

The Raven



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

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

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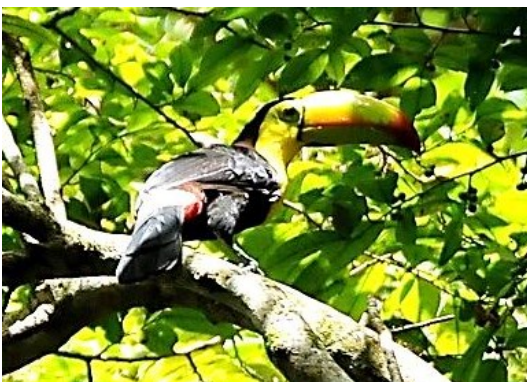
Juneau Audubon Society

January 2016

**GENERAL MEETING --Thursday, January 14, University of Alaska SE -
Recreation Center, Room 116 -- 7pm-8pm**

Birds and Beasts of Belize Alan and Ann Doty

“In 3 visits to 5 of the 6 Districts of the country of Belize, Alan and Ann Doty have recorded 245 bird species, visited 5 Mayan Sites, and learned so much about this tiny Central American country, which is about the size of Rhode Island!”



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – JANUARY 2 By Mark Schwan

We had 40 people in the field and a small group of people at home watching feeders. We had a boating party, which is unusual for us, but the weather out toward Portland Island was so bad that the party had to abort and come home, with some effort directed closer to home in the bay where birds were a bit concentrated in sheltered areas.

We found 54 species on count day, and had an additional 19 species found during the count week. Nineteen species is likely the most we have ever added during a count week, and this is because we missed so many birds on the count day but the weather improved markedly over the next few days, and birders found many additional species. The 54 species on count day was a substantially below average number, and the number of individual birds counted, 5,982 was way below average and the lowest count since 1980. We also had no record



Surf Scoter

Bob Armstrong

high counts, or all-time low counts for the 23 species we have seen every year (all previous 42 counts). However, we had below average, and quite low counts for many species.



Barrows Goldeneye

Bob Armstrong

and birds taking shelter and hunkering down . . .

After all the amazing bird activity in Auke Bay this fall, there were still seemingly a good number of fish-eating species around, with above average numbers for Pacific Loon, Common Merganser, and Common Murre tallied on count day. If conditions had been better, it would have been interesting to see what the counts on these species would have been. But, most waterfowl counts were down, except for Barrow's Goldeneye, the Corvid counts were all down but gull numbers were reasonable. Again, most of the low numbers were likely due to viewing conditions

Regarding surprises or rarities, we did have a few species show up either during the count week or on count day that have only been seen a few times, and one species never seen before on our count. For example, a Spotted Towhee was present, a true vagrant species, but it has actually been seen on four prior counts; pretty amazing given it is quite a rare bird in Alaska, anytime, anywhere. On the flip side, a Red-breasted Sapsucker was seen during count week. There are a few local winter records but this was the first time we found one during a count week. We also had two Long-billed Dowitchers and a Yellow-rumped Warbler on count day, and a Redhead and Double-crested Cormorant during the count week. All of these species have been recorded only one or two times previously on our count.

**Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results
January 2, 2016**

Species	Count
Canada Goose	431
Gadwall	7
American Wigeon	47
Mallard	993
Northern Pintail	cw
Green-winged Teal	3
Redhead	cw
Greater Scaup	109
Lesser Scaup	1
Unidentified Scaup	56
Harlequin Duck	66
Surf Scoter	389
White-winged Scoter	68
Black Scoter	cw
Unidentified Scoters	1
Long-tailed Duck	25
Bufflehead	87
Common Goldeneye	67
Barrow's Goldeneye	410
Unidentified Goldeneyes	10
Hooded Merganser	1
Common Merganser	228
Red-breasted Merganser	84
Unidentified Mergansers	10
Red-throated Loon	cw
Pacific Loon	158
Common Loon	15
Yellow-billed Loon	cw
Unidentified Loons	9
Horned Grebe	3
Red-necked Grebe	5
Unidentified Grebes	7
Double-crested Cormorant	cw
Pelagic Cormorant	24
Unidentified Cormorants	1
Great Blue Heron	4
Bald Eagle	74
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw
Northern Goshawk	cw
Killdeer	1
Black Turnstone	cw
Rock Sandpiper	50

Dunlin	cw
Long-billed Dowitcher	2
Mew Gull	216
Glaucous-winged Gull	1,189
Gl.-wing x Herr. hyb.	1
Unidentified Gulls	15
Common Murre	159
Pigeon Guillemot	8
Marbled Murrelet	71
Eurasian Collared-Dove	cw
Rock Pigeon	2
Northern Pygmy-owl	cw
Anna's Hummingbird	2
Belted Kingfisher	8
Red-breasted Sapsucker	cw
Downy Woodpecker	cw
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Steller's Jay	40
Black-billed Magpie	11
Northwestern Crow	246
Common Raven	138
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	97
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Brown Creeper	3
Pacific Wren	1
American Dipper	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	15
Unidentified Kinglets	3
Varied Thrush	1
European Starling	56
Bohemian Waxwing	cw
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Spotted Towhee	1
Song Sparrow	10
Unidentified Sparrows	1
Dark-eyed Junco	115
Snow Bunting	cw
Red-winged Blackbird	14
Pine Grosbeak	cw
Common Redpoll	cw
Hoary Redpoll	cw
Pine Siskin	103

Species on Count Day 54
Birds counted 5,982
Count Week Species 19

JAS by the numbers By Gwen Baluss

Recently I completed an annual report to National Audubon about our activities in fiscal year 2015. Much of the time we are too busy to record what we are up to, so some of these are conservative estimates at best—and don't even cover all of the things we do. Interestingly Brenda Wright independently arrived at very close figures for the previous year. The bottom line is that we were active!

Have a happy new year and many thanks to everyone who made these achievements possible.

1	Sponsorship of the Alaska Bird Conference
1	(each) Website, Facebook Page, Twitter account & birding chat group
2	Grade school birding activities
3	Important Bird Areas visited with public or highlighted in a presentation
8	Evening nature programs
8	Monthly journals
11	Field trips free to the public
12	Beginner birding classes for adults
45	Volunteers
50	Citizen Scientists
53	Tree Swallow nest boxes built
240	Program attendees
300	Field trip participants
330	Members
649	Volunteer hours contributed
1000	Dollars for scholarship for local student attending university
4149	Birds tallied on the 2014 Christmas Bird Count

Happy New Year 2016

Thank you Audubon members and public who chose to donate in the past during *Pick Click & Give* to the Juneau Audubon Society. We hope you will continue to consider Juneau Audubon in the current cycle of *Pick Click & Give*. Thank you!

Classes - Beginning Birder - Patricia Wherry

Coming in the 2016 January Community School Flyer will be another opportunity to partake in a Beginning Birder class. There will be a choice of a set of 4 Thursday evenings held in town February or a repeat of the course in March at a valley location. Ask newbie birders who have taken the class in the past and I believe you will hear words like “great fun” and “covered so much.” As the leader I enjoy myself and learn something more about birds each time I offer the class. Get ready to experience how a bird folds its wing and which ducks dine in a dive or fish butts up. For more information about the class which is open to adults and older youth email: education@juneau-audubon-society.org.

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

What's Up January 2, 2016 Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of the Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) and Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN)

January 16 JUNEAU – Deadline for comments on the **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) for TREADWELL DITCH TRAIL BRIDGES CONSTRUCTION PROJECT** to replace 38 bridges, perform some tread work, and protect and preserve heritage resources on the Treadwell Ditch Trail between the Blueberry Hills Access Trail and the Bonnie Brae Access Trail. The EA briefly explains the current conditions of the area, fully explains the proposed action as well as the no-action alternative, briefly summarizes public involvement and public input, and explains how comments were used in the analysis. It also explains the expected effects of the two alternatives on the environment and people. For full details of the proposed action, refer to the Environmental Assessment (EA) at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=35471> (case sensitive). The EA and associated maps are located under the “Project Documents– Analysis” heading. The Tongass National Forest and Juneau Ranger District wish to thank Juneau residents for participating in the public meetings and providing comments on plans. For more information or to submit comments, contact Michelle Putz at 907-747-2708 or email mputz@fs.fed.us.

****January 11 HAINES** – Comments are due on an application from **SOUTHEAST ALASKA BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES, LLC** for the **FREERIDE WORLD TOUR COMPETITION** for the use of state land as a location for an annual ski competition at the Tahkin Ridge area near Chuneukuleik Mountain (Mt. Chunny). The site would be in addition to three sites, currently permitted under LAS 30011, which may be used to hold the event. The purposed dates of use are March of 2016 and 2017. The application is available at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=101945>. Map of the area is available at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=101944>.

Please find the application materials for LAS 30724 in the attachments below. The public is invited to comment on the applied-for activity. To ensure consideration, written comments must be received by the Division of Mining, Land and Water at PO Box 111020, Juneau, AK 99811-1020 on or before 5:00 p.m. on the date noted above. Questions concerning this application should be directed to the Southeast Regional Lands Office, Telephone: (907) 465-3401; Fax: (907) 465-3886 or e-mail: megs.harris@alaska.gov. Supplemental Questionnaire for Uplands can be seen at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=101946>. For more information or to submit comments, contact Southeast Regional Lands Office, Telephone: (907) 465-3401; Fax: (907) 465-3886 or e-mail: megs.harris@alaska.gov.

****January 8 JUNEAU** – Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Fireside Lecture will be held at 6:30pm, repeated at 8pm. **WATCH THE FUR FLY!** will be presented by Researcher **WINSTON SMITH**. Northern flying squirrels are elusive forest dwellers found rarely around

Juneau but abundantly in other parts of Southeast Alaska. Smith will explain how his studies help us understand these mammals and their habitat needs. Warm beverages and cookies will be served to create a nice social atmosphere for people to gather and chat before and after the lectures provided by bookstore partner, Alaska Geographic. Some bookstore items will be for sale this year.

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST DRAFT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT AVAILABLE for PUBLIC COMMENT that is being 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. For additional information, please contact Susan Howle, Project Manager, at 907-228-6340, or showle@fs.fed.us

WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN (BIRDS) at TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, JUNEAU, to conduct avian point counts and other bird and wildlife projects (e.g. bird banding, seabird counts, and goshawk surveys) throughout the Tongass National Forest, Southeast Alaska. This is an opportunity to explore and bird-watch in America's largest, wildest temperate rain forest. Season expected to be mid- Apr through late Jul with some flexibility, but applicants must be available late May for safety training week and all of June for surveys. The season potentially may be extended if technician is willing to work on other natural resource projects, depending on funding. Government housing is usually available in Juneau (costs approx. \$13 per night) and some travel and field camping is required. **To Apply:** Apply through USA JOBS system. Go to <https://www.usajobs.gov> and create a profile and upload a resume - this can take a few days so best to do this in advance. Starting January 5, look for announcement number 16-TEMP-R10-0404-7BSTBM-DT and verify that it is for GS-0404-07, Biological Science Technician (Bird Monitoring) and follow the application instructions. Only US citizens are eligible. Issues with USA JOBS are best answered via the help link <https://www.usajobs.gov/Support>. If there are specific questions about the job that remain after carefully reviewing this outreach, and the official announcement online, you may contact gwenbaluss@yahoo.com. For more information, go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tongass/home>.

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



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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National Audubon Society? You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service 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

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**



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

Volume 42, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2016

**GENERAL MEETING --Thursday, February 11, University of Alaska SE -
Recreation Center, Room 116 -- 7pm-8pm**

KILLER AND HUMPBACK WHALES

Our February Audubon public program will be presented by Doug Jones. His program is called Killer and Humpback Whales: What We Don't See. Since whales spent about 90% of their time underwater, we know less about them than you might think. These are fun and interesting mammals, two of the most common in the Juneau area. This program is part of a show he did on whales on the cruise ship Disney Wonder for tourists to Southeast Alaska last summer. Please join us and share your whale stories after the show!



