, do nearly everything, whatever needed to be done for the chapter.

Although these are the honorees, this is also a unique celebration of our long-time Audubon chapter, its membership, its past and present board members, and its decades of contributions to Juneau. Please join us and spread the word to members, friends (potential members wanted) and family.

### **April Program April 12 7:00 p.m.**

Alison Elgee will present her program on her travels to Tanzania, East Africa.

### **Tracks and Signs** By Kevin O'Malley

The next Tracks and Signs walk will be March 24<sup>th</sup> 10-12 at Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge. We will meet in the parking lot at the end of Radcliff Rd. Our goal is to study and discover the interesting relationship between mammals and birds to their environment. Dress for the weather and be prepared to walk off trail. This is a free program. Elders come share your stories and families are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



(photo by Ed Grossman)

### **Berners Bay Cruises**

**April 21 8:30 am and April 28 at 8:30 am & 1:30pm**

4 Hour Cruise

Tickets on Sale at Hearthside Books by last week of March. Adults \$45 Students \$25

Children (under 12) \$10

## **Wrangell's annual Stikine River Birding Festival April 26-29, 2012**

Carol Rushmore, Economic Development Director, City and Borough of Wrangell,  
P.O. Box 531 Wrangell, AK 99929, 907-874-2381, [ecodev@wrangell.com](mailto:ecodev@wrangell.com)

Please check out our website at [www.wrangell.com](http://www.wrangell.com)

Follow us on Twitter: WrangellCVB or CityofWrangell

## **Community Based Watershed Management Forum in Juneau on March 7th, 8th, and 9th. By Julia Scott**

I would first like to direct you to the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (SAWC) website: <http://alaskawatershedcoalition.org>.

From 2009-2010, SAWC conducted a regional needs assessment to find out what some of the main resources and skills community professionals feel they need in order to respond to the critical watershed and community health issues they are dealing with. As a follow up to the regional needs assessment, SAWC is partnering with the National Forest Foundation and the American Water Resource Association to host the **Community Based Watershed Management Forum in Juneau on March 7th, 8th, and 9th.**

The main trainings for this year's forum are:

- 1) Community-Based Land Use and Watershed Planning and Management:
  - a. Watershed and Wetland Plans, Watershed Management Plans, and resources that are available to support the development of these projects
- 2) Developing and carry-out credible restoration projects
- 3) Securing partners and funding to support community-based watershed projects and management.
- 4) Networking, based on feedback from our past trainings.

If you are interested, here are a couple of opportunities you might want to think about:

- 1) Book a room at the Baranof and receive \$7.00 off the regular per diem rate
- 2) Enter to win a scholarship by participating in the Poster Drawing Contest:
  - a. Basically, submit a description of locally based watershed project happening in your community and get your name entered in a drawing for a travel scholarship.

Please register on the website <http://alaskawatershedcoalition.org/>.



## Juneau Birding Notes, February, 2012 By Mark Swann

It continued to be rather slow birding around Juneau, especially for land birds. Most of the action was around the marine environment, and feeders, where a few raptors seemed to be lurking. Of course, the big news for the month was the reported **Steller's Sea-Eagle**, seen in downtown Juneau on February 10 (DD). The observer was confident in the identification, yet it was based primarily on the white patches along the leading edge of each wing. It would have been reassuring if other key features of this amazing bird had been noted. All the birders in town have been looking!

The following summary comes from the submissions to eBird for this past month, and therefore this narrative is somewhat redundant to what is available to many already. Waterfowl of interest included two reports of **Eurasian Wigeon**, one bird at Fish Creek on 2/1 (LL, PS), and one bird along the airport dike on 2/22 (MSQ). Paul Suchanek continued to relocate those interesting hybrid ducks, with a **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid** seen on 2/8 in Fritz Cove and then again (assumed the same bird) from the Outer Point Trail on 2/22. Paul also relocated the **Mallard X Northern Pintail hybrid** at Eagle Beach on 2/11 and 2/25.

The **Western Grebe** continued to be present in the Fish Creek delta-Fritz Cove area, with many observers spotting the bird all month. Lone **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were observed at least five times during the month near active feeders around town (PR, PS, GV). A **Merlin** was a brief visitor to Paul Suchanek's yard in north Douglas (2/19) and Patty Rose spotted another bird hanging around downtown on 2/23. The lone **Eurasian Collared-Dove** that had been so loyal to the residential area near the Spaulding Meadows trailhead was seen early in the month and then disappeared (MS). Doug Jones reported that two birds were frequenting his neighborhood area near the airport.



A **Downy Woodpecker** was seen near Fish Creek on 2/22 (PS) and another along the airport dike on 2/24 (PS). A **Northern Flicker** (red-shafted form) was seen sunning itself on the rocks at the tip of Point Louisa on 2/29 (MS). Gus van Vliet continued to cross paths with the overwintering flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds** in the lower Lemon Creek area (2/12).

Contributors: Dave Douglas, DD; Doug Jones; Laurie Lamm, LL; Patty Rose, PR; Mark Schwan, MS; Marsha Squires, MSQ; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV.

## Great Backyard Bird Count for Juneau 2012

Juneau had its regular mix of every type of weather during this year's Great Backyard Bird Count but we still sent in 39 checklists for the February 17-20 event. This year we found 42 species and over 4800 total birds. As usual, the most common birds found were the **Mallard, North West Crow and Glaucous-winged Gulls.**

The greatest number of species reported came from Gustavus with 57. The next highest species count were Homer, Kodiak and Sitka. In the whole state of Alaska we observed 112 species and over 53,000 birds! To check out the data visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)

Enjoy your birding!  
Brenda Wright

**February's Mystery Track was the lower mandibles of a Sitka black tailed deer** and the typical winter sign would be feeding on woody material. Look for an angled cut with a bit of stringy bark still hanging on the shrub. Deer do not have teeth on their upper palate so they do not make a clean cut when browsing. The snow and lack of high quality food make this a hard time of year for deer.

### Here is March's Mystery Track...

This is a very cool tree and with the events happening this month it is an appropriate choice.

Where is this tree?





## **Flying Squirrel** By by Prill(Isleib)Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

Our bird houses are supposed to be for the birds. One afternoon however, we noticed something, not a bird, in one of our bird houses. At first I thought it was a mouse, then seeing the large eyes, realized it was a flying squirrel. It was curious and was watching us as we were watching it. They usually find shelter in old woodpecker holes or natural cavities. Sometimes people have even discovered them living in their walls or attics.



Flying Squirrels are not often seen because they're usually active after dark and retire at dawn. Southern flying squirrels have grey brown fur on top and are a creamy white color underneath. They have large dark eyes. They feed on fruit and nuts from trees. They store food, especially acorns, for winter. They like sunflower seeds and will frequent bird feeders.

They don't have powered flight like birds, instead they glide between trees. The direction and speed in the air can be changed by their arm and leg positions. They have a furry parachute-like flap of skin stretching from wrist to ankle. A fluffy flattened tail stabilizes it in flight and acts as an air brake before landing on a tree trunk. Flying squirrels can be identified by their high-pitched, excited sounding "cheeps" often heard during a few hours after sunset. Their calls help keep track of one another. They also have a very loud, sharp "tseep" call to sound out warnings.

One evening after dark while walking the dog, I noticed the cat watching something in the trees. I aimed the flashlight up toward the branches and I observed a flying squirrel walking across the branches. Domestic house cats can be dangerous to these animals. Although graceful in flight, they are particularly vulnerable on the ground.



## **It's in the Air**

The Environmental Protection Agency is poised to take a bite out of carbon pollution through proposed standards for new coal-fired power plants. With the unlovely name of New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), this draft rule is nevertheless our next best shot at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slowing climate change.

Leading scientists warn that climate change poses a grave threat to the world's biodiversity. With legislative climate solutions mired in bipartisan gridlock in Congress, this new draft standard

offers a way to make progress on one of the biggest polluters of carbon pollution ? coal-fired power plants. If this rule goes well, dirty, older plants are next in line for pollution reductions.

Getting comments in to EPA to support this standard is a top priority for Audubon. **You can help by sending in the postcard you'll find in the March/April of Audubon Magazine.** Look for the snowy owl, one of many birds whose habitat is being impacted by our warming climate. Let's get an avalanche of support into EPA to reduce carbon pollution!

Connie Mahan, Audubon Policy Office, Director, Grassroots Outreach  
1150 Connecticut Avenue NW #600, Washington, DC 20036, [Note new direct dial # 202-600-7967](tel:202-600-7967)  
<http://www.audubonaction.org>

### **Tongass Conservation Briefs** By Gwen Baylus, Conservation Chair

The Juneau Access Project is to be considered yet again. The Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) plans to write another impact statement with alternatives that include: extending the Juneau Road, building a highway up Lynn Canal, and various options aimed at improving current ferry service. Juneau Audubon Society let DOT know that we will oppose new road construction, due to impacts on bird and other wildlife habitat, especially Berners Bay Important Bird Area. We also asked for ferries that were fuel efficient, and that impacts to marine birds should be considered in the new marine highway options.

Several new projects of were released in the Forest Service's Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA's) recently. They include the expansion of Greens Creek mine tailings pile on Admiralty Island, restoration and timber harvest on Chichagof Island near Kennel Creek, and much more. You can learn more about what's going on in your big backyard on the SOPA website.  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?111005>

### **Put this in your pipe (but don't smoke it)!**

It's tough being a bird lover. Sure, to outsiders it seems like such a peaceful pastime. In Latin America the word for bird watching "pajareando" means something like "goofing off" (only a little more offensive in Mexico!) Say "bird watching" and most people probably think of peaceful scenes: elders looking out at finch feeders, or an immaculately dressed group of tourists in safari gear ogling a tropical bird. But we know better. Every time you turn around another species is declining, some habitat disappears, and hazards are everywhere. Our beloved birds are stalked by cats, poisoned by pesticides, flying into cell-phone towers... the list goes on.

Well, I hate to be the bearer of bad news. Another hazard has been discovered: open *pipes*. Who knew? Turns out that un-covered tubes attract the curiosity of cavity-nesting species. The bird enters and then finds the pipe too narrow to open his wings. Unlike a tree cavity that varies in width and has rough surfaces for crawling out, the pipe is a deadly trap. According to recent studies in California and Nevada, surveys of open pipes placed upright for mining claims and other uses, yielded alarming numbers of dead birds, especially cavity nesters. They also functioned as pitfalls for small mammals. In California, 45 species were documented deceased in pipes ranging from 1.5 to 10 inches in diameter. Inspections in Nevada of 1,177 pipes in 2208 and 2009 revealed 957 dead birds. While no studies have been published locally, hole-seekers

like Red-breasted Nuthatch and Chestnut-backed Chickadee could be at risk. (Anybody need a great science fair project?!).

OK. Here's the *good news*. It's pretty easy to make your house and workplace safe in this respect. Just remove the pipe-- or plug the end. If air needs to move through, you can use foam or make a screen cover connected with a C-clamp. Otherwise almost any type of cover will do. So, in the spring doldrums before our migrants arrive, take a little of time to tend to those sign-posts, gutters, garden frames and the like, and check another good deed off your life list.

For more information and gory pictures see: <http://ca.audubon.org/workinglands-pipes.php>  
<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/111122.html>  
(Funny) website sells vent covers and reminds us that squirrels are not good in plumbing  
<http://savepipey.net/>



### **Eagle Feather Collection Permits**

Did you know you can collect eagle feathers for Juneau Audubon? Actually, we have a permit from US Fish & Wildlife Service to pick up naturally shed eagle feathers. The feathers are sent to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado and distributed from there. Anyone may request eagle feathers, but there is a law stating that native Americans get priority in their requests. Next in priority is education and research, and then the general public. Each request is allotted 6 feathers. The program is designed to reduce poaching of eagles.

Alaska is the home for the majority of bald eagles in the US, but we are not number one in donations to the National Repository. Eagles are protected under several different laws and so you may not keep eagle feathers for yourself but you could help us send more to people who would like to have them. The repository usually has a three year waiting list for feathers.

In 2011 members of Juneau Audubon Society collected 1,111 bald eagle feathers and shipped them to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado. Thanks for your help!  
So if you would like to help out by collecting eagle feathers, please contact Brenda Wright at 321-4739 or [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) for a permit.

Richard Carstensen has written this small booklet “Common Tracks”. It is being published jointly by Alaska Fish and Game Department and Juneau Audubon Society. Copies of this handy little booklet will soon be available from Fish and Game.



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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C2ZA510Z A51

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# The Raven



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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 38, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2012

## **APRIL JUNEAU AUDUBON PROGRAM**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, at UAS Egan Building, Lecture Hall, Room 112, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Travels Through Northern Tanzania Game Parks**

In late October, 2010, Alison Elgee and her husband Doug Rickey joined an Overland Adventure Travel tour of the northern Tanzanian game parks. Over two weeks, they visited the foothills of Kilimanjaro, Tarangire National Park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park. Alison's pictures capture much of the African wildlife seen during the trip.



### **Tracks and Signs**

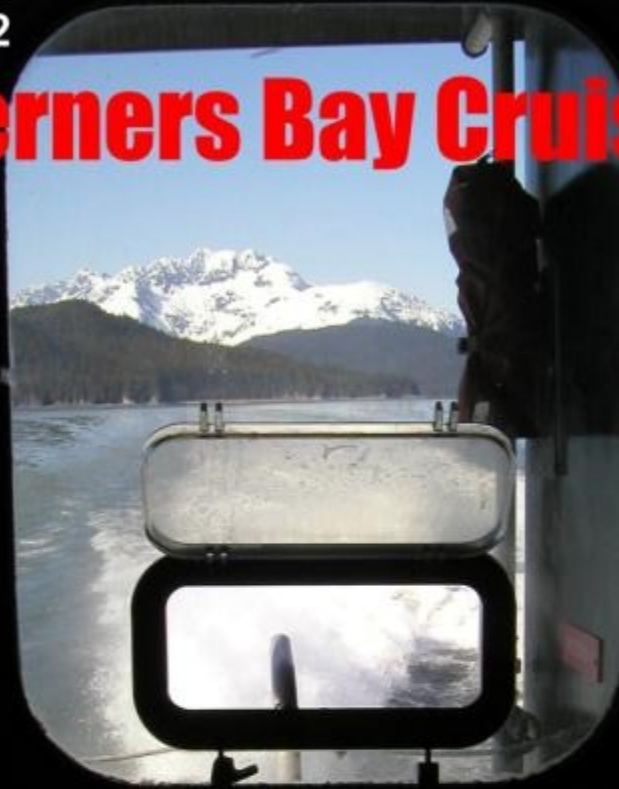
The next Tracks and Signs walk will be April 28<sup>th</sup> 10-12 at Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei (Mendenhall River Trail). Meet at the parking lot across from Don Abel's store. Our goal is to study and discover the interesting relationship between mammals and birds, to their environment. Dress for the weather and be prepared to walk off-trail. This is a free program. Elders come share your stories; and families are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.





2012

# **Berners Bay Cruise**



**Saturday, April 21**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, April 28**

**8:30 a.m.**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Adults - \$45**

**Students - \$25**

**Children under 12 - \$10**

*(must be accompanied by adult)*

**Tickets at Hearthside Books**

Vessels depart Don D. Statter Harbor below DeHarts. Boarding begins about 15 minutes before departure. Cruise lasts four hours. Juneau Audubon Society members will be on board as natural history interpreters.

## AWARD WINNERS



An enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Dipac Fish Hatchery for the presentation of National Audubon awards to: Steve Zimmerman, Mary Lou King, Brenda Wright, and Mark Schwan.

Four extraordinary Juneau Audubon volunteers received awards from National Audubon on March 24th. The celebration at DIPAC was attended by sixty people. Matt Kirchhoff, formerly of the Juneau Audubon board, and now Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Alaska presented the awards for National Audubon.

Mary Lou King and Steve Zimmerman received the prestigious Great Egret Award. Less than 45 Audubon members have ever received this award. Mary Lou King received the award for her 27 years of board member - volunteer service to Juneau Audubon. This was not the first conservation award for this Juneau volunteer institution (she received Conservation Educator of the year Award from the Alaska Wildlife Federation, she and husband Jim received the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alaska Conservation Foundation and the National Chevron Conservation Award ) but this time it was this very high National Audubon award.

Dr. Steve Zimmerman also received the Great Egret Award for his many years of service on the Juneau Audubon Board, Audubon Alaska (state) Board, and the National Audubon Board (the first member of our chapter to have served at all three levels). Lastly, Brenda Wright and Mark Schwan received Presidential Recognition Awards for their many years (and countless volunteer hours) as President of Juneau Audubon. A nice potluck dinner was served and beautiful wildlife images were shown by Juneau photographer, Juneau Audubon member Doug Jones along with this picture taken above..

Congratulations to the four who have given so much to the Audubon cause for wildlife and environmental protection, and a special thanks to Jeff Sauer and all of those who made this Celebration a rewarding occasion.

**April 17 - 19**

**JUNEAU - COASTAL TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS: INTEGRATING SCIENCE, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, and COMMUNITIES** will be held at the Centennial Hall beginning at 8am on Tuesday and 9am on Wednesday and Thursday. This event will highlight the science, resource management, and community development of the rainforests of the North Pacific! You are invited to attend and to submit proposal to present a poster. The event is a 3 day look at the history, current use, and future of coastal rainforest management, with great science, dynamic sessions, and exciting keynote speakers. For more information contact 907-796-6146, [acrc@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:acrc@uas.alaska.edu) or Scott Owen at 703-358-2636 or email: [Scott\\_T\\_Owen@fws.gov](mailto:Scott_T_Owen@fws.gov). To register, go to <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=wrtfgiab&oeidk=a07e55v49is184c81b1&oseq=>.

**Kevin Murphy, Alaska State Parks,  
SE Area Chief Ranger**

Alaska State Parks has received funding for beach clean-up in the Channel Islands State Recreation Area. Volunteers will be needed to help rangers hike beaches and help bag up trash. State Parks will provide boat transportation to and from the sites. Clean up dates to be announced. For more information contact Ranger Kevin Murphy at 465-2483.



**Juneau Audubon's President Message**

Bird-dog season will arrive with our first flocks of migrants. At the wetlands we will observe loose dogs disrupting the resting and feeding of numerous species.

I've had many bird-dog interactions, both as a birder and a dog owner. We were fortunate: our dogs understood the drill: walk, sit, binoculars up, dog treat, repeat.

Our golden retriever would bring us her leash and carry it as we walked. Comical, yes, but she was focused on that instead of birds. Our chocolate lab, on a hot Fairbanks day, would stop in his tracks, sit, and stare at a tree. He refused to budge until the bird, quietly resting amongst the cool greenery, was located.

Audubon dog owners can demonstrate acceptable dog behavior when sharing space with migratory birds. It's a small step, but important. Our Juneau Audubon Society Board is discussing more active ways of addressing bird-dog problems. We welcome suggestions.

## MYSTERY TRACKS

The answer to March's mystery (location of the funky tree): Admiralty Island close to Pack Creek.

April's mystery track is a mammal that has four toes in the front and five toes in the back. Soon it will be letting you know that it is there if it hasn't already.



## Do You Eagle Chat?!

Eaglechat is an online forum for birdwatchers in Southeast Alaska. It's a place to post observations, show photos, disperse information, solve ID mysteries, and see what's going on in the birding community. It also serves as a "rare bird alert" system for the Juneau area. You are invited! It's free to join and you can easily unsubscribe at any time.



Brown Creeper Montana Creek

- 1) Navigate to [groups.yahoo.com](http://groups.yahoo.com)
- 2) In the "Find a Yahoo! Group" blank, type Eaglechat, and wait for the results
- 3) Click "Join the Group" under Eaglechat
- 4) Sign in, or click "Don't have a Yahoo ID" and complete the form to get an account (if you are concerned about privacy, use the name of a favorite bird)
- 5) Write a brief comment to the moderator so they know you are not a spammer. Be sure to check if you want to get individual emails, or just be able to read the postings on a home page.
- 6) Soon you will be approved and able to post your observations to [eaglechat@yahoogroups.com](mailto:eaglechat@yahoogroups.com)



**From Judy Hall Jacobson  
in Haines**

Last year, just in time for the Eagle Fest we were seeing and photographing a leucistic bald eagle. Here is a photo I took through a spotting scope at 14.5 mile last November on the Chilkat River. Road

Last month Greg Brown and Karla Hart and I were communicating on the possible Stellers Sea-Eagle sighting on Facebook. I posted this photo and Greg agreed it looked like the bird he saw in Juneau.

While a Stellers sighting would be quite incredible, keeping track of this leucistic eagle if that's what was seen there in Juneau, is interesting as well.



Trumpeter Swans, Canada Geese and ducks on the Honsinger Pond. Mary Lou King

## Juneau Audubon's schedule for spring bird walks

Date	Location	Time/Comments	Leader(s)
April 7	Auke Recreation Area; meet at large west-end pavilion.	8:00am. Aimed for beginners	Kevin O'Malley
April 14	Eagle Beach Picnic area. Meet at parking area near outhouses.	8:00am Two groups; one for beginners and one for experienced birders	Paul Suchanek Kevin O'Malley
April 21	Berners Bay Cruise, Auke Bay Statter Harbor; board 8:15am	No bird walk; harbor parking area still free; other parking at Auke Bay School	Cruise: Linda Nicklin, Mary Willson, Paul Suchanek, and Bev Agler.
April 28	Two Berners Bay Cruises; depart from Auke Bay, Statter harbor; 1 <sup>st</sup> cruise boards at 8:15am and 2 <sup>nd</sup> cruise boards at 1:15pm.	No bird walk; harbor parking area still free; other parking at Auke Bay School	Early cruise: Laurie Craig, Patty Rose.  ----- Late cruise: Laurie Craig, Merrill Jensen,
May 5	Sunny Point to airport dike ; if weather is bad could opt for shorter outing.	8am - noon Meet at airport dike parking	Mark Schwan
May 12	Hike toward mouth of Mendenhall River from dike trail parking area.	8:00am Meet at dike trail parking area at end of Radcliffe Road.	Jeff Sauer
May 19  International Migratory Bird Day	Bird Banding Demonstrations and kids activities Arctic Tern viewing	7:00-11:00am Community Garden  3:00-5:00pm at Photo Point past glacier visitors' center	Gwen Baluss and possible bird walk after with Jeff Sauer Gwen Baluss
May 26	Brotherhood Bridge	8:00am Meet at parking lot on north side of river.	Gwen Baluss
June 2	Sandy Beach	7:00am Meet at parking lot	Patty Rose
June 9	Moose Lake	8:00am Meet at parking lot on Back Loop Rd. next to bridge.	Steve Zimmerman

## SATURDAY WILD -- SUMMER 2012

These free public summer walks are led by experts and are interesting and fun for both adults and children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.

**June 23 – Jensen-Olsen Arboretum** Meet at 11:00 a.m. The Jensen-Olsen Arboretum is located in an area known locally as “Out the Road”. The Arboretum is just past Mile 23 on Glacier Highway. Enjoy a tour of the Arboretum, identify birds, and enjoy the Minus Tide Walk on the beach by the Arboretum.

**Driving Directions** From downtown Juneau, take the Egan Expressway northwest toward the Juneau Airport. The divided four lane Expressway eventually becomes a two lane road at Brotherhood Bridge and changes name to Glacier Highway. Continue driving west past Auke Lake and Auke Bay on Glacier Highway which will bend to the north. Watch for the square green mile markers on the shoulder of the road. Just after Mile 22, you will pass the Shrine of St. Therese. Continue seven-tenths of a mile, passing Mile 23 and look for the Arboretum sign. Turn left and follow the short lane to the small parking area.

**July 14 – Mount Roberts Tram** Meet at the Tram Office on South Franklin Street at 8:00 a.m. Linda Nicklin will explore flowers and other plants and Audubon naturalists and birders will identify birds and other wildlife. If you arrive at 8 a.m., the tickets for the tram can be purchased for a reduced rate.

**August 18 – Fish Creek** is located at Mile 8.3 North Douglas Highway. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the town side of the Fish Creek Bridge. Learn about both mushrooms and fish during this walk.

**September 8 – Eaglecrest** 10:00 a.m. Meet beside the Lodge. Berries will be found and identified. After getting to know the berries you will be free to pick berries on your own, so bring along something to put them in.

### **Alaska Hummingbird Festival April 6-12, Ketchikan.**

This is a great chance to expand your Alaska bird list with some of the southern specialties with local expert birders.

See schedule [http://www.alaskacenters.gov/images/2012HBFESTSCEDULEOFEVENTS\\_2.jpg](http://www.alaskacenters.gov/images/2012HBFESTSCEDULEOFEVENTS_2.jpg) and traveler info at <http://www.visit-ketchikan.com/TravelersDirectory.aspx>

### **Stikine River Birding Festival Apr 26-29, Wrangell**

Visit one of Alaska's lesser known Important Bird Areas during spring migration and get a chance to see hooligan runs, shorebirds, wilderness and more.

Website and event schedule

<http://www.wrangell.com/birdingfestival/stikine-river-birding-festival-april-26-29-2012>

AK Airlines is offering a discount for travel there too!

And.. stay tuned for more on **Yakutat's second annual Aleutian Tern Festival May 31- June 3**  
<http://www.yakutatternfestival.org/>

## Juneau Bird Report for March by Patty Rose



Rock Sand Piper Mark Swann

A few early migrants turned up in March, some before the first day of Spring. **Dark-eyed Juncos** and **Song Sparrows** started singing, signaling the change of seasons. Some rare overwintering birds continued in the area, including two **Western Grebes** and some interesting raptors. Following are observations that are rare or rarer on the Juneau Checklist for the season in which observed or are interesting for another reason:

**Trumpeter Swan.** Two at Fish Creek on March 14 (PS), and two at Auk Nu Cove on March 21 - 22 (GV, MS, RG Photo).

**Northern Shoveler.** A single female at Fish Creek on March 17 (PS, PR), and two females at Fish Creek on March 22 (PS).

**Hooded Merganser.** Five at Brotherhood Park on March 4 (PS), and one at the Airport Dike Trail on March 3.

**Yellow-billed Loon.** Four were reported during the period, one at the North Douglas boat launch on March 11 (GV), one at Auke Rec on March 12 (PS), and two at the North Douglas powerline trail on March 16 (PS).

**Western Grebe.** One continued in the area and was at Fish Creek on March 1. On March 9 and 17, two were seen together at Fish Creek (PS). This species is listed as very rare on the Juneau Checklist.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk.** A near-adult with distinctive white spots on the upper parts was at Sandy Beach March 3 - 5 (PS Photo), and a dark-plumaged adult was at a Fritz Cove residence on March 10 (GV).

**Merlin.** One was at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center on March 2 (TD), and one continued in the downtown area through March 8 (GV).

**Killdeer.** Four were at Fish Creek on March 14, and five were at Fish Creek on March 20 (PS).

**Red-breasted Sapsucker.** The first two of the season were seen on March 13 from the North Douglas Highway (PS). On March 18, another winter observation of this species was made at an Auke Bay residence (MS).

**Black-Billed Magpie.** A large flock of 120 was at Mendenhall Lake on March 24 (DR).

**Snow Bunting.** One was on the Mendenhall Wetlands on March 21 (PS, MS).

**White-crowned Sparrow.** An over-wintering juvenile turned up at a North Douglas residence on March 4 (PS).

**Rusty Blackbird.** Six were at Duck Creek near Super Bear in the Mendenhall Valley on March 2 (PS).

These observations were compiled from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Tasha DiMarzio (TD), Ron Gile (RG), Patty Rose (PR), Deb Rudis (DR), Mark Schwan (MS), Paul Suchanek (PS), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).



## Report from Haines By Pam Randles

Despite the record shattering snowfall we have had this year, spring birds are beginning to show up. There were about 400 **Surf Scoters** in the inlet. They are gathering to fuel up for the summer and to choose mates. **Pigeon Guillemots** are also back and gathering near the docks where they nest.

There is quite a bit of activity at the mouth of the Chilkoot River. Two local residents found a capelin washed up on the beach, so that may be the reason. They also heard a Hooter (**Blue or Sooty Grouse**) in the forest and saw a hawk. Quite a few **eagles** are on the Chilkoot side of the mountain. Other residents such as **ravens, crows, gulls** and **Common Mergansers** are hanging out in Lutak Inlet. Several **Northern Shrikes** have been spotted recently, and **Pygmy Owls** have been hooting. One person observed four **Common Goldeneyes**, three males and one female plus a pair of **Trumpeter Swans**



Interesting faces on these two Common Goldeneyes.  
(Photo by Kathleen Menke)

### **Eastern Bluebirds** -- By Prill(Isleib)Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

A couple summers ago a pair of bluebirds nested in one of our bird houses. Our family enjoyed watching them but last summer there some housing competition with the chickadees, tufted titmouse, and the nuthatches. This year in late February we noticed the bluebirds checking out a couple of our birdhouses. We went around and made sure that all the bird boxes were cleaned out and ready for the coming season.



To avoid any nesting competition this spring, I bought 4 cedar wood bluebird houses and we posted them on different trees. We then waited to see what would happen. To our delight the bluebirds came back, checked out the new boxes and went in and out of each of them. A few days later we noticed that a particular bird box was chosen. It faces northwest toward a lower open area on the property. We have observed the male bringing various insects to the nest for his mate. The male often perches on the roof of the birdhouse or on a branch near by where he keeps watch about his surroundings.

Male Eastern Bluebirds are a brilliant deep blue on the back and head, and warm red-brown or brick-red on the breast. His colors seem to glow in the sunlight. Females are grayish above with bluish wings and tail, and a subdued light orange-brown breast. According to several sources the Eastern Bluebirds mostly range east of the Rockies and from southern Canada to the Gulf States. They are also reported to be found in Southeast Arizona to Nicaragua.

## **Teshkepuk Lake: the Crown Jewel of the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska**

Beth Peluso, Communications Manager, Audubon Alaska

The National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (Reserve) encompasses an immense and spectacular Arctic ecosystem that provides critical habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. The Reserve is a vast landscape that has remained largely unchanged in character over millennia and boasts wilderness and wildlife values that rank among the highest on the continent.

The wetlands along the northern edge of the Reserve teem with life during the summer. An epicenter of this activity is the vast wetland maze surrounding Teshkepuk Lake. This biological hotspot provides essential habitat for the Teshkepuk Lake Caribou Herd and hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds. For tens of thousands of geese, this area provides a critical safe haven when they are flightless during molt. Birds that breed here migrate to places across the Lower 48 and to six continents—some of the birds you see in your backyard during migration may be on their way to the Reserve!

The Reserve is the largest tract of public land in the country, encompassing more than 22 million acres of the North Slope. In 1976, Congress recognized that there were special areas in the Reserve with exceptional qualities. It directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to balance future development with “maximum protection” for the special qualities of these areas, including fish and wildlife, subsistence, recreation, historical, and scenic values. Several “Special Areas” have been designated by the BLM in recognition of their wildlife and natural values: Teshkepuk Lake, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and the Utukok River Uplands. None of them, however, has permanent protection.

Although more than 3 million acres of the Reserve are presently leased for oil and gas exploration, so far there is no established oil production. Most of the highest-value habitat areas in the Reserve remain largely undisturbed. This spring, you have an unprecedented chance to help protect these highest-value habitats. The BLM is currently working on an area-wide plan that will dictate how the resources in the Reserve will be managed in the future. This is the greatest opportunity we’ve had to secure a management plan that protects the area surrounding Teshkepuk Lake by designating it as not available for oil and gas leasing.

The BLM will seek public comments on the Plan when it releases the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, scheduled for release this spring. This will be an opportunity to support permanent protection of the special areas. To find out more, visit [www.AudubonAlaska.org](http://www.AudubonAlaska.org).

## Reaching Out to a Younger Crowd

The Audubon flock has an amazing amount of collective knowledge and wisdom. But you might have noticed our functions are not well attended by the next generation of naturalists and conservationists. What is the future of our environmental groups, and ultimately the environment, if we can't attract new members? How can we get more interest from younger birders, or those that have not found a good way to connect with the outdoors?

Do you have ideas? Let us know!

One idea that we have talked about is utilizing social media (Facebook, blogs, and so forth) However, we do not have a board member currently with the time and expertise in this realm to dive in. Do you know good ways to connect with young adults? Suggestions and volunteers are welcome.

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## Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair

I just wanted to thank you and your organization for sponsoring an Award at the 2012 Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair on March 10, 2012. The students chosen for the Juneau Audubon Society award this year were:

**Kathe Tallmadge** for her project "Respiration Rates of Pacific Herring and Yellowtail Rockfish"

**Ian Andrews & Fiona Brown** for their project "How Feeding After a Period of Starvation Affects RNA/DNA Ratios in Juvenile Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) Over Time"

**Kiana Hunter-Skeek & Thea McCluskey** for their project "Shells That Stick, Bad Eggs, or Just Badly Prepared?" and

**Ariana Gross & Amalia Tamone** for their project "The effects of potential anesthetics on the nervous system of Humpy Shrimp (*Pandalus goniurus*)"



On behalf of the students I would like to thank you for supporting this worthwhile activity.  
Lawrence Schaufler, Fair Director

## OTHER WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* New Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY**

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

### **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

President: Julie Coghill	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Vice-President: Jeff Sauer,	<a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org</a>
Secretary: Julie Koehler,	<a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Treasurer: Patty Rose,	<a href="mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org">treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Programs: Jeff Sauer	<a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Membership: Brenda Wright, 789-4656,	<a href="mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org">membership@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Education: Kevin O'Malley,	<a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Conservation: Gwen Baluss	<a href="mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org">conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Field Trips: Mark Schwan	<a href="mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org">field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540,	<a href="mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org">raven@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large: Linda Nicklin	<a href="mailto:at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large: Merrill Jensen,	<a href="mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Public Market:	<a href="mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org">public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Web Master: George Utermohle,	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

### **Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?**

You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201

Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

### National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_ Please bill me C2ZA510Z A51

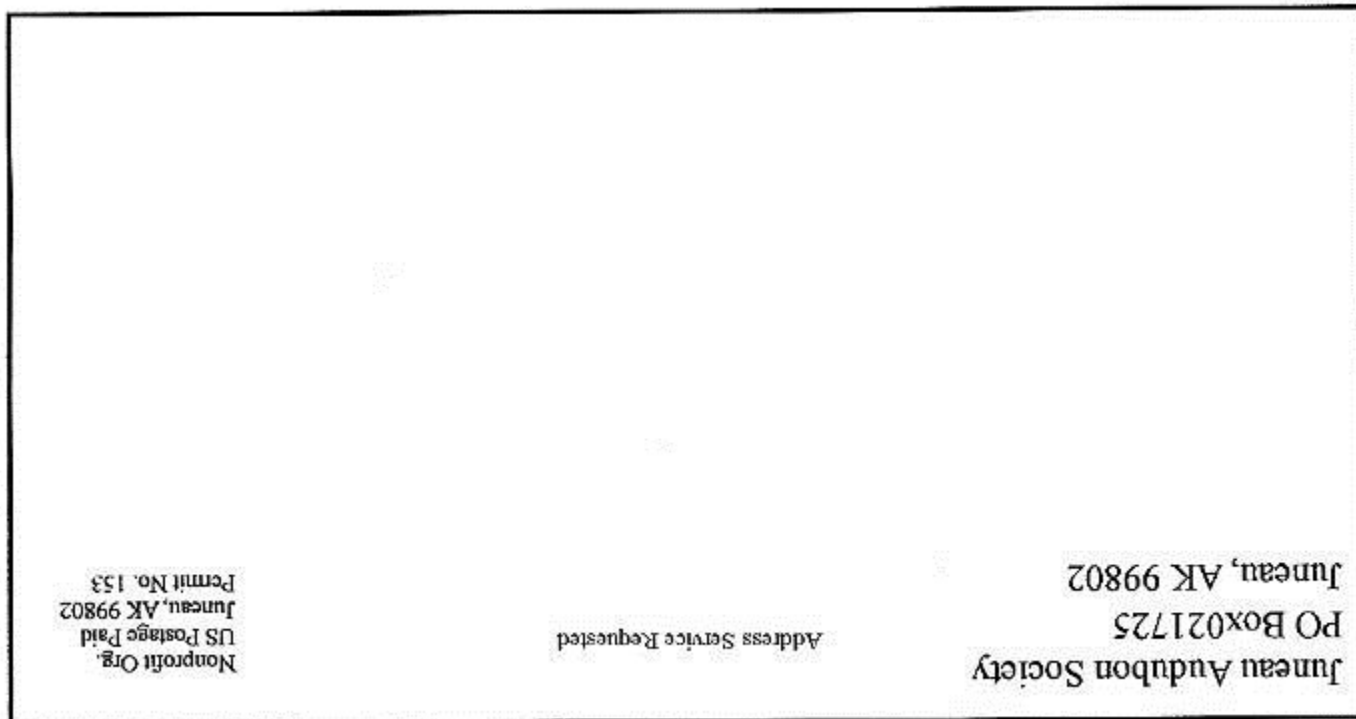
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### Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.**

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 38, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May

## JUNEAU AUDUBON ACTIVITIES Saturday Activities

**Dress for the weather. \*Rubber boots or waterproof shoes required for this walk.**

Date	Location/Event	Time/Comments	Leader(s)
May 5	Sunny Point to airport dike; a walk through the wetlands on low tide. *	8am - noon /meet at airport dike parking; shuttle from there.	Mark Schwan
May 12	Hike toward mouth of Mendenhall River from dike trail parking area. *	8:00am Meet at dike trail parking area at end of Radcliffe Road	Jeff Sauer
May 19  International Migratory Bird Day	Community Garden by Montana Creek.  Bird Banding Demonstrations and kids activities  Arctic Tern viewing	7:00-11:00am  Birdwalk after demonstrations.*  3:00-5:00pm; at Photo Point past glacier visitors' center	Gwen Baluss  Jeff Sauer for later birdwalk  Gwen Baluss
May 26	Brotherhood Bridge	8:00am Meet at parking lot on north side of river.	Gwen Baluss
June 2	Sandy Beach	7:00am  Meet at parking lot	Patty Rose
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**September 8 – Eaglecrest 10:00 a.m.** Meet beside the Lodge. Berries will be found and identified. After getting to know the berries you will be free to pick berries on your own, so bring along something to put them in.

### Other Upcoming Events:

[Please Join Friends of Admiralty Island for a 4.5-Hour Boat Cruise to Hawk Inlet on Admiralty Island on Sunday, May 20, 2012.](#)

[We will depart from Don Statter Public Boat Harbor at 1:30 pm.](#)

We will travel aboard an Allen Marine catamaran which accommodates 120 people. Trip cost is \$35 per person over age 12 and \$10 per person 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased from Hearthside Books (downtown or Nugget Mall), Rainy Retreat Books, or Juneau Arts & Culture Center (JACC). Complimentary coffee and tea. Other beverages and snacks may be purchased onboard.

This is a great opportunity to see marine mammals, sea birds, the picturesque and rockbound shoreline south of Pt. Retreat, and historically important Hawk Inlet on the west side of Admiralty Island. Specialists will join us to discuss natural history, the role which people have played in that history, and the natural resource values that need to be factored into the U.S. Forest Service’s consideration of the Greens Creek Mine’s proposal for massive tailings disposal in nearby Admiralty Island National Monument. The public comment deadline for this tailings disposal proposal is June 4, so join us and become informed. Questions? Contact [admiralty\\_friends@yahoo.com](mailto:admiralty_friends@yahoo.com)



*Paul Suchanek and birding group, April 2012*

## **An Appreciation**

By Mark Schwan

Paul Suchanek will be leaving Juneau later this summer or early fall, moving to more southerly climes. When Paul leaves, the Juneau birding community will lose a long-time friend and great resource. I first met Paul when he came to Juneau in 1986 to take a job with Fish and Game. We worked together for 16 years in the same office, both having studied birds in college but happily taking careers working with fisheries management, where job opportunities were much more plentiful. I knew Paul was interested in birds and he enjoyed birding, however, it seemed his enthusiasm for birding and listing intensified through the early 1990s. After that, he pretty much has left everyone else in the dust.

Back in the year 2000, Paul was the first birder ever to see 200 species of birds in the immediate Juneau area in one year. If you are not a birder, you really don't know how hard this is to do. He did this one more time since then. Only one other birder has now done it. Paul has seen well over 300 species

of birds in Alaska and his cumulative list of species for Juneau totals 276. However, these milestones are eclipsed by some of Paul's other accomplishments when you examine the intensity of his birding and the energy and detail he has devoted to recording and documenting his field observations through time. Most birders go out and look for birds, and maybe keep a species list, and that might be it. During the last 20-plus years, Paul has recorded many thousands of observations of birds where he has included counts of individual species, by date and location. Paul's observations have proven invaluable to local conservation efforts.

Perhaps Paul's favorite area to bird has been Point Bridget State Park and the adjacent waters of Berners Bay. He likes to get out there early and walk a similar circuit each time, covering a variety of habitats, which includes scanning the marine waters with spotting scope. Paul has identified and counted the birds he has seen or heard, and entered this information into his computer database system. Through the years, he has completed approximately 430 birding outings to Point Bridget, and has written a detailed monograph on the status and distribution of birds for the area. His data were most helpful in getting Berners Bay designated as an Important Bird Area, or IBA.

When Bob Armstrong took the lead in preparing the application for IBA status for the Mendenhall Wetlands, his job was easier with the inclusion of 15,000+, that's right, 15,000 entries of bird counts by species offered up by Paul. In fact, again, these



detailed accounts were crucial for the designation of the Mendenhall Wetlands IBA.

Paul has volunteered his birding expertise in a variety of other ways. He has led bird walks for Juneau Audubon, been a key group leader on Christmas Bird Counts, helped Alaska Audubon with Birdathons, and been a constant contributor to Eaglechat since its inception. When the first Bioblitz hit Juneau several years ago, Paul offered to serve as the bird team leader. Hopefully he will do it one last time this year, if he is here.

In 2008, Paul began entering his birding records into eBird. This is the online citizen science project where birders enter their observations into a centralized computer database which can then be viewed online by anyone. Getting his records into eBird gave Paul a stronger purpose for birding and rejuvenated his birding interest. At this writing, Paul has entered 2,935 “complete” checklists for his Alaska birding, where every species with counts of individuals seen during an outing were recorded, and he has also entered more than 3,000 additional “incidental” checklists, where only the highlight species were entered. When the eBird administrators needed people to oversee and serve as “gatekeepers” for eBird entries in Alaska, Paul volunteered to be the regional editor for southeast Alaska.

I reckon I disagree with Joni Mitchell, you can know what you are losing before it is gone. For the birders in Juneau this will hit us hard. Finally, beyond all that he has contributed to the birding community, we will miss him because he is a good guy,

always seeming a straight shooter, ethical, and respectful of others. So, thank you Paul, and we wish you the best in good health, happiness, and . . . good birding.



*Paul Suchanek looking out toward Berners Bay, May 2007*

## **Bird Notes from around Southeast**

### **Spring Migration at Ketchikan**

By Andy Piston

After a winter that felt like it might never end, spring migration got off to a relatively slow start at Ketchikan. The first songbird to arrive in numbers, the American Robin, was a week or two behind schedule and did not start trickling through until mid-March, with larger flocks not arriving until the end of the month. Fox Sparrows, the other eagerly awaited songbird arrival in March, did not arrive in numbers until the last few days of the month. Small flocks of Trumpeter Swans were noted by many observers throughout March, and a handful of non-wintering gulls, California, Herring, and Bonaparte's began arriving by the second week. Late in the month we had our first Ruby-crowned Kinglets (29 March; AWP) and Band-tailed Pigeons (31 March; CAF) arrive right on schedule. The first Rufous Hummingbird of the spring arrived

on 31 March, which is a fairly typical date for our first arrival (CAF).

The relatively slow start in March gave way to a mix of early to average arrivals in April. Both Violet-green and Tree swallows arrived during the second week of April, but mixed into the flocks at Ward Lake were new early arrival records for Cliff Swallow (two birds on 14 April; SCH, WTY) and Northern Rough-winged Swallow (19 April; AWP, SCH, WTY). The Cliff Swallows were nearly a month earlier than our previous record arrival date, and the Northern Rough-winged Swallow was nearly two weeks earlier than our previous local record. Yellow-rumped and Townsend's warblers arrived right on time in mid-April, but an Orange-crowned Warbler on 14 April tied our earliest arrival date. Several shorebirds made earlier than normal appearances, including three Western Sandpipers, two Dunlin, and a Black-bellied Plover on 14 April (JHL, AWP). Herring spawn on the Ketchikan road system attracted large numbers of gulls and Surf Scoters by mid-April, with high counts of over 6,000 gulls at Coast Guard Beach on 14 April, including approximately 3,500 Bonaparte's Gulls (AWP). At nearby South Point Higgins Beach, a rapidly increasing concentration of Surf Scoters was estimated to include 6,500 birds on 22 April (AWP). On 21 April, a massive movement of Red-necked Phalaropes moved north up Tongass Narrows and 7,300 were counted flying past in just three hours (AWP). Although flocks of Snow Geese made a decent showing through early April, the often tremendous spectacle of migrating Canada, Greater White-fronted, and

Cackling Geese that occurs in most years had not yet taken place as of 22 April.

Apart from regular migration, highlights included a Black-footed Albatross that was found and photographed in Revillagigedo Channel, just a short distance from Ketchikan on 4 April 2012 (BW, MC). Although this species is regular offshore of Southeast Alaska, this is the farthest into inside waters near Ketchikan we have record of. A male Purple Finch made rounds of several north end feeders through much of the winter and into early April (JFK, CAF, KMR), and at least one female was observed at two different feeding stations (JFK, KMR). Although the now resident Eurasian Collared-Dove population seemed down a bit by spring, observations of nest material collecting (PSD), courting, and several copulations (AWP, KMR) suggests their numbers may soon start increasing. At the time of this writing (22 April), spring migration is just hitting peak timing for many species and the forecast for the next three weeks is calling for hot birding with periods of migrants blotting out the sun.

Observers: Mike Criss (MC), Phil Doherty (PSD), Cheryl Fultz (CAF), Steve Heintz (SCH), Jim Lewis (JHL), Andy Piston (AWP), Kathy Ripley (KMR), Will Young (WTY), Bob Widness (BW).

Black footed albatross photo by Mike Criss.



## **Bird News from Haines**

**By Pam Randles**

The spring migration is in full swing now. Varied Thrushes started singing on March 28 and two days later were joined by waves of robins. Rufous Hummingbirds arrived on April 10. Surf Scoters began arriving on March 24 and started molting. The large rafts will probably be here until late May.

The Ts'ats'ee Bird Observatory had its first training April 15 – 22. They first banded many Ruby-Crowned Kinglet males. The first female arrived on the last day of the training. As the week went along more species arrived: Dark-Eyed Juncos, Robins, Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, Golden Crowned Sparrows and Fox Sparrows. A Wilson's Snipe and a Sharp-Shinned Hawk were captured and released as well. Ten bander candidates took the training. The Observatory hopes to have another training in summer.

Bonaparte's Gulls have been hovering around Lutak Inlet, probably waiting for hooligan to show up. The Chilkat River is a major flyway for waterfowl. So far this year, Snow Geese, Pintails, Green-Winged Teal, Shovelers, American and Eurasian Wigeons, Canada Geese and Mallards have been observed. Two Sandhill Cranes and several Trumpeter Swans were seen flying over.

Birdathon will be held April 29 to May 5 with a celebration bonfire on May 6. The focus for this year is to try to identify migration hot spots for future migration a banding station. Summer Eagle nest surveys are also beginning soon.

## **Uncle Ed and Wildflowers By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.**

My brother Pete's middle name was Edward, after our fathers oldest brother.

Uncle Ed was self taught in many areas of nature. He studied and learned the names of birds, flowers, and trees. He had a warm and jovial personality. In some of his retirement years he was the Nature Counselor at the 4-H camp in Hartford County, Connecticut, where all the campers called him "Uncle Ed". As a young teen Pete became a camp Junior Counselor.

One day Uncle Ed challenged a group of campers to see who could find 3 different kinds of wild flowers that Uncle Ed could not identify but that they could identify. For reward he would give that person a dollar. (In the 1950's, candy bars only cost a nickel.)

The campers scattered out into the woods to hunt for the mystery wild flowers. You

guessed it. Pete came back with several different kinds of wild flowers that Uncle Ed did not know. And yes, Pete knew what they were.

## Bluets

Bluets are one of the earliest spring wild flowers to bloom here. In early march we see them in patches of their colorful blooms in our back yard and also along country roads.

They are a tiny flower and usually a rich, deep blue but may also be found as light blue or even white. It is a low plant with erect, slender stems about 3 to 5 inches high. It has a flower of four petals with a golden yellow center. While bluets to grow singly, they are usually found in beautiful clusters. The blooming lasts for several weeks.

Bluets occur throughout the eastern United States in deciduous woods, old fields, and roadsides but are noticeable only when they flower in the spring. They seem to grow best in well-drained acidic poor soil often with moss, but generally they want spring moisture and a little sun. It is a plant that would do well in rock gardens.

## Juneau Bird Report for April by Patty Rose

During April, migrating birds arrived in Juneau in significant numbers. Observers reported 130 species in eBird, compared with 90 species during March. The highlight of the month was the movement of **Mountain Bluebirds** through the area in mid-April. Following are April observations

that are rare or rarer in spring on the Juneau Checklist:

Rare duck observations included a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Fish Creek on April 25 (PS, MS) and one at the Boy Scout Camp beach on April 27 (PS). A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was first seen on the Audubon spring bird walk at Eagle Beach SRA on April 14 and continued through April 20 (PS, mobs.). This species, perhaps the same individual, was later seen at the Boy Scout Camp beach on April 27 (PS). Sightings of **Hooded Mergansers** included two females on Twin Lakes on April 2 (PS), a male on Twin Lakes on April 3 (GV), and a male at Petersen Creek on April 27 (PS).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed flying over the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Golf Course on April 22 (GV). On April 27, three **Sandhill Cranes** were seen from the Boy Scout Camp Trail (PS) and at Eagle Beach SRA (RG). The only observation of a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** reported during April was of a single individual near Auke Bay on April 25 (MS). A **Cliff Swallow** was seen with a group of swallows on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Golf Course on April 22 (PS, BA, PR).

**Mountain Bluebirds** were reported at Eagle Beach SRA, Point Bridget State Park, and the Mendenhall Wetlands. The first sighting was of a male at Eagle Beach SRA during the April 14 Audubon spring bird walk (PS, mobs.). Subsequent observations at that same location included a female on April 15 (DJ Photo) and a male on April 16 (MS Photo). A male was seen at Point Bridget State Park on April 20 (PS). Mountain Bluebird observations at the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Golf Course included a male on April 21 (PR) and April 22 (PS, BA, PR), a male and female on April 22 (GV), and one male and three females on April 23 (MS).

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was located in the muskeg near the power plant at the end of the North Douglas Powerline Trail on April 17 (PS), and one was seen at Point Bridget State Park on the beach near Cowee Creek on April 20 (PS).

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Ron Gile (RG), Doug Jones (DJ), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Paul Suchanek (PS), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).



*Mountain Bluebird photo by Mark Schwan.*

### **Wrangell – May 2012, Bonnie Demerjian**

Wrangell celebrated the Stikine River Birding Festival during the last weekend of the month. The traditional bird walk with 20 birders of all ages on Muskeg Meadows Golf Course netted 27 species. Notable finds included a Northern goshawk and a small flock of American pipits. More hikes are planned for this spring. The Juneau Raptor Center brought Phil, a Gyrfalcon and Nugget, a barn owl, to a day of school programs and an evening event. Students also created bird-inspired art with guest

artist Sandy Shepard of Ketchikan. Master gardener Sue Goetz from Seattle presented a workshop on gardening to attract birds and KSTK radio listeners were challenged to “Name that Tweet”.

This year’s Sandhill crane show began April 19 with a few stragglers crossing overhead through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The birds spent some time on the Stikine River flats before continuing north. Snow geese were doing the same and began to be seen around mid-April. A lone Snow goose spent an afternoon in the yard of a local church, possibly resting. Its rusty head attracted plenty of attention and probably resulted from mucking about in mineral-rich mud in the Skagit or Fraser rivers before heading north, ultimately to Russia’s Wrangel Island. Western grebes are commonly seen in the area in spring and fall. This year is no exception with a small flock observed near the Wrangell airport at month’s end. Trumpeter swans again made an appearance at Pat’s Lake early in the month and a pair of Hooded mergansers was spotted there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Observers living on the Stikine River report nesting Great-horned owls near their cabins. One observer even had an owl perched on his porch listening for voles in the grass. A handful of Red-winged blackbirds are present near river cabins. Unlike in Wrangell, where they appear for a few weeks in early spring, some of these birds remain all summer and a few even winter over. The eulachon run on the river is finished so the several thousand Bald eagles that appear for that feast have moved on.

Several hundred Black turnstones mixed with Surfbirds and a smattering of Western sandpipers foraged along Zimovia Strait beaches during the last half of the month.

The first Ruby-crowned kinglet was recorded on April 7. Pine siskins, which have been absent all winter, have reappeared this month. Golden-crowned sparrows, ravenous as ever, appeared around mid-month, preceded by Rufous hummingbirds which arrived the second week of the month. Savannah sparrows appeared around the 25<sup>th</sup>. Fox sparrows in greater numbers than usual have been in town since mid-month and a few Lincoln sparrows are also here.

Warblers also began to arrive during the last week of April. An early Yellow-rumped warbler was spotted at Pat's Lake on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first Townsend's on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the first Orange-crowned was reported on the 25<sup>th</sup> although none are here in great numbers yet.

The first Violet-green swallow was reported on April 22.

On April 25 a Black-headed grosbeak was observed at a feeder in town.

A feeder watcher reports that eight Band-tailed pigeons are frequenting his feeder and have been around since the middle of April.



This red-headed Snow goose spent an afternoon on a Wrangell lawn on April 16, perhaps resting from its long journey. Photo by Carol Ross.

#### Eagle Feather Collectors

If you already have a permit to collect feathers, and you have some, remember to contact Brenda at 321-4739 or [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) so that we can send them to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado. If you do not yet have a permit, but are willing to collect eagle feathers for this purpose, just call or send an e-mail to get your official collection permit.

Thanks!

## OTHER WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\*\*New Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

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### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

**Check out our web page for more information: [www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)**

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Yakutat Tern Festival

May 31-June 3, 2012

*“Celebrating Birds in Culture”*

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Please join us to celebrate the extraordinary natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska!

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Special airfare from Alaska Airlines from May 28-June 6: \$89.00/one way from Juneau and \$109/one way from Anchorage! Book online at [www.alaskaair.com](http://www.alaskaair.com)

For more information please call the U.S. Forest Service at (907) 784-3359

**Enjoy your birding! Especially the spring Migration**

### **Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival May 3-6, 2012**

The **22<sup>nd</sup>** Annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival, May 3-6, 2012, will continue to include environmental education as well as showing our visitors the beauty and grandeur of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta. Our Keynote Speaker this year is Mr. Guido Berguido from the Panama Audubon Society. Other Audubon speakers include Nils Warnock and Melanie Smith from the Alaska Audubon Society.

Cooperation and collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Forest Service-Cordova Ranger District, the Prince William Sound Science Center and many of our local service oriented businesses help insure the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival is successful year after year.



## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714 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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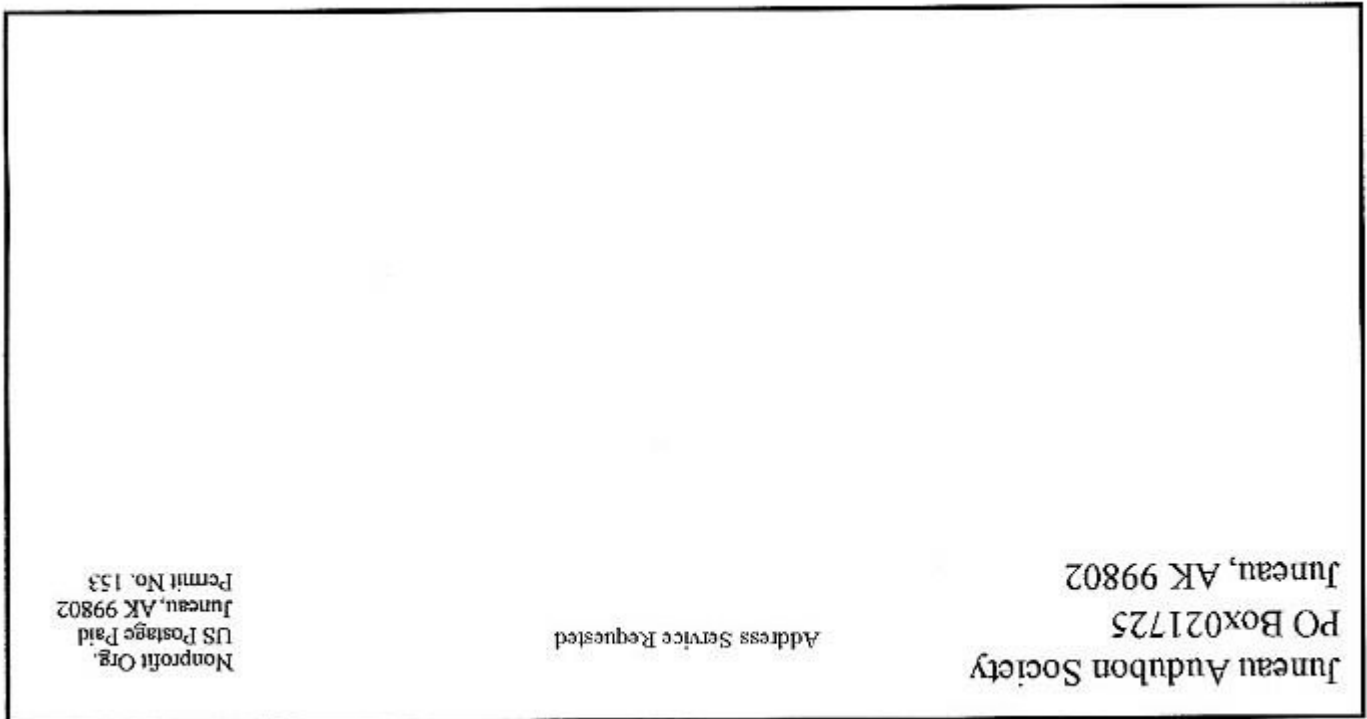
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## Local Audubon Society Membership Application

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If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**



# 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 39, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2012

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012.**

**An exciting program is being planned for the October meeting. Flip Nicklin: Recent Work, or What I Did This Summer, featuring whales and eagles.** Flip Nicklin is a photographer who has worked for National Geographic Magazine in a career spanning more than 30 years and 20 feature stories. He has several books to his name including *With the Whales* and *Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises*, published by National Geographic Society, *Whales and Dolphins in Question* published by Smithsonian and *Humpbacks, Unveiling the Mysteries*, by Dr. Jim Darling. His new book is *Among Giants, A Life With Whales* published by University of Chicago Press.

Flip was named North American Nature Photography Association's Outstanding Wildlife Photographer of the Year for 2012. He makes his home in Juneau, Alaska, where he is working on new directions in "backyard photography".

Our annual election of officers will also be held during the October meeting. There will be no recruitment of people from the audience, however, we welcome people with an interest in Audubon as new board members.

**NOVEMBER BOOTH** – We are planning to have our annual fund raising booth at the Juneau Market the weekend after Thanksgiving. If you have items you would like to donate for sale, have extra wild berries for jelly making (Mary Lou would appreciate any help you can give her in making the jelly – call her 789-7540 – if you might have some time to do this and also let her know if you have saved any of the empty ½ pint jelly jars that can be reused). Volunteers to work in the booth will also be needed – more information on this when we are closer to the time of the booth.

## Saturday Wild Juneau Audubon Walks 2012 By Brenda Wright

So far this year we have been extremely lucky with the nice weather for our Saturday Wild walks. Our first one in **June at the Jensen-Olsen Arboretum** was bright and sunny. Merrill Jensen gave a wonderful tour of the garden to a large appreciative audience. Thank you Merrill!



**In July**, Saturday Wild went up the **Mt. Roberts Tram** and into the fog. Luckily for us the fog lifted and we were treated to beautiful views and excellent interpretation by Linda Nicklin. The snow was still pretty deep on some of the ridges but those that persevered were treated to some beautiful wildflowers, friendly marmots, and even some sooty grouse that posed for us. Thank you Linda and Mt Roberts tram for the reduced rate!

**In August**, Saturday Wild met at **Fish Creek** to look for mushrooms and discuss fish biology. The group that attended was most interested in mushrooms and got an excellent introduction to finding and identifying some of local edible mushrooms by Dave Gregovich. The weather was not perfect, but got friendlier the whole time. Thank you Dave!



## **Juneau Birding Notes Spring and Summer 2012** By Mark Schwan

It seems the cold wet summer put a damper on the birds. Many people noted a subnormal season of bird activity. Some commented on a poor showing of certain berries, and bug activity early-on seemed low, but then picked up later. Songbirds seemed to be missing in late summer before the fall migration began to push birds our way. Interestingly, it was a strong year, well it started off strong, for Townsend's Warbler. They seemed to be singing everywhere from late April through May. Who knows how they coped with the inclement conditions as they progressed through the nesting season?

What follows are selected sightings, as reported via Eaglechat and eBird. In addition, our just-turned octogenarian birder, Rich Gordon, provided written details. It is likely this will be the last local report that will benefit from the keen eyes and dedication of Paul Suchanek. We will miss Paul and wish him all the best. What follows are just a few of the more interesting observations made over the course of the last four months. For a much more thorough account, readers should visit the eBird website and explore the Alaskan and Juneau-specific data.

A beautiful male **Cinnamon Teal** was found by visiting birder Bruce Paige at Twin Lakes on 5/5. The bird was subsequently seen by various local birders over the next two days. **Redheads** were seen on two occasions, with three birds found at Point Bridget SP on 5/3 (PS), and a lone bird found at the mouth of the Mendenhall River on 5/24 (RG, MS). A breeding-plumaged **Pacific Loon** was found on Moose Lake on 6/9 during the JAS Saturday morning bird walk (SZ et al). This was quite exceptional. Another most unusual find was the **Western Grebe** on the outer Mendenhall Lake forelands on 7/14 (RG). The only **Osprey** report was a bird seen at Sandy Beach on 6/11 (PR). A calling **Sora** on Duck Creek was present for probably three weeks (JH, RA). This bird (assumed same) was heard on 7/27 (MS) and subsequently on 7/28 (GV, PS, PR). More fascinating was a **Sora** found by Paul Suchanek in a slough of the lower Mendenhall River on 8/22.



*Red-necked Stint* By Paul Suchanek

Probably the most exciting finds of the spring and summer were the two reports of lone **Red-necked Stints** out near the Mendenhall River, the first on 5/28 (RG) and the second 7/8 (PS, BA). These are the first records of this species for Juneau. Other shorebirds of note included two different **Wilson's Phalaropes**, one on 5/28 (RG) and another on 6/15, a breeding-plumaged female along the shore of Mendenhall Lake (RG). **Stilt Sandpipers** showed up at the usual places right on time, except Rich Gordon had one rather early bird, an adult in breeding plumage along the airport dike on 7/19. An **Upland Sandpiper**

was calling in flight over Brotherhood Park meadow on 8/23 (MS).

As many gulls as there are around Juneau, there was a paucity of interesting observations this summer. The only rare gull species found this summer has been two separate reports of **Ring-**

**billed Gull**; one near Fish Creek on 8/17-18 (PS, DS), and another at the Gold Creek delta on 8/25 (PS, PR). **Caspian Terns** were again reported from a variety of locations throughout the area by many observers. Rich Gordon was able to locate a lone **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** out of a very large flock of swallows flying low around the outer Mendenhall wetlands on 7/28. This is a very difficult bird to find in Juneau. One or possibly two different **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were located up Perseverance Trail/Silverbow Basin, on 6/22 (RG), and 7/3 (PS, GV).

**Tennessee Warblers** made a decent showing. The earliest was found by Rich Gordon along the airport dike on 5/21. Then in June, one bird was found up Perseverance Trail on 6/4 (GV, PR); one was found at Moose Lake on 6/5 (MS), another was found again at Moose Lake on 6/20 (PS, PR, BA), and yet another was found near the Mendenhall Glacier Visitors' Center on 6/22. **Blackpoll Warbler** accounts included one briefly singing at Norton Lake on 6/2 (MS, PR, BA), and another bird observed along the airport dike on 7/16 (RG). A single **Brown-headed Cowbird** near downtown on 5/14 (VS) was the only report this spring-summer. A striking **Evening Grosbeak** frequented a Douglas feeder on 5/29 (MF) and was seen over the next several days by many birders.

Contributors: Bev Agler, BA; Robert Armstrong, RA; Mary Ellen Frank, MF; Richard Gordon, RG; John Hudson, JH; Bruce Paige, BP; Patty Rose, PR; David Schmerge, DS; Mark Schwan, MS; Paul Suchanek, PS; Van Sundberg, VS; Gus van Vliet, GV; Steve Zimmerman, SZ.

### **Wrangell Report** Submitted by Bonnie Demerjian

While it seems to have been a dull summer in many ways, looking back at bird sightings produced some interesting results.



**Male Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported a number of times beginning in early May. A female was also seen several times over the summer and the predictable outcome, a juvenile, was photographed in August. Another unwelcome newcomer was a **House Sparrow**, reported and documented on June 12 by Kaylauna Churchill. Bill Neumann on the lower Stikine River spotted another, or perhaps the same bird, the following day.

Petroglyph Beach on the north side of Wrangell seems to attract its share of novelties. A **Townsend's Solitaire** put in a brief, one-day appearance there in early May and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** showed up a week later. A single **Red-necked Grebe** showed up at the beach in mid-May and a small flock was also seen in the Eastern Passage a few days later along with a group of ten **Western Grebes**.

The airport area also attracts interesting birds on occasion. This summer produced a flock of **Black Swifts** in late June, as well as the usual **Alder Flycatcher** and nesting **Killdeer**.

Several experienced Wrangell-area birders reported from the Stikine this summer. **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were reported from a number of locations as were, **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, **Western**

**Tanagers , Ruffed Grouse and Black Swifts.** At his home near the border, about 30 miles upriver, Bill Sampson reported **Purple Finches and Bank Swallows** as well as an unusual sighting of two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**. Although they are usually considered secretive, Bill Neumann photographed a snipe family in his yard, even perched on his picnic table. Typical river warblers, the **Northern Waterthrush and American Redstart**, were also seen.



Two **Whimbrel** passed through the area and were observed by several fortunate observers.

**Eurasian Collared-doves** are slowly increasing their numbers in Wrangell, with a flock of 12-15 appearing at feeders daily. **Band-tailed Pigeons** showed up at scattered feeders during early summer. A male **Rusty Blackbird** made a one-day appearance in early June. **Cedar Eaxwings**,

however, spent the entire summer in the area, only disappearing this past week. This summer produced the usual warblers as well as a surprise, a **Tennessee Warbler**, observed and heard by several birders on July 1 and 2. While not in the Wrangell vicinity, a recent boat trip to the Keku Islands near Kake turned up a view of a **Yellow-billed Loon** as well as a small flock of **Black Turnstones** and hundreds of **Red-necked Phalaropes**.

Photograph credits – Snipe – Bill Neumann; Brown-headed cowbird – Kaylauna Churchill

### **Summer Sights Sounds By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.**

A White Fronted Goose along with some Canada Geese were seen in our area in early summer also some Willets. The Eastern Blue Birds, Tufted Titmouse, and Chickadees each raised two separate families in our nesting boxes.



*Western Willets*

Red Shouldered Hawks nested nearby and feeding time for the young was quite noisy. The Red Shouldered Hawks sounded out loud calls as they flew over the fields. They were often followed by raucous scolding crows. A Broad-Winged Hawk frequented the area.

One afternoon a huge flock of Common Grackles flew into the yard and trees. They flew around the neighborhood several times before moving on.

A Whip-O-Will and a Yellow-Billed Cuckoo were often heard in the early mornings.

The Ruby Throated Humming Birds usually arrive at the hummingbird feeders around the second week of April and stay in the area until early September.

The Cicadas can be heard occasionally during the day all summer long. In July the Katydid's start their loud raspy, humming sounds just after dark, about 9:00pm and continue all night until about 4:00am in the morning.

### **CELEBRATION OF CHILKAT BALD EAGLE PRESERVE'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ON AUGUST 4, 2012.**

Thanks to Mayor Stephanie Scott and Evangeline Willard Hoy, members of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council, for their efforts to plan and carry off a wonderful day celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and guests began the calm and sunny day with a great raft trip (graciously donated by Chilkat Guides) down the Chilkat River through the Preserve. Eagles and even one wolf put in appearances along the way and we all had fun bouncing up and down when the rafts threatened to get stuck on gravel bars.

We were pulled out near the Klukwan Chilkat Tribal House, where we were greeted by Chilkat Indian Village Tribal Council President Jones Hotch Jr. and enjoyed a great program that included a history of the establishment of the Preserve and dancing by Chilkat dancers. Following the program we walked up to the Klukwan Village Hospitality House for a delicious lunch served by the Klukwan folks.

**Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve at 30 – Accomplishments and Challenges** By Nancy Berland who has been working on CBEP habitat conservation for a decade. She is currently an Associate with Rivers Without Borders.

Decades ago controversy flared in Haines over the opportunity to protect remarkable eagle and salmon habitat. The need for this protection resulted after Juneau U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agent Fred Robards was assigned to capture some live eagles for research at Patuxent National Wildlife Research Station. He determined that the Chilkat River was the best place in Alaska to get the live specimens. The Patuxent research found that the Alaska eagles did not carry the same load of the DDT pesticide found in eagles down south. This eventually led to the banning of the use of DDT and to proposals to protect Chilkat River habitat.

At that time, Haines was far more interested in logging and mining than habitat protection. Eventually 15 stakeholders agreed to a compromise that created the 49,000-acre Eagle Preserve and the much larger surrounding Haines State Forest for more intensive uses. Dave Cline, National Audubon's regional vice president at the time said: "I know of no other resource controversy in Alaska where loggers, miners, commercial fishermen, conservationists, and borough, city, federal and state officials all signed a page-and-a-half agreement that settled the issue." Thirty years later it would be nice to be able to say that Cline's characterization was still accurate. Unfortunately controversy still exists.