ALASKA BIRD FESTIVALS

Alaska Hummingbird Festival - Ketchikan, Alaska April 2016
Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival - Cordova, AK May 5 - 8, 2016
Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival - Homer, AK May 12 - 15, 2016
Kenai Birding Festival - Kenai, AK May 19 - 22, 2016
Yakutat Tern Festival - Yakutat, AK June 2-5, 2016
Alaska Bald Eagle Festival - Haines, AK November 14-20, 2016
Stikine River Birding Festival - Wrangell, AK April 28 - May 8, 2016

2016 Photo Contest for National Audubon

The 2016 Audubon Photography Awards are now open! There are fabulous prizes to be won and winning photos will be published in the May-June 2016 edition of *Audubon* magazine and in *Nature's Best Photography* magazine. Winners will also have their photos displayed within the 2016 *Nature's Best Photography Exhibition* at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. Information on how to enter this year's contest can be found here: <http://www.audubon.org/photoawards>.

Pick, Click, Give

Hello all Alaskan residents, its time for applications for the 2016 Permanent Fund Dividend. That means its also time for people to be able to share some of their dividend with charitable organizations. **Juneau Audubon Society** is a non-profit organization that qualifies for Pick, Click, Give. Please consider supporting your local chapter. Our mission 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. We appreciate your support.

Tongass Land Management Plan Revision

Now is the time to make your concerns known! Please take the time to send comments on the Tongass Land Management Plan to the US Forest Service (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/?cid=stelprd3801708>). Each and every one of us can affect the revision to the forest plan of our home. We are an integral part of the forest as it surrounds all of us. Deadline for comments is February 22, 2016. Written or electronic comments will be accepted for 90 days and should be submitted to: Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Amendment, 648 Mission Street Ketchikan, AK 99901.

Comments may also be sent via email to: comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us or via facsimile to (907) 228-6292. For additional information, please contact Susan Howle, Project Manager, at 907-228-6340, or showle@fs.fed.us.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org (<http://gbbc.birdcount.org>).

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.



Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.birds.cornell.edu) (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>) and the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org) (<http://www.audubon.org>) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 140,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 19th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2016. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest [educational and promotional resources](http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/) (<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>).

Jason Colon, Field Trip Coordinator



I am excited to join the Juneau Audubon Society Board. I moved to Juneau about a year and a half ago, and it was also about that time that I started birding. I found myself spending more time outdoors than ever before, and I just could not miss the wide variety of fascinating birds we have in southeast Alaska. From the booming “whoomp . . . whoomp . . . whoomp” of a sooty grouse accompanying me on a hike, to the large, intelligent ravens that sometimes visit our balcony, to the majestic bald eagles soaring over downtown: Juneau’s bird life is so spectacular and pervasive that it practically cries out for observation. I am attaching a photo of myself (on Mt. Roberts) and of a recent life bird sighting of mine of a Northern Pygmy-Owl (from our balcony in Douglas) from a couple days ago.

When I began to scratch the surface of the bird world, I was hooked. Cardboard packages containing bird guides, binoculars, bird feeders, and camera rain shields started pouring in. Every weekend and lunch break became an opportunity to spot a new bird. Trips to visit family down south took on new significance, as they promised chances to glimpse new habitats and species. Birding even became a family affair. My wife and in-laws love to circulate pictures and information about our best new sightings. Our indoor cats – avid lifelong birders – cannot believe it took us this long to get in on the fun.



As the Juneau Audubon Society field trip coordinator, I look forward to introducing more and more people to this absorbing pursuit. And on a selfish note, I hope to continue learning as much as possible from the local naturalists.

Counts and Encounters with Wilson's Warblers by Gwen Baluss

Our smallest warbler *Cardellina pusilla* is a regular summer feature of willows, alders and even blueberry-laden gaps within the spruce-hemlock forests. It seeks cool misty zones of the West and thus seems quite suited to our Southeast Alaska summers.

The Wilson's Warbler (often shortened to "WIWA") is an abundant species, but may be subject to population fluctuations, probably due to their tiny size, and relatively long migration. The picture is far from complete linking breeding and wintering ranges, but isotope studies suggest a link between Southeast Alaska and Southeast Mexico. Our most likely local subspecies, the *pileota* can be found from S. Texas south to Panama.

Last summer, in Yakutat, a standardized count for the Alaska Landbird Monitoring System (ALMS) that has occurred every two years in mid-June since 2003 yielded over twice the average and twice the record number with at least 74 individuals in a square kilometer. However, a longer term data set, Yakutat's Breeding Bird Surveys, covering stops every half mile along 50 miles of road yielded significantly less WIWA than earlier counts in the 1990's.



Parent with beak full of insects for nestlings, near Yakutat.

As hundreds of thousands of data points like this are collected in Alaska are analyzed, it will be possible to get a better picture of the ebb and flow of the WIWA tide.

Perhaps, like North

American bird banding data shows, there will be

correlations with El Nino and other weather patterns. Bird demographers try to determine what drives populations: nesting success, or survivorship of migration and winter. Recently, in Costa Rica, I released a WIWA at a bird



A Wilson's Warbler captured in Costa Rica.

observatory after researchers fitted it with a numbered leg band. This was a first winter male, probably hatched somewhere in Boreal Canada. It's likely he will be captured next year in the same area, as warblers can be quite faithful to even a small patch of trees and bushes. In the area I observed them searching out insects in primary forest, secondary forest, and even at the edges of coffee plantations. When I travel towards the equator, I often find myself fleeing to the relatively cool and fresh-air filled highlands, and often hear the familiar and distinctive nasal "chip" of WIWA there.



Winter home: a species of alder, laden with tropical bromeliads.



Wilson's Warbler ground nest, near Yakutat in June.

A researcher on the crew happened to be writing a scientific paper on the WIWA. He had compiled data on nests. Interestingly, WIWA in Southern Oregon and Northern California usually use bushes and nest above ground. Nests that I have found in Southeast Alaska have been on or near the ground, tucked in to moss.

WIWA are still abundant and widespread throughout the Western Americas. Hopefully with continued monitoring, and conservation measures that respond to the needs of forest birds, this bright species will stay that way.

Rock Sandpiper with Band by Bob Armstrong

A Rock Sandpiper with leg bands – red on right, aluminum on left – was videotaped at Sheep Creek on January 12, 2016. Daniel Ruthrauff from the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage said it was one of 5 banded with that combination on 12 August, 2006, near the mouth of the Tutakoke River on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. It's getting to be a nice, old bird. It was banded as an adult, so it's at least 10 years old now. It may be a record; in Birds of North America the oldest one documented was 7 years and 4 months. You can see the video by looking at <https://vimeo.com/151606315>. You can learn more about these amazing shorebirds by going to <http://www.naturebob.com/rock-sandpipers-winter> and opening up the first link under the video.



Bird Quiz:

Do you know what this bird is? Email Amy Courtney at avianblue15@hotmail.com with your guess, and if it's correct, we will put your name in the next newsletter!

December quiz bird was a Short-eared Owl, a daytime grassland hunter seen in Southeast AK most regularly in fall and winter.



Hoonah Bird Report by Amy Clark Courtney

A few interesting birds have been frequenting my yard in Hoonah this winter. The most notable, a female BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, has been present every day since October 26, and a RUSTY BLACKBIRD has been her companion since early November. My most skittish visitors are EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES (highest count was nine), who love the lawn, but take flight the moment they catch movement from the window. Three EUROPEAN STARLINGS also come to waddle across my lawn every day, prying it open with their bill as they go. A confused SAVANNAH SPARROW first showed up on January 7, and has visited sporadically since then. In early November an immature WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW appeared, and turned out to be of the Puget Sound subspecies, which should not be here even in the summer! An immature GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW keeps it company, and they have both been with the local junco flock all winter. I also see a Sooty FOX SPARROW scratching its way around the edges of the yard. A few miles away from town, in the Game Creek flats, a pair of GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE have been seen regularly with a flock of Canadas. A local lady, Christine Williams, shared a photo that she had taken on January 15th of an owl roosting in an alder patch near town. It turned out to be a BOREAL OWL-- very rare in Southeast!



Message from Marsha Squire, Volunteer

We all can make a positive impact on our community. We can do this through our hard work, raising a child, helping our neighbor, or sharing a meal. Actually there are hundreds of options, and as we know, sharing our talents, enthusiasm, knowledge, and/or finances can be satisfying, fun and rewarding. Juneau has a multitude of worthy organizations that could use a hand, and I am grateful we have caring individuals who support the many social services, non-profits, and educational programs that abound. Just take a look at the Pick.Click.Give. list these days and you know the choices go on and on.

I have invested in my personal passion for birds, nature and environmental education through the Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) in hopes of giving back to our community in the best way I can right now, by



My son, Owen, and I birding in Ecuador (Dec. 2014) during the xmas bird count.

volunteering my time, concern, interest and zest. Supporting the efforts of the organization's board, participating in events, and fundraising is gratifying. Sharing my excitement about birds with friends, and standing with binoculars in hand with my husband and son while taking in the beauty of our community fills me with joy. I look forward to another year supporting an organization whose mission 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." To me, JAS has a positive impact on our community and I'm pleased to be a part of it.

Request for Tideland Lease Amendment for Slate Creek, ADL 107154 Coeur Alaska Inc., Kensington Gold

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=179913>

From: [whatsup] What's Up 1/29/16

****March 15 & 16 JUNEAU - SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE MID-SESSION SUMMIT** will be held at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Event Center, 320 W. Willoughby Avenue. To register, go to www.seconference.org or contact Shelly Wright at 907-586-4351 or email shellyw@seconference.org.

March 1 Deadline for applications for the **ALASKA STATE PARK'S 2016 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM** for the summer at the **ERNEST GRUENING STATE HISTORICAL PARK** in Southeast Alaska. Selected artists will spend up to two weeks at the scenic and historic Gruening Cabin from May through September. The cabin, nestled along the coastline of Amalga harbor, was the territorial governor's summer retreat and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Artists who participate in the program will be asked to donate an original piece of artwork inspired by their time at the cabin and to host a community outreach event, such as a workshop, talk, or other presentation. Travel to Juneau and transportation to the cabin will be the artist's responsibility. Artists must also provide their own food, supplies and art materials for their stay. For more information on this program or to download a copy of the application form, please visit <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/artistinresidence.htm>. You may also contact Ryan Thomas at Alaska State Parks at (907) 269-8692, or ryan.j.thomas@alaska.gov.

March 15 Deadline for submission for the **2016 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 contact Tamara_Zeller@fws.gov or go to <http://alaska.fws.gov/jrduck>.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly announced a **FINAL RULE DEFINING the SCOPE of WATERS PROTECTED UNDER the CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA)**. The rule revises regulations that have been in place for more than 25 years. Revisions are being made in light of 2001 and 2006 Supreme Court rulings that interpreted the regulatory scope of the CWA more narrowly than the agencies and lower courts were then doing, and created uncertainty about the appropriate scope of waters protected under the CWA. The new rule revises the existing administrative definition of “waters of the United States” consistent with the CWA, legal rulings, the agencies’ expertise and experience, and science concerning the interconnectedness of tributaries, wetlands, and other waters and effects of these connections on the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of downstream waters. This report describes the final revised rule - which the agencies refer to as the Clean Water Rule - and includes a table comparing the existing regulatory language that defines “waters of the United States” with the revisions. The rule is particularly focused on clarifying the regulatory status of surface waters located in isolated places in a landscape. The report from the Congressional Research Service is available at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43455.pdf>.