In addition to the purpose of protecting Chilkat eagles and salmon "in perpetuity", the Preserve was also created to provide a place for research and study. Needed – and promised - studies remain unfunded.

How can we work to ensure that state and federal agencies will truly protect Preserve resources when other proposed activities occur? The Haines Highway re-alignment project and replacement of the Chilkat River Bridge, upstream mineral exploration of a high sulfide ore body, and a proposed hydro project upstream of the Chilkoot Unit of the Preserve offer additional management challenges.

The need to protect, enhance and scientifically understand our Bald Eagle Preserve are as great as ever.

### **A Short Reflection on Seemingly Unrelated Events** By Mark Schwan

Neil Armstrong's passing and the recent bear mauling in Denali . . . what do these two sad events have in common? Probably nothing to anybody else, however, for me there is a very memorable connection, but it's pretty strange.

I was camping at the Toklat River campground in Denali with my brother and sister-in-law in late July of 1969. Not nearly as many people visited Denali in those days, and there were no shuttle buses. We had spent several hours trying to hitchhike into the park, with maybe only one vehicle going by, when finally a park employee on his day off and heading toward Eielson Center stopped and offered to take us the 50 miles to Toklat. When we got there, we found the only other campers to be a family from Corpus Christi, Texas that was stranded due to a broken part necessary to haul their camping trailer with their large van. They had been there for days and were waiting for the part to get flown to Anchorage and make its way to park headquarters. They were the friendliest people with two small children, and we hit it off immediately. They seemed happy to have some company.

Over the next few days, my brother, sister-in-law, and I took short hikes along the Toklat River; our only close encounters with wildlife involved foxes, caribou, and ground squirrels. One evening, the Texans offered to take us for a drive farther out the road. Just as we pulled out of the campground and made our way around the first bend, we came upon a large grizzly right on the road. It seemed huge, and we reflected on how glad we were to be inside the vehicle. It made us think about the hikes we were taking.



One afternoon or evening, we got news from a passing park ranger that the Apollo astronauts would soon be attempting to land on the moon. We knew the world would be glued to their TV sets watching this historic achievement, and it was strange to be so far removed from the modern world and technology driving such an accomplishment. We later learned of the mission's success.

Sometime during the next several years, I can't recall just when, a man was severely mauled by a bear near the Toklat River and the Park Service closed the campground; to my knowledge it was never opened to the public again. When I heard of Neil Armstrong's death and the horrible event near the Toklat River, these old memories came flooding back.

### **JUNEAU'S MENDENHALL WETLAND'S OPPORTUNITIES** By Jim King

The debate about building a road across the Mendenhall State Game Refuge included a suggestion that isostatic uplift will soon end the value of the refuge for waterfowl. This little pond shows how future refuge managers could enhance the area for birds, when aircraft engineers succeed in building planes that are no longer vulnerable to damage from bird strikes.

This pond was dug in the 1960's while building a dike to protect nearby property from flood tides, something now prohibited by federal law. It is further protected by a conservation easement with SEALTRUST.

The pond is not over two feet deep and floods several times each month from high tides which brought the log. The water hosts small fish, a number of invertebrates and a variety of algae that attract water birds. At least 10 species of ducks, Canada Geese, White-fronted Geese, Trumpeter Swans and four species of shorebirds, both seasonal migrants and local residents have been seen feeding here. Green-winged Teal have raised broods here several times and one to several Mallards bring broods each summer. The post on the left is regularly used as a perch for hunting Kingfishers and occasionally by Great Blue Heron's. Other species occasionally rest on the perch – Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Hawk, Ravens, Crows, Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, Starlings, Robins, Song Sparrows and for one day a Long-tailed Flycatcher.

The Mendenhall can be an exciting bird refuge as long as we want it to be.



**BOOK REVIEW** --When Judy Shuler moved to Juneau from Anchorage, one of the first things she did was seek out Juneau Audubon Society. Spring bird walks, the then newly-established Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge and local nature artists inspired her to start a tour company focusing on the same things that attracted her as a newcomer to Southeast Alaska.

She's written *Red and Blue: A Memoir of Two Alaskan Tour Guides*, with former colleague Hildegard Ratliff. It includes much of the natural history she shared with visitors over 18 years, along with vignettes of people they met, and snapshots of Juneau and the travel industry on the cusp of great growth and change in the mid-1980s through 1990s. ***Red and Blue* is available at Hearthside Books. A digital version is available at amazon.com. The author can be reached at [judy@wordsalwaysmatter.com](mailto:judy@wordsalwaysmatter.com).**

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him

at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org> > )

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Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

### National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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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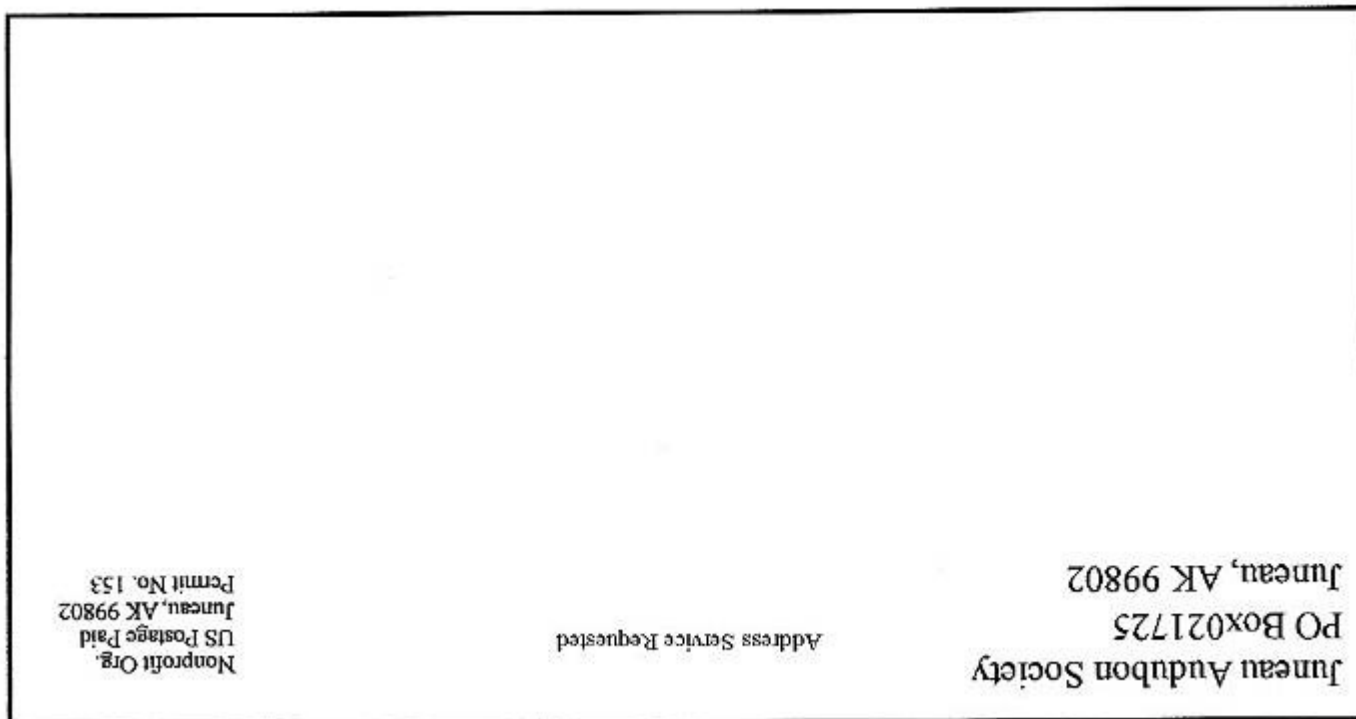
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### Local Juneau Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send  
\$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725,  
Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money  
and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 39, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2012

## JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

**MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012 at the UAS Egan Bldg Room 112**

**An exciting program is being planned. Flip Nicklin: Recent Work, or What I Did This Summer, featuring whales and eagles.** Flip Nicklin is a photographer who has worked for National Geographic Magazine in a career spanning more than 30 years and 20 feature stories. He has several books to his name including *With the Whales* and *Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises*, published by National Geographic Society, *Whales and Dolphins in Question* published by Smithsonian and *Humpbacks, Unveiling the Mysteries*, by Dr. Jim Darling. His new book is *Among Giants, A Life With Whales* published by University of Chicago Press.

Flip was named North American Nature Photography Association's Outstanding Wildlife Photographer of the Year for 2012. He makes his home in Juneau, Alaska, where he is working on new directions in "backyard photography".

**Our annual election of officers will also be held during the October meeting. Running for President will be Brenda Wright, for Treasure Patty Rose, for Secretary Bev Agler. There will be no recruitment of people from the audience, however, we welcome all nominations from the floor for people with an interest in Audubon as new board and committee members. People are needed to fill the Vice President, Membership and Programs positions.**

### **Juneau Audubon Joins Facebook** By Brenda Wright

Please check out our new Facebook page. If you want to see the new page, just search for Juneau Audubon Society. You need a Facebook account to log on. I'd appreciate any suggestions for improvements and 'friend' or 'likes'. National Audubon suggested that one way to interest young people to become members is to use the media they use most. I am not up to tweeting-except to an occasional bird, but if anyone wants to begin and maintain a tweet for Juneau Audubon, please let us know. Our address on Facebook is:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Juneau-Audubon-Society/138280412980789>

## **Public Market in November**

If you have any spare 1-cup (half pint) glass canning jars, please bring them to the October meeting. It's time to be making jelly and jam for the Public Market in Juneau. Any suggestions for other items to sell or donations for the booth are also gratefully accepted.

## **Audubon Members Outside of Juneau**

Juneau Audubon has received a DVD from National Audubon entitled: "Birders: The Central Park Effect". This is a HBO documentary film and is approximately 60 minutes. If any member would like to borrow it to show to your fellow members and friends in your own hometown, please contact Brenda [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) We will be happy to send it to you in the mail.

## **President's Message** By Julie Coghill

At our October general meeting, a new president will take over for Juneau Audubon. Last year I agreed to join the board for a year because of a shortage of board members. Now we have some new people joining and I'd like to thank them for stepping forward.

A highlight of my brief tenure has been the opportunity to meet many of you, and I hope I continue to run into you around Juneau, especially out on the trails.

This summer, with our regular bird walks and the re-introduction of Saturday Wild, Juneau Audubon has experienced a goodly increase in the numbers of people participating in these events. A big thank you to everyone who led those, and a special note of appreciation to Mark Schwan for coordinating them.

Additionally, I'd like to thank all of the long-term, highly committed board members whose contributions continue to make Juneau Audubon Society thrive from year to year.

## **Patricia Wherry** for Committee Chair for Education

I would like the opportunity to play with Education. This spring I met a great lady from Turkey who remarked on the difference in age makeup between the JN Audubon and Audubon in Turkey. I'm rather keen on helping to whet the interests of new and newer folks interested in birding, old and young.

## Juneau Bird Report for September by Patty Rose

In September, after the last Rufous Hummingbird has headed south, another species of hummingbird, the **Anna's Hummingbird**, sometimes visits Juneau. This year, Anna's Hummingbirds have made an especially good showing, with four birds in two separate areas of town. An immature male has been at an Auke Bay feeder since August 31 and was joined by an adult female on September 28 (GV). Two other Anna's Hummingbirds have been at a North Douglas feeder throughout September (SS). Following are other September bird observations that are listed as "Rare" or rarer on the Juneau Checklist.



*Anna's Hummingbird by Sandi Shaw*

An early flock of thirty-seven **Tundra Swans** flew over Brotherhood Park on September 9 (BA, PR). Deanna MacPhail reported a **Pied-Billed Grebe** on Moose lake on September 17. The next day, Mark Schwan observed two, one adult and one juvenile, at the same location. The Pied-Billed Grebes stayed in the area until at least September 25 and were seen by many observers (DM, MS, RA, GV, AC, BP).



*Pied-Billed Grebe By Bob Armstrong*

Raptors observed on the South migration included a **Golden Eagle** from the tramway trails on August 26 (PS, BA, PR) and another Golden Eagle at that location 9/18/12 (MS). Two Ospreys were observed, one **Osprey** hunting over Twin Lakes on September 17

(GV), and one on the Mendenhall Wetlands on September 29 (PR). Curiously, Falcons have been moved to after Woodpeckers on the Taxonomic list, so will be reported in that order.

In late August, a couple of rare shorebirds visited the Mendenhall Wetlands. A single **Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper** on August 30 (PR) and August 31 (PS, MS) and a **Buff-Breasted Sandpiper** on August 31 (PS, MS). The only rare gull sightings during the month were of **Ring-Billed Gulls**, including an adult on August 31 over Lower Lemon Creek (GV) and a second cycle bird on September 19 on Auke Bay (GV).

Also in the Auke Bay area, one and sometimes two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** visited an Auke Bay feeder throughout the month (GV). A **Common Nighthawk** appeared regularly at dawn and dusk in the same area September 3 – 9. Three reports of **Barred Owls** came in during September, one on the Nugget Creek Trail on September 23 (GB), one at 18 Mile on September 25 (BW), and one at Auke Rec on September 28 (GV).

Notable woodpeckers seen in September included a **Downy Woodpecker** on September 21 at an Auke Bay residence (GV) and **Northern Flickers** at Point Bridget State Park on September 12 (GB), Eagle Beach State Park on September 10, and Rotary Park on Riverside Avenue on September 22 (PR, BA) and 29 (PR).

**Peregrine Falcons** were seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the mouth of the river on September 1 (PR), September 8 (PR, BA), and September 22 (DS). They were also seen from the Airport Dike Trail on September 15 (GV), September 16 (PR, BA), and September 16 (MS), and from Sunny Point on September 17 (MS). Some of these observations could be of the same bird. A Peregrine Falcon was seen on North Douglas on September 13 (BF). Finally one was seen near Auke Bay September 15 and 24 (GV).



*Barred Owl on Nugget Cr. Trail  
By Gwen Baluss*

Although they were scarce earlier in the year, a few **Red-Breasted Nuthatches** showed up in early September in Auke Bay on August 30 (MS) and September 16 and 24 (GV), Wren Drive on September 10 and 21 (GB), West Juneau on September 17 (PR), and above the tram on September 18 (MS). Small groups of **Cedar Waxwings** passed through the area in September, including three in the Mendenhall valley on September 19 (GV) and four near Auke Bay on September 15 (GV).

Gwen Baluss found two **MacGillivray's Warblers** near the Juneau International Airport on September 11. Late lingering common warblers included two **Townsend's Warblers** in West Juneau on September 29 and 30 (PR), **Orange-Crowned Warblers** in West Juneau on September 29 (PR) and on the Airport Dike Trail on September 30 (PR), and a **Yellow Warbler** on the Airport Dike Trail on September 29 (GV). The only rare sparrow was a **Chipping Sparrow** seen with a flock of Dark-Eyed Juncos on Wren Drive on September 21 (GB).

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Robert Armstrong (RA), Gwen Baluss (GW), Amy Courtney (AC), Brad Fluetsch (BF), Deanna MacPhail (DM), Bruce Paige (BP), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Sandi Shaw (SS), David Smerge (DS), Paul Suchanek (PS), Gus Van Vliet (GV), and Brenda Wright (BW).

### **A Bird In The Hand** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

One evening in mid July I was on the deck reading the paper. The cat was on the deck railing. It looked like it was sleeping. Suddenly there was a flash of gray feathers as a bird flew against the window, fell to the deck floor, and quickly started to fly up again.

Just as the bird started to fly up the cat had snatched it and held it in her mouth. In that instant the bird had been caught. I immediately grabbed the cat and made her let the bird go. When she dropped it on the deck floor, I picked it up.

It was a beautiful Carolina Chickadee, so small, and so light weight. The chickadee didn't look injured. It laid on its side as I carefully held it in my open hands, out in the open in clear view of the trees. The cat wanted it back but now it was mine. The chickadee's little heart was beating wildly. Its beak and eyes were wide open. It didn't move. The cat gave up and left.

After several minutes the chickadee relaxed and righted itself. Then it started to breathe normally. A few minutes later it sat up in my open hands and just looked out at the trees. For quite a while it sat quietly in my hands and started to observe other birds flying around. After about 20 minutes it flew off toward the trees. Every time I see a chickadee I wonder if that might be the one I had in my hands.

*September 18, 2012*

Audubon Science Office | 545 Almshouse Road | Ivyland, PA 18974 | (215) 355-9588 ext.10  
[www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org) | [cbcadmin@audubon.org](mailto:cbcadmin@audubon.org)

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Greetings Chapter Leaders,

## ***The CBC is now FREE!***

*Important and Exciting news for the Christmas Bird Count program*

**After nearly two years of internal discussions, budget modeling, head-scratching, and intense decision-making, two major changes will come to the Christmas Bird Count program effective with the upcoming 113th Count in December, 2012.**

**First, the CBC is now a free program. Audubon will no longer charge the \$5.00 fee of field participants.**

**Second, to minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, American Birds will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants, and Audubon will move to an online delivery of the summary results of the CBC.**

To help Audubon make these important decisions regarding the Christmas Bird Count program, we invited people involved with the count to participate in an online survey earlier this year. The results of the online survey last spring were very enlightening, and are summarized in the upcoming 112th CBC summary issue of American Birds—the last one to appear in print. The 130 pages of written comments were the most telling aspects of the survey feedback. Some people understand the fee and don't mind paying it, but the main thrust of written comments was that the fee is a major obstacle to the program, and the strong message was that more people would be involved, more counts would be included in the CBC database, and more accurate effort data would be collected if the fee was dropped.

Also highly informative were peoples' comments regarding American Birds. While a few folks commented that they enjoyed the information it contains and enjoy



reading at least parts of it each year, the primary sentiment expressed was that recipients do not value American Birds in its current format, that they do not read most of it. Many survey respondents felt that an interactive, online version of the magazine would better suit their needs—especially if the participation fee was dropped.

**In order to continue to fund the Christmas Bird Count program in the long term, Audubon will be moving to a voluntary donation model for the CBC.**

With the online delivery of American Birds via a new interactive web presence including photos, summaries, and features, content can now be presented online as they are completed. Most critically, a new Citizen Science gateway will enable Audubon to be in touch directly with those participants who elect to take part and directly service the needs of participants as well as compilers.

While the integrity of the CBC is crucial to maintain for its bird trend data, it has become equally important for the ability to engage people in other citizen science projects. Toward that end Audubon will be expanding its Citizen Science projects, and the CBC will, of course, be a cornerstone program.

**The Audubon Science team looks forward to working with chapters to increase participation both by including more participants on existing Christmas Bird Counts and by creating new counts in areas where coverage is lacking. We also look forward to further engaging CBC participants and other chapter members in the other seasonal citizen science programs that will be available in the future.**

We thank you for your work in making the CBC the continued success that it is.

Thanks very much, and have a wonderful ...**FREE** ... Christmas Bird Count season.

Good birding!

**Geoff LeBaron**  
**Director, Christmas Bird Count**  
National Audubon Society

**Gary Langham**  
**Vice-President & Chief Scientist**  
National Audubon Society

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Contact [chapterleaders@audubon.org](mailto:chapterleaders@audubon.org) if you wish to unsubscribe from the Chapter leader email list.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org> > )

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You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

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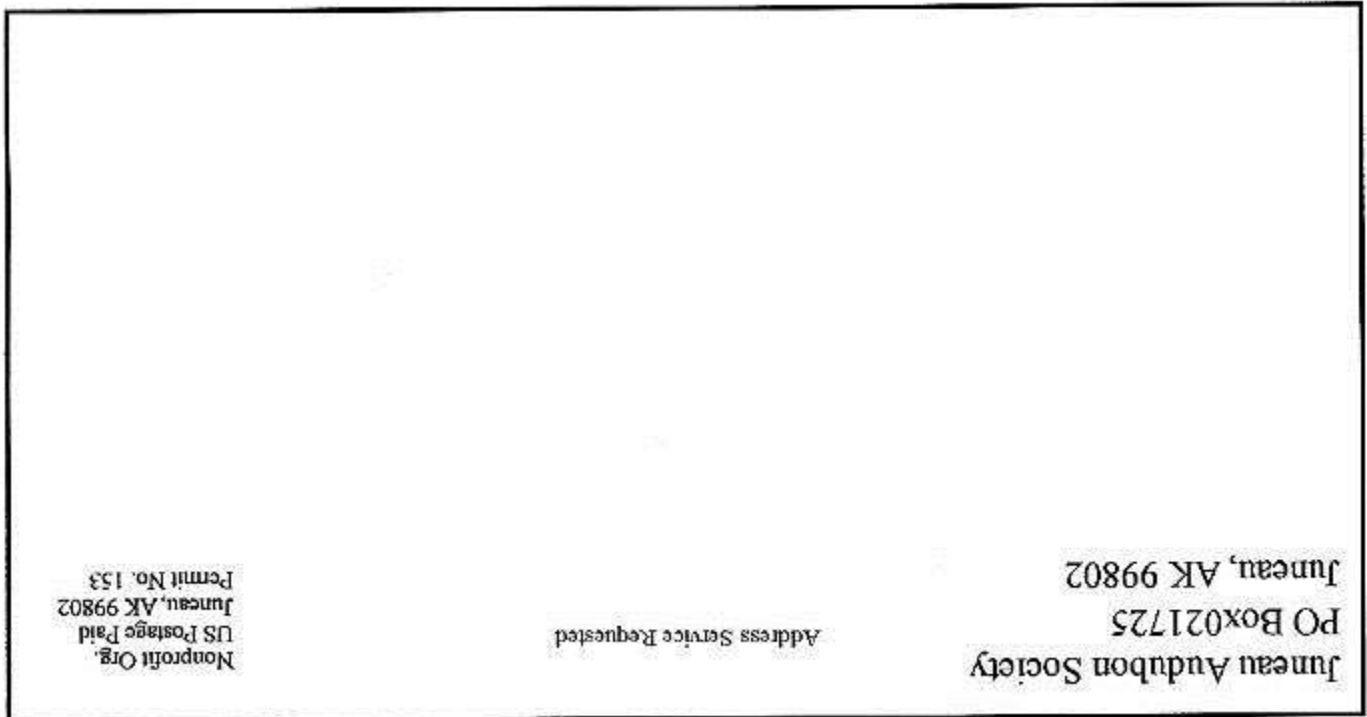
\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C2ZA510Z A51

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\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# The Raven

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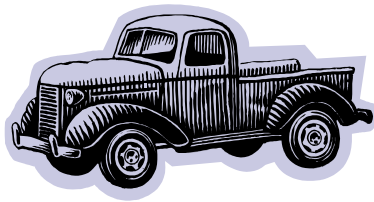


<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 39, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society November 2012

## **Juneau Audubon Society November Meeting**



Sorry! There will be no program meeting for November. But the board should be firing on all cylinders by December.

## **Juneau Audubon Society's Annual Meeting Held on October 11, 2012**

Forty six people were in attendance and the following officers were elected by 35 members:

Brenda Wright, president  
Bev Agler, secretary

Joshua Peters, vice president  
Patty Rose, treasurer

Following the election of officers, Flip Nicklin enthusiastically presented a program on how to take photos that tell a story. He talked about the value of what you can see and photograph in your own back yard. His photos illustrated the fine possibilities close to home. Thank you Flip.

A big welcome to Joshua and Bev. Thanks to both of you for stepping up. Also, welcome Doug Jones as Program Chairperson.

After a short break, Mary Lou King will continue as our tireless Raven Editor; Mark Schwan as Field Trips Coordinator; Gwen Baluss as Conservation Chair, and Jeff Sauer and Linda Nicklin as At-large Members.

We will miss our outgoing members, Julie Koehler, Merrill Jensen and Kevin O'Malley, and past President, Julie Coghill. Thanks for all your hard work.

There is now a vacancy for Membership and Education Chair. Please contact a board member if you have an interest in serving.

## **JUNEAU BIRD REPORT FOR OCTOBER**

Article and photos by Mark Schwan

There was a nice mix of birds moving through the Juneau area this past month. If you stayed out of the wind, birding was quite pleasant, but the clear cold nights have rapidly sealed off some of our best freshwater birding sites. One of the best things to happen was the return of Nick Hajdukovich, a terrific young birder. As you read through the notes below, it will be obvious who found most of the best birds over the past month. Again, what follows below was gleaned from eBird and Eaglechat. Readers with internet capabilities should become familiar with the eBird data available for review. It is very extensive for Juneau.



There was a nice opportunity to view and photograph, at close range, the smallest form (*minima*) of **Cackling Goose** at Rotary Pond in the Mendenhall Valley. The bird was present at least during 10/16 through 10/21 (many obs.). A lone **Snow Goose** was hanging with Canada Geese at Eagle Beach from 10/10 at least through 10/18 (many obs.) and other single bird sightings included one on the Wetlands on 10/2 (NH) and another on

Auke Lake on 10/20 (NH). Tundra Swans, though not rare, are often missed and always a treat to see and they showed up pretty much right on schedule with many reports beginning in mid month from a variety of locations.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was found on Moose Lake (10/23-24, MS, NH) but the open water and bird soon disappeared with the colder weather.

A **Golden Eagle** was spotted along Grandchild Ridge on 10/2 (GB), and Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Eagle Beach on 10/14 (GV) and the Wetlands on 10/20 (LL). Certainly a highlight was the **Gyrfalcon** on the Wetlands on 10/18, swooping down to investigate some duck decoys (NH). The only **Peregrine Falcon** report came from the airport dike trail on 10/3 (AC, NH).

One **American Coot** was found on Moose Lake on 10/12 (NH) and two coots were first reported on the Rotary Pond on 10/13 (GB) and subsequently seen through the month during open water

(many obs.) Another bird was seen on Twin Lakes from 10/17 through at least 10/23 (NH, GV, MS). Patty Rose, on one of her first birding outings after returning from travel, found a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** along the airport dike on 10/27. This species breeds in the Russian Far East but migrants show up in the fall along the Pacific coast.



Another very nice find was the **Marbled Godwit** at the mouth of Eagle River, first reported on 10/8 (DS). This represents the latest and first fall record for Juneau. The bird was subsequently seen and photographed on 10/10 and 10/11 (MS, NH, GV).

An adult **Ring-billed Gull** was seen at the mouth of Gold Creek on 10/4 (NH) and again on 10/6 (MS).

**Anna's Hummingbirds** continued to frequent local feeders with one bird still present at a north Douglas feeder through 10/5 (SS) and one to two birds continued almost daily through 10/21 at Gus van Vliet's feeders in Auke Bay. Then, a female appeared at their feeder on 10/27! A **Northern Flicker** was found at Eagle Beach on 10/10 (NH).

Rare "thrushes" included two reports of **Mountain Bluebird**. One near Lawson Creek on Douglas Island on 10/22 (MF), and then two birds spotted near the golf course on 10/24 (MS). Even nicer, a **Townsend's Solitaire**, a very hard bird to find in Juneau, was found on 10/24 at the downtown Evergreen Cemetery (AC). There were several lingering warblers found and one vagrant species. There were at least four reports of **Orange-crowned Warblers** around town during the month (NH, PR). Nick Hajdukovich also found a **Townsend's Warbler** near Lena Point on 10/22 and Gus van Vliet had a **Wilson's Warbler** at his residence in Auke Bay on 10/16-17. The best warbler of the month was certainly the **Palm Warbler** found near Lena Point on 10/22 (NH). This is a very rare fall migrant in Southeast Alaska.

Sparrows worth mentioning include two reports of **Chipping Sparrow**: one at the Shrine of St. Therese on 10/2 (AC) and another that continued into the month at a valley feeding station (GB). A **White-throated Sparrow** was heard near Moose Lake on 10/23 (NH), and a **Harris's Sparrow** was found near Spruce point on 10/5 (NH; photos NH, MS). This appeared to be an adult bird in winter or basic plumage. Most individuals we see here are immature birds.

Finally, given their increasing scarcity, it is worth noting the observations of **Rusty Blackbird** during the month, as there were four reports, with the maximum count of 16 birds at Pioneer Marsh on 10/5 (PR).

Contributors: Gwen Baluss, GB; Amy Courtney, AC; Michael Fleischhauer, MF; Nick Hajdukovich, NH; Patty Rose, PR; David Schmerge, DS; Mark Schwan, MS; Gus van Vliet, GV.

## **WRANGELL BIRD REPORT by Bonnie Demerjian**

Your reporter was out of town most of the past month so has little news except for the unusual sighting of a Spotted Towhee. John Morse spied it in his yard on October 6. While he didn't get a photograph, he was only a few feet from the bird and was able to accurately report its distinctive markings. The Spotted Towhee is a casual visitor to Alaska in spring and fall and very rare in winter. According to Steve Heintz, there are about thirteen previous records for the state including ten in Juneau and one in Ketchikan.

The Spotted Towhee breeds in brushy areas from southern British Columbia and Alberta through California and as far east as west Texas and the mountains of Mexico. Those living west of the Cascades and Sierra Nevadas are resident or weakly migratory, but those from northern interior British Columbia are migratory to either local valleys or long distances, which may explain this bird's appearance in Wrangell.

The birds were combined with the Eastern Towhee into the Rufous-sided Towhee, but are now once again considered a separate species although they interbreed in the Great Plains.

The first Black-billed Magpie of the season turned up at a feeder on Zimovia Highway last week. Generally Wrangell hosts a handful of these birds along the shoreline each winter. A few Eurasian Collared-Doves are sticking around and will probably overwinter as happened last year. Black Turnstones were reported at the Institute Beach.

Just above the U.S. border on the Stikine River, Bill Sampson reported a Marsh Wren near his cabin. He also noted 14 Tundra and 4 Trumpeter Swans. Fourteen Trumpeter Swans were also observed near Wrangell's ferry dock.

## **From Out of Town TURKEY & BLACK VULTURES**

Prill (Isleib) Mollick in Smoky Mountains, N.C.

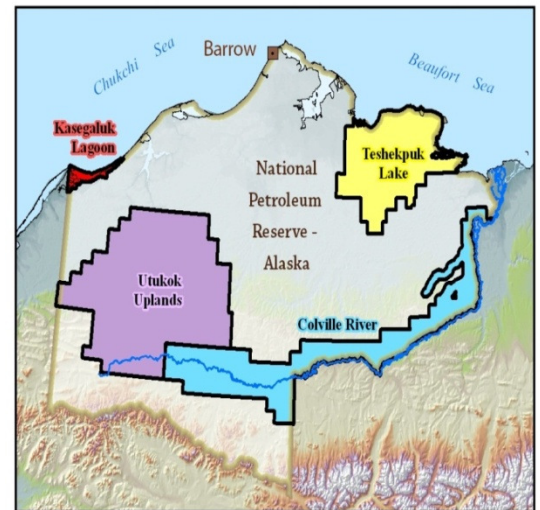
Both Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures are in this area. We see them year round, usually soaring quite high. They like to ride the thermal air currents. We sometimes see them on the roads where they feed on small animals that were hit by vehicles. Turkey Vultures appear two-toned, dark brown/black with a featherless red head and pale bill. The undersides of the flight feathers are paler, giving that two-toned silvery appearance. They usually soar with wings held up in a V, and flap very infrequently. Black Vultures have a dark gray/black featherless head. They have shorter wider tails than the Turkey Vultures. They hold their wings nearly flat, not

like the Turkey Vulture's V-shaped posture. It is more southern and the Black Vulture flaps its wings rather frequently as it soars. Black Vultures have white outer feathers on their wing tips and the rest of the wing is jet black.

## Final Push for Teshekpuk Lake: the Crown Jewel of the National Petroleum Reserve–Alaska

Rumor has it there will be big news for the Arctic this November as the Bureau of Land Management will release its final management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

On August 13, 2012, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar announced the proposed “preferred alternative” for managing the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska as part of creating the first-ever area-wide management plan. This alternative, called “B2”, would make several Special Areas, including the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area (a globally-significant Important Bird Area), off-limits for oil and gas leasing. Overall, the B2 alternative provides a responsible balance that would protect about half of the nearly 23-million acre Reserve while still allowing for the vast majority of the area's oil to be accessed.



The Reserve encompasses an immense and spectacular Arctic ecosystem that provides critical habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. This vast landscape has remained largely unchanged in character over millennia with globally significant wildlife and wilderness values. Four “Special Areas” have been designated in the Reserve by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in recognition of their wildlife and natural values: Teshekpuk Lake, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and the Utukok River Uplands. None of them, however, has permanent protection (See Map).

The wetlands along the northern edge of the Reserve teem with life during the summer. An epicenter of this activity is the wetland maze surrounding Teshekpuk Lake. This biological hotspot provides essential habitat for the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd and hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds. Bird species that breed here migrate to places across the Lower 48 and to six continents—some of the birds you see in your backyard may have been fledged in the Reserve!

This fall, we have an unprecedented opportunity to help protect these extraordinary areas. The BLM is working on a Reserve-wide source management plan that could help protect the area surrounding Teshekpuk Lake, by designating it as not available for oil and gas leasing under the B2 alternative. **Your voice will be critical** in one last comment period! Visit [www.AudubonAlaska.org](http://www.AudubonAlaska.org) for more information on sending in your comments.



## State Stalls Resolving Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Jet Boat Complaint

Nancy Berland [nancy@riverswithoutborders.org](mailto:nancy@riverswithoutborders.org)

A lack of state agency monitoring and enforcement of a commercial jet boat tour with a history of violating permit stipulations led Haines conservationists to document that a no-wake provision instituted to protect a high-value salmon rearing habitat inside the Eagle Preserve was repeatedly violated in July and August of this year. Lynn Canal Conservation (LCC) filed a formal complaint on September 7<sup>th</sup> that was supported by Alaska Audubon, Trout Unlimited, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, and Rivers Without Borders. The state has yet to act on that complaint.

Both state administrative code and the tour operator's permit have serious penalties for violations, including fines, and permits suspension or revocation. Past violations in this same Chilkat channel were documented by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and LCC. Instead of imposing penalties on the operator, the state instead installed a No Wake Zone sign in the channel, claiming that would prevent further violations from occurring.

Prior to instituting the No Wake Zone, ADF&G funded field studies that showed that large wakes created by twin 150 horsepower outboards were eroding critical habitat.

Conservation groups hope the state will enforce its management plan, statutes, and permit stipulations in the exceptional habitat inside the Eagle Preserve.



## COMING

Juneau Public Market November 23, Friday through November 25, Sunday. Visit the Juneau Audubon booth. We will be selling our own home made berry jelly, jams, and syrups. Hand crafted ornaments will also be on sale. Want to help taking a turn for a couple of hours at our booth? Leave information at

[education@juneau-aububon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-aububon-society.org).

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

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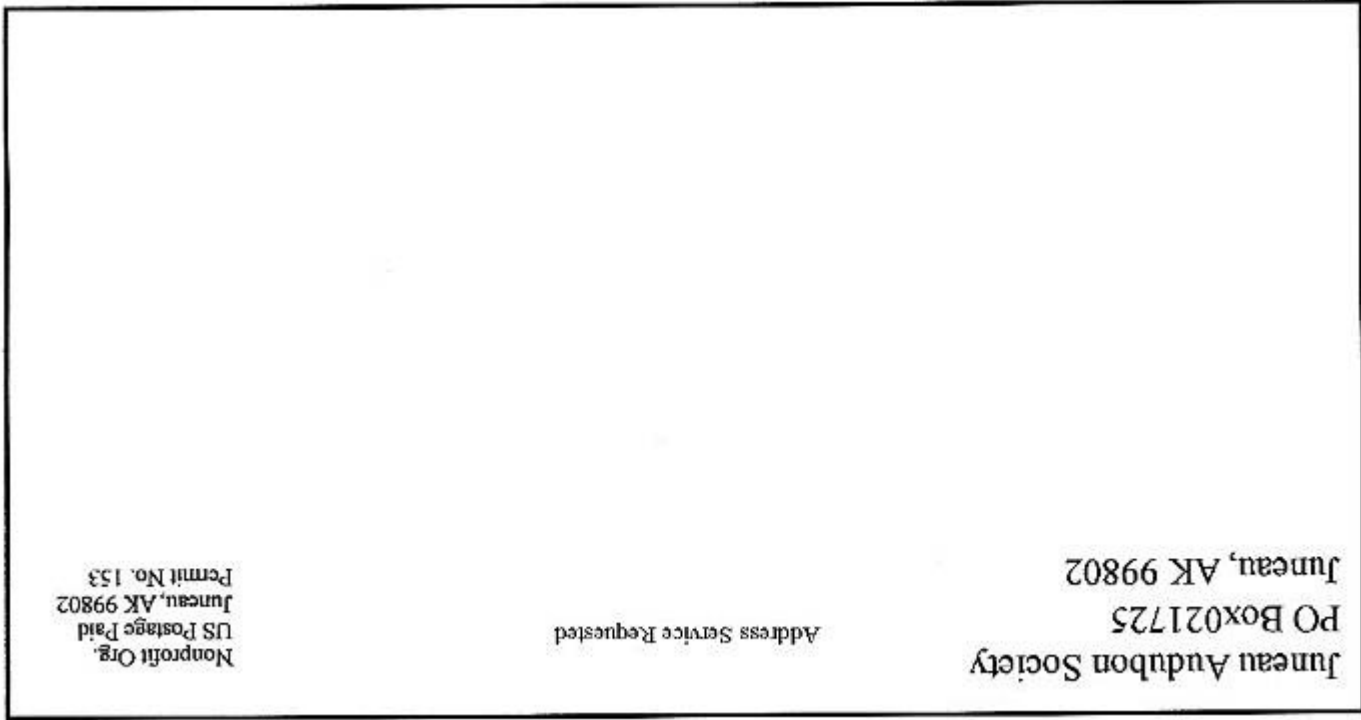
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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 39, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2012

## **DECEMBER MEETING: GROUP SLIDE SHOW, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, at UAS Egan Building, Room 220, 7:00 p.m.**

Given the Christmas Bird Count will be just two days away, we will briefly go over a few count details. Then we will move on to our group slide show. This is always lots of fun. We ask people to bring about 10 to 20 images to share with the group. These can center on something special you did during this past summer, or something you did many years ago, or whatever you might think the audience would find interesting or fun. There is no theme, just bring some images to share with the group. We will have a laptop computer and LCD projector. People should bring their digital images on a CD or small media storage device that can be connected to our laptop via a USB port. If someone wants to bring traditional slides, please let Doug Jones or Mark Schwan know ahead of time so we can arrange to bring a slide projector.



*Long-Eared Owl* Bob Armstrong

## **The 2012 Juneau Christmas Bird Count**

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on **Saturday, December 15**, the first Saturday during the designated count period, of December 14 through January 5<sup>th</sup>. This marks 113<sup>th</sup> year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Here in Juneau, this will be our 40<sup>th</sup> count.

The big news of course is that the Christmas Bird Count is now free! Apparently this has been under review for several years but a recent survey of participants resulted in the decision. The fees have been viewed as a deterrent to participation and also a complicating factor with regards to assessing participant effort on the counts. The Society will compensate with this loss in revenue by going paperless with the American Birds issue of the Christmas Bird Count.

Here in Juneau our count week will begin on December 12, and go through December 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have our usual two meeting places to stage on the morning of the count. Volunteers should arrive at 8a.m. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north

Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown Foodland IGA grocery coffee bar. Birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the McDonald's restaurant across from the Nugget Mall. Again, please arrive at 8a.m. and be prepared for the weather and bring your binoculars. We will have our area leaders arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate birders to the different groups at our staging location on count day.

There will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam. Debi will be away visiting her family in Victoria, so it will be up to Mark to pull it off all by his lonesome. It might be smart for some folks to keep an eye out that nothing gets torched in the oven during reheating . . . But, in any case, this is always a nice event, as we share in the activities of the day, eat some good food, and conduct the tally of birds and species seen. For those needing directions to Mark's house, we will provide a handout on count day. Let's have a great turnout and a terrific count! For more information or if you have questions, call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841.

### **Christmas Bird Counts planned in Southeast Alaska**

December 14, 2012 – January 5, 2013

<b>Count name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact person(s)</b>	<b>Phone number</b>
Chilkat	No update available	Dan Egolf (last year) Tim Shields	766-2876 766-2354
Craig-Klawock	No update available	Victoria Houser (last year)	826-1614
Haines	No update available	Dan Egolf (last year) Tim Shields	766-2876 766-2354
Glacier Bay	December 15	Nat Drumheller	697-2166
Juneau	December 15	Mark Schwan	789-9841
Ketchikan	December 15	Andrew Piston	225-9677
Mitkof Island	No update available	Bill Pawuk (last year)	772-3985
Sitka	December 30	Victoria Vosburg	747-7821
Skagway	December 15 *	Elaine Furbish	983-2049
Tenakee Springs	December 21	Beret Barnes	736-2226
Wrangell	December 29	Bonnie Demerjan	874-3665

\* Website for more information: [sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub](http://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub).

We were unable to obtain current information for four communities where counts were held last year. There will likely be counts but we have no information other than the contacts from last year.

## **Wrangell Christmas Bird Count** By Bonnie Demerjan Ph. 874-3665

Wrangell's Christmas Bird Count this year will take place on December 29. We hope this post-Christmas date will enable more observers to participate. We also hope the weather will cooperate so that we can cover as much of our water territory as possible. Some years boats must hug the shoreline of Wrangell Island but in good years, they can venture across Zimovia Strait and the Eastern Passage to cover Woronkofski and Etolin Islands as well as a portion of the mainland.

## **Sitka Christmas Bird Count** Jennifer Cedarleaf

This year the count will be held on Sunday December 30th. We are going to try something a little different this year and have the planning meeting the day before the count on Saturday December 29 at 4 pm at the Raptor Center.

As in past years we will have an after-birding gathering at the Raptor Center at 4 pm on count day. Coffee, tea, and hot cocoa will be available. You can bring your tally sheets and turn them in at this time and find out what others saw during the count.

## **Juneau Bird Report for November by Patty Rose**

Several interesting birds showed up in Juneau during November. The rarest bird of the month was a single **American Crow** at Auke Bay on November 18. This observation is the only Juneau record of American Crow in eBird, although the species has been found in Juneau at least once before. Following are other November observations that are listed as "Rare" or rarer on the Juneau Checklist.

The only rare ducks reported during the month were two **Eurasian Wigeons** on the Fish Creek side of the Mendenhall Wetlands on November 17 (NH, BB).

Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** visited an Auke Bay feeder on November 24 and 28 (MS). A **Long-Eared Owl** was seen and photographed along the Airport Dike Trail on November 12 (PR, BA, GV, RA, AC). The bird frequented that area for several days. This species was first recorded in November 2009 and was also recorded in November 2010.

Four **Anna's Hummingbirds** were reported in Juneau in November, including an immature male and an immature female at an Auke Bay feeder through November 8 (GV), an immature male on Starr Hill in downtown Juneau on November 22 (CR), and an immature male in West Juneau through the end of the month (DC, PR).

A **Northern Flicker** at Auk Nu Cove on November 20 was the only rare woodpecker of the month (NH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Eagle Beach State Recreation Area on November 3 (GV).

On November 17, observations of three **Horned Larks** were recorded on the Airport Dike Trail (GV) and also across the river at the Industrial Boulevard access (NH). Observations of **Snow Buntings** on the Mendenhall Wetlands from the Airport Dike Trail during the month included a flock of 45 on November 12 (GV), two birds on November 14 (GV), and a flock of 50 on November 16 (BB).



*Palm Warbler*      *Nick Hajdukovich*

A very rare **Palm Warbler** was observed at the Airport Dike Trail November 4 – 8 (GV, PR, NH, AC, GB). A late-lingering **Wilson's Warbler** was observed at Indian Cove past the ferry terminal on November 6 (NH).

Nick Hajdukovich found a **Swamp Sparrow** on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Temsco facility on November 8 (NH, GV). On November 19, Nick relocated the bird near the



*Swamp Sparrow*      *Nick Hajdukovich*

Temsco parking lot, where it continued through the end of the month and was seen and photographed by many observers (NH, MS, PR, DJ, BA, AC). A **White-Throated Sparrow** appeared at a Lake Creek feeder on November 20 (VM) and continued until at least November 24 (GV).

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Robert Armstrong (RA), Gwen Baluss (GW), Brad Bentner (BB), Amy Courtney (AC), Deborah Craig (DC), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Doug Jones (DJ), Van Madding (VM), Claire Richardson (CR), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).

### **Backyard & Birdfeeders** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

In the Backyard and around the birdfeeders we've seen Field Sparrows, Carolina wrens, Tufted Titmouse, Blue Jays and Eastern Phoebe. The ground feeders have been the Mourning Doves and American Crows.

The Downy Woodpecker, Red Bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow Shafted Flicker prefer the peanut-butter-suet. The Brown Creeper spirals up the trees as the White Breasted Nuthatch meets it on the way down.

The American Gold Finch have changed out of their bright yellow feathers and are now wearing their muted dark mustard colored feathers. The Eastern Bluebirds come by several times a week and check out the Bluebird houses.

The Pied Billed Grebe was seen on the slow moving river downtown. And two Common Ravens have been seen in the area as well.

## **Alaska Audubon Chapters Meeting 2012 by Gwen Baluss**

I was lucky to have the opportunity to attend the chapter's meeting in Anchorage this fall. It was interesting to compare and contrast our local activities and challenges with our counterparts in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, and Cordova. Groups organize field trips and community presentations, participate in citizen science and conservation education, and promote bird watching through various forums. We share the challenges of working with limited volunteer staff, recruiting board members, and reaching out to youth and a wider portion of our population in general. We shared our successes in fundraising, providing educational opportunities free to the public and continuing to be relevant even in a time when everyone seems to be overly busy. Some interesting projects included: a loon nest camera in Anchorage that was picked up on the internet nationally by Cornell Ornithology Lab; Fairbanks encouraging science "beyond birding" with small research grants; Kodiak working on a restoration project and influencing a decision to change the location of an airport runway expansion to be less damaging to habitat. If you are traveling to these communities, be sure to look up the busy Auduboners there.

### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR JUNEAU AUDUBON**

**Linda Nicklin** is an at-large Board Member who was first drawn to the Audubon Society by its positive approach to conservation, reflected in its mission : "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".

Linda works as a professional naturalist, sharing her knowledge and passion for the natural world with visitors to Southeast Alaska and other locations. She also runs her own business training naturalists, tour guides, and other interpreters, and here in Juneau she works as Director of Training and Interpretive Programs for Gastineau Guiding Company. She spends part of each winter in Hawaii, helping with education and research on the social lives of humpback whales, and she is the author of two nonfiction books published by National Geographic Children's Books, *Face to Face with Dolphins* and *Face to Face with Whales*. Most mornings in Hawaii she is awakened by the raucous cry of Grey Francolins that live nearby, and her daily birds there include Java Sparrows, Red Crested Cardinals, Nutmeg Mannikins, Myna Birds, Cattle Egrets, Zebra Doves, and the always-inspiring Golden Plovers.

**Patricia Wherry**, Education Chair

Alaskan of 30+ years, with 10+ years in Juneau, other half of my life lived in Eastern Washington. Variety of jobs including Elementary Educator and Youth groups-outdoor programs. Retired. Interests: life learner; flora/fauna of areas living in; writing; quilting; a right brain person. Willing to pitch in to help.

Active Member of Beaver Patrol



**Juneau Public Market Booth** -- The Juneau Audubon Society sponsored a booth at the Juneau Public Market on Thanksgiving weekend. As in the past, we sold handmade jam and preserves from local berries and plants as well as nature-themed books and other items. The booth was a success, and we sold out of our jams and preserves. We took in over \$2,600. After expenses, we should clear over \$1,500. This income will allow us to sponsor field trips and educational programs. We are grateful to those who supported the booth and to those who volunteered in the booth.

From *Alaska Trails* December Newsletter

### **ALASKA TRAILS HAS INFO TO HELP GET ALASKANS ON TRAILS**

Alaska Trails has an online database of trail guides and other trail-related information found on the Internet. The information is broken down into folders based on regions including statewide, Southeast, Southcentral, and Interior. Clicking on a folder gives a user more folders from which to choose.

The online trail maps are extremely varied. Some are produced by government agencies, such as the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation or the National Park Service, while others are produced by private groups or individuals, such as TrailMapper, a statewide resource that allows users to add their own trails and descriptions. People interested in exploring new trails will find an abundance of resources at their fingertips.

See the database at: [www.alaska-trails.org/cgi/otg/otg.cgi](http://www.alaska-trails.org/cgi/otg/otg.cgi)

Following taken from: ***What's UP*** To **RECEIVE** What's Up, or to **ADD** meetings, contact Peg Tileston at 907-561-0540, FAX 907-563-2747 or [pegt@gci.net](mailto:pegt@gci.net).

**PRINCE of WALES ISLAND** – December 10 Deadline for comments on the **BIG THORNE PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)**. The DEIS proposes to harvest timber from approximately 5,000 acres on Prince of Wales Island south of **COFFMAN COVE**, around the community of **THORNE BAY** and out to the **CONTROL LAKE** area north of Klawock. . The comment period for the Big Thorne Project DEIS provides the public an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to the Forest Service making a final decision. Those who provide comments by the close of the comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision. The DEIS is available online at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=31542>. Submit comments to [comments-alaska-tongass-thorne-bay@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-thorne-bay@fs.fed.us) with "Big Thorne Project," in the subject line. For more information, contact Frank Roberts, Zone Planner, at (907) 828-3250 or email [fwroberts@fs.fed.us](mailto:fwroberts@fs.fed.us).

**ALASKANS FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING**, a coalition of conservation groups, Tribal organizations, and communities working on mining issues in Alaska, has launched a new website that is intended to be “one-stop shopping” for communities and organizations dealing with mining issues in Alaska. It contains: Information about current mining issues in Alaska; Resources about the permitting process; Information about strategies such as good neighbor agreements; Freedom of Information Act request templates; Useful science; and much more! Check it out at [www.akmininginfo.org](http://www.akmininginfo.org). For more information, contact us at [rebecca@seacc.org](mailto:rebecca@seacc.org).

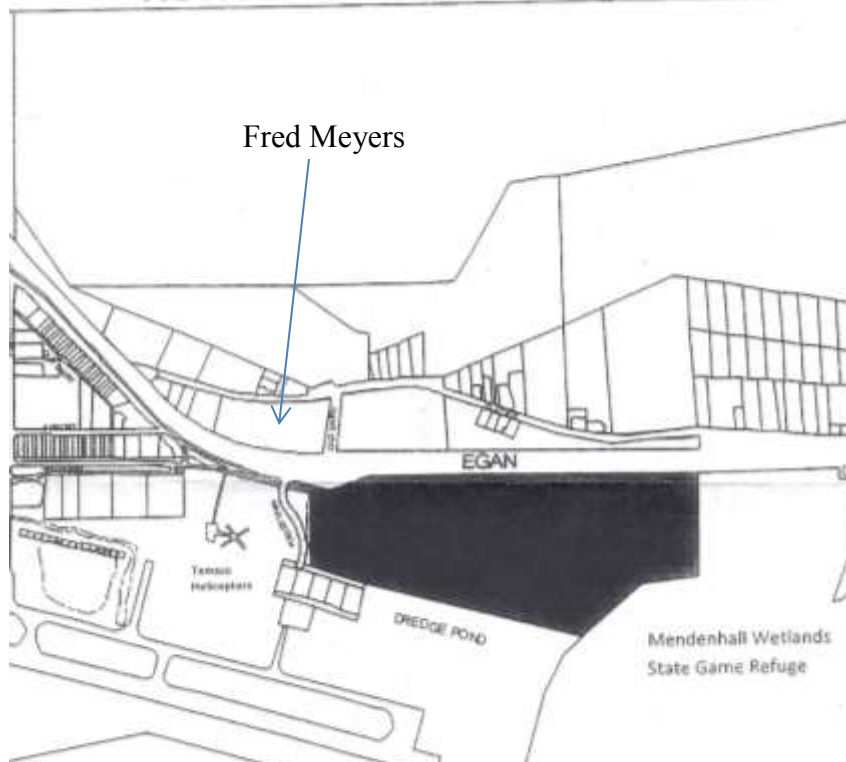
**From: *Bird Studies Canada*** 23 November 2012 – Where can you find the most current North American birding posts and discussions, information about sightings and eBird rarity alerts, and more? The American Birding Association’s “**Birding News**” site is a hub for online birding listservs from across Canada and the U.S., and around the world. “Birding News” grew out of and expanded upon the “Birdingonthe.Net” site maintained by Jack Siler since the early 1990s. Since August, the ABA has assumed responsibility for this resource, and has implemented a new site that includes enhanced searchability and a “What’s Hot” Twitter feed. Visit the [ABA website](#) to learn more, or [select this link](#) to read about Canada’s first Citrine Wagtail.

**EU Launches Seabird Plan of Action 17 November 2012** – The European Commission has launched a Plan of Action to reduce the incidental killing of seabirds in fisheries. BirdLife Europe estimates that over 2 million seabirds have died in the fishing gears of vessels in EU waters since 2001. The EU Seabird Plan of Action aims at reducing and, where possible, eliminating seabird bycatch, and outlines mitigation measures to minimize the impacts of fishing activities on marine ecosystems. Details and a link to the action plan can be found on the [BirdLife Community website](#).

Pick.  
Click.  
Give.

When you apply for your 2013 Permanent Fund Dividend, you will have the opportunity to give to the Juneau Audubon Society for **scholarships, educational programs, field trips, and other activities**. Last year our first scholarship was given to a graduating Juneau High School student who was heading off to college this year. The PFD Charitable Contributions Program began a few years ago, but this coming year will be our first time to participate. It provides a safe, secure and easy way to make a donation, and is available to all Alaskans who file on-line. When you go online to apply for your dividend, you will see the option called “**The Gift of Giving.**” **Click on Juneau Audubon Society. Chose the amount you would like to donate.** You can find more information about the program, including frequently asked questions at <http://www.forakergroup.org/pfd>. Or you may call 888-785-GIFT (4438).

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



**PROPOSAL:** Rezone Parcel to a combination of Industrial and Light Commercial Classifications.

<p><b>FILE NO:</b> AME2012 0011</p> <p><b>TO:</b> Adjacent Property Owners</p> <p><b>HEARING DATE:</b> December 11, 2012</p> <p><b>HEARING TIME:</b> 7:00pm</p> <p><b>PLACE:</b> <b>ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS</b> Municipal Building 155 South Seward St Juneau, Alaska 99801</p>	<p><b>APPLICANT:</b> Bicknell Incorporated</p> <p><b>Property PCN:</b> 5-B14-0-102-007-0</p> <p><b>Size:</b> 82.66 acres</p> <p><b>Zoned:</b> RR</p> <p><b>Owner(s):</b> Bicknell Incorporated</p> <p><b>Site Address:</b> Glacier Highway</p> <p><b>Accessed via:</b> Glacier Highway</p>
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**PROPERTY OWNERS PLEASE NOTE:**

You are invited to attend this Public Hearing and present oral testimony. The Planning Commission will also consider written testimony. You are encouraged to submit written material to the Community Development Department no later than 8:30 A.M. on the Wednesday preceding the Public Hearing. Materials received by this deadline are included in the information packet given to the Planning Commission a few days before the Public Hearing. Written material received after the deadline will be provided to the Planning Commission at the Public Hearing.

If you have questions, please contact Beth McKibben at [beth\\_mckibben@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:beth_mckibben@ci.juneau.ak.us) or call 586-0465

Editor Note: This parcel is part of the largest wetlands in Southeast and a little like Juneau's front lawn with the spectacular fireweed in the fall and the little tree that invites decoration. This is a part of Juneau's image that folks recognize and it would be a loss to the community.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org> > )

## Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service

[audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201

Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714  
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 \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C2ZA510Z A51

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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 39, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2013

**JANUARY MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 10**  
**UAS Egan Building, Room 221/222, 7:00 p.m.**

## **Lemurs, Rollers, & Vangas: the Birds and Mammals of Madagascar**

Travel halfway around the world to view the mammals and birds of Madagascar. Madagascar is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest island and is known as a biodiversity hotspot. Although off the eastern side of Africa, many animals are more closely related to Asiatic species and many are endemic to this island. Bev Agler spent the month of October touring the island on a natural history/birding trip and saw ~187 of the 220 bird species as well as 25 lemur species and assorted insects, bugs, spiders, and chameleons. She will present images of the trip and the people and talk a little about the major habitat issues affecting this country and its birds.



## **Are Winter Nights Too Long?**

Has time started expanding during the long winter nights? We have a great solution for you- Volunteer for Juneau Audubon Society!

We can find all kinds of fun things to fill a few of those hours that are stretching in front of you. If you have an hour or two, we can use your help with simple tasks like putting labels on our newsletter. We can always use help with our education programs. We want to take new birding skills to young children, why not come along? If you have a bit more time, we sure could use help with the membership or conservation committee.

Sound like too much effort? You'll be surprised and pleased how nice the Juneau Audubon Society members can be. Come join our great volunteers. Contact Brenda at 321-4739 or [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)

## **President's Inbox By Brenda Wright**

Here are some interesting tidbits that show up in the president's e-mail. Hope some of them are fun for you.

### **International Wildlife Film Festival**

#### ***Films for Chapter Use***

The International Wildlife Film Festival (IWFF), based in Missoula, Montana, is the nation's longest running wildlife film festival and the first juried festival in the country. You can learn more about the history and current events of the IWFF at <http://wildlifefilms.wordpress.com/>.

An extensive selection of IWFF films is available for rent through the IWFF Library, for educational purposes or for a full-fledged fundraising event. Montana CINE (Cultures & Issues of Nature and the Environment) Film Festival documentaries and narrative fictional films are also in the catalogue.

For more details on films available for a one-time use at free events with small groups (\$20/film plus shipping), visit <http://wildlifefilms.wordpress.com/library/>. Free chapter programs such as monthly meetings, school, classroom, or library showings qualify as an education use.

### **Climate Change and Birds at American Bird Conservancy Projects**

This presentation, developed by Davia Palmeri and David Wiedenfeld of American Bird Conservancy (ABC), reviews the likely effects of climate change on birds and system the reserves ABC and partners have been creating to protect key habitats. See [http://youtu.be/tnBiEE\\_n\\_pAc](http://youtu.be/tnBiEE_n_pAc) to view the presentation.

### **Web page dedicated to John J Audubon: [www.johnjaudubon.com](http://www.johnjaudubon.com)**

Our short-term goal is to become all things Audubon, with information about birding festivals, citizen science projects, bird watching, birds and binoculars. There is also an amazing array of information about the life, art and ornithology of John J. Audubon Please spend a few minutes surfing around and let us know what you think: [www.johnjaudubon.com](http://www.johnjaudubon.com)

Brian "Fox" Ellis, Fox Tales International [www.foxtalesint.com](http://www.foxtalesint.com)

***Education and Inspiration through the ancient art of storytelling!***

## **Great Backyard Bird Count Goes Global in 2013**

After 15 years of success in North America, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will open up to the entire world for the first time in 2013. Anyone, from anywhere on earth, can participate by visiting [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) and reporting the kinds and numbers of birds they see during the 16th annual count, **February 15–18, 2013**.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with partner Bird Studies Canada, the four-day count typically receives sightings from tens of thousands of people reporting more than 600 bird species in the United States and Canada alone.

Participating is easy. Simply watch birds for at least 15 minutes at the location of your choice on one or more of the count days. Estimate the number of birds you see for each species you can identify. You'll select your location on a map, answer a few questions, enter your tallies, and then submit your data to share your sightings with others around the world.

This event, to be more fully covered in February issue. There will be an opportunity to do a field trip tailored to beginning/intermediate birders - to some known member successful feeders.  
Patricia Wherry, Conservation Chair

### **JUNEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** By Mark Schwan

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count for 2012 was held on December 15. We again lucked out on the weather, as the prior day was absolutely miserable, but then conditions improved markedly for count day. Leading up to the count, we didn't expect a great diversity of birds, as wintery conditions for some time had pushed many lingering birds to the south.

Twenty eight field observers found **66 species and 12,183 individual birds on count day, plus an additional ten species were located during the other days of our count week** (see attached table). Our total count of individual birds was above average but this was the case only because of a record smashing number of mallards; many species were seen in low numbers. All the common species that have been seen on the previous 39 counts were found once again. The biggest highlights of the count day included a Snowy Owl on the wetlands found by Nick



*Snowy Owl Nick Hajdukovich Photo*



*Snowy Owl Nick Hajdukovich Photo*

Hajdukovich and Amy Clark Courtney, and the Sooty Grouse found by Julie Coghill near the Treadwell Ditch on Douglas Island. Other highlights included the continued presence of the Swamp Sparrow near Temsco Helicopters, and a terrific variety of waterfowl on the wetlands and the lower Mendenhall River. Again, we had the bird tally and potluck at our house at the end of the day; it was a very nice evening. Thanks to all who participated.



## Juneau CBC Results for 2012

<u>Species</u>	<u>2012 Count</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>2012 Count</u>
Canada Goose	923	Common Murre	2
<b>Trumpeter Swan</b>	<b>3</b>	Marbled Murrelet	25
<b>Tundra Swan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Eurasian Collared-Dove</b>	<b>1</b>
Gadwall	1	Rock Pigeon	136
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Snowy Owl</b>	<b>1</b>
American Wigeon	205	<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	<b>cw</b>
Mallard	<b>4,868</b>	Belted Kingfisher	3
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<b>1</b>	Hairy Woodpecker	1
Northern Pintail	cw	Unidentified Woodpeckers	1
Green-winged Teal	34	Northern Shrike	cw
<b>Canvasback</b>	<b>1</b>	Steller's Jay	61
Greater Scaup	173	Black-billed Magpie	43
Lesser Scaup	7	Northwestern Crow	915
Unidentified Scaup	179	Common Raven	325
Harlequin Duck	71	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	130
Surf Scoter	174	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
White-winged Scoter	114	Pacific Wren	1
Black Scoter	cw	American Dipper	5
Long-tailed Duck	29	Golden-crowned Kinglet	22
Bufflehead	169	American Robin	2
Common Goldeneye	110	Varied Thrush	3
Barrow's Goldeneye	255	European Starling	1
Unidentified Goldeneyes	7	Bohemian Waxwing	5
Hooded Merganser	3	American Tree Sparrow	5
Common Merganser	67	Fox Sparrow	1
Red-breasted Merganser	43	Song Sparrow	20
Unidentified Mergansers	3	<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>	<b>cw</b>
<b>Sooty Grouse</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>	<b>1</b>
Pacific Loon	cw	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Common Loon	4	Dark-eyed Junco	294
Horned Grebe	16	Snow Bunting	64
Red-necked Grebe	7	Rusty Blackbird	2
Pelagic Cormorant	21	Pine Grosbeak	7
Unidentified Cormorants	5	Red Crossbill	cw
Great Blue Heron	1	White-winged Crossbill	226
Bald Eagle	134	Unidentified Crossbills	40
Northern Goshawk	1	Common Redpoll	280
Killdeer	2	Pine Siskin	143
Black Turnstone	cw		
Rock Sandpiper	28	Count Day Species	66
Dunlin	cw	Total Individuals	12,183
Wilson's Snipe	cw	Additional CW Species	10
Mew Gull	101		
Glaucous-winged Gull	1,371		
Unidentified Gulls	276		



*Black Guillemot* Photo by [Steve Heinl](#)

## KETCHIKAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – by Andy Piston

This season we had one of the highest species totals ever for the Ketchikan CBC, with **79 species on count day** (all-time high counts: 83 in 2010, 82 in 2009). We had seven additional count week species, which gave us a **total of 86 species** for the week, which was tied for the second highest total for the Ketchikan count circle. We found a total of 5,913 individual birds during

the count, which is close to the long-term average. The number of participants this year (25) was about average, but the mind-blowing skill, good looks, and dedication of our returning participants continues to result in high species totals and improved overall coverage of the area. Our six highest species totals for the Ketchikan count circle have all come in the last six years.

This year we had a few exceptionally rare birds turn up on the count: a Black Guillemot (1st record from Southeast Alaska), a Palm Warbler (1st ever for an Alaska CBC), and a count week Western Gull (also a 1st for an Alaska CBC). Other birds that are rare in Southeast Alaska, or the Ketchikan area, on this year's count, or during count week, included Brandt's Cormorant, Pied-billed Grebe, Anna's Hummingbird, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and House Sparrow. We also found some birds that lingered in the Ketchikan area past their typical fall migration departure times, such as Northern Shoveler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.



*Hooded Merganser* by [Jim Lewis](#)

## 2012 GLACIER BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT By Nat Drumheller

The Christmas Bird Count is a North American tradition that has been growing for over one hundred years. Bruce Paige started the Glacier Bay Christmas Bird Count in 1968. Since then, a few years were missed, making the 2012 count our 40<sup>th</sup>.

This year's count took place on Saturday, December 15. Thirty people participated on count day. Twenty-four searched for birds in designated areas on foot, by car, or by boat. Some for a few hours, others from sunrise to sunset. Six people at four homes counted birds at their feeders and yards. In addition, several people reported birds during count week, the three days on either side of count day during which we can add species missed on count day. Jessie Soder and Ellie Sharman took their school classes out to look for birds during count week. There are some talented young birders in this community!

**64 species** were found on count day. Additional birds found during count week brought the **total to 75**. While 64 species on count day is about average for the last 20 years, 75 species is one of the highest count week totals.

Numbers of individual species were good, but there were no unusually high totals. Some good finds on count day included Fox Sparrow, Western Grebe, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Black Oystercatcher, Wilson's Snipe, Lapland Longspur, and American Robin. This was only the second year with a count day Fox Sparrow. The first was in 2005. Snowy Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Merlin, Northern Goshawk, and American Three-toed Woodpecker were some of the birds found during count week.

Thank you to everyone who participated. We surely would be candidates for a "highest per capita participation in the nation" award. A special thanks goes to Greg Streveler. While Bruce Paige conducted the Glacier Bay counts from 1968 to 2007, Greg was also there in 1968. He participated in many of the counts since then and played a key role in this year's count. It has become a tradition for Greg to lead the salt water portion of our count. This large area is the most productive part of the count and requires considerable skill in identifying species.

The Glacier Bay National Park protection rangers once again provided a boat and operator to safely cover the salt water part of the count. Thanks to James Latendresse for operating the boat and to Wendy Bredow for organizing it.

Thank you to Jim Saracco, Lisa Etherington, and Cooper for graciously hosting a dinner after the count.

## WRANGELL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS By Bonnie Demerjian

Fine weather, December-style meant that Wrangell Christmas Bird counters were able to cover much of our marine territory as well as offer good visibility from shore. This year's count was held after the Christmas rush on December 29. Twenty-eight participants enumerated birds by foot, car, boat, and from the comfort of home.

Because the water was calm, boat observers easily located the usual ducks – American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Harlequin and Common Goldeneyes, as well as nearly 800 Barrow's Goldeneyes. Last year over 1900 Barrow's Goldeneyes were counted. A small number of the less commonly seen Long-tailed Ducks were counted. Other water birds of interest were a Yellow-billed Loon, Horned Grebe and Double-crested Cormorant. The large flock of Western Grebes usually sighted in Zimovia Strait each year was missing on this year's count day.

Gulls observed included mew, herring and Glaucous-winged as well as 73 Glaucous Gulls.

Common in spring but uncommon in winter, a flock of 54 Dunlins was the only shorebird recorded.



Heavy snowfall the day before the count meant that a number of Varied Thrushes and American Robins were frequenting yards, as were Northern Flickers and a Black-billed Magpie.

Notable feeder birds included an American Tree Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and one Mountain Chickadee. The Dark-eyed Junco was the most frequently seen feeder bird, followed closely by Rock Pigeons. Over 100 European

Starlings, about 1/3 more than last year were counted.

Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks have been feeding on mountain ash berries for the past several weeks and small numbers were still around to be counted, as were Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills. Around 80 Pine Siskins also made the count.

In all, 3688 birds were counted, down considerably from last year's **5284 individuals**. The **64 species** located was up from last year's 53 species.



## **RAPTOR VISITS TO SMOKY MOUNTAINS, N.C. By Prill (Isleib) Mollick**

With the help of the 'Endangered Species Act' both the Bald Eagle and the Osprey have made a successful come back.

A few days ago a pair of Bald Eagles were perched high in a tree quite near the entrance drive of a local middle school. Students who saw them were elated to see eagles so close since the Bald Eagle was their school mascot.

The Bald Eagle and the Osprey are usually spotted in the higher elevations of the Smoky Mountains. In recent years the Bald Eagle and the Osprey have become more common in this area. They are both visiting migrants during various seasons. Sightings are occasional but are becoming more frequent. It is exciting to see them in this location.

## **BEACHCOMBERS OR BIRDERS WANTED!**

Help make a difference for the environment by collecting data for the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST). COASST is a citizen science project dedicated to involving volunteers in the collection of high quality data on the status of coastal beaches, and trends of seabirds. Our goal is to assist government agencies and other organizations in making informed management and conservation decisions, and promote proactive citizen involvement and action. COASST volunteers systematically count and identify bird carcasses that wash ashore along ocean beaches from northern California to Alaska. Volunteers need NO experience with birds, just a commitment to survey a specific beach (about 3/4 mile) each month.

If you are interested in participating, join COASST staff for a full, 6-hour training session. Hear about how COASST started, learn how to use the custom

Beached Birds field guide, and try out your new skills with some actual specimens. There is no charge to attend a training, but plan to provide a \$20 refundable deposit if you would like to take home a COASST volunteer kit complete with a COASST Beached Birds field guide. Training activities take place indoors, and include a break for lunch - please pack your own or plan to buy lunch nearby.

**Upcoming COASST training session: SATURDAY February 2, 2013 Juneau, AK 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Valley Library (1905 Mall Road Set #190)** If you can't attend this event, please check our website at [www.coasst.org](http://www.coasst.org) or call [\(206\) 221-6893](tel:206-221-6893) for additional information on upcoming events and trainings. **To reserve your spot at a training session, please contact [coasst@uw.edu](mailto:coasst@uw.edu) or [206-221-6893](tel:206-221-6893).**

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Liz Mack, COASST Volunteer Coordinator, Box 355020, University of Washington,  
Seattle, WA 98195-5020 ph (206) 221-6893 fx (206) 221-6939

*(From What's Up by Peg Tileston)*

**\*\*February 15** Deadline for comments on the **ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY DRAFT PLAN (AKELP)**. Research shows that when children are connected to nature, they do better in school, have fewer behavioral and health problems, and are more engaged in learning. These facts are not the current reality for many Alaskan students. We as parents, educators, professionals and community members have the power to change the future for Alaskan students and our state. The Plan is designed to connect youth with the natural world and the communities within which they live. It is a framework to guide schools (PreK-12) in integrating environmental education, including active outdoor learning, as part of the school curricula with support from community partners and community members. The draft is available online at <http://eed.alaska.gov/tls/akelp/>. The website provides multiple methods for offering comments. For more information, contact Bjorn Wolter at the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development by email at [bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov](mailto:bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov) or call (907) 465-6542.

**\*\*January 10 SITKA** - The **ALASKA BOARD OF GAME** will conduct a one-day meeting beginning at 9am at Harrigan Centennial Hall. The meeting is in addition to the Southeast Region meeting which is scheduled to begin January 11, also at the Harrigan Centennial Hall. No regulatory action will be taken at the January 10 meeting. Agenda topics for the one day meeting include: election of officers; approval of the 2013/2014 Board meeting schedule; informational reports provided by the Department of Fish and Game; a report from the Big Game Commercial Services Board concerning issues of over-lapping jurisdiction with the Board of Game; and a discussion on the moratorium on accepting proposals relating to the Denali wolf buffer zone. The meeting is open to the public but no oral public testimony will be taken. Audio of the meeting is intended to be streamed live [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main). The agenda, a list of reports, and any other meeting documents will be available prior to the meeting at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo). For more information about the meeting, contact Kristy Tibbles at 465-4110.

**\*\*Internships available with ALASKA YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION.** AYEА is a youth leadership and civic engagement program for high school students from across Alaska to build skills and take action on issues they care about. We host youth leadership summits focused on project planning, community organizing, and political action, and we support youth-led projects throughout the school year. We are currently looking for volunteer interns to lead a variety of projects in 2013. Gain mad skillz in community organizing, navigating the political system, event planning, communication, and/or fundraising. AYEА staff are super cool and it will probably be the best internship EVER. For more information, go to <http://ayea.org/internship-positions-available/>. Rolling deadline. Open until filled. Contact person is Megan McBride at (907) 830-3022 or email [mcbriDEM@ayea.org](mailto:mcbriDEM@ayea.org).

#### **COMMENT DEADLINE NEARS ON BACK LOOP PATH PROJECT JUNEAU**

Comments are due January 11 on the proposed Back Loop Shared Use Path Rehabilitation near Juneau. The shared use path located along Back Loop Road in the Mendenhall Valley has a damaged and deteriorated paved surface and does not comply with the requirements of the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The proposed project would widen and resurface a one-mile section of the path between Mendenhall Loop Road and the Mendenhall River Community School.

The state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities proposes to use federal funds to remove and replace the existing asphalt surface; improve the structural cross section and vertical grades to meet ADA standards; and widen the path from 8 feet to 10 feet. Associated activities would include: improving drainage by grading the path and constructing ditches; relocating roadway signs, side street stop signs and fire hydrants affected by the widening; installing safety fence along sections of path with steep or hazardous slopes below; constructing an ADA accessible bus shelter near Mint Way or Glendale Street; installing a root barrier in areas affected by tree root growth; trimming vegetation in existing ROW to improve sight distance, and re-striping cross street crosswalks and stop bars. Construction is projected for 2013.

For more information or to submit comments, contact Hilary Lindh, environmental analyst, at 907/465-6564, Fax 907/465-3506 or email [Hilary.lindh@alaska.gov](mailto:Hilary.lindh@alaska.gov).

*(From What's Up by Peg Tileston)*

The logo consists of the words "Pick.", "Click.", and "Give." stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font on a solid olive-green rectangular background.

When you apply for your 2013 Permanent Fund Dividend, you will have the opportunity to give to the Juneau Audubon Society for **scholarships, educational programs, field trips, and other activities**. Last year our first scholarship was given to a graduating Juneau High School student who was heading off to college this year. The PFD Charitable Contributions Program began a few years ago, but this coming year will be our first time to participate. It provides a safe, secure and easy way to make a donation, and is available to all Alaskans who file online. When you go online to apply for your dividend, you will see the option called **“The Gift of Giving.” Click on Juneau Audubon Society. Chose the amount you would like to donate.** You can find more information about the program, including frequently asked questions at <http://www.forakergroup.org/pfd>. Or you may call 888-785-GIFT (4438).

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org> > )

## Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714  
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 \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C2ZA510Z A51

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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 39, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2013

## **FEBRUARY MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

**UAS Egan Building, Room 221/222, 7:00 p.m.**

### **"Middleton Island: A Birder's Paradise"**



Nick Hajdukovich, is a very active and accomplished birder, and he will present a program about what he saw and learned during his visit on Middleton Island this last fall. Working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nick spent his time on the island mist-netting for passerines and surveying for seabirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. From the

thousands of shearwaters that pass by the island's north point daily to the hundreds of warblers, sparrows, and thrushes that stopover on the island during their trans-gulf migration, Middleton Island provides a unique opportunity to study and observe a diverse sample of Alaska's avifauna.



**April's meeting will be moved from the second Thursday to April 18, 2013 to avoid conflicting with the Folk Festival.**





## Juneau Audubon Society

The Juneau Audubon will be participating in the 2013 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Pick.Click.Give. online donation program.

The application period for 2013 dividend payments begins Tuesday, January 1. Within the PFD online application you will find the Pick.Click.Give. option, a simple, secure way to **donate \$25, \$50 or more** from your dividend to JN Audubon.

Contributing to JN Audubon through Pick.Click.Give takes just 4 easy steps:

1. At the end of the application form you will see the Pick.Click.Give. logo. Check the "Yes" box.
2. Search for us by name: Juneau Audubon
3. Select the amount that you would like to donate from your PFD. There is an option for donating to multiple organizations.
4. Finally, if you would like to receive a tax receipt and thank you letter from JN Audubon, please click the "Release Information" button. This will give us your name, address and donation amount, and it is the only way we will be able to identify donors.



You're done!

You can find more information about the Pick.Click.Give program, including frequently asked questions at: <http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/about/> .

Your generous donation will help us .....

**Thank You!**

Please forward this e-mail to fellow Alaskans who might be interested.

Warmest and Best Regards for the New Year,

**P.O. Box 21725**  
**Juneau, AK 99802-1725**  
**info@juneau-audubon-society.org**  
<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

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Juneau Audubon is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our tax identification number is 92-0073877. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# President's Inbox By Brenda Wright

**Opportunity to make your opinion count!**

## **Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Supplemental EIS/OEIS**

Visit the project website at [www.GOAEIS.COM](http://www.GOAEIS.COM) to learn more about the project, submit comments online, and link to additional resources. Comments accepted through March 18, 2013. The Navy will evaluate new information, analyze data using a new acoustic model to estimate potential effects on various marine species, and review current federal regulatory permits, etc.

## **Tongass National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan- Five Year Review.**

The Forest Service is reviewing the 2008 Plan and wants input from the public about how the plan has been working over the last five years. For more information visit the webpage: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/Tongass/landmanagement/planning](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/Tongass/landmanagement/planning)

Comment period is open through March 31, 2013. Public meetings will be held in:

Petersburg, Monday, Feb. 11, Petersburg Indian Association Conference Room  
Sitka, Wednesday, Feb. 13, Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Craig, Wednesday, Feb. 20, Craig Tribal Assn. Hall  
Ketchikan, Thursday, Feb. 21, Ted Ferry Civic Center  
Juneau, Thursday, Feb. 28, Juneau Arts and Culture Center

## **Events**

### **Juneau Watershed Partnership Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival**

The film festival will take place Saturday, February 23 at the JACC. The Family Festival from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. followed by the Film Festival from 6:30 until 8:30pm

### **Sea Otter Symposium at the University of Southeast (library) Juneau Feb 21 from 6-10pm.**

Panelists will speak to a variety of sea otter topics (i.e. current knowledge, present and future research, informational gaps, etc). The speakers will include: Jim Estes (researcher at UCSB), Jim Bodkin (USGS research wildlife biologist), Tim Tinker (USGS research wildlife biologist), George Esslinger (USGS Zoologist), Verena Gill (AK Fish and Wildlife Service) and Ginny Eckert (UAF Associate Professor).

## **National Audubon National Convention - July 12-16, 2013**

The gathering will take place July 12-16, 2013 at Skamania Lodge, 45 minutes east of Portland, Oregon in the spectacular Columbia River Gorge. Come celebrate the Audubon network and share your energy and passion for conserving birds throughout the flyways with leaders from across the country!

The official convention web site will open in early February, chock full of information about workshops and field trips, schedules, speakers, entertainment and local birds. In the meantime, you can find essential details at [www.audubon.org/2013convention](http://www.audubon.org/2013convention).

## **Information**

### **American Bird Conservancy**

#### **Outdoor Cats: Single Greatest Source of Human-Caused Mortality for Birds and Mammals: New Study**

A new peer-reviewed study authored by scientists from two of the world's leading science and wildlife organizations – the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – has found that bird and mammal mortality caused by outdoor cats is much higher than has been widely reported, with annual bird mortality now estimated to be 1.4 to 3.7 billion and mammal mortality likely 6.9 – 20.7 billion individuals.

The study, which offers the most comprehensive analysis of information on the issue of outdoor cat predation, was published in the online research journal Nature Communications and is based on a review of more than 90 previous studies. The study was authored by Dr. Peter Marra and Scott Loss, research scientists at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and by Tom Will from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Birds. It is available at [http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/pdf/Loss\\_et\\_al\\_2013.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/pdf/Loss_et_al_2013.pdf).

### **Opt out of unwanted Mail**

Are you still getting catalogs and other unwanted mail? If it is filling up your mailbox and you would like to help the environment check out the Catalog choice webpage <https://www.catalogchoice.org/>

This is a free service to help you reduce the number of catalogs and other bulk mail you receive frequently. Check it out!

### **Great Backyard Bird Count Goes Global in 2013**

After 15 years of success in North America, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will open up to the entire world for the first time in 2013. Anyone, from anywhere on earth, can participate by visiting [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) and reporting the kinds and numbers of birds they see during the 16th annual count, **February 15–18, 2013**.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with partner Bird Studies Canada, the four-day count typically receives sightings from tens of thousands of people reporting more than 600 bird species in the United States and Canada alone.

Participating is easy. Simply watch birds for at least 15 minutes at the location of your choice on one or more of the count days. Estimate the number of birds you see for each species you can identify. You'll select your location on a map, answer a few questions, enter your tallies, and then submit your data to share your sightings with others around the world.

### **Audubon en Espanol**

National Audubon launched a new section on its website, Audubon en Español, which will be the digital face of Audubon in the Spanish-speaking community. Audubon en Español, which you can access at <http://espanol.audubon.org/> will be a new voice for birds – and will help make Audubon accessible to a diverse new audience.

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### **Alaska Board of Fisheries to Discuss Lead**

This year, the AK BOF will consider many regulatory proposals regarding fishing in Alaska. One item, however, could also have a profound effect on water birds and other wildlife. Proposal 234 – 5 AAC 75.020 would ban use of lead weights under 1 oz. in Alaska waters. According to a U.S. Geological Survey fact sheet

([http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/Documents/lead\\_poisoning\\_wild\\_birds\\_USGS2009.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/Documents/lead_poisoning_wild_birds_USGS2009.pdf)):

...lead is a potent, potentially deadly toxin that damages many organs in the body and can affect all animals, including humans. ... Wild birds, such as ... loons, can die from the ingestion of one lead shot, bullet fragment, or sinker... Species reported to have been poisoned by ingested lead fishing weights include trumpeter swans, brown pelicans, common loons, and other waterbirds. These birds may ingest sinkers attached to broken fishing line in hooked fish or may pick them up as grit. The use or sale of lead fishing tackle is restricted in national parks and wildlife areas in Canada...

*Citizens have the option to comment in writing before the March meeting. See more information in the 2012/2013 Proposal Book posted here:*

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>

### **BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS** By Patricia Wherry, Education Chair

A youth and an adult set of classes will be held in the valley at Glacierview Elementary in March. Contact Community School to enroll.

**Email:** [suzanne.ainsworth@juneauschools.org](mailto:suzanne.ainsworth@juneauschools.org) **PH. 523-1761 #307 Marie Drake School in town**

Classes will meet Thursday evenings. Youth 6-7pm and Adult 7:30-8:30pm. Youth meet for 3 Thursdays, total cost \$6. Adults meet for 4 Thursdays, total cost \$8. Nifty bird information, use of binoculars, and clues to bird identification. Following the classes will be a bird outing on a weekend.

Current Juneau Audubon members: The class leader is looking for volunteers to help the newbies on their bird outing the first weekend in March (at completion of February courses) and the first weekend in April (at completion of March courses). You don't need to be an expert to enjoy sharing birds with others!! Send your "I can do that." to [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org)

### **The Third Annual Yakutat Tern Festival is scheduled for May 30-June 2, 2013.**

The festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southern most known nesting colonies of Aleutian Terns, as well Arctic Terns and up to 200 other bird species that nest or migrate through the area. The festival is family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, evening banquets and other programs, bird banding demonstration, and an art show. This year's keynote speakers are anthropologists Richard and Nora Dauenhauer. Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, and beach-combing. Please see [www.yakutatternfestival.org](http://www.yakutatternfestival.org), visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

### **Eastern Screech Owl** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

Years ago, in Eastern Pennsylvania, on a summer evening just after dark, the children were out in the yard playing hide and seek. Suddenly they all came rushing in saying, "There's a ghost in the woods, there's a ghost in the woods, come out and listen." I stepped outside and listened. Over across the way, from the woods came the sound; it was the descending trill, or whiny of the screech owl. (Not a ghost.)

Eastern Screech Owls are a common, permanent resident here in the Carolinas. They have two common color phases, a bright rusty reddish or gray color with black streaks. The color variation may occur in the same brood. They have yellow eyes and ear tufts.

Sometimes their calls are an eerie spine tingling sound in the middle of a quiet summer night, especially when more than one are calling to or at each other. They have a variety of songs or calls. There is the mournful quavering whistle, whinny or trill, monotone or descending. Some calls are soft, low hoots. The grating screeches or squawks may be given defending the nest or young. When agitated or disturbed, they will snap the bill menacingly or give loud barking calls, also they may sound out a 3 to 4 note chuckle/rattle.

They nest in a tree cavity or an abandoned woodpecker hole, they will also use artificial nest boxes. They have two to eight white eggs with incubation by the female. They forage at dusk and at night for small rodents and a variety of insects. They have the ability to plunge into streams for small fish and crayfish. They are even known to take an occasional dip and drink in the backyard bird bath.

This Ann'a Hummingbird photo was taken at Patty Rose's place by Doug Jones on November 24 and it stayed around in Juneau until December 7.



### **“On Using eBird”** By: Nick Hajdukovich

In 2002 the Cornell Lab of Ornithology launched an online checklist program called eBird in hopes of providing birders with an easy way to document their sightings and access sightings made by other birders. Since then, eBird has exploded and now has tens of thousands of users worldwide who enter millions of bird observations every month (eBird.org).

I started using eBird in 2005, but it was several years before I really got into it and stopped recording my observations with pen and paper. Every time I go birding, I now only use eBird to record what I saw and I can't ever anticipate going back to notebooks. Although eBird is directly tied to the availability of Internet, there are easy ways to import spreadsheets of data, which allows you to record notes on a computer if you are out in the field. If you are worried about losing your valuable observations and personal notes, it is easy to download all of your observations from the website to back up on your own computer.

To start using eBird all you have to do is create an account, which is free and only requires a username and password. Once you have an account, you are free to submit observations and explore other eBirder data. Submitting data is straightforward, but can take some time to familiarize yourself with the program. First, you create a location for where you birded, which is easily done by placing a location “pin” on a satellite image, or entering a latitude/longitude coordinate. Next, you decide what kind of observation you are going to submit: incidental (when birding is not your primary purpose), stationary (birding from one spot), or travelling (less than 5 miles is preferable). I've provided a screenshot of what the “Date and Effort” portion of a checklist for a walk out the Dike Trail at the Juneau Airport might look like.



\* Observation Date: Feb 1 2013 \* = Required

\* Observation Type:

- Traveling You traveled a specific distance — walking a trail, driving a refuge loop, field birding. ▶ More Info...
- Stationary You stayed at a fixed location — watching from a window, hawkwatching, seawatching. ▶ More Info...
- Incidental Birding was not your primary purpose or you lack required effort information — noting a bird while driving or gardening, historic records that lack effort info. ▶ More Info...
- Other

\* Start Time: 9 : 00 AM

\* Duration: 1 hrs. 45 min.

\* Distance: 2 miles

\* Party Size: 1 Enter the total number of people in your birding party

Comments: Walked out to Gazebo Pond and back. Tide high. Weather: high overcast, wind SW 5-10mph, T=35°.

After pressing “Continue,” eBird provides you with a list of the most probably bird species in the area for that time of year. You then enter the number of birds you saw, or simply enter “X” if you knew a certain species was present but did not pay attention to how many there were. The last thing you do before submitting the checklist is specify whether you are reporting on all of the birds that you could identify or if you are just reporting the highlights. This is done by simply clicking a box with “Yes” or “No.”

Although this process might seem more time intensive or foreign to some, the benefits of easily searching past records of yours and others and helping to strengthen eBird’s database far outweighs the trouble it might be to familiarize yourself with eBird. For me, eBird really comes in handy when I travel to a new place and have no idea what birds I might expect to see. With eBird, you can easily figure this out and even be updated when a species is seen near you in real time! In this short article, I have merely hit the tip of the iceberg when it comes to eBird’s ability to help you become a more accomplished and informed birder. To learn more and get started, visit [eBird.org](http://eBird.org). Many commonly asked questions are addressed on the website, but if you have other questions or want to talk to someone about it, please feel free to email me at: [upupa\\_epops200@yahoo.com](mailto:upupa_epops200@yahoo.com).

**WEB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*\* Bob Armstrong’s wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

**Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901**

**Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928**

**This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.**

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**There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/>> )**

**Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

President: Brenda Wright 789-4656	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Vice-President: Josh Peters	<a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org</a>
Secretary: Bev Agler	<a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Treasurer: Patty Rose	<a href="mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org">treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Programs: Doug Jones	<a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Education: Patricia Wherry	<a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Conservation: Gwen Baluss	<a href="mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org">conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Field Trips:	<a href="mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org">field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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At-large: Jeff Sauer	<a href="mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Public Market:	<a href="mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org">public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Web Master: George Utermohle	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

**Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?**

**You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201**

**Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.**

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

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 \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

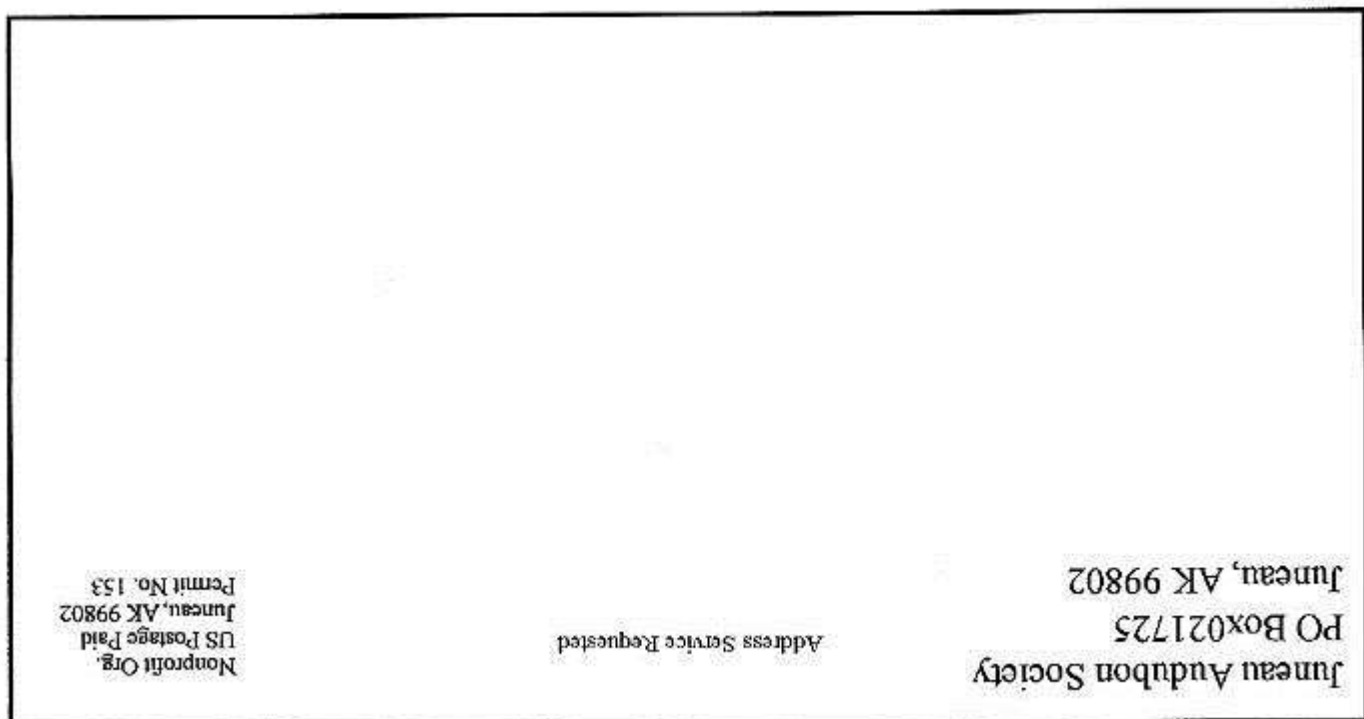
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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 39, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2013

**Juneau Audubon Society  
MARCH MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 14  
UAS Egan Building, Room 221/222, 7:00 p.m.**



## Those Crazy Corvids

by  
Bob Armstrong

Bob will show slides and videos that illustrate the behavior of members of the family Corvidae in Alaska. These include jays, magpies, crows, ravens, and the

occasional nutcracker. Much of his talk will be on the craziest of all “the ravens.” He named his pet red-lored amazon parrot “raven” and once ran a bed and breakfast called Ravens Roost. But hey he voted to name the Audubon newsletter “The Dipper.” So he is not completely crazy.



**Note -- April Juneau Audubon meeting will be Moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, April 18. The Saturday bird walks will begin on April 13 – schedule will be in April newsletter and on the Web.**

## **BERNERS BAY CRUISES**

Juneau Audubon Society will sponsor three 2013 cruises to Berners Bay this year. On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m and May 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m and 1:30p.m. The vessel departs Statters Harbor below DeHarts. Audubon members will be on board to act as naturalist guides.

Steller sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles, humpback whale, And tens of thousands of gulls are just some of the species Observed around this time each year.

Tickets for the 4-hour cruise will be available at Hearthside Books by mid-March. Adults \$45 student rates are available for UAS and high school students over 12= \$25, and children under 12 = \$10. Don't miss it!

### **PRESIDENT'S INBOX** by Brenda Wright

Hello, I sure hope your 'winter' has been enjoyable, especially since we are certainly getting longer days. Juneau Audubon is still in need of a few volunteers for the board. We need a person to handle membership and it would be great to find a person to become the president next year. The board is all volunteer and there is no paid staff for Juneau Audubon. The Menbeship chairperson is in charge of keeping both the snail mail and e-mail lists for Juneau Audubon up-to-date. That means a monthly update of additions and deletions from National Audubon membership, making labels for the mailed newsletters, and e-mailing the newsletter. The president gets to chair the board meetings, write articles for the newsletter, help with conservation concerns, and keep up with information flow from the web page and Facebook. Juneau is a great town for volunteers. If you don't have the time, let us know if you think you might know someone is interested in helping the Juneau Audubon Board.

**DO YOU FACEBOOK?** Would you like to help make Juneau Audubon's Facebook more attractive and interactive? Just let us know! [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)

**Rivers and Wildlife Celebration** *Kearney, Nebraska March 21-24* Witness the migration of over half a million sandhill cranes and millions of waterfowl and other birds through central Nebraska. Events include guided field trips to local birding hotspots; and daily visits to river blinds operated by Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary for up-close views of cranes roosting on the Platte River. For more information, visit <http://nebraskacranefestival.org/> , email [nebraska@audubon.org](mailto:nebraska@audubon.org) or call 402-797-2301.

Also available for sandhill crane migration:

<http://www.strawhatvisuals.com/blog/workshops/cranes/> Experience the remarkable migration of the Sandhill Cranes on a [photo tour](#) along the Platte River in south-central Nebraska. Settle into private viewing blinds directly on the banks of the river and learn how to capture images of Nebraska's rich wildlife, beautiful landscapes and breathtaking sunsets.

Discover hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes as they migrate northward and experience first-hand why so many call this the greatest wildlife spectacle in North America. We invite bird watchers, photographers and nature enthusiasts to capture these moments of the migration, experience the phenomenon and learn from professionals. Hone your skills with premier photographers/filmmakers Bill Frakes, Laura Heald and Tom Lynn as your guides. On March 15th, 16th and 17th we will be providing hands-on instruction near Grand Island, Nebraska.

**AUDUBON CONVENTION 2013: REGISTRATION OPENS THURSDAY, February**

**28**The new Audubon Convention 2013 website is about to launch! This will be your opportunity to register for the convention, sign up for field trips and workshops, make hotel reservations, and review transportation options. We look forward to seeing you there! Please contact [convention@audubon.org](mailto:convention@audubon.org) with any questions.

**Down East Spring Birding Festival: May 24-27**

Cobscook Community Learning Center, Trescott, Maine and New Brunswick's Campobello Island. For schedule and registration: [www.downeastbirdfest@org](http://www.downeastbirdfest@org)

**From American Bird Conservancy:**

**New Website to Minimize Bird Collisions with Communication Towers**

<http://fewerlights.anr.msu.edu/>

**ABC Collisions Website** <http://collisions.abcbirds.org/>

**Wildlife Boom Expected After Eradication of 30,000 Rats on Pacific Island --** Wildlife numbers are expected to rebound at Palmyra Atoll, a 580-acre collection of islets located about 1,000 miles south of Hawai'i, that has been given a rat-free bill of health one year after about 30,000 rats were eradicated as part of a major effort to remove these invasive predators, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Island Conservation (IC) announced.

**Invitation to Join the Cats Indoors Listserv --** The Cats Indoors listserv is an excellent resource for cat-related news, updates, and action alerts. We hope that you will support ABC's efforts to reduce the negative impacts of feral and free-ranging cats by subscribing to the Cats Indoors listserv today. To join the listserv, send an email to [catsindoors-subscribe@lists.abcbirds.org](mailto:catsindoors-subscribe@lists.abcbirds.org) with subscribe written in the subject line or body of text. Please contact Grant Sizemore with questions, comments, or concerns at [gsizemore@abcbirds.org](mailto:gsizemore@abcbirds.org).

**EAGLE FEATHER COLLECTION PERMITS EXPIRE 3/31/2013!**

If you have a permit to collect eagle feathers, you need to get our updated permit. Please e-mail [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org) to get your new permit. Interested in helping with this project? Please e-mail or call 321-4739. All feathers go to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado for re-distribution to requests. No one can legally keep eagle feathers except native Americans.



## 2013 Great American Arctic Birding Challenge Kicks off March 1

By Beth Peluso

Migration is already starting in some places, even as snow still blankets Alaska—so let the games begin! Arctic-nesting birds have ranges that reach all 50 states and 6 continents, so the migrating birds you see in your backyard or favorite birding spot could be headed to the Arctic for the summer. What better way to celebrate spring and the birds that connect all of us than participating in the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge!

Get together a team of up to six birders and scour the landscape **March 1–June 1** to find as many of the birds as possible on the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge checklist. Submit your checklist by June 1 for prizes and a chance at the 2013 title.

Did we mention there are prizes?

For details on rules, prizes, and printer-friendly versions of the checklist and contest flyer, visit Audubon Alaska's [Great American Arctic Birding Challenge webpage](#). Contact Beth Peluso, Audubon Alaska, at [bpeluso@audubon.org](mailto:bpeluso@audubon.org), if you have questions.

### National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan

The Tongass National Forest is looking for feedback on its main guiding document, the Tongass National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), on the Plan's five year anniversary. The Forest Plan guides resource management, including wildlife (*bird*) habitat, to ensure that today's forest activities do not impact wildlife populations over the long run. The Tongass is looking for feedback from the public on whether the Plan is working as promised, or are some changes needed? **The public comment period is open now until March 31, 2013.** For more information about the 5-year Tongass Plan review go to the Tongass website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/home/?cid=stelprdb5367364>. To comment or add your name to the e-mail list, check out <http://tnf-5yearreview.com/>. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration. Sue Jennings, Forest Planner, Tongass National Forest, 907-772-5864 (office), <http://tnf-5yearreview.com/>



### Juneau's Beginning Birder

Beginning Birder class took a walk on the wetlands Sunday March 3 to celebrate their new birding skills. A big Thank you to their teachers Patricia Wherry and Laurie Lamm. Thanks also to Amy Clark Courtney and Brenda Wright for helping on the bird walk.

## **Juneau Bird Report for February by Patty Rose**

Despite the mild weather, February was a slow month for observing birds in Juneau. Many of the noteworthy birds seen during the month were wintering birds continuing from the previous month. Following are February observations that are listed as "Rare" or rarer on the Juneau Checklist.

A **Eurasian Wigeon**, perhaps the same one reported throughout the winter, was seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Airport Dike Trail on February 10 (MS). A female Canvasback, also reported earlier in the winter, was seen near the Airport Dike Trail on February 11 (KC). Observation of **Northern Pintail** included single birds at Sunny Point on February 12 (GV, NH), February 17 (PR), and February 24 (NF), and a small flock of eight at Salmon Creek on February 27 (NH). Twin Lakes was a good spot to see **Hooded Mergansers**, with one reported on February 11 (KC) and a pair reported on February 28 (ACC).

A **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** was seen in the airport area neighborhood on February 16 (JJ). The only rare shorebirds observed during the reporting period were **Wilson's Snipe**, including one along the Outer Point Trail on Douglas Island on February 14 (MSQ) and eight at Sunny Point on February 12 (NH, GV). A **Merlin** was seen at the Mendenhall Glacier Forelands on February 26 (DS). **Red-Breasted Nuthatches** occurred in small numbers during February from the Mendenhall Valley and north.

Probably the rarest bird of the month was a single **Swamp Sparrow** at the Miller-Honsinger pond near Temsco that was first seen on November 8 and was present at least through February 20 (NH, mobs.). As many as five **American Tree Sparrows** were at that same location until at least February 20 (NH, mobs.). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** has been at a Sunny Point feeder all winter and was seen on February 12 (GV) and 20 (NH). A **White-Crowned Sparrow** was seen in the Lemon Creek area near the police station on February 20 (NH).

Also in the Lemon Creek area, as in recent years, a flock of **Red-Winged Blackbirds** wintered over and was seen by many during February, including on February 18 (AK), February 20 (NH), and February 22 and 27 (ACC). Merrill Jensen reported that a single **Hoary Redpoll** was at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum on February 15.

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Brad Bentner (BB), Keith Confer (KC), Amy Clark Courtney (AC), Nathan Frost (NF), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Merrill Jensen (MJ), Jeanne Josephson (JJ), Art Kolter (AK), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), David Schmerge (DS), Marsha Squires (MSQ), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).

## **Sign Up to Receive Christmas Bird Count Results**

This year, Audubon will be producing a quarterly citizen science eNewsletter which will contain the results of all our Citizen Science programs, such as the Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count and the new Hummingbirds at Home program. This electronic publication will contain articles and summaries that previously were distributed in the printed edition of "American Birds: Summary of the Christmas Bird Count" as well as information about these other national Audubon citizen science programs.

If you would like to receive information regarding this new citizen science eNewsletter, please sign up online at [www.audubon.org/citizenscience](http://www.audubon.org/citizenscience) by entering your email address. Even if you participated in the CBC, or the GBBC and your email address is currently in one of those systems, you will receive this new eNewsletter only if you sign up through the new citizen science network.



Joining Audubon's online citizen science network this way also ensures you will receive updates on the latest research results, reports from Audubon scientists, and notification when CBC count summaries are posted online. In addition, you will learn about other citizen science programs and opportunities that may interest you. Please take a moment to sign up now and also to share this information with others who may find it of interest.

**From "Whats Up"** Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN) and Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE)

**March 11** Deadline for participation in the **2013 LIVING ON THE OCEAN PLANET VIDEO CONTEST** for students enrolled in high school (grades 9-12) for the 2012-2013 school year. Students are encouraged to work in teams. The theme is **A WINDOW INTO FRESHWATER SCIENCE** that invokes the interconnectedness of freshwater and marine systems. Full contest rules and guidelines are available at [www.nosb.org/competitions-2/nosb-video-contest/](http://www.nosb.org/competitions-2/nosb-video-contest/).

**March 15** Deadline for submissions for the **2013 ALASKA JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONTEST** from K-12 students. Participants select a species of North American waterfowl, do research on this species and its habitat, and then depict their findings through art and writing. Prizes, cash awards, and national recognition await the winners. Get to know North America's waterfowl and enter the contest! For more information, go to <http://alaska.fws.gov/jrduck>.

**March 31** Deadline to submit entries for **WILDLIFE FOREVER'S NATIONAL K-12 STATE-FISH-ART CONTEST**. Contest details for Alaska students/teachers are available at [http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fish/contest\\_art.htm](http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fish/contest_art.htm).

The **SOUTHEAST ALASKA GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION (SAGA)** is currently recruiting **AMERICORPS MEMBERS** for the Alaska Service Corps (ASC) program. ASC crews will be trained and deployed to conduct on-the-ground environmental stewardship activities on public lands in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. SAGA is seeking experienced **CREW LEADERS** for the adult and summer youth corps program, and Crew Members for the adult (21+) and summer youth (17-20 yrs. old) program. To learn more about positions and benefits, and to apply online, go to [www.servealaska.org](http://www.servealaska.org). For more information, contact Beverly Schoonover, Executive Director, at (907) 790-6403 or email [www.servealaska.org](http://www.servealaska.org).

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit Applications**

**KETCHIKAN** -- PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 25, 2013 | EXPIRATION DATE: March 25, 2013 REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2013-33 | WATERWAY: Tongass Narrows  
LOCATION: **Behind D-1 Loop Road off of North Tongass Highway in Ketchikan, Alaska.**  
PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to access a rock quarry and to develop a site to place overburden from off-site projects. CONTACT: Please contact Marcia L. Heer at (907) 753-5759, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at [Marcia.L.Heer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Marcia.L.Heer@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**JUNEAU -- EXPIRATION DATE: March 26, 2013 REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2013-30**  
**WATERWAY: Hawk Inlet LOCATION: Greens Creek Mine; Admiralty Island, near**  
**Juneau, Alaska.**

APPLICANT: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company, PO Box 32199, Juneau, AK 99803.

AGENT: Jennifer Saran, PO Box 32199, Juneau, AK 99803, (907) 790-8474.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to "replace the existing barge loading facility that has been in use for more than 20 years with a facility that improves safety and efficiency."

CONTACT: Please contact Randal Vigil at (907) 790-4491, by fax at (907) 790-4497, or by email at [Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil](mailto:Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

Recent and Archived Public Notices:

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

**From the "Red Pole"** Arctic Audubon Society's newsletter

**Alaska's Internet Birding Resources** by Dave Shaw, Arctic Audubon & Audubon Alaska Board

It probably won't come as a surprise, but people aren't using the telephone the way they used to. Five or ten years ago, I suspect most birders were getting their rare bird alerts and sightings over the phone, but that has changed. Arctic Audubon has decided that with the rise of internet birding resources, our Birding Hotline might not be needed. So, sadly, the Hotline may be discontinued. For those of you that still use the Hotline and haven't migrated over to the instant gratification of the internet, here is a guide to the best of Alaska's internet birding resources.

1. eBird: This is a worldwide database of bird sightings. It is used by many thousands of birders across the globe. eBird is largely a citizen science initiative that uses bird sightings to generate a huge databases of lists. Sign up and explore local bird activity or lists from all over the planet: [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

2. Boreal Birder: This Yahoo list serve is the best resource for birders in Interior Alaska. Arctic Audubon's Birding Hotline has been transcribed onto the site for some time. Check the list or sign up for the email alerts here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BorealBirder/>

3. Alaska Rare Bird Alert: Just as the title implies this site is about rarities. If you want to chase the Siberian Accentor in Seward or be ready the next time the White-winged Tern ends up at Fairbanks' South Cushman Ponds, this is the place to look:

<https://lists.alaska.edu/mailman/listinfo/alaskabirds-l>

4. Alaska Birding: This is another statewide list worth following:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/akbirding/>

The following lists are useful if you live or are traveling in other parts of Alaska:

1. Eagle Chat: This list follows sightings in Southeast Alaska:

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat/>

2. Beringia Birders: For the far western portion of Alaska:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/beringia\\_birders/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/beringia_birders/)

3. Kachemak Bay Birders: Birding info for Homer and surroundings:

<http://kachemakbaybirders.org>

4. KPBirding: Bird sighting information for the Kenai Peninsula:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kpbirding/>

5. Kenai Bird Festival: The webpage for this birding festival has a portion dedicated to current sightings on the Kenai: <http://kenaibirdfest.com/>

6. Kodiak Birding: Sightings on Kodiak Island: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KodiakBirding/>

These sites should keep even the most enthusiastic Alaska birders busy for quite some time. If you discover more resources not listed, here, please let us know!



**The Juneau Audubon will be participating in the 2013 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Pick.Click.Give. online donation program.**

**The application period for 2013 dividend payments begins Tuesday, January 1. Within the PFD online application you will find the Pick.Click.Give. option, a simple, secure way to donate \$25, \$50 or more from your dividend to Juneau Audubon.**

**Contributing to Juneau Audubon through Pick.Click.Give takes just 4 easy steps:**



1. At the end of the application form you will see the Pick.Click.Give. logo. Check the "Yes" box.
2. Search for us by name: Juneau Audubon
3. Select the amount that you would like to donate from your PFD. There is an option for donating to multiple organizations.
4. Finally, if you would like to receive a tax receipt and thank you letter from JN Audubon, please click the "Release Information" button. This will give us your name, address and donation amount, and it is the only way we will be able to identify donors.

**You're done!**

You can find more information about the Pick.Click.Give program, including frequently asked questions at: <http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/about/> .

**Your generous donation will help us support education and scholarships.**

**Thank You!**

Please forward this e-mail to fellow Alaskans who might be interested.  
Warmest and Best Regards for the New Year,

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

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[president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)

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You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_

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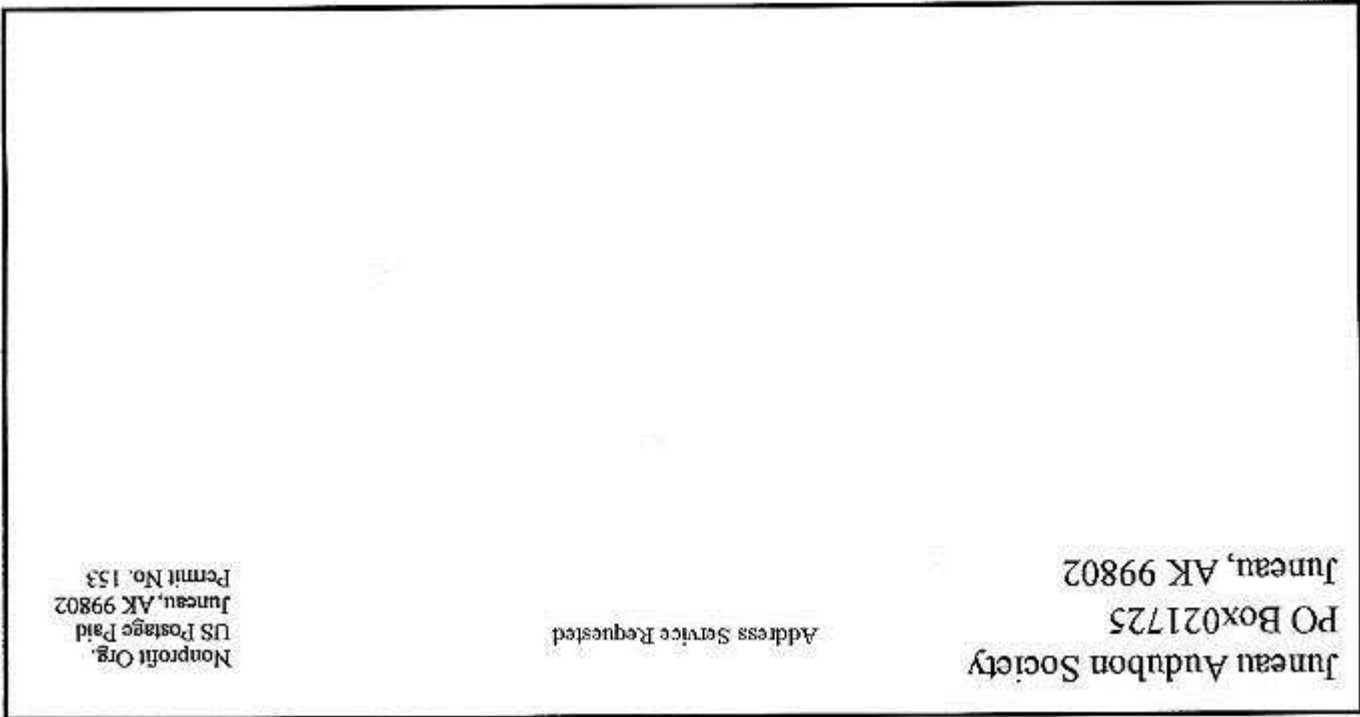
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# The Raven



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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 39, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2013

## Juneau Audubon Society

**APRIL MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013 (*CHANGED TO THIRD THURSDAY TO NOT CONFLICT WITH FOLK FESTIVAL*)**  
**UAS Egan Building, Room 221/222, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Packrafts and Polar Bears: A Trek Across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Rick Turner talks about his 200-mile trek last year by foot and packraft across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Starting from Arctic Village at the refuge's southern boundary, and his partner hiked through boreal forest, across miserable miles of tundra tussocks, and over the rugged mountains of the Brooks Range to the North Slope. There they inflated



their tiny rafts to run the rapids of an ice-cold river to the Arctic Ocean, finally ending their journey in the coastal village of Kaktovik.

## SPRING 2013 BIRD WALK SCHEDULE

Date/Time:	Activity:	Leader/s:
April 13 8am-10am	Auke Rec and Point Louisa Meet at the last pull-out before the campground above the main shelter	Linda Nicklin & Amy Courtney
April 20 8am- 10am	Fish Creek Delta Meet at the Parking Lot before Fish Creek Bridge on the North Douglas Highway	Nick Hajdukovich
April 27 8:30am @ Statter Harbor (Auke Bay)	<b>Berner's Bay Cruise</b>	Nick H., Patty R., Bev A., Laurie C., Mary W.
May 4 Two cruises: 8:30am & 1:30pm @ Statter Harbor (Auke Bay)	<b>Berner's Bay Cruises</b>	Brenda W., Amy C., Pat H.
May 11 8am-11am	<b>Bird Banding Demonstration @</b> Juneau Community Garden	Gwen Baluss
May 18 8am-10am	Airport Dike Trail End of Radcliffe Road	Jeff Sauer
May 25 8am-10am	Eagle Beach picnic area 28.7 Mile Glacier Highway	Mark Schwan
June 1 8am-10am	Moose Lake area	Mark Schwan
June 8 8am-10am	Sandy Beach/ Treadwell Trails	Patty Rose
June 15 8am-10am	Brotherhood Bridge Trail	Brenda Wright

### President's Notes by Brenda Wright

Spring is in the air! Varied thrush, Dark-eyed Juncos, Song Sparrows, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and Pacific Wren cannot be wrong!! Please join us for our Saturday Bird walks this spring. We love having all skill level of birders. We will provide binoculars and scopes to help the beginners learn more about birds. Check out the schedule for walks and see the web page for changes and updates.

#### **Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival:**

The **23rd** Annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival, May 2-5, 2013, will continue to include environmental education as well as showing our visitors the beauty and grandeur of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta. Our Keynote Speaker this year is Mr. Guido Berguido from the Panama Audubon Society. Other Audubon speakers include Nils Warnock and Melanie Smith from the Alaska Audubon Society.

[http://cordovachamber.com/?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=44](http://cordovachamber.com/?option=com_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=44)

## **Yakutat Tern festival May 30-June 2**

Celebrating birds in culture: seminars, kids activities, field-trips, banquet, amazing area

[www.yakutatfestival.org](http://www.yakutatfestival.org)

**The Stikine River Birding Festival** is being held April 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> in Wrangell, Alaska. There will be some great events this year. Russian snow goose expert Vasily Baranyuk will give a presentation on the wildlife of Wrangell Island, Russia, Juneau artist Kathy Hocker will teach a sketching workshop on the Stikine River, the Sitka Raptor Center will be in town, and a brand new bird calling contest is sure to get Wrangell singing (or honking or whistling or quacking!). Alaska Airlines is offering a discount code for travel to Wrangell during the Festival: ECMU633. More information can be found on our website:

<http://www.wrangell.com/birdingfestival> Corree Seward Delabrué, District Interpreter, Tongass NF-Wrangell Ranger District 907-874-7563 [csdelabru@fs.fed.us](mailto:csdelabru@fs.fed.us)

## **Updates on birds:**

A new paper by Canadian scientists Pierre Mineau and Mélanie Whiteside identifies pesticide toxicity to birds as an important factor in grassland bird declines. "Pesticide Acute Toxicity is a Better Correlate of U.S. Grassland Bird Declines than Agricultural Intensification" was recently published in the peer-reviewed, open-access online journal *PLOS One*. The study found that acutely toxic pesticides (rather than habitat loss) were the most likely leading cause of the widespread population declines of grassland birds in the United States. Check out the American Bird Conservancy for more info.

## **Birds, Bees, and Aquatic Life Threatened by Gross Underestimate of Toxicity of World's Most**

**Widely Used Pesticide** *New Report Charges EPA Ignored Staff Warnings, Approved Widespread Use of Dangerous Pesticides* <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/130319.html>

**Hummingbirds at Home to Launch April 10** Audubon's newest Citizen Science program, Hummingbirds at Home, will be launching April 10! This accessible and family-friendly new program seeks to gather data documenting hummingbird migration and feeding habits nationwide. Check out the National Audubon site.

[www.audubon.org/](http://www.audubon.org/)

## **Great Backyard Bird Count high count and species:**

The count was held in February 2013, and birders in Juneau observed 61 species during the count weekend.

**Mallards, Canada Geese, Greater Scaup, Rock Sandpipers, Mew Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull,**

**Northwest Crow, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin** were the highest number of individuals counted. We

hope more people will get involved in counting and adding their information to the ebird site. 61 species is a great accomplishment for winter, but not a single woodpecker was counted. It's really fun to add your

birding enjoyment to the citizen science data base. It's fun for us and helpful to the birds we enjoy

watching. Thanks to all the local birders who contribute! The top listers in February were Gus van Vliet,

Patty Rose, David Schmerge, Art Kolter, Merrill Jensen, Amy Clark Courtney, Jeanne Josephson, Brenda

Wright, and Anne Sutton. Check out the web pages and join the crowd! To explore more of the date just

visit the website: [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) or [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) Enjoy!



## Juneau Bird Report for March

by Amy Clark Courtney



Spring has officially arrived, and with it have come some of our first migrants! **Killdeer**, **Black Oystercatcher**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Fox Sparrow**, **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, and **Varied Thrush** have all been reported, while **American Robin** seem to be popping up everywhere!

A **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen this month (likely the same one that has been seen all winter) at the Mendenhall Wetlands on 3/7 (NH), and at the Fish Creek delta on 3/24 (GV, NH). Likewise a **Canvasback** that seems to have been here all winter was also seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 3/13 (ACC) and 3/27 (NH). Twin Lakes continues to be the hotspot for **Hooded Merganser**, with two to five observed throughout the second half of March (m. obs. Incl. DS, BW, NH, ACC, TC). A highlight of the month was **White-tailed Ptarmigan** first found on Perseverance Trail by Jeff Sauer on 3/20, and then by Nick Hajdukovich the next day. A rare **Golden Eagle** was also seen on Eagle Beach on 3/22 (GV).

As the spring has been heating up, so has the owl activity! Many common owls have been seen and heard around town, but also heard was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on Fritz Cove Rd. on 3/12 (GV), and near River Rd. on 3/17 (DR, ACC). The most exciting owl sighting by far though, was a rare **Western Screech-Owl** first seen and heard on Basin Rd. on 3/1 (NH), and in the same location on 3/23 (GV, ACC).

Nine **European Starlings** were observed in Downtown Juneau on 3/9 (GV), and one on 3/31 (DS). During the last few days of the month the Mendenhall Wetlands were graced with the arrival of up to nine migrating **Lapland Longspur** (BW, ACC, MS, GV). Flocks of **Snow Bunting** have also been present on the Wetlands throughout the month (GV, DS, ACC, NH, BW).



The Miller-Honsinger Pond near Temsco has hosted a very rare **Swamp Sparrow** since early November of last year, and was reported this last month on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> (ACC). Also at that location on those dates were up to six **American Tree Sparrows**. Nick Hajdukovich and Gus van Vliet both saw an additional Tree Sparrow on the Mendenhall Wetlands in early March. The Lemon Creek area has continued to be a hotspot for our rare flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, one of which was observed at the Pioneer Home marsh on 3/9 (PR), and four of which were observed there on 3/20 (BW). Another loner was located at Creekside Park on 3/20 (ACC).



Though we have been inundated with Common Redpolls the past few months, two people were fortunate enough to spot a very rare **Hoary Redpoll** in March. Patty Rose found one at her feeder in Douglas on 3/7, and Gus van Vliet saw one on the Airport Dike Trail on 3/24.

Thanks to all those who have reported their observations on eBird and Eaglechat, including the following: Mark Anderson (MA), Amy Clark Courtney (ACC), Thomas Courtney (TC), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Patty Rose (PR), Deborah Rudis (DR), Jeffrey Sauer (JS), David Schmerge (DS), Mark Schwan (MS), Gus van Vliet (GV), and Brenda Wright (BR).



**Jeff Sauer Photographed** the White-tailed Ptarmigan and tracks in the snow on March 20th up Perseverance Trail. Nick Hajdukovich went up the next day and saw three.



## Haines Bird Report "Marlena Mooring"

A small flock of **White-winged Crossbills** have been busy eating seeds from the spruce cones in front of the house at Lutak the last couple of days. Also spotted a **Winter Wren** and a **Red Breasted Sapsucker**, a flock of fifty **Common Mergansers** and a couple of dozen **Golden Eyes**, some **Buffleheads** and a few seals and river otters.

## Sightings Near the River Trail -- Smoky Mountains, N.C.

By Prill (Isleib) Mollick

From day to day and during spring migration a variety of birds can be seen long the paved river trail in our area. Some recent sightings have been Pied Billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Brown Thrasher, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Red Crossbill, Red Winged Black Birds, Orange Crowned Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, and Sharp-Shinned Hawks.

There were flocks of Mocking Birds, Baltimore Orioles, Purple Finches and Gold Finches. The Gold Finches have changed into their bright sunny-yellow summer plumage. Buffleheads were seen swimming along near some Canada Geese and a Hooded Merganser was observed catching a large bull frog almost as big as itself.

## From Conservation Chair Gwen Baluss

### Time to take down or move your bird feeders out of reach

Its almost spring! Migrants are moving in and those winter yard birds are moving out. Many of us love to feed birds and they brighten those dreary winter days. However, now might be a good time to transition those friends to natural summer foods. Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends taking feeders down during the months that bears are out. Hungry bears will lick seeds off the ground even if seed feeders are out of reach. Wily bears will seek the sweetness in hummingbird feeders if they are not placed high enough.

Several bears were observed roaming Juneau in March. Whether you can safely feed at all will depend on your yard layout and the level of persistence of your local bears. Better safe than sorry!

### Do you have a busy hummingbird feeder in your yard?

Hummingbird researcher Fred Bassett from Alabama will be here to visit sites in Alaska this summer to band Rufous Hummingbirds. He is interested in finding links between the Alaska summer populations and those wintering in the gulf states. In 2010, a hummingbird banded in Florida was recaptured in Chenega Bay, AK. You can help with this effort by offering your yard to Fred for a short visit to catch and safely release birds. The approximate dates will be June 2-4, 2013 Ketchikan; June 5-6, Sitka; and June 7-8, Juneau. For more information, please contact Fred at [FHound@aol.com](mailto:FHound@aol.com) Ph. (334) 868-9658 and visit his website <http://hummingbirdresearch.net/>



Bob Armstrong

**From What's Up 4/13**

**\*\*March 31 (EXTENDED to JUNE 30)**

Deadline for comments on the **2008 TONGASS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (TLMP)** that currently guides land management decision-making on the Tongass National Forest. Right now the Forest Service is reviewing the Plan's effectiveness to determine what "clarifications or adjustments" are needed. To see the Plan, go to <http://seacc.org/healthy-forests/tongass-land-management-plan-tlmp-1/tongass-land-management-plan-tlmp>.

**\*\*April 12**

**JUNEAU** - Public Hearing will be held from 6 to 8pm in the Centennial Hall, Hammond Room take comment on the proposal by ADEC to **ISSUE AN ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (APDES) PERMIT** for the GREENS CREEK MINE for discharge locations: Hawk Inlet, Greens Creek, Zinc Creek, and wetlands with mixing zone proposed in essential fish habitat. Permit documents are available at ADEC Wastewater Discharge Authorization website under the Public Notice section. For more information or to submit comments, contact Tim Pilon at 907-451-2136, Fax (907) 451-2187, or email [tim.pilon@alaska.gov](mailto:tim.pilon@alaska.gov).

**April 18 JUNEAU - CHANGE ON YOUR DOORSTEP is a YOUTH AND EDUCATORS MINI SUMMIT will be held in Centennial Hall Enjoy a special keynote, see youth presentations and gather educational resources. No registration required. For more information, contact Faith Duncan at 907-228-6278.**

**\*\*April 16** Deadline for applications for the AK Dept of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's **2013 SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON MITIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT** which help mitigate economic impacts to Southeast Alaska fisheries interests from the reduction in the Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon harvest.

Application packets are available online at



*Where Has Spring Gone?*

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/grt/csmigrants.htm>. For more information, contact If you would like an application packet sent to you, please contact Jolene Julian at 907.465.4758 or [jolene.julian@alaska.gov](mailto:jolene.julian@alaska.gov).

## Science Fair Winners 2013

Juneau Audubon is pleased to participate in the Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair by providing special prizes to some student projects. This year was especially challenging for judging because there were over 150 projects in the science fair.

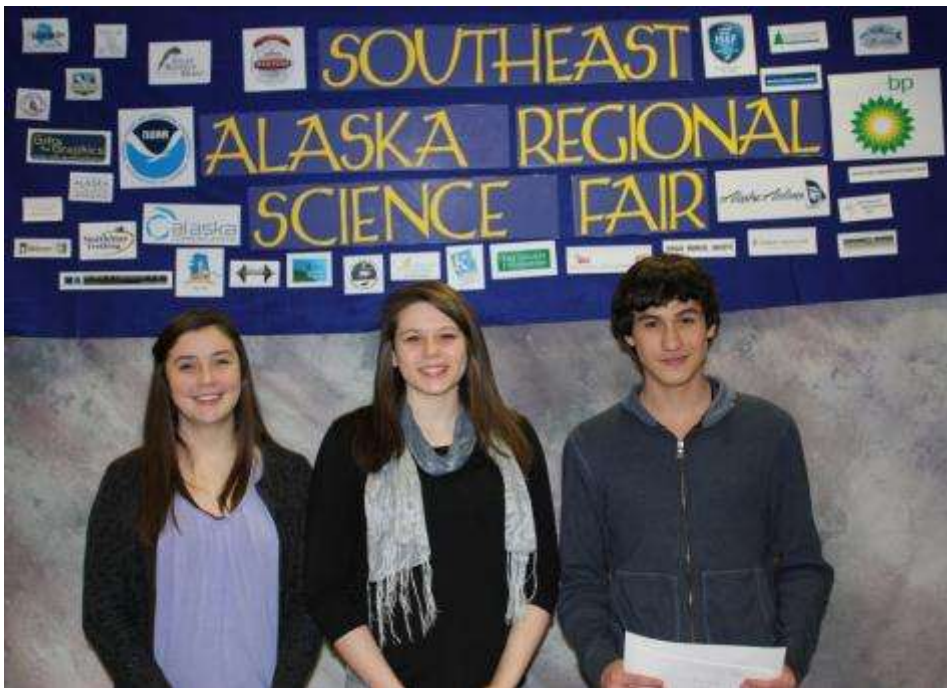
We did not have any easy choices of projects to judge as no student had included birds in their projects. We are happy to announce the winners this year are Cristina Arehart with How Soil or Bedrock Substrate and Distance from the Mendenhall Glacier Affect Revegetation; Anton Rieselbach with How Proximity to the Landfill Affects Amount of Contamination in the Juneau Wetlands; and Morgan Rivest with Assessment of Marine Pollution Levels. Congratulations to all the students.

Thanks to Doug Jones and Brenda Wright for doing the judging and Patricia Wherry for presenting the awards.

I just wanted to thank you for your support of the Audubon Society of Juneau award at the 2013 Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair. Attached is a photograph of the winning student(s), selected to be.

Thank you again. The Fair and the students appreciate your continued support.

Lawrence Schaufler, Fair Director, SE AK Regional Science Fair



## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

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**City/State/Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

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

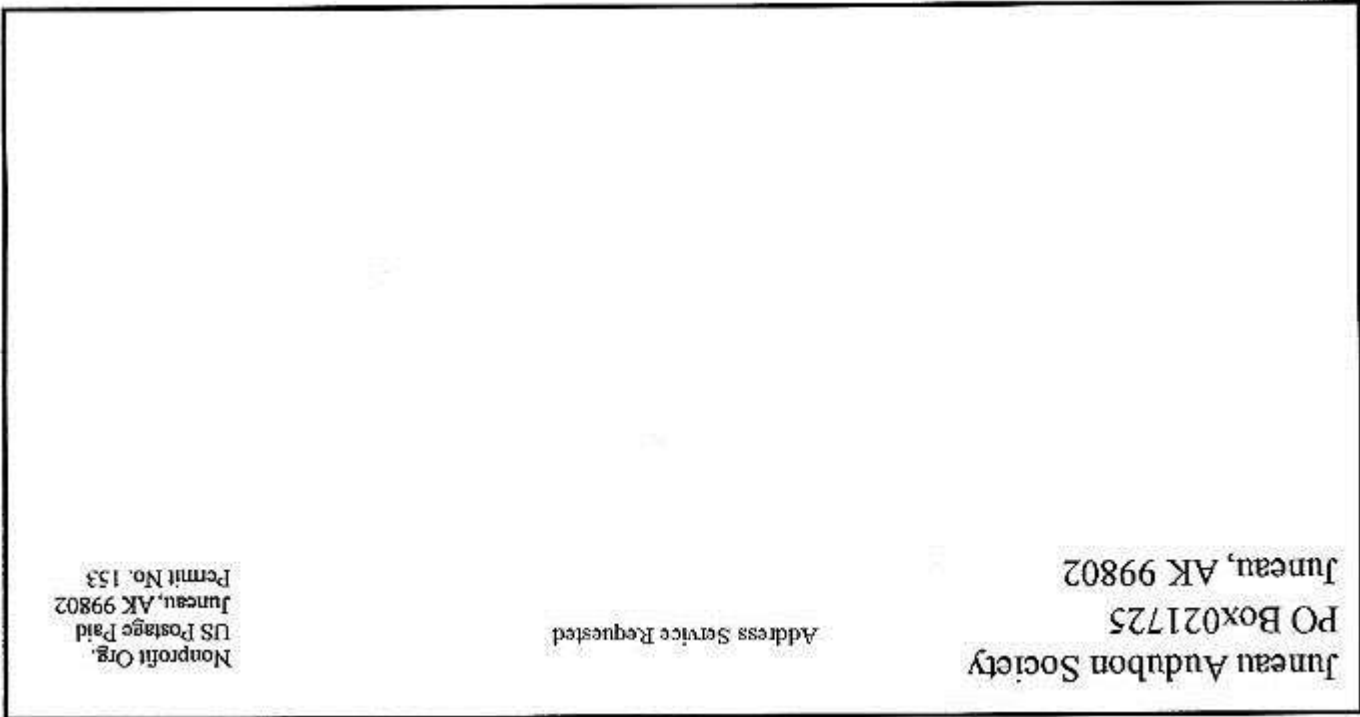
**\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51**

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# The Raven



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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 39, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2013

**The next Juneau Audubon general meeting will be:  
Thursday, October 10, 2013**

## **SPRING 2013 BIRD WALK SCHEDULE**

Date/Time:

Activity:

Leader/s:

May 11	8am-11am	<b>Bird Banding Demonstration @</b> Juneau Community Garden	Gwen Baluss
May 18	8am-10am	Airport Dike Trail End of Radcliffe Road	Jeff Sauer
May 25	8am-10am	Eagle Beach picnic area 28.7 Mile Glacier Highway	Mark Schwan
June 1	8am-10am	Moose Lake area	Mark Schwan
June 8	8am-10am	Sandy Beach/ Treadwell Trails	Patty Rose
June 15	8am-10am	Brotherhood Bridge Trail	Brenda Wright

## **SATURDAY WILD WALKS**

**Check schedule updates on:** <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

**Sunday** June 23 7:30 am South Bridget Cove 38.5 Mile Glacier Hwy. Pat Harris  
Minus Tide Walk

July TBA Nature Walk at the top of the Tram with Linda Nicklin

August 24 10am Mushrooms on North Douglas with Dave Gregovich

September 7 10am Eaglecrest Berries – Meet at Lodge with Mary Lou King/Brenda Wright



## President's Notes by Brenda Wright

Spring is definitely in the air now! You might have been a little worried with all the new snow lately, but our birds are definitely arriving and hopefully spring is here now too.

As you will see in the bird report, our **Rufous Hummingbirds, Varied Thrushes, Robins, Bonaparte's Gulls, Golden Crowned Sparrows, Northern Harriers, Greater Yellow legs,** and other species are here already and many are singing. The first arctic terns were seen at the glacier on May 3, 2013. I hope many of you will be able to come out for the free bird walks every Saturday from now until mid June.

Happy birding!

### Events and Bird News

#### 10 Tips for Bird-Friendly Backyards and Communities

You can do your part to help keep migrating birds safe from the many perils they encounter, including bright lights and tall buildings, cats and toxic lawns. Backyards and parks can become bird-friendly with a few simple steps. Audubon magazine lists 10 Tips: <http://bit.ly/153ppOn>

**Audubon's Bird Cam Reveals All** Explore.org streams Audubon's HD Osprey Cam, where Ospreys Rachel and Steve first captivated viewers with a *Real Housewives of Hog Island* episode (<http://bit.ly/11yVU11>).

**The First-ever Global GBBC Results are In! 19 April 2013** – One-hundred and eleven countries participated in the 2013 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) on February 15-18, and a whopping 2973 species of birds were reported.. Please visit the **GBBC**

**website** to see more 2013 results and highlights. **Hummingbirds at Home Questions?** An opportunity for more citizen science. Have a question about the Hummingbirds at Home citizen science program? Check it out (<http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org/>)

**Christmas Bird Count Results and Citizen Science eNewsletter** This year Audubon is going digital. Audubon will be producing a quarterly citizen science eNewsletter which will contain the results of all our Citizen Science programs, including the CBC articles. If you would like to receive this citizen science eNewsletter, please sign up online at [www.audubon.org/citizenscience](http://www.audubon.org/citizenscience) by entering your email address just to the right of "Want to keep up with Citizen Science?"

**Berners Bay Trips 2013** A new first for our Berners Bay trips was snow flurries on April 27. Good thing Allen Marine boats are heated. Most everyone enjoyed the bird and wildlife sighting. A special thanks to all our volunteers and especially to Laurie Craig for being the lead interpreter. Doug Jones shared some of his excellent photos. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a fun trip for all.





### **Juneau Bird Report for April by Patty Rose**

At the end of April, fog, snow, rain, wind, and low temperatures grounded hundreds of waterfowl in Juneau, producing good wildlife viewing opportunities. A flock of about 400 **Cackling Geese** could be seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands. Large flocks of **Snow Geese**, **Greater White-Fronted Geese**, and other waterfowl were also present.

Rare waterfowl sightings during April included two **Brant** at Eagle Beach State Recreational Area from April 18 through the end of the month (MS, mobs.) joined by a third on April 28 (NH). **Eurasian Wigeon** was well documented during the period. Participants on the Audubon bird walk at Fish Creek on April 20 saw two (NH, mobs.). Eurasian Wigeon was also seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands, Airport Dike Trail, throughout the month, including two on April 2 (LL), two on April 18 (NH), and one on April 29 (BP), and farther out, near the mouth of the Mendenhall River, including one on April 18 (DS, AC), one on April 19 (MS), and one on April 27 (GV, NH). One was also seen at Eagle Beach April 27 - 28 (AC, LL, PR). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at Twin Lakes on April 11 (AC, TC), and one was seen at Fish Creek on the April 20 (NH, mobs.)

Interesting observations of northbound raptors included single **Rough-Legged Hawks** on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course on April 10 (MS, NH) and April 30 (AC), near the Temsco facility on April 29 (GV, GB), and at Brotherhood Park on April 30 (GV).

**Pacific Golden-Plover** was the only rare shorebird reported during the beginning the shorebird migration. Single birds were seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 27 (NH, GV) and at Eagle Beach State Recreational Area on April 28 (NH). **Snowy Owls** were reported at the Bayview subdivision on April 17 (RB) and on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course on April 28 (SR). A female **Anna's Hummingbird** visited an Auke Bay feeder starting April 5 through the end of the month (GV, NH).

A **Northern Flicker** at Mile 35 on April 21 was the only rare woodpecker during the month (GV). Two late-lingering **Black-Billed Magpies** were seen at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Airport Dike Trail, on April 5 (SS), one was seen at an Auke Bay residence on April 5 (GV), and one was seen at Auke Nu Cove on April 7 (GV). **Peregrine Falcons** turned up at the end of the month. Observations on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course included one on April 28

(MSQ) and two on April 29 (AS), and observations near the mouth of the Mendenhall River included one on April 28 (PR) and one on April 29 (LL).

The first **Mountain Bluebirds** of the year were reported on April 7, with seven on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course (DJ, mobs.) and four at Eagle Beach State Recreation Area (RL). Subsequent observations near the golf course included one on April 13 (MS), one on April 19 (PR), and two on April 22 (GV). At Eagle Beach, two were later seen on April 28 (NH, AC, LL, PR). Three were near Thunder Mountain High School on April 28 (AC), and five were on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 28 (DS).



**Townsend's Solitaire** made a good showing, with one at Eagle Beach on April 7 (RL), 10 along the road between Eagle Beach and Point Bridget on April 27 (RA), two along the road past Point Bridget State Park on April 28 (GV), and one on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 29 (GB),

**Bohemian Waxwings** appeared in multiple locations around Juneau April 27 through the end of the month, after having been absent all winter. Unusually late observations of **Snow Bunting** included five on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 4 (NH), one on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course on the April 17 (NH), one at Eagle Beach State Recreational Area on April 18 (MS), and three near the golf course on April 22 (NH, AC). A **Swamp Sparrow** that wintered over near the Temsco facility continued through April and was observed on April 28 (NH). A **Hoary Redpoll** was seen at a West Juneau residence on April 28 (PR).

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bob Armstrong (RA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Ron Berg (RB), Amy Clark Courtney (AC), Thomas Courtney (TC), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Doug Jones (DJ), Laurie Lamm (LL), Rosary Lombardo (RL), Bruce Paige (BP), Scott Ranger (SR), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), David Schmerge (DS), Steve Scordino (SS), Andy Smoker (AS), Marsha Squires (MSQ), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).

### **Wrangell Bird Report** by Bonnie Demerjian

Despite icy blasts and serious downpour the day before, hardy Wrangell birders turned out in force for the Stikine River Bird Festival bird walk on April 25. The weather turned surprisingly mild and dry that day. Twenty-six species were counted on the route around the Muskeg Meadows Golf Course. Highlights included the first **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler** of the season, a very patiently perched **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, three **Wilson's Snipe**, a pair of **Ring-necked Ducks**, and a single **Red-winged Blackbird**. The stormy day preceding the bird walk grounded 50 **Greater White-fronted Geese** on the running field. The birds spent the day there

and provided many in town with a fine close-up look. Participants on the bird walk agreed that another walk to find later-arriving birds should be scheduled.

Flocks of 300-400 **Greater White-fronted Geese** as well as hundreds of **Snow Geese** are refueling on the Stikine River flats these days. Fifty of the birds, grounded by harsh weather on April 24, drew locals to a field near the elementary school where the birds spent the day feeding and resting. **Sandhill Cranes** began flying over town around April 16 and were continuing as of April 29. Their arrival, as well as that of the **Snow Geese**, appears to be more prolonged and scattered than in other years. Also spotted on Sergief Island on the river flats this week were **Black-bellied Plover**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and hundreds of **Western Sandpipers** and **Dunlin**.

Residents on the Stikine flats report a **Short-eared Owl** pair likely nesting near their cabin. One of the pair drove off a **Northern Harrier** on the ground, indicating a possible nest close by. Swallows at this site are late this year with only a handful of **Tree** and **Violet-green Swallows** appearing so far. Small numbers of **Rufous Hummingbirds** are busy fueling up, as illustrated in the accompanying photograph. Another river resident reported seeing hummers with snow on their beaks.