****February 8** Deadline for applications are currently being accepted for **THREE VACANCIES on the NINE-MEMBER KETCHIKAN STATE PARKS CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD** for the term beginning in mid-February. The board advises the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation on matters affecting state parks in the Ketchikan area, promotes protection of the area state parks’ natural and cultural resources, and facilitates communication between the public and park managers. Board meetings are held monthly, September through May. Members are expected to occasionally serve on board-appointed committees in addition to attending the monthly meetings, and they serve staggered three-year terms so that seats open each year. To apply for a position on the board, go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/boards.htm> to download the application form. Send applications to Ketchikan District Park Ranger Mary Kowalczyk at mary.kowalczyk@alaska.gov or mailed to her at Alaska State Parks, 9883 N. Tongass Highway, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901. The board is selected to represent the broad spectrum of public interests involved with or affected by the area parks. The nomination process is designed to ensure that no single viewpoint dominates the board. The bylaws call upon each board member to represent the broad public interest rather than advocate on behalf of one specific group.

State parks in the Ketchikan area include 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. Park advisory boards help park managers understand community priorities for these popular destination parks.

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**

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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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You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*. \$20 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

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**

Juneau Audubon Society
PO Box 021725
Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

The Raven



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

Volume 42, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2016

GENERAL MEETING --Thursday, March 10, University of Alaska SE - Recreation Center, Room 116 7 p.m.—8 p.m.



Local naturalist, captain and wildlife photographer Joshua Peters will **present *Southern Resident Whales & the Effect of Damming Washington and Oregon Rivers*** as the March Audubon public program. He will talk about damming's effects on

habitat, breeding, life-expectancy and social bonding. Joshua's first-hand knowledge, along with his engaging personal style, promises an informative and enjoyable evening. You won't want to miss this and neither will your friends. Please join us and bring your questions and insights!



Berners Bay Cruise 2013 by Doug Jones

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Juneau Audubon Society bird walks begin on April 16! The April Raven newsletter will have the places, times, and leaders for each event from April 16 through mid-June. Come join us and explore our wonderful birding opportunities in Juneau.

Berners Bay cruises dates for 2016 are April 30 and May 7. Tickets will go on sale in April. This year we have something new and exciting for you to choose. On April 30 we will have an Allen Marine whale watching boat for our 4 hour trip from Statter Harbor to Berners Bay. As usual, we will have naturalists on board to enhance our trip to the wildlife extravaganza in our own backyard. **Something is new and different for May 7.** Gastineau Guiding Company has allowed us to utilize five of their whale watching boats! Each boat can hold 20 passengers and we will have a naturalist on board each boat. Although the boats are smaller, they are very fast, the captains are knowledgeable of our local area, and give a whole new perspective on our giant neighbors from sea level view points. It will be a 4 hour trip just as usual. The smaller boats do have a restroom. We hope you can join us in 2016 for a fun and exciting trip to Berners Bay.

Winter Birding by Brenda Wright

Are you tired of not having enough snow to ski? Then why not come out winter birding with us? We are a group of people that don't have winter jobs or are just available to go birding on Friday mornings every week. Of course the weather always cooperates and we have sunshine and calm to view our winter birds (NOT!).



Photos by Kari Monagle



But if you would like to try to do a little winter birding with a few folks, please contact Brenda at at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org or call 321-4739.

We meet at 10 a.m. at some location on the Juneau road system. If you want to join, just send an e-mail and I'll add you to the list.

This past Friday we went to the Rainforest Trail on North Douglas. We got 16 bird species (including over 600 Surf Scoters!), sunshine, and 2 whales! Come join the fun.

PACIFIC SEABIRD SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Gus van Vliet received a Special Achievement Award on February 13, 2016 at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group at Oahu, Hawaii, "in recognition of pioneering contributions for the conservation of Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelets in Alaska".

Pick, Click, Give -- Hello all Alaskan residents, it's time for applications for the 2016 Permanent Fund Dividend. That means it's also time for people to be able to share some of their dividend with charitable organizations. **Juneau Audubon Society** is a non-profit organization that qualifies for Pick, Click, Give. Please consider supporting your local chapter. Our mission 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. We appreciate your support.

Dear bird naturalists/trip leaders/enthusiastic birders,

I hope you will volunteer to lead one (or more!) of the Juneau Audubon Society's bird walks or Berners Bay cruises this year. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort you spend to make these events successful. You are doing the important work of educating the Juneau community and cultivating its interest in birding, and for that we thank you.

The link below should take you to a Google Doc that contains a proposed field trip schedule for 2016. Please write your name next to dates and events you would be willing to lead or assist with. Dates are firm, but feel free to suggest an alternate location if you are interested in a date, but would prefer to go somewhere else. And of course, the Berner's Bay cruises are firm.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OYtJA5PGcBpxGitoBj8_S3srwBD-QFQzaeQaKPYuRKM/edit?usp=sharing

As the document begins to fill up, please consider taking a date that no one else has volunteered for, as we will need to fill all the spots this year. If you have any questions or problems with the Google Doc, let me know.

Thank you very much,

Jason Colon Juneau Audubon Society Field Trip Coordinator

JUNEAU BIRD REPORT To see the reports of the latest birds seen in the Juneau Area and around Southeast, go to: Eaglechat@yahoogroups.com. An especially interesting bird being observed for the last couple of months, is a Snow Goose that hangs out with a group of about 40 local Canada Geese in the Sunny Point Area. Two Long-billed Dowitzers are being observed around the airport, maybe the first to be seen here during the winter.

ALASKA BIRD FESTIVALS

Alaska Hummingbird Festival - Ketchikan, Alaska April 2016

Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival - Cordova, AK May 5 - 8, 2016

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival - Homer, AK May 12 - 15, 2016

Kenai Birding Festival - Kenai, AK May 19 - 22, 2016

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival - Haines, AK November 14-20, 2016

Stikine River Birding Festival - Wrangell, AK April 28 - May 8, 2016

The Sixth Annual **Yakutat Tern Festival** is scheduled for June 2-5, 2016. 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 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.

Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beach-combing. Please see www.yakutatternfestival.org, visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

"Don't forget to stop by the Juneau Arts & Culture Center this Friday to see Patti Hutchens Jouppi's *Feathered Feats*, an exhibit of her artwork highlighting migratory birds. The opening reception is at 4:30pm on Friday, March 4th. The exhibit will be available to view until March 28th. For more information, visit <http://www.jahc.org/jahc-gallery>."

By Jason Colon



The Sad Fate of Great Ideas By Gwen Baluss

I come up with ideas all the time. I literally dream them up, after sleeping on things I hear from friends or read on our great collective brain, the internet. And I wake up ready to transform the entire trajectory of Western civilization, or at least, my town; then, after some consideration, perhaps some corner of my weed-infested back yard. But about the time I've finished my second cup of tea something happens to derail the Great Transformation. It's usually something like - the discovery of a big pile of laundry. I lack lots of things: focus, perhaps laundry detergent... but never run out of ideas.

I bet you have lots of great ones too. And yet, if you've ever been involved in a non-profit, or really any kind of organization, you know this scene. You are talking about your work, maybe even something that you managed, against all odds, to get done. And then someone comes up, very excited, and says, "You should really be doing X". And then skips off, whistling a tune, leaving you standing there to contemplate your disappointment at not having a prayer of ever accomplishing X on your own.

And so, as a nonprofit board member, I tend to glaze over most ideas. It's not that they we don't want a little window out of our box every now and then- we do - it's just that we are keeping pretty busy with last month's or last year's Big Ideas.

The magic happens when somebody says “Here’s my idea-- and this is how I can help”. This transforms the non- profit from a mediocre provider of services to a powerful way for like-minded individuals to accomplish things together.

That’s what happened recently when Sudie Hargis wrote with interest about having a showing of The Messenger, a movie about songbird habitat restoration. She was ready to help make it happen. Brenda Wright jumped on the idea and soon the movie idea snowballed into part of International Migratory Bird Day/ 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act celebration that will be held in May.


A few months ago I had received a pitch about the movie in an email, and thought “neat”, as I quickly forgot it and moved on to deal with the rest of the approximately 30 emails that I get every single day. Now, I’m really excited about having the film come to Juneau. And, whoever sits next to me in the theatre, could leave inspired, perhaps even empowered, and also, probably, will be thankful that I managed to put on some clean-smelling clothes that evening.

March 1, starts the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge!

Birds that breed in the Arctic have ranges that reach all 50 states and 6 continents. Teams of up to 6 birders have from March 1 to June 1 to find as many birds as possible on the official Arctic Birding Challenge Checklist. There are prizes for first, second, and third place teams in both the Alaska and Lower 48 divisions.

Try to beat the Arctic Birding Challenge’s high counts: 153 species in Alaska or 142 species in the Lower 48!

For contest rules and the official Arctic Birding Challenge checklist, visit the [Audubon Alaska website](#).

	<p>Audubon Alaska</p> <p>From the icy, bountiful waters of the Arctic Ocean to the misty, salmon-rich rainforests of the Tongass National Forest, Audubon Alaska works to conserve the specta...</p> <p>View on www.AudubonAlaska... Preview by Yahoo</p>
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Beth Peluso,Audubon Alaska

Eagle Feather Collection Permits EXPIRES March 31, 2016!

Hello all volunteers that collect eagle feathers on the Juneau Audubon Society US Fish & Wildlife Service permit. Our permit expires on March 31 this year. We have already applied for a new permit, but it has not yet arrived. Please turn in any eagle feathers you have collected to Brenda Wright before March 31! The new permit has just arrived, it will be available by e-mail and paper from Brenda. Each of our permits is good for three years. Thanks to all that have helped with our contributions. We shipped 626 feathers last year.

“Wild Life” By Prill (Isleib) Mollick (A Juneau resident and birdwatcher before moving to Smoky Mountains, TN)

One night at 9:00 in early February, we heard the barking of a neighborhood dog just outside our window. It was obviously barking and chasing something on to our deck.

Our sleeping cat was instantly on alert. (Later it took her a while to settle down again)

My husband Joe, turned on the deck light and looked out. By the few seconds it took for him to get up, walk over to the light switch, and turn on the outside light, the dog had stopped barking and had left the deck. There was nothing to see on the deck. All was silent again.

But.....we smelled what it was that the dog had been chasing. SKUNK

We can only imagine that the skunk must have sprayed the dog when it cornered the skunk on our deck. Next morning Joe carefully checked the deck - nothing around.

Later when I let the cat out on the deck, she smelled something strange in the air. Her tail instantly became quite puffed up as she slowly slinked around looking for what might have caused that odd smell.

There was nothing to find. However the “fragrance” did linger for a couple days.

That is our wildlife report.

No bear yet....

BIRDS HITTING WINDOWS

Up to 988 million birds are killed *each year* in the United States when they hit windows, making this threat one of the most costly to bird populations. Migratory birds and backyard birds are among the most common victims, including declining species like White-throated Sparrow, Wood Thrush, Painted Bunting, Golden-winged Warbler, and Anna's and Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Now, after six years of research, our Glass Collisions Program presents a comprehensive resource to help stop birds hitting windows: Proven products for existing and new windows, for every size and shape imaginable, and for every budget. Each of these products has been shown to significantly reduce bird collisions. (<http://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/>)

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.
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You will receive the National Audubon Magazine plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.
\$20 Basic renewal___

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Telephone number_____

___My check for \$_____ is enclosed___ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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Volume 42, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2016

GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, April 14, University of Alaska SE - Recreation Center, Room 116
7 p.m.—8 p.m.**

GENERAL MEETINGS will begin again in September, so join us on the Page 2 Saturday Bird Walks during the summer.