A small number of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** arrived in town around April 22 but have still not reached their usual ravenous hordes. **Wilson's Snipe**, however, are reported in unusually high numbers this year. The usual **Killdeer** are on the grassy stretches beside the airport runway and are being tracked by a **Northern Harrier**. As has been common around the region, **Pine Siskins** are still around in large numbers. The small numbers of **Common Redpolls** that were here earlier have departed. In an as-yet mostly uninspiring spring, we look forward to a cessation to snow, warm temperatures and MORE BIRDS.

### Nick Hajdukovich's Photos of Bird Sighting



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches out at Eagle Beach on 28 April. The first photo shows two subspecies, the coastal (*L. t. littorals*) and interior (*L. t. tephrocotis*), the latter being much more rare in the Juneau. The second photo shows a coastal bird, which breeds in the mountains around Juneau.

This photo was taken on 27 April and shows a mixed flock of Greater White-fronted Geese and Cackling Geese (*B. h. minima*). There are also likely two Canada Geese in the front of subspecies *B. c. parvipes*. There were nearly 400 Cackling Geese and 350 Greater White-fronted Geese out by the river mouth on this day.



**Volunteers Needed: St. Lazaria Island Seabird Monitoring** - contact Leslie Slater for more information ([leslie\\_slater@fws.gov](mailto:leslie_slater@fws.gov), 907-226-4607)

Work begins in Sitka ~ May 22-28 and ends September~28. Food is provided. We will arrange round-trip travel from your home to Sitka (as well as travel required on the job). The work is quite varied & changes throughout the summer. Species studied intensively are: fork-tailed & Leach's storm-petrels, pelagic cormorants, glaucous-winged gulls, common & thick-billed murre, tufted puffins, rhinoceros auklets, & pigeon guillemots. Our seabird work is focused on annual productivity, long-term population trends, diet composition, and chick growth.

The refuge provides the majority of items you will need (heavy raingear, sleeping bag and pad, waterproof duffles, hipboots, rubber boots, personal flotation device, immersion suit, binoculars, bird and fish identification guides, and safety gear such as emergency locator beacons and flares).

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

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### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

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If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

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There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

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[audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201

Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714**

**You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_**

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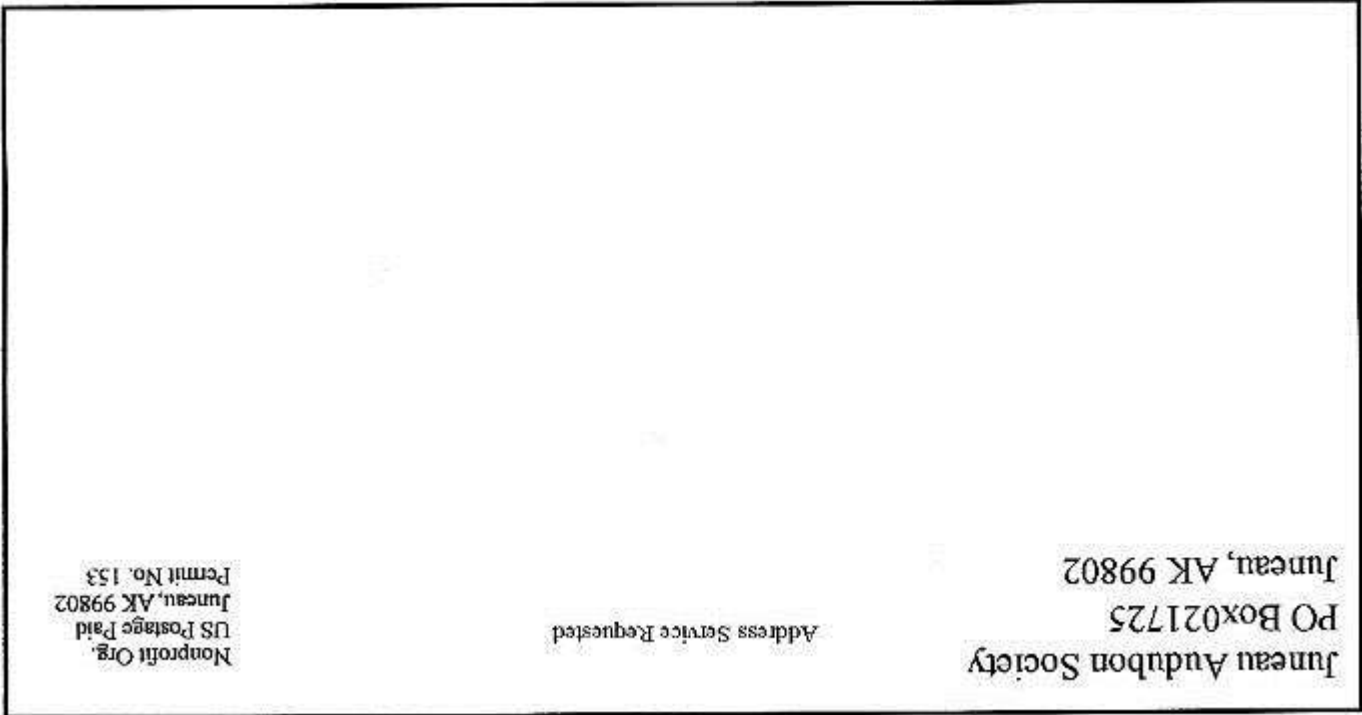
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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

**If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.**

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**







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Volume 40, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2013

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**October 10, 2013**

Our officers are elected for a one year term every October. If you would like to volunteer to be on the Juneau Audubon board as an officer or membership chairperson or at-large board member, please contact us at [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org). Our volunteers for officers are president- Josh Peters, treasurer- Patty Rose, secretary- Bev Agler. Nominations are accepted at the meeting.

## OUR FIRST OF THE FALL JUNEAU AUDUBON MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 10, 2013 at a new location!



Western Tanager Doug Jones

Doug Jones will present a talk on bird migration.



Western-wood Pewee Doug Jones

Orchard Oriole  
By Prill (Isleib) Mollick  
Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The male Orchard Oriole is an all dark Oriole, with rich chestnut rump and under parts. The female is olive-green above yellowish below, and has two white wing bars. Their size is a little smaller than other Orioles. The intricately woven nest does not usually hang but rather rests in the fork of tree branches. They feed on insects, spiders, nectar, and small fruit.

Several Orchard Orioles are seen in this area. They are visitors from the tropics, during spring and mid summer. A female Orchard Oriole was observed feeding two Brown-Headed Cow Bird babies. The Brown-Headed Cow Bird activity in some areas has impacted the populations of the Orchard Oriole.

Years ago while living in South Eastern Pennsylvania, we enjoyed watching several young Orchard Orioles come to our backyard bird bath. They would splash vigorously. On especially hot days, they would just stay and sit and hang out in the water as though it were their own swimming pool.

*Wed Aug 21, 2013*

Overnight hundreds of marbled murrelets concentrated around Five Finger Lighthouse island. Yesterday and days prior saw normal scattering of murrelets. Today there are hundreds with maybe 5% in bright winter plumage. Karla Hart

Hummingbirds on the move by Gwen Baluss

The Rufous hummingbirds are heading south for the winter. They arrived by coming up the coast, feeding on the early blooms there, but upon return may use a more inland route, taking advantage of alpine wildflowers. Records of banded birds from coastal AK and BC turned up the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. More recent banding records suggest that some Alaskan birds go to the Southeastern US. However, the species main traditional range is Mexico. Isotope studies of feather samples show that the males and females seek out different areas in winter. Females from Juneau were linked to the central mountains of Mexico.

Anna's hummingbirds have spread their range northward. The species has been an uncommon visitor, appearing in the fall or winter, but we had a number of observations in Juneau this summer.

Be on the lookout for these larger, greener hummers, especially now that most of the Rufous have moved on.

It is a myth that leaving up feeders will stop Rufous hummingbirds from migrating. However, the habitat created by yards – open spaces with lush flowers, hedges and feeders – could be the force behind Anna's hummingbirds extending their range.

## Raven – September 2013

Sometimes when sitting down to write these reports, I feel like the fairytale princess obliged to spin gold from straw. The past month's birding in Wrangell has been very slow indeed, but there have been a few interesting sightings over the summer.

Moving through the season chronologically, common nighthawks foraged on the hill above town each evening for several weeks in mid-May.

A black-headed grosbeak appeared at the end of June at a feeder in town, then another nearly a month later at the same location. Black-headed grosbeaks have been reported in other years in the same yard and about the same time of year.

Earl Benitz who lives year round on Farm Island in the Stikine River delta contributed an interesting photo of a Northern mockingbird that appeared at his place on June 6. [Northern mockingbird, photographed by Earl Benitz]



Also in May and June, warbling vireos were reported on several occasions, as were alder flycatchers, near the airport. Another June sighting were a flock of about 40 bank swallows nesting in a mountainous pile of wood chips at the abandoned sawmill.

Local boating birder's saw individual red-necked phalaropes in mid July in Sumner Strait and by August 15, a flock of over 750 had gathered at Point Baker, along with about 75 Cassin's auklets. An additional 200 red-necked phalaropes were counted at Red Bay on the east shore of Prince of Wales Island. A handful of rhinoceros auklets, which mainly breed on St. Lazaria and Forester Islands, showed up along the west shore of Hecata Island in late July. Also in late July a flock of about 90 Western grebes was spotted in Chichagof Strait near Wrangell.

A hunter on Zimovia Island quietly sitting and waiting for a deer to walk by was amazed to see a first one, then a second sandhill crane appear out of the brush. He described them as resembling little old men bent over with their hands behind their backs, as they moved along pecking the ground and giving their characteristic harsh rattle. Sandhill cranes have been counted on the island during the Breeding Bird Survey a number of times, though have not yet proven to breed there as their nests are well concealed. One surveyor recalls rounding the bend in a lonely logging road only to meet three sandhill cranes striding towards her – astonishing to both parties.

The last farewell of summer may have been that hummingbird, a probable rufous, seen frantically buzzing around a neighbor's garden last weekend, perhaps seeking one last sip of nectar or a tender gnat before saying goodbye to us for another year.

Bonnie Demerjian  
Wrangell

## E-Bird

### Overview

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in March 2012, participants reported more than 3.1 million bird observations across North America!

The observations of each participant join those of others in an international network of eBird users. eBird then shares these observations with a global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists. In time these data will become the foundation for a better understanding of bird distribution across the western hemisphere and beyond. <http://ebird.org/ebird/eBirdReports?cmd=Start>

Most recent new species added by ebird listers in Juneau:

	Observer	Most Recent Addition
1	Gus van Vliet	Black-legged Kittiwake (Aug 5, 2013)
1	Mark Schwan	Glaucous Gull (Aug 28, 2013)
3	Patty Rose	Olive-sided Flycatcher (Jul 28, 2013)
4	Amy Clark Courtney	Mourning Dove (Aug 25, 2013)
5	David Schmerge	Sandhill Crane (Aug 25, 2013)
6	Nick Hajdukovich	Northern Flicker (May 6, 2013)
6	Beverly Agler	California Gull (Jul 20, 2013)
8	marsha squires	Merlin (Aug 13, 2013)
9	gwen baluss	Canada Goose (Aug 25, 2013)
10	Brenda Wright	Northern Goshawk (Aug 6, 2013)
11	L. Lamm	Mourning Dove (Aug 26, 2013)
12	Bill Tweit	Tennessee Warbler (Jun 10, 2013)

eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: Date [e.g., February 2, 2012]).

#### Conservation Notes:

##### American Bird Conservancy:

Early August 2013—out of concern for bees and other pollinators—EPA announced new labeling requirements for four neonicotinoid pesticides. American Bird Conservancy commends EPA for taking this first step. However, as EPA undoubtedly recognizes, this new labeling requirement will not solve the many problems, including impacts to birds, resulting from the use of neonic insecticides. The labels, along with EPA's efforts to address dust drift and to advance Best Management Practices, do not get to the heart of the problem: that these insecticides are systemic (infiltrating the entire plant, including the pollen and the nectar) and persistent (lasting in the environment for months and even years). A 100-page report by the American Bird Conservancy, *The Impact of the Nation's Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds* <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/130319.html> examined the risks to birds and aquatic systems, including extensive comparisons with the older pesticides that the neonics have replaced.

##### Haines Bald Eagle Preserve Issue

The Alaska Department of Transportation plans to widen and straighten the scenic Haines Highway through parts of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, potentially filling acres of wetlands, and re-routing streams. In addition to being an important feeding and roosting area for eagles, the riverside through which the road travels contains valuable wetlands crucial to fisheries and habitat for songbirds, moose and other wildlife. The JAS Board shared concerns and ideas for improvement to the current plan. The official comment period has recently passed, but interested parties can find more information and request the DOT to extend this comment period. The Environmental Assessment and appendices can be found at: [http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/haines\\_hwy/documents.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/haines_hwy/documents.shtml). The project director is Jim Scholl, Box 112506, Juneau AK 99811-2506. (907) 465-4498. The email addresses are [haineshighway@alaska.gov](mailto:haineshighway@alaska.gov) and [jim.scholl@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.scholl@alaska.gov)

##### Juneau Low Income Housing development at Lawson Creek, Douglas Island

A proposed new housing development to be located between an unnamed stream and Lawson Creek is causing concern for local residents. The ground seems highly erodable and unstable already. If you would care to comment, look for more information on the CBJ web site for the Planning Commission and The Corps of Engineers-Mr. Randall P. Vigil. Lawson Creek is an estuary on Gastineau Channel that is highly utilized by migratory and resident birds.

Anyone Interested in Developing a Photo Contest for Juneau Audubon Society?

Audubon Magazine would like to share information about the number and scope of **photography-focused clubs/events/contests** that are regularly planned by Audubon Chapters.

If our chapter offers a Photo Contest, a photography club or any related activity, please send the following to Susan Loredo, Marketing Director for Audubon Magazine ([sloredo@audubon.org](mailto:sloredo@audubon.org) or 212-979-3101 if you have any questions):

Phrase describing the nature of the event/club (nothing formal needed.  
Photography-centric clubs, workshops, events, gallery exhibits, blogs - anything)  
Event frequency (ongoing, weekly, monthly, annual); Estimated number of participants  
Contact person

FROM: **What's Up -- August 21, 2013** -- Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN) and Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE)

**\*\*September 12**

**JUNEAU - ALASKA TRAILS - SUSTAINABLE TRAILS 101 CLASS** will be held from 1:30 to 5pm in Centennial Hall as part of the **ALASKA RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION (ARPA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE**. This is the introductory course on sustainable trail building in Alaska. See what it takes to make the great trails that you have been using all these years. This class will emphasize sustainable design elements, trail planning, and management concepts for all trail enthusiasts. Also learn the importance of using a clinometer in a short outdoor exercise. Sign up for one day or the whole conference at [http://www.alaskarpa.org/2013\\_Annual\\_Conference.html](http://www.alaskarpa.org/2013_Annual_Conference.html). The Wildlands Section of ARPA is made up of wilderness managers, wild & scenic rivers, and trail, interpretation folks. For more information on ARPA, go to: [http://www.alaskarpa.org/ARPA\\_Homepage.html](http://www.alaskarpa.org/ARPA_Homepage.html). For more information on the class, please contact Alaska Trails at 907-334-8049 or email [office@alaska-trails.org](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org).

**September 11 - 13**

**JUNEAU - ALASKA RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE** The keynote speaker is **JODI RUDICK** ([www.littleredsbigideas.typepad.com](http://www.littleredsbigideas.typepad.com)). The Wildlands Section of ARPA is made up of wilderness managers, wild & scenic river, and trail, interpretation folks. For more information, go to [http://www.alaskarpa.org/2013\\_Annual\\_Conference.html](http://www.alaskarpa.org/2013_Annual_Conference.html).

**\*\*September 18 (TELECONFERENCE)**

**ALASKA MARINE POLICY FORUM** - At 1pm the Alaska Ocean Observing System and Alaska Sea Grant will host a **ONE-HOUR CONFERENCE CALL** at 1pm with **PARTICIPANTS ACROSS the STATE INTERESTED in MARINE POLICY in ALASKA**. Join us to hear the latest about marine funding, legislation, and state and federal policy issues. Come prepared to share information you are aware of that's important to other

friends of Alaska. The call in number is 1-800-893-8850 and the PIN is 7572160. For more information, contact Darcy Dugan at [dugan@aoos](mailto:dugan@aoos).

## B OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)  
\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.  
\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

### Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

President: Brenda Wright 789-4656	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Vice-President: Josh Peters	<a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Secretary: Bev Agler	<a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Programs: Doug Jones	<a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Membership:	<a href="mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org">membership@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Education: Patricia Wherry	<a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540	<a href="mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org">raven@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large: Linda Nicklin	<a href="mailto:at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Web Master: George Utermohle	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

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Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

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You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

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

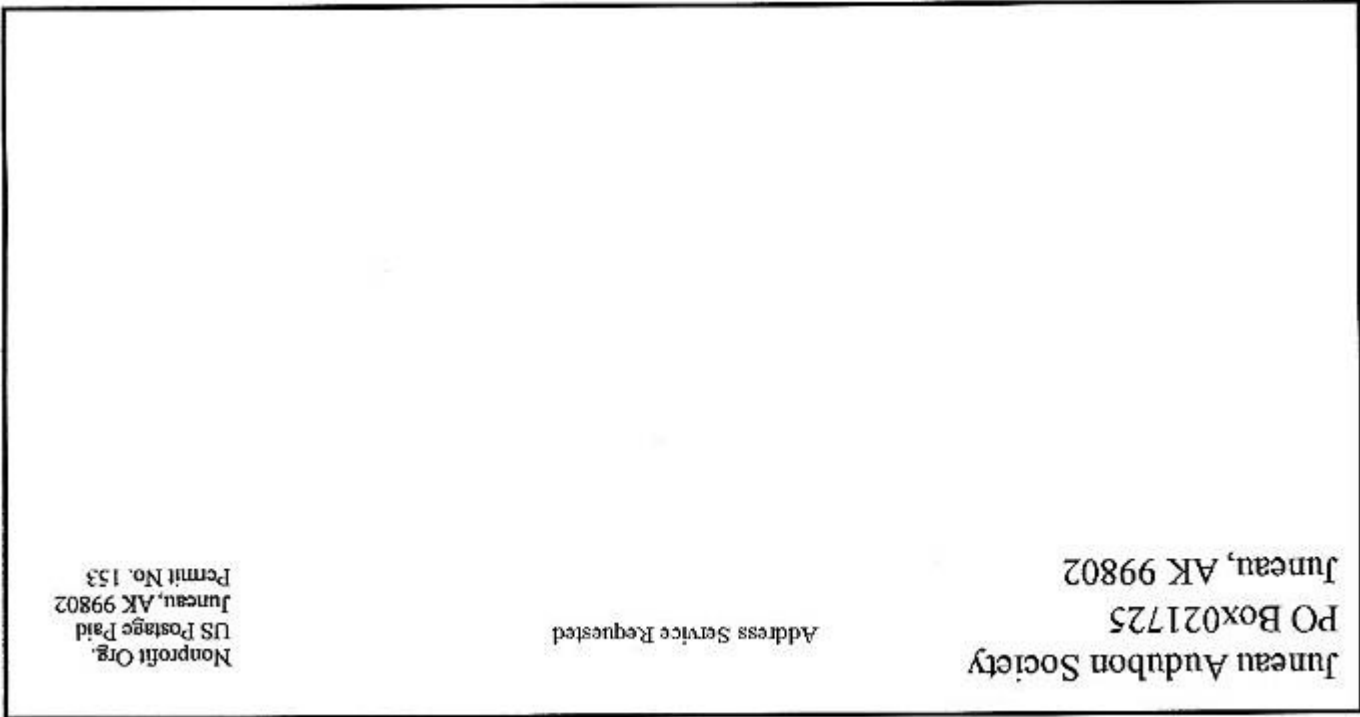
\_\_\_\_My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed\_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)





# 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 40, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2013

**Juneau Audubon Society  
OCTOBER MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10  
Thunder Mountain High School Library, 7:00 p.m.**

## Great Bird Migrations

The talk by Doug Jones is one he gave in Homer last spring at the Kachemak Shorebird festival. He talks about some of the amazing things birds do on migrations, the fastest, the highest, and the longest migrations. Fun topic!



*Photo by Patty Rose*

### **President's notes by Brenda Wright**

Welcome back to the regular presentation season of Juneau Audubon. **Note:** For those who live in Juneau, we will be meeting at the fine library at Thunder Mountain high School this year. The library is on the second floor facing the front doors of the high school. There is an elevator to the right of the open area. We hope you enjoy the new location. It is conveniently located in the valley and is a great space to enjoy our great speakers and their amazing photos.

Our meetings are always the second Thursday of each month so mark your calendars for November 14 and December 12 now.

In November, we will be selling our jellies, jams and nature craft items, etc., at the public market. The market is held for three days after Thanksgiving. The dates this year are November

25-27. If you have time to volunteer your time to help Mary Lou make jams the beginning of November or will be available to help at the booth, we would love to hear from you.

We had excellent groups attend our Saturday Wild events this past summer. In June we explored the low tide at Bridget Cove with Pat Harris, July found us in the alpine above Mt. Roberts tram (thank you Mt. Roberts) with Linda Nicklin, and in August mushrooms were thoroughly enjoyed and identified with the leadership of Dave Gregovich. Thanks so much to all the leaders that made our exploration so much fun!

### **“Bird Bits”**

This summer every Friday, Juneau Audubon has had a “Bird Bits” in the “Outdoor Section” of the Juneau Empire. Helen Unruh, Doug Jones, Bob Armstrong, Mark Schwan, and Jos Bakker supplied photos to accompany the brief, local bird sketches. The author of the articles attempted to encourage young parents and older children to consider enjoying the outdoors and birding. For example, a photo was used of Amy C Courtney backpacking her son Nick at an Audubon “Saturday Bird Walk.” Nick can “pish” for birds like an expert.

The summer series ended with the American Dipper and a drawing for two related books by Katharine Hocker and Mary Willson. The winner of the children’s book The Singer in the Stream (out of print) was Nina Chordas. Sharon Baysinger won the book American Dippers: Singers in the Mountain Streams.

“Bird Bits” will continue once a month through the winter featuring local resident birds and migrant birds who winter in Southeast Alaska.

Patricia Wherry – Education chairperson

### **Bird Walks, Cruises, Bird Banding** By Amy Clark Courtney

Like many in Alaska, we in Juneau experienced a rather capricious spring, but the summer surprised us by bringing far more sun than any in recent years! Juneau Audubon was able host seven spring migration walks, four wildlife cruises to Berner’s Bay, one bird banding demonstration. Participation in the programs was surprisingly high, even on inclement days, with almost forty people turning up for one! It was wonderful to see many “fledgling” as well as veteran birders in attendance. Our thanks goes to the seventeen Audubon members and local experts who volunteered their time to lead excursions and share their love of birds and nature here in Southeast.



Photo by Patty Rose

### **Eastern Phoebe** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The Eastern Phoebe is a small active fly-catcher that says its name (fee-bee). It has a dark head and a solid black bill. Its tail wagging habit makes it easy to identify. It Darts after flying insects. In the wild they nested on rock cliffs and along streams but quickly adapted to man

made structures. Audubon discovered through banding that phoebes return year after year to the same nest site.

For several seasons an Eastern Phoebe had built a nest above the garage window. There's just a half inch of edging above the window frame to hold the nest to secure it. Each year the Phoebe would come back and reinforce the nesting material of mud, moss, and grass. Then raise two families during spring and summer.

This spring the Phoebe successfully raised another family. After the spring young had left the nest we noticed the nest had fallen off. We observed the Phoebe trying to build up the nesting material again but it just didn't hold anymore. It kept coming down.

I asked my husband if he would be able to attach a thin narrow shelf or something in that spot where the nest had been. He did. As soon as the 'shelf' was in place the Phoebe came right back and built a new nest. We soon noticed her sitting on it. And later we saw the young in the nest as she diligently fed and raised her summer family.

**From "Whats Up" 9/25/13 Peg Tileston**

November 4 - 6

JUNEAU - SOUTHEAST ALASKA WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM will be held in Centennial Hall sponsored by the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition and the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership. The symposium will share information about our local fish and their important habitats in Southeast Alaska and bring together the many stakeholders who are currently working in aquatic resource management in the area. For more information go to <http://alaskawatershedcoalition.org/> and <http://www.seakfhp.org> or by email either Jess Kayser at [alaskawatersheds@gmail.com](mailto:alaskawatersheds@gmail.com) or Debbie Hart at [coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org](mailto:coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org). There is no cost to attend.

HAINES - Due to the number of public comments and additional details requested the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) decision document for the HAINES HIGHWAY PROJECT will not be completed until the end of December this year. The ADOT&PF has reallocated funding for the first phase of the Haines Highway project from federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 to FFY 2014. For more information, contact Jim Scholl, Project Environmental Coordinator, at (907) 465-4498 or email [haineshighway@alaska.gov](mailto:haineshighway@alaska.gov) or Alex Viteri, Southeast Area Engineer, at (907) 586-7544 or email [Alex.Viteri@dot.gov](mailto:Alex.Viteri@dot.gov)

October 16 - 18

SITKA - The ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (AMHS) will celebrate its 50th Anniversary as part of the Alaska Day Festival with museum openings, road races, essay contests, and much more. For more information, go to [www.FerryAlaska.com/50years](http://www.FerryAlaska.com/50years).

October 31 - November 3

SITKA - 17TH ANNUAL SITKA WHALEFEST theme is ARCTIC SEA CHANGE: WHAT'S AHEAD? The Arctic is changing. The festival includes many community and cultural activities such as the science symposium lectures, interactive student sessions, marine wildlife cruises with scientist, a marine themed artisan market, music, local foods, a banquet, art and a fun run/walk. For more information go to <http://www.sitkawhalefest.org/>. For the schedule, go to : <http://www.sitkawhalefest.org/img/schedule.pdf>.

November 1

Deadline for requests for the COMMUNITY-BASED MARINE DEBRIS PREVENTION AND REMOVAL GRANTS PROGRAM. This funding supports locally driven, community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and wildlife including migratory fish. Projects awarded through this grant competition have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components involving the removal of marine debris, including derelict fishing gear. Projects also provide benefits to coastal communities, and create long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Through this solicitation NOAA identifies marine debris removal projects, strengthens the development and implementation of habitat restoration through community-based marine debris removal, and fosters awareness of the effects of marine debris to further the conservation of living marine resource habitats, as well as contribute to the understanding of debris types and impacts. Successful proposals through this solicitation will be funded through cooperative agreements. Funding of up to \$2,000,000 is expected to be available for Community-based Marine Debris Removal Project Grants in FY2014. Typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000. To see the full announcement, go to [http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/2014\\_marine\\_debris\\_ffo.pdf](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/2014_marine_debris_ffo.pdf). For more information or to discuss the opportunity further, contact Peter Murphy at [peter.murphy@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.murphy@noaa.gov) or call 206.526.4661 or Erika Ammann at [erika.ammann@noaa.gov](mailto:erika.ammann@noaa.gov) or call 907.271.5118.

### **THE ONLINE GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS**

As a newbie to what bird guides and interesting bird information are available online, I finally hooked up with “The Online Guide to North American Birds.” It is a deep well of information on individual birds. There is the opportunity to learn about parts of birds, plumage differences, classification/bird families, and conservation. Comparison photos, maps, sounds are available at a key stroke. Experienced birds I trust know all about this resource, but if you haven’t yet decided to try open this treasure chest, do. Patricia W

<http://birds.audubon.org/birdid>

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

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Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

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Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

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

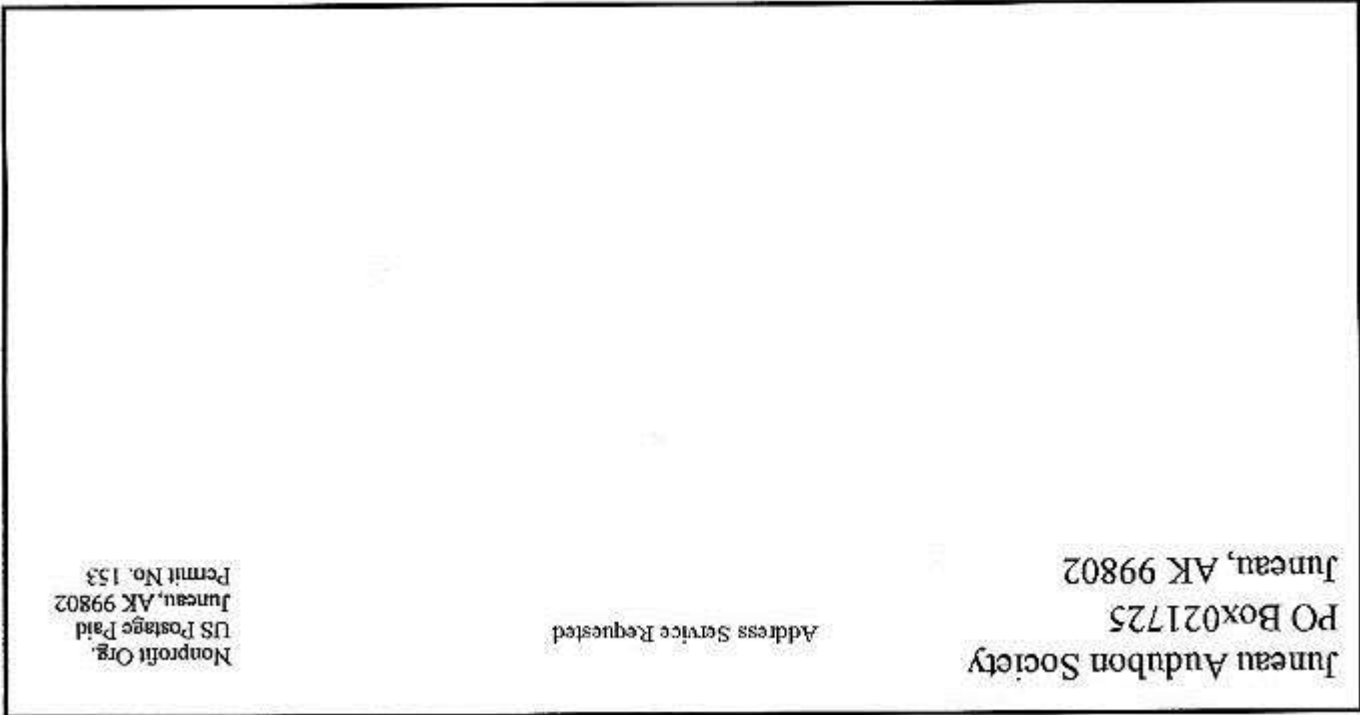
\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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Volume 40, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2013

**Juneau Audubon Society  
November MEETING:  
THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 14  
Thunder Mountain High  
School Library, 7:00 p.m.**



## **AMY SHERWIN WILL PRESENT ANAN AND THE CELEBRATION OF BEARS**

"In all natural wonders of the world nature opens up to reveal a web of interdependencies. Southeast Alaska is one such place and we are blessed having it right at our doorstep. Have you ever wanted to visit the Anan Bear Viewing Area? Here's your chance, Amy Sherwin will do a presentation on Anan and the celebration of Bears in Wrangell. You get to experience nature as it opens up and reveals multiple elements in a single ecosystem. One of the largest salmon runs in Southeast Alaska forms the foundation of a special and busy bear viewing and photography area for both black and brown bears just a few miles south of Wrangell".

## **President's Notes by Brenda Wright**

I hope you are able to attend our public meetings this winter at our new location at Thunder Mountain High School library. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from October through April. Hope to see you at the public meetings.

November is our month to sell jams and other products at the public market. November is also the month to start Project FeederWatch. We look forward to the Christmas bird count in December and the Great Backyard Bird Count in February. Although it is getting dark earlier and earlier, it is still a great time to go out and observe our winter bird residents. If you see an unusual species or fun or strange behavior, consider sharing it with others through Eaglechat or Juneau Audubon Society's Facebook page. We have a need for volunteers for the board and also for the public market. Please contact me at [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org) if you have suggestions or comments.

### **Volunteers Needed for the Public Market**

Juneau Audubon is going to have a booth at the Public Market November 29 to December 1 this year. We will be selling the famous Mary Lou King jams and jellies, bird photos, books, and more.

We need people to volunteer to help set up and decorate the booth, sell goodies, and take down and pack the remnants on Sunday afternoon. So if you have time to donate 2-3 hours for Audubon, please contact the market coordinator ([conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org)) or any of the board.

This is one of our most important annual fundraisers to keep on with our work such as evening programs, field trips, local scholarship, and publishing this newsletter.

**Project FeederWatch starts November 9<sup>th</sup>.** Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. Participants watch their feeders as much or as little as they want over two consecutive days as often as every week (less often is fine). They count birds that appear in their count site because of something that they provided (plantings, food, or water).

New participants are sent a [Research Kit](#) with complete instructions for participating. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. In addition, U.S. participants receive a subscription to the Lab of Ornithology's newsletter, *Living Bird News*. Canadian participants, receive Bird Studies Canada's quarterly publication, *BirdWatch Canada*.



There is a \$15 annual participation fee for U.S. residents (\$12 for Cornell Lab members). Canadians can participate by joining Bird Studies Canada for CAN \$35. The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and a year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

**From: David Yarnold, President & CEO, National Audubon Society**

**Subject:** A Moment of Convergence – Audubon National Board of Directors Meeting

Over the past 18 months you've heard about several key initiatives at Audubon: our climate science; mobilizing our network for advocacy; and growing our membership. All of those were on full display when the Board of Directors convened in Minneapolis, at the crossroads of Audubon's Upper Mississippi Flyway and at the crossroads of a multitude of bird migration paths.

The board heard reports from all across the network but what they all had in common was a foundation in our strategic plan -- but supercharged with new data. Audubon has taken giant leaps forward in utilizing and leveraging data across all areas of the network to drive decision making and make informed choices when it comes to tough conservation choices. More and better data has become a common denominator across Audubon.

We are putting the most powerful mapping and data visualization tools into the hands of conservation leaders from every corner of the Audubon network as well as our international partners. When we shared this with the Board, my favorite slide shows how five chapters have used GIS maps to influence significant habitat decisions in their communities.

This software has incredible transformational potential – and deploying it so broadly is something no other conservation organization has done. At the Audubon Convention in July, an additional 75 chapter leaders were trained on the esri software and we will be rolling it out to every chapter that wants it. And I know that many of you already know or use GIS technology because so many of Audubon's leaders come from conservation and science backgrounds.

We are using data to analyze our membership and understand our supporters. And, we are using data for policy action. A \$100,000 grant from the Skoll Foundation will let us learn from our members what moves them to action; information we will share with the entire conservation community.

Next year we will be releasing a groundbreaking new study on the effect of climate change on birds. This is going to be a game changer – and an opportunity to rally grassroots support from coast to coast.

Several documents have been posted to <http://bit.ly/H8aFTB> that will give you a broader picture of recent accomplishments across the network: a timeline of recent achievements, the October 2013 President's Report, and a packet of media clips featuring Audubon in the news.

## New Website for Students and Teachers

Audubon Adventures recently launched [AudubonAdventures.org](http://AudubonAdventures.org), featuring student pages: hummingbirds, raptors, and seabirds; puzzles and quizzes; videos; links to Audubon's "Online Guide to North American Birds"; and other resources. For teachers, the site offers field activities for classes, links to Audubon Chapters and Centers, assessment questions and answers, and correlations to Common Core standards. By moving part of the Audubon Adventures experience to the Web, the classroom kit instantly becomes more environmentally-friendly, reducing the program's paper consumption by 50%. The fall season has just begun and there's plenty of time to register your local schools. To learn more, contact Elaine O'Sullivan, Program Director, or Bonnie Godfrey, Program Assistant, by [Audubon\\_adventures@audubon.org](mailto:Audubon_adventures@audubon.org) or by phone at 7800-340-6546.



### PICK CLICK & GIVE

Juneau Audubon entered the PFD's Pick Click and Give program last year as a fund raising attempt. Twenty-two people donated some portion of their 2013 PFD to Juneau Audubon. We heartily thank those folks. The program's annual application fee is \$250. Our total donations from 2013 PFD, Pick Click & Give program were \$1225. Consider on your 2014 PFD application making a donation through Pick Click & Give. THANK YOU to the 2013 donators.

### Ordinary yet Extraordinary: Juncos By Gwen Baluss

We all know songbirds can be scarce around Southeast AK in fall. But as the bears start denning we can put out a few seeds and maybe attract one of our coolest local species – the Dark-eyed Junco. Sure, they are one of the famous "little brown jobs" but if you start watching juncos you are likely to get hooked. I like them because many can be individually identified by subtle color differences. As easy targets for researchers, there are lots of studies about them. One topic is the mechanism behind the different color types that breed in different regions of North America. This is "evolution in action" as these populations diverge and reconnect.



For example, you might notice that in the summer the black hooded, buffy sided Oregon types will dominate in the yard. But by fall there are likely to be a few of the grayer Slate-colored types, and many that are actually mix of the two. These are probably “hybrids” who grew up on the line in the range map, which would be the boundary range area between the coastal AK and BC and interior Yukon and BC, that move over to a more mild climate in winter. Likewise there is some evidence that some of our summer birds in turn move farther south down the coast. Interior birds are a bit larger, and have longer wings, probably because they need to fly farther in the winter.

To learn more about amazing juncos, or interest young people in learning about science through bird watching, see this brand new web page and flashy movie trailer here:

<http://juncoproject.org/>

Sitka has a community-wide effort to track banded juncos in winter.

(<http://sitkawild.org/2012/11/have-you-seen-this-bird/> ) So far, we learned that most of the birds caught in November stayed within a mile radius all winter, but vanished in late spring. Some returned to the same locations in September, demonstrating fidelity to a non-breeding site.

The Sibley Guide has a good overview of most junco types.

### **The Blue Jay** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, NC

Blue Jay's are easily identified by their perky crest and various blue shades, with black and white above and white or light gray underside. It is a large song bird that is smaller than crows.



Their characteristics and actions are similar to the Steller's Jay. During my earliest visit to Juneau was when I first saw a Steller's Jay, I was driving out the North Douglas Road across the channel from Juneau, I noticed one flying across the road, I recognized it immediately and saw how dark the coloring is compared to the Blue Jay.



The Blue Jay seems most impolite at bird feeders because it chases smaller birds and stuffs seeds in its throat pouch to stash it somewhere else. When eating it holds a seed, nut, or acorn with its feet and pecks it open.

Blue Jays make a variety of calls, some carry for long distances. Most calls are made when perched in trees. Their alarm cries or calls often sound like scolding or screaming at other birds and saying “Thief, Thief”. They sometimes imitate the call of the Red-shouldered Hawk. Other sounds are like trilled or warbling whistles.

When observing birds in nature one may notice actions and hear sounds that bird books or journals don't mention. Years ago in summer during nesting season, I observed a Blue Jay that was agitated by the presence of a big old fluffy cat. The Blue Jay sat high above it in a tree and made the oddest high pitched squeaking, humming, and garbling sounds. (The cat ignored it and slinked away.)

### **Wrangell October Raven Report** Submitted by Bonnie Demerjian

It's been a hawkish month in Wrangell. Early in the month an **American Kestrel** was spotted on the hunt at Muskeg Meadows golf course. A **Merlin** attacked Winston Davies while he was hunting on the Stikine River. He speculates that his movements in his camo hunting coat fooled the bird into thinking he was fair game. Another duck hunter also spotted a merlin on the river flats. Davies says he has observed more hawk activity on the river this year than usual, including an **Osprey** in late September. A Northern harrier and a sharp-shinned hawk were also reported in October.



A number of Wrangell observers have seen juvenile **Northern Goshawks** this month. Fortunately, none of them were dead birds from window collisions, as happened several years ago. The bird pictured was apparently attracted to rabbits wandering loose in the observer's yard and stayed around the yard for several days. The hawk never did catch a rabbit, apparently so speedy that even a marauding mink couldn't nab one. Several undocumented **Golden Eagles** have been

reported from the Stikine River and Anan Creek Bear Observatory. Golden Eagles are common on the upper Stikine River but since no photographs accompanied these sightings, the assumption is that they are juvenile **Bald Eagles** until proven otherwise.

A few **Western Grebes** have been seen in front of town. Normally, there is a large (several hundred birds) flock that spends the winter nearby but there has been no sighting of them yet.

We saw the last of the southern-bound migrants this month. Small numbers of **Golden-** and **White-crowned** and **Savannah Sparrows** passed through. There were also a few late warblers including **Yellow** and **Orange-crowned Sparrows** acting more like flycatchers one day on the beach, soaring straight up, and then diving back to the ground. A small flock of **American Pipits** fueled for several days up on the golf course in early October before departing. Now that we are truly into autumn, we'll have time to become more thoroughly acquainted with our steadfast resident birds.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

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### Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?

You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service

[audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201

Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

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

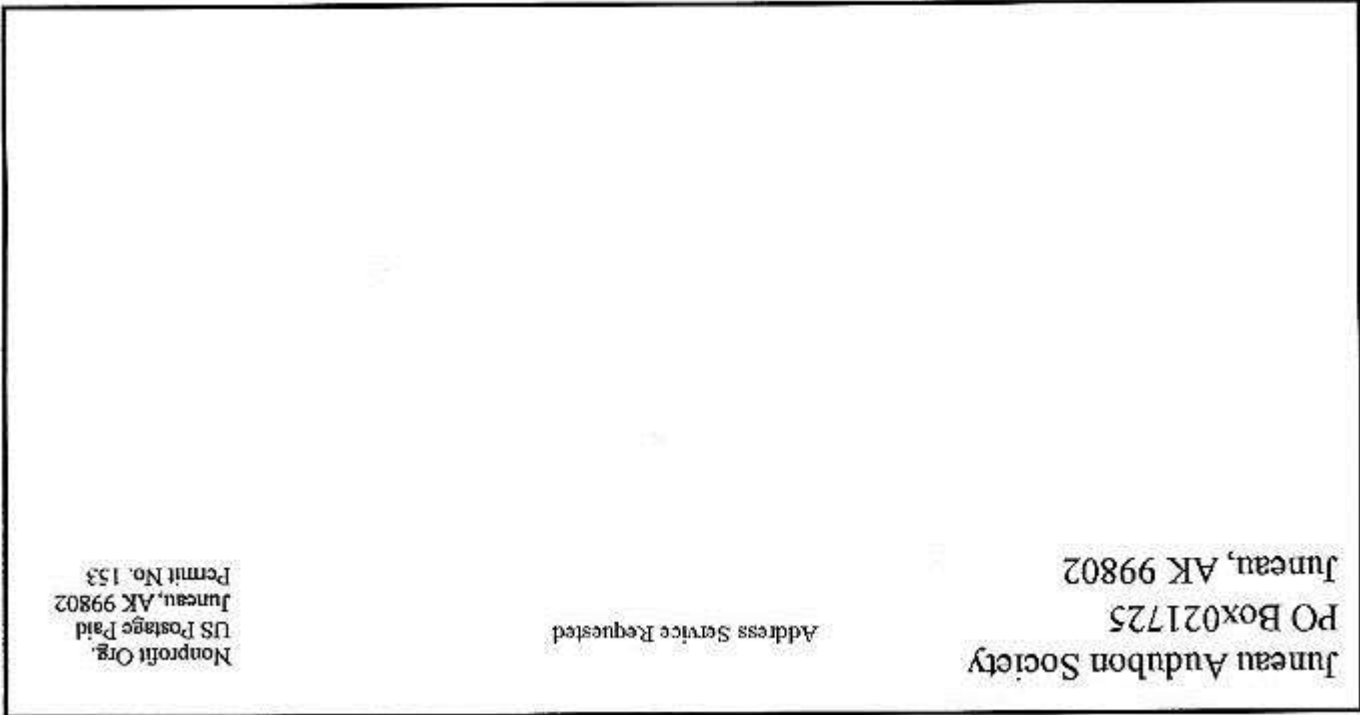
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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 40, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2013

## Juneau Audubon Society

**DECEMBER MEETING: GROUP SLIDE SHOW, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12,  
THUNDER MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY AT 7:00 p.m.**

Given the Christmas Bird Count will be just two days away from our meeting on December 14; we will briefly go over a few count details. Then we will move on to our group slide show. This is always lots of fun. We ask people to bring about 10 to 20 images to share with the group. These can center on something special you did during this past summer, or something you did many years ago, or whatever you might



Snow Bunting Doug Jones

think the audience would find interesting or fun. There is no theme, just bring some images to share with the group. We will have a laptop computer and LCD projector. People should bring their digital images on a

CD or small media storage device that can be connected to our laptop via a USB port. If someone wants to bring traditional slides, please let Doug Jones or Mark Schwan 789-9841 know ahead of time so we can arrange to bring a slide projector.



Red-breasted Sapsucker Doug Jones

### President's Notes by Brenda Wright

First of all I want to thank everyone who volunteered time and energy to help with the Juneau Audubon Society public market booth! There are many things necessary to make our booth a success. So special thanks to all the board members and volunteers, who helped prepare the jams and jellies, ordered supplies, set-up and took down the public market booth, brought new ideas and products to the booth, and helped to serve our loyal fans of the excellent jams and jellies.

Next of course is the Christmas Bird count to be held on December 14 this year in Juneau. Other dates, times and places are listed on page 3. Hope everyone will be able to come out and join the fun of an intense day of birding.

Discovery Southeast has extended Juneau Audubon a special chance to share in the profits of Richard Carstenson's new book: "Natural History of Juneau Trails: A Watershed Approach". All books ordered through the links on the Juneau Audubon Society web page will donate some money to the chapter. So please take advantage of this offer before January 2014. See more about this book on Page 8.

If you have any items or events you would like posted on our web page or Facebook, please contact [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org).

BirdLife International has released the 2013 Red List for Birds. The number of bird species listed as Critically Endangered (the highest risk category of the IUCN Red List of threatened species) has reached an all-time high. Although some species are considered at a lower risk of extinction thanks to conservation efforts, severe declines for others have led to new additions to the Critically Endangered list such as the White-winged Flufftail (a sub-Saharan bird) and the Yellow-breasted Bunting (due to uncontrolled trapping in its wintering grounds in southern China and southeast Asia). According to Dr. Leon Bennun, BirdLife's Director of Science, Policy, and Information, nearly 200 bird species are in real danger of being lost forever unless threats such as habitat loss, agricultural changes, invasive species, and climate change are addressed. Enjoy the holiday season and see you next year!

## The 2013 Juneau Christmas Bird Count



American Tree Sparrow Mark Schwan

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on Saturday, December 14, the first day of the designated count period of December 14 through January 5<sup>th</sup>. This marks the 114<sup>th</sup> year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Here in Juneau, this will be our 41<sup>st</sup> count.

For those that don't recall, last year the Christmas Bird Count became a "free" event, which means the Society no longer requires participation fees. The fees had been viewed as a deterrent to participation and also a complicating factor with regards to assessing participant effort on the counts. The Society will compensate with this loss in revenue by going paperless with the American Birds issue of the Christmas Bird Count and by seeking voluntary donations.

Here in Juneau our count week will begin on December 11, and go through December 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our usual two meeting places to stage on the morning of the count. Volunteers should arrive at 8a.m. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown Foodland IGA grocery coffee bar. Birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the McDonald's restaurant across from the Nugget Mall. Again, please arrive at 8a.m. and be prepared for the weather and bring your binoculars. We will have our area leaders



arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate birders to the different groups at our staging locations on count day. We encourage participation from all levels of birders; the more eyes the better. We have lost some of our veteran birders to warmer climates, so if you haven't participated before, please give it a try.



White-winged Crossbill Mark

Once again there will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam. This is always a nice event and highlight of the day, as we share stories from the day, eat some good food, and conduct the tally of birds and species seen. For those needing directions to Mark and Debi's house, we will provide a handout on count day. Let's have a great turnout and a terrific count! For more information or if you have any questions, call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841 or Gus van Vliet at 789-5624.

**Christmas Bird Counts planned in Southeast Alaska  
December 14, 2013 – January 5, 2014**

Count name	Date	Contact person(s)	Phone number
Chilkat	December 28	Pam Randles	766-3542 766-3664
Craig-Klawock	December 21	Victoria Houser	826-1614
Haines	December 28	Pam Randles	766-3542 766-3664
Glacier Bay	December 14	Nat Drumheller	697-2166
Juneau	December 14	Mark Schwan Gus van Vliet	789-9841 789-5624
Ketchikan	December 14	Andrew Piston	225-9677
Mitkof Island	December 14	Brad Hunter	518-1438
Sitka	January 4	Victoria Vosburg Jennifer Cedarleaf	738-8661 738-0181
Skagway*	December 14	Elaine Furbish	983-2049
Tenakee Springs	Not available	Beret Barnes	736-2226
Wrangell	January 4	Joe Delabruce Bonnie Demerjian	874-7523 874-3665

\* Website for more information: [sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub](http://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub)

## **Olympic BirdFest 2014** April 4-6, 2014, Sequim, WA

Visit the rain shadow of the *Olympic Peninsula* to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker is Noah Strycker: “Bird World: the fascinating parallels between bird and human behavior”. The festival with the most spectacular setting!

Immediately following BirdFest, join us for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2014.

Website address: [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)

E-mail address: [opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com](mailto:opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com)

Contact name: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, 360-681-4076

## **Wrangell, Alaska** Submitted by **Bonnie Demerjian**



Winter water birds have been scarce so far. Small numbers of **Common Mergansers**, **Harlequin Ducks**, and a pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** have been reported but the usual rafts of **Barrow’s Goldeneyes** and **Surf Scoters** are yet to be seen. A lone juvenile **Trumpeter Swan**, however, showed up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> on the old Little League field, perhaps wondering where the rest of the team had gone. We hope they get back together soon.

A female **Western Tanager** unexpectedly brightened up an afternoon’s walk. Another burst of yellow in the form of a late **Yellow-rumped Warbler** appeared mid-month in a local lawn.

It has been a few years since **Northern Crows** with deformed bill have been seen but one showed up this month. A flock of around 50 crows fly into town each morning from their roost somewhere in the suburbs and each morning they select a lawn on which to browse for grubs. Their cousins, **Common Ravens**, spent much of the summer before last plowing up the greens at Muskeg Meadows Golf Course avidly in search of the larvae of horseflies or crane flies. This spring, to stop their destruction, the course was seeded with nematodes intended to attack the larvae. An official at the course explained that the nematodes arrived in a sponge and were activated by soaking the sponge in water. This was then sprayed on the grass. He believes there was some improvement this summer since there were fewer ravens ravenging the greens.

Wrangell's Christmas Bird Count will take place on January 4<sup>th</sup>. So far, seventeen participants have volunteered. We are hoping for calm weather so boats can get out and cover the shoreline on Wrangell and neighboring islands.

### **Bird Walk Sightings By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.**

Local bird walks along the river trail this year, have had sightings of 125 different bird species. Among them were four that are Rare in this area, with one or two sightings every few years were the **American Black Duck, Northern Harrier, Golden-Winged Warbler** and a **Double-Crested Cormorant**.

There were four that are seen occasionally but not seen every year, were the **Bald Eagle, the Osprey, the Merlin, and the Pine Warbler**.

Birds seen that are Uncommon with only a few sightings each year were the **Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-breasted Merganser, White-fronted Goose, Horned Grebe, Osprey, and the Willow Flycatcher**.

Others seen that are Uncommon in this area were the **Cliff Swallow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Cape May Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, and the Bobolink**.

### **Observation of Hummingbirds** By Margaret Pugh, Juneau

I just read Beth Peluso's article on hummingbirds in the Empire. As one who is not a birder, but loves my backyard birds, the article made several things fall into place for me. In my backyard I have a hedge of some type of viburnum (I think it is viburnum anyway). The hedge was in place when we moved into the house 35 years ago. All kinds of birds love its pink flowers as well as the little snowballs that replace the flowers in winter. Through the years I have had summer hummingbirds visit the hedge and my feeder-but not consistently- they seemed to prefer my neighbor's yard. Some years I wouldn't see any hummingbirds in my yard at all.

Three years ago in October I noticed I had 2 hummingbirds feeding on the hedge. They seemed to disappear in November. Then, two years ago in October I was excited, if a bit baffled, because I had two families of hummingbirds in the hedge. My grand-daughter wanted to look for the nests, but I said no-don't want to disturb them. They were friendly active and preferred the hedge to the feeder- which was good, because the feeder was apt to freeze. We enjoyed watching the little ones as they flitted around with their parents. They were with us until well into November. The year after and again this year, I believe they have nested in the hedge. John and I have just returned from a 4 week trip, so I wasn't here for the time frame---but I saw two of them in October right before we left on the trip.

I had assumed that these were all Rufous. My girlfriend who lives way out the road and gets many, many Rufous thru the summer and I decided that the birds moved into town for the fall! She was excited one evening in early October when she came to visit and saw several of the birds. I had noted in The Raven that we should watch for Anna's and now Beth's article---I know they are Anna's! When we had the families two years ago, my son suggested something was up with fledglings in October and I thought I could see they were marked like Anna's--but I have vision difficulties with glare and that hinders my ability to identify fleeting colors of birds with certainty--thus, I don't always trust what I think I see--so I just enjoy my birds and am happy with that.

### **Report from Gov't of Canada Echoes U.S. Finding: Outdoor Cats are Leading Human-Caused Source of Bird Mortality**

A [new study](#) from the government of Canada that looked at more than 25 human-caused sources of bird mortality has found that domestic cats, both feral and owned, are the leading lethal threat to birds in the country. The study found that the median estimate of cat-caused mortality—almost 200 million bird deaths per year—was about six times greater than the next leading mortality estimate of about 32 million attributed to car collisions. The third-leading cause was collisions with buildings or homes, with a rate of about 22 million bird deaths per year. For more see <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/131001.html>.

**45 AMERICORPS POSITIONS OPEN FOR 2014 for the RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC. (RURAL CAP)** for full-time, one-year service positions based in rural Alaska, to start in January, 2014. AmeriCorps Members serve community needs while benefitting from training, a monthly living allowance of approximately \$1,200, and an education award of \$5,550 following their year of service. For more information, go to [http://ruralcap.com/?page\\_id=1540](http://ruralcap.com/?page_id=1540).

### **From November 27, 2013 What's Up**

**December 19** Deadline for submissions to the **KEEP THE SEA FREE OF DEBRIS STUDENT ART CONTEST**. The NOAA Marine Debris Program annual art context is for grades K-8. In this contest, students nationwide submit artwork that illustrates the issue of marine debris from their perspective. The winners of the art contest will be featured in the 2015 Marine Debris Program Calendar, which is distributed nationwide to help raise awareness of the issue of marine debris and the ability of people to make a difference in solving the problem. This year, the NOAA MDP is asking for art that focuses on: How marine debris effects the ocean

environment and/or How students can help be part of the solution to marine debris. For more information on the context, including a flyer and entry form, go to <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/outreach/artcontest.html> or contact Peter Murphy at 206.526.4661 or email [peter.murphy@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.murphy@noaa.gov) or Asthma Mahdi at 301.713.2989 or email [Asma.Mahdi@noaa.gov](mailto:Asma.Mahdi@noaa.gov).

**December 10 KETCHIKAN** - Deadline for applications to serve on the **KETCHIKAN STATE PARKS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**. The role of the board is to advise the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation on matters effecting state parks in the Ketchikan area. Alaska State Parks manages the following sites in the Ketchikan area: Settlers Cove State Recreation Site; Totem Bight State Historical Site; Refuge Cove State Recreation Site; Grindall Island State Marine Park & public use cabin; Black Sands Beach/Blank Islands, Grant Island/Joe Island, and Betton Island State Marine Parks. The park advisory board helps park managers understand what the community priorities are in these popular destination parks. The board meets on a monthly basis from September through May. Members are expected to occasionally serve on board-appointed committees in addition to attending the monthly board meetings. Board members serve for three years and terms are staggered so that seats open each year. To apply for a position on the nine-member board, use the form at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/advisboardapp.pdf>. Applicants will be considered for the term beginning Jan. 1. For more information, contact the Ketchikan District state park office at 907-247-8574. (11/25/2013)

**December 13 SITKA** - Comments are due on the proposal to issue an initial **AIR QUALITY CONTROL OPERATING PERMIT FOR THE JARVIS STREET DIESEL PLANT**, an electric utility managed by CBS. The plant provides standby, maintenance, and emergency generation capacity to residential, commercial, and public customers in Sitka. The potential annual emissions of regulated air pollutants at the source will not exceed: 249.9 tons of Nitrogen Oxides, 57.3 tons of Carbon Monoxide, 7.2 tons of Particulate Matter, 2.1 tons of Sulfur Dioxide, and 21.6 tons of Volatile Organic Compounds. The total annual emissions of regulated criteria air pollutants are 329 tons. The potential annual emissions for Greenhouse Gases are estimated at 98,650 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. Copies of the draft Operating Permit and Statement of Basis are available at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/ap/calendar.htm>. For more information or to submit comments, contact Kwame Agyei at (907)465-5124, Fax (907) 465-5129 or email [kwame.agyei@alaska.gov](mailto:kwame.agyei@alaska.gov).

### **Bird Community Resources from AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY**

Keep Birds in the Picture” Facebook Community: lease check out, like, share, and post in our **\*new\*** Facebook community, called “Keep Birds in the Picture.” <https://www.facebook.com/KeepBirdsInThePicture>. Anyone with a Facebook account can share their stories and/or photos about their life experiences with birds. Check it out and tell your story!

## HIRING

**CONSERVATION SPECIALIST** for **SOUTHEAST ALASKA LAND TRUST (SEAL)** to be responsible for land acquisition, management of SEAL Trust’s In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program and a Coastal Impact Assistance Program Grant (CIAP), outreach to individuals and organizations; and, organization support. This position will be filled as either one full-time position or two part-time positions, depending on the qualifications and interests of applicants. The position is located in Juneau and offers competitive salary and benefits. For a full job description and more information about SEAL Trust, go to [www.southeastalaskalandtrust.org](http://www.southeastalaskalandtrust.org). Application **Deadline: December 15.**

Natural History of Juneau Trails: A Watershed Approach  
By Richard Carstensen

**A treat for any outdoor enthusiast. Buy it now to support Audubon and Discovery Southeast!**

Available in time for the holidays, Richard Carstensen’s gorgeous new book explores the natural history of the Juneau trail system. It makes a great gift, and for only a limited time your purchase will directly support Discovery Southeast and Audubon. Purchase it at [DiscoverySoutheast.org/publications](http://DiscoverySoutheast.org/publications).

If you or someone on your gift list enjoys Juneau’s outdoors, this book is for you. It is an all-you-can-eat information buffet for the hiker, hunter, or any student of the outdoors.

Richard’s insightful text, full color maps, and dozens of recent and historic photographs explain the landforms, water

features, and natural environments Juneau residents navigate every day. Dive in for a whole new understanding of the areas you love to explore, with one of Southeast Alaska’s foremost naturalists.



“From the moon, the CBJ looks pretty little. But in the planetary picture, it also emerges as an incomparably privileged place: of clean water, towering mountains, charismatic megafauna, and perhaps most exceptionally, a lot of healthy, wild land—Juneau stands out” Richard writes. “Wildlands are accessed by more than 150 miles of trails serving all tastes, incomes and physical abilities, from paved, wheelchair-accessible promenades to dizzying alpine scrambles. This little book is a salute to the jewels of our backyard watersheds.”

*Natural History of Juneau Trails* will be available in stores in 2014, but is available now for a limited time as a fundraiser directly from [DiscoverySoutheast.org/publications](http://DiscoverySoutheast.org/publications). The price is \$24.00. **Use the code “Audubon” and profits will be split between Audubon and Discovery Southeast.**

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

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### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

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If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

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There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

### Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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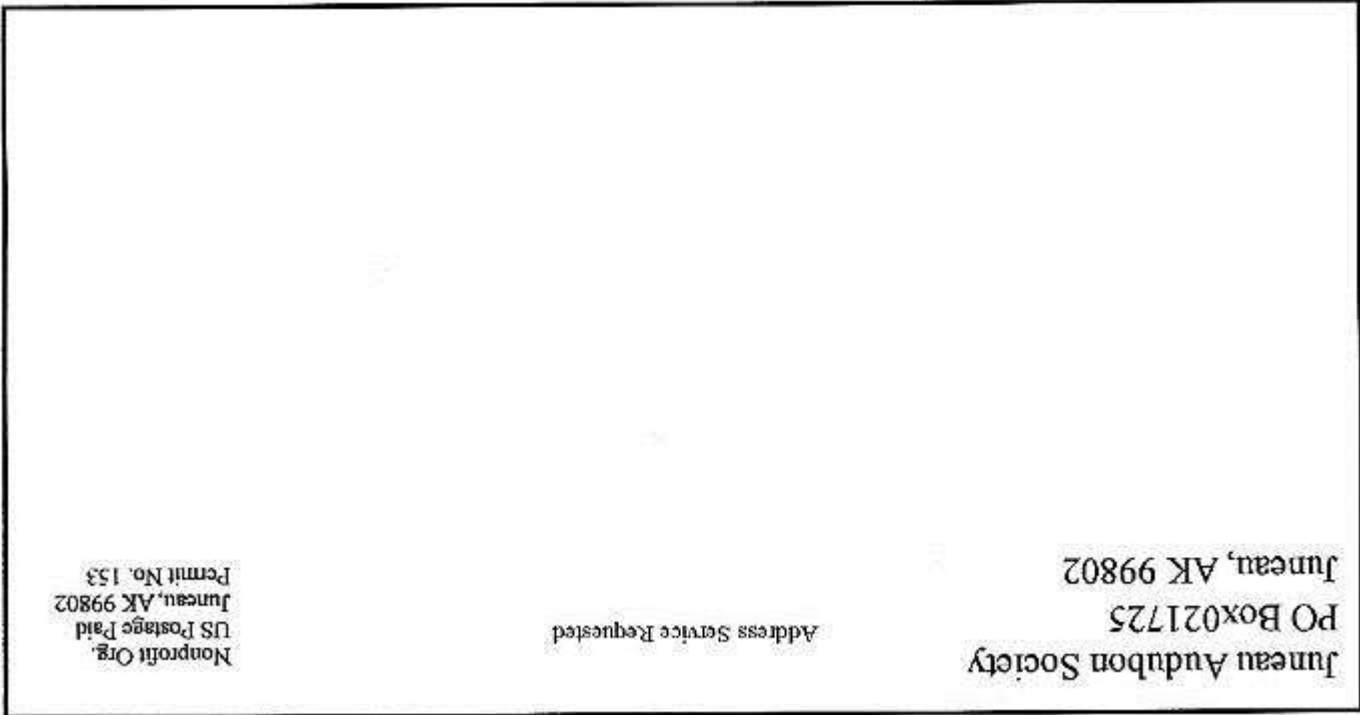
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# The Raven



*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 40, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2014

## Juneau Audubon Society

**JANUARY MEETING: SCOT FOSTER'S**

**"Never test the depth of the water with both feet"**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9,**

**THUNDER MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY AT 7:00 p.m.**

"Scott Foster has kayaked thousands of Southeast miles in the past 35 years and taken a few photos along the way. This program features some of his favorite paddles, portages and pictures (but only of a bird!)."



*Snow Bunting*

*Doug Jones*

### **BEGINNER BIRDING**

Through the Juneau Community Schools, Juneau Audubon Society will offer a "Beginner Birding," evening course, this January/February and February/March. Adult classes meet once a week for a month. Class size is limited to a dozen for best learning and fun.

A course consists of four classes of 1.5 hours held on Thursday evenings, 6:30-8pm.

Harborview Elementary will host a downtown set to be repeated in the valley at Riverbend Elementary the following month.

We will do some mental transformation as we consider the business of being a bird. In addition, the class will use binoculars and birding field guides, employing a range of identification clues.

A variety of bird groups and habitats will be explored. The birds considered are current Juneau local residents/winter migrants and those birds first to return in the spring. We will do virtual birding indoors. It was fun last year as the birders could count upon the birds and the weather. At the end of the course, a real Saturday outing with members of Juneau Audubon will be arranged. The presenter is the educational chairperson for Juneau Audubon. I have revamped last year's course to include more hands on activities. We'll have some great loans from Alaska Fish & Game. The new Community Schools calendar will be available online about the end of the first full week in January. Online registration can be made then or call for information/register: [Suzanne Ainsworth](#), Scheduler, 523-1761.

Patricia Wherry

### **PICK CLICK & GIVE**

It's PFD sign up time. I got the pamphlet in the mail this week. Whether you complete your PFD application online or in a paper format, here is something to consider.

The PFD system has an option called "Pick Click & Give." This is a charitable contribution program that enables an applicant to pledge a specific amount from ones PFD, to a particular state/local nonprofit organization or charity. The list of program options to consider is quite varied.

Juneau Audubon Society joined the Pick Click & Give program last season. We thank those past PFD receivers who made an anonymous/otherwise pledge to our nonprofit group. Pledges given add up and are appreciated. We apply the funds to a variety of Juneau Audubon Society activities.

Consider with your PFD application to PICK CLICK & GIVE to the Juneau Audubon Society. We thank you.

Patricia Wherry

### **2013 Glacier Bay Christmas Bird Count Summary**

Nat Drumheller

The 2013 Glacier Bay Christmas Bird Count was held on 14 December. Participation was down from recent years with nineteen people venturing forth, to varying degrees, to look for birds. Four people watched feeders at two homes. **58** species were found on count day. Count week ran from 11 December through 17 December. Additional birds found during count week brought the total number of species to **68**. The list of birds and their numbers are at the end of this document.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Thanks to Kimber Owen for hosting a gathering after the count. Special thanks to the Glacier Bay National Park protection rangers for, once again,

providing a boat to safely survey the saltwater portion of the count and to James Latendresse for operating it. Without question, the saltwater is the most productive part of our count.

As with all Christmas bird counts, the weather tends to make or break it. This year, the weather came close to breaking it. November's weather was highly variable. During one cold snap in mid November, the temperature dropped below zero for two nights. Over two feet of snow fell in late November, much of which gradually melted. Temperatures from December 1-13 did not rise above freezing and were near zero for five consecutive nights. On December 11, a winter storm hit. This brought heavy snows for the first three days of count week, making it difficult to get anywhere to bird. On the evening before the count, the snow turned to heavy rain. Trees, loaded with snow, came crashing down. It was looking bad for our count.

On count day, the downed trees and wet snow had been cleared from the main roads before day break. The heavy rain turned to light rain. Winds were moderate from the south, even as the temperature rose to 40 degrees. Still, up to two feet of wet snow remained, making it difficult to get around and impossible for most people to cover their routes. Coverage was therefore greatly reduced from normal. Our boat did get out on the water, a bit late, and had good conditions. As darkness fell, winds picked up and developed into a storm that damaged the town dock and swamped skiffs.

Given the scenario, it is impressive that 58 species were found on count day. Numbers of many species were low, not only because of the reduced coverage, but also because of the weather in the weeks and days leading up to the count. Forests and yards were quiet. A few species that were fairly common before the storm, mostly alluded our counters. For example, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers were common in the days before the storm, but only a few kinglets and no creepers were found on count day. Common feeder birds flocked to feeders during the storm, but were much fewer on count day as the temperature rose. One pair of regular feeder watchers in town had *zero* birds on count day for the first time ever. Red-breasted Nuthatches and a White-crowned Sparrow that were coming to another feeder daily were not found. Very few siskins, redpolls, or crossbills have been around this winter, and only one finch, a Pine Siskin, was found on count day. Even on the saltwater, the one place where conditions were quite good on count day, there were no large concentrations of birds. Our three wintering shorebirds, Dunlin, Rock Sandpiper, and Sanderling, were found during the count, but in small numbers. The big flock of Dunlin was missed, probably because the beaches west of town were not covered, where there are also many scoters and ducks. Species seen shortly before and/or after count week that failed to make our list include Trumpeter Swan, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, and Wilson's Snipe. No Northern Shrikes have been seen recently, so it might be the second winter in a row with few observed.

There were some great finds on count day and during count week. Willow Ptarmigan, American Pipit, Red-Winged Blackbird, Peregrine Falcon, Double-crested Cormorant, Barred Owl, Western Grebe, and European Starling were some. We also ended a five year streak of missing Red-throated Loons.

The most unlikely bird this year was Virginia Rail, which turned up during count week in the Crane Flats. Not one, but two! On December 3, I found a single Virginia Rail in the ditch in the Crane Flats. In the following days, I looked for the rail again a handful of times without success and figured it had perished or gone south. Then, on December 15, Larry Platt, Eric Syrene, and Tania Lewis saw *two* Virginia Rails at the same location while skiing. I was thrilled, but was highly skeptical that there were really two Virginia Rails in Gustavus in mid December. I skied out there the next day and found two rails. Although a very rare bird for Alaska, especially in winter, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> record and 2<sup>nd</sup> winter record for Gustavus.



One Virginia Rail on 3 December in the Crane Flats. Photos Nat Drumheller

**Total number of species on count day = 58.**

(This includes unknown woodpecker.)

**Count week species = 11.**

**Total number of species for the week = 68.**

(Unknown woodpecker not counted with American Three-toed Woodpecker.)

## **2013 Ketchikan Christmas Bird Count Summary**

Andrew Piston

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2013 Christmas Bird Count. Some people felt that this was one of the most pleasant Christmas Bird Counts they had ever experienced, but those were primarily people who didn't hear about the count and stayed home drinking cocoa and playing games with friends and family. For those who did participate it was one of the most miserable counts we have had in ages, with driving rain and wind through much of the day. One observer had this to say after the count: "I'm cold and I want to go home." Another had a slightly different take on the day: "I'm really wet and I want to go home." Despite the tough conditions we managed to put together a reasonably good species total. This season we found 65 species on count day (all-time high counts: 83 in 2010, 82 in 2009) and had three additional count week species, which gave us a total of 68 species for the week. We found a total of 4,032 individual birds during the count, which is the lowest number since the late 1980s when the Ketchikan CBC became an annual event. This was primarily

due to the brutally difficult viewing conditions, rather than a lack of birds. This year's highlights included a count week American Coot, two Glaucous Gulls, record numbers of Eurasian Collared-Doves, two Anna's Hummingbirds, a Swamp Sparrow, a White-throated Sparrow, and a Red-winged Blackbird. Below, I summarize how this year's counts compare to past years and provide additional information about interesting finds. The final totals for the 2013 Christmas Bird Count are provided at the end.