Auke Bay Wildlife Extravaganza: Insights & Stories



Are you among the many who watched the wildlife extravaganza at Auke Bay? Or did you miss it? Whales, seabirds, and other predators gathered at Auke Bay harbor where schools of herring seemed to be at the center of a wildlife extravaganza. Come and join our April program where the wildlife show will be relived.

Local naturalists, like Bob Armstrong will share videos, images and insights on possible reasons of this natural phenomenon. We'll also share some info and photos from Southeast Alaska birding festivals. We invite you to bring your videos, photos and stories to share as well!

Free and open to the public. Our events are of interest to young people. All children are also welcome when accompanied by an adult. For more information: www.juneau-audubon-society.org

****Berners Bay cruise tickets are available now for purchase at Hearthside Books – see Page 3 for information.**

Saturday Bird Walks by Jason Colon

Are you brand new to birding, with not even a pair of binoculars to your name? An avid intermediate birder looking to learn more? A seasoned expert who wants to show off his/her ability to recognize hundreds of songs for a crowd? Saturday bird walks are for everyone.

Please join us this season on one or more of our Saturday birding field trips. The walks are led by seasoned birders who have volunteered their time to help us identify our avian neighbors and feathered summer vacationers. Let us know if you need to borrow a spare set of binoculars, as there are a few available for the trips.

Guided field trips are scheduled every Saturday between April 16 and June 18, usually at **8 am**, and each one will be unique. Except for the April 30 and May 7 trips, which will be cruises to Berners Bay, all of the guided walks are free to attend.

The schedule is:

- 4/16/16 Fish Creek, led by Brenda Wright and Owen Squires
- 4/23/16 Auk Rec/Pt. Louisa, with optional volunteer beach cleanup on the return trip, led by Laurie Lamm
- 4/30/16 Berner's Bay Cruise, big boat, led by Brenda Wright and Mary Willson
- 5/7/16 Berner's Bay Cruises, five smaller boats, led by Brenda Wright, Mary Willson, Laurie Craig, Mark Schwan, and Amy Clark Courtney
- 5/14/16 Bird Banding and International Migratory Bird Day Celebrations at Juneau Community Garden, led by Gwen Baluss
- 5/21/16 Moose Lake, led by Mark Schwan
- 5/28/16 Sheep Creek, led by Gus van Vliet
- 6/4/16 Sandy Beach/Treadwell, led by Patty Rose
- 6/11/16 Eagle Beach, led by Jeff Sauer
- 6/18/16 Pt. Bridget, led by Gus van Vliet

Please email me at field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org for specific meeting places, if you have any questions, or if you would like to request binoculars for a field trip.

See you at Fish Creek on Saturday, April 16th!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers to do bird reports to be printed in the newsletter. If you are interested in creating ones for Juneau or any Southeast Alaska community please contact Mary Lou at kingfarm@ptialaska.net Creating a bird report is a great way for evolving birders to connect with others and learn what's been seen locally.

Bird Quiz

Do you know what this bird is? Email Amy at avianblue15@hotmail.com with your answer, and if it's correct, your name will be in the next newsletter!

The January quiz bird was an immature White-crowned Sparrow.



Berners Bay Cruises with Juneau Audubon Society April 30 & May 7

This year we are trying a brand new way for people to travel to Berners Bay for a wildlife cruise. On April 30, we will have an Allen Marine charter boat, with 2 decks, 3 bathrooms, plenty of seating, and hot drinks available.

On May 7, we are leasing 5 Gastineau Guiding Company 43' whale watching boats. They are powered by 3 huge outboard motors, hold 20



guests each, have a single marine head bathroom, and are heated. They have an aft and forward viewing area plus windows that open for better photos.

The choice is yours!! The Allen Marine boat is a well-known venue, comfortable & spacious. For a few dollars more, you can enjoy the whales and birds from a new perspective= up close & personal.

Please remember we have different prices for the 2 types of cruises this year. Hope you can join us on either April 30 or May 7. Tickets on sale at Hearthside Books.

WRITING AND VISUAL ARTS CONTEST



Babe Whale in Berners Bay early morning by Gillfoto

WIN A TICKET FOR
JUNEAU AUDUBON
SOCIETY 'S BERNERS
BAY CRUISE ON APRIL
30, 2016

The theme: BIRDS, WILDLIFE or CONSERVATION of BERNERS BAY

Rules:

- Submit entries electronically by April 18, 2016 to education@juneau-audubon-society.org .
 - Six winners will be chosen on April 25, 2016
 - Essays, poems, outdoor photographs, photographs or your original drawings/paintings or sculpture all accepted. Size limit 1000 words or 5 Mb.
 - Submit up to four entries, but each artist can only win one ticket.
 - Youth entries are welcome, please include age.
- Include your name and contact information with the entry. (JAS will not share personal information).
- Winning works will be published once in the JAS Newsletter "The Raven"; artist retains all other rights to the work.

Trip to Berners Bay is April 30, 2016 with Allen Marine, leaving Statter Harbor (below DeHart's Auke Bay) at 8:30 AM and last about 4 hours.

Tickets at Hearthside Books.

For more information and inspiration about Berners Bay see: Page 3 and

<http://netapp.audubon.org/iba/Site/2712>

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=611

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berners_Bay

JAS Brings Award Winning Migration Movie to Juneau

In Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day and the 100th Anniversary of Migratory Bird Treaty Act, JAS is sponsoring a very special event. **THE MESSENGER** is a film bound to delight and inspire all, a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it will mean to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them.

Synopsis: Su Rynard's wide-ranging and contemplative documentary THE MESSENGER explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own. Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, THE MESSENGER brings us face-to-face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks and many other airborne music-makers.

On one level, THE MESSENGER is an engaging, visually stunning, emotional journey, one that mixes its elegiac message with hopeful notes and unique glances into the influence of songbirds on our own expressions of the soul. On another level, THE MESSENGER is the artful story about the mass depletion of songbirds on multiple continents, and about those who are working to turn the tide.

In ancient times humans looked to the flight and songs of birds to protect the future. Today once again, birds have something to tell us.

Check out this review: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/the-messenger-our-movie-review/>
See trailers and more at <http://songbirdsos.com/>

Gold town Theater May 2 at 6:30 pm and 8 pm FREE tickets available at the door (we recommend showing up EARLY as its likely to be a full house)

AND... Prepare to be greeted by the “**Birdtrippers**” Jean Carlos Rodriguez-Ramos– and Christian Michael McWilliams, exceptional young adults who will be migrating with the birds along the Pacific Flyway, working on migratory bird conservation and public education, and stopping over in Juneau. You can find out more about their adventures and mission here: <http://birdtrippers.com> Help us welcome them on their journey!

ALASKA BIRD FESTIVALS

Alaska Hummingbird Festival - Ketchikan, Alaska April 2016

Stikine River Birding Festival - Wrangell, AK April 28 - May 8, 2016

Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival - Cordova, AK May 5 - 8, 2016

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival - Homer, AK May 12 - 15, 2016

Kenai Birding Festival - Kenai, AK May 19 - 22, 2016

Yakutat Tern Festival -- June 2-5, 2016

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival - Haines, AK November 14-20, 2016

100 Years – 100 Pledges

Local youth to celebrate birds in big way!

This year we mark the centennial of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds - also called the Migratory Bird Treaty (MTB)- that was signed on Aug. 16, 1916. Celebrated by conservationists everywhere, it banned the heedless taking of wild birds.

Most celebrations will kick off around annual birding events that happen in May, such as International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). Around the world, bird lovers, ornithologists, conservationists, and others will be busy with birding events and festivities. Some will be casually enjoying the day birding while others will have specific tasks and purpose.

In Juneau, our local Audubon chapter will be present at the Community Garden on May 7, along with the US Forest Service, banding birds and sharing the science behind the process with anyone who is interested and stops by. Scoping the birding hotspots, there will also be a few local young birders with a goal in mind.

Last year, 14-year-old Owen Squires celebrated IMBD by participating in the Cornell's Lab of Ornithology's Global Big Day: an event that encouraged birders around the globe to submit a list of birds seen on one specific day. Owen took his participation one step further, to help support birding organizations. Prior to the event, he requested from family and friends a pledge for the number of birds seen. His goal was 50 species in Juneau. He saw 67. He also raised roughly \$1000, half which was given to Cornell and the other half to our local Audubon chapter.

This year Owen intends to obtain 100 pledges to commemorate the 100th year of MBT on the Global Big Day. He hopes to create a team effort asking other young birders to participate. The goal isn't directly related to the number of birds seen but the number of people the team can influence to support birding, conservation and scientific efforts.

The Global Big Day will be on May 14 this year. If you are a young birder (18 years or under) and are interested in being a part of the team, please contact Owen Squires at squiresfamily@gei.net for more details and information. If you would like to support Owen and his team by being one of the 100 pledges, again, use the email above to submit your pledge. Pledges can be a specific amount or can be based on the number of birds seen. For example, if you just want to pledge X number of dollars to the day's event you can, or you can indicate a pledge of \$1- \$2 or \$3 dollars for every bird seen.

Last year's Global Big Day was a huge success. Let's make this year another spectacular day of celebration, giving to a cause and a purpose worth the effort: young birders, science, conservation, and community.

Blooms ---and Doom? By Gwen Baluss

This year by many measures was one of the warmest on record. Sea ice, for an example is at the lowest level since measurements began in the early 80's. But what effects might we be seeing locally, and more importantly, how is our familiar wildlife going to react? Blueberries started blooming, literally in my backyard, about a month earlier than they would have a decade ago.

Vaccinium species like blueberries are recognized as an important food source for Rufous Hummingbirds as they



Rufous Young Hummingbird poses before being released in local banding study

migrate North along the Pacific coast. Usually the birds seem to have an uncanny ability to show up literally on the day the flowers appear. But this year the flowers peaked locally before the first Rufous was seen in Juneau on March 29. Migratory bird biologists fear these “phenological mismatches” where flowers, insects, even fish, many of whom use temperature as a signal for the “right” time to emerge, are now available at a different time than in the past, and thus bird’s migration no longer align with their much-needed food sources. To what extent birds can adjust, and adapt? I see this question as one of the biggest



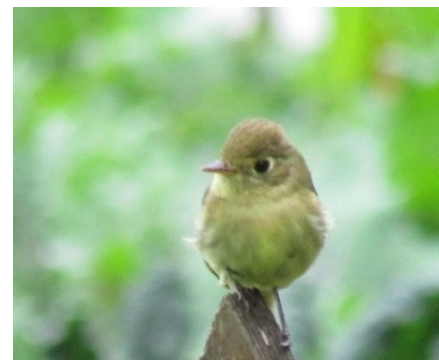
Blueberry blossoms in the Mendenhall Valley

questions in conservation today.

Some examples in the literature are interesting. Great Tits, a European bird related to chickadees, were studied in a park in the Netherlands. It was noted that caterpillars, a main food source, were emerging earlier than in the past. Presumably in the response, in a period of only decades, birds began nesting weeks earlier. A long term study of bird counts in Denali Park showed expansion of shrub-dwelling birds into new areas, following the vegetation changes. Some forest birds, however, failed to take advantage of forest expansion, or actually retreated.

The bulk of long term studies, such as the North American Breeding Bird Survey suggest widespread declines in more species than species thought to be stable or increasing. The causes are likely to be most related to habitat loss, but changes within the habitat that they have left available to them could be an added stressor.

Farther north where human development is scarce, the early results of studies such as the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Program also suggest declines in coniferous forest birds. Many are migrants, but we do have to wonder about summer habitat changes caused by the effects of a warming climate. Most alarming in North America is the decline of aerial insectivores, birds that primarily feed on high-flying insects.