Figure 1. Green-winged Teal at Ketchikan Creek, December 2013 (Photo by Jim Lewis)

**Ducks, Geese, and Swans:** Waterfowl numbers were relatively poor this year and we missed out on a few species we often find in very small numbers (e.g., Trumpeter Swan, Northern Pintail, Gadwall). Highlights included a Ring-necked Duck and two Hooded Mergansers found in the Ward Lake area by Chuck Susie and a



Figure 2. Ring-necked Duck at Ward Lake, December 2013 (Photo by Jim Lewis)

Green-winged Teal at Ketchikan Creek located by Jim "Huey" Lewis (Figure 1). Seven American Wigeon in the Saxman area was also a good count for the Ketchikan CBC (Teri "Teradactyl" Hoyt).

**Loons:** Our loon counts were spectacular this year if you are someone who hates loons. Our count of 26 Pacific Loons was well below average, and two Red-throated Loons found by Heint and Helmericks were the only other loons found.

**Grebes:** Our count of 31 Western Grebes was far below average, but 15 Red-necked Grebes was near the long-term average. The low count of Western Grebes was a reflection of the rough water rather than a lack of grebes.

**Cormorants:** Our count of 78 Pelagic Cormorants was near average for the count circle and 10 Double-crested cormorants were well below average. I managed to locate a single adult Brandt's Cormorant on the waterfront on count day, which is only the sixth time this species has appeared on an Alaskan CBC (all at Ketchikan). During the winter, the Brandt's Cormorant has only been found in the southernmost reaches of Southeast Alaska, and is typically difficult to find along the Ketchikan road system.

**Hawks, Falcons, and Owls:** The highlight for hawks was a Northern Goshawk that Ernie DeBoer saw launch an attack on his Eurasian Collared-Dove flock in the waning minutes of the count. This species is a rare resident in Southeast Alaska, but has only been recorded on our count a few times and is generally difficult to find at any time of the year. Over the last couple years it has become apparent that the taste of fresh collared-dove is irresistible to this species. Another good find this year was a Merlin that Heint, Koerner, and Helmericks nailed on count day—this small falcon has only appeared on four prior counts. Finally, Teri Hoyt found the count's only Sharp-shinned Hawk frolicking about in the Saxman area. It is possible that this bird was actually cruising around—a behavior sometimes confused with frolicking.

**Shorebirds:** We had a low number and variety of shorebirds on this year's count. Counts of regularly occurring species included 18 Black Turnstones, a count week Surfbird, and one Killdeer. Typically rare or absent by late December, we had one Wilson's Snipe on count day—snipe are very well camouflaged and can be almost impossible to spot before spooking them. They are typically flushed from wet roadside ditches or other similar marshy habitats during the winter.

Figure 3. This 1st winter Glaucous Gull has been present on the Ketchikan waterfront since at least late November 2013 (Andy Piston, photo).

**Gulls:** Numbers of regularly occurring gulls were mixed this year. Our count of 425 Mew Gulls was well above average, but our counts of Glaucous-winged (560) and Thayer's Gull (13) were far below average. Two Glaucous Gulls were found by Steve Heinl and Isaac Helmericks on the waterfront on count day. This species is a rare visitant to Southeast Alaska during the winter. Another gull highlight was a late lingering Bonaparte's Gull I found feeding in Tongass Narrows with a large flock of Mew Gulls.



**Alcids:** Our counts of 88 Common Murres and 59 Marbled Murrelets were below average—it is hard to pick these birds out in very rough water.

**Doves and Pigeons:** Following our first CBC Eurasian Collared-doves in 2010, a total of 15 were found in 2011 and 12 on the 2012 count. This year we crushed previous records with an outstanding 78 birds. This is more remarkable because some of the largest flocks on the roads system are outside the count circle. I started the morning counting doves with Ernie DeBoer as they came in to land at his seed coated driveway. We hit 40 birds before they started flying in multiple directions making counting impossible. This introduced species expanded its range rapidly following release in the Bahamas in the 1970s. It has recently been found with increasing frequency in the Pacific Northwest and was first reported in Alaska in 2006 and 2007. During the last five years large numbers have shown up throughout Southeast Alaska during the summer and breeding has been documented. The species has been much less common in the winter, but clearly that is starting to change as the species continues to gain a foothold in the state.



Anna's Hummingbird at a residence near 4<sup>th</sup> and Adams; photographed by Steve Heinl

**Hummingbirds:** For the fifth consecutive year I had multiple Anna's Hummingbirds in town. This was a good fall for this species in Southeast Alaska, and small numbers were observed in a variety of locations at Ketchikan, with several still present. This species is rare but regular in the fall and early winter, and we have recorded single birds on at least eight other counts.

**Woodpeckers:** The only woodpeckers of the count were four Northern Flickers—a below average count for this species.

**Jays:** Our count of 1 Steller's Jay tied the lowest count ever for our count circle. This is a case where our low count reflected a general absence of a species, rather than a low count caused by driving rain and wind. Numbers of this species fluctuate dramatically from year-

to-year.

**Chickadees to Kinglets:** Our count of 17 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 3 Pacific Wrens, 30 Golden-crowned Kinglets were all below average. These species are typically difficult to find during monsoons. Brown Creepers are often difficult to find, but one was found on count day this year (Heinl/Koerner and Helmericks). A highlight of the count was a late-lingering Ruby-crowned Kinglet found by Teri Hoyt in Saxman.

**Thrushes:** Our count of 22 Varied Thrush was below average for this species. We also had two count week American Robins.

**Sparrows:** Once again, we had a good variety of sparrows on this year's count—we found a total of 7 sparrow species along the roads system. This year's counts were near average for two of our most common species—19 Song Sparrows and 11 Fox Sparrows. Our Dark-eyed Junco count (604) was the second highest total ever for our count—this species is typically our most common feeder bird. A Swamp Sparrow that had been present since the fall was found on count day by Teri Hoyt at Saxman. Swamp Sparrows are very rare fall migrants in the Ketchikan area, but have been found nearly annually over the last decade. This species is found primarily east of the Rocky Mountains, but small numbers wander to the west coast in fall and small numbers winter along the coast south of Alaska and northern British Columbia. Other sparrows of interest were two Golden-crowned, two White-Crowned, and one White-throated.

Figure 6.—Swamp Sparrow at Saxman, December 2013 (Jim Lewis, photo).

**Finches:** Finches were almost completely absent this year and two Pine Siskins at Saxman were the only ones reported.

**Blackbirds:** A Red-winged Blackbird at Ernie DeBoer's feeders was an excellent find for our count. This is only the second time we have had this species on count day and we have had count week birds in two prior years. The bird has been present for at Ernie's feeders for approximately two weeks.

**House Sparrow:** Another great find for the Ketchikan CBC was 12 House Sparrows that were seen at Ernie DeBoer's feeders (Andy Piston, Ernie DeBoer), and near Alaska Marine Lines (Heinl and Helmericks). This is the sixth time we have had this species on the count. This Old World sparrow has spread pretty much everywhere humans live since being introduced to North America in 1851. This species associates with humans and thrives in cities and other areas that most birds would want no part of. This bird's taste for human-altered landscapes has made it one of the most widespread and abundant songbirds in the World. The last five summers we have found multiple nests in Ketchikan, which have provided the first Alaskan nest records for this introduced species.

Thanks again for participating in this year's Christmas Count. If you have any questions about birds, or have something interesting to report, feel free to call Andy Piston or Steve Heinl at the Fish and Game office any time of the year (225-9677; call me on my cell phone if you find something interesting and the office is closed, 254-1717, or Steve at 225-7628).

## **CBC 2013 Haines Circle Preliminary Report 1/2/14 – Pam Randles**

The weather on Count Day was awful! There was a snowstorm that had the birds hunkering in the trees and visibility very limited. Of the 24 participants in the Haines Circle, many reported seeing many fewer birds than normal. Some participants had to cancel because they couldn't get to their count areas. Five to ten inches of new snow fell during the morning on top of 18-36 inches already on the ground. With most of the Haines Circle reports in, participants logged 19 hours on foot or by car and ten hours at feeders. Most of the birds counted were the usual suspects: mallards, goldeneyes, mergansers, buffleheads, eagles, gulls, crows, ravens, magpies, jays, chickadees, juncos and siskins. Two winter wrens and two snow buntings were seen along with one hairy woodpecker. A dozen dippers were counted in the lower Chilkoot River.

The Chilkat Circle reports are not in yet and some of the Haines Circle reports are still out, so these are preliminary results.

## **Snowy Owl Surprise**

By Prill (Isleib) Mollick  
Smoky Mountains, N.C.

In December 2013, a rare sighting occurred in Western North Carolina when a Snowy Owl was spotted. It was limping and appeared to be injured. It was taken to Carlton Burke, a licensed Bird Rehabilitator, at Carolina Mountain Naturalists Center in Mills River, N.C. (south of Asheville).

A veterinarian took x-rays and did blood work. The Snowy Owl was uninjured but had a high white blood cell count, perhaps indicating an infection which left her too weak to hunt. She was undernourished, dehydrated, and starving.

They named her "Tundra". She was given antibiotics and is being hand fed with frozen mice. She has been showing continued improvement, and is slowly gaining weight. When there is a full recovery, they hope to be able to release her back to the wild, somewhere further north.

**From: Whats Up 3/4/14**

**March 28 Deadline for SUBMISSIONS to the 2014 ALASKA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL JURIED ART SHOW** that begins on April 4 at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center in Ketchikan. To be eligible for prizes, artwork must include birds, avian habitat and/or migratory bird patterns from the Spring Migratory Bird List. Artwork must be recent, original and not previously exhibited in Ketchikan. Open to all Alaskan artists working in all media with a maximum of two entries per artist. For more information, contact Kevin Fromherz at 907.228.4124 or go to [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5444769.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5444769.pdf).

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\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

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### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

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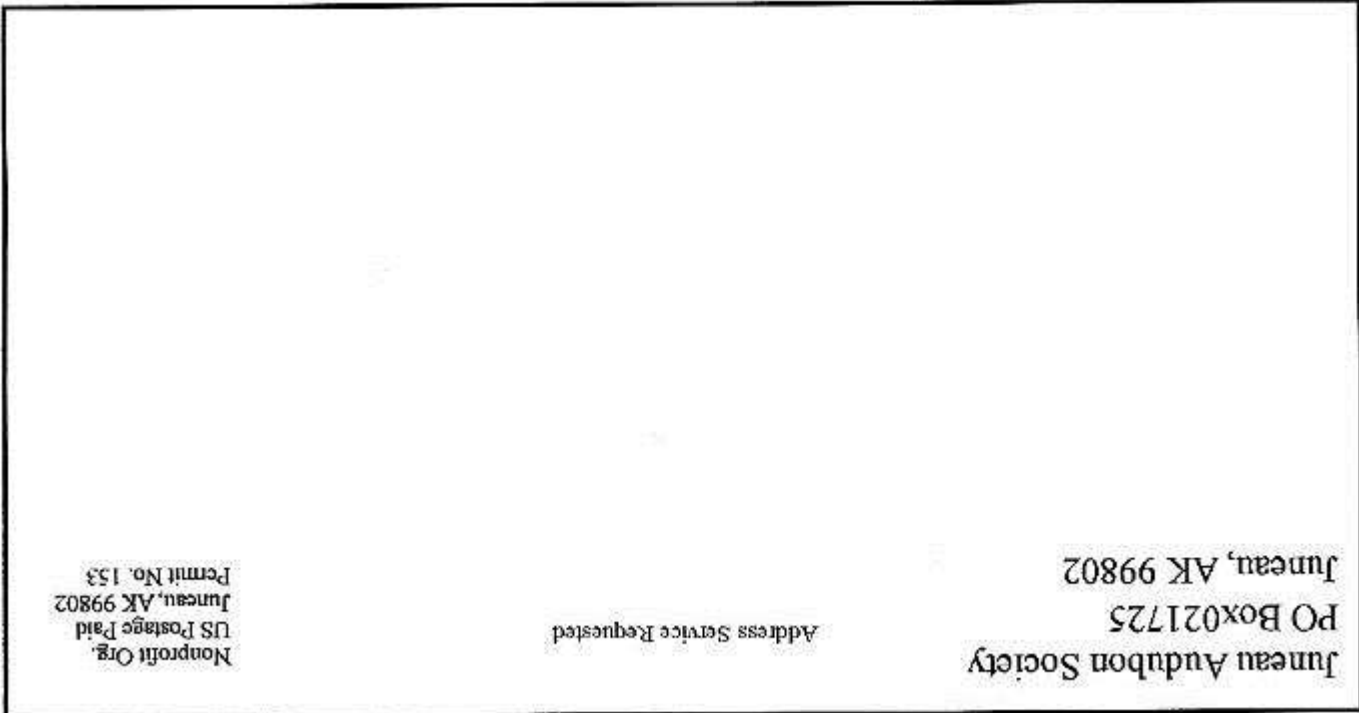
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# The Raven



*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 40, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2014

## Juneau Audubon Society

**FEBRUARY MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13,  
THUNDER MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY AT 7:00 p.m.**

Riley Woodford – Information Officer Division of Wildlife Conservation, will present: **Marine Mammals of SE Alaska , what we have, how to identify all of them, what’s interesting about them, and status, fun facts & more..**



## **President's Notes by Brenda Wright**

**Two Questions for Members:** Are you willing to have special notices of events and conservation concerns emailed to you as “Audubon Alerts”? If so, will you give us permission to use your e-mail in a special list just for “Audubon Alerts”?

The Juneau Audubon board has taken the position that we may not use any member's email for any other purpose than sending the monthly newsletter the Raven. However, emails are a good tool used judiciously. In the past, our membership form has asked whether you wished to receive the newsletter by email or paper form. We now have over 100 people on the email list and nearly 300 that receive paper newsletters.

So once again I am asking you:

- 1) Would like to save a Tree and go paperless?
- 2) May we put you on a special email list for “Audubon Alerts”?

We could reinforce our upcoming fund raising events. Reach out for volunteers and promote local conservation concerns. Please respond to [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) if you want paperless, and/or Alerts.

**Local events:** Don't miss an opportunity to attend a great bird meeting. The **Pacific Seabird group** will have its annual meeting in Juneau this year February 19-22 at Centennial Hall. Seabird specialists from around the world will present scientific papers on various topics, including Arctic Seabirds. There are no events for the general public scheduled, but daily registrations are available for those interested in seeing some talks. Conference field trips will all be regularly scheduled AMHS trips. More info at:

<http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/index.php?f=meeting&t=Annual%20Meeting&s=1.#MS>

**Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival:** Save the date: **May 8-11, 2014**, and feel free to contact us if you need help planning your birding vacation to the Kachemak Bay in Homer, Alaska!

**Stikine River Birding Festival, April 24-26, 2014**

<http://www.wrangell.com/birdingfestival/stikine-river-birding-festival-april-24-26-2014>

**Cordova Shorebird Festival dates are May 8, 9, 10, 11, 2014**

<http://cordovachamber.com/community/festivals-and-events/shorebird-festival>

**Great Backyard Bird Count February 14-17, 2014:** The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a great way for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature and make a difference for birds. It's free and easy. To learn more about how to join the count visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are.

**GBBC checklists can be accepted from anywhere in the world!** Everyone is welcome--from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website. <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

### **REPORT YOUR BIRD SIGHTINGS YEAR-ROUND**

The Great Backyard Bird Count ends after four days, but your own bird counts don't have to. Keep counting for the birds by reporting observations year-round to eBird! [www.ebird.com](http://www.ebird.com)

Like the GBBC, eBird is an online program that gathers bird observations into a database. But with eBird, the counting keeps going. eBird lets you and your family keep detailed lists of your own sightings, create an individualized menu of your favorite birding spots, and much more.

### **Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results** By Mark Schwan

January 4, 2014

We were very fortunate with the weather, after postponing on the 14th of December due to horrible conditions. We had mild temperatures, in the mid 30s, little wind, and no precipitation until late in the afternoon. There was some fog to deal with but it didn't have any significant impacts. Forty four people participated in the field and four additional people reported in from homes watching feeders and areas adjacent to their property. This was a nice turn out of volunteers for us.

Our species list for count day stands at 69, a count day total which is about average for us. Our total birds counted on count day was 10,784, (major contributors were, as usual, **Canada Goose**, **Glaucous-winged Gull**, and **Mallard**) which is just a bit above average. We had no real shockers or any new species for our cumulative local CBC list. We had new, high or record counts for two species, **Canada Goose** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadee**. Our **Canada Goose** count was 2,140, and doubled our previous high count. We were concerned there could have been some double-counting of birds due to movements of flocks during the day to different



Female Ann's Hummingbirds

Patty Rose

areas, but we seem to think that this was not a problem. This is the first time we have held a count after hunting season ended; perhaps with hunting season over for the last few days, more birds returned to the wetlands. We don't know. The 191 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** dramatically surpassed our previous high of 152. Scoter counts continued to be down, and our jay count of 16 has only been lower on four of our previous forty counts, all many years ago.

Rare birds included a continuing **Western Grebe** in Auke Bay, two **Anna's**

**Hummingbirds** continuing at local feeders, two continuing **White-throated Sparrows** visiting local feeders, and 9 **Red-winged Blackbirds** continuing to visit a feeder near Lemon Creek. Birds that we found which aren't considered rare but many times are missed included **Red-throated Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Northern Pygmy Owl, and Hairy Woodpecker**. We had six additional count week species: **Rough-legged Hawk** (very rare-maybe only one or two previous winter records and seen on only one previous count), **Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black Turnstone, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl** (rare), and **Fox Sparrow**.

Thanks to all who participated.



Northern Pigmy Owl

Patty Rose

**Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results****January 4, 2014**

<b>Species Seen</b>	<b>Count</b>
Canada Goose	<b>2,126</b>
Gadwall	17
American Wigeon	173
Mallard	2702
Northern Pintail	16
Green-winged Teal	12
Greater Scaup	91
Lesser Scaup	1
Unidentified Scaup	9
Harlequin Duck	75
Surf Scoter	353
White-winged Scoter	101
Unidentified Scoters	4
Long-tailed Duck	14
Bufflehead	117
Common Goldeneye	130
Barrow's Goldeneye	168
Unidentified Goldeneyes	3
Hooded Merganser	3
Common Merganser	90
Red-breasted Merganser	36
Unidentified Mergansers	11
Red-throated Loon	cw
Pacific Loon	80
Common Loon	7
Yellow-billed Loon	1
Horned Grebe	10
Red-necked Grebe	15
<b>Western Grebe</b>	<b>1</b>
Pelagic Cormorant	20
Unidentified Cormorants	2
Great Blue Heron	3
Bald Eagle	151
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw
Northern Goshawk	2
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	<b>cw</b>
Killdeer	4
Black Turnstone	cw
Rock Sandpiper	29
Dunlin	275
Wilson's Snipe	1
Mew Gull	160
Herring Gull	1

Glaucous-winged Gull	1,619
Unidentified Gulls	81
Common Murre	17
Pigeon Guillemot	1
Marbled Murrelet	115
Rock Pigeon	70
Great Horned Owl	cw
Northern Pygmy-owl	1
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	<b>cw</b>
<b>Anna's Hummingbird</b>	<b>2</b>
Belted Kingfisher	5
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Northern Shrike	1
Steller's Jay	18
Black-billed Magpie	31
Northwestern Crow	499
Common Raven	385
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<b>191</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Brown Creeper	7
Pacific Wren	3
American Dipper	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	42
Unidentified Kinglets	5
American Robin	1
Varied Thrush	1
European Starling	22
Bohemian Waxwing	1
American Tree Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	17
Fox Sparrow	cw
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>	<b>2</b>
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	257
Unidentified Sparrows	1
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>	<b>9</b>
Rusty Blackbird	1
Pine Grosbeak	19
Red Crossbill	20
White-winged Crossbill	2
Unidentified Crossbills	55
Pine Siskin	261
<b>Species on Count Day</b>	<b>69</b>
Total Birds on Count Day	10,784
Count Week Birds	6

## January 2014 Bird Report for Juneau By Amy Courtney

Our January here in Juneau seemed pretty ordinary in the beginning—typical winter storms and such—but the past few weeks have proved to be anything but ordinary, with the temperatures in the mid-forties and almost all of our snow melted. Apparently our winter temperatures decided to migrate to the Lower 48!

We haven't had too many notable ducks this winter. Patty Rose reported around a dozen **Gadwall** near the North Douglas trailer park on 1/1, 1/04, & 1/11, and closer to downtown Douglas on 1/25. Gus van Vliet saw a full 39 of them at the Sheep Creek delta on 1/30. **Northern Pintail** made a small showing earlier this month, with one at the mouth of the Mendenhall River on 1/04 (BA), and on 1/11 at the North Douglas trailer park (PR). A lone **Lesser Scaup** was spotted on 1/04 off Spruce Point in Auke Bay (GV). On 1/19 Gus van Vliet spotted 5 **Black Scoter** in Auke Bay, and Amy Courtney saw two off Douglas' Outer Point on 1/24.

Loons have made a pretty good showing this month, especially **Pacific Loons**, and there have been scattered reports of **Common Loons** from Auke Bay, North Douglas and Sandy Beach. A lone **Red-throated loon** has also been seen throughout the month in Auke Bay (GV), and one was spotted near False Outer Point in Douglas on 1/19 (AC). Our most exciting report though was a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Sandy Beach that Patty Rose was able to nab for the Christmas Bird Count on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Mark Schwan was also able to find in on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Another very exciting bird was a **Western Grebe** scoped far offshore in Auke Bay on 1/02 (GV) and 1/04 (DR).

Two notable accipiters showed themselves this month, a **Northern Goshawk** that Laurie Lamm saw on the Dike Trail on 1/02, and a female **Rough-legged Hawk** first reported at the wetlands near the Miller-Honsinger Pond at end of December (GV), and seen throughout January by many others. On 1/01 Marsha Squires heard two **Great Horned Owls** calling to each other on the Outer Point Trail on the first of the month, and Patty Rose and Frank Glass were able to find a **Northern Pygmy-owl** in downtown Douglas for the Christmas Bird Count.

At Auke Rec./Pt. Louisa on 1/10 Mark Schwan was fortunate enough to find and photograph a **Northern Flicker** whose red mustache and red neck crescent indicated that it was an intergrade—a cross between a Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted subspecies. Individual **Northern Shrikes** have been spotted at Brotherhood Bridge (GV, BW), Sandy Beach (PR), Auke Bay (GV), and the Miller-Honsinger pond (MS, GV). Many people have reported seeing **European Starlings** in downtown Juneau this winter, with a high count of exactly 45 once (GV). Our only report of **Snow Buntings** this month came from Patty Rose and Bev Agler, who saw seven on the Dike Trail on 1/18. A flock of nine **Red-winged Blackbirds** was seen on 1/04 in the same Creekside Park neighborhood where some were seen last winter (MS), and eleven were reported at the same location on the 31<sup>st</sup> (AC). A few **Rusty Blackbirds** also made an appearance—one on the wetlands near Sunny Point on 1/04 (LL), and two at the Pioneers Home Marsh on 1/10 (AC).

This year we have seen very few finches and other irruptive species that we typically see during the winter, presumably because of good cone crops this year in the North. **Pine Siskin** reports are relatively few and far between-- Auke Bay on 1/11 (GV), and Mendenhall Lake on 1/19 (BW) and 1/21 (LL). **White-winged Crossbills** have been virtually nonexistent, with only two birds found on the Christmas Bird Count by Mark Schwan on the Marriott Trail in Switzer Creek.



**Red Crossbills** have appeared frequently, though in typically low numbers. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatches** reported all winter were two heard in a Montana Creek neighborhood on 1/21 (AC).

Three **White-throated Sparrows** have spent the winter here so far, one white-morph at a feeder in Auke Bay (GV), and two tan-morphs at a feeder in North Douglas (JC). A **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared in the beginning of January at the same Auke Bay feeder, and has been there ever since (GV). Marsha Squires reported a **Fox Sparrow** on the Mendenhall Wetlands west of the river on 1/02, and two **American Tree Sparrows** have been seen—one on Sandy Beach on 1/04 (PR), and the other at an Auke Bay feeder on 1/11 (GV).

Last but not least, our most bizarre and baffling little birds this month must be the **Anna's Hummingbirds** that have managed to survive this winter thus far at feeders around town. At least three individuals have been reported—likely more. Two have been seen at a feeder in Douglas (PR), one in Auke Bay (GV), and another one that may still be around on Backloop (KH).

Thanks to all who have contributed their sightings via eBird and Eaglechat including the following: Bev Agler (BA), Julie Coghill (JC), Amy Courtney (AC), Karla Hart (KH), Laurie Lamm (LL), Patty Rose (PR), Deb Rudis (DR), Mark Schwan (MS), Gus van Vliet (GV), Brenda Wright (BW)

### **Winter Hummingbirds** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

In the Carolinas, birders are encouraged to keep hummingbird feeders up in winter. The idea that hummingbirds are present in North Carolina during wintertime seems a little strange. I usually take my hummingbird feeders down by late September early October. Migration south usually begins in late summer. Birds from farther north may come through North Carolina into October. It seems that keeping feeders up does not keep them from migrating but would rather be a life saver for those that pass through.

In recent years there have been infrequent and verified reports of hummingbirds in midwinter. Hummingbirds were created with the ability to survive extreme conditions by a deep sleep that lowers its metabolism called torpor. Even in sleep there is an energy demand needed for survival.

The Carolinas have had reports of eleven different vagrant hummingbird species. They have often showed up in winter long after the Ruby-Throats have left for the warmth of Mexico or Central America. The Ruby-Throat is the only hummingbird that breeds in North Carolina. The Rufous hummingbird has been seen more frequently during winter months and is not as rare as once thought.

### **Wrangell Christmas Bird Count** By Bonnie Demerjian

Wrangell's Christmas Bird counters enjoyed ideal weather on count day, January 4. While all participants appreciated the mild temperature and calm winds, our boat counters benefited the most. Two teams covered almost all of our water routes and flat seas ensured that they were able to find a heartening number of water and shorebirds. There were no rarities on the water.

**Barrow's Goldeneyes** topped the numbers at 1340, followed by smaller numbers of **Mallards**, **Harlequin Ducks**, and **Long-tailed Ducks**. Three species of **grebes** - **Western**, **Horned** and **Red-necked** – were reported. The large flock of **Western Grebes** often appearing on the

Christmas Bird Count was absent this year. Three species of **mergansers** also made the count. **Mew Gulls** and **Glaucous-winged** were the most abundant gulls. **Marbled Murrelets** that have been scarce during the previous two years numbered 767 this year.

Land counters had no surprising finds this season. **European Starling** numbers have been creeping up from 30 in 2011 to 102 this year. At this time they seem to be concentrated in downtown Wrangell. The number of **Bald Eagles** has remained steady at around 59. **Steller's Jays** have been absent from local feeders all season and none were reported on the bird count. **Pine Siskins** showed up in small numbers but the **Dark-eyed Junco**, Oregon color phase, topped the feeder numbers. Added to that were an unusually high number of slate colored juncos, 35.

In all, 57 species of birds was reported for this year's count. Nineteen participants helped with the Christmas Bird Count this year including two young people, Jing and Sophie O'Brien, who have been helping to report for the past four years.



**Editor's Note:** I did not see any young Steller's Jays around my yard last summer and we usually have a family or two and there has been only an occasional one this winter coming to the feeders. Could the cold spring have something to do with fewer numbers since they seem to nest early?

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

## PICK, CLICK, GIVE

As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

### Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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### Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?

You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service

[audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201

Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714  
You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_

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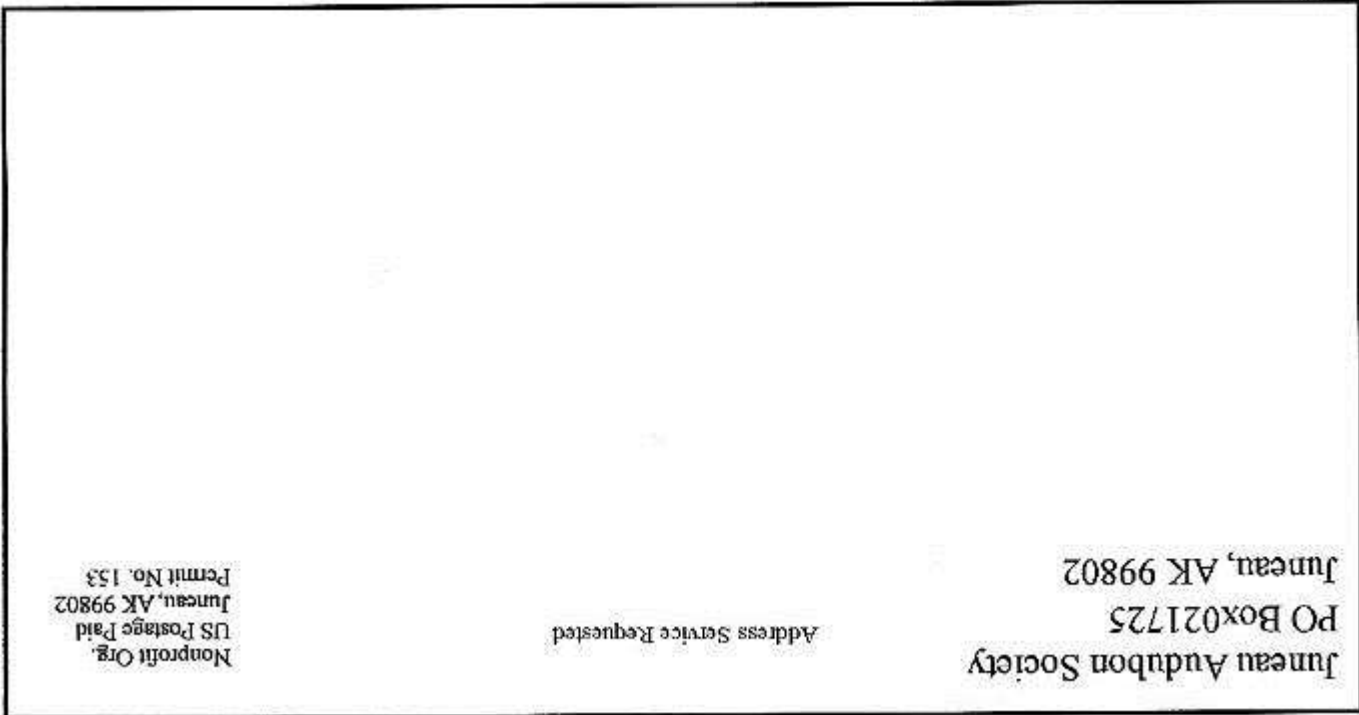
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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# The Raven

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 40, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2014

## **Juneau Audubon Society**

**MARCH MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 13,  
THUNDER MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY AT 7:00 p.m.**

## **African Trip: South Africa and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

A once in a lifetime trip discovering the wildlife and birds of Africa and appreciating a land we are dangerously close to losing. Presented by Matt Knutson and Rosary Lombardo



## President's notes by Brenda Wright

### **Berners Bay Cruises 2014**

Save the Dates: April 26 and May 3 for our annual wildlife spectacular cruises to Berners Bay. Come join the fun with expert birders and see what awaits us just around the corner! Tickets go on sale by mid March at Heritage Book stores.

### **Eagle Feathers:**

Remember that permit that you put in your pack so that you could pick up eagle feathers to be donated to the National Eagle Repository? If you have some feathers, please turn them into Brenda -call 321-4739 or email [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org) If you would like a permit, you can get one at the public meeting or send an e-mail.

### **Bird Migration Festivals in Alaska:**

#### **Stikine River Birding Festival, April 24-26, 2014**

<http://www.wrangell.com/birdingfestival/stikine-river-birding-festival-april-24-26-2014>

#### **Homer** Kachemak bay shorebird festival 2014 May 8-11

<http://www.homeralaska.org/visit-homer/events-homer/kachemak-bay-shorebird-festival>

#### **Cordova** Coper River Delta Shorebird Festival May 8-11, 2014

<http://cordovachamber.com/community/festivals-and-events/shorebird-festival/>

**Yakutat the 4th Annual Yakutat Tern Festival** June 5-8 2014. The festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southern most known nesting colonies of Aleutian Terns, as well Arctic Terns and up to 200 other bird species that nest or migrate through the area. The festival is family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, kid's activities, evening banquets and other programs, bird banding demonstration, and an art show. Please see [www.yakutatternfestival.org](http://www.yakutatternfestival.org)

visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

### **Bird Studies Canada:**

**February 2014** – Owls are popular birds, and relatively easy to identify. But because they're largely nocturnal and nest very early in the season, they can be difficult to monitor. These important predators are directly impacted by changes in Canadian forests, and owl population studies are essential for conservation. Through a national **Nocturnal Owl Survey** network, more than 1000 volunteers across Canada spend an evening counting owls along isolated roads. Their observations help document population trends of nesting owls, and the limits of their breeding ranges. We are lucky in SE Alaska to have a study done here too: DISTRIBUTION,

ABUNDANCE, AND ECOLOGY OF FOREST OWLS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA Final Report April 2009 by Michelle L. Kissling and Stephen B. Lewis If you want to see the paper go to [http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/fieldoffice/juneau/pdf/07-ForestOwls-1\\_Kissling&Lewis\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/fieldoffice/juneau/pdf/07-ForestOwls-1_Kissling&Lewis_FinalReport.pdf)

**American Bird Conservancy**

The Cats Indoors program invites YOU to check out our **COMPLETELY REDESIGNED** <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html>

The site now proudly displays quick links to important information such as our brochures; fact sheets, scientific literature, and other resources. Stay tuned for future updates.

**Great Back Yard Bird Count for Juneau, February 2014**

50 Species Total and 46 Checklists- this table is arranged in order of the species seen for each day of the count. Gus Van Vliet saw 38 species! Patty Rose had 26 and Amy Courtney Clark had 24. Sure hope everyone had as much fun as I did.

SPECIES NAME	SPECIES NAME	SPECIES NAME
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Black Scoter	Greater Scaup
loon sp.	Long-tailed Duck	Barrow's Goldeneye
crossbill sp.	Red-necked Grebe	Common Merganser
Northern Shrike	Western Grebe	American Dipper
Willow Ptarmigan	Pelagic Cormorant	Common/Barrow's Goldeneye
Common Loon	Pigeon Guillemot	Bald Eagle
Hairy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow	Northwestern Crow
Steller's Jay	Varied Thrush	Marbled Murrelet
Rough-legged Hawk	Great Blue Heron	Anna's Hummingbird
Common Murre	Harlequin Duck	Belted Kingfisher
Killdeer	White-winged Scoter	Common Raven
gull sp.	Mew Gull	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Surf Scoter	Thayer's Gull	European Starling
Pacific Loon	Glaucous-winged Gull	Song Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Dark-eyed Junco
Black-billed Magpie	Mallard	Red Crossbill
Lesser Scaup	Bufflehead	Rock Pigeon
Red-breasted Merganser	Common Goldeneye	Pine Siskin

## Juneau Audubon Society Honors 2014 Science Fair Winners

The Regional Science Fair was held in Juneau on March 1, 2014. It included students from Juneau high schools, Angoon, Skagway, and Raven Correspondence school.

Students receiving \$100 awards were Lena Kawakami for “How Does the Feed Put in a Feeder Affect Winterbird Feeding?” and Abby Watts for “How human-related activities affect the amount of birds in the area”. Our winners for the Berners Bay cruises tickets were Georgia Robinson for “How Soil Composition from Landslides affects initial seedling regeneration of Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and red alder (*Alnus rubra*)” and Katherine Kane and Helen Thurston for “How water quality affects the mortality rate of Stoneflies (*Plecoptera*)”.

***Be Part of the Movement: Give Cash Make Change.***

***Pick.Click.Give. <http://www.pickclickgive.org/>***

## **PATRICIA WHERRY’S CLASS -- WHAT IS THAT BIRD?**

***BEGINNING BIRDERS*** is an interesting and fun, hands-on set of classes. They are targeted to beginners – adults and older teens - interested in birds.

The class, a set of four 1.5 hour Thursday evening meetings, is offered by Juneau Audubon through Community Schools. A Town set of classes has just finished. A Valley set will begin Thursday Feb 27. If you miss the first class, you can join in for the other parts March 6, 13, & 27.

### **VALLEY CLASS**

Dates and time: **Thursdays at 6:30-8pm Feb 27, March 6, 13, and 27.**

Location: **Riverbend Elementary** (up Riverside Drive from the valley post office) in the library  
Information covered will be:

- 1) What makes a bird a bird. Transform yourself into feeling like and appreciating the uniqueness of being a bird.
- 2) As birding newbies, we will look at what bird guides have to offer as an identification tool.
- 3) Helpful identification clues will be shared
- 4) You'll get a glimpse into bird families
- 5) The bird examples used are those birds currently in Juneau right. Or they will soon be moving



through to interior & northern breeding grounds, as well as arriving to breed locally.  
6) Juneau Audubon has binoculars for folks to experience using in an indoor virtual bird-a-thon.

7) After completion of the set of classes, Juneau Audubon will host you on a birdwalk.  
More further information contact: Patricia Wherry, 209-3374, [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org)



## Cellphone Towers In Juneau By Josh Peters

Cellphones have become so common place within our world now that rarely do we think about the infrastructure that is expanding at an astounding rate. Cellphone and television/radio towers contribute to somewhere between 5,000,000 to 50,000,000 bird deaths per year in the United States and Canada. Here in Southeast Alaska, there is a push to build new towers to keep up with the amount of data that is going across the ever growing network. Not only are these towers unsightly, but they contribute to the deaths of migratory birds. There is not enough data to show exactly what the definitive mortality rate is on migratory birds here in Alaska. But we do know that they are often attracted to the lights on these structures that are there to alert aircraft, as well as collisions that occur when they fly lower because of wind conditions. If we aren't careful and do not take the proper precautions, cellphones may be the only thing left tweeting in our neck of the woods. You can find more information about what is going on in Juneau at <http://www.juneau.org/cddftp/projects/WirelessPlan/>

## Juneau's February Bird Observations By Amy Courtney

We have not had many new rare birds this month, but a number of our rare birds from past months have remained through February for our viewing pleasure.

**Gadwalls** have continued in smaller numbers this month, but birders have mostly only seen them at Sheep Creek Delta, plus a couple spotted at the North Douglas trailer park. Patty Rose found a **Lesser Scaup** in front of DIPAC hatchery on 2/15. Auke Bay seems to be a favorite **Black Scoter** haunt this month, with two reported on the 8<sup>th</sup>, four on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and two again on the 15<sup>th</sup>, (GV). In North Douglas, near False Outer Point, a male **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye** hybrid



was seen and photographed on 2/21, (AC). Some suspect this could be the same hybrid Goldeneye reported at this location a few years ago. Three **Hooded Mergansers** were spotted from the Dike Trail on 2/09 (LL), two were seen in the Mendenhall River from the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail on 2/24 (DP), and one on the Dike Trail again on 2/27 (LL).

Rarely spotted in the winter, two observers counted four **Willow Ptarmigan** on Eaglecrest on the 16<sup>th</sup>, for the Great Backyard Bird Count (DR, KT). On 2/7,

Gus van Vliet reported a bizarre finding. A male **Sooty Grouse** had flown full-speed into an office building downtown and died. Gus noted that it was the only eBird record in Juneau for a Sooty Grouse between the months of November and February.

This month's only report of a **Yellow-billed Loon** came from Mark Schwan at Picnic Cove, North Douglas, on 2/01. On 2/15, Gus van Vliet spotted a **Western Grebe** on Auke Bay; the first sighting since early January.

Our one falcon sighting of the month came from Marsha Squires, who had a nice Valentine's Day visit from a **Peregrine Falcon** over Twin Lakes. A female **Rough-legged Hawk** has been present on the wetlands near Temsco Helicopters all month long (M. Obs.). She appears to be overwintering! Also near Temsco, a lone **Eurasian Collared-dove** was spotted calling strongly on a powerline on 2/17 (GV). This is the first EUCD record for Juneau since the first week of December.

Perhaps a very early spring migrant, or simply an overlooked straggler from last year, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was seen from a pullout near Sunshine Cove on 2/23 (AC). On 2/9, Laurie Lamm was fortunate enough to spot a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Auke Rec; Gus van Vliet also saw it that day, but there have been no reports since then. On 2/01 on River Road, a **Pine Grosbeak** was seen and heard vocalizing from the top of a tall spruce (DR). A lone **Snow Bunting** was spotted flying over the Mendenhall Wetlands on 2/01 (GV). Gus van Vliet also reported that a **White-throated Sparrow** has continued to frequent his yard in Fritz Cove this month. A flock of at least six **Red-winged Blackbirds** in a Lemon Creek neighborhood has also continued through this month, though their furtive behavior has made counting them very difficult at times (PR, GV).

Our various **Anna's Hummingbirds** around town are persevering admirably. Patty Rose still has an immature male and an adult male at her feeder in Douglas, Karla Hart has an immature bird at her feeder on Back Loop, and Gus van Vliet has an immature male in Fritz Cove. One day Gus reported that an adult male appeared (perhaps the same one Patty has had?) with his immature and even sang briefly! Apparently someone thinks it should be springtime already, and I for one am all too eager to believe him. Thanks to the following observers who reported their sightings to eBird and Eaglechat this month: Karla Hart (KH), Amy Courtney (AC), Laurie Lamm (LL), David Pereksta (DP), Patty Rose (PR), Deb Rudis (DR), Mark Schwan (MS), Marsha Squires (MSQ), Kim Titus (KT), Gus van Vliet (GV).

### **Ketchikan January–February Bird Report By Andy Piston**

Birding at Ketchikan slowed, as usual, as we entered the last stretch of winter. There have been very few lingering sparrows (other than **Song Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, and a few **Fox Sparrows**), a near complete absence of **Steller's Jays**, and almost no **Pine Siskins** or other finches coming to feeders in February. Waterbird numbers have been variable at most locations depending on the availability of feed—a count of 2,850 **Marbled Murrelets** in Clover Passage on 5 January was one of the more notable concentrations this winter. **Eurasian Collared-Dove** numbers remained relatively high this winter and numerous flocks of 5-20 birds remained through February. Late in February a few Pacific Wrens started to sing sporadically and many of the wintering ducks are actively displaying and getting into the breeding spirit. No birds were more in the breeding spirit than the pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** that was observed copulating in my yard on 22 February—a location where nesting has occurred the last few years.

Highlights from this January and February at Ketchikan include another good showing of **Anna's Hummingbirds**; at least five birds and likely more have made it through the worst of winter. One or two **White-throated Sparrows** were seen sporadically at north end feeders in January and February. Several **American Coots** have been found this winter, including two that have been regular at Knudsen Cove Marina since at least mid-January. The most exciting find this winter was a **Western Meadowlark** that was found at North Point Higgins School by Andy Piston and Steve Heint on 5 January and is still present as of late February (Figure 1). This species breeds north to central and northeastern British Columbia and is casual in Southeast Alaska. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> local record and several have been found at this same location in prior years. The area around North Point Higgins School has some of the most extensive open grassy habitat this species prefers on the Ketchikan road system and probably draws in any lost bird that may find itself north of town. Most Ketchikan birders are now anxiously awaiting the first spring migrants to arrive—robins could start showing up any day, gulls and some waterfowl species (particularly **Surf Scoters**) will start increasing soon, and **Fox Sparrows** will start pouring through towards late March.



Western Meadowlark at North Point Higgins School, Ketchikan, 19 January 2014 (photo by Steve Heint).

### **Wrangell Report – March 2014 Raven Newsletter** by Bonnie Demerjian

I've been resisting being labeled a snowbird, but after six years of heading to the Southwest in February, it now seems inevitable. So, here are some observations from a few state and county park campgrounds in southern Arizona.

It's too early for any migrants so the birds here now are the residents. They include large numbers of **White-crowned Sparrows**, **Raspy Cactus Wrens** are common around the campsites as are mourning doves, **Curve-billed Thrashers**, **Mockingbirds**, **Gila Woodpeckers**, and a few **Northern Flickers**. While hiking higher, **Black-throated Sparrows**, **Rock Wrens**,

and **Canyons Wrens** with their distinctive descending swoop of song are scattered among the boulders. Sociable **Harris' Hawks** perch in family groups. I heard a story of a family of seven that gathered one day on a backyard picnic table, but they are more often seen cruising the sky on a hot afternoon. I scattered birdseed around our RV and that brought **Mourning Doves**, **Thrashers** and, surprisingly, several **Rosy-faced Lovebirds** in to feed. These birds, native to arid southwestern Africa, are escaped cage birds which have become common in certain areas around Phoenix. **Gambel's Quail** are everywhere, calling in low tones to each other as they scurry from one sheltered palo verde to another. **Phainopepla** are another common sight in the low desert, the males in glossy black and the females in Quaker gray. And last, Anna's hummingbirds are buzzing and sipping from chuparosa blooms even in the midst of winter.

Water, of course, is the big draw for birds and one outstanding spot near Phoenix for viewing a broad array of species is the Riparian Preserve at Gilbert Water Ranch. This is a water reclamation project consisting of seven ponds each with different plant biomes laced with trails and is home to over 200 species of birds. This is one of my favorite places to bird in this area and even on this year's brief mid-afternoon visit saw **American Avocets**, **Long-billed Dowitchers**, **Great and Snowy Egrets**, **Black-necked Stilts**, and some round-eyed **Black-crowned Night Herons** skulking pond side in the brush.

Southeast Arizona is well known for its birding hotspots in spring, but even in winter provides a wealth of rewarding birding experiences for Alaska's winter migrants. The recent hot weather, however, has brought snakes from their dens this week so from now on I'll be keeping one eye on the sky and another at my feet.

### **Birdfeeder Foes** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

Each year a few big fat gray squirrels get on the birdfeeders. We'd usually open a door and clap loudly to shoo them away. My husband hung birdfeeders up on a wire. A few squirrels feeding on the ground are fine. But this fall they climbed out on the wire doing a tight-rope act. When I wiggled the wire, hoping to discourage them from being there, they were quite the sight wobbling back and forth as they scurried back to the tree.

Last year a sharp shinned hawk came in the yard. It quickly flew at the birdfeeder, snatched a gold finch right off the feeder and flew away with it. That was not the kind of birdfeeder I had in mind.

Smoky Mountain birders are cautioned about putting up birdfeeders too early because of bear activity. Black bear were still active in early November, especially about 10 miles from town and up in higher elevations. At our location we don't have bear but we have gray squirrels and raccoons. Raccoons go after the peanut-butter-suet block so we have to bring it in at night or they carry it off.

I've noticed a gray squirrel drinking out of the bird bath. One day, I observed one hanging upside-down. Hind feet clasp the wire, front feet clutching the feeder, as it was feeding from the birdfeeder. Another day I discovered a squirrel in the same position chewing up a different plastic feeder. It chewed the feeder in half. Seed scattered on the ground. I bought a large wire "squirrel proof" feeder. Squirrels still climbed on it trying to get the sunflower seed. There were at least a dozen in the yard at any one time. The birds couldn't feed with so much squirrel interference.

Time for a change. We borrowed a neighbors "Have-a-Heart" trap. Over winter we caught 38 gray squirrels. One day two squirrels were in the trap together. They angrily wrestled or fought. They squeaked, growled, and "said things" in squirrel language that should never be translated. All caught squirrels were taken for an all expense paid trip over the river, across the highway, to a forested area several miles away, and were bid a fond farewell. The neighbors "Have-a-Heart" trap was returned. Occasionally a squirrel comes in the yard without bothering feeders. Birds can now feed without interference.

**Eurasian Collared Dove – Many times the immigrant** By Patricia Wherry  
[education@juneau\\_audubon\\_society.org](mailto:education@juneau_audubon_society.org)

Plump of body with a small head and a long tail, the Eurasian Collared Dove originated in the greater India area. In the 16th Century it wandered to Turkey and the Balkans. Increased agriculture and the cultivation of grains in the 1900s saw a rapid spread of these doves through Europe and Asia. In 1970s, a burglary of a Bahaman pet shop caused the loss of some doves. The shop owner released the rest. By the early 1980s Florida had Eurasian Collared doves feeding in their small communities and at any grain elevators. California noted the birds in 1992. For a number of years, southeast Alaska has observed them. The birders at this year's Yakutat Tern Festival observed these doves.

Morning and evening light gives the buff colored birds a pink tint with a nice dark collar on the nape (back) of the neck. In flight and when perched, the wingtips are darker than the rest of the wing. The fanned tail has a white terminal band above and a two



photo: Doug Jones

toned band below. Their perch profile is horizontal including the squared tail. The male's call is an insistent *koo-KOO-kook* from a high perch. I heard this bird in Yakutat and thought it was an owl. In the daytime? Nope. The chicks for 5 to 10 days get their protein and fat from "crop milk." This whitish fluid is the liquid filled cells that line the adult bird's crop and a part of the esophagus. Later, the parents switch to regurgitating seeds, insects, and berries.

Most birds have to scoop up water, tip back their heads and let the water run down their throats. The Eurasian Collared Dove is able to put its bill to the water and suck up the water.

Starlings and House Sparrows are immigrants to North America which have negatively impacted native birds. It remains to be seen what impact the Eurasian Collared Dove will have. Seedy garden? They may winter near you.

## [2014 Great American Arctic Birding Challenge](#)

[March 1 - June 1, 2014](#)

Birds from six continents rely on America's Arctic in Alaska for nesting, breeding, staging, and molting; their ranges reach across the Lower 48 states and beyond. Birdwatchers from around the United States can test their skills in the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge this spring to find the most birds in their state from the contest checklist of Arctic birds. The contest runs from March 1 through June 1 so that teams of birders all over the U.S. can spot birds as they migrate. Find a warbler expert, your friend with the top-of-the-line scope, or someone with supersonic hearing to identify those sparrow calls...or head out with your regular birding buddies. Each team can have up to six members. [Get the checklist and contest rules.](#)

Contact Audubon Alaska's Beth Peluso by [email](#) or call 907-276-7034 if you have questions. Let the games begin!



### **Bird Tidbit** By Amy Sherwin

Bringing to mind dreams of sandy beaches and open seas Richard Bach says that "seagulls are an unlimited idea of freedom." The name "gull" actually comes from the medieval Cornish *gullan* (or *gwylan*) which means "throat, stemming from the Celtic word *wylo*, or "wail." Until the 15th century, gulls were often called "mews" because of their distinct cry. By Shakespeare's time a "gull" also came to refer to a gullible person, someone who would swallow anything and gulls are often know to eat anything, even one another's stray chicks. Despite this, gulls are among the world's most successful birds living life on the wing by adapting to different conditions. Although there are no actual birds called "seagulls," when people think of gulls, they often dream of toe-loving sandy beaches, lulling waves, and the idea of being just as free as "seagulls."

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heintz's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heintz@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heintz@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

## PICK, CLICK, GIVE

As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

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**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714  
You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_

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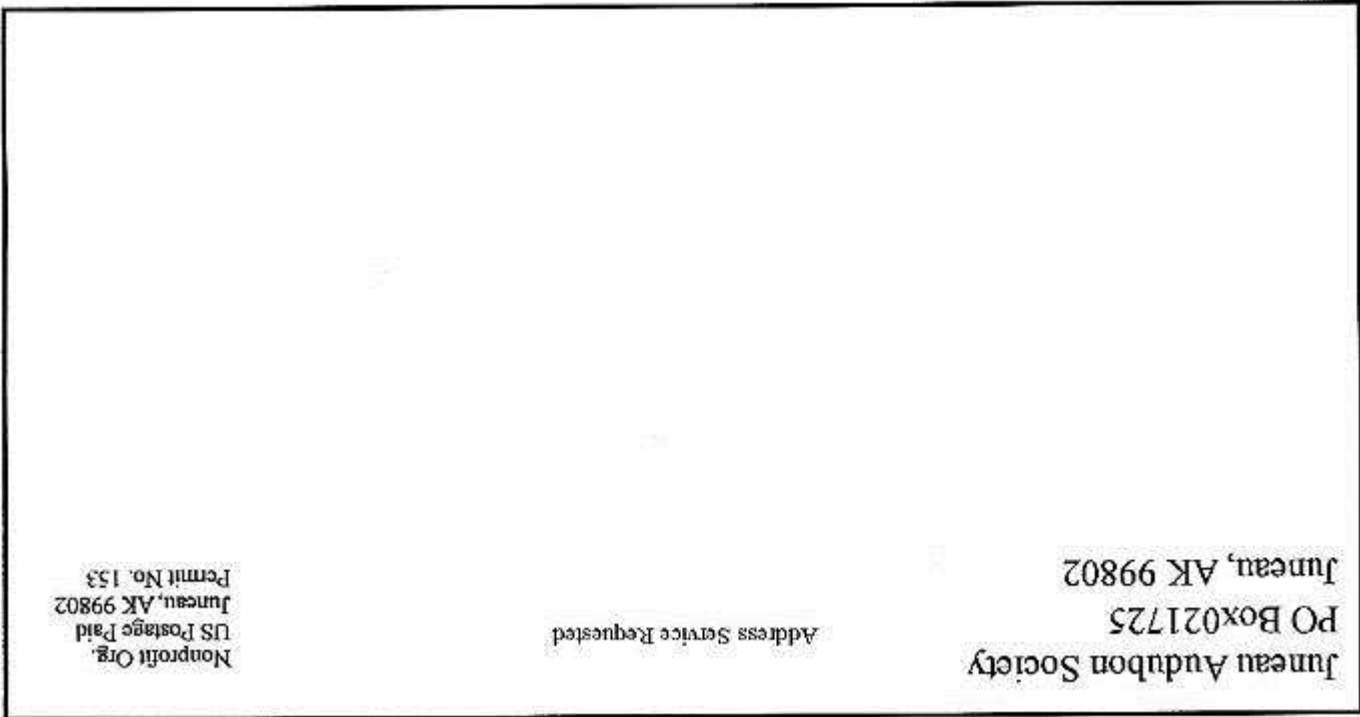
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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)





# 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 40, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2014

**Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm in the JDHS Commons**

The Audubon Society Presents in collaboration with UAS One Campus One Book:



***Dog Days, Raven Nights: Behind the Scenes.* John and Colleen Marzluff** will discuss the fieldwork and methods used in what would become the first-ever extensive study of the winter ecology of the Common Raven under the tutelage of biologist Bernd Heinrich.

**Remember we are meeting at the downtown high school!**



**BERNERS BAY CRUISES –Tickets on Sale Now at Hearthside Book stores:**

**April 26 at 8:30 am and May 3 at 8:30 am and 1:30pm** Cruises leave from Statters Harbor below DeHart's. 4-hour cruises, bring a friend and a snack!

## Bird Walks April and May 2014 by Amy C. Courtney

Juneau Audubon Society will provide leaders and binoculars to borrow. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. All the walks are free and open to the public. Remember to dress for the weather and no dogs please.

Date/Time:	Activity/Location:	Tide Info:	Leader/s:
April 12 8am-10am	Fish Creek Delta	Lo 1.8 @ 0615 Hi 15.2 @ 1217	Amy Courtney Laurie Lamm
April 19 8am-10am 1:00 pm Earth Day	Auke Rec / Pt. Louisa Mendenhall Visitor Center	Hi 17.8 @ 0400 Lo -1.5 @ 1034	Amy Courtney Brenda Wright
April 26 8:30am @ Statter Harbor (Auke Bay)	<b>Berners Bay Cruise</b>	Lo -0.2 @ 0544 Hi 16.1 @ 1153	Laurie Craig, Mary Willson, Brenda Wright
May 3 Two cruises: <u>8:30am</u> & <u>1:30pm</u> @ Statter Harbor	<b>Berners Bay Cruises</b>	Hi 16.6 @ 0359 Lo -0.5 @ 1031	<b>A.M.</b> Mary Willson, Meg Cartwright <b>P.M.</b> Brenda Wright, Mark Schwan
May 10	Airport Dike Trail and Mendenhall Wetlands	Lo 2.9 @ 0455 Hi 13.2 @ 1056	<b>TBA</b>
May 17	<b>Bird Banding</b> @ Juneau Community Gardens & <b>Bird Walk</b> @ Eagle Beach SRA	Hi 18.8 @ 0303 Lo -3.3 @ 0937	<b>Banding:</b> Gwen Baluss <b>Bird Walk:</b>
May 24	Treadwell Trails	Lo 1.0 @ 0429 Hi 14.1 @ 1039	<b>TBA</b>
May 31	Moose Lake area	Hi 17.2 @ 0259 Lo -1.6 @ 0930	<b>TBA</b>
June 7	Brotherhood Bridge	Lo 4.1 @ 0305 Hi 11.8 @ 0903	Jeff Sauer

## President's Notes by Brenda Wright

One of the topics in the news in Juneau is placement of towers for cell phone coverage. If you have an opinion or would like to have your opinion known, the city will be holding more public meetings to discuss the issue. Check for times and places on the website: <http://www.juneau.org/cddftp/projects/WirelessPlan/> Some topics already brought to our attention are effects on bird migration, bird strike, and the US Fish & Wildlife tower site, construction, and design guidelines.

Spring is in the air as many of our sightings are return migrants. That also means that it is time for our Berners Bay Cruises and the beginning of the guided bird walks. We hope you can join us for all of the events. One special event is the bird banding at the Community Gardens, this year on May 17. It is exciting for children and adults to get to see some of our spring migrants up close and personal!

One of my favorite sounds of spring is our local red-breasted sapsucker. He showed up two weeks ago at our house. This bird loves to tap out his territorial knock by pounding on the metal collar of the power pole nearest our bedroom window. I love to hear that first tapping to announce his arrival back in the neighborhood. Then about two weeks later, at 4:30 am in the morning, I am wishing his female would show up soon so I can go back to sleep!

Enjoy the season, go outside and greet the spring! (Photo by Bob Armstrong )



## **Juneau Bird Report March 2014 by Amy Courtney**

Spring has sprung! I can officially say that since the **American Robins, Varied Thrushes,** and **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** have led the invasion into our latitude. Other migrants reported this month have been **Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Trumpeter Swans, Herring Gulls,** and a **Short-eared Owl**. Year-round residents that are suddenly making their presences known include **Sooty Grouse**, hooting up at high elevations, up to two **Western Screech-owls** in the Gold Creek valley, and a **Northern-pygmy Owl**. I also heard a rumor of a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in North Douglas. A flock of ten noisy **Rusty Blackbirds** has recently been reported near the Duck Creek Restoration Area, though nearby residents say they have been there most of the winter!

The four to six **Anna's Hummingbirds** around town seem to have officially weathered the entire winter. Hopefully a pair will stick around and nest here!

## **Ketchikan March Bird Report By Andy Piston**

Excitement levels of local birders started to increase during March as a few early migrants started to arrive and resident birds increased their singing. Increased daylight helped cure lingering cases of seasonal depression, which also added to the overall increase in excitement levels. Small flocks of American Robins were fairly widespread by the middle of the month, but numbers were still relatively low overall through the third week of the month. Red-breasted Sapsuckers became conspicuous beginning in early March and many woodpeckers began drumming and calling actively. A Northern Flicker decided drilling a hole in the side of my house was a good springtime activity and likely helped me identify areas of soft wood in need of repair. Herring Gulls and a few California Gulls began arriving in mid-March, followed by the first Bonaparte's Gulls on 23 March. Bonaparte's Gull numbers quickly increased and they were common by the end of the month. A few Trumpeter Swans were also observed around Ketchikan during the month. Fox Sparrow numbers remained very low through the month and it was hard to tell if any migrants had arrived due to the presence of small numbers of wintering birds—often this species is common by late March. We also failed to find many other species that often start trickling in during late March (Rufous Hummingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Greater Yellowlegs, etc.) and it seems as if things are running late so far this spring.

Highlights from March included wintering Anna's Hummingbirds that continued at several locations around Ketchikan through late March. A White-throated Sparrow was observed sporadically in the Mountain Point area through the month. Two American Coots that have been regular at Knudsen Cove Marina since at least mid-January seem to be enjoying the company of the local feral Mallard colony. A 22 March hike around the Ketchikan airport perimeter produced two Northern Shrikes and a Short-eared Owl. Short-eared Owls are somewhat rare in the Ketchikan area due to the lack of open habitat preferred by this species, but the airport seems to attract one or two during migration every year. As we move into April bird numbers and diversity will quickly increase and birder excitement levels will start peaking late in the month.



Figure 1. American Coots and a Mallard at Knudson Cove Marina, 22 March 2014 (photo by Andy Piston).



Figure 2. Northern Shrike at the Ketchikan airport 22 March 2014 (photo by Andy Piston).

Figure 3. American Robins at the Ketchikan airport, 22 March 2014 (photo by Andy Piston).

### **Even though spring is in the air** by Amy Sherwin

Even though spring is in the air, winter's grip still covers the mossy floor and ice grabs the rocks along the shoreline. Even in April, it's not too late to witness one more remembrance of winter. I think back to the blizzards with strong winds that rip the oldest of trees from their roots and turn the surface of salt water into captor's hands. Those are my favorite days because between the black, white, and gray, if you look for it, there's a bit of color and sound, signs that life still exists as if by magic in an environment of chaos. I owe this magic to the harlequin duck. After all, its scientific name, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, sounds like what a magician would say. It gets its name from Harlequin - a colorfully dressed character in Commedia dell'arte and its

species name, *histrionus*, is Latin for “actor.” Like an actor in full costume, the harlequin duck looks hand painted in slate blue, having varying white spots and stripes with chestnut coloring. It’s also called the Sea mouse because of its mouse-like squeaks. Like a lit painting in a dark room, the harlequin duck is a perfect and welcomed sighting in winter. During those blizzard days when life retreats to cover, I can always count on seeing the harlequin duck, listening to its music, and remembering that even in the darkest days there’s always going to be the magic of *Histrionus histrionus*.

### Using Your Binoculars to Help Birds

This spring, your adventures in birding can be fun with a purpose! Whether you’re an experienced birder or just starting, citizen science is a great way to help answer important questions about the birds that flood back to Alaska each spring.



Rusty Blackbird female

photo by Lloyd Spitalnik

### ***Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz***

**Where:** Statewide, enter sightings on [eBird](https://ebird.org) or written data sheets

**When:** April 12-May 31

This is a new project for Audubon Alaska, in partnership with the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Rusty Blackbirds, although

numerous, are declining alarmingly, putting them on the Red List of the Alaska WatchList. The causes of decline aren't well understood, so researchers are scrambling to find out more. Here's where you can help, from anywhere! All you have to do is enter your bird sightings in **eBird** (<http://ebird.org/content/ak/>) or a written data sheet—especially when you find a Rusty Blackbird. If you went out looking for them but didn't see any, that's useful too. When you login to eBird, on the second data entry page, select “**Other—Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz**” under “Observation Type”.

Rusty Blackbirds in the Lower 48 are already on the move! For more information about participating, Rusty Blackbird identification, or eBird questions please visit Audubon Alaska's website <http://ak.audubon.org/rusty-blackbird-spring-migration-blitz>

## Great Backyard Bird Count Update

– It was another exciting, record-breaking year for the Great Backyard Bird Count. **The final 2014 GBBC results are in!** (<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b35ddb671faf4a16c0ce32406&id=d8812ac265&e=30a969a8b8>) Participants in 135 countries around the globe submitted more than 144,000 checklists. Canada made a stellar contribution with 13,458 checklists. □ The Northern Cardinal appeared on more checklists than any other bird, while the Red-winged Blackbird was the most numerous species, with more than 1.6 million individuals counted. Visit the GBBC website for more count highlights, including **Top 10 Lists** (<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/news/top-10-lists/>).

**eBird newsletter:** New Publication from ebird: <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

If you eBird (count birds for fun), you can enjoy a new eBird newsletter, along with their thanks for contributing your bird observations to eBird. eBird wants to keep you posted about new and improved features for recording and exploring data; highlights from the eBird community; bird trends; and news of how scientists and conservationists are using your data. Check it out!

## Get Ready for Hummingbirds!

National Audubon is gearing up for the second season of its Hummingbirds at Home citizen science program. Updates this year include new types of surveys, improved identification functions, and mapping of hummingbird sightings in near real time.

Participants can get involved by spending a few minutes as frequently as they wish to collect invaluable data from feeding areas in their communities. Audubon's Hummingbird at Home app makes it fun and easy. There is no cost to participate and using the free mobile app or website makes it simple to report sightings and learn more about these remarkable birds. For more information visit, <http://birds.audubon.org/hummingbirds-home>



Rufous  
Wintering  
further  
north.



Anna's  
Breeding range  
spreading  
northward  
and wintering  
further north.

### **April 4-May 31 Alaska Hummingbird Festival and juried art show**

**Ketchikan**, Alaska—A month-long series of events and activities in Ketchikan celebrates the return of the Rufous hummingbirds to the Tongass National Forest. The Alaska Hummingbird Festival and juried art show is an educational and creative arts program to promote awareness of the spring migratory birds of Southeast Alaska. The Southeast Alaska Discovery Center is located at 50 Main Street in Ketchikan. Artwork will be on display through May 31, 2014. Besides the art show, the festival celebration continues through May. Scheduled activities include guided bird hikes, Friday night insights, and films. The festival schedule will be posted at <http://www.alaskacenters.gov/ketchikan.cfm>. All programs and activities are free to the public. Fee collection begins on Sunday, May 11.

In conjunction with the Festival, celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act by viewing a wilderness film. *The Meaning of Wild* is showing on Friday, April 25, 2014 and again on May 2, 2014. The short film, developed by the Sitka Conservation Society, illustrates the beauty and diversity of Tongass National Forest Wilderness Areas. Parts of this film were shot in the Misty Fiords National Monument. A traveling art exhibit, *Voices of the Wilderness*, showcasing Alaskan wilderness is on display in Ketchikan at Tongass Historical Museum April 25 through May 17, 2014. For more information, contact Leslie Swada at 907-228-6220 or [lswada@fs.fed.us](mailto:lswada@fs.fed.us).

### **April 6 - 30**

**SITKA - VOICES OF THE WILDERNESS ART EXHIBIT** will be held at the Sitka National Historical Park from 9am to 3pm. In 2014, celebrations will occur across the country to mark the **50th ANNIVERSARY of the WILDERNESS ACT** and inspire Americans about their wilderness heritage. In Alaska, the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are collaborating with an array of conservation and education organizations on a series of events across the state. A centerpiece of the celebrations is *Voices of the Wilderness*, a traveling art exhibit featuring works of various mediums from artists who have participated in Alaskan wilderness area residencies. In addition, each month-long exhibit will provide a focal point for other community celebrations of wilderness, including a traveling wilderness film series, public forums, and evening presentations by artists, rangers, adventurers, and others. For more information, contact (907) 783-3242, email [blydon@fs.fed.us](mailto:blydon@fs.fed.us) or go to [www.nps.gov/sitk/](http://www.nps.gov/sitk/).



## **April 24-27, 2014 Stikine River Birding Festival ... It's A Shore Thing!**

The residents of Wrangell, Alaska, have begun preparations for their annual **Stikine River Birding Festival**, a celebration of the April arrival of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds to the tiny southeast Alaska community. It's a small celebration with a packed schedule that always includes a featured artist and a guest speaker. Guest speaker Noah Strycker, associate editor of *Birding* magazine, has published articles in numerous magazines, and has written two books. More information about Mr. Strycker is available at: [noahstrycker.com](http://noahstrycker.com) For more information about the Stikine River Birding Festival, a downloadable pdf of the complete schedule, as well as information about the photography contest, visit: [stikinebirding.org](http://stikinebirding.org) Alaska Airlines, which provides daily jet service to Wrangell, is again offering a discount code for this year's festival, ECMV123, for travel to Wrangell between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Visit [alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com) and input the code when searching for flights. Wrangell is also served by the Alaska Marine Highway.

## **May 8-11, 2014 Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival 22nd Annual**

<http://www.homer.alaska.org/visit-homer/events-homer/kachemak-bay-shorebird-festival>

A full schedule is now **available**:

<http://www.homer.alaska.org/sites/default/files/EventSchedule2014.pdf> Registration now **open**. <http://shorebirdfestival.inticketing.com/index.php> To attend the 2014 event, participants pay the initial \$19.50 Festival Fee that will give them access to their registration profile and can sign up for events, then return to register for more or cancel an event. The option to add family members at \$5 each is also available during event signup. A one-time ticketing surcharge of \$4.50 is included in the Festival Fee.

## **June 5-8 2014 Yakutat Tern Festival**

The Fourth Annual Yakutat Tern Festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southern most known nesting colonies of Aleutian Terns, as well as Arctic Terns and up to 200 other bird species that nest in or migrate through the area. The festival is family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, kid's activities, evening banquets and other programs, bird banding demonstration, and an art exhibit. This year's keynote speaker is Heather Renner, Wildlife Biologist with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Our featured artist is filmmaker, writer, photographer, and co-founder of the Lexicon of Sustainability Project ([www.lexiconofsustainability.com](http://www.lexiconofsustainability.com)) Douglas Gayeton. Alaska-based linocut artist Evon Zerbetz will also be conducting youth and adult workshops and displaying her art. Other area activities include sightseeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, and beach combing. Please see [www.yakutatternfestival.org](http://www.yakutatternfestival.org), visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

## **Audubon Photo Awards Top 100**

Nearly 900 photographers contributed almost 6,000 images to the 2013 Audubon photo awards. We've selected the top 100, a group of images that represent only the tip of a very impressive iceberg. Thank you to everyone who entered. Happy viewing!

<http://www.audubonmagazine.org/multimedia/2013-photo-awards-top-100>

## **News and Deadlines**

### **Alaska Bird Conference, December 9-11, Juneau, Alaska**

Want to volunteer on a committee? Submit an abstract for a poster or paper?

Join us in Juneau this year for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Alaska Bird Conference

[http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska\\_Bird\\_Conference/Home.html](http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Home.html)

Or like us on Facebook.