Pacific-slope Flycatcher, an insectivore of Tongass region whose decline shows a population declines for Pacific Northwest Breeding Bird Surveys

Specialists estimate that the Olive sided flycatcher has declined by 76% in the last 40 years, with half of that decline occurring in the last decade. Barn Swallows, considered by many of us a “weedy” backyard species because of their willingness to literally nest on barns and other buildings, have declined so much in the north that they are now listed as a threatened species in Canada. Pesticide use is potentially a contributor, but mismatches in timing of insect hatches could be another.

Besides protecting as much as habitat as possible, we as citizens can also help monitor the situation. Citizen science projects are key in understanding the annual timing, or phenology, of plants and animals. Anyone with a keen eye and willingness to enter their data on a computer can help; a science background is not necessary. The links below are phenology related projects that use citizen scientists. They are also good sources of information if you simply interested in watching the results as they come in.

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> eBird, everybody’s bird observations, all the time, everywhere!

<https://www.learner.org/jnorth/> Journey North, a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change

<http://budburst.org/> Project BudBurst is a network of people across the United States who monitor plants as the seasons change

<http://nestwatch.org/> Cornell Nestwatch. Report on a bird nest.

Juneau Audubon is starting a local Tree Swallow nest monitoring project, and can set you up with a swallow nest box to watch! Contact E-mail: at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org

There is also a great need for “citizen analysts”. While there are currently only platforms for citizens to enter data, those with knowledge of computer and data management will be just as important in the quest for compiling information about our changing world. Contact the managers of any of the above to find your niche.

Northern Mockingbird By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, TN

The Northern Mockingbird is a medium-sized songbird. Both males and females look alike. Its upper parts are a beautiful gray, the under parts have a whitish-gray color. It has white outer feathers on its long black tail, and large white patches on its wings that are visible in flight.

While foraging on the ground, they sometimes spread their wings in an odd two-step motion showing the white wing patches. Grasshoppers and other insects in the grass may be startled by this action and try to hop away allowing the mockingbird to grab a quick snack. They will defend their territory by dive bombing toward any cat, dog, or person who comes too close to their nesting area. J. J. Audubon painted a mockingbird fiercely defending its nest against a rattlesnake.

Northern mockingbirds can often be seen singing while perched on the tallest tree or light post or the highest corner of a shopping mall building. They were created with the ability to copy and repeat other bird songs making them their own. They also mimic the sounds of people whistling, croaking frogs, squeaky hinges, barking dogs, and the ringing of door bells. There are several reports of them imitating car alarms. The car owner rushes out to see what caused his car alarm to sound only to see no one or anything that may have sounded the alarm. After rushing out again after the second or third time of the car alarm sounding, the disgusted owner then discovers it was only a noisy gray bird.

A relative of ours complained for several summers that a mockingbird would perch at the top of their tall Balsam Fir tree and sing all night long disturbing their sleep night after sleepless night. One theory is that they are singing in defense of their territory. Another theory is that only the bachelor mockingbirds sing at night. The night singing is thought to be a love song, and after finding a mate, the night singing may (or may not) stop.

There is a Law to protect the bird and its romantic love singing. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 makes it illegal to remove active nests, or harass, or kill, the mockingbird (and other migratory birds) even if it does sing all night long.

Eagle Feather Collection Permits

Hello all volunteers that collect eagle feathers on the Juneau Audubon Society US Fish & Wildlife Service permit. The permits are available by e-mail and paper from Brenda. Each of our permits are good for three years.

Global Big Day, 14 May 2016. A single day, uniting birdwatchers worldwide across political boundaries and language barriers, all brought together by our shared passion for birds. In 2015, 14,000 people from 135 countries took part. **In 2016, will you join us?**

It's simple to contribute: go birding and then submit your data to eBird—how easy and fun is that? You don't need to do a full day of birding; even an hour or 10 minutes makes a difference!

How do I make my sightings count?

To have your sightings be included in the Global Big Day, they have to be entered in eBird as one or more checklists. Go to <http://eBird.org/globalbigday> to learn more. Don't forget, **every bird counts for the Global Big Day**. Whether it is a Red-winged Blackbird in your neighborhood (pictured here) or a critically endangered species on some remote island, eBird and the world want to know about it.



How can I follow the Global Big Day results?

<http://eBird.org/globalbigday>. This page will be updated throughout May 14th with sightings and photos from eBirders worldwide. Team eBird will also be posting updates here. Use #GBD2016 to join in and share on Facebook or Twitter, and perhaps you'll be featured on the Global Big Day summary page!

Global Big Day Tips—how to have the most fun

1. **Explore the Birding “Hotspots” in your area.** eBird's Hotspot Explorer is a fantastic way to find great places to see birds, and to learn more about birds in your area. <http://eBird.org/eBird/hotspots>
2. **Note sightings with eBird Mobile.** Record your sightings in the field with the free eBird Mobile app, available for iOS and Android. <http://tinyurl.com/eBirdmobile>
3. **Share your bird photos.** Take photos of birds you see on the day and then upload these images directly to your eBird checklist. These photos document your sightings, make your checklist a work of art, and become a part of the Macaulay Library. More info: <http://tinyurl.com/eBirdphotos>
4. **Get others excited about the Global Big Day!** Encourage two friends to take part in the GBD! If everyone does that, how many people will join in the fun? 20,000? 25,000? It is in your hands. Different people enjoy the GBD in different ways; we have some ideas for getting people excited here: <http://tinyurl.com/shareGBD>
5. **Learn more about what eBird has to offer.** Cutting edge migration visualizations. Over 300 million bird observations, freely available to all. Trip-planning and educational tools. <http://tinyurl.com/eBirdexplore>



Of course, most importantly, get outside, see some birds, have fun, and contribute your sightings to global bird conservation! Thanks for being a part of a truly Global Big Day.

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**

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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**Too much mail from the National Audubon Society? You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com or call 1-800-272-4201
Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.**

***In **National Audubon's** continuing efforts to improve the level of service we provide, Audubon supporters are telling us we need to make changes to improve the clarity and consistency of our membership offers. Effective immediately, all annual memberships to the National Audubon Society will be \$20.

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 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

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**

Juneau Audubon Society
PO Box 21725
Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

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 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2016

Have a great Summer. Next General Meeting will be October 13 and next newsletter in September

Final Berners Bay Cruise, Saturday May 7

Spring wildlife cruise! See Berners Bay Important Bird Area from the water! This time of year fish runs such as herring or eulachon may bring spectacular numbers of sea lions, humpback whales, scoters, gulls and more! Starts from Statter Harbor below DeHarts. Arrive 15 minutes early. Lasts about 4 hours. This is the last JAS cruise this season. This sailing will be a little different. There will be a number of small boats available from Gastineau guiding, with a limited number of people on each. Prices: adult \$70, student \$40, kids \$25 Tickets on sale at Hearthside Books.

Saturday Bird Walks by Jason Colon Please join us this season on one or more of our Saturday birding field trips. The walks are led by seasoned birders who have volunteered their time to help us identify our avian neighbors and feathered summer vacationers. Let us know if you need to borrow a spare set of binoculars, as there are a few available for the trips. Guided field trips are scheduled every Saturday between April 16 and June 18, usually at **8 am**, and each one will be unique. All of the guided walks are free to attend.

- 5/14/16 Bird Banding and International Migratory Bird Day Celebrations at Juneau Community Garden, led by Gwen Baluss
- 5/21/16 Moose Lake, led by Mark Schwan
- 5/28/16 Sheep Creek, led by Gus van Vliet
- 6/4/16 Sandy Beach/Treadwell, led by Patty Rose
- 6/11/16 Eagle Beach, led by Jeff Sauer
- 6/18/16 Pt. Bridget, led by Gus van Vliet

Please email me at field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org for specific meeting places, if you have any questions, or if you would like to request binoculars for a field trip.

ALASKA BIRD FESTIVALS

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Pick, Click, Give -- Hello all Alaskan residents ,there is still time for applications for the 2016 Permanent Fund Dividend till August. That means it's also time for people to be able to share some of their dividend with charitable organizations. **Juneau Audubon Society** is a non-profit organization that qualifies for Pick, Click, Give. Please consider supporting your local chapter. Our mission 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. We appreciate your support.

Musings on Shakespeare and Bird Conservation

 By Gwen Baluss

Recently I was listening to public radio chatter about celebrating the 400th year since William Shakespeare (WS) passed.

WS is arguably the greatest writer in the English language and had a profound influence on our language and mentality. But soon the program devolved to the semi-conspiracy theory level of controversy surrounding his identity. Could one guy from relatively humble origins possibly have written all those works? If not WS, then who?

It so happened that I was able to ask a scholar and translator of works from the time what she thought about all that. Her answer made a lot more sense than any explanation I'd heard. WS was not just an author, but a compiler. The theatre company was a collective and thus the basic scripts were embellished, edited and improved upon by actors as they rehearsed, and more feedback from the audience was likely incorporated as they were repeatedly performed. Further, most of WS story line built on existing works drawn from history, published novels, etc.

So regardless of who WS truly was, the magic was in the vibrant community. So this is how I bring this back to bird conservation and Audubon. We at JAS have a small board of busy people. It takes volunteers and support at all levels to keep us moving. We appreciate your help, and remind you to email any of us at any time if you think that you can contribute as a volunteer on any kind of activity.

Oh, and by the way, that story about the introduction of the European Starling to North America being part a scheme to introduce all bird species mentioned in WS works to the Americas? Might not be totally true. The American Acclimatization Society founded in 1871 sought to introduce "such foreign varieties of the animal and vegetable kingdom as may be useful or interesting" did release a number of birds from Europe, some of whom took off with a vengeance. Apparently there was a Society director that was a WS fan. However, that seems to be where the evidence ends. The rest, it could just be a good yarn.

Berners Bay Cruise

We had a pretty typical day for our first cruise to Berners Bay this year on April 30. The cruise started off well with spotting a couple of arctic terns before we left the dock at Auke Bay! The oyster catchers were present on Aaron Island and there were sea lions on the haul-out on Benjamin Island. We caught a few glimpses of humpback whales as we proceeded to Berners Bay itself. Owen Squires, was keeping track of all the birds we saw and reported 25 species for the day. We did not hit the BIG day at Berners Bay, but we all had a good time. We were very pleased to have all six of our essay/poetry/photo contest winners on board. Photos by Helen Unruh

Although the forecast of a big storm front was correct, our timing was good. The storm weather was picking up right about noon and we arrived comfortably back at the dock before the worst weather.

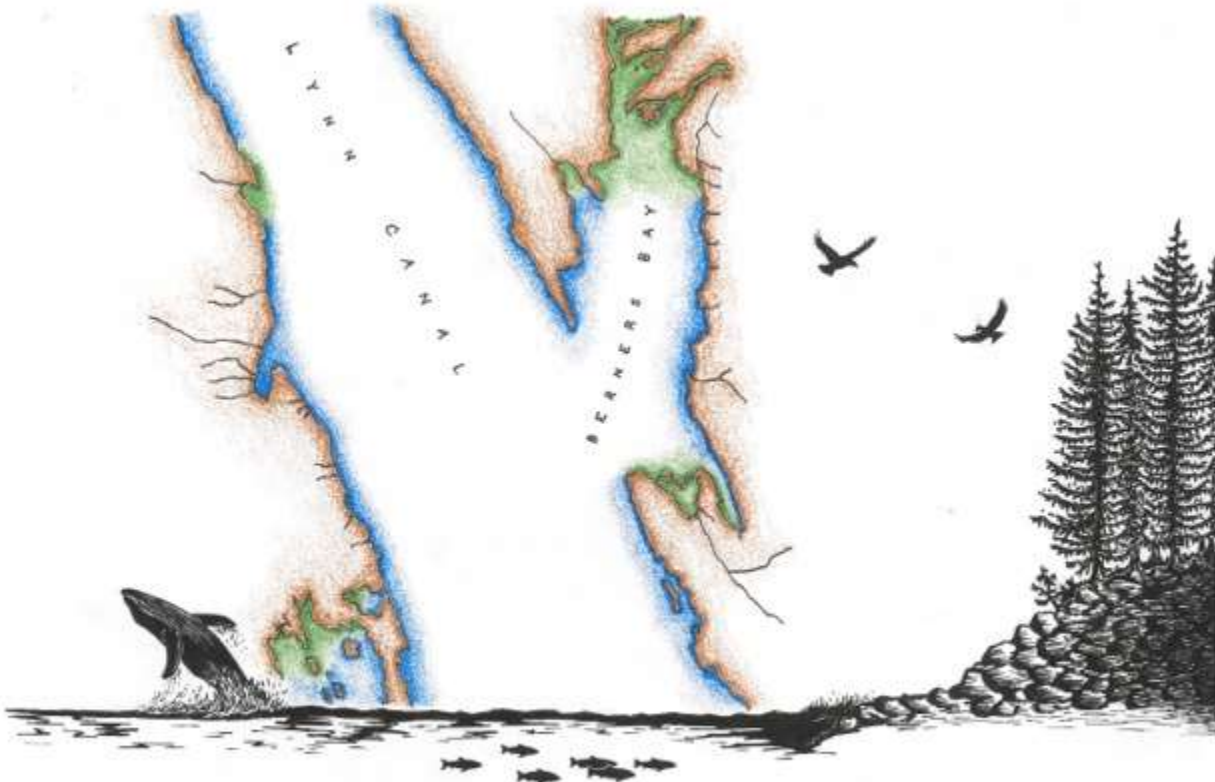


Free Berners Bay Cruise Ticket Winners

The winners of our Free Berners Bay tickets were Diane DeSloover, Kenneth Gill, Travis and Kaitlyn Kuendig, Barbara Shepherd, and Chris Marquis. Thank you for submitting your entries to the contest. Both Travis and Kaitlyn Kuendig took a bunch of picture but struggled a bit with the rainy weather and raindrops on lenses. These are the two they would like to share. (Bonaparte's Gull & sea lions).



Winning drawing by Chris Marquis



Photos by Paul King, a ten year old on the cruise.



Tree Swallow nest box project by Brenda Wright

This is Juneau Audubon's second year at placing tree swallow nest boxes around Juneau. Tree swallows populations are decreasing throughout North America and Alaskan scientists are interested in finding out how our population is doing in our state.

Last year we were a little late in getting nest boxes up around town. So for 2016, we were trying to get most of the boxes in place before April 15. That is the earliest date that tree swallows have appeared in the eBird data for Juneau.

This year we again had help from a class at the Juneau Youth services to put up 8 nest boxes at Sunny Point. With help from volunteers Patricia Wherry, Shirley Carlson, and Ron Berg we put up 6 nest boxes on the Mendenhall State Game refuge at Fish Creek meadows on North Douglas. Chip McMillan and family helped put up 6 boxes at the Community Garden, and Helen Unruh helped with

6 boxes at Kingfisher Pond in Lemon creek. At the Pioneer Marsh Shirley Carlson and Kari Monagle helped to remove 5 of the old 2005 nest boxes and put up 2 new ones for a total of 8 boxes. After some discussion and advice, the community garden boxes were resituated by Gwen Baluss and the last 3 boxes were again placed in the meadow near the Brotherhood Bridge trail.

If anyone has time to collect information on tree swallow activity at Pioneer Marsh or Brotherhood Bridge, please let me know. We need someone to check the location at least once a week. This year we are not banding any chicks, so we just want to learn when the swallows arrive, if they use any of our boxes, and the possibility of estimating number of chicks. We do not touch the nest boxes any time from now until the birds leave in early August. Just send me a note at: at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org if you can volunteer. Photo by Helen Unruh at Kingfisher pond.



Support Youth Birders, Cornell and JAS for Global BIG DAY

Rain or shine, seven young Juneau birders are taking on the Global Big Day (GBD), May 14. Owen Squires, Cody and Jessica Millisaps, Leif and Wesley Torgenson, Bruno Malecha, and Kyle Farley-Robinson will be representing our community as the Alaska's **Southeast Sandpipers** team. For the first time, a group of Juneau's youth has decided to join forces and dedicate their time and efforts to support our local Audubon chapter and Cornell's Lab of Ornithology. The group will rise early on May 14th, scour our local hotspots, bays, and backyards and bird all day--then



Jessica, Cody and Owen on recent JAS cruise to Berners Bay

submit their sightings to the GBD event through eBird. Juneau will be on the map for the GBD event, thanks to these seven enthusiastic southeast sandpipers! You can encourage their efforts, cheer them on, and be a part of Juneau's team through a financial pledge. The team has a lofty goal of 100 pledges to commemorate this year's centennial anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The ideal pledge is \$1 per bird species yet any pledge is greatly appreciated. Pledges obtained by the individual team's members will be pooled into one, and then distributed equally to our local Audubon chapter and Cornell. Be a part of Juneau's next generation of up and coming birders, and reward them and their determination while assisting two important conservation and educational organizations.

To pledge: Email squiresfamily@gci.net and indicate your pledge amount by May 14.

Meet one of the Youth Big Day Birders: Jessica Millsaps By Gwen Baluss



Jessica releases a hummingbird after it was banded at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum

Last year I was banding birds at the International Migratory Bird Day event. A quiet middle-school aged girl approached the table and said that she wanted to volunteer for me. I told her that she'd need an adult to work with her, but that I was still looking for help with a hummingbird project. I didn't know if I'd see her after that, but she seemed quite serious. Jessica did in fact volunteer, along with her Grandpa Slim, and they became a key part of the project. She has an amazing amount of patience and focus, even in the rain or clouds of biting insects. I also learned that Jessica, along with her whole family, regularly watches birds, and contributes observations to eBird. The latter means learning to carefully document and photograph birds. Along with her brother Cody she's been taking a photography class and getting even better bird shots. What's more, they've had some unusual sightings. A notable bird was a female Rose-breasted

Grosbeak that showed up in their yard last fall. Few records of the species exist for Juneau. Jessica identified it correctly right away, but it took many experienced birders- some even came in from other parts of the state to see it -- a significant amount of deliberation verifying that it was probably not Black-headed Grosbeak. Another interesting observation last fall was of two White-throated Sparrows, quite unusual in Juneau. Jessica knew that there were two individuals because one was a tan -striped morph and the other a white-striped. However, one of the birds was unfortunately eaten by a Northern Pygmy-owl. It did make for an interesting eBird report though! "Suddenly a northern Pygmy owl fell out of the sky like a rock and took the poor WTS for dinner!" Cody, she said later, got photos of the owl.

Reprint of A JUNEAU BIG DAY FOR BIRDS

"BIG DAY" MAY 12, 2000 By Paul Suchanek "

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

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

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

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

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

Moving on to Eagle Beach, I first spied a large flock of red-necked phalaropes about 400 yards offshore - this species was probably the best find of the day and totally unexpected. Also at the beach was a small flock of redheads - also a nice find and close enough to get some very good looks at the elegant looking males. As the tide was just starting to go out here (it was about Y2 hour past the high of 13.6 feet), I decided to hightail it for the Mendenhall Wetlands in order to get there before the tide got out too far (it's a lot closer walk to the shorebirds if the tide forces them in).

The Mendenhall Wetlands are undoubtedly the best spot for shorebirds and waterfowl on the Juneau road system, and no Big Day attempt would be complete without a visit. After a 1/2 mile walk to the Mendenhall River mouth off the end of Radcliffe road, I found a couple of good waterfowl species - snow goose and gadwall. I then began racking up a number of shorebird species including red knot, whimbrel, semipalmated sandpiper, and Baird's sandpiper. Caspian terns are often not that common so it was also good to note this species. I was having a great time as I left the parking lot with 92 species tallied.

I next drove out to the Moraine Trail parking lot at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor's Center to visit the glacier forelands habitats available in this area - especially Norton Lake, a productive area for some unusual species. I first spied a solitary sandpiper and a dipper along a beaver pond not far from the parking lot and

saw my first swallow species (violet-green) along Mendenhall Lake. At Norton Lake, I added hooded merganser, lesser scaup, ring-necked duck, and rusty blackbird (#99) to my list.

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

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

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

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

Pacific Flyway Ambassadors

2016 marks the Centennial of the first Migratory Bird Treaty, the cornerstone of international joint efforts to conserve birds that migrate across the United States and neighboring countries. A total of four Migratory Bird Treaties have been signed and they have collectively facilitated a long, successful history of conserving, protecting and managing migratory bird populations and their habitats in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Russia.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, together with a collection of federal, NGO and international partners, will draw attention this spring to the incredible journey of migrating birds. Two young bird novices are embarking on a one-of-a-kind epic road trip up the Pacific Flyway from southern California to Alaska, using modern storytelling tools and techniques to engage new and diverse communities.

These ambassadors of birds will invite others to follow their journey through blogs and social media posts as they migrate up the Pacific coast. Their inspiration will be the landscapes and people of

National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and other wildlife hot spots, as well as Urban Bird Treaty Cities and other large communities. Through fun and dynamic storytelling the ambassadors will highlight extraordinary bird facts, threats and challenges birds face across urban and rural landscapes, and innovations of thought and design that are contributing to a brighter future for birds. Enriching the journey will be a parade of wildlife experts, bird enthusiasts and everyday people sharing their insights, feelings, and perspectives about birds both locally and globally. By engaging a variety of perspectives and knowledge, the ambassadors will paint a picture of our collective understanding and appreciation of birds and emphasize opportunities to make a difference.

The focus on connecting new and diverse audiences is critical to the Service’s goal of establishing public relevance for the mission-based work of the agency and its partners in conservation.

Here in Juneau our Ambassadors Jean Carlos Rodrigues-Ramos and Christian M. McWilliams arrived just in time to have an informal chat with the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Staff and help put up the Tern nesting signs at the glacier. Then they came on our Berners Bay cruise and talked about the places and events they have been having since leaving San Diego CA on March 3. They have visited many federal parks and refuges plus state parks and areas. Next on the agenda here in Juneau was a discussion with the audience who attended the free movie The Messenger at Gold Town Theater on May 2. Next on their trip is Homer, Anchorage, Denali, and Fairbanks. If you are interested in their adventures check it out on birdtrippers.com or Facebook.



Christian and Jean take a selfie at Mendenhall glacier (the first glacier for both!) and the Arctic Tern Sign crew Jean, Christian, Melanie Roed, Gwen Baluss, Amy Sherwin



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**

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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The easiest way to become a member of National Audubon Society is to do so online. <https://www.audubon.org/membership>

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 Basic renewal__

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___My check for \$___ is enclosed___ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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 US mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org

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

Volume 43, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2016

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 2016

There will be a presentation of Audubon Alaska's newest publication, the *Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska*, at 7 PM on October 13th. Location to be announced on our website and Facebook page.

Election! Election! October 13, 2016 Election of Officers

All Juneau Audubon members are eligible to run for and vote for our officers. This year our candidates are Gwen Baluss for President, vacant for vice-president, Patty Rose for treasurer, and Amy Sherwin for secretary. We welcome and encourage all our members to volunteer for positions on our Board and Committees. There are many opportunities to help protect our environment for people, birds and other wildlife.

Local Bird Reports: We are looking for volunteers from Communities all over Southeast to contribute bird sightings to our monthly newsletter bird reports. Please contact newsletter editor Mary Lou King, kingfarm@ptialaska.net if you would like to contribute. To get the latest birding information see "Web Resources" later in this newsletter.