### **Wild Duck Chase**

A new film, *A Birder's Guide to Everything*, puts teen birders in the spotlight. The plot centers on four kids trying to confirm a possible sighting of a Labrador Duck, considered extinct since 1875. Avian expert Kenn Kaufman writes about vetting the screenplay for its bird content and visiting the set. Plus, watch a clip from the movie, which hit the theaters, March 21

<http://mag.audubon.org/articles/living/new-film-birders-guide-everything-puts-teens-spotlight>

### **June 27**

Deadline for applications for the **NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM FY 2014**. For more information, go to

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CW/2015NOFA.pdf>

### **June 30**

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS FOR STUDENTS**

**GRANTS** for students in Grades 6-12 in Small Communities from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon or Washington. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Education Environmental Education Program. Open until available funds are obligated, no later than June 30. For more information, contact Kurt A. Eilo, Executive Director, at

[keilo@akforum.org](mailto:keilo@akforum.org), 1-888-301-0185 or go to [www.akforum.org/PDFs/RFP2012.pdf?](http://www.akforum.org/PDFs/RFP2012.pdf?)

**WEB OPPORTUNITIES**

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong’s wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)



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***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinel, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinel's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinel@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinel@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/>>)

**PICK, CLICK, GIVE**

As

After you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, and please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The fund allows changes for donations through April. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| President: Brenda Wright 789-4656     | <a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>         |
| Vice-President: Josh Peters           | <a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org</a> |
| Secretary: Bev Agler                  | <a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>         |
| Treasurer: Patty Rose                 | <a href="mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org">treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>         |
| Programs: Doug Jones                  | <a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>           |
| Membership: Jane Ginter               | <a href="mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org">membership@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>       |
| Education: Patricia Wherry            | <a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>         |
| Conservation: Gwen Baluss             | <a href="mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org">conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>   |
| Field Trips: Amy Clark Courtney       | <a href="mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org">field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>     |
| Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540 | <a href="mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org">raven@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>                 |
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| At-large:                             | <a href="mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>       |
| Public Market:                        | <a href="mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org">public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org</a> |
| Web Master: George Utermohle          | <a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>         |

**Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?**

**You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service**  
[audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201

**Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.**

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:**  
**National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714**

**You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35**  
**Basic renewal\_\_**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\_\_My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51**

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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

**If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.**

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**

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Juneau Audubon Society  
PO Box 21725  
Juneau, AK 99802

# 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 40, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2014

## OUR NEXT REGULAR JUNEAU AUDUBON MEETING WILL BE THE SECOND THURSDAY IN SEPTEMBER

### OUR SCHEDULED SUMMER BIRD WALKS:

Date/Time:	Activity/Location:	Tide Info:	Leader/s:
May 10 8am- 10am	Airport Dike Trail and Mendenhall Wetlands Meet at the parking lot at the end of Radcliffe Rd.	Lo 2.9 @ 0455 Hi 13.2 @ 1056	Mark Schwan
May 17 8am- 11am	<b>Bird Banding</b> Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with JAS and the US Forest Service at <u>Juneau Community Garden, Montana Creek Road</u> . All ages and walking ability, especially kids, are welcome.	Visitors will have the opportunity to see songbirds up close and see how biologists band, measure and safely release them. Stop by anytime between 8 and 11.	Gwen Baluss
May 24 8am- 10am	Sandy Beach/Treadwell Trails Meet at the parking lot for Savikko Park in Douglas	Lo 1.0 @ 0429 Hi 14.1 @ 1039	Patty Rose
May 31 8am- 10am	Moose Lake area Meet at the parking lot next to the Mendenhall River bridge on Back Loop. Boots recommended if it is or has been raining.	Hi 17.2 @ 0259 Lo -1.6 @ 0930	Mark Schwan
June 7 8am- 10am	Brotherhood Bridge Meet at the parking lot across the highway from Dan Abel's.	Lo 4.1 @ 0305 Hi 11.8 @ 0903	Jeff Sauer

## SATURDAY WILD WALKS

<b>June 15</b> <b>11am</b> <b>Sunday</b>	<b>9am-</b>	<b>Minus Tide Walk @</b> <b>South Bridget Cove</b>	South Bridget Cove is unmarked, but at mile 38.5 on Glacier Hwy. Pat will identify the unique sea creatures and flora that will be exposed by the very low tide.	Pat Harris
<b>July 12</b> <b>8:30am- 11am</b>		<b>Mt. Roberts Nature Walk</b>	Meet at the tram office on South Franklin Street. Linda will explore flowers and other plants and Audubon naturalists and birders will identify birds and other wildlife. If you arrive at 8:30am, the tram tickets can be purchased from JAS for a non-profit rate of \$7 (please bring cash). The walk will likely end around 11am, but you can go back down as early or late as you want.	Linda Nicklin
<b>August 16</b> <b>12pm</b>	<b>10am-</b>	<b>Jensen-Olsen Arboretum</b>	The Arboretum is located "out the road", just past Mile 23 on Glacier Hwy. Enjoy a tour learning about the history of the Arboretum, what makes it special, and the many plants that are nurtured there.	Merrill Jensen
<b>September 6</b> <b>10am-12pm</b>		<b>Berries</b>	Eaglecrest Lodge parking lot.	

### President's notes by Brenda Wright

Hello and Happy Spring!

Thanks to everyone who helped support the Juneau Audubon Society by joining us on the Berners Bay cruises. I hope you all had as good a time as I did. We use the funds from the cruise to support our year round activities. We are in the midst of our spring bird walks and hope you can join us to learn more about birds-both migrants and year round residents. This summer our Saturday Wild Walks will start with a low tide on June 18 and be followed by a day on Mt Roberts, the arboretum, berries,



Berners Cruise by Doug Jones

mushroom, and who knows what else? This is our last newsletter until September, so keep an eye on the web page, facebook, and community calendar for events.

I hope you will join us again next fall for our “Flights to Adventure” free public lectures every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday October through April. Get out and enjoy and hope to see you on our walks.

### ***The Meaning of Wild***

A new short movie celebrating 50 years of the American Wilderness is available on loan from Juneau Audubon Society-321-4739.

### **June 5-8 2014 Yakutat Tern Festival**

The Fourth Annual Yakutat Tern Festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southern most known nesting colonies of Aleutian Terns, as well as Arctic Terns and up to 200 other bird species that nest in or migrate through the area. The festival is family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, kid’s activities, evening banquets and other programs, bird banding demonstration, and an art exhibit. This year's keynote speaker is Heather Renner, Wildlife Biologist with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Our featured artist is filmmaker, writer, photographer, and co-founder of the Lexicon of Sustainability Project ([www.lexiconofsustainability.com](http://www.lexiconofsustainability.com)) Douglas Gayeton. Alaska-based linocut artist Evon Zerbetz will also be conducting youth and adult workshops and displaying her art. Other area activities include sightseeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, and beach combing. Please see [www.yakutatternfestival.org](http://www.yakutatternfestival.org), visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

### **May 13 -16**

**ANCHORAGE - FISHERIES BYCATCH: GLOBAL ISSUES and CREATIVE SOLUTIONS** is the theme for the **29TH WAKEFIELD FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM** will be held at the Hilton Hotel. The symposium will bring together fishery and social scientists, managers, fishermen, and other stakeholders from around the world to report on creative approaches to solving fishery by-catch issues. Keynotes, invited talks, and oral and poster contributions will be presented on new technologies,

advancements toward full accounting of fishing mortality into harvest control rules, approaches to industry-derived solutions, incentive programs, new regulatory solutions, and studies on social and economic implications related to by-catch issues. For more detailed information, including symposium background and goals, sessions, location, steering committee, sponsors, and more, please visit the symposium information page at <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/2014/wakefield-bycatch/info.php>.

### May 15 - 18

**SOLDOTNA - KENAI PENINSULA BIRDING FESTIVAL** will have a variety of feathered fun for all ages and abilities, including Kenai River Guided Floats, hot spot tours, children's program, birding walks, birding workshops, social events and more. For updates, go to the festival's public Facebook account or [www.kenaibirdfest.com](http://www.kenaibirdfest.com).

### Get Fascinated by Feathers With New All About Bird Biology Site

Feathers are amazing: they're light, aerodynamic, beautifully patterned, colorful, waterproof, and warm. To help curious minds of all ages learn about these impressive structures, Cornell Lab just launched an in-depth, immersive website. It's the first stage of our new All About Bird Biology project, with more to come. Try out [All About Feathers](#), ([http://biology.allaboutbirds.org/?utm\\_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm\\_campaign=7dd922b88f-Cornell+Lab+eNews+2014+4+08&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_47588b5758-7dd922b88f-277564893](http://biology.allaboutbirds.org/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=7dd922b88f-Cornell+Lab+eNews+2014+4+08&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-7dd922b88f-277564893) )

## JUNEAU BIRD WATCH By Amy Clark Courtney

Our spring migration is in full swing here in Juneau, and many of our summer residents have arrived to establish their territories. Though our **Canada Goose** counts waned as the month progressed, others have appeared to represent the family. Up to eighteen **Greater White-fronted Geese** have been seen in the past two weeks at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Auke Bay, and Eagle Beach (m. obs.). Scattered small numbers of **Snow Geese** (plus a group of 20) have been reported for about three weeks at roughly the same locations (m. obs.). Two **Brant** were spotted at Eagle Beach on 4/12 and 4/13 by Amy Courtney and Gus van Vliet, respectively. On 4/15, Owen Squires found two **Cackling Geese** at Eagle Beach, and Marsha Squires found three on the Boy Scout camp side. A very small number of **Trumpeter Swans** were seen this month: two at Miller-Honsinger Pond on 4/7 (AC), and one flying over Gastineau Channel on 4/22 (PR). At least 24 **Arctic Terns** have returned to breed, and the first ones this spring were reported on 4/26.



Huge numbers of scoters have arrived to clog our waterways; the majority being **Surf Scoters**, but also a substantial number of **White-winged Scoters**. Two reports of **Black Scoters** were of three at Sandy Beach on 4/14 (PR), and two at Sheep Creek Delta on 4/20 (GV). Small numbers of **Pacific Loons** have been spotted throughout the



month, and on 4/29 a **Red-throated Loon** was heard flying over the Airport Dike Trail (GV), and a **Common Loon** was seen in Auke Bay (SR). On 4/19, a male **Canvasback** was found on the west side of the Mendenhall Wetlands, and on 4/25, one male **Eurasian Wigeon**, our first since June of last year, was spotted in the same area (both GV). Patty Rose found the first **Ring-necked Duck** of the season at the Pioneer's Home marsh on 4/6.

Our paucity of birds of prey this past season has been sufficiently relieved by a number of species this month. Our **Bald Eagle** count has risen, of course, as they gather for various spawning fish, but there have also been three or four **Northern Harriers** haunting the Mendenhall Wetlands and at least two at Eagle Beach. At least two different **Red-tailed Hawks** have been spotted at various places on the Mendenhall Wetlands, on 4/22 (BA), a dark-morph Harlan's on 4/18 (GV), and a light-morph Western (*calurus*) on 4/23 (AK). An adult *alascensis* subspecies was also spotted in the Eagle Beach area on 4/13 (GV). To cap off our winter **Rough-legged Hawk** sightings, one individual was seen on the Wetlands on 4/17 (GV). **American Kestrels** and **Merlin** have been spotted around the Mendenhall Wetlands and at Eagle Beach this month (m. obs.). At least two **Short-eared Owls** have been hanging out on the Mendenhall Wetlands for the last half of April (m. obs.). This seems to have been an active spring for **Barred Owls**, since David Schmerge heard one at Lake Creek Trail in the Valley on 4/6; on 4/15, Gwen Baluss heard one from Wren Drive in the Valley, and again on 4/19 she heard a **Western Screech-owl** and a Barred Owl nearby on the Montana Creek Trail. Gus van Vliet heard a **Northern Pygmy-owl** at the 35-Mile muskeg on 4/22.

Many shorebirds have made a showing this month, with reports of **Black Oystercatchers, Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, one Lesser Yellowlegs, Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, Dunlin, Rock Sandpipers, Least and Western Sandpipers, Short-Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe, and even a Baird's Sandpiper** on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 4/26 (GV).

Our several **Anna's Hummingbirds** have since this winter, and seem to be establishing breeding territories! Our first **Rufous Hummingbird** was on 4/10 (GV), though the majority of them seem to have longer to arrive. Other "first of year" species reported



Bob Armstrong

billed

continued

reported  
taken  
this

month are **Horned Larks; Lapland Longspurs; American Pipits; Tree and Violet-green Swallows; Hermit and Varied Thrushes; loads of American Robins, of course; Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned and Townsend's Warblers; and Song, Fox, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Savannah and Lincoln's Sparrows.** A white-morph **White-throated Sparrow** is still at a feeder in Auke Bay after overwintering (GV). Scattered **Red-winged Blackbirds** have been sighted around town, and the group of **Rusty Blackbirds** that overwintered in the Duck Creek area seems to be sticking around! A lone report for this month of three **European Starlings** at Sandy Beach on 4/14 (PR) is surprising given their strong showing in recent months.

Our scarcity of finches this winter continues, though small groups of **Red Crossbills** and **Pine Siskins** haven't been hard to find this past month. A single bird, seen flying overhead at the 35-Mile muskeg, represents the only report for **Common Redpolls** in Juneau this year!

Thanks to those who submitted their observations to Eaglechat: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Amy Courtney (AC), Alexia Kiefer (AK), Scott Ranger (SR), Patty Rose (PR), David Schmerge (DS), Marsha Squires (MS), Owen Squires (OS), Gus van Vliet (GV).



Fish Creek bird walk by Brenda Wright

## **Nest Box Construction**

We want to help replace the swallow nest boxes around town. Juneau Audubon will provide the wood & supplies. You provide the scouts or any other youth group. Please contact Brenda 321-4739

## **WHAT IS NESTWATCH?**

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Our database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a

result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it, although children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests. Simply follow the directions on our website to **become a certified NestWatcher** (<http://nestwatch.org/about/overview/>), find a bird nest using **our helpful tips**, visit the nest every 3-4 days and record what you see, and then **report this information** on our website. Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world.

### **Watching “Our” Migrant Songbirds in Winter** Gwen Baluss

Sitting in the central plaza of a town in southern Costa Rica I spot a Tropical mockingbird, a Common tody-flycatcher, and peeking out from behind a palm tree, a Yellow warbler. Probably most of the taxi drivers lining up nearby have no idea that there they are sharing the town square with at least two migrants from the far north – the warbler and me. In a nearby reserve I saw Swainson’s thrush in a steamy ant-trailed jungle, skulking under manakin leks. Everywhere in the highlands, I find Wilson’s warblers. Despite their small size and delicate demeanor Wilson’s seem to be impervious to rain and cold, and don’t take a break from the weather even in winter.

For years, I’ve gone birding from Mexico to Ecuador and various points in between. While there is always a target tropical species to see, I keep an eye out for the familiar birds. New technologies are shedding light on the mysteries of migration routes and linking subspecies from certain breeding areas to their particular winter destination.

But there is still much to be learned by old fashioned observation. I’ve had the privilege to visit banding stations in Nicaragua, Mexico and Costa Rica. Most operate about once a month throughout the winter in a consistent location. All had multiple examples of migrant birds that were so faithful to their winter range that they were netted in the same place many years in a row--and sometimes multiple times in a season. Overall territory may be quite small. Phenomena such as partitioning by age and sex can also be observed by banding. For example, Ruby-crowned kinglets, captured near alders in Mexican highlands, showed that about most of the birds captured were male. In another location the flock would be almost all female.

Simply by birding I've gained a little insight into the habits and habitat of some of our migrants. I repeatedly visited the same wooded property, for example, in Mexico over a period of two months one winter and noticed what likely was the same Wilson's warbler habitually flying around the same group of bushes. Some species seem to be set in their ways in terms of foraging behavior as well. Townsend's warblers, who are usually found in conifer forest in the north, gravitate towards pines and cypresses in the south. And since this type of habitat can be quite patchy, they are generally fairly dispersed. Other species have a different plan. Tennessee warblers, a bird I associate in the north with gleaning insects from willows around sedge marshes, may form enormous flocks of thousands with other warbler species and move widely between stands of blooming trees, especially legumes, a lifestyle not even imaginable in the north.



1 Left, Swainson's thrush, Alexander Skutch Reserve, Costa Rica.  
2 Right, Yellow warbler hides in ornamental palm, San Isidro General, Costa Rica.

## SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST

### ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS:

*Winter: December 2013–February 2014*

#### Sub-regional Compilers:

Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This report can be seen on: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>. It summarizes bird sightings from Southeast Alaska for the winter season, December 2013–February 2014, and is intended to provide interesting observations for inclusion in an Alaska-wide column written by Thede Tobish for the journal *North American Birds* (published by the American Birding Association <http://www.aba.org/nab>). Generally we report on sightings of birds that are out of range or out of season or occur regularly in small numbers, noteworthy breeding records, unusually large or small numbers of a particular species, unusual migration dates, etc., and so on, and so forth. The JAS web site has included the SE bird reports since 2008.

**WEB OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*\* Bob Armstrong’s wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*



***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

**Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928**

**This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )**

**PICK, CLICK, GIVE**

As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

**Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
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**Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?**

You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201  
Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

### National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714  
You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

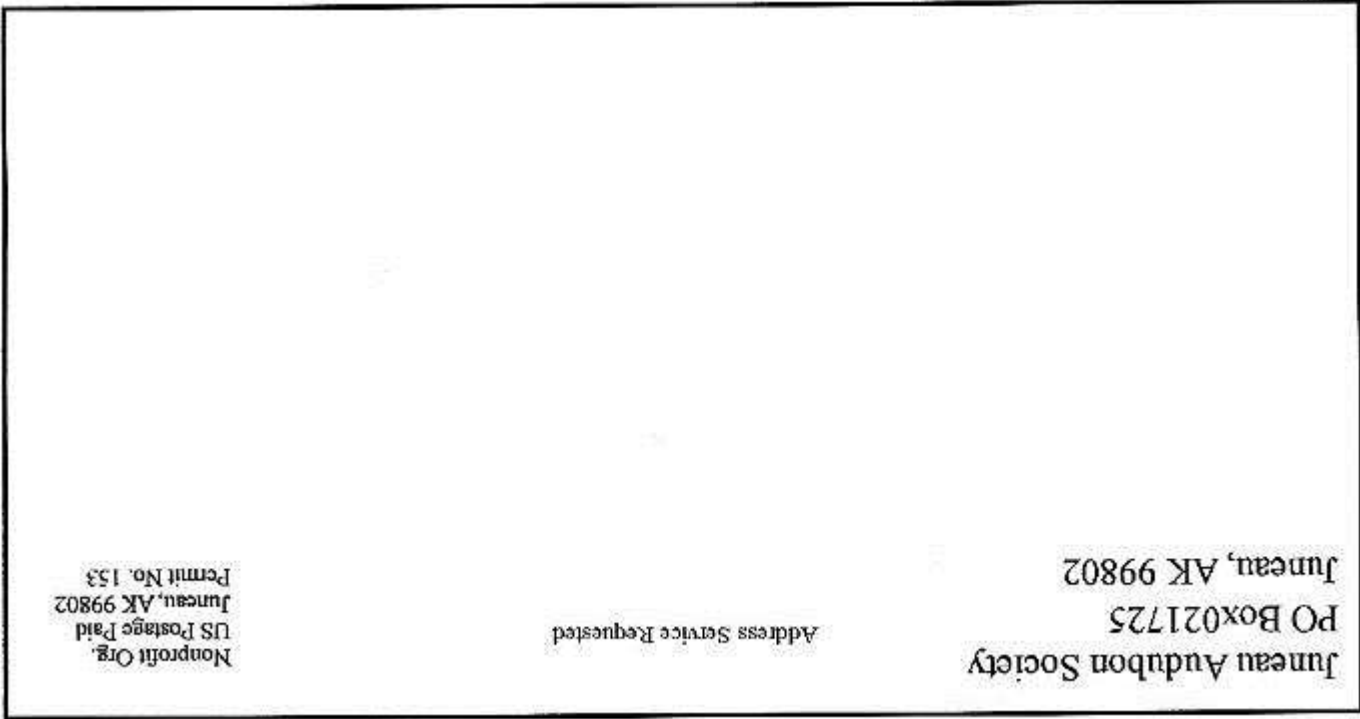
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### Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 41, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2014

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9**

**Election!** Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers in conjunction with the public meeting in October. Our four 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. At this writing, the candidates for 2014-2015 are Gwen Baluss for president, Josh Peters for vice-president, no one for treasurer, and Alexia Kiefer for secretary. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as a candidate for any of the officer positions. We really do need to have someone willing to serve as treasurer, as it is an important position. Anyone wanting to know more about this position please call Brenda Wright at 789-4656. Also, if anyone is interested in joining our board in one of our non-officer positions, we need help, as we currently have a vacant committee chair for conservation. The conservation chair position is especially crucial and needs someone to help the chapter focus and respond to important environmental issues as they arise.

**ALEXIA KIEFER:** Hello my name is Alexia Kiefer , I moved to Juneau, AK, with my husband 7 years ago, from West Palm Beach, FL. I have a 4 year old son and 2 dogs . I have always had a love for nature and recently I've become very passionate about Birds. This started last fall/winter 2013, when a pair of Ravens were hiding food under the moss in my yard before the first snows started. Well, my dogs kept finding their stash and eating it, and that is when I start leaving food out for the Ravens and in return they blessed me with their continual presence and entertainment of playing in the fresh snow fall over the long winter. Farther into season a flock of (wintering) Rusty Black Birds visited my yard looking very hungry, so I threw some bird seed out onto the snow and to my surprise they gladly received the gift of food and stayed in a spruce tree, in my yard, all winter and just sang a song of Thanks for me (I like to think). These birds helped me through my winter blues and unknowingly guided me onto the path of Birding. I later attended a Beginners Birding class by Patricia Wherry and have been connected with some very fascinating and wonderful people through Juneau Audubon walks. I feel I finally "met my people "here in AK though Juneau Audubon ,and I am very grateful to them. I look forward to working alongside Juneau Audubon Board members and meeting new people.

Thank you, Alexia Kiefer

### **New Board members Needed!**

The level of commitment to serve your organization need not be arduous. Board meetings are monthly, except in the summers, and usually take a few hours. The atmosphere is easy-going. Other duties depend on the position, and the time you have to put in. If you would like to know more, including a more in-depth description of what is expected from the various positions, please contact any of the board members. And please do it soon! Elections are Oct. 9.

### **President's Note** by Brenda Wright

Summer is drawing to a close and the days will soon be noticeably shorter. Must be time to get the freezer completely full of natural resources like fish and berries. This summer has been pretty wet, but at least we set some new records for rainfall. We are looking forward to our fall program presentations that start in October with Meg Cartwright's trip to Antarctica and November with Keith Pahlke in Paraguay,

In December we not only are hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> Alaska Bird Conference, but we also get the chance to see and hear Gerrit Vyn, accomplished photographer and filmmaker. He has contributed articles to Living Bird and Audubon magazine. Gerrit Vyn will be the banquet speaker at the conference here in Juneau on December 11. We're hoping many of you will be able to attend many of the conference events from December 9-11 at Centennial hall (early registration fees until October 31). ([http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska\\_Bird\\_Conference/Home.html](http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Home.html)).

As usual Juneau Audubon will be having a booth at the public market in November. Soon it will be time to start making the 25+ dozen jars of jams and jellies for the booth. MaryLou King is always happy to have volunteers to help make the jams and jellies and we always accept empty 1 cup glass jars to reuse. This year we may actually need a few more berries, so please contact Mary Lou if you can share some time or berries.

With salmon season in full swing, it is easy to find and pick up all those loose eagle feathers. If you already have a permit to collect eagle feathers, please do. You can contact me (Brenda 789-4656) for pickup or bring them to any public program. I will be happy to get you a valid permit, if you are willing to help collect the feathers for the National Eagle Repository. They still have a several year backlog of eagle feathers for Native Americans and educational purposes.

Enjoy these last few weeks of berry, mushroom, and fish harvest. See you all in October.

### **Web Notes and Announcements**

**Angoon Airport Update:** FAA is pleased to announce that we have posted the August Project Update to our Angoon Airport project website. We invite you to visit the site at [www.angoonairporteis.com](http://www.angoonairporteis.com). Please visit our web page at [www.angoonairporteis.com](http://www.angoonairporteis.com) and our [Angoon Airport EIS Facebook Page](#) for project information and updates. Remember to "like" the page!



**American Bird Conservancy Opinion: A Federal Agency Emerges as a Leader in Banning Deadly Pesticide:** Many people have heard the disturbing news: the world's most commonly used insecticides are deadly to bees, birds, and other wildlife. American Bird Conservancy helped launch the current state of awareness regarding neonicotinoids (or neonics) with its 2013 landmark assessment (<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/130319.html>) of the impacts of neonics on birds. Several more studies have been published since, all documenting the serious mortality impacts of these chemicals on birds and pollinators, especially bees.

**Bird Studies Canada Announces new book:** Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International have produced the first-ever *Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World*. This is a complete checklist whose taxonomy incorporates the most up-to-date information. It contains illustrations and distribution maps for every bird species in the world. The book includes the original artwork from the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (HBW) series, as well as hundreds of new illustrations, all in two compact volumes. Volume 1 (Non-passerines) has just been released; Volume 2 (Passerines) will be published in 2016.

A modern, broad version of the Biological Species Concept has been applied, with the aid of the scoring system to evaluate differences in morphology, vocalizations, ecology, and geographical relationships published in *Ibis* by Tobias *et al.* (2010). For the non-passerines, this has resulted in relatively few lumps (21), but a much higher number of splits (462), compared with the taxonomy presented in the HBW series.

The full price for Volume 1 is 185 Euros, but purchase before the end of September to take advantage of a special offer (145 Euros, including free worldwide shipping)! Order your copy **online** or email [lynx@hbw.com](mailto:lynx@hbw.com).

For your chance to win a copy of the *HBW-BirdLife Checklist* Volume 1, please visit **[Bird Studies Canada's Facebook page!](#)**

**Southeast Alaska Spring Bird Report:** See the Juneau Audubon Society web page (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/>) for a link to the Southeast Alaska spring bird report. The spring period covered the three months March to May. The summer season report will cover the period June-July. We hope to have a summer season report completed by late September. Thank you very much to all of you who continue to share information and photographs with us!

Steve Heinl and Andy Piston

## **Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology new Online Course**

### **Investigating Behavior: Courtship & Rivalry in Birds**

*Why does a Red-winged Blackbird flare its colorful wing patches? What does it mean when ducks bob their heads? Is the way a bird arranges its feathers significant?*

Answering these questions gets to the heart of bird behavior. During this five-week course, you'll learn how to observe and interpret some of the ways birds are communicating with their behavior.

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/courses/courtship/>

The cost of the course is \$295 (\$255 for Cornell Lab members). To receive the Cornell Lab member discount, sign up by phone at (866) 326-7635.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology ... Free APP, Instant Bird ID Answer 5 simple questions and get your choices for any of 400 North American birds! You set the location and the App gives you the choices. <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

## Juneau Summer Bird Report

Can it be that our summer is already over? The excitement of fall migration has definitely begun, but we birders in Juneau had our fair share of exciting birds this summer as well.

The “biggest” bird by far was a **Long-billed Curlew** that Martina Kallenberger found and photographed near the Eagle Beach Boy Scout Camp on 5/3. This species was “unsubstantiated” in Alaska until then, meaning that the couple of sightings in the past had never been “proven” with photographic evidence. Over the next five days many birders got the chance to further document this rarity before it moved on. The Long-billed Curlew’s breeding range is mostly the upland plains of the north-central and western “lower 48,” and stretches into southern British Columbia.



On 5/14 Gus van Vliet spotted an immature **Swainson’s Hawk** on the Mendenhall Wetlands between Sunny Point and the airport. Four other birders also saw it over the next three days (PR, BA, BC, LM). This species is a very rare migrant in Southeast Alaska.

A single **Black Swift** was seen over the Mendenhall Wetlands on 7/22, first by Gus van Vliet, and then by Gwen Baluss. This bird can be quite difficult to identify, and is virtually unheard of in Alaska anywhere north of the Stikine River.

Three “very rare” flycatchers were found in Juneau this summer; a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** near Moose Lake on 6/19, (GV, MS, PR); a **Willow Flycatcher** at Eagle Beach SRA on 6/22, (BA, PR); and a tentative sighting of a **Least Flycatcher** on the Airport Dike Trail on 8/30, which would be a first fall record, and only the third ever for Juneau (GV).

On 6/15 Laurie Lamm heard and recorded a **Veery** singing near Moose Lake. Over the next four days, other birders were able to record calls and songs from the bird, but despite much effort, were never able to get a visual identification (GV, BA, MS, AK, DMP). This bird is the first eBird record of a Veery for the state of Alaska!

The trees of Juneau hosted a very unusual species pairing this year, which was of interest not only to local birders, but the ornithological community at large.



On 6/15 a rare **Red-eyed Vireo** was heard singing near the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail (Brotherhood Bridge Trail), (GB) and over the next month or so was seen and hear by many other birders as well. On 7/20, Gwen Baluss managed to spot a nest, which much investigation revealed belonged to the male Red-eyed Vireo and a female **Warbling Vireo**! Over the next week, many birders sought out the odd couple and observed at least two fledglings

leave the nest. We will likely never know, but one can't help but wonder which parent's call notes/songs the young adopted. Warbling Vireos are uncommon yet regular breeders in Juneau, but a Warbling/Red-eyed Vireo breeding pair seems to have only been documented one other time— last year in Nevada.

Thanks to the following people who shared their sightings on eBird: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Barbara Carlson (BC), Deanna Mac Phail (DMP), Martina Kallenberger, Alexia Kiefer (AK), Leo Miller (LM), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Gus van Vliet (GV).

## **Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act: Protect the Arctic Refuge**

**By Beth Peluso, Audubon Alaska**

September 3 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Johnson signing the Wilderness Act in 1964. This landmark law has protected our nation's heritage of wild places across the country, including places in Southeast Alaska such as the Kootznoowoo Wilderness on Admiralty Island and Kuiu Island Wilderness.



The efforts to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge inspired the creation of the Wilderness Act. The coastal plain of the refuge hosts over 150 species of birds, as well as polar bears, musk oxen, wolves, and the 197,000-animal Porcupine caribou herd during the calving season. An Important Bird Area of continental significance, the coastal plain is a crucial staging area for up to 325,000 lesser Snow Geese as they prepare for their fall migration south.

Unfortunately, this unparalleled 1.5-million-acre habitat has never received Wilderness protection, leaving it vulnerable to harmful oil and gas development. National Audubon has worked for more than 30 years to protect the coastal plain area from development.

There is no better time than right now, at the anniversary of an American ideal of treasuring our wilderness heritage for future generations, to push for Wilderness Act protection for the coastal plain. Stay tuned for an action alert in the next few weeks asking the Obama Administration to make a Wilderness recommendation for the Arctic Refuge coastal plain to Congress. Only Congress can designate Wilderness, and this recommendation would be an enormous step towards that goal.



July Saturday Wild hike up Mount Robert's trail to the cross.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

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\*\*\*\*\*



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heintz's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heintz@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heintz@alaska.gov)

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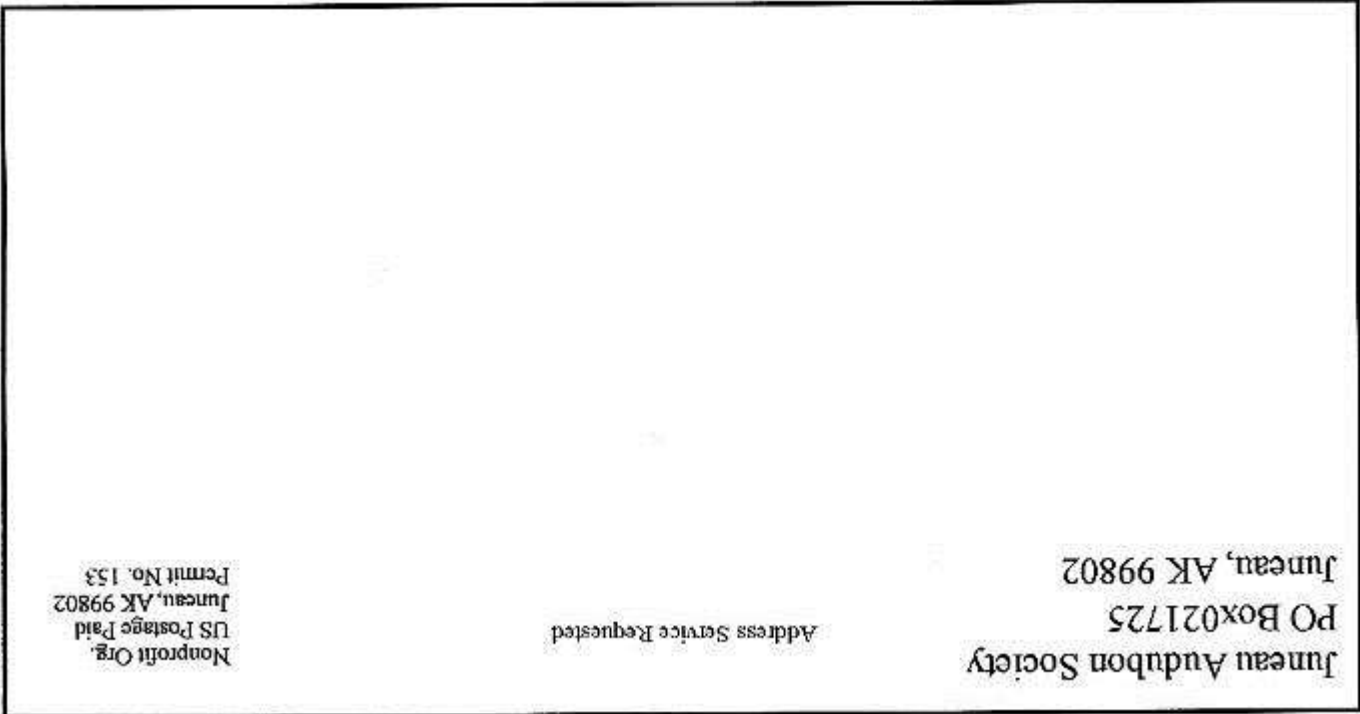
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**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**



# 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 41, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2014

## GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:00 p.m.

Thunder Mountain High School Library



### Antarctica: Land of Exotic Animals among the Icebergs

Can you image standing on a beach with 50,000 king penguins? Meg Cartwright will present slides from her trip to Antarctica in January 2014 as a tourist on a Russian ice breaker. Come see pictures of breathtaking scenery and exotic animals and learn about some surprising ecological similarities between the Antarctic region and the place we call home.

**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY Officers Election!** Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers in conjunction with the public meeting in October. Our four 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. The candidates for 2014-2015 are Gwen Baluss for president, Josh Peters for vice-president, Patty Rose for treasurer, and Alexia Kiefer for secretary. Nominations for any of the positions are also accepted at the general meeting. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as a candidate for any of the officer positions. Also, if anyone is interested in joining our board in one of our non-officer positions, we need help, as we currently have a vacant committee chair for conservation. The conservation chair position is especially crucial and needs someone to help the chapter focus and respond to important environmental issues as they arise.

**Public Market November 28-30, 2014:** Volunteers needed to help can jams and jelly. (Call Mary Lou 789-7540) Please sign up for the booth at the public market at the general meeting or call any of the board members. We need two people at the booth for all three days. Friday 11:30am-2pm, 2-5pm, 5-8pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am-2pm and 2-5pm. If you have items to donate or ideas for products, please contact Brenda or MaryLou.



## President's Note by Brenda Wright

This will be my last contribution as president of Juneau Audubon Society. I'm not actually leaving the board this year. I will remain as a member-at-large. I look forward to attending all the great public presentations, bird walks, and Saturday Wild events. It is always impressive to me that a small group of dedicated volunteers can offer such a wide range of activities and be pro-active on so many conservation concerns. I look forward to all of it.

Just want to keep the 16<sup>th</sup> Alaska Bird Conference on the top of your things to look forward to in Juneau. The conference will be held in Centennial hall from December 9-11. We're hoping many of you will be able to attend (early registration fees until October 31).

([http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska\\_Bird\\_Conference/Home.html](http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Home.html)). I hope you will all be able to attend the presentation by Gerrit Vyn, accomplished photographer and filmmaker. He has contributed articles to Living Bird and Audubon magazine. Gerrit Vyn is the invited speaker at the conference here in Juneau on December 11 (presentation time to TBA).

## Web Notes and Information

### **National Audubon Society, *Birds and Climate Change Report* Released Sept. 9**

– A new study warns that global warming is a serious threat to nearly half of the bird species in the continental United States and Canada. According to Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change Report* (<http://climate.audubon.org>), 314 North American bird species will lose more than 50% of their current ranges by 2080. The study predicts that 126 of those species will lose more than 50% of their current ranges by 2050, with no possibility of moving elsewhere if global warming continues on its current trajectory.

### **BIRD Studies Canada News Updates, The 2014 Canadian Lakes Loon Survey Season is Complete: September 2014**

– The 34<sup>th</sup> season of the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey ended on September 15. More than 700 Citizen Scientists across the country monitored loons and their reproductive success. Bird Studies Canada gratefully acknowledges all volunteer surveyors for participating, and collecting important information. We thank the participants who have already submitted their observations. For survey results to date, please see our 32-year report (<http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls/resources/CLLSsummary.pdf>), associated technical paper (<http://www.ace-eco.org/vol8/iss1/art1/>), and BirdWatch Canada article (<http://www.birdscanada.org/download/BWCwi13.pdf>). This program is supported by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the Kenneth M. Molson Foundation.

North American bird populations are declining in several key habitats, according to *The State of the Birds 2014* (<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>) In addition to assessing population trends, the authors created a "Watch List" of 230 bird species that are currently endangered or at risk of becoming endangered without significant conservation help. Fortunately, the report also reveals that bird populations are recovering in areas where a strong conservation investment has been made. The report was prepared by the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, a 23-member partnership of government agencies and organizations dedicated to advancing bird conservation. The scientists analyzed four decades of data from several continental-scale monitoring programs, including the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Christmas Bird Count. Bird Studies Canada thanks all those who participate in our Citizen Science programs.



## Panama Tourism Adventures: Check out birds, plants, and special

sightings(<http://www.canopytower.com/newsletters>)

**New Canopy Family Mobile Website Launched:** Welcome to Canopy Family's new mobile website! For all those who surf the internet from your smartphone devices, you will now experience a more readable, user-friendly Canopy Family website. Our new mobile website provides a better text size on smaller devices, and all the general information our users want on this clean, simple site.

## American Bird Conservancy

Annual report available on line:

[http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/annualreport/ABC\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/annualreport/ABC_Annual_Report_2013.pdf)

## Juneau September Bird Report, By Amy Courtney

September has been a little slow bird-wise here in Juneau, but we still have a few good birds to report.

Though not terribly rare, **Ospreys** and **Peregrine Falcons** can be a real treat to see, and there have been



*Black-headed Gull Gwen Bayless*

numerous reports of both this month, mostly from the Mendenhall Wetlands and Eagle Beach. Two **Great Horned Owls** have been spotted periodically on the Mendenhall Wetlands, and Gwen Baluss heard a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** on Heintzleman Ridge on 9/14, and at Point Bridget State Park on 9/16.

On 9/10 a **Black-headed Gull** was discovered at Eagle Beach State Park (AC), and re-found later that day on the Boy Scout Camp side of the river (GB). This was the third record for Juneau, and the first fall record anywhere between Vancouver and Anchorage.

Alexia Kiefer found a **Common Nighthawk** at Brotherhood Bridge Trail on 9/11, which is the first sighting in eBird since 2012! **Mourning Doves** may have popped up all over Southeast last year, but this year seems more typical, with Juneau's one report from Auke Bay on 9/27 (GV). The lone **Say's Phoebe** sighting of the year came from the Airport Dike Trail on 9/9 (AK), and likewise the only **Cinnamon Teal** sighting on 9/28 (GV).

On 9/9, Gus van Vliet found a **Blackpoll Warbler** in a Fritz Cove neighborhood, and on 9/11, a **Chipping Sparrow** at Eagle Beach. On the Boy Scout Camp side, David Schmerge spotted a first-year **Snow Bunting** on 9/17, which is unusual since they normally don't begin showing up here in Juneau till mid-October.

The first of our fast-becoming-regular winter visitors, an immature male **Anna's Hummingbird**, showed up on 9/9 at a feeder in Auke Bay where individuals have wintered in the past (GV). Soon after, an adult male was spotted at a Douglas feeder (also a previous ANHU hotspot), and was soon joined by an adult female (PR). All three are continuing, so perhaps they will overwinter!

Thanks to the following individuals who submitted these sightings to eBird: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Amy Courtney (AC), Alexia Kiefer (AK), Patty Rose (PR), David Schmerge (DS), Gus van Vliet (GV).

## **HEY, YOU 300 JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERS** by Patricia Wherry

This is what a few members of Juneau Audubon and some kids did this summer. Marjorie Hamburger, with the City Museum, designed a special outdoor week for children. She invited Juneau Audubon Society to help with a bird walk around the downtown area. Amy Courtney Clarke and I engaged a diverse group of kids in birding. Quite a morning. We ended at the beach at the mouth of Gold Creek scoping gulls, making bird nests of mud and vegetation, and burying each other in the sand.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Auke Bay School enjoyed a two day with overnight stay at the Methodist Camp, outdoor science and fun. Jane Ginter and I did some virtual birding and hands-on bird resources loaned by ADF&G, Wildlife Conservation.

The one room Advent School grouped on the floor last week to become birds.

The Raven Correspondence School has asked Juneau Audubon Society to help for 4 seasons of bird walks.

What don't a large group of vocal youngsters see or hear on a bird walk? Probably few birds! The big group needs to be broken down into smaller units of "neobirders," for a more successful experience. Unfortunately, all the events have taken place during the week this summer. Hey you 300 Juneau Audubon members, which of you enjoy children and are willing to give some time to help them continue to develop their interest and knowledge in birds? Don't say that, "I'm not so good with identification." Phooey! You know more than the kids. They are so eager! Usually these groups have what I refer to as a kid wrangler with them so the guests do not have to. There is more to birds than putting a name on a LBJ. There are so many fascinating pieces of information. Each of us knows something another does not. The kids are ripe to learn.

Contact me to help the Raven Correspondence School kids have a great birding experience. Remind me to be quieter; I get excited. Patricia Wherry, Juneau Audubon Society education chair, 209-3374

### **WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?**



Photo: Dennis McAfee

A raven with a curlew like beak or a chickadee with the beak of a tropical hummingbird – what is going on here? Check out this article in [Environmental Health News](#), September 15, 2014, by Jane Kay. The article follows past and current research to search for an answer to the question. This eletter raised my eyebrows and awareness of conservation problems facing birds.

Patricia Wherry

## Big Brother Big Sister

Interested in a fun, easy, and rewarding way to help better our community? Become a Big Brother or Big Sister! It's simple, it's fun, it takes as little as an hour a week, and it makes a BIG difference in the lives of local youth and our community. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska (BBBS) helps children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships, with a focus on friendship. Research has shown that the positive relationships between youth (Littles) and their mentors (Bigs) have a direct and measurable impact on kids' lives, helping them to develop confidence, avoid risky behaviors, and succeed in school. Littles matched with a Big for at least a year are more likely than their peers to graduate high school and attend college.

Littles come to BBBS from many different backgrounds and for many different reasons; the common thread is that they all want and could benefit from a positive role model and friend. BBBS is one of the only resources for youth and their families that is free of cost to them. We strive to serve as many youth as possible in Juneau, but we can only serve as many kids as we have volunteers.

Please give serious consideration in stepping forward as a volunteer. By sharing a little time you can make a big difference to a child, a classroom, a school, and our community!

For more information or to get started, you can visit the BBBS website at [www.bbbsak.org](http://www.bbbsak.org), call 586-3350, or feel free to contact Lena Gilbertson at [lena.gilbertson@bbbsak.org](mailto:lena.gilbertson@bbbsak.org).

Thank you!

**Lena Gilbertson**

Recruitment and Development Director

## Another Successful Summer of Saturday Wild



About 60 people attended the last JAS summer program, a mushroom identification walk lead by local expert Dave Gregovich. Despite a healthy September downpour, walkers found lots of interesting "fall blooms". Some even came away with a few known edibles to try at home.



September 30, 2014

Dear Juneau Audubon,

Rusty Blackbirds, like the one below, are gather in flocks and American Robins feast on berries as birds pack in the last bit of fuel for fall migration. In this issue of Audubon Alaska eNews, learn about birds at risk from climate change and how you can help, see new Important Bird Areas in Alaska, find out the results of the Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz, and see how Audubon is planning for the future for seabirds in the Aleutian Islands.

To see more on these stories, visit Audubon Alaska. <http://climate.audubon.org/>

- 1. New Audubon Study Reveals Climate Change Effects on Bird Species**
- 2. New Alaska Important Bird Areas Are on the Map**
- 3. Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz results**
- 4. Planning Ahead in the Aleutian Islands**
- 5. Giving Corner: Take a Vacation that Helps Birds**
- 6. Bird Photo Quiz**

Beth Peluso



*Dan Elstad*

Is this bird seen recently in the Lemon Creek area an aleucistic robin?

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*



## *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinel, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinel's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinel@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinel@alaska.gov)  
\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.  
\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org/> > )

## PICK, CLICK, GIVE

As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

## Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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Vice-President: Josh Peters

Secretary: Bev Agler

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Programs: Doug Jones

Membership: Jane Ginter

Education: Patricia Wherry

Conservation: Gwen Baluss

Field Trips: Amy Clark Courtney

Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540

At-large: Amy Sherwin

At-large:

Public Market:

Web Master: George Utermohle

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 41, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2014

## **GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13, 7:00 p.m., EGAN ROOM, CENTENNIAL HALL**

### **Keith Pahlke will share stories about Laguna Blanc Nature Reserve in Paraguay**



Have you ever thought about volunteering on a wildlife research project in an exotic location? Keith Pahlke will share stories from his month working at the Laguna Blanca Nature Reserve in Paraguay. While Keith spent most of his time chasing fish and reptiles, including piranha and anaconda, he also



saw some pretty cool birds like the **White-winged Nightjar**. He hopes to go back in March to continue the research he started last April. Maybe you can go with him.

## **SCHEDULE FOR JUNEAU AUDUBON PROGRAMS**

**November 13, 2014 A Month in Paraguay - Volunteering at the Laguna Blanca Nature Reserve. Working with an amazing diversity of reptiles, fish, insects, and birds. Keith Pahlke**

**December 11, 2014 Centennial Hall start at 8pm and the speaker is Gerrit Vyn from the Bird Conference**

**January 8, 2015 - Gambling on Gambell; Birding in Gambell, Alaska - Mark Schwan**

**February 12, 2015 - Dr. Sanjay Pyare - Arctic Tern Tracking**

**March 12, 2015 - Nature Clips - Bob Armstrong and Doug Jones**

**April meeting = festivals around SE and AK presented by people who attended in the past**

## **President's Message** By Gwen Baluss

Thanks to all for electing me last month. As I start forming next year's "to do" list I find myself reflecting on why did I agree to take on another volunteer job? And why Audubon? The former is difficult to answer, but the latter isn't. JAS is a great organization. There are numerous charitable organizations in Alaska (over 7000 according to 2011 report!) but JAS fills a unique role locally in organizing outdoor field trips, providing resources connecting local birders to regional information, plus encouraging conservation and citizen science. We have broad support with over 400 members. Although admittedly overwhelmed, I'm looking forward to a great year, feel lucky to be working with an energetic board, and to be following the excellent leadership provided by our recent past presidents: Brenda Wright, Julie Coghill, Mark Schwan and Jeff Sauer. For those of you who don't know me yet, I've been on the board as secretary, field trip coordinator and conservation chair. If you use Juneau trails I'm probably the birder you saw jumping out of the bushes or pedaling off on a poorly repaired bicycle, occasionally spotting birds and insects.

## **Juneau Public Market**

This year's market will be at Centennial Hall on November 28, 29, and 30. Come out to do some local holiday shopping and be sure to check out our booth number P6. As usual, we'll be selling fabulous jams and more. However, this year we plan to update our presentation in order to provide more birding and conservation information. Also, we are seeking VOLUNTEERS to help out for a few hours. This is an easy and fun way to interact with your community and help our organization with its mission at once. The market will be open to the public: noon to 7:00 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For volunteering info please email for map and more info on the market: Mary, 209-4842 or [mjmccafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:mjmccafferty@yahoo.com) JAS Booth at the Juneau Public Market 2014. For additional info. see <http://www.alaskafairsandfestivals.com/426517-juneau-public-market-juneau-alaska-november-2014.html#.VFJ5dsJ0zIU>

**16<sup>TH</sup> ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE:** Come join us at the 16th Alaska Bird Conference in Juneau December 9-12 at Centennial Hall. There will be meetings of the Boreal Partners in Flight and Alaska Raptor Group on December 9. Scientific papers will be presented on December 10 and 11. Look at the web page soon for a complete schedule of presentations. There will also be a special poster session on the evening of December 10 and a banquet on December 11. The guest speaker, Gerrit Vyn, has agreed to speak for the general public for free on his film and photography of the birds that travel from Alaska to Asia and beyond at 8pm December 11. Registration for the science program is available on the web [http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska\\_Bird\\_Conference/Home.html](http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Home.html)

**November 10 – 16: HAINES - The 20TH ANNUAL ALASKA BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL** will be held in the Valley where over 3000 Bald Eagles gather in the early fall and winter. Explore this river valley and come face to beak with this majestic bird as you venture into the winter wonderland of Haines. For more information, go to <http://www.baldeagles.org/festival>



## **Amy Sherwin, New At-Large Juneau Audubon Board Member**

My name is Amy Sherwin and this is my first year serving on the Juneau Audubon board. I'm a member at large hoping to bring new ideas and helping encourage the public to understand the crucial link birds play in our ecosystem as well as being environmental sentinels. I have been living in Juneau since 2002 and it has been friends who have opened my eyes to the avian richness Juneau has to offer their ties to the rest of the world. I first started observing birds and their behaviors and patterns in 2007 while employed with the Forest Service at the Mendenhall Glacier. At the glacier, I started keeping a list of the birds I saw and pointing out to visitors these small acrobats flying among the trees. I started helping record the population of Arctic terns nesting at the visitor center and have been amazed at the obstacles they have overcome in their tremendous migration and the small achievements they have made while nesting. Friends have also expanded my knowledge and enjoyment of birds outside the visitor center through bird walks in varying habitats. I have since spurred family members on the east coast to do the same. I owe my fascination, knowledge, and conservation initiatives of birds to friends, many of those having served on the Audubon board. I'm hoping as a member at large I can open the eyes of the public as they have done for me.

### **Juneau Bird Report for October Compiled by Amy Courtney**

Our October weather has been typically inclement here in Juneau, but we did have a few sunny days scattered throughout that lent themselves to the leisurely, rain gear-less enjoyment of birds that we Southeasters so appreciate.

The only duck species of note this month were **Canvasbacks**. On Twin Lakes a female was present with flocks of Ring-necked Ducks and Scaup from 10/5 till 10/17 (LL, m. obs); and on 10/28, two were reported on Miller-Honsinger Pond near Temsco (NH). On 10/17, John Church spotted a **Western Grebe** in the Douglas harbor. This rare bird was seen diving in the harbor by many people over the next two days. On 10/17, Laurie Lamm reported a Western Grebe, possibly the same individual, off Pt. Louisa near the Auke Recreational Area. An immature **Double-crested Cormorant** was present in Auke Bay from the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> (GV), and on the 19<sup>th</sup>, one was spotted near Gold Creek Delta downtown (BA), though it may have been the same one.



Western Grebe Deanna MacPhail

A first-cycle **Ring-billed Gull** was reported from the Taku Smokeries Dock downtown on 10/19 (MS), and again on 10/21 (GV). Concurrently, three first-cycle **Glaucous Gulls** where **Whimbrel** should be well south of here, one was spotted on the shore of Auke Bay (GV), yielding one of the latest records for Alaska. There was also a juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 10/4 (MS, BA).

A **Great Horned Owl** reported on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 10/4 by Laurie Lamm is likely a continuing individual first found in the area in early September. David Schmerge found a

**Northern Pygmy-owl** on the Auke Nu (John Muir) Trail on 10/29. An elusive **Townsend's Solitaire** was spotted at Crow Hill in Douglas by Marsha Squires on 10/26. Gus van Vliet has had at least three different Anna's Hummingbirds at his feeder near Auke Bay this month-- an adult male, an immature male, and an adult female. At a feeder on River Rd., Deanna MacPhail had both an immature male and an adult male.

These last three birds stand out as the highlights of the month. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, Amy Courtney spotted a **Black-and-white Warbler** foraging in spruce trees near the Juneau Pioneer Home. It was re-found and photographed later that day by others (BA, MS, GV, AK), but seems to have moved on after that. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> Alaska record for this species. On the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>,



Clay-colored Sparrow  
Deanna MacPhail

Gus van Vliet saw an unusual sparrow at in his yard on Auke Bay, which, by the light of the next day, turned out to be a **Clay-colored Sparrow**! But a double surprise for him that morning was a **Rustic Bunting**, a very rare Eurasian vagrant. Both birds were subsequently seen and photographed by many individuals. The Clay-colored Sparrow was present till the 26<sup>th</sup>, and is one of only a handful of records for Alaska, two of which were in Juneau in 1994 and 2006. The Rustic Bunting, continuing as of the 31<sup>st</sup>, represents only a 4<sup>th</sup> Southeast record, two of which were from Juneau in 2006.

Thanks to the following people for contributing their sightings to eBird and Eaglechat: Bev Agler (BA), John Church, Amy Courtney, Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Alexia Kiefer (AK), Laurie Lamm (LL), Deanna MacPhail (DMP), David Schmerge, Mark Schwan (MS), Marsha Squires, Gus van Vliet (GV).

**HAWK MIGRATION:** During the Hawk Migration Association of North America's first annual [International Hawk Migration Week](http://www.hmana.org/over-1-million-hawks-counted-during-ihmw/) (<http://www.hmana.org/over-1-million-hawks-counted-during-ihmw/>), more than 1.2 million migrating hawks, eagles, and vultures were tallied at 100 sites throughout Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. In total, 29 raptor species were counted. The vast majority of birds counted were Broad-winged Hawks, since the count took place at the peak of their migration. Observers at watch sites in Veracruz, Mexico tallied the highest numbers of birds.

**FEEDER WATCH:** Join a popular citizen science by watching the birds at your feeders. Data collection begins on November 8. Check out the web page for more information and how to start <http://feederwatch.org/>. Data is especially scarce for Southeast Alaska, so please consider adding to our knowledge about our winter bird populations.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* **Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)**



***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

**Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinel, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901**

**Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928**

**This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinel's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinel@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinel@alaska.gov)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> .**

**Birds in a Digital World**

APP: · **Merlin Bird ID:** An incredibly easy-to-use app designed for beginners. Takes you step-by-step through the process of identifying the bird you are looking at, and gives you results specific to your geographic location and time of year! Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. *Available for:* iOS and Android

website: **eBird:** A trove of world-wide bird sightings mapped out using Google Earth, this expansive resource shows citizen science at its finest. Any person can access reports of virtually any species from an hour ago to fifty years ago. An easy way to peruse recent local sightings, it also shows bar charts of when you're likely to see a given species in your area. You can also use it to keep track of your own sightings! *Web address:* [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

**PICK, CLICK, GIVE** As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

**Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

President: Gwen Baluss	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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**Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?**

**You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201**

**Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.**

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714**

**You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address\_\_\_\_\_**

**City/State/Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_**

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

**\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51**

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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

**If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.**

**\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.**

**To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Juneau, AK 99802  
Permit No. 153

Address Service Requested

Juneau Audubon Society  
PO Box 021725  
Juneau, AK 99802

# 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 41, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2014

## **2014 Alaska Bird Conference December 9-11, 2014**

Join scientists, researchers, and students as they present their findings on the work in Alaska. The conference is in Centennial hall in Juneau this year. The entire agenda is available on the web page at

[http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska\\_Bird\\_Conference/Agenda.html](http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Agenda.html)

If you are interested in sharing space in your home for conference attendees, please send an e-mail to [2014AlaskaBirdConference@gmail.com](mailto:2014AlaskaBirdConference@gmail.com). As a special courtesy to the public, the keynote speaker, Gerrit Vyn, will give a free public lecture. Hope to see you there!

**GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 8:00 p.m.**

Centennial Hall Ballroom 2

“Capturing the Lives of Beringian Birds” A multimedia tour through the lens of Cornell Lab photographer/cinematographer Gerrit Vyn



## **Message from the President – Gwen Baluss**

Happy solstice everyone! Despite the short cold days, it's going to be an exciting month with the Alaska Bird Conference coming up and Christmas Bird Counts being held around Southeast Alaska. When the going gets tough, the tough go birding

### **Board of Game Meetings**

The Alaska Board of Game will start their next meeting season soon. Some of the proposals would affect wildlife in Southeast Alaska, and Alaskans may weigh in on the proposals. The first comment periods ends Dec. 26. One proposal of particular interest to bird conservation is a call for hunters to report their take of migratory birds, and have that data be stored by ADFG. For more information see:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main>

### **Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 14, 2014**

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on Sunday, December 14, the first day of the designated count period of December 14 through January 5<sup>th</sup>. This marks the 115<sup>th</sup> year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Here in Juneau, this will be our 42<sup>nd</sup> count. Again, please take note, our count will be on a Sunday this year.

For those that don't recall, two years ago the Christmas Bird Count became a "free" event, which means the Society no longer requires participation fees. The fees had been viewed as a deterrent to participation and also a complicating factor with regards to assessing participant effort on the counts. The Society compensates with this loss in revenue by going paperless with the American Birds issue of the Christmas Bird Count and by seeking voluntary donations.

Last year, more than 71,000 people participated in 2,408 counts, with 1,863 counts conducted in the United States. There were 37 counts conducted in Alaska. The big story last year was the huge irruption of Snowy Owls into eastern Canada, the Great Lakes, the Atlantic seaboard, and the southern U.S. There were 1,117 Snowy Owls tallied on 399 different counts. It was the third winter in a row where Snowy Owls were seen in impressive numbers but in each of these count periods, the birds made strong appearances in different regions of the U.S. and southern Canada.

Here in Juneau our count week will begin on December 11, and go through December 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our usual two meeting places to stage on the morning of the count. Volunteers should arrive at 8 a.m. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown Foodland IGA grocery coffee bar. Birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the McDonald's restaurant across from the Nugget Mall. Again, please arrive at 8a.m. and be prepared for the weather and bring your binoculars. We will have our area leaders arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate birders to the different groups at our staging locations on count day. We encourage participation from all levels of birders; the more eyes the better.

Once again there will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam. This is always a nice event and highlight of the day, as we share stories from the day, eat some good food, and conduct the tally of birds and species seen. For those needing directions to Mark and Debi's house, we will provide a

handout on count day. Let's have a great turnout and a terrific count! For more information or if you have any questions, call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841 or Gus van Vliet at 789-5624.



Raven calling photo by Doug Jones

### **Christmas Bird Counts planned in Southeast Alaska**

December 14, 2014–January 5, 2015

<b>Count name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact person(s)</b>	<b>Phone number</b>
Craig-Klawock	December 20	Victoria Houser	826-1614
Haines	December 27	Pam Randles	766-3664
Glacier Bay	December 14	Nat Drumheller	697-2166
Juneau	December 14	Mark Schwan Gus van Vliet	789-9841 789-5624
Ketchikan	December 20	Andrew Piston	225-9677
Mitkof Island	No date available	Brad Hunter	518-1438
Sitka	January 4**	Victoria Vosburg	747-7821
Skagway*	December 20	Elaine Furbish	983-2049
Tenakee Springs	No date available	Beret Barnes	736-2226
Wrangell	January 4	Joe Delabrué	874-7523

\* Website for more information: [sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub](http://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub)

\*\* The pre-count organizational meeting is January 1, 6 p.m., at the Raptor Center.

## Public Market November 28-30, 2014



Patricia Wherry, Susan Hickey, Doug Jones, and Deanna MacPhail 11/28/14 minutes before the nagoonberry rush at the Juneau Audubon Society public market booth, photo by Mary McCafferty

### THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

The Juneau Audubon's booth looked terrific! due to a great many folks' ideas and work.

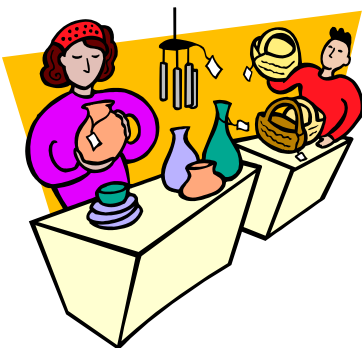
Design committee: Mary McCafferty (signage and photos); Alexia Kiefer (material, lighting ideas); Brenda Wright (design of bird issues wall); Patricia Wherry (two cents worth, hemming, morning starts).

Patti Rose making twice daily trips for money.

MaryLou and the King Girls + Friends for jellies, floral cards, cedar bark ornament). Jelly by Patricia Wherry.

Donation of book by Flip Nicklin, photos by Josh Peters, photos and cards by Jos Bakker, bird house by Thomas Courtney for a free drawing and Cristina de LaRosa for donating a night at her Mendenhall Glacier B&B as an incentive for new or renewed Audubon membership, and Amy Courtney for design of pamphlet - online bird sites for all birding abilities.

Booth setup and helpers: Brenda Wright, Patricia Wherry, Gwen Baluss, Steve James, Mary McCafferty, Doug Jones, Susan Hickey, Deanna MacPhail, Mary Wilson, Mary Claire Harris, Rosary Lombardo, Amy Sherwin, Shirley Carlson, Liz Blecker, Carol Race, Alexia Kiefer, Josh Peters, Molly McCafferty, Jeff Sauer.



Thank you folks who patronized  
the Juneau Audubon booth.



## Window Strikes by Amy Sherwin

Whether or not you watch birds, you think you have most of Southeast Alaska's birds at your feeder. For the past month there have been a variety of birds relying on the wealth of bird seed you've put out and you've noticed that one skinny dark-eyed junco finally starts to gain weight. It's a perfect and welcomed setting until that junco unexpectedly hits your window and perches in shock on the deck or flies off later to die elsewhere, succumbing to its fatal injuries. You're pretty sure this hasn't happened before, consider yourself lucky, or maybe you haven't been around to see it. Regardless, the odds are that sooner or later your windows will kill a bird.

In fact, millions of birds die every year flying into windows whether it's during their spring and fall migrations, when young birds fly for the first time, or when they leave their territories to find life-sustaining food. They hit windows simply because they can't tell reflections from the trees, plants, and sky. You want to observe birds and you enjoy having them around, but you don't want to obscure that beautiful view out your window. Here's your solution!! **Check to see which windows are most reflective** and are closest to areas where you see the most bird activity. Remember to check the small windows too because many birds fly into small spaces like tree cavities and in between branches. Next, **apply visible, patterned markings to the outside of windows** in a way requiring minimal glass coverage. Birds will avoid windows with vertical stripes spaced 4" apart or horizontal stripes spaced 2" apart. These stripes should be about 1/4" wide with light colors because they are the most visible. Some examples of products to prevent birds from crashing into your windows and where to find them include:

- **Tempera Paint** – it's long-lasting, non toxic, and easily removable

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.joann.com](http://www.joann.com)

- **Opaque Tape** – you can create patterns

[www.abcbirdtape.org](http://www.abcbirdtape.org) (American Bird Conservancy tape transmits light and is made to last outdoors).

- **Interior Window Films** – they can be applied to the outside of windows and come in many colors and styles

(External window films don't have patterns and will not deter birds).

[www.thesunshieldpros.us/WindowFilm/decorative\\_film.html](http://www.thesunshieldpros.us/WindowFilm/decorative_film.html)

- **Netting, Screen, Other Materials** – a good choice without altering window glass (Remember to put the netting or screen several inches in front of the windows so birds don't hit the glass after hitting the material).

[www.birdscreen.com](http://www.birdscreen.com), [www.birdsavers.com](http://www.birdsavers.com), [www.birdbgone.com](http://www.birdbgone.com), [www.nixalite.com](http://www.nixalite.com), or [www.birdmaster.com](http://www.birdmaster.com)

- **Prefabricated Decals** – it's decorative, classy, and eye-inviting

(Birds see decals shaped like raptors as obstacles, not as predators).

[www.windowdressingetc.com](http://www.windowdressingetc.com), [www.windowalert.com](http://www.windowalert.com), [www.duncraft.com](http://www.duncraft.com), [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)

After the junco hit your window, you decided to add material to prevent further strikes. Since then, there haven't been any birds meeting their demise with your window and your mind is more at ease. You've come to love watching the birds and their abundant activity. Not only that, you've saved a bird's life without compromising the view out the window and that, you realize, feels pretty good!!

Annual report available on line:

[http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/annualreport/ABC\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/annualreport/ABC_Annual_Report_2013.pdf)

## Christmas Gift Suggestion

Here is an idea for a unique Christmas gift for a beginning birder friend or relative - adult or teen. Sign them up for a Juneau Audubon sponsored *Beginner Birding* course to be offered through Community Schools in 2015.

The course lasts 5 weeks, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Thursdays. One course set will be held in town at Harborview Elementary starting the end of January. In March, a second course set will start in the valley. Material covered: “Birdness” and identification clues to recognizing local birds: residents, winter migrants, and summer migrants.

This is the third year this course has been offered by the education chair, Patricia Wherry. WE HAVE FUN. The Community School’s Winter 2015 flier will be in the mail in January with specifics and sign up information.

### **Juneau November Bird Report, By eBird**

Special sightings this month included a rustic bunting on 11/6 (GVV) and a Western meadowlark on 11/15 (LL). A black-legged kittiwake was seen 11/9 (GVV), also California and Bonaparte’s gull, plus northern pintail, red-breasted sapsucker, American pipit, and merlin all on 11/9 (PR). Both a yellow-rumped warbler (PR) and Wilson’s snipe (GVV) seen on 11/11. A long-eared owl was noted on 11/14 (BB). A single Lincoln’s sparrow (PR) was noted on 11/15 and a killdeer (GVV) on 11/16. A northern flicker and black scoter were found on 11/17 (GVV). A late Townsend’s solitaire was seen (PR) on 11/18. Pacific loons and surf and white winged scoter were abundant at Point Louisa on 11/20 (BW). A ring-necked duck, tundra swan, and ruby-crowned kinglet were reported 11/23 (GVV). A varied thrush was seen on 11/25 and a white crowned sparrow on 11/27 (GVV). Wilson’s warbler was seen 11/18 (BA). Anna’s hummingbirds have continued visiting feeder in Dredge Lake and Douglas areas (DM). A single fox sparrow and a red-necked grebe were seen on 11/29 (GVV). There are still a few migrant holdouts as an American robin and hermit thrush were seen on 11/29 (GVV). It is also nice to see so many of our winter ducks and geese around town. Thanks to everyone who uses eBird to report sightings. (BA-Bev Agler, BB-Brad Benter, BW-Brenda Wright, DM-Deanna MacPhail, GVV-Gus van Vliet, LL-Laurie Lamm, PR-Patty Rose)



Photographs of Rustic bunting by Bob Armstrong (left) and Patty Rose (right).

### **Meeting the next generation of bird conservationists**

As a non-mom, with little other experience working with youngsters, it would be easy for me to make assumptions about “kids today.” I would expect them to have trouble engaging with nature because they are so often interacting with little screens and devices. But as I find out each time I enter a school, youth are still quite keen to learn about nature and science; in fact I believe they are many times more educated about the environment than we gen-Xers were as students. The first thing I’ve noticed in Southeast AK schools is how colorful and inviting they seem in comparison to the cinder block and cold gray tones that I recall. Second, is there are some great teachers that have their students interacting with professionals in the community. This

observation was reinforced recently as I spend a few days in Sitka fitting juncos, chickadees and song sparrows with color bands; most were on or near school grounds and many classes were able to see the process. Now youngsters (and hopefully their teachers and parents) are set to look for and record these bands, and help further our understanding of local birds' winter ecology. Having the complete attention of an entire room of middle school students is a rare privilege – and it proves that few things are as captivating to us as animals, especially a live, wild, bird.

### **Sitka Winter Songbird Dispersal Study**

We need help tracking Sitka's winter birds.

If you see a color-banded junco, song sparrow or chickadee please try to get as much information you can: species, date, place, and the color combination expressed as 1) Left Leg top band 2) Left leg bottom band color 3) Right leg top band color, 4) Right leg bottom band color. Keep in mind that all birds should have one numbered aluminum band. The Sitka project uses combinations of white, light blue, yellow, red, black and green. Over 200 Oregon juncos have been banded since fall 2012. We believe most are staying within Sitka until spring, and then migrating elsewhere, probably other parts of SE AK. Photos (of any quality) are especially helpful.

Sitka area reports can be entered online here:

[http://wiki.seaknature.org/Special:FormEdit/SBBP\\_observation?namespace=Observation](http://wiki.seaknature.org/Special:FormEdit/SBBP_observation?namespace=Observation) (be sure to put your contact info in the comments), or call Sitka Conservation Society. 907-747-7509

If you see a color band elsewhere in Southeast Alaska, please contact [gbaluss@gmail.com](mailto:gbaluss@gmail.com)

For any bird band for which you can obtain the band number or color markings, make reports to the Bird Banding Laboratory. <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/bblretrv/index.cfm>



This handsome Junco's combination is WWLA "Left leg white over white, right leg light blue over aluminum".

### **Web Notes and Information**

**Great Backyard Bird Count**

Do you participate in the **Great Backyard Bird Count** (<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>)? This free annual four-day event engages birdwatchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. The next Great Backyard Bird Count takes place February 13-16, 2015. In the meantime, check out the most recent issue of the **GBBC eNewsletter** (<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b35ddb671faf4a16c0ce32406&id=c90f071f67&e=30a969a8b8>) for information and resources, and news from related Citizen Science programs!

### **GIS resources:**

As part of the National Audubon Society, we have the opportunity to use its GIS resources.