Mark Schwan's pictures of a Juvenile Ruff along with a Least Sandpiper that were seen August 22 on the wetlands near the mouth of the Mendenhall River.



Shoreline to Snowpack: A New Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska

Where can you find the highest number of bird species in Southeast Alaska? Where does the habitat of brown and black bears overlap? Audubon Alaska's newest publication, the *Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska*, answers these questions and more through maps and written descriptions. We'll be exploring the atlas and what stories it tells at the October 13 Juneau Audubon talk at 7:00pm. (There will also be an event in Sitka, date to be determined, so please check the Audubon Alaska Events tab at www.AudubonAlaska.org).

Audubon Alaska researched data and compiled information from researchers and agencies to create a thorough look at the landscape of Southeast, from human uses such as airports and ferry routes to wildlife uses such as bird and salmon habitat.

For many years, Audubon Alaska has studied Southeast, applying science and spatial analysis to understand regional patterns and to identify key areas for conservation. The atlas continues our past work contributing to a scientific understanding of the Tongass, such as the 2007 Audubon-The Nature Conservancy *Conservation Assessment and Resource Synthesis for the Coastal Forests and Mountains Ecoregion* (Schoen and Dovichin, eds.); the 2009 Tongass Science Conference held in Juneau; and the 2013 *North Pacific Temperate Rainforests* book (Orians and Schoen, eds.).

In the *Ecological Atlas*, we have built upon the information in those previous works. We improved datasets such as forest vegetation, anadromous fish distribution, salt marsh estuaries, and Important Bird Areas. We included new information, such as projected climate change, mammal and bird viewing hotspots, metals mining, and infrastructure. The publication includes photos and charts that accompany the maps and writing, and ends with a conservation summary and set of management recommendations based on the information included.

You can view a digital version of the atlas online at <http://adobe.ly/2bGqZKI>. Print copies will be available for viewing at the Juneau and Sitka events, and for purchase at \$125 from Audubon Alaska (to cover printing and postage costs). We'll offer a special price of \$105 at the Juneau and Sitka events. To order a copy, contact Heidi DeCoeur at 907-276-7034 or hdecoeur@audubon.org.

Audubon Alaska hopes this publication will serve as a guide to the physical, ecological, and human use patterns of the region and foster long-term ecological planning for Southeast Alaska.





Hard to read information on the above poster: Bird Conference - 2016 Alaska Cordova Alaska - December 6-8

Boreal Partners in Flight, the Alaska Shorebird Group, and the Alaska Raptor Group will hold their meetings on December 6

The ABC website: <http://www.alaskabirdconference.org>

Online Registration: <http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/registration/>

Online registration for student travel awards deadline

September 9: <http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/student-travel-award/>

Nominations for the Pete Isleib award deadline

October 15: <http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/asleib-award-for-avian-conservation/>

Abstract info (deadline October 15): <http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/presenters/>

With specific information for both oral and poster presentations:

<http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/oral-presentations/>

<http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/poster-presentations/>

Birding Belize with Audubon Alaska in February 2017

Join Audubon Alaska February 19–28 for a trip to Belize and explore habitats that include wetlands, pine forest, tropical moist forest, and a mangrove island on this unforgettable adventure. There are only a few spots left! In addition to its rich Maya history and Caribbean-influenced culture, the small country of Belize offers birders a huge diversity of migrant and resident species in lush and varied ecosystems. Go birding at Crooked Tree Sanctuary, a vital habitat for migratory and resident wetland species; hike through the towering jungle of



Fork-tailed Flycatcher by Dominic Sherony

Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Jaguar Preserve; learn about endemic butterflies; and visit Mayan ruins at Lamanai. Support sustainable, bird-based tourism and hemispheric conservation in Belize, as well as Audubon Alaska's work in the Great Land.

For more information visit <http://holbrook.travel/audubonalaskabz>

Tree Swallow nest box report for 2016 By Brenda Wright

In 2016 we learned from a few mistakes we made in 2015. We got the nest boxes up around Juneau between April 11 and 24 this year. Our experts let us know that the tree swallows show up here in Juneau between April 10-30. So we made a good effort to get the nest boxes out for them before April 15.

This year with volunteers from the Juneau Youth Services school we got 10 tree swallow nest boxes up at Sunny Point on the Mary Lou and Jim King's property.



With the help of volunteers like Shirley Carlson, Patricia Wherry, Mary McCafferty, Kari Monagle, Ron Berg, Helen Unruh, Gwen Baluss, Chip McMillan family, Ann & Alan Doty, Squires family, Ann Post, & Amanda Pilley we were able to get 40 tree swallow nest boxes in place. This year we placed boxes at Fish Creek on North Douglas, Sunny Point, Pioneer Marsh, Brotherhood Bridge meadow, Glacier Community Gardens, and Mendenhall Peninsula road.



Our results were increased over 2015. Of the 40 nest boxes we put out, 15 had nests. We hope that the increased use of the nest boxes was at least partly from having them in place before the tree swallows returned to Juneau.

If you or any of your friends live near the Mendenhall Peninsula Road, we would love to have permission to put some nest boxes on your property. Tree swallows prefer the wetlands over all other sites in Juneau. So please let us know of sites near the wetlands for our nest boxes.

Thanks again to all the volunteers to help put the boxes up and then remove them. Especially we want to thank all the volunteers that took weekly observations of the nest boxes. Luckily for us Bob Armstrong was doing some video work at Kingfisher Pond this summer and let us have this link to the nest box in use there



<http://naturebob.com/tree-swallows>

Photos by Ann Doty, Brenda Wright, Mary McCafferty, Helen Unruh, & Kari Monagle.



Juneau Mushroom Walk September 3
Dave Gregovich and David Riccio gathered with a group of interested mushroom enthusiasts to talk about our local mushrooms. Thanks for their generous sharing of their time and knowledge! They highly recommend a few books for learning your local mushrooms including:

“All that the Rain Promised and More...”
and “Demystifying Mushrooms” by David Arora

“Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest” by Steve Trudel & Joe Ammirati

“Edible Mushrooms of Alaska” by Judy Hall Jacobson

Bird Walk at Point Bridget on June 18 with Gus van Vliet





Discovery Southeast's Auke Bay School's 4th grade spring bird walk on the Airport Trail.

From [whatsapp] What's Up 9/1/16

September 21 – 25 SITKA - ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS 2016 MEETING will be held at the Sitka Sound Science Center and the Historic Sheldon Jackson Campus. The Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) annual meeting gives those involved with research stations the opportunity to connect and discuss field station management, research, education, outreach, etc. In addition, it's a great chance to network and enjoy all Sitka has to offer through field trips, live music, mixers, and more. For more information and to register, please visit <http://sitkascience.org/obfs/>.

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION is happy to announce a **NEW SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM**. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 and preference given to organizations with annual operating budgets under \$200,000. The goal of this grantmaking program is to foster a more effective, sustainable conservation movement through funding to strengthen its leadership base, encourage collaboration and help leaders and organizations navigate changing political and economic climates. Details can be found at www.alaskaconservation.org/grant-opportunities/small-grants-program.

****September 7 JUNEAU -** The Forest Service invites everyone interested in **FACILITIES AROUND the MENDENHALL GLACIER RECREATION AREA** to participate in a series of **DESIGN CHARRETTES**. The first charrette, a collaborative session in which designers and others draft a solution to a design problem, will take place at 6:30pm in the Juneau Ranger District conference room. A second charrette will take place the following week and others will be held later as the process progresses. This phase of planning will be for the entire recreation area, not just the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. For more information, contact John Neary at 907-789-6637 or jneary@fs.fed.us.

September 8 -11 PETERSBURG – The **RAINFOREST FESTIVAL** goal is to bring participants closer to the natural world through education, exploration and the arts. The festival was founded by numerous individuals and organizations in Petersburg with the goal of learning more about our rainforest and the ocean that surrounds it. To see the agenda, go to <http://www.akrainforestfest.org/Pages/Schedule-2016---TBA.aspx>. For more information, contact 907-772-3381 or email information@akrainforestfest.org.

CHECK OUT THIS BOOK!

I recently read a book review on a very nice 2015 book called “A Chorus of Cranes” “The Cranes of North America and the World” by Paul A. Johnsgard and photography by Thomas D. Mangelsen. It is a large format book 9” x 12” and has beautiful color photos and get drawings. Almost 2/3 of the book is focused on the North American Cranes. Under each species is gives a brief history of the species, what the birds do seasonally, migrations, and recent population estimates. It also has included great range maps, not just of the North American cranes, but also all the other cranes in the world. It is available from the library as an interlibrary loan from Anchorage. I highly recommend it for reading sometime this winter when days are short and dreams of migratory birds are long.

Enjoy! Brenda Wright

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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/>



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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>> .

For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska Birds and events via email join the yahoo! group EagleChat. For an invite, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com)

For postings in Sitka see: <http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>

And Be sure to check out the Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>

Audubon Membership Information

Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew

National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.

Options:

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to **National Audubon Society** to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. The Membership Chair after recording the information for our mailing list, will then send your check to the proper National Audubon Office.

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only:

Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to **Juneau Audubon Society** to the USPS address above.

More info:

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter *The Raven*
- Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership *does not* include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

Thank you for joining us!

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Member at Large - Brenda Wright E-mail: at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org

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Web Master - George Utermohle E-mail: webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org



The Raven



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

Volume 43, Number 2

Juneau Audubon Society

October 2016

Juneau Audubon Society General Meeting Election of Officers see page 2

From Salmon to Seabirds: A New Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska

October 13, 7:00pm

UAS Recreation Center, 12300 Mendenhall Loop Road

What are important streams for each species of salmon in the region?

Where can you find the highest number of breeding birds in Southeast Alaska?

Audubon Alaska's newest publication, the *Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska*, answers these questions and more through maps and written descriptions. Join us for an exploration of the atlas and what stories it tells at the first Juneau Audubon talk of the season!

ECOLOGICAL ATLAS OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA



Audubon
ALASKA



Kittlitz's Murrelet Photo by Milo Burcham

Audubon
ALASKA



Election of Officers: All Juneau Audubon members are eligible to run for and vote for our officers. This year our candidates are Gwen Baluss for President, vacant for vice-president, Patty Rose for treasurer, and Amy Sherwin for secretary. We welcome and encourage all our members to volunteer for positions on our Board and Committees. There are many opportunities to help protect our environment for people, birds and other wildlife.

HISTORY OF JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

Several people expressed an interest in where and when the Juneau Audubon Society started. This is a scanned copy of part of the first page of the first Newsletter Volume 1 #1 January, 1976. The first Alaska chapter was in Anchorage.

AUDUBON IN JUNEAU

Following the initial efforts of a small but very enthusiastic steering committee, an organizational meeting was held on Thursday, December 2 at the Alaska State Museum. Much to everyone's surprise over 100 interested people showed up to enjoy Bob Armstrong's beautiful slides of Southeastern Alaska birds, and to learn what must be accomplished to get an Audubon chapter started here. Plans were also made for the 1976 Christmas Bird Count which was conducted on December 18.

In addition to having Bob on the program we were also pleased to have two distinguished guests present to help get our chapter underway; Mr. Eugene Knoder, Director of the Audubon Society's Environmental Science Program, Western Division in Denver, Colorado, and Mr. John Mitchell, a freelance writer from Staten Island, New York who has contributed many outstanding articles to Audubon Magazine. Needless to say, the first meeting was deemed a great success, and we thank all of you for participating.

Often one of the most difficult chores in getting an Audubon chapter started is to obtain at least 35 new members. This is one of the basic requirements for establishing an Audubon chapter. So when 60 new members signed up the steering committee had every reason to be pleased. Along with the 80 or so Audubon members already residing in Juneau, we now have the nucleus of a really functional and dynamic Audubon chapter, and are off and running! We will now need your help and advice in choosing good officers and putting together an exciting schedule of programs, field trips and educational programs.