Connor Bailey is the Enterprise GIS Support Specialist for the Pacific and the Central Flyways. What does that mean you may ask? She does all things GIS all the time! She wanted us to know about GIS resources available free to all Audubon Chapter Members. We can not only help with the technical elements of GIS but also on ideas how best to use it for your chapter. This is a sample of what is available:

Chapter GIS resource page:

<http://chapterservices.audubon.org/chapter-leader-guide/mapping-tools>

Here you will find very useful webinar trainings and documents on the very basics of using ArcGIS Online all the way up to more advanced topics such as storymaps or collecting data in the field. You can also find a link to sign up additional Audubon members from your Chapter with Free ArcGIS Online Accounts from this page. They are free and available to all Audubon Members! Or click here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-j98Y3k64DKLUu84B5URxiZAKoOZMMmTt7PByJyJ2wk/viewform)

[j98Y3k64DKLUu84B5URxiZAKoOZMMmTt7PByJyJ2wk/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-j98Y3k64DKLUu84B5URxiZAKoOZMMmTt7PByJyJ2wk/viewform)

## **Holiday Gift Ideas**

Give a holiday gift to someone special and protect birds. Check out the National Audubon Society webpage for information on how your gift can support vital work to save the wildlife and wild places you care about. Adopt a bird today!

[https://secure.audubon.org/site/SPageNavigator/2014\\_Adoption\\_Catalog\\_Homepage.html;jsessionid=C6271AAD1756DFDF2B6A76927384291B.app337a?s\\_src=2014GC\\_Email\\_Email5&s\\_subsrc=Link3&utm\\_source=fundraising&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=2014-12-01\\_GCemail5](https://secure.audubon.org/site/SPageNavigator/2014_Adoption_Catalog_Homepage.html;jsessionid=C6271AAD1756DFDF2B6A76927384291B.app337a?s_src=2014GC_Email_Email5&s_subsrc=Link3&utm_source=fundraising&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2014-12-01_GCemail5)

**Cornell Lab of Ornithology:** Ever been stumped about what to get the bird and nature lovers on your list? Here are six holiday gift suggestions from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Not only are they fun, creative and beautiful, but a portion of the proceeds from each purchase benefits the Lab. To learn more about these and lots of other “birdy” gifts visit [www.birds.cornell.edu/BirdGifts](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/BirdGifts)

## **Eagle Feather Collectors**

Hello all you eagle feather collector permit holders. Our annual report is due in January 2015. If you have collected any feathers during 2014, now is the time to call Brenda at 789-4656 and have them counted and sent to the National Eagle Repository. Thank you!

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heintz's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him

at: [steve.heintz@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heintz@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) < <http://www.ebird.org> > )

## PICK, CLICK, GIVE

As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

## Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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**Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.**

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal

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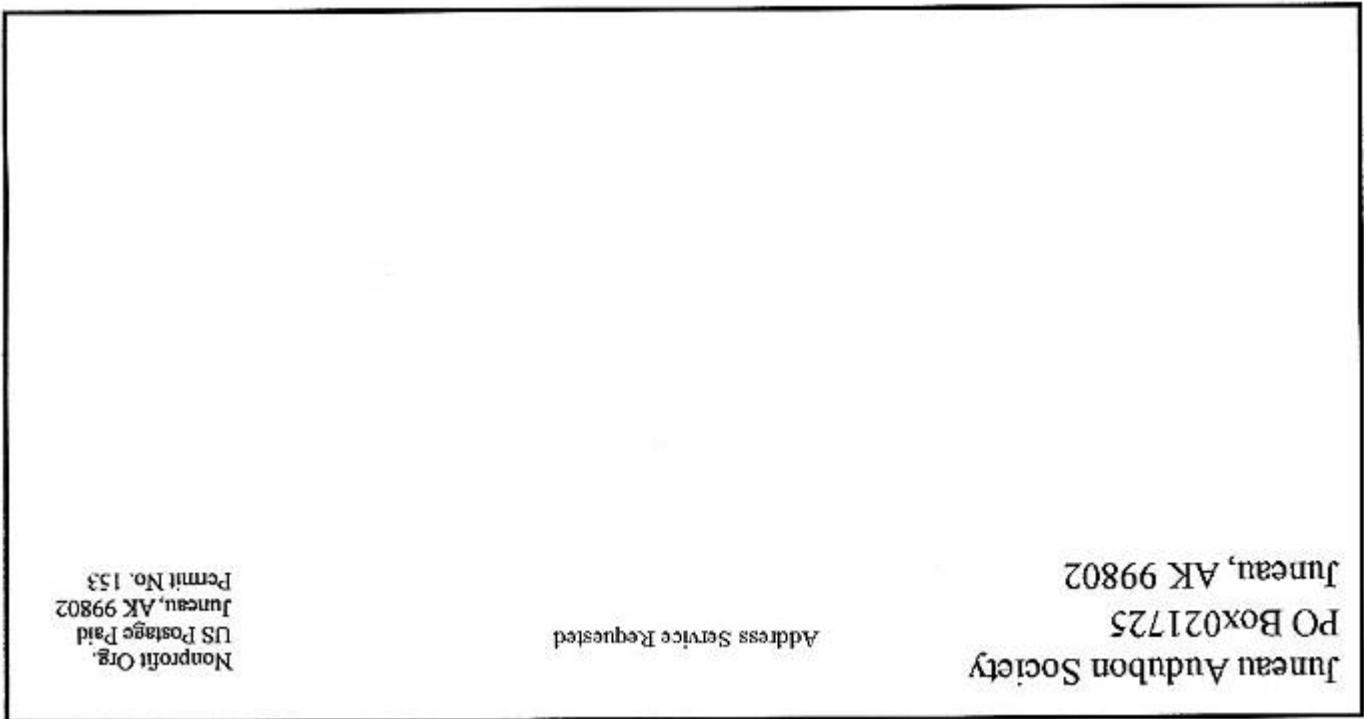
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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 41, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2015

## **GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY JANUARY 8, 7:00 p.m., EGAN ROOM, CENTENNIAL HALL**

### **BIRDING AT GAMBELL (Sivuqaq), ALASKA with Mark Schwan**

For our January program, Mark Schwan will show some pictures and talk about why birding at Gambell (Sivuqaq), Alaska is so fascinating. Birders have been going there for decades to see unusual species and to witness amazing numbers of seabirds, as well as having an opportunity to visit a Siberian Yupik village in one of the most remote parts of North America.



## **PROGRAMS FOR 2015**

**February 12: Dr. Sanjay Pyare – Aleutian Tern Tracking**

**March 12: Nature Clips – Bob Armstrong and Doug Jones**

**April: Overview of festivals around SE and AK presented by people who attended in the past.**

**June: Saturday Wild trips to be announced**

## **Huge New Year's Pine Siskin Party**

*Wed Dec 31, 2014 12:16 pm (PST) . Posted in Eaglechat by: "Gwen Baluss"*

I happened to go down Riverside road this morning and ran into, literally, a giant siskin group. They were congregating in the road, probably licking salt, near the big bend/ speed bumps/ school zone towards Loop Rd. Estimated flock of about 500 individuals just in that vicinity, with what looked like more over towards the river and behind the new church. This is interesting since this last spring/summer/fall siskins seemed relatively sparse compared to the crossbill influxes. Did not see any injured birds.. yet.. thanks to those who drive SLOW!

**Our Favorite (Birding) Things** By (John) Alan and Ann Doty As we participated in the 2014 Christmas Bird Count in Juneau, we realized how much we have learned this year and in the past 5 years of birding. Much of what we use and do now has been passed along to us through friends, birding festivals, and magazine articles. We want to share our favorite things which make our birding experiences even better. We hope you will share yours too!

### **Birding Websites:**

Cornell Lab of Ornithology: [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) - [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) - [www.birds.cornell.edu/courses](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/courses)

Sharon Stiteler: (Author of *1001 SECRETS EVERY BIRDER SHOULD KNOW*)  
[www.birdchick.com](http://www.birdchick.com)

Birdsong Mnemonics: [www.1000plus.com/BirdSong/birdsong](http://www.1000plus.com/BirdSong/birdsong)

### **Birding apps for smartphones:**

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Birdlog World (mobile ebird)

BirdsEye (comprehensive birding resource)

Hotspots (locate nearby birding sites nationwide)

Daily Bird (new bird picture and info FREE)

Merlin (excellent for ID for our beginning birding friends)

Weatherbug (all you want to know about weather)

Masterbirder/ Larkwire (bird song game)

## **BEGINNING BIRDERS - A Community School Course**

Adults and teens can soon sign up for a birding course that starts February 5<sup>th</sup> at Harborview Elementary (town). Time 7:00-8:30 on Thursdays. The course is designed for beginners and covers in four meetings these topics: the interesting business of being a bird; ID tools; and specific identification of common birds in our area, winter and breeding seasons. Examples: Juneau is the Hawaii winter vacation spot for crossbills. This winter more Red Crossbills than White-winged Crossbills have been seen; The Golden-crowned Kinglet is a permanent resident with a call that registers so very thin and high; and Warblers travel here in the spring, many in spanking yellow outfits.

Plenty of hands-on material. The instructor is Patricia Wherry, Education Chair: I have fun teaching the class which probably means participants learn and have a good time.

The course will be repeated in the valley at Riverbend starting March 12<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to contact me [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org) for more information.

[http://www.edlinesites.net/pages/Juneau\\_School\\_District/District/Community\\_Schools/COMMUNITY\\_SCHOOL\\_CLASSES](http://www.edlinesites.net/pages/Juneau_School_District/District/Community_Schools/COMMUNITY_SCHOOL_CLASSES)



## 16<sup>TH</sup> ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE

**16<sup>th</sup> Alaska Bird Conference** by Brenda Wright -- The 16<sup>th</sup> Alaska Bird Conference was held in Juneau, December 9-11, 2014. There were over 40 scientific papers and 20 posters presented at the conference. The conference drew more than 100 students, scientists, educators, and researchers from across the state and the Pacific coast. Included in the conference sessions were climate change, breeding ecology, disease/contaminants, foraging ecology, movement ecology, and populations and distributions. If you go to the web page [http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska\\_Bird\\_Conference/Home.html](http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Home.html), you can see the full program and also get the abstracts. A special fund raising event by Juneau Audubon, Audubon Anchorage, and ADF&G enabled us to film the keynote speaker, Gerrit Vyn, for 360 North. If you would like to see this presentation you can enjoy it online at <http://www.360north.org/events/alaska-bird-conference-2014-keynote-address-gerrit-vyn/> (You may have to wait for an update on the site, the presentation would not open for me).

A special thanks to the local organizing committee: Anne Sutton, Kelly Nesvacil, Mike Goldstein, and Brenda Wright. The scientific committee reviewed all the abstract submissions and made the schedule of talks, ring leaders were John Pearce, Julie Hagelin, Abby Powell, Debbi Nigro, and Steve Lewis. And also a special thank you to the sponsors for the donations of time, money, and effort: US Forest Service, ADF&G, Audubon Alaska, North Pacific Research Board, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, Ducks Unlimited, ABR, Inc., Juneau Audubon Society, and St. Hubert Research Group.

**What's new in Alaska bird studies: highlights from December's conference** by Gwen Baluss -- The talks were too numerous to describe, but I'll share a few themes that I found to be particularly interesting.

We bird banders used to say there are no little devices to put on small birds to track them, but that has changed. Geolocators fit on a bird's leg or back and simply log when it is light and dark. If that tag can be retrieved (usually by going back to a nesting area and re-trapping an individual) a world map of where the bird went can be drawn with the help of computer software.

After a few years this technology has shed amazing insight into migratory pathways. We watched how Olive-sided flycatchers from Alaska zipped down to Northwestern South America, using different routes, including one that was down the spine of Mexico's Sierra Madre; and that, like our Rufous hummingbirds they follow a looped migration, using a more eastern path going south and a west coast path back north.

Light was shed on a long-standing mystery: the winter zones for Aleutian terns. Tagged birds from Yakutat revealed one-way distances of over 10,000 mi to and from a wide area between Southeast Asia and Austral-Asia with primary destinations of Indonesia, Philippines, and Papua New Guinea.

Shorebirds, especially those who leave the Americas in winter, revealed important stopover sites. One, the Yellow Sea, is in imminent danger. Wetlands filling there, in addition to threats like hunting and contaminants make many species' migration even more difficult for species like the Bar-tailed Godwit.

Larger tags have eagles emailing their data to researchers, who then mapped golden eagles funneling down a newly discovered migratory path down the remote Mentasta mountains, and Bald eagles dispersing all over the place looking for fish and other food sources.

Another hot topic has been the use of isotope analysis to study food webs as they change in the arctic. Shifts and crashes are occurring in the Northern Seas, perhaps because of climate change.

Students studying seabird diet the old fashioned way via dissection made a gruesome discovery: some birds' stomachs were full of plastic, a state that can make the bird starve or leach disruptive chemicals into its system as the plastic passes.

Meanwhile, there is an amazing body of data thanks to rank and file agency biologists, contractors and students from grade school up to PhD candidates, and ordinary birders busily counting all kinds of birds, recording data, and working together to elucidate some of the mystery surrounding bird populations and habitat needs.

And finally, there was the great keynote talk by Gerrit Vyn. What a privilege to see footage of Spoon-billed Sandpiper chicks!

**An Exciting Bird Conference** by Jim King – When I congratulated Brenda Wright for organizing a particularly exciting bird conference, she asked if I could say why I thought that at the banquet. It turned out there was no time at the banquet but here is what I would have said.

During 1961 to 1964, when I was the first refuge manager for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Western Alaska, I found several huge seabird nesting colonies that were not recorded in the bird literature. There was no seabird program even though commercial activity and shipping were increasing in seabird habitat. Good seabird information is available today.

When I was in charge of the first year of studies of waterfowl in North America's grandest Arctic sun bowl that would be flooded out if the proposed Rampart Dam was built, I sensed that nesting passerine birds were more varied and dense than elsewhere in Alaska. No studies of passerine birds on those Yukon Flats were done or included in the Rampart Report.

During my career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1951 to 1985), no girls were ornithologists in Alaska except Professor Brina Kessel at the University. Otherwise the girls were secretaries who typed our reports and publications, correcting spelling and grammar, managed oral communication on the telephone and the statewide radio system that connected planes in the air, boats at sea, cars on the road all from the statewide offices. They were immensely important though their names were not included on nationally important documents they perfected for the guys.

So I thought it was exciting to see the range of papers in Brenda's conference – shorebirds 11, raptors 7, passerines 8, seabirds 6 and waterfowl 5 plus some habitat papers.

And it was particularly exciting to see the number of young ladies presenting the results of their scientific studies of so many Alaska birds. Good job everyone.



*Deanna MacPhail*

### **Juneau's 2014 Christmas Bird Count** by Mark Schwan

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count for 2014 was held on December 14. We had mild weather with virtually no snow cover but standing fresh waters were mostly frozen. Thirty field observers and several feeder watchers found 71 species and 7,199 individual birds on count day, plus an additional eight species were located during the other days of our count week (see attached table). Our total count of individual birds was the lowest in nearly 30 years, which included an all-time low count for Surf Scoter. Other water species were in low numbers and the



*Nick Hajdukovich*

Glaucaous-winged Gull count was likely affected by the fact that the count was held on a Sunday, and the landfill was not operating. Gull, eagle and raven numbers in the immediate Lemon Creek area were lower than usual.

The biggest highlight of the count day was the Long-eared Owl found by Deanna and Brian MacPhail on the west side of the Mendenhall River near the end of Industrial Blvd. This species had never been seen on a Christmas Bird Count anywhere in Alaska. Other highlights included a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel, both birds that have continued to linger in our area. Several Anna's



*Nick Hajdukovich*

Hummingbirds have been frequenting local feeders this fall but only one was seen on count day. A very late Orange-crowned Warbler seen several times along the airport dike trail prior to the count day, ended up being a count week species.

Again, the bird tally and potluck were held after the count at the home of Debi Ballam and Mark Schwan. As always, it was a great way to end the day. Thanks to all who participated.

**Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results on next page**

<b>Species</b>	<b>2014 Count</b>		
Canada Goose	562	Common Murre	22
Gadwall	19	Pigeon Guillemot	1
American Wigeon	10	Marbled Murrelet	58
Mallard	2,057	Eurasian Collared-Dove	cw
Northern Shoveler	4	Rock Pigeon	72
Northern Pintail	12	<b>Long-eared Owl</b>	<b>1</b>
Green-winged Teal	20	Short-eared Owl	2
Greater Scaup	180	Great Horned Owl	cw
Lesser Scaup	5	<b>Anna's Hummingbird</b>	<b>1</b>
Unidentified Scaup	104	Belted Kingfisher	1
Harlequin Duck	135	Downy Woodpecker	1
Surf Scoter	<b>149</b>	Hairy Woodpecker	cw
White-winged Scoter	74	Northern Shrike	3
Black Scoter	4	Steller's Jay	27
Unidentified Scoters	3	Black-billed Magpie	20
Long-tailed Duck	2	Northwestern Crow	344
Bufflehead	99	Common Raven	195
Common Goldeneye	83	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	148
Barrow's Goldeneye	94	Unidentified Chickadees	1
Unidentified Goldeneyes	22	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
Hooded Merganser	6	Brown Creeper	1
Common Merganser	48	Pacific Wren	7
Red-breasted Merganser	83	American Dipper	3
Unidentified Mergansers	23	Golden-crowned Kinglet	25
Pacific Loon	4	American Robin	1
Common Loon	10	Varied Thrush	3
Yellow-billed Loon	cw	European Starling	61
Unidentified Loons	4	Bohemian Waxwing	2
Horned Grebe	12	<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	<b>cw</b>
Red-necked Grebe	5	American Tree Sparrow	cw
Pelagic Cormorant	11	Fox Sparrow	2
Great Blue Heron	3	Song Sparrow	9
Bald Eagle	98	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Northern Goshawk	cw	Golden-crowned Sparrow	1
<b>Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk</b>	<b>1</b>	Dark-eyed Junco	240
<b>American Kestrel</b>	<b>1</b>	Snow Bunting	2
Killdeer	1	Red-winged Blackbird	12
Dunlin	200	Pine Grosbeak	12
Wilson's Snipe	1	Red Crossbill	238
Mew Gull	55	White-winged Crossbill	29
Herring Gull	cw	Unidentified Crossbills	40
Glaucous-winged Gull	726	Common Redpoll	12
GW x Herring Gull hybrid	1	Pine Siskin	553
Glaucous Gull	1	Count Day Species	71
Unidentified Gulls	112	Total Individuals	7,199
		Additional CW Species	8

**The Silhouette** By Prill Isleib Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

Birds flying near homes with large picture windows can easily mistake the reflection of the trees on the window for the real forest. In their confusion they might fly against the window.

The silhouette of a hawk in flight, on a picture window really helps to make them change their flight path.

One afternoon, years ago in south eastern Pennsylvania, we heard a loud crash like the sound of an explosion and the sound of shattering glass, coming from a back bedroom. Upon entering the room I saw dime sized pieces of glass everywhere in the room. The closet door was open and there on the closet floor was a beautiful male ring-necked pheasant. It was motionless but alive and seemed quite stunned.

I put on a pair of heavy work gloves and picked up the pheasant. I took it outside and held it up looking out toward the back field. After a few minutes it became quite alert so I gently tossed it up into the air and it flew off toward the field. If I had the silhouette on the window in those days it might not have happened. It was a long time before I found all those tiny pieces of glass.

A couple years ago I traced a hawk silhouette from a field guide picture and enlarged the sketch to a size of a small hawk. I then backed it with black construction paper and attached it to the middle of a large picture window.

Several times I have observed birds flying toward that window and in midflight they “put on the breaks” and fly off in a different direction. The silhouette of a hawk on the window really helps.

**Title: A Chin Scratcher** By Patricia Wherry Something to scratch your chin about: This <http://www.livescience.com/49184-permafrost-disappears-from-alaska.html> is a link to an online article by "LiveScience" that concerns the melting of permafrost in northern Alaska. It's not new news.

What changes will the melting of permafrost bring to beasts and breeding birds! It's with a mixed feeling of sadness and curiosity to ponder. Changes may happen quickly; creatures live in the north already on the edge of extremes. Adaptation may be timely for some and not for others. Adaptation is already happening whether we humans can measure it or not.

Solid ground melts to swamps. Consider the increase of insects, high protein food, for birds. Plenty of ground nesters in that area - will they start to build floating platforms? Will courting displays change with all that water underfoot? How quickly might deciduous shrubs and trees appropriate an area more favorable to them? Will this be new housing for birds? Visualize caribou pushed by flooded ground to small high aeries. Will the changes be hardest on mammals? Are we moving into a beaver heyday?

There is no specific hour and minute for tipping point change. Lives will be lost, altered, and make gains, mourned and extremely interesting at once.

**From “What’s Up 12/26/14**

**\*\*January 9** Comments are due on the Div. of Forestry’s **PRELIMINARY DECISION** regarding the sale of the commercial **TIMBER COFFMAN COVE TIMBER SALE** located on Prince of Wales Island, approximately 1 mile south of the city of Coffman Cove. This decision will set out the facts and applicable policies upon which the Director bases his determination that the proposed timber sale will or will not best serve the interest of the State. Access to the sale area is provided by Alaska Route 7 and adjoining USFS roads. The units vary in size and encompass a total of 1,628 acres. This volume will be negotiated and sold in the form of one or multiple large sales. The sale(s) will require in-state manufacture and will be a negotiated contract. The State will utilize a request for proposal (RFP) process to determine the parties with whom to negotiate and sell the timber. Copies of the preliminary decision are available for review at the Division of Forestry at the above address and at the Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg and Wrangell Public Libraries. For more information or to submit comments, contact Clarence Clark at 907-225-6619 or email [clarence.clark@alaska.gov](mailto:clarence.clark@alaska.gov).

**\*\*January 5 JUNEAU- THE JUNEAU-DOUGLAS FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold a public meeting at the Egan Building at UAS Campus at 6pm. Agenda items will include: Finfish Proposals and Elections (possibly). For more information, contact Frances Leach at 907-465-4046 or email [frances.leach@alaska.gov](mailto:frances.leach@alaska.gov)

**\*\*January 7 – JUNEAU** — Open House from 4:30 to 5:30pm; Presentation from 5:30 to 6pm; Testimony from 6 to 8pm in the Dept. of Environmental Conservation’s Large Conference Room.

DEC proposes to reissue two APDES general permits to Log Transfer Facilities (LTFs) in Alaska. The general permits authorize and set conditions on the discharge of pollutants from LTFs to waters of the United States located in the State of Alaska. The general permits area of coverage includes marine waters of the U.S. located in the State of Alaska extending west from the Alexander Archipelago through the central Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound to Kodiak Island. The LTF general permits authorize the discharge of bark and wood debris to marine waters of the U.S. located in the State of Alaska within site-specific project areas at each LTF. The LTF general permits propose to authorize discharges for each LTF within the area described in a Department of Natural Resources or other land management authority’s tidelands permit, lease or easement. Description of Discharge: The LTF general permits authorize the discharge of bark and wood debris to marine waters of the U.S. located in the State of Alaska within site-specific project areas at each LTF. The LTF general permits propose to authorize discharges for each LTF within the area described in a Department of Natural Resources or other land management authority’s tidelands permit, lease or easement. Zone of Deposit: The LTF general permits include a zone of deposit for underwater accumulation of bark and woody debris within the project area at LTFs. The APDES draft permit, fact sheet, and associated documents are available at <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wwdp/PublicNotice.htm>. For more information or to submit comments, contact Chris Foley at 99501-2671 or email [Chris.foley@alaska.gov](mailto:Chris.foley@alaska.gov).

**PETERSBURG** – The Petersburg **FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold a public meeting in the Assembly Chambers at 6pm. Agenda will include: Elections and discussion of Finfish Proposals before the Board of Fisheries. For more information, contact Nissa Pilcher at 907.459.7263 or email [nissa.pilcher@alaska.gov](mailto:nissa.pilcher@alaska.gov).

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him

at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

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For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > .

### **Birds in a Digital World**

APP: · **Merlin Bird ID:** An incredibly easy-to-use app designed for beginners. Takes you step-by-step through the process of identifying the bird you are looking at, and gives you results specific to your geographic location and time of year! Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. **Available for:** iOS and Android

website: **eBird:** A trove of world-wide bird sightings mapped out using Google Earth, this expansive resource shows citizen science at its finest. Any person can access reports of virtually any species from an hour ago to fifty years ago. An easy way to peruse recent local sightings, it also shows bar charts of when you're likely to see a given species in your area. You can also use it to keep track of your own sightings! **Web address:** [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

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Web Master: George Utermohle

[webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org)

**PICK CLICK GIVE PROGRAM – PFD** We will again participate in the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend *Pick Click Give* Program beginning in 2015. It provides an easy and secure way to support birding interests. When applying for your PFD at <http://pfd.alaska.gov/>, please consider joining me and just pick and click to give to Juneau Audubon Society. As a whole group, we appreciate and benefit from continued member support through: Pick Click & Give, membership dues, assistance with leading activities, and serving on the board. Thank you Patricia Wherry, Education Chair

Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society? You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201 Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\$35 Basic renewal \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

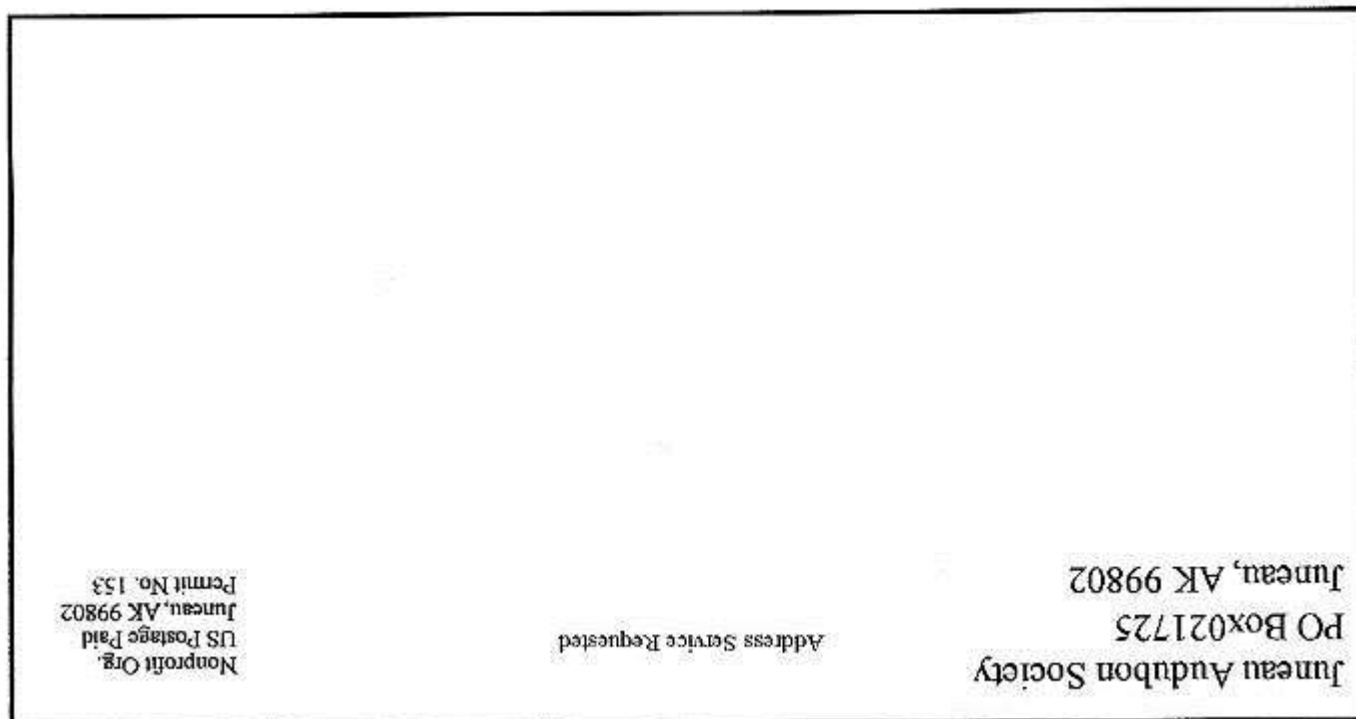
\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)





# The Raven

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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 41, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2015

## Flight to Adventure Free Public Presentation

**February 12, 2015**

**7 p.m. at Centennial Hall - Egan Room**



### **Global Surf Addicts: A Journey from Yakutat to Sumatra and Papua New Guinea with Aleutian Terns - Dr. Sanjay Pyare**

Our multi-agency program includes ongoing research on the distribution, abundance, and migration of this enigmatic and charismatic species,

with a future emphasis on increasing our basic understanding of its relationship to marine food resources and productivity.

### **PROGRAMS FOR 2015**

**March 12: Nature Clips – Bob Armstrong and Doug Jones**

**April: Overview of festivals around SE and AK presented by people who attended in the past.**

**June: Saturday Wild trips to be announced**



## **President's Message: More Is Merrier by Gwen Baluss**

JAS has a small volunteer board and a great group of folks who help out every year with events like the public market and field trips. We do our best to keep up with our normal activities: monthly programs, field trips, newsletter, education and outreach, tracking local conservation issues, etc. But sometimes it's a stretch when we have board vacancies and people out of town, not to mention the challenges of jobs, families and health issues and the like. But there is no reason we can't do better, and accomplish more. And that's where you come in. Ever thought about volunteering? Maybe know a student who needs some resume-building skills? Here are some examples of things that we'd love to have volunteers to assist with. Note that you don't need to be an accomplished birder to be helpful to Audubon; also that some tasks can be done in a virtual environment having a vehicle or even living in Juneau is no longer a requisite.

- Facebook page and outreach to youth and young adults
- Writing articles for the newsletter
- Formatting educational materials
- Help with booths at local events
- Help with school programs and beginning birding classes
- Checking public notices for local land use proposals that might affect birds and bird habitat

We're open to other creative ideas too! Contact Gwen at [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)

## **Tracks and Signs Walk**

Want to learn how to identify the tracks and signs of our local fauna? Join us on a walk of discovery led by local naturalists Mary Willson and Kathy Hocker. Snowshoes or skis are recommended depending on the depth of the snow. The walk will be snow dependent, so if there's no snow by then, the event will be cancelled. Please check our website at [juneau-audubon-society.org](http://juneau-audubon-society.org) the day before for the final word.

Saturday, February 28th,  
from 10am-1pm at the old  
SAGA lodge. Directions  
will be on our website later.  
(Deer tracks in the snow).



## **New Window into Birds**

Explore the world of birds with Audubon's completely re-imagined website: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

You'll find the stunning photographs that you've come to expect from Audubon magazine along with a wealth of web-exclusive material.

[http://www.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=51561.0](http://www.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=51561.0)=

## **NOVICE BIRDERS SPOTTED AT COMMUNITY SCHOOL by Patricia Wherry**

Juneau Audubon is offering a course on beginner birding through Community Schools. A course of 5 classes will start Thursday evenings in town on February 5 from 7-8:30pm. Preregistration online at Juneau Community Schools is preferred as the class size is limited.

The course will be repeated in the valley beginning March 26.

*Beginning Birders* is open to teens and adult novice birders. There will be a lot of hands on activities. We have fun!

For additional specifics contact [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org).

## **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2015**

By Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon

Great Backyard Bird Count February 13-16, 2015: The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a great way for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature and make a difference for birds. It's free and easy. To learn more about how to join the count visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are.

Have you ever heard of Citizen Science? All it takes is a person with an interest in birds. Do you have a bird feeder? Then you can be a citizen scientist and add to the information on our winter bird populations. With input from more people, a really large data set teaches us more about how birds survive our winter weather. Great Backyard Bird Counts occur all over North America. You can compare what you see in your yard or neighborhood with other parts of the city, state, or continent! GBBC checklists can be accepted from anywhere in the world! Everyone is welcome--from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.



Photo by Doug Jones

Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website, at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>. The fun really begins when you explore the web site and learn more about individual species or what bird populations are doing all over the country. The interactive maps are updated constantly. They even have helpful identification tips. So if you enjoy birds, join the count. You can participate from your home or anywhere outside. Hope to see your count for Juneau.

## Southeast Alaska Bird Festivals for Spring 2015-

**Come travel with us!** by Steve James

The Juneau Audubon Society is trying to gauge interest in a couple of possible group trips to Wrangell for the Stikine River birds at the end of April and to Yakutat for the TernFest at the end of May.

This year's Stikine River Birding Festival will be held 04/30-05/03. However, one of the Wrangell guiding companies (Alaska Charters And Adventures) has offered to let the JAS know when the cranes have arrived and when the shorebirds have arrived, and to arrange a special trip for the JAS



up the Stikine to view them. They would let us know when the birds have arrived, and we could take the Thursday night ferry or fly to Wrangell to go viewing when we know the birds are there. Alaska Charters just needs to know how many people would be interested in a short-notice trip like this, to see if they can arrange something suitable and affordable. Photo of arctic terns by Merrill Jensen

The Yakutat TernFest will be held 05/28-31 this year, and we're interested in seeing how many JAS members and friends would be interested in attending that birding and wildlife festival. If enough people indicate their interest, we will try to get a group rate with Alaska Airlines (we can probably get a group rate with them with 10 or more people), and also get a shared van and maybe some group-rate accommodations.

At this early stage, we're not looking for firm commitments from anyone; we would just like to know how many people would be interested in either or both birding trips so we can see what sort of group rates we can leverage. If you are interested, please send an email to [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org) and let us know which group trip (Wrangell or Yakutat or both) you are interested in and how many people would be participating.

## Juneau Bird Report By Amy Courtney

January in Juneau looked pretty much the same as it did the few months prior— dark, brown, and mostly snowless. Luckily for us, a few more species than normal seem to be trying to winter here because of it. A local favorite is a **Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk** that has been overwintering since October, and can regularly be seen perched near Egan Drive between Temsco and Sunny Point. Getting a glimpse of it as one putters by on the highway is a quick way to brighten a dreary day.

**Gadwall** are common here in very small numbers and in just a couple locations, so finding forty-six at Sheep Creek Delta on 1/9 was a surprise, and seems to be a new high count for the area

(GV). A female **Northern Shoveler** on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 1/11 was unusual for this time of year also (GV). On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Patty Rose photographed a female **King Eider** diving with a raft of Surf Scoters in Gastineau Channel near First Street in Douglas. Many others were able to spot and photograph this golden arctic vagrant through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Around here a person is lucky to see one **Black Scoter** among hundreds of Surf and White-winged Scoters, but Gus van Vliet saw five of them in Auke Bay on 1/15. Numerous **Pacific Loons** have been reported, but surprisingly only a couple of **Common Loons**. On 1/10, Laurie Lamm scoped a **Yellow-billed Loon** off Point Louisa, and the same day Gus van Vliet saw an immature **Red-throated Loon** in Auke Bay. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen in the Douglas boat harbor on 1/19 (DM), and again on 1/24 (PR). An immature **Glaucous Gull**, continuing since October, was reported again at the dock in front of Taku Smokeries on 1/9 (GV). **Herring Gulls** are unusual in the winter around here, so on 1/15 a second-cycle bird flying overhead near Auke Bay was a surprise (GV).

The “best” owl of the month by far was a **Long-eared Owl** seen out on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course on 1/9 (GV, LL). This very rare bird was first spotted last November by Brad Benter, and subsequently found by Deanna MacPhail during our Christmas Bird Count, making it the first **Long-eared Owl** on any Alaska CBC! Up to four **Short-eared Owls** have been seen haunting the wetlands also, but the fact that they are diurnal raptors (hunting by day) means that they are much easier to see than the Long-eared. Two **Great Horned Owls** were heard this month; one on Back Loop on 1/1 (DR), and the other in a neighborhood near the Mendenhall Campground on 1/23 (AP). On 1/4 Gwen Baluss heard two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** conversing in a Wren Drive neighborhood, and on 1/9 Alexia Kiefer photographed a **Barred Owl** perched on a post on Bresee Street.

Very rare in winter, a **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted flying over the lower Mendenhall River on 1/3 by Patty Rose and Bev Agler. On 1/23, Laurie Lamm found a flock of eight **Rusty Blackbirds** in a tree near the Airport Dike Trail. Reports of **Eurasian Collared-doves** have been few and far between this winter, but John Doty saw one in an Auke Bay neighborhood on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On 1/18, a **White-throated Sparrow** was spotted among a flock of juncos on Old Glacier Highway above Design North (PR, BA).

While quite common in the spring, summer, and fall, **Orange-crowned Warblers** are extremely rare here in the winter, since the farthest north that they regularly winter is northern California. A continuing bird of the *celata* subspecies, first discovered with a flock of juncos on the Airport Dike Trail in early December (NH, LD), was re-found on 1/3 (PR, BA); and a subspecies *lutescens* bird was seen in a yard on Julep St. many times between 12/28 and 1/6 (AC). Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were spotted on 1/18, but in very different places—one on the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei (Brotherhood Bridge Trail) by Patty Rose and Bev Agler, and the other near the Douglas boat harbor by Laurie Lamm.

It is interesting that we have had fewer reports of overwintering **Anna’s Humingbirds** this year, even though the weather has been considerably warmer than the past few years. Only two have been reported this month—an adult and an immature male, both on River Road.

An unusual number of varied thrush=61! were seen at Auke Bay again on 1/3 (BW).

Thanks to the following people who shared their bird sightings on eBird and Facebook: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Amy Courtney (AC), Luke DeCicco (LD), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Alexia Kiefer, Laurie Lamm (LL), Deanna MacPhail (DM), Amy Pinney (AP), Patty Rose (PR), Deb Rudis (DR), Gus van Vliet (GV).

Photo of Varied Thrush by Merrill Jensen



### **Smoky Mountains, N.C. Christmas Bird Count** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick

On January 3, a rainy Saturday, 30 volunteers participated in the Christmas Bird Count. This year's count resulted in 63 species being spotted. There was a total of 6,054 birds counted across a 15-mile area in our community. Birds seen this year of special interest were two **Green-Winged Teal**, two **Rusty Blackbirds**, four **Hooded Mergansers** and a **Snow Goose**. Last year's count was of 60 different species with a total of 4,270 birds.

In a neighboring community of bird watches they saw 41 species, 2 less than last year, and the total number of birds seen decreased by 99, to 977. Some of their delights were seeing a large flock of **Pine Siskins**, five species of woodpeckers which included the **Pileated** and two **Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers**. They also noted a **Hermit Thrush**, 25 **Hooded Mergansers** a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** with males flashing their golden-edged, scarlet crowns.

This winter in my own back yard there has been a huge flock of **Pine Siskins** mixed with **Gold Finch** and **Purple Finch**. They have been emptying the bird feeders every day.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heinl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > .

### **Birds in a Digital World**

APP: · **Merlin Bird ID:** An incredibly easy-to-use app designed for beginners. Takes you step-by-step through the process of identifying the bird you are looking at, and gives you results specific to your geographic location and time of year! Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. *Available for:* iOS and Android

website: **eBird:** A trove of world-wide bird sightings mapped out using Google Earth, this expansive resource shows citizen science at its finest. Any person can access reports of virtually any species from an hour ago to fifty years ago. An easy way to peruse recent local sightings, it also shows bar charts of when you're likely to see a given species in your area. You can also use it to keep track of your own sightings! *Web address:* [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

### Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

President: Gwen Baluss	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Vice-President: Josh Peters	<a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-iety.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-iety.org</a>
Secretary: Amy Sherwin	<a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Treasurer: Patty Rose	<a href="mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org">treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Programs: Doug Jones	<a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Membership: Jane Ginter	<a href="mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org">membership@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Education: Patricia Wherry	<a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Conservation:	<a href="mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org">conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Field Trips: Amy Clark Courtney	<a href="mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org">field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540	<a href="mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org">raven@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large:	<a href="mailto:at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large: Brenda Wright 789-4656	<a href="mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Public Market:	<a href="mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org">public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Web Master: George Utermohle	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

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

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# The Raven



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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 41, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2015

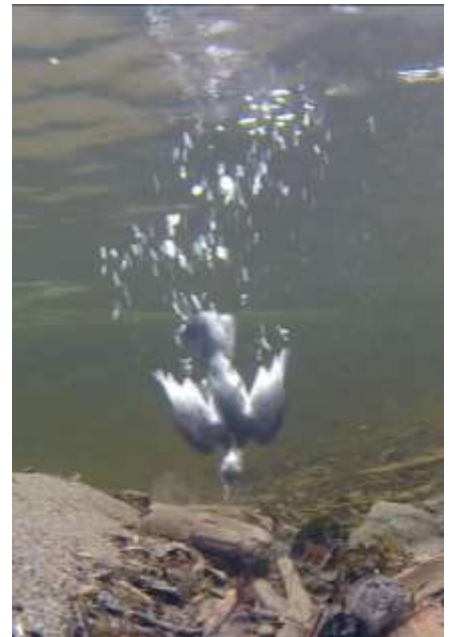
**GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, March 12, 7:00 p.m.**

**University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center (Go around the circle at Auke Bay, go north on the Back Loop Road turn left directly across from the entrance to the main campus)**

**Nature Clips - Using video to show some of nature's complexities**

If a picture is worth a 1,000 words, what is a video worth? Hopefully we will answer that in the presentation.

Bob Armstrong and Doug Jones explore using video to show just some of nature's rich diversity. Watch video clips for everything from insects to bears and diving songbirds to harbor seals chasing salmon. For example, click this link to see a Nature Clip: **The Pagophilic Rock Sandpiper** <https://vimeo.com/117079243>  
What do you think Pagophilic means?



Bob Armstrong

**"Announcing the first monthly JAS Bird ID Quiz!**  
Beginning this month we will be including a bird identification quiz photo in every Raven newsletter. If you know the answer, please email Amy at [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org) and we will include the names of those who guessed correctly (along with the answer) in the next newsletter. For more frequent bird quizzes, visit our Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page!"

**April 16 – 7:00 p.m. General Meeting, Southeast Bird Festivals, Centennial Hall**

## **2015 GREAT AMERICAN ARCTIC BIRDING CHALLENGE**

**Starts March 1 through June 1**

Many birds are starting to move north from their wintering grounds. It's time for the [Great American Arctic Birding Challenge](#)! Birds from six continents rely on America's Arctic in Alaska for nesting, breeding, staging, and molting; their ranges reach across the Lower 48 states and beyond. Birdwatchers from around the United States can test their skills in the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge March 1 through June 1 to find the most birds in their state from the contest checklist of Arctic birds found in: <http://ak.audubon.org/2015-great-american-arctic-birding-challenge> along with all the instructions and information needed to participate in this birding challenge.

### **Preliminary Spring Schedule**

Date/Time	Activity/Location
Sat. April 11 8am- 10am	Fish Creek Bird Walk
Sat. April 18 8am-10am	Auke Rec / Pt. Louisa Bird Walk
Sat. April 25 8:30am-12:30pm	<b>Berners Bay Cruise</b>
Sat. May 2 Cruise 1) 8:30am-12:30pm Cruise 2) 1:30pm-5:30pm	<b>Berners Bay Cruises</b>
Sat. May 9 8am-10am	Airport Dike Trail Bird Walk
Sat. May 16 8am-11am	<b>Bird Banding @ Community Gardens</b>
Sat. May 23 8am-10am	Eagle Beach Bird Walk
Sat. May 30 8am-10am	Dredge Lakes Bird Walk
Sat. June 6 8am-10am	Sandy Beach/Treadwell Trails Bird Walk

**"Beginning Birder" course:** 5 one and a half hour classes to begin in valley at Mendenhall River Elementary (back of valley). Dates Thursday evenings 7-8:30pm starts March 26. Material is geared for novice and beginner adults and teens. Covers the amazing body of birds and identification tools to begin to recognize birds in Juneau, residents and migrants to the area. Class maximum 12. Register at Juneau Community Schools. Cost of course \$37.50. Information contact: Patricia Wherry 209-3374

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### **The Great Birdseed Brigade of 2015** Gwen Baluss, President

I received an unusual message at work last week from Brenda Wright, explaining that Home Depot was excessing and willing to donate pallets of bird seed to JAS. A few days later she had hustled up a work party and found a truck, thanks to Amy Courtney's dad, Bob Clark, being in town. Half the board and a couple volunteers found ourselves at Mary Lou King's house passing about 68 -- 20 lb. bags of wild bird seed mix into the barn. So now we are sitting on a giant stack of seeds mix which we will gladly distribute FREE to our members! If you are in Juneau, stop by and pick up yours today! It's a standard mix of sunflower, millet, milo, wheat and calcium, which should be acceptable to a number of local species. **To claim your bags of seeds, call Mary Lou at 789-7540 for instructions on where and when to get them.**

The irony was not lost on us that this is about the time we usually remind Alaskans that it's a good time to *take bird feeders down* as the BEARS become more active. That should not deter you from claiming some seed, however. With apologies to ADF&G and all the entities who educate us so well on bear etiquette, I'm going to say that in a very limited way, for a few conscientious fanatics, it can be OK to feed birds in the summer. Common sense applies. For instance, I have an upstairs balcony where I will place an untreated board and sprinkle a few seeds – no more at a time than the birds will likely eat within a day. Or, some birders will widely sprinkle it in a fenced or excessively bushy yard. This method is more sanitary than a feeder, and a bear would have to be pretty naughty and desperate to go to the trouble of climbing up a house or straddling a bush to lick the ground for say, half an hour to get half a cup of bird seed. Well... if you think my last few statements are all BS, that's fine too. You can still take some seed. Just leave it sealed and dry inside, and it should be still good for next winter.

We can compost what doesn't get used, so it doesn't go to the land fill. Thanks again to Home Depot for keeping organics out of the waste stream, and, hopefully, putting a smile on the face of a few bird watchers.

## **Juneau Audubon In Your Community**

**Birdhouses:** Juneau Audubon received a \$458 grant to build birdhouses for swallow habitat here in the City and Borough of Juneau. Chris S'Gro's students at Mendenhall River in coordination with JAS will be assembling the boxes with the materials being purchased from a local lumber supply store. Currently with the amount of the grant, and the quotes received from lumber stores we should be able to construct 23 bird boxes. The original boxes that are still standing have become dilapidated and are most are not functional. Plans are underway to make this both a functional, educational and social experience. The opportunities for learning will be extensive, with being able to count, and monitor the young with viewing windows built into the boxes. Field trips for data collection will be in the works. We are open to lumber donations! Please let us know if you are willing to help. Monthly updates on the project and pictures will be featured in upcoming newsletters. Thank you to all those involved for all of your help!

**Bird, Bird Related Report Writing Contest:** Juneau Audubon has decided to hold a monthly contest for elementary through high school students. We are interested in hearing about what you learn in your community! Reports should be 1000 words or less and about birds in your area. We encourage you to get your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbor children or whomever outside and seeing what is in their own backyard. We are open to any topics about birds, avian environment, effects on their habitat, biology, anatomy, observations, or anything bird related! Winners will be chosen by the Juneau Audubon Board and at least one submission will be printed in The Raven each month. This is a great opportunity for home schooled children also. Winners each month will also be sent an awesome science geared project to build at home! Submissions or questions should be emailed to [vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org) Please include name and address along with your submission.

### **Great Backyard Bird Count Wrap up by Brenda Wright**

Thanks to everyone who went out into our neighborhoods to count birds February 13-16. You did a great job!

We found 61 species and submitted over 74 checklists! Of the 61 species counted the Barred owl and King Eider really stood out for me. I'm still looking for them and also any shorebirds. There were black turnstones on our Juneau data so they are out there. If you want to explore our local reports or check out any other location, just go to <http://ebird.org/ebird/gbbc/subnational2/US-AK-110?yr=all>

on the Great Backyard Bird Count "Explore Data" page. Remember, you can be a citizen scientist year round by entering your bird information on ebird: <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

Have fun and enjoy the birds

## **Southeast Bird Festivals in Wrangell and Yakutat** by Steve James.

Photos by Steve James

Thanks to everyone who said they were interested in the Spring birding trips to Wrangell and to Yakutat with the Juneau Audubon Society – we’ve had enough positive feedback that it looks like both trips are a “Go”!

We have a couple of places still available for the Wrangell trip, but the boat we’ll be using to go up the Stikine is nearly full – if you’re still interested and have not yet replied, please do so soon. The best tides for the trip will be April 17-19 and the next best tides will be May 1-3, and then it is up to the birds and when they arrive. We are going to shoot for 2 trips



of 3-4 hours on the last few hours of the incoming big tide, one trip on Friday and one on Saturday, leaving Wrangell around 11AM. We’re now to the point of working the numbers for the boat and getting group rates for accommodation. The Stikine River Birding Festival has been given an Alaska Airlines discount code that we are going to try to use, and the overnight ferry remains a good alternative. The Alaska Airlines discount code for

Wrangell will be on the festival web page

shortly: <http://www.wrangell.com/birdingfestival/stikine-river-birding-festival-april-30-may-3-2015>



We also had good interest for a JAS group to Yakutat for their TernFest at the end of May. We have enough people to share a rental van to travel to and from the accommodations (Yakutat is fairly spread out), and we’re close to having the numbers to get some group rates – but we’re still looking for more people to join us so we can negotiate even better rates. The TernFest has not yet heard whether or not they will have an Alaska Airlines discount code this year.

If you were waiting to see if the JAS groups were going to happen – they are, it's not too late to tell us that you want to come too. If so, please email [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org) to let us know so we can keep you in the loop as our plans firm up.

### **Juneau Bird Report** By Amy Courtney

The harbingers of spring have arrived here in Juneau! A group of six unidentified swans were spotted flying over the airport area back on 1/31 (AC), and many people reported a large influx of Varied Thrushes around the beginning of February, including a whopping 61 at the Auke Rec Campground on 1/31 (BW)! In recent weeks, Red-breasted Sapsuckers have been drumming out their arrival announcement, and the laconic phrases of the Varied Thrushes' "telephone song" have sparked hopes of an early spring.



Few rare birds were spotted this past month, but perhaps the most frequently visited and photographed was the continuing female **King Eider** near the Douglas boat harbor. On 2/18, a **Black Scoter** was seen from Picnic Cove in North Douglas (MS), and three days later, three were reported from across the channel in Auke Bay (GV). The **Glaucous Gull** continuing from last fall at the Taku Smokeries Dock was last spotted on 2/15 (AC).

Numerous owls have been heard and occasionally seen this month. A **Great Horned Owl** was heard on Back Loop on 2/03 (DR), and again on 2/17 in the same general area (GB). On 2/16, a **Barred Owl** was calling near the head of the Boy Scout Camp Trail (KA). Up to four **Short-eared Owls** have been seen patrolling the wetlands on both sides of the Mendenhall River (m. obs.). In a neighborhood near Lena Cove, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** has been heard calling on a few different days over the last week (MM). On 2/9, a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was calling near the Montana Creek bridge on Back Loop (GV), and the next day one was perched on a tree near Auke Rec (JS). On 2/23 one was calling on Wren Drive (GB), possibly the same one heard earlier from the nearby Montana Creek Bridge.

An **American Kestrel** that overwintered is continuing on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course; and the **Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk** successfully overwintered, but has not been reported in its usual haunt near the Miller-Honsinger Pond since 2/19.

The *celata* **Orange-crowned Warbler** first reported back in December on the Airport Dike Trail was spotted again on 2/1 (BA, PR), and on 2/10 (GV). That it has managed to stay this long is amazing given the single digit temperatures we had early this month! An immature female **Anna's Hummingbird** has been continuing at a heated Tee Harbor feeder since

December 20<sup>th</sup> (DW). On 2/11 an adult male appeared in an Auke Bay yard (GV), and on 2/16 an adult male was seen on Wren Drive (GB).

Thanks to the following people who submitted their sightings to eBird and Eaglechat: Kristi Allen (KA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Amy Courtney (AC), Mary McCafferty (MM), Deb Rudis (DR), Jeff Sauer (JS), Gus van Vliet (GV), Dick Wood (DW), and Brenda Wright (BW).

### **Whitehorse Christmas Bird Count 2014 held on Boxing Day.**

The 2014 Whitehorse Christmas Bird Count set some new records. The fall of 2014 was very warm and there was little snow on the ground by count day. There was an unusually large amount of open water on the Yukon River as well as in various streams within the count circle. It seems both the birds and the observers like warm weather, as we had record numbers of species (33) and participants (48)! We had our first **Common Loon** and **Fox Sparrow** ever for the count, as well as record numbers of **Mallards, American Dippers, Bald Eagles, House Sparrows, and Rusty Blackbirds**. There were **Bald Eagles** everywhere, whereas in most years they are rarely seen anywhere but the Whitehorse landfill. The **Common Raven** count was high as well, but this may reflect the record number of participants afield. Not only were a lot of people out this year, many of them stayed out from dawn till dusk to take full advantage of the perfect weather conditions. Yukon Bird Club [yukonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbirdclub@gmail.com)

### **Peanut Butter/Suet** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

For years my winter bird menu has included the Peanut Butter/Suet treats. It has been a family tradition to put out peanut butter for birds during the winter months since my brother Pete started it when he was in his teens. He would hang up a short log with drilled holes filled with plain peanut butter.

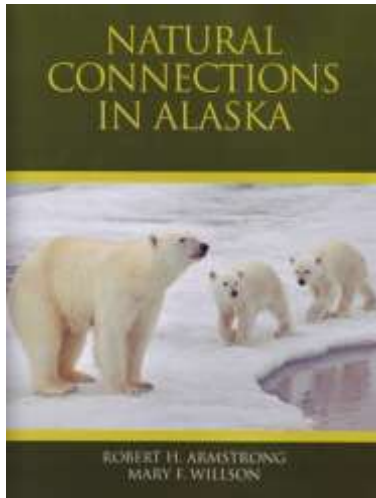
When I asked him about the plain peanut butter getting caught in the birds beak or throat he would chuckle and say, "Ahhh you're just humanizing the birds".

I prefer to use a mix. It includes one cup flour, four cups corn meal, one cup melted suet and one cup melted peanut butter. Blend it all together. It will firm up as it cools. Sometimes I fill the drilled holes of a small log, and sometimes I fill the plastic coated wire mesh square blocks. (They are available in the stores next to other bird feeders.)

The usual visitors that feed on the Peanut Butter/Suet are the Tufted Tit Mouse, Chickadee, Carolina Wren, White Breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jays, and Hermit Thrush. The woodpeckers that come are the Downy, Hairy, Red Bellied and occasionally the Pileated Woodpecker.

The delightful surprise of the winter, after an ice storm, was Mr. and Mrs. Eastern Blue Bird, especially the female. She came often during the day, sat on the block and ate and ate.

## Great Nature Books are now free!



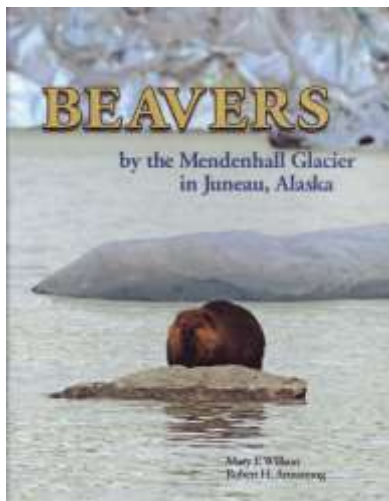
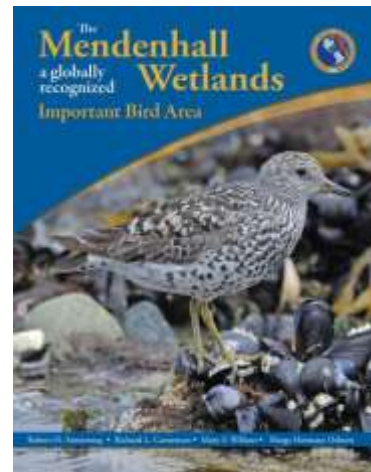
Understanding how various creatures and their habitats are connected can help promote protection of relatively small areas. Gathering information and writing a book about the area can also help. Three books that help illustrate this are now available for free downloading over the internet.

The book **Natural Connections in Alaska** discusses and illustrates the importance of understanding the various connections in nature. It also lists over 80 websites in Alaska that provide free information on connections in Alaska's nature. This book is available at:

<http://www.naturebob.com/sites/default/files/ConnectionsArmstrongWilson2.pdf>

One of the really special areas in Juneau is the Mendenhall Wetlands. The book **Mendenhall Wetlands a globally recognized Important Bird Area** discusses and illustrates the value of this area for Alaska's birds and shows how the area is important for birds on a world-wide basis. The value of Audubon Alaska's Important Bird Area program is quite evident here. This book is available at:

<http://naturebob.com/sites/default/files/Mendenhall%20Wetlands%20book.pdf>

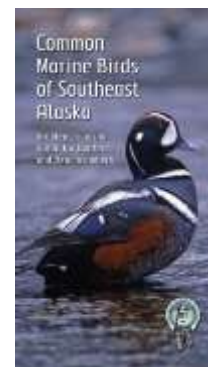


Sometimes protecting only one species can help numerous other creatures. Beavers are often called 'ecosystem engineers' because of their ability to alter the landscape. Their ability to provide and improve habitat for many other creatures is truly remarkable. Their benefits for salmon, trout and charr populations are well known and studied. The book **Beavers by the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska** discusses and illustrates these connections. This book is available at:

<http://www.naturebob.com/sites/default/files/Willson%2C%20Armstrong%2C%20Beaver.pdf>



Boaters and beach walkers take note! A beginners' guide to identifying some of the most commonly sighted birds on inside waters is now available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Paid for through a Scenic Byways grant, this compact booklet features illustrations from George C. West (author of [A Birder's Guide to Alaska](#)) and birding tips for 21 marine birds. Contact the Division of Wildlife Conservation at 465-4190 for a **free** copy. Anne Sutton (DFG)



**WEB OPPORTUNITIES**



**\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)**

***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

**Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heidl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901**

**Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928**

**This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heidl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heidl@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heidl@alaska.gov)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> .**

**Birds in a Digital World:** APP: · **Merlin Bird ID:** An incredibly easy-to-use app designed for beginners. Takes you step-by-step through the process of identifying the bird you are looking at, and gives you results specific to your geographic location and time of year! Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. **Available for:** iOS and Android website: **eBird:** A trove of world-wide bird sightings mapped out using Google Earth, this expansive resource shows citizen science at its finest. Any person can access reports of virtually any species from an hour ago to fifty years ago. An easy way to peruse recent local sightings, it also shows bar charts of when you're likely to see a given species in your area. You can also use it to keep track of your own sightings! **Web address:** [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

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**Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.**

**National Audubon Society Membership Application**

**For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714**  
**You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_**

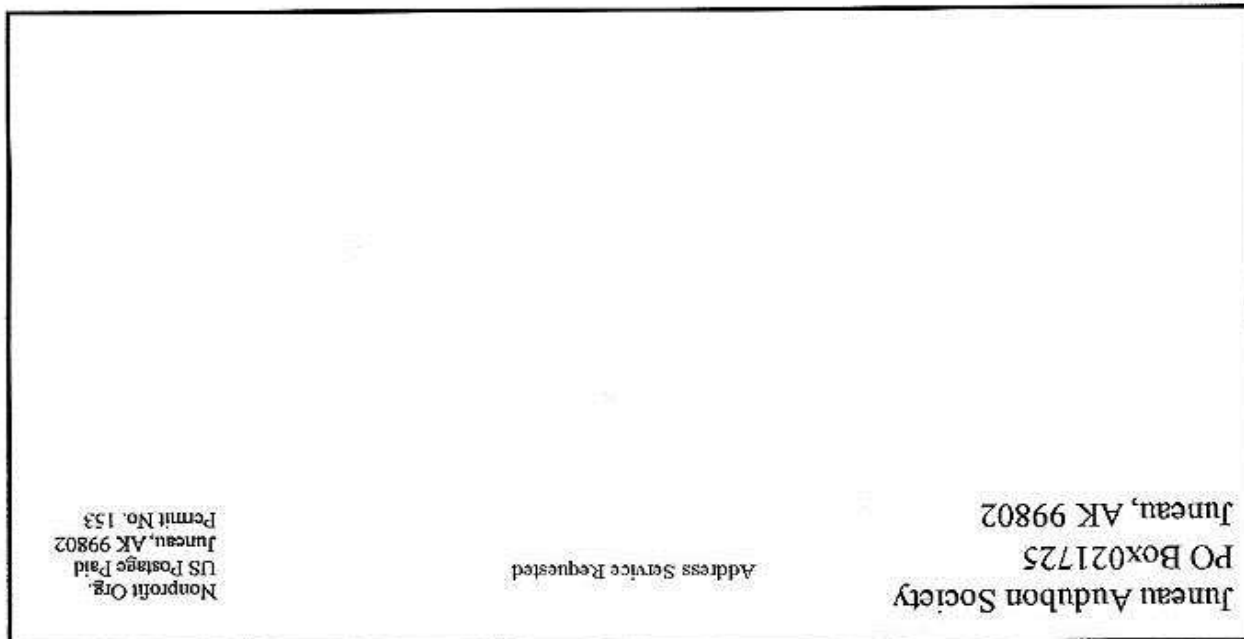
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\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

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**If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.**

**\*\*\*Please consider getting The Raven by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)**



# 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 41, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2015

**Flight to Adventure  
Free Public Presentation  
April 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
Egan Room Centennial Hall**

## **Southeast Alaska Birding Festivals**

Audubon's final evening program of the season will discuss Southeast Alaska's birding events: Ketchikan's Rufous Hummingbird Festival, Wrangell's Stikine River Birding Festival and the Yakutat Tern Festival. Learn more about how you can take advantage of the world class birding opportunities close to home, from the folks who have organized and attended the festivals; and enjoy Bob Armstrong's nature photos from these communities.



### **President's Message(s) By Gwen Baluss**

This month I just have an assortment of items to pass on to our members. I've been too busy preparing for the arrival of the migratory birds to think about much else.

Fabulous Finches We are still enjoying the "irruptive" influx of Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, and Pine Siskins. All are singing like crazy, and starting to spread out into pairs and small groups. Birders have observed the latter two

species picking at nesting material. We can look forward to even more finches soon! A lot of our “red” crossbill males are more orange. Diet, as well as age and sex, affect color. Generally, the adult females like the local beauty above are olive with a hint of yellow.

#### Birdseed

There is still FREE bird seed available! Please get it before a critter breaks into Mary Lou Kings shed. Note that her phone was unfortunately out for a while last month so if you tried to call during this time, please try again 789-7540

If we don’t move enough of it to local bird watchers, we’re going to have to partner with Alaska Brewing Company this fall to distill the grain into a special “songbird brew”. (Yes this is the April 1 edition of the JAS newsletter!)

#### Visitor Information

Ever feel overwhelmed when friends, family-- or random strangers-- hound you for advice for bird watching information for Juneau? Now you don’t have to spend too long vexing over your answers. I’ve created a quick page of general information and “expert advice” complete with links to other resources. It will soon be posted on the JAS webpage. Simply copy the text and send it off. Easy.

#### May 9 Bird Walk – and Litter Free Day combined!

Please bring a small trash bag and gloves to carry out a few pieces of litter on the walk back from the bird walk through the Mendenhall Wetlands. Let’s help clean up our local Important Bird Area, and keep that plastic from drifting back out to sea.

#### Rufous Hummingbirds smash all early Juneau arrival records.

Call it race to the flowers, to mates, or against the perils of el nino and global warming.. Either way you have to call it amazing. The earliest local well-confirmed record through 2014 was March 30.

This year the reports started much earlier. At first, there were the lingering Anna’s, which is interesting enough. But then, observers were certain they had seen the vanguard of Rufous.

3/22/15 Fabienne P reported two males, the same day the first blueberries opened near Auke Rec (Clever birds!)

3/27/15 Sandi S on Douglas recorded a male, 11 days earlier than last year, and beating a decade of records there.

3/28/15 Gus V saw a male in Auke Bay, earliest in 24 years of records!  
This bird and/or a possible second male visited again on 3/29

Sources: Journey North website, Yahoo! Group Eaglechat and eBird. Also, I spoke or emailed with all observers of these birds, and to those who have had Anna’s lately, to make sure I got the story straight. Thanks to all who reported!

## Spring Bird Walks & Berners Bay Cruises

Date/Time	Activity/Location	Tide Info	Leader/s
Sat. April 11 8am- 10am	Fish Creek- Meet 83.3 North Douglas Hwy parking lot before creek	<b>Hi 14.5 @ 6:02a</b> Lo 1.6 @12:44p	Laurie Lamm, Owen Squires
Sat. April 18 8am-10am	Auke Rec/ Pt. Louisa Meet at Shelter closest to Pt. Louisa Trail	<b>Lo -3.4 @ 7:32a</b> Hi 18.0 @ 1:48p	Mark Schwan
Sat. April 25 8:30am	<b>Berners Bay Cruise</b> Public Boat Harbor Auke Bay	Main Leaders: Laurie Craig, Mary Willson Assistants: Gus V., Amy C.	
Sat. May 2 Cruise 1) 8:30am Cruise 2) 1:30pm	<b>Berners Bay Cruises</b> Public Boat Harbor Auke Bay	AM Main Leaders: Mary Willson, Laurie C. AM Assistants: Brenda W., Gus V., Amy C. PM Main Leader: Laurie Craig PM Assistants: Brenda W., Gus V., Amy C.	
Sat. May 9 8am-10am	Airport Dike Trail Meet Radcliffe Road entrance to wetlands	Hi 15.7 @ 4:53a <b>Lo -0.3 @ 11:27a</b>	Amy Courtney
Sat. May 16 8am-11am	<b>Bird Banding @</b> Community Gardens – Montana Creek Road		Gwen Baluss
Sat. May 23 8am-10am	Eagle Beach Mile 28 Glacier Highway	Hi 14.9 @ 5:06a <b>Lo 0.4 @ 11:35a</b>	TBA
Sat. May 30 8am-10am	Dredge Lakes Meet Back Loop Road parking lot by bridge over the Mendenhall River	Lo 1.0 @ 5:57a Hi 13.3 @ 12:12p	Gus van Vliet
Sat. June 6 8am-10am	Treadwell Trails	Hi 17.1 @ 3:56 Lo -2.1 @ 10:26	Patty Rose

## Juneau's Spring Bird Observations

Spring migration is underway in Juneau. Larger numbers of dabbling ducks are showing and there have been one or two reports of **Trumpeter Swans** flying overhead. A few **Lesser Canada Geese** have been found on the wetlands mixed in with the **Vancouver Canada Geese**. The female **King Eider** at Douglas continued to be found through much of the month of



Snow Bunting by Mark Schwan

**Hummingbird** appear at his feeder on March 28, which is the earliest arrival date in 24 years of record keeping at his home. Then too, there were at least three reports of **Anna's Hummingbirds** visiting local feeders during March. Within the last week of the month, people have reported hearing **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, and larger flocks of robins are making a show. In recent days there have been several reports of small numbers of **Lapland**

**Longspurs** out on the wetlands and a few **Snow Buntings** are still present. **Pine Siskins** continue to be everywhere along our road system. You can't be outside without hearing their calls and chatter. **Red and White-winged Crossbills** are also still widespread from Douglas to the end of the road. Finally, the gulls at Mendenhall lake have been checking out the nesting cliffs for the last couple of weeks, and began touching down there on 3/30.

March. There has been at least one report for each of our local owl species calling over the last few weeks (**Great Horned, Pygmy and Barred**) and **Sooty Grouse** have been booming since at least March 8. Early **Black Oystercatchers** appeared at Outer Point on March 19 and Point Louisa on March 22. Gus van Vliet had a male **Rufous**



Pine Siskin by Mark Schwan

## Birdhouse Construction Project Update by Brenda Wright

On a chilly Saturday in March, six volunteers converged at my house. Our goal was to cut our wood into the correct sizes for the tree swallow nest box project. With the help of a table and circular saw we got all the wood cut for 32 complete bird houses. Then came the construction of the first birdhouse. After a bit of discussion and a false start, a birdhouse was completed. Then the volunteers marked and drilled holes for



the screws. The students who will be assembling the bird houses do not have any power tools. A class at Miller House and another at Montana Creek will put the boxes together in the next two weeks. After that, we will be placing the birdhouses out on the wetlands, near the community garden and hopefully a few other locations. If your property has a large open area, more than 100 feet from trees, we will be happy to bring a nest box or two for you to observe. The project will document all the birdhouses that are occupied and hopefully we'll be able to see them used by tree swallows! Just call Brenda at 789-4656, if you have a space available for a nest box. Photo by Gwen Baluss.

## **NestWatch Needs Volunteers!**

**NestWatch** is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Our database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

The species of most interest in SE Alaska are barn, tree, and violet-green swallows, and robins.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it, although children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests. Simply follow the directions on our website to **become a certified NestWatcher**, (<http://nestwatch.org/learn/how-to-nestwatch/code-of-conduct/>) find a bird nest using **our helpful tips**, (<http://nestwatch.org/learn/how-to-nestwatch/how-to-find-nests/>) visit the nest every 3-4 days and record what you see, and then **report this information** (<http://nestwatch.org/nw/data#/>) on our website. Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world. Sponsored by National Audubon Society and Cornell University.

### **Invite Your Volunteers to Track Hummingbirds this Spring**

Spring is in the air - what better time to take action for hummingbirds? Throughout April, Audubon is promoting the citizen science program, [Hummingbirds at Home](http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org) (<http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org>)- please join us! Watch for an early April update announcing a new toolkit of resources on [Audubon Works\\*](#)(, including a newsletter/web article, presentation slides, social media posts and posters to help you demonstrate how the [Hummingbirds at Home](#) app is a fun and easy way for everyone to get involved.

## BIRD QUIZ

This month's bird quiz photo is of a species that is rare in Southeast Alaska, but has distinctive features. If you don't know what it is, try looking it up in a field guide and shoot Amy an email at [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org) with your answer! Photo courtesy of Nick Hajdukovich. Last month's quiz bird was a COMMON MURRE in non-breeding plumage.



### Get to Know Your Birds

- Birds are fascinating and inspiring. They enhance our communities and our lives.
- Birds can be found everywhere, from shorelines, forests, mountains, and marshes to our most urban landscapes.
- Learning to identify birds is one of the best ways to connect with the natural world, and is the first step toward taking conservation action.
- Where do I start?
- Borrow a bird guide from the library
  - Join an outing with your local naturalists club
  - Put up bird feeders
  - Become a Citizen Scientist for an entry-level program such as the Great Backyard Bird Count or Project FeederWatch. Participating is easy, and fun!
  - Check out free online resources such as [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) or the Merlin Bird ID app



**From: "Peg Tileston" "What's Up" <whatsup@npogroups.org>**

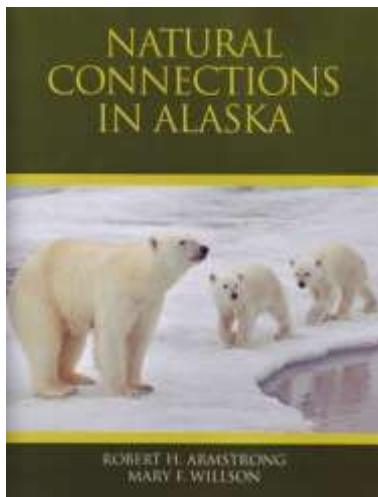
**JUNEAU - April 10** Deadline for applications for the Div. of Parks and Outdoor 2015 **ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PILOT PROGRAM** at **ERNEST GRUENING STATE HISTORICAL PARK** in Juneau. This new program will offer artists an opportunity to pursue their artistic discipline while being immersed in the captivating landscape of Ernest Gruening State Historical Park. Selected artists stay in the Ernest Gruening Cabin for up to two weeks from June through September. The program is intended to highlight Alaska State Parks for present and future generations while offering park visitors and the general public an opportunity to see our parks through the eyes of contributing artists. **The Selection Process:** The Artists-In-Residence pilot program will have a maximum of four artists chosen for the 2015 summer season. A panel of professionals established by Alaska State Parks will choose four finalists with two alternates. Selection will be based on artistic merit, the Statement of Purpose, and an artist's project proposal. Final selection will be determined by the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. **Application Process:** The application requires the artist to submit the following items: Statement of purpose for Residency that includes the specific focus of project, relevance of this project to the park, and potential for personal growth during the residency; and a story about an experience staying or living in a rustic setting; Resume; Sample of artwork; \$25 application fee (paid by contacting the DNR Public Information Center at 907-269-8400). Application form is available at

<https://webmail.gci.net/mail/index.php/mail/viewmessage/getattachment/folder/INBOX/uniqueId/49014/mimeType/YXBwbGljYXRpb24vcGRm/fileOriginal/AK%2BState%2BParks%2BGruening%2BCabin%2BArtist.in.Residence%2BApplication%2B2015.pdf>.

**April 3 KETCHIKAN - 2015 ALASKA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL JURIED ART SHOW OPENING RECEPTION** will be held from 5 to 7pm in the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center Free and open to the public. Besides the art show, the **festival celebration continues through May 2**. Scheduled activities include guided bird hikes, the Friday Night Insights lecture series, and films. The festival schedule will be posted at <http://www.alaskacenters.gov/ketchikan.cfm>. All programs and activities are free to the public. The Discovery Center lobby is open Fridays from noon to 8pm. Movies start at 12:15pm. For more information, contact Leslie Swada at 907-228-6220 or email [lswada@fs.fed.us](mailto:lswada@fs.fed.us).

**ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC POLICIES THAT UNINTENTIONALLY ENCOURAGE AND SUBSIDIZE SPRAWL** (<http://bit.ly/1EvGtIN>) reports that urban sprawl costs the American economy more than US\$1 trillion annually, according to a new study by the New Climate Economy. It estimates that Americans living in sprawled communities bear at least \$625 billion in direct incremental costs and impose an extra \$400 billion in external costs on governments, businesses and other households. It identifies planning and market distortions that foster sprawl, and describes policy reforms that can help correct these distortions. These smart growth policies can lead to healthier, safer and wealthier communities in both developed and developing countries.

## Great Nature Books are now free!

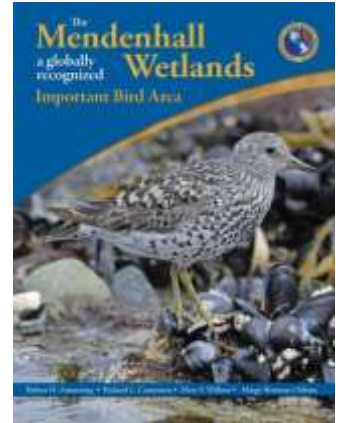


Understanding how various creatures and their habitats are connected can help promote protection of relatively small areas. Gathering information and writing a book about the area can also help. Three books that help illustrate this are now available for free downloading over the internet.

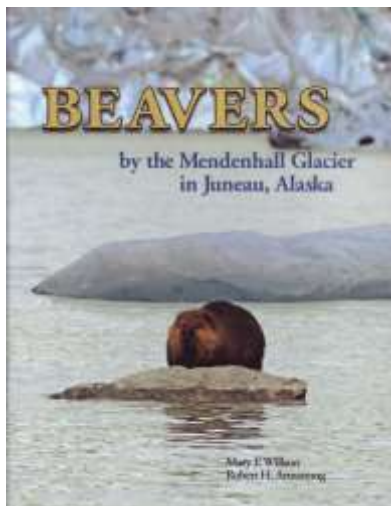
The book **Natural Connections in Alaska** discusses and illustrates the importance of understanding the various connections in nature. It also lists over 80 websites in Alaska that provide free information on connections in Alaska's nature. This book is available at:

<http://www.naturebob.com/sites/default/files/ConnectionsArmstrongWilson2.pdf>

One of the really special areas in Juneau is the Mendenhall Wetlands. The book **Mendenhall Wetlands a globally recognized Important Bird Area** discusses and illustrates the value of this area for Alaska's birds and shows how the area is important for birds on a world-wide basis. The value of Audubon Alaska's Important Bird Area program is quite evident here. This book is available at:



<http://naturebob.com/sites/default/files/Mendenhall%20Wetlands%20book.pdf>

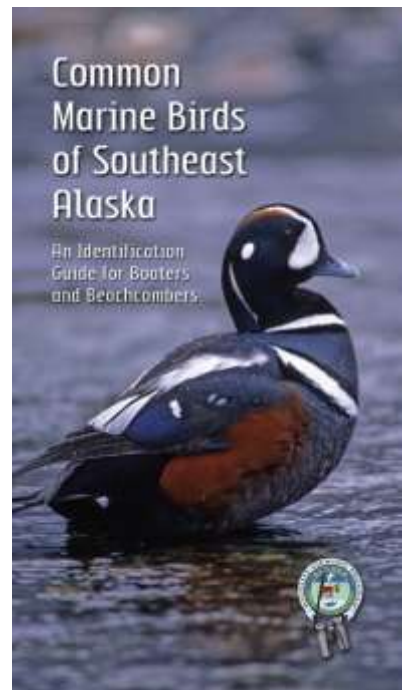


Sometimes protecting only one species can help numerous other creatures. Beavers are often called 'ecosystem engineers' because of their ability to alter the landscape. Their ability to provide and improve habitat for many other creatures is truly remarkable. Their benefits for salmon, trout and charr populations are well known and studied. The book **Beavers by the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska** discusses and illustrates these connections. This book is available at:

<http://www.naturebob.com/sites/default/files/Willson%2C%20Armstrong%2C%20Beaver.pdf>

Boaters and beach walkers take note! A beginners' guide to identifying some of the most commonly sighted birds on inside waters is now available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Paid for through a Scenic Byways grant, this compact booklet features illustrations from George C. West (author of A Birder's Guide to Alaska) and birding tips for 21 marine birds. Contact the Division of Wildlife Conservation at 465-4190 for a **free** copy.

Anne Sutton (DFG)



## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heintz's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heintz@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heintz@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > .

### **Birds in a Digital World**

APP: · **Merlin Bird ID:** An incredibly easy-to-use app designed for beginners. Takes you step-by-step through the process of identifying the bird you are looking at, and gives you results specific to your geographic location and time of year! Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. *Available for:* iOS and Android website: **eBird:** A trove of world-wide bird sightings mapped out using Google Earth, this expansive resource shows citizen science at its finest. Any person can access reports of virtually any species from an hour ago to fifty years ago. An easy way to peruse recent local sightings, it also shows bar charts of when you're likely to see a given species in your area. You can also use it to keep track of your own sightings! *Web address:* [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

### **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

President: Gwen Baluss	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Vice-President: Josh Peters	<a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Secretary: Amy Sherwin	<a href="mailto:secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org">secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Treasurer: Patty Rose	<a href="mailto:treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org">treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Programs: Doug Jones	<a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Membership: Jane Ginter	<a href="mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org">membership@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Education: Patricia Wherry	<a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Field Trips: Amy Clark Courtney	<a href="mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org">field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540	<a href="mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org">raven@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large:	<a href="mailto:at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large: Brenda Wright 789-4656	<a href="mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Public Market:	<a href="mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org">public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Web Master: George Utermohle	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

**PICK CLICK GIVE PROGRAM – PFD** We will again participate in the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend *Pick Click Give* Program beginning in 2015. It provides an easy and secure way to support birding interests. When applying for your PFD at <http://pfd.alaska.gov/>, please consider joining me and just pick and click to give to Juneau Audubon Society. As a whole group, we appreciate and benefit from continued member support through: Pick Click & Give, membership dues, assistance with leading activities, and serving on the board. Too much paper mail from the

National Audubon Society? You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201 Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

### National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

### Local Audubon Society Membership Application

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If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)

Juneau Audubon Society  
PO Box 021725  
Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

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US Postage Paid  
Juneau, AK 99802  
Permit No. 153

# 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 47, Number 9	Juneau Audubon Society	May 2015
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**THE NEXT REGULAR JUNEAU AUDUBON MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 10. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE.**

## Juneau Audubon Bird Walks

Date/Time		Activity/Location	Leader
Sat. May 9	8am-10am	Airport Dike Trail Bird Walk Boots recommended. Meet at trailhead at the end of Radcliffe Rd.	Amy Courtney
Sat. May 16	8am-11am	Bird Banding Demonstration @ Juneau Community Gardens on Montana Creek Rd.	Gwen Baluss
Sat. May 23	8am-10am	Eagle Beach Bird Walk Boots recommended. Mile 28 Glacier Hwy.	Amy Courtney
Sat. May 30	8am-10am	Dredge Lakes Bird Walk Meet at parking lot next to Mendenhall River bridge on Back Loop Rd.	Gus van Vliet
Sat. June 6	8am-10am	Sandy Beach/Treadwell Trails Bird Walk	Patty Rose

## Saturday Wild Walks

June 20	9:30am- 11:30am	Minus Tide Walk Location TBA	TBA
July 18	8am- 12pm	Mt. Roberts Tram Nature Walk Meet at the base of the tram at 8am. Bring \$7 per person to cover non-profit tram fare, and pay to Juneau Audubon.	Linda Nicklin
August 29	10am-12pm	Eaglecrest Berry Walk	TBA
September 19	10am	Mushroom Walk 1 Location TBA Due to the overwhelming popularity of this walk in past years, Dave is offering two walks this year, so that attendees can enjoy a smaller group.	Dave Gregovich
September 26	10am	Mushroom Walk 2 Location TBA	Dave Gregovich

Check [juneau-audubon-society.org](http://juneau-audubon-society.org) later in the month for details and unforeseen schedule changes.

## Local Youth Takes on Big Day Challenge

Owen Squires, 14, of Juneau, has decided to take the BIGGEST DAY challenge this May 9. His target is to find 50 species. He's collecting pledges of support and the proceeds will be split as donations to Juneau Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Owen has impressed many of us local birders with his keen interest and impressive birding skills. He started keeping track of species seen at age six. (For the record, chickadee and pine siskin were the first to be marked in his field guide). "After that", he says, "I decided I wanted to see all the birds in the world. Right now, I think maybe seeing the birds of the US are more realistic. Whenever I go on vacation I bring my binoculars with me, and we always take time to go bird watching in new areas. .. I remember visiting Hawk Mt and it was all foggy and I was sick but I was determined to go even though my mom didn't want me to. I didn't see anything on the mountain, but on the drive home I saw my first flock of snow geese."

Owen has been a volunteer for local citizen science projects like bird banding, and recently, a JAS trip co-leader. He hopes to find a career working with birds.

**Please join us in supporting his BIG DAY!** Help two worthy organizations too!

For more info email: [squiresfamilyATgci.net](mailto:squiresfamilyATgci.net)

or simply send checks to Owen at 4525 N Douglas, Juneau, AK 99801

And don't forget to report *your own bird sightings* May 9 for the global BIGGEST DAY using eBird. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/wsb/>

We in the North have an especially important role to play in this effort to record at least 4000 species, as many of our local species are migrants who may get missed down south. If you've never used eBird this is perfect time to check it out.

## Juneau Bird Report By Amy Courtney

April brought many "First of Year" sightings and a couple rare birds to Juneau. High numbers of **Greater White-fronted Geese** have been observed migrating north, and up to 135 have been seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands over the last week. A few **Cackling Geese** have been reported on the wetlands as well, 3 on 4/20 by Mark Schwan and 30 on 4/21 by David Schmerge. Multiple observers have seen small numbers of **Snow Geese** on the Mendenhall Wetlands and Eagle Beach in the past two weeks-- the highest count was 6. Two **American X Eurasian Wigeon hybrid** drakes were spotted at Eagle Beach on 4/22 (MS), and then on 4/29 a pure **Eurasian Wigeon** drake was seen at the same location (MS). A lone **Marbled Godwit**, observed taking a rest stop at Eagle Beach on 4/21 by Amy Courtney, was a day earlier than the previous early arrival record for Juneau. Mark Schwan photographed an immature **Red-tailed Hawk** at the muskeg next to the Montana Creek rifle range on 4/23. Up to 2 **Mountain Bluebirds** were reported by multiple individuals near the golf course, and also one at Eagle Beach. On 4/12, Gwen Baluss observed a flock of 75-100 **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** on the peninsula right in front of the Mendenhall Glacier.

A few **Arctic Terns** have returned so far, but it remains to be seen if they will attempt to nest in front of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center again this year. Small numbers of **Tree**

and **Violet-green Swallows**; **Hermit Thrushes**; **Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned**, and **Townsend's Warblers**; and **Lincoln's, White-crowned**, and **Golden-crowned Sparrows** have all been reported around town. Spring is here!!

Thanks to everyone who posted their sightings on eBird and Eaglechat.

## SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

In February, the Juneau Audubon Society awarded a \$100 prize to Sam Nolan and Chase Saviers for their science fair project entitled "Blue Mussel Tissue Mass by Location." Nolan and Saviers took samples of blue mussels from four different locations in Juneau-- the Shrine of St. Therese, the Auke Bay boat harbor, Sandy Beach, and False Outer Point in North Douglas. While three of the locations yielded mussels with very similar tissue mass, samples from the Auke Bay harbor had lower mass on average. They inferred that "the mussels have a lesser tissue mass due to pollutants that these mussels are constantly exposed to in a harbor compared to near open water like the rest of our test areas." Blue mussels are an important food for many birds, especially Surf Scoters-- the entire West-coast population of which migrates through the Inside Passage every year on the way to interior breeding grounds



adult HARRIS'S SPARROW in non-breeding plumage, and the photo was taken in Ketchikan.

**This month's bird quiz** is a bird that is fairly uncommon in southeast Alaska, but regularly breeds here. Do you know what it is? Email Amy at [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org) with your guess! Answer will be posted on the Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page soon. Photo courtesy of Bob Armstrong.

For more quizzes during the summer, check out our weekly Bird Quiz on our Facebook page! The quiz bird in last month's newsletter was an



## Birdhouse Construction Project Update by Brenda Wright

Juneau Audubon Society has successfully erected 33 tree swallow nest boxes. We could not have done it without the help of two classes of students from the Johnson Youth Center. They not only put all the bird houses together, but also came on a field trip to put them up.

We erected 14 at Sunny Point near the King's home. With good light, you might notice the boxes gleaming a little out on the wetlands as you drive by. We also got permission from CBJ parks and recreation department to erect bird houses at Lemon Creek and also in the second meadow near the Mendenhall River trail. The students were enthusiastic and really enjoyed the surveying for sites and pounding the rebar to mount the conduits and bird houses! Thanks very much to them for their help.



The Mendenhall state game refuge manager also gave us permission to erect some bird houses near the Fish Creek meadows. With those sites and a couple of private homes on North Douglas we got all 33 houses in place. As we were putting up one batch with the students, a tree swallow actually flew over! So of course we immediately put up the Vacancy signs so the swallows would know they could move in.

We have also had a donation from the Schempf family of a few more bird houses that will go up next week. If any one is interested in helping us monitor the bird houses, not only for occupancy, but also to observe young and maybe successful fledging, please contact Brenda Wright. We'd love to have your help.

Also a big thanks to Mary Mary McCafferty, Deb Rudis, Patricia Wherry, Shirley Carlson, and teacher Chris S'Gro! It could not have happened with out you!

Photo by Mary McCafferty

## **Death Traps for Birds** Gwen Baluss, President

All this beautiful spring warm, flowers and bird migration has me thinking about... death. Nobody likes to kill animals. Sometimes however rodents invade our home, gardens or businesses and we're left with few options. If that happens, it's good to think about potential bycatch. Wild birds, predators and pets can also be killed.

### **Bait and Poisons**

While the EPA has recently limited some products because they were killing or sickening so many non-target species, you still may encounter products containing the chemicals Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum, or Difethialone in common household bait such as older D-Con brand products.

The active ingredient will kill a mouse, but slowly. Meanwhile, anything that eats the mouse, still running around, including hawks, will be poisoned. Accidental ingestion by other animals including wild carnivores, dogs and even children has been documented.



If you need an idea for today's good deed, encourage your favorite store to pull any remaining products with the above chemicals from the shelves. The bait should be disposed of as hazardous waste.

**Snap traps:** The old fashioned mouse trap is generally a good alternative, but should only be used indoors where small birds will not have access. Birds can and do visit baited snap traps to be maimed or killed. Birds who nest in cavities or hide in thick vegetation will investigate fairly deep holes, so even putting traps inside other containers will not solve the problem.

**Live traps:** Checked frequently, live trapping is the most humane. While handy, avoid the multi-catch types; animals may fight or eat each other within.

Small animals have high metabolic needs so traps should contain plenty of moist nontoxic bait (like apple) and be checked a few times a day so non target species can be safely released. Rats and the house mouse are non-native and could pose a threat to wildlife if deported instead of dispatched. Others can be safely transported to a natural habitat.

## **Beware the Bear** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

This spring an article appeared in our local newspaper with a warm weather advisory about the black bear. It read like it might have appeared in the Juneau newspaper.

The article cautioned folks to avoid problems by using "bear proof" garbage cans. Take down birdfeeders, even if they are supposed to be bear proof. (Is there really such a thing as a bear proof birdfeeder?) It also suggested to be sure all pet food is consumed and empty food bowls brought inside, and to clean any food and grease from the barbecue grills. The same type of article also appears in the fall.

Back east I usually filled and hung up my birdfeeders in October. During my first October in Juneau I prepared to get the birdfeeders ready for winter. I had a large tin of Sunflower seeds and another one of mixed seed on the back deck. I filled and hung the bird feeders out on the back deck, anticipating an amazing variety of all the new birds I would see that winter. I also hung up a square wire block with the suet mixture in it.

Around 5 o'clock in the afternoon I heard a CLINK or a CLANK sound coming from the back deck. I looked out and there was a big black bear just a few inches away from me on the other side of the glass window. I watched as the bear reached up and pulled down the wire block, and ran off with it. The nail that the wire block had been hanging on was bent downward. (The suet must have smelled really good.) I felt rather shaken.

After it left the deck, I waited until it was no where in sight. Still shaking I went out and took down all the bird feeders, and the tins of seed, and brought them inside. Although the tins had teeth marks on them, they had not yet been opened. I decided that in Juneau, I needed to wait until November to put the birdfeeders back up.

The following spring I found that square wire block on the ground, out back, in the bushes. It was a little bent. It was empty.

**EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS IN OUR YARD FOR THE BIRDS AND THE BEES  
AND WE LIKE THEM TOO** By Mary Lou King



Blueberry



Salmon Berry



Skunk Cabbage that doesn't smell like a skunk in  
our rainforest.

**From: [whatsup] What's Up 4/23/15**

To see the list of extraordinary **FIELD COURSES OFFERED** by **ALASKA GEOGRAPHIC** this summer, go to :

[http://www.alaskageographic.org/static/148/learn?utm\\_source=Break+up+Bonfire+in+the+backyard++Local+conservation+events&utm\\_campaign=apr19+2015&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.alaskageographic.org/static/148/learn?utm_source=Break+up+Bonfire+in+the+backyard++Local+conservation+events&utm_campaign=apr19+2015&utm_medium=email). Explore Alaska's parks, forests, and refuges with expert instructors, and immerse yourself in the solitude of Alaska's wilderness. Our small-group courses are led by some of Alaska's best wildlife biologists, wildflower experts, published authors, and renowned artists.

**May 7 – 10 HOMER - KACHEMAK BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL** activities continue to expand: this year features more Family Bird Walks, new field excursions, and additional science talks, all led by expert guides, naturalists, and speakers. Keynote Speaker **Dr. DAVID BIRD** (McGill University) and Featured Speaker **NEIL HAYWARD** are joining in the celebration and offering a handful of entertaining talks. **KIM MCNETT**, our Featured Artist, used her naturalist background to create a stunning exclusive design for 2015 T-shirt and poster. To register or for more

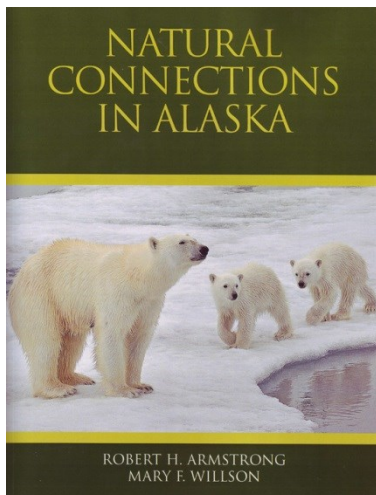
information, go to <http://www.homer.alaska.org/events/kachemak-bay-shorebird-festival/2014-shorebird-festival/shorebird-registration>.

**May 7 – 10 CORDOVA - COPPER RIVER DELTA SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL** will show off the millions of shorebirds passing through the Copper River Delta this spring. The Cordova Festival is always a stunning experience. Highlights of this 25th anniversary of the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival will be learning about rehabilitated birds with Bird TLC (Bird Treatment and Learning Center), guided field trips and Birding 101 classes, as well as classes, workshops and talks with illustrator, author and naturalist **MARYJO KOCH**. To celebrate such a milestone as our 25th year, the organizers of the festival are excited to present to you **THE WETLAND BALLET: THROUGH THE SEASONS**. For full details, go to

<http://www.cordovachamber.com/events/copper-river-delta-shorebird-festival>

**May 28 – 31 YAKUTAT – 5th ANNUAL YAKUTAT TERN FESTIVAL** is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat. The festival is family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, kid's activities, evening banquets and other programs, bird banding demonstration, and an art exhibit. This year's keynote speaker is **JOHN MARZLUFF**, Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington, and author of five books including; *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, *Dog Days*, *Raven Nights*, and most recently *Welcome to Subirdia*. Our featured artist, **ALISON BREMNER**, uses a variety of mediums and traditional techniques with contemporary Alaskan Native Tlingit design. She will be leading both youth and adult workshops and exhibiting her art during the festival. Following our keynote presentation, the **MT. ST. ELIAS DANCERS** will perform traditional native dance at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall. Alaska-based performing artist **ELIZABETH WARE** will conduct youth and adult workshops and perform in a production of *Macbeth* on Saturday. Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beach-combing. Please see [www.yakutatfestival.org](http://www.yakutatfestival.org), visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

## Great Nature Books are now free!

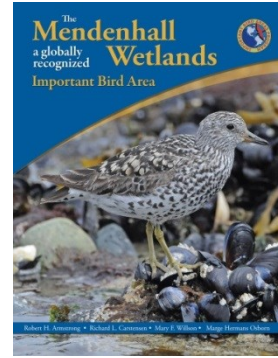


Understanding how various creatures and their habitats are connected can help promote protection of relatively small areas. Gathering information and writing a book about the area can also help. Three books that help illustrate this are now available for free downloading over the internet.

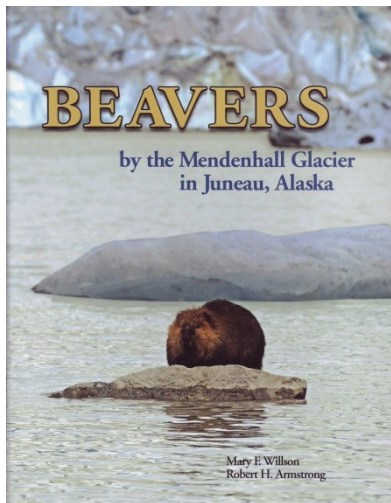
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One of the really special areas in Juneau is the Mendenhall Wetlands. The book **Mendenhall Wetlands a globally recognized Important Bird Area** discusses and illustrates the value of this area for Alaska's birds and shows how the area is important for birds on a world-wide basis. The value of Audubon Alaska's Important Bird Area program is quite evident here. This book is available at:



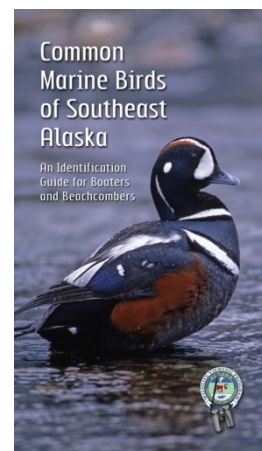
<http://naturebob.com/sites/default/files/Mendenhall%20Wetlands%20book.pdf>



Sometimes protecting only one species can help numerous other creatures. Beavers are often called 'ecosystem engineers' because of their ability to alter the landscape. Their ability to provide and improve habitat for many other creatures is truly remarkable. Their benefits for salmon, trout and charr populations are well known and studied. The book **Beavers by the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska** discusses and illustrates these connections. This book is available at:

<http://www.naturebob.com/sites/default/files/Willson%2C%20Armstrong%2C%20Beaver.pdf>

Boaters and beach walkers take note! A beginners' guide to identifying some of the most commonly sighted birds on inside waters is now available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Paid for through a Scenic Byways grant, this compact booklet features illustrations from George C. West (author of [A Birder's Guide to Alaska](#)) and birding tips for 21 marine birds. Contact the Division of Wildlife Conservation at 465-4190 for a **free** copy.



Anne Sutton (DFG)

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)



### ***SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY***

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heintz's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: [steve.heintz@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.heintz@alaska.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > .

### **New: Merlin Bird Photo ID**

You asked for it! The Merlin Bird ID team has been hard at work with colleagues from Caltech and Cornell Tech to develop computer vision capabilities enabling Merlin to identify birds in digital photos. We'd like you and other Lab members to be among the first to help us test this online tool using your own bird photos or screenshots of birds that you pull from the web. **Using a desktop computer or laptop, we invite you to check out Merlin Bird Photo ID. <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id-help/>**

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At-large: Brenda Wright 789-4656	<a href="mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Web Master: George Utermohle	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

National Audubon Society? You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or call 1-800-272-4201 Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

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You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$\_\_\_ is enclosed\_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

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If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (1-year membership) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of US mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)



# 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 42, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2015

## **JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015**

**Summer Slide Show! Bring a few of your favorites from the summer to share with the group. UAS Recreation Hall (back loop road) 7:00pm.**

### **Election! Election! October 8, 2015 Election of Officers**

All Audubon members are eligible vote for our officers. This year our candidates are Gwen Baluss for President, Josh Peters for vice-president, NO ONE for treasurer, and Amy Sherwin for secretary.

### **President's Message by Gwen Baluss**

Summers in Alaska are too short! It's already fall and that means we are looking forwards to regular JAS meetings and programs. And, we have elections coming up in October. If you have ever thought of getting more involved as volunteer or board member, now is a great time. We have multiple vacancies to fill. So, this is shout out for any birders or any community member with a little time and energy who are interested in conservation. JAS has hundreds of members, great community support, lots of activities, even a reasonable funding flow - but we're short on people power. Despite being composed of mostly twitchers, we are a pretty low-key and easy-going group. We need you!

### **Saturday Wild Walks**

September 19	am TBA	Mushroom Walk 1 Location TBA	Dave Gregovich
September 26	am TBA	Mushroom Walk 2 Location TBA	Dave Gregovich

To register for the mushroom walks (maximum 10 people each date) send an e-mail to [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org), please include preferred date and number of people.

Check [juneau-audubon-society.org](http://juneau-audubon-society.org) later in the month for possible schedule updates.

## **Saturday Wild Walks**

Thanks so much to our Field Trips Coordinator Amy Courtney for organizing our fun and making posters, joining the radio for Juneau afternoon, adding our events to the calendars, posting on Facebook, and joining in the fun! Fun times on Saturday Wild trips this summer:

### **Low Tide Walk in June** (photo by Brenda Wright)



### **Mt Roberts Tram in July** (photo by Bev Agler)

The weather got clearer the higher we went!





## Berry picking at Eaglecrest in August



### Juneau Bird Report - May through August

By Amy Courtney

We have had a few good birds here in Juneau since our last newsletter in early May. Two male **Eurasian Wigeon** were seen at Eagle Beach on 5/5 (AC), and one on the Mendenhall Wetlands SGR 5/13-16 (DS; MS). A male **Redhead** and three **Canvasback** made a convenient appearance on Rotary Park pond off Riverside Dr. on 5/4 (AC, m. obs.), and most of them stuck around at least till 5/11. On 5/12 a **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted on a pond in the Mendenhall Forelands (MS; GV, DM) and it was present for the next three days. The passengers on the afternoon JAS Berners Bay Cruise on 5/2 got a treat when a **Double-crested Cormorant** was spied perched on Aaron Island in Favorite Channel (MS, AC).

Two **Sora** were present in Juneau this year-- one on the Peterson Creek flats on 5/10 (BA), and another at the Community Gardens from 5/16-25 (GB; PR, BA). On 5/20 Mark Schwan heard an **Upland Sandpiper** flying overhead on the Pt. Bridget Trail, and on 8/17 Gus van Vliet heard one on the Mendenhall Wetlands. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was an exciting find at Eagle Beach on 6/6-7 (GV, AB, m. obs.). Another rare shorebird report was a **Stilt Sandpiper** near the Dike Trail on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 8/9 (GV; m. obs.), and then the next day a second one appeared nearby! Both were last reported on 8/26. For the second year in a row, a very-rare **Black-headed Gull** has been spotted at Eagle Beach. It was present for at least two days, 6/24-25 (MS; m. obs.). Also found at Eagle Beach was a **Ring-billed Gull** 8/5-10 (PL, GV; m. obs.). One **Glaucous Gull** was reported from Pt. Bridget on 5/15 (DS), and another at the Salmon Creek Delta on 8/5-8 (PL, GV; MS).



Stilt sandpiper by Amy Courtney

Rare passerines were few in Juneau this summer. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was singing on the Mendenhall Forelands on 6/21 (MS). A male **Red-eyed Vireo** was found singing enthusiastically in the same spot that the Red-eyed and Warbling Vireo had a nest and brood last year next to the Brotherhood Bridge Trail (LL; m. obs.). It seems likely that this individual is the male from last year, but no other vireos were observed in that area this season. He was present at least from 6/14- 7/22.

Thank you to the following people who submitted their sightings to eBird for citizen science use: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Alan Burger (AB), Amy Courtney (AC), Laurie Lamm (LL), Paul Lehman (PL), Deanna MacPhail (DM), Patty Rose (PR), David Schmerge (DS), Mark Schwan (MS), Gus van Vliet (GV).



Black-headed gull by Mark Schwan

## Bird Festivals in Southeast Alaska

### Wrangell/Stikine Festival in early May

A group of Juneau Audubon members traveled to Wrangell last spring to enjoy the bird migration on the Stikine River. Jointly they rented a boat to take them up river near to the bird concentration areas. A great deal of fun was had by all. Thanks to Steve James for organizing the trip and providing photos.



### Yakutat Tern Festival in late May

Thanks to Steve James to help organize our visit to the Yakutat Tern Festival this past May. What a really fun time! We had guided walks every day, interesting talks by bird experts, bird banding, great meals, wonderful dancing by the local Yakutat Mt. St. Elias group and NICE Weather! If you have ever happened to have experienced Yakutat rainy weather, you would have loved this visit. Not only did we have sunshine, but also three types of terns to observe. The Arctic terns and Aleutian terns were our target species, but then we also got Caspian terns to fill out the list! We can highly recommend the Yakutat Tern Festival to all!

Photo of **Aleutian Tern**, **Caspian Tern**, **red-necked phalaropes**, and sign by Ann Doty.



## **FREE! Merlin Bird Id -Identification App from Cornell University**

To download your free bird app **Merlin Bird Id** (works on both iPhone and Android) just visit this site <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/> Just answer five easy questions and the app will display the most likely birds to be found in your zip code. The app has 400 of the 700 North American bird species and is great fun to use with children.

### **Merlin Bird Photo Id**

You asked for it! The Merlin Bird ID team has been hard at work with colleagues from Caltech and Cornell Tech to develop computer vision capabilities enabling Merlin to identify birds in digital photos. We'd like you and other Lab members to be among the first to help us test this online tool using your own bird photos or screenshots of birds that you pull from the web. **Using a desktop computer or laptop, we invite you to check out [Merlin Bird Photo ID](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id-help/).** <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id-help/>

### **eBird**

Global tools for birders, critical data for science

- Record the birds you see
- Keep track of your bird lists
- Explore dynamic maps and graphs
- Share your sightings and join the eBird community
- Contribute to science and conservation

#### **Overview**

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>) has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in March 2012, participants reported more than 3.1 million bird observations across North America

**SPECIAL** Thank you to Amy Courtney for being an excellent field trips coordinator the last three years! We will miss your organization talents and your excellent birding skills. Thanks, Amy

## [Keep an eye out for this Anna's Hummingbird](#)

By Gwen Baluss

I caught this in the yard August 6. Probably a hapless young male, banded today at lunchtime, after he set up shop in my Mendenhall Valley back yard. It is the first to be tagged in Alaska. It will be interesting to see if his survival over the winter can be documented. The band is hard to see, but not impossible. (Photos by Gwen Baluss).



## **Tree Swallow Nest Box Update Fall 2015**

With the help of many volunteers, Juneau Audubon Society erected 47 new tree swallow nest boxes. They were located at Sunny Point, Switzer Creek meadow, Brotherhood Bridge meadows, Fish Creek (Douglas), Pioneer Home marsh, and 2 private homes on North Douglas. Volunteers also checked the boxes to keep a record of how many were used and by what species. If any one has time to help remove the boxes for winter, please contact Brenda at 321-4739.

Photo courtesy of Bob Armstrong.



## What's Up?

### September 30

Deadline for registration for the **COSTA RICA | BIRDING WITH AUDUBON ALASKA TRIP** for **February 21 to March 2, 2016**. Pack your binoculars and embark on the birding trip of a lifetime. With approximately 900 bird species, Costa Rica provides countless opportunities for birders to expand their list. From the colorful Scarlet Macaw to the White-winged Becard, your eyes will have something to feast on every step of the way. Explore Costa Rica's pristine ecosystems and birding hotspots with Audubon Alaska on this 11-day journey. Led by Audubon Alaska Director of Conservation and Costa Rica birding expert Melanie Smith this trip offers a unique opportunity for participants to interact with Costa Rica's avifauna while simultaneously learning about them. Space is limited, only 8 spots left. Check out the itinerary and reserve your spot today at <http://holbrooktravel.com/dated-departure/audubonalaska2016>.

**ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (ACF)** is accepting applications for the **RAPID RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM**. Rapid Response grants provide support for direct conservation action to address unforeseen opportunities or threats of statewide significance, leading to more robust environmental policy and enduring conservation impact. Rapid Response grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for a project period of no more than six months. The Rapid Response Program accepts Letters of Inquiry on an ongoing basis through ACF's online application system. For more information about the selection and eligibility criteria and how to submit an application, please go to <http://alaskaconservation.org/grant-opportunities/rapid-response-2/>.

**BOARD of FORESTRY** - The Office of Boards and Commissions is accepting **APPLICATIONS for the ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE SEAT** and the **COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ORGANIZATION SEAT**. Please submit your application online at <http://gov.alaska.gov/Walker/services/boards-commissions/apply-info.html> or email your resume to: [boards@alaska.gov](mailto:boards@alaska.gov).

### Eagle Feather Collection Permit

Juneau Audubon Society has a USFWS permit to collect eagle feathers for the National Eagle Repository in Colorado. Volunteers anywhere in SE Alaska can get a copy of the permit and pick up eagle feathers from the ground. If you are interested in volunteering to collect feathers, please contact Brenda [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org) If you already have a permit, please bring your feathers to any public meeting in Juneau.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)



### *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz and Andrew W. Piston

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> .

Visit Bird Studies Canada to learn more about birds in our nearest neighbor's territory. A great story on tracking birds from South America through the US and northern Canada can be found at <http://www.birdscanada.org/research/motus/>

Visit Cornell University Lab of Ornithology for great stories on a new species of hummingbird, mystery sounds from birds, bird quizzes, and more at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>

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

**\_\_\_My check for \$\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51**

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# The Raven

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<http://www.juneau-audubon->

Volume 42, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2015

## **GENERAL MEETING --Thursday, October 8, UAS - Recreation Center Room 116 -- 7pm-8pm**

**Free Public Presentation** -- Audubon's first general public meeting after the summer break, will feature photos from all those interested in sharing photos and or videos from this past year.



**King Eider in Douglas**

**Annual Election of Officers** –Election! Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers in conjunction with this October public meeting. Our four 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. At this writing, the candidates for 2015-2016 are Gwen Baluss for president, Josh Peters for vice-president, no one for treasurer, and Amy Sherwin for secretary. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as a candidate for any of the officer positions. We really do need to have someone willing to serve as treasurer, as it is an important position. Anyone wanting to know more about this position please contact Gwen [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org). Also, if anyone is interested in joining our board in one of our non-

officer positions, we need help, as we currently have a vacant committee chair for field trips, programs, and conservation. The conservation chair position is especially crucial and needs someone to help the chapter focus and respond to important environmental issues as they arise.

## OWEN'S BIG DAY RESULTS

Recently local youth birder Owen Squires made a big splash by being the first to ID the now famous **Hooded Oriole** that showed up in Juneau this month. However, last spring Owen was already making news with Audubon by doing a Big Day and gathering pledges to support JAS and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The results? A busy day of birding and almost a thousand dollars raised for bird conservation charities. Way to go Owen!! And a big Thanks to all who supported the effort with their pledges.

Barefoot birders. Owen Squires (Right) hands over the big day check to board members (Left to Right) Amy Courtney, Jane Ginter and Gwen Baluss.

### The Big Day by Owen Squires

Thank you for supporting my cause on Migratory Bird Day (May 9) for the conservation of birds.

My goal was to raise money for Cornell's Lab Of Ornithology and my local Audubon chapter. Because of your support, I raised over \$650 total, to be split between the two organizations.

I was hoping to see at least 50 bird species. I exceeded that and identified 67 species during the day. My one rule was that I had to see the birds for five seconds, not just a fly by or by sound.

My favorite sighting was a pair of Merlins together, one feasting on a sandpiper. The bird that eluded me was a Steller's Jay. Some other easy birds missed were a Kingfisher, and a Red-winged Blackbird.

I added three new species to my life list during the day (Dunlin, Long Billed Dowitcher, and a Redhead duck). I got skunked at one of Juneau's birding hotspots, Eagle Beach, due to torrential downpour, but the last hike of the day made up for it with a pair of Mountain Bluebirds in the afternoon sun. I birded for roughly 12 hours with an hour lunch break, and massive weather changes and delays. I saw the first 50 birds with in the first six hours, but had to work hard for the last remaining birds. In all it was a great Big Day. Again, thank you for your contribution.



## **The Rewards of a Field Day** by President Gwen Baluss

We only sense a small fraction of what's around us. According to NASA, 95% of the universe could be dark matter that barely even interacts with, let alone can be sensed by, the type of matter we are. Animals all around us are constantly seeing ultraviolet colors, hearing subsonic sounds, and smelling a complexity of molecules that we cannot even imagine. We stand on the thin skin of a large and deep planet whose movements below our own feet we don't understand. That's why on what seems like a mundane and gray day, it can be real thrill to get just a small peek at the hidden mysteries that we actually can sense, if we know where to probe.

This is what I love about field trips, like our recent jaunt for fungus. Mushrooms carry a mystique, as it is believed that each cap in our imagination carries the possibility of an expensive delicacy, a poisoner, or the bearer of a psychedelic trip to the underworld. Putting all these hopes or fears aside, it's quite a surprise when a cornucopia of different mushrooms suddenly emerges, colorful and vibrant, in what a few days before seemed like a drab patch of forest. And to think that underneath, the tiny threads of mycelia that conspired to send these fruits out may have spread their tendrils throughout acres and acres of soil; they may have waited down there for years-- decades even.

And so it is with birds as well. Learn a few new birdsongs and suddenly one spring day a familiar neighborhood is transformed, a habitat for the cheerful aliens in the bushes. I recall seeing, as an adult, my first kinglet. The tiny gray sprites had probably been within 50 feet of me in my favorite childhood woods, probably hundreds of times, and I had never so much heard of their existence, let alone identified one.

Some seek to connect with life's hidden mysteries via pilgrimages, fasting, meditation; or perhaps years of intense study of poetry or science or philosophy. Luckily for the rest of us, we can get a little glimpse of great unknown by heading into thicket for a morning, with a field guide.

## **Juneau Bird Report**

By Amy Courtney

The first rare bird that Juneau had this past month was a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** that the Jessica Millsaps found on Gene St. in the valley (9/11). It was found by other birders in various spots throughout the neighborhood till at least 9/20. This species is quite rare in Juneau (the last record is from 2002).

As rare as the grosbeak was, an even more unexpected find came less than a mile away on 9/19. Marsha and Owen Squires spotted a male **Hooded Oriole** happily sipping nectar from the comfrey in the Community Garden. It is wonderful that the credit for this astonishing find, a **FIRST RECORD FOR ALASKA**, goes in part to a 14 year old (Owen)! Over the next three days, many birders from around the state came to marvel at the oriole, though it seems to have disappeared after the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hooded Orioles normally breed no farther north than northern California, and this time of year they should be well on their way to Mexico!

This next bird was in Gustavus, not Juneau, but too amazing not to mention. On 9/22, hot on the heels of the two rarities in Juneau, Emma Johnson and Steve Schaller spotted a striking **Yellow-throated Warbler** feeding on insects next to the Glacier Bay NP headquarters building in Bartlett Cove. This too was a first record for Alaska, and even further out of its normal range

than the Hooded Oriole was! Yellow-throated Warblers breed only as far north as Iowa, and as far west as central Texas. They usually spend their winters in the extreme southeast of the country. This fellow was last reported on 9/24.

A big thank you to all the observers who shared their great finds with the rest of the birding community.



Rose -breasted Grosbeak by Jessica Millsaps



Hooded Oriole by Patty Rose

### **Yellow-throated Warbler** by Nat Drumheller Gustavus

Alaska's first **Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Setophaga dominica*) was discovered at Bartlett Cove on the morning of 22 September by Glacier Bay National Park interpretation supervisors Emma Johnson and Steve Schaller. They noticed the bird outside their office window going from a small spruce tree to the sides of the building for bugs. When they realized this bird was something unusual, they grabbed a camera and took photos. Good move! Soon others were admiring the warbler, and Tom VandenBerg got a good video of it. <https://youtu.be/hSIbxebA9Ic> The Yellow-throated Warbler remained at Bartlett Cove for three days getting bugs off two office buildings and from the surrounding trees. It was elusive on the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but was very cooperative throughout the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. It sometimes gave a unique "chip" call, which helped locate it. In addition to over a dozen park employees, a few birders from Gustavus saw the bird, and I am aware of four birders from out of town who came and saw it.

There was some discussion via email (based on photos) about which subspecies the Bartlett Cove Yellow-throated Warbler was, *albilora* or *dominica*. It was clear from Paul Lehman and Peter Pyle that telling the two apart is problematic and not straightforward. Things are simpler in The Birds of North America Online account (Hall, McKay, and Patten) where it says there are "no subspecies, given that geographic variation...is smoothly clinal" and that "variation in mitochondrial DNA is trivial".

More interesting to me, was that (from photos) Mr. Pyle identified the Bartlett Cove Yellow-throated Warbler as a first fall, hatch year male. A number of us, myself included, assumed it was an adult.

Any way you looked at it, it was a beautiful and exciting bird.



### **Tree Swallow Project Update by Brenda Wright**

We have removed all of the tree swallow nest boxes that we had placed around town. The swallow nest boxes were located in the Mendenhall meadows, Switzer Creek meadows, Sunny Point, Fish Creek, and North Douglas homes. We inspected all the boxes and found only two successful nests.

We plan to put out the nest boxes again next year. If you would like to volunteer to place the nest boxes, do observations, or can suggest new locations where tree swallows are commonly observed, please contact Brenda [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org). Tree swallow nests are typically full of bird feathers from many species. The feathers are carefully placed so that the points will not hurt the nestlings. (Photo by Mary McCafferty).



## Saturday Wild Mushroom Walks in September By Brenda Wright

We had two mushroom walks this year in September. Dave Gregovich generously led both groups into the world of fungus. The walks were held on two different Saturdays to help accommodate the huge interest in Juneau for mushrooms. We found over 30 different mushrooms in only 20 minutes of searching. I was pleased to learn two more poisonous species and one more edible. There are so many mushrooms in our rain forest; it is very easy to learn more! Thanks to Dave for volunteering his time. (Photos by Brenda Wright)



## Jelly and Jam making with Mary Lou King, Mary McCafferty, and Brenda Wright

The Public Market is always held in November in Juneau. Juneau Audubon Society is famous for its jellies and jams. Mary Lou likes to have about 24 dozen jars of various jellies and jams to sell for the public market booth. With the help of avid pickers and many helping hands, the jelly



making process is a fun and gratifying event. Of course, it takes experience and skill to make big batches of jams, but it can also be a lot of fun for beginners. If you have any spare jars left over from previous years, please bring them to the public meeting on October 8. We will be happy to reuse them for this year's products. (Photos by Mary McCafferty).



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## **SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY**

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl and Andrew W. Piston

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

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For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> .

Visit Bird Studies Canada to learn more about birds in our nearest neighbor's territory. A great story on tracking birds from South America through the US and northern Canada can be found at <http://www.birdscanada.org/research/motus/>

Visit Cornell University Lab of Ornithology for great stories on a new species of hummingbird, mystery sounds from birds, bird quizzes, and more at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>

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You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of US mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)





# 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->

Volume 42, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2015

**GENERAL MEETING --Thursday, November 12, University of Alaska SE -  
Recreation Center, Room 116 -- 7pm-8pm**

## **A Journey to the White Continent**

Mark Hickey will show images of penguins, other wildlife and ice from his trip with his wife Susan to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula in December 2004.



**Juneau Audubon's December 10 General Meeting** will be: "A Summer Ramble in Iceland". Four Juneau women explore Iceland by foot, bike and bus. In the process they are helped to pronounce 20 letter words by generous locals, see uncountable waterfalls and experienced the paradoxes of Iceland.

## HAINES - 21st ANNUAL ALASKA BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL November 5 – 15

The festival will include evening talks, a photography workshop, daily transportation out to the Preserve for eagle viewing, a release of rehabilitated injured eagles, and more, this festival is a great way to get up close to these magnificent raptors. For more information, call (907) 766-3094 or visit the [Alaska Bald Eagle Festival website](#).

### PICK CLICK GIVE

**Thanks to your generous contributions to PICK CLICK GIVE, Juneau Audubon received more than \$600.00 from the program.** Juneau Audubon will use these funds to continue our efforts to further our goals: *“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”*. The Juneau Audubon Board would appreciate any help and thoughts or ideas for projects, or actions that will help with our mission. You can contact Board members that are listed on the next to the last page of the newsletter.

### Juneau Public Market 2015

This year's market will be at Centennial Hall on November 27, 28, and 29. Come out to do some local holiday shopping and be sure to check out our booth. As usual, we'll be selling fabulous jams and more. This year we will again provide information on birding and conservation issues.

Also, we are seeking VOLUNTEERS to help out for a few hours. This is an easy and fun way to interact with your community and help our organization with its mission at once. The market will be open to the public: noon to 7:00 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For volunteering info please email [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org) or call 321-4739 to contribute items or for more info on the public market. Photo of Patricia Wherry and Shirley Carlson at Audubon booth 2014.



### Thanksgiving Day Bird Count November 26, 2015

Volunteers needed to count birds for one hour on Thanksgiving Day. This is the last two years for this holiday count. The 2016 count will make it a 25 year effort for the western states and will be the final Thanksgiving Day count with 25 years of data collected. All you have to do is observe birds in a 15 foot diameter circle for one hour. Please help to collect bird observations for this long-term database. You can get bird count data form on the Juneau Audubon website page and submit your data online to [thanksgivingdaybirdcount@gmail.com](mailto:thanksgivingdaybirdcount@gmail.com). We hope you have a great holiday and share one hour of your time for citizen science.

## President's Message: Dreams of Mexico, Chili Peppers and Yellow Warblers

As the chill settles on Alaska, we find ways to warm up. Maybe you think about the sun drenched shores of Mazatlán. Maybe you make some spicy salsa. Maybe you drag yourself out the door and see if any migratory warblers might still be around so you can make a rare bird alert on eBird. What do all these things have in common?



Recently I was at a conference for bird banders, and saw an illuminating paper given by student Simon O. Valdez-Juarez of Simon Fraser University about work done in Jalisco (Western Mexico). He and his group had attached tiny radio transmitters to wintering Yellow Warblers. Through previous analysis, these warblers were likely among those who go north to Western Canada and Southeastern Alaska. They followed the birds for a month or more. Most did not range far, sometimes pretty much sticking to a small vegetation patch or a single tree. Females and younger birds used what we would think of as less desirable habitat; in particular, chili fields.

We still have a lot to learn about what our migratory birds do all winter, but banding studies on warblers and thrushes suggest that they may utilize a small island of habitat, and prove they will return to that patch for years. While it is surprising that birds would venture into the chili field, is not a surprise to birders that they would use the weedy edges and surrounding shade trees of a field.

Another paper summarizing long term banding studies coordinated by the Institute for Bird Populations showed that for many songbird species, survivorship, not reproduction, was likely the limiting factor. The birds were successfully producing young in the US, but had a difficult time making it through migration and winter.

What does this mean for us Northern birders? If we want the warblers back in force then it behooves us to choose agricultural crops that also provide winter bird habitat. Chances are a chili field would be a little more of a friendly place if it was organic: more weeds, more bugs, and fewer sprays that could affect birds' metabolism. Almost all the fruits and veggies that we find in an average supermarket in the winter are likely to be grown near a songbird's winter home.

Coffee, grown in Latin American highlands has long been studied by bird researchers at the Smithsonian Institute. Beyond organic and shade grown farms (farms where taller trees grow amidst the coffee bushes, literally to provide shade), they have sought out farms that would be "bird friendly" with stringent guidelines to assure that the birds had the food, shelter and clean water they would need to survive within and between the fields.

Stay warm, and look for a sampling of bird friendly food and beverages at our Juneau Public Market booth in November.

Photo: Male Yellow Warbler rests in palms, January, Costa Rica.

Gwen Baluss

## Juneau Bird Observations, October 2015 By Mark Schwan

Dave Sturdevant and Sue Baxter found **FIVE Western Grebes** off the mouth of Fish Creek on October 19. It is a rare species in Juneau, so to have five at one time is exceptional. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** hanging around the airport wetlands, October 24-27, were a bit late (BA, PR, MS, GV). Gus van Vliet had a **Mourning Dove** show briefly at his residence in Auke Bay on October 16. Perhaps the most interesting observations were the collective accounts of **Anna's Hummingbirds** throughout the community during the month. It appears that at least six different birds were frequenting feeders throughout October. One **Anna's** feeding on the flowers in a flower box on Sunny Pt. October 27 (MLK).



A **Gyrfalcon** is quite rare in Juneau, but fall is a good time to have one show up, so one flying over the Mendenhall wetlands near the golf course on October 15 was not too surprising (MS). **Snow Buntings** are a regular bird here during the winter, but one at Eagle Beach on October 19 was definitely the proverbial early bird (MS). A **Rose-Breasted Grosbeak**, very rare in Juneau and anywhere in Alaska, was seen along the lower Brotherhood Park Trail on October 7 (JS). This is likely the same bird that frequented a Mendenhall Valley feeder during September. On the Mendenhall Wetlands on October 29 there was one **Snow Goose** with a flock of about 70 **Canada Geese** (MLK). There were no crazy lost warblers found such as the Bartlett Cove's Yellow-throated Warbler last month, so we had to make due with an **Orange-crowned Warbler** and a **Wilson's Warbler** at the wetlands on October 16 (PR, MS). Very exciting was a rediscovery, albeit brief, of the **Hooded Oriole** first discovered late last month. Hetty Barthel reported seeing the bird downtown, on Troy Avenue, on October 15. A **Spotted Towhee** reappeared on October 10 at a Lemon Creek area residence for the third consecutive fall, assuming it is the same individual, and the bird was seen on several occasions by birders throughout the month (Kurt Rieselbach). Finally, a **Hoary Redpoll** was studied well when found in a small flock of Common Redpolls on the wetlands on October 27 (GV, MM, MS). This might be the first October record for this species in Juneau. They are generally found, rarely, with Common Redpolls during the winter months.

Contributors: Bev Agler (BA), Hetty Barthel, Sue Baxter, Mary Lou King (MLK), Molly McCafferty (MM), Kurt Rieselbach, Patty Rose (PR), Jeff Sauer (JS), Mark Schwan (MS), Dave Sturdevant, Gus van Vliet (GV).

## Amy Courtney Reports from Hoonah



Living right on the water, I get to scan through hundreds of gulls every day, looking for a rare one. The sea birds, loons, and grebes are starting to come back in small numbers too, so I'm looking forward to more of those outside my window. Imagine my excitement when I saw an unusual blackbird in my yard on the 26<sup>th</sup>. It isn't unheard of to find small flocks of Red-winged or Rusty Blackbirds in the area this time of year, but a few field marks told me this bird was neither of those species. She was a solid brown, (eliminating Red-winged), and she had a dark eye and no rusty tones on her body (eliminating Rusty), so I knew she must be a **Brewer's Blackbird**. This species is "accidental" in the area, and it was a life bird for me!

### **Bird Quiz**

Do you know what this bird is?  
Email Amy Courtney at  
avianblue15@hotmail.com with  
your guess, and the answer along  
with the names of those who  
responded correctly will be  
printed in next month's  
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Information from "What's Up"

**\*\*November 4 (TELECONFERENCES)** A teleconference to hear comments and consider adjustments to the **PROPOSED ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (AMHS) SCHEDULE** for the summer 2016 season, which runs May through September, is scheduled **10am for Southeast Alaska schedules and 1:30pm for Southwest and Southcentral Alaska schedules**. The meeting will be held in Ketchikan at the Marine Engineering Facility 7037 North Tongass Highway for participants wishing to attend in person. The toll free number to participate in either teleconference is: 1-800-315-6338, conference code 03902#. The proposed schedule is available at the link on the homepage at [FerryAlaska.com](http://www.ferryalaska.com) or directly through <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/share/schedule/considerations.pdf>. Written comments will be accepted via email at [dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov) and by fax at 907-228-6874 prior to November 3.

**\*\*November 2 & 7 JUNEAU - THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING**, based on **NAOMI KLEIN's** book of the same name, will be shown at **7pm on November 2 and 4:30pm on November 7** at the Gold Town Theater. The film is "a documentary for people who hate climate change documentaries." Not only does it go around the world putting a human face on the issue, it zeroes in on the economic system that gave rise to such unbridled impacts and poses the question: what if climate change is not just a threat but an opportunity to make a healthier, more just world? Cost: \$10.00.

The Office of Boards and Commissions is accepting applications for the **PUBLIC SEATS on the BOARD of GAME**. Please submit your application online at <http://gov.alaska.gov/Walker/services/boards-commissions/apply-info.html> or email your resume to: [boards@alaska.gov](mailto:boards@alaska.gov).

The Office of Boards and Commissions is accepting applications for the **PUBLIC SEATS on the BOARD OF FISHERIES**. Please submit your application online at: <http://gov.alaska.gov/Walker/services/boards-commissions/apply-info.html> or email your resume to [boards@alaska.gov](mailto:boards@alaska.gov)

The **TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST 2014 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT** is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/MonitoringFY14> under the Monitoring and Evaluation Program heading. This annual report summarizes forest-wide monitoring projects as required by the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). For more information, contact Cathy Tighe at the Ketchikan Forest Supervisor's Office, 907-228-6274.

To see the **NOAA FISHERIES ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 – 2020** go to <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/omi/NmfsAKRStrategicPlan2015.pdf>.

**KETCHIKAN - SADDLE LAKES TIMBER SALE PROJECT FEIS/ROD** is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=38990>. The Saddle Lakes Timber Sale project will harvest 47 million board feet of old-growth timber on 2,327 acres, and construct 17.2 miles of new and 9.8 miles of temporary National Forest System (NFS) roads. For more information, contact Planning Staff Officer Daryl A. Bingham at [darylabinham@fs.fed.us](mailto:darylabinham@fs.fed.us) or 907-228-4114.

**HAINES – REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) for the PROPOSED SECTION 4(f) DE MINIMIS FINDING on the HAINES HIGHWAY MP 3.5-25.3, CHILKAT RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** is available at [www.dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/haines\\_hwy/documents.shtml](http://www.dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/haines_hwy/documents.shtml). The revised proposed action would make highway upgrades to provide a safer, more consistent and efficient roadway. The Revised EA presents the Revised Proposed Action and addresses potential economic, social, and environmental effects. For more information, contact Jim Scholl, Project Environmental Coordinator, at 907-465-4498 or email [haineshighway@alaska.gov](mailto:haineshighway@alaska.gov) or Al Fletcher, Southeast Area Engineer at 907-586-7544 or email [Al.fletcher@dot.gov](mailto:Al.fletcher@dot.gov).

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**Local Audubon Society Membership Application**

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You will receive the Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\*\*\*Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of US mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)





# 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 42, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2015

**GENERAL MEETING --Thursday, December 10, University of Alaska SE - Recreation Center, Room 116 -- 7pm-8pm**

## "A Summer Ramble in Iceland"

Our presenter is Dawn Heutte : "Four Juneau women explore Iceland by foot, bike and bus. In the process they are helped to pronounce 20 letter words by generous locals, see uncountable waterfalls and experienced the paradoxes of Iceland.



Photos by Dawn Heutte



## The 2015 Juneau Christmas Bird Count

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count will be held this year (well, actually next year) **on Saturday, January 2, 2016**, the final Saturday of the designated count period of December 14 through January 5<sup>th</sup>. This marks the 116<sup>th</sup> year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Here in Juneau, this will be our 43rd count. Again, please take note, **our count day is on Saturday, January 2nd.**

**Here in Juneau our count week will begin on December 30, and go through January 5.** We will have our usual two meeting places to stage on the morning of count day. Volunteers should arrive at 8a.m. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown Foodland IGA grocery coffee bar. Birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the McDonald's restaurant across from the Nugget Mall. Again, please arrive at 8a.m. and be prepared for the weather and bring your binoculars. Hopefully, we will have our area leaders arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate birders to the different groups at our staging locations on count day. We encourage participation from all levels of birders; the more eyes the better.

As usual there will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam. This is always a nice event and highlight of the day, as we share stories, eat some good food, and conduct the tally of birds and species seen. For those needing directions to Mark and Debi's house, this information will be provided on the morning of the count. Let's have a good turnout and a terrific count! For more information or if you have any questions, call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841.

**GBBC is Coming! Are You In?** Greetings from the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 19th GBBC, coming up **February 12 through 15, 2016**. Because the GBBC is integrated with the eBird program you can [start practicing now](#)

## **Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Juneau Public Market 2015!**

A special thanks to the berry pickers, jam & jelly makers, pressed flower cards and cedar bark ornament weavers, and many other good ideas for items for the booth, and all those helping out in the booth.

Although our booth was in a new location, our loyal Nagoonberry lovers were able to find us and buy all the jars available early on Friday.

**Thanks** to Mary Lou King, Patricia Wherry, Mary McCafferty, Charlie Carlson, Brenda Wright, Josh Peters, Amy Sherwin, Doug Jones, Susan Hickey, Mary Willson, Mary Claire Harris, Bev Agler, Gwen Baluss, Deb Rudis, Gus Van Vliet, Molly McCafferty, Karen Capp, Marsha Squires, and Jane Ginter.



photo by Mary McCafferty



Mrs. Dan Naziska and Elissa Lipham were the winners of the drawing for the three bird houses at the Public Market and third winner, not pictured, was Maran Haarig.

### **This Towhee Knows Exactly What S/He Is Doing** By Gwen Baluss

Birders get excited when a bird that is out of its normal distributional range shows up. Understandably, “real” naturalists may scoff. What consequence is one lost bird? It doesn’t show any particular trend or ecological relationship. Animal lovers might be less than delighted, worrying, understandably, how the poor lost soul will survive in an inhospitable environment. Even in our delight, we assign the species that have shown up in unexpected places as “accidental”, “casual” or, my favorite, “vagrant”. None of these have particularly positive connotations, and, admittedly, many sightings may be the outcome of something gone terribly awry in a bird’s life: perhaps a being caught up in an anomalous wind storm, or receiving a blow to the head that injures the normal navigational system.



Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* Photo courtesy of Brad Benter.

But, thinking on a broader time scale, birds did have to do a fair amount of exploration, accidental or otherwise, in order to colonize all corners of all continents, and far away islands where they live now. Rapid expansion into new environments is a trademark of the class. Thus, perhaps we should not be so quick to judge extralimital sightings.

This brings me to the case of an exceptional Spotted Towhee in Juneau. The closest normal range for the species is Southernmost British Columbia. Many towhees make short migrations between nesting and wintering areas within that range. When the bird was first reported by his or her host Kurt Rieselbach on Eaglechat, I hurried out to see him or her, expecting this individual to wander off within days, hours even.

However, it happens there has been a bird by the same description in the same yard now for three years in a row. It appeared first in November 2013, and was sighted periodically until the spring equinox. The same pattern was observed again in 2014. This year, a towhee showed up in October. The bird is not banded, but given the rarity of towhees to the region, and the known tendency of individuals of the species to target the same small areas on consecutive winters, it is highly likely to be the same bird. He or she probably went elsewhere for the summer and potentially even had a nest, proving a line from J.R.R. Tolkien, “not all those who wander are lost.

## Quiz Bird:

Do you know what this bird is? Email Amy at [avianblue15@hotmail.com](mailto:avianblue15@hotmail.com) with your answer, and if it's correct, your name will appear in next month's newsletter!

**Last month's quiz bird was a female American Wigeon.**



Photo by Bob Armstrong

## Time for a reminder for eagle feathers again. photo by Brenda Wright

**Eagle Feather Collection Permits:** For all of you that have a Juneau Audubon Society US Fish & Wildlife permit to actively collect eagle feathers, we need you to bring them to a public meeting. Our permit requires us to send in a yearly report that is due January 31. We send all



the collected feathers to the Eagle Repository in Colorado. The feathers are distributed to native Americans, educational and scientific requests, and requests from the general public.

If you do not plan to attend the December or January public meetings please e-mail [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org) or call 321-4739 to arrange a pick-up. Our present USFWS eagle feather collection permit expires in March 2016. Thanks! Brenda

**From "Whats Up" 11/20/15**

**January 14**

Deadline for applications for **MATCHING GRANTS to ENHANCE the NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM** from the **NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION**

<https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/map>. The Foundation's Matching Awards Program (MAP) provides grants to nonprofit organizations, universities, and Native American tribes throughout the U.S. to engage in on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects that have an immediate, quantifiable impact on the National Forest System. Funded projects must address one of the following focus areas: (1) The Outdoor Experiences category supports results-oriented, on-the-ground projects that improve the quality, condition, and care of outdoor

experiences in National Forests. (2) The Forest Health category supports results-oriented, on-the-ground, citizen-involved projects that maintain or restore forest resiliency. (3) All grants require at least a one-to-one cash match through non-federal donations. MAP also requires projects to show a strong commitment to civic engagement and community involvement through the direct involvement of the public.

**\*\*February 3**

Deadline for applications for the **NATIONAL FISH and WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: FIVE STAR and URBAN WATERS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM** to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. The focus is on ecological improvements, including wetland, riparian, forest, and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation; community tree canopy enhancement; and water quality monitoring and stormwater management. The program requires the establishment of diverse partnerships of at least five organizations (nonprofit organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, businesses, etc.) that contribute to project success. Projects must also integrate meaningful outreach, education, and training into the proposed on-the-ground activities that advance local watershed and conservation goals. Grants for this program are available nationwide, but additional funding is available for specific geographic priorities. Matching grants will range from \$20,000 to \$50,000, with an average of \$30,000. Visit the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation website at <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/pages/home.aspx> to review the Request for Proposals.

**December 2, 7, 8, 15 & 16 (TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE)**

Community engagement meetings will be held by the **ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (AMHS)** in the following locations:

**December 2 - KETCHIKAN** from 3 to 5pm Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers

**December 7 - CORDOVA** from 5 to 7pm at the City of Cordova Council Chambers

**December 15 – JUNEAU** from 6 to 8pm at Juneau City and Borough Assembly Chambers

**December 16 – HAINES** from 5 to 7pm at the Haines Borough Assembly Chambers. The goal of the public meetings is to lead a constructive dialogue around the fiscal challenges that face AMHS. All state agencies are working with reduced operating budgets due to low oil prices. This will impact all modes of transportation. For Alaskans who rely on the ferry system, current budget reductions will directly impact AMHS operations. The meeting is an opportunity for Alaskans to hear from department officials, ask questions and present potential solutions regarding short and long-term operating possibilities for AMHS. Each meeting will also be available via teleconference for anyone who cannot attend in person. The toll free number to participate is: **1-800-315-6338**, conference code **03902#**. The line will open five minutes prior to the scheduled start time for each meeting. For more information, contact Jeremy Woodrow at 907-465-8994 or email [Jeremy.woodrow@alaska.gov](mailto:Jeremy.woodrow@alaska.gov).

**\*\*December 7**

**PETERSBURG** – The **PETERSBURG FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold a public meeting at 7pm in the Assembly Chambers. Agenda will include: Elections, Comment on Statewide Board of Game Proposals and Comment on Statewide Board of Fisheries Finfish Proposals. For more information contact Jessalynn Rintala at 907.465.6097 or email [jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov](mailto:jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov).

**\*\*December 10**

**SITKA** - An Open House will be held from 5 to 8pm at the Sealing Cove Business Center to discuss **SAWMILL CREEK ROAD RESURFACING & PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT** between the intersections of Hollywood Way and Jeff Davis

Street. The project would: •Resurface pavement, •Repair or replace curbs and curb ramps, •Widen sidewalks near existing utility poles to ADA specifications, • Replace, or reline storm drain system in area of paving, • Construct a concrete median at the Degroff Street intersection to better delineate traffic, • Decrease lane width to accommodate bicycle lanes, • Add new signage and road striping, and • Raise height of multi-use path at Jarvis Street to meet ADA specifications. The design team will be present at the open house to answer questions, and note public comments or concerns about possible effects. This is an ideal time to make comments since the project design is still in early development and has not been finalized. Your attendance and comments would be appreciated. For more information, contact Chris Schelb, Environmental Analyst, at 907-465-4447 or email [chris.schelb@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.schelb@alaska.gov).

**\*\* TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST DRAFT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT AVAILABLE for PUBLIC COMMENT** that is being a to support a transition from old growth harvest to a young growth-based timber program for the Tongass, recognizing the importance of preserving Southeast Alaska's exceptional natural resources while also preserving a viable timber industry that provides jobs and opportunities for Southeast Alaska residents. The amendment is also needed to support the development of renewable energy resources in Southeast Alaska. The Forest Service's Preferred Alternative—Alternative 5—is based on the unanimous recommendation of the Tongass Advisory Committee that was established to provide input and advice on the transition to a young growth timber program to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service. Members of the committee represent a broad range of viewpoints, expertise and geographically diverse communities in and outside of Alaska including representatives of local and state government, Alaska Native Corporations, the timber industry, the environmental community, and the public. The amendment process has a narrow focus and does not include changes to the Tongass conservation strategy, Wilderness or Wild and Scenic River designations, or changes to most land use designations. The draft documents are available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/?cid=stelprd3801708>. Deadline for comments is February 22 and can be submitted to [comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us). For additional information, please contact Susan Howle, Project Manager, at 907-228-6340, or [showle@fs.fed.us](mailto:showle@fs.fed.us).

The **TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST 2014 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT** is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/MonitoringFY14> under the Monitoring and Evaluation Program heading. This annual report summarizes forest-wide monitoring projects as required by the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The monitoring was completed during fiscal year 2014 (October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014). The report includes a separate summary of the monitoring with longer monitoring reports that respond to the Forest Plan monitoring questions. Forest Plan monitoring results are based on expected project impacts shown in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the 2008 Forest Plan. The listed impacts are for the highest timber harvest level allowed in the ROD. Timber harvest has been below this level, thus, monitoring shows lower impacts. To meet the requirements in the 2012 Planning Rule, the Tongass is continuing to develop a new plan monitoring program. The plan monitoring program sets out the monitoring questions and associated indicators. For more information, contact Cathy Tighe at the Ketchikan Forest Supervisor's Office, 907-228-6274.

To see the **NOAA FISHERIES ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 – 2020** go to <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/omi/NmfsAKRStrategicPlan2015.pdf>.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

**eBird** Global tools for birders, critical data for science Record the birds you see, Keep track of your bird lists, Explore dynamic maps and graphs, Share your sightings and join the eBird community, Contribute to science and conservation. <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

\*\*\* **Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes –** [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)



## *SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY*

**Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz and Andrew W. Piston**

**This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>**

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**For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > .**

**Visit Bird Studies Canada to learn more about birds in our nearest neighbor's territory. A great story on tracking birds from South America through the US and northern Canada can be found at <http://www.birdscanada.org/research/motus/>**

**Visit Cornell University Lab of Ornithology for great stories on a new species of hummingbird, mystery sounds from birds, bird quizzes, and more at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>**

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For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$35 Basic renewal \_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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