When chapter status is obtained from the parent society in early 1977, we will constitute only the second chapter in Alaska.

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WELCOMES A NEW CONSERVATION CHAIR TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amanda Pilley grew up in the high mountain desert of Southeast Idaho, at the foothills of the Rocky Mountain Range. Her love of nature grew from exploring the incredible landscapes where she was raised, from the lodge pole pine forests in the north, to the volcanic swath of the Snake River Valley, to the steaming geysers of Yellowstone National Park. After gaining a BA from Albertson College of Idaho, Amanda decided one afternoon that she was going to Alaska and so, two days later, she did. She found herself happily working on boats in Southeast Alaska, from the icy waters of Glacier Bay National Park to the towering cliffs of Misty Fjords National Monument. Though she tried to leave Alaska a few times, Amanda was completely captivated and, 16 years later, now lives in Juneau with her handsome partner and a mischievous dog. During those years, she also worked for the US Forest Service, a ski resort in Colorado, a sea kayaking outfit, and a real estate agency. Those early years were also the beginning of her interest in birding. Her time at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center walking the grounds with other birders was what really set the hook for her; she loved discovering a fantastic new world of wildlife that she was previously not in tune with, and her love of Alaska only deepened.



It was this love of the Great Land that led Amanda to her current job working for the Southeast Alaska Land Trust, a nonprofit doing important conservation work. She works hard to help protect the critical habitat and exceptional landscapes that make up our backyard. Amanda joined the Board of Directors of the Juneau Audubon Society in March, 2016. Needless to say, joining the Board as Conservation Chair was a perfect marriage of interests. Amanda looks forward to continuing her conservation efforts alongside other birders and nature lovers.

When not volunteering for the Juneau Audubon Society, Amanda can be found experimenting with foraged foods, dabbling in creative design and, of course, behind a pair of binoculars. She can be reached at: conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org

Book Review by Brenda Wright

“The Thing With Feathers” by Noah Stryker, 2014, Riverhead Books, 288 pages, paperback.

The author, Noah Stryker, is a well-known birder whose name was in birding news through most of the past year. He spent a year birding all over the world to see how many species of birds he could tally in one Big Year Worldwide. That story is told in his summary for eBird <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/stryckerssummary/>

Noah’s book does not cover all the birds of any particular area, nor does it go into great depth in any particular aspect of bird lives. Each chapter stands on its own regarding the subject. Most chapters begin with his personal experience, which caused him to wonder about a certain aspect of bird life. That caused him to travel to different places, interview people, do research.

Thirteen chapters are grouped into three major categories: Body, Mind and Spirit. The author picks certain species and related birds in different parts of the world and goes into detail about them and their habits.

Noah Stryker has written for many magazines and this book has a feel of separate articles. But all are about birds. Check it out, I hope you enjoy it.

ICY STRAIT BIRDING TOURS -- RARE HOONAH BIRDS by Amy Courtney

Did you know that until this year there have been no birding tour guide companies in the United States that cater specifically to cruise ship visitors and sell tickets through the cruise lines? This spring I started Icy Strait Birding Tours, operating out of Hoonah, and offering three-hour birding excursions to visitors to Icy Strait Point (ISP). Owned by the Hoonah Totem Corporation, ISP is the only privately-owned cruise ship port in the United States, and they were eager to offer a tour that no other port did.



From the Long Island



Greater Yellowlegs

As a part of the contract, we agreed to donate a percentage from each ticket sale to Juneau Audubon to benefit birds and conservation in the Hoonah area. By the end of the season, this came to over \$900. Though Juneau Audubon has not decided yet on a project to fund with the money, one idea that has been suggested is to put up some interpretive signs at the ferry terminal that highlight local birds and point out the Pigeon Guillemot rookery a mere 80 yards from the terminal.

Some bird highlights of the season in Hoonah were an adult **Ring-billed Gull** at the Long Island Causeway on April 28, a **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** (called Common Teal in the eastern hemisphere) at the Long Island Causeway on May 10, a **Warbling Vireo** singing at Icy Strait Point on May 13 (rare away from mainland Southeast), and a juvenile **Brown-headed Cowbird** also at the Long Island Causeway on August 22.



GLOBAL BIG DAY MAY 2016 by Owen Squires

Hello bird fans and supporters of the Global Big Day! This is Owen Squires, the Southeast Sandpiper team captain. My team was myself, Owen Squires, Kyle Farley-Robinson, Bruno Malecha, Wesley and Leif Torgenson, Jessica and Cody Millsaps (and Calvin and Jade Millsaps too!)



I am sending this message to say how grateful my team and I are for your personal support and financial donations. We had a fantastic day birding on our Global Big Day in May. Our team tallied 82 species, entered 12 checklists on ebird (under my mom's name Marsha Squires but from the team) and visited 20 different locations in town. We birded in the beautiful hot weather for over 17 hours. Needless to say, we were tired but we knew your belief in us.... and that boosted our motivation. With your contribution we are going to be able to raise over \$1500 which will be split between Cornell Lab of

Ornithology and our local Juneau Audubon. I think that's pretty good. Thanks.

Here are a few facts: The most frequently seen bird was the bald eagle. Unbelievably we didn't see a yellowlegs. Surprisingly we did see a trumpeter swan, long-billed dowitchers, (70+) cackling geese, 100 arctic terns flying together, as well as that many surfbirds at about 30 feet away. The entire lists can be viewed on eBird <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> under the explore data tab. The final tally of donations resulted in a check for \$1079 presented to the Juneau Audubon Board on September 26. Thanks to the Southeast Sandpiper Team for such a great job and generous donation!

(Photo by Amy Courtney of some of the youth birders and board members: Left to right, Owen Squires, Gwen Baluss, Jade Millsaps, Calvin Millsaps, Jessica Millsaps, Brenda Wright, Cody Millsaps, Patricia Wherry



Global BIG Day - 2016

Species List

Southeast Sandpiper Team

Members: Owen Squires, Kyle Farley-Robinson, Bruno Malecha, Wesley and Leif Torgenson, Jessica and Cody Millsaps (and Calvin and Jade Millsaps too!)

1. Snow goose
2. Cackling goose
3. Canada goose
4. Trumpeter swan
5. Wood duck
6. Gadwall
7. American wigeon
8. Mallard
9. Northern shoveler
10. Northern pintail
11. Green-winged teal
12. Canvasback
13. Redhead duck
14. Ring-necked duck
15. Greater scaup
16. Harlequin duck
17. Surf scoter
18. White-winged scoter
19. Bufflehead
20. Barrow's golden-eye
21. Hooded merganser
22. Common merganser
23. Red-breasted merganser
24. Sooty grouse
25. Red-throated loon
26. Pacific loon
27. Horned grebe
28. Red-necked grebe
29. Pelagic cormorant
30. Great blue heron
31. Bald eagle
32. Northern harrier
33. American golden-plover
34. Semipalmated plover
35. Black oystercatcher
36. Spotted sandpiper
37. Whimbrel
38. Ruddy turnstone
39. Surfbird
40. Western sandpiper
41. Least sandpiper
42. Pectoral sandpiper
43. Long-billed dowitcher
44. Bonaparte's gull
45. Mew gull
46. Herring gull
47. Glaucous-winged gull
48. Arctic tern
49. Common murre
50. Pigeon guillemot
51. Marbled murrelet
52. Rock dove
53. Rufous hummingbird
54. Belted kingfisher
55. Red-breasted sapsucker
56. Hairy woodpecker
57. Pacific-slope flycatcher
58. Stellar's jay
59. Northwest crow
60. Common raven
61. Tree swallow
62. Violet-green swallow
63. Barn swallow
64. Chestnut-backed chickadee
65. Pacific wren
66. Golden-crowned kinglet
67. Ruby-crowned kinglet
68. Hermit thrush
69. American robin
70. Varied thrush
71. European starling
72. Orange-crowned warbler
73. Yellow warbler
74. Yellow-rumped warbler
75. Wilson's warbler
76. Townsend warbler
77. Savannah sparrow
78. Song sparrow
79. Lincoln's sparrow
80. Dark-eyed junco
81. Red-winged blackbird
82. Pine siskin

OWEN SQUIRES'S THANKYOU LETTER FOR HIS SCHOLARSHIP

Dear Juneau Audubon Board, Thank you for your generous **scholarship** which supported my participation in the **ABA Camp Colorado this summer**. During the week-long adventure, I was able to see and observe countless new birds living in their natural habitat, learn more about bird behavior and their unique strategies of survival, and meet other young birders who are interested in the same things that I am. This camp experience was the best I have ever had!

I had never been to Colorado until this camp hence I hadn't seen many of the birds around Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. Right off the bat, during our first outing, we saw a Mountain Bluebird which was a new bird for me. We discussed its habitat and its behavior, which became a reoccurring conversation with most bird sightings. The following day we went to Wild Basin and within thirty seconds we saw a Mountain Chickadee which was *another* new bird for me. It was like new birds (or sightings) were falling out of the sky!

One of the best part about finding or sighting a bird was that we all had a chance to get a very good look. We'd stop, put up a scope or get our "bins" on the bird. Our guides would explain to us why this bird is unique to all other birds around the world. For instance, Jennie, one of our guides, told us that Rosy Finches grow feathers over their nose to warm the air that they breath in so their lungs don't freeze. Our guides also explained how climate change may affect not only birds, but another species as well. Rocky Mountain National Park may lose its Pica, a small mammal, because they will overheat in a hotter climate and die. Same with the Rosy Finches. Each has adapted to thrive in harsh alpine conditions, such as deep snow and gale force winds, but with global temperatures rising, the snow that they depend on will melt away or be harder to find.

Personally, my favorite day was the Pawnee National Grasslands where we saw Common Nighthawks, Lark Buntings, Burrowing Owls, a Ferruginous Hawk and more. Just about every bird was a new bird for me and I was surprised to see how many birds lived in the grasslands. How could all those birds survive in a place where no plant is more than three feet high? It was just incredible.

Each day, after a long day of birding, our group had dinner and the guides gave an orientation. The one orientation that struck me the most was Steve's presentation on molt and variation. In his slide show he talked about location variation and how the same species of bird might appear a duller color inland than one that lives on the coast. He also spoke about identification through different molting periods such as in the Fish Crow and the American Crow. They molt at different times so if you see a crow molting in the timeframe when a Fish Crow would molt than it would be a Fish Crow and vice versa. Steve's presentation was absolutely captivating.

I had fun and learned a lot throughout this camp, and was sad when it was over. It has inspired me to learn as much as I can about birds and conserve/maintain their habitat. I will never forget Camp Colorado and am considering next summer's camp in Delaware (Camp Avocet). I knew the moment camp started it was going to be the best camp I had ever taken part in. I appreciated your financial support as well as your belief in me, and thank you very much.

Sincerely, Owen Squires

Sleeping nighthawk seen at the Pawnee National



Community Vision for the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area



The Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and surrounding Recreation Area are in the process of undergoing a major re-design facilitated by the U.S. Forest Service and landscape architects, Corvus Design, of Juneau. The purpose is to improve the area facilities and infrastructure in a way that is sustainable for the foreseeable future, with increased access. The USFS is attempting to balance the demands of increased annual visitation to the area with the protection of wildlife and sensitive resource needs, as well as the wants of the community. The process is expected to take two years.

Corvus Design and the USFS have held two public meetings so far, as well as several private meetings with stakeholders and others in an effort to best decide how to go about future planning of the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area. They are still encouraging comments and gathering information from the community. If you would like more information, or to make a comment, you can do so at this website: www.mgra-mgvc.us.

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

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>

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>> .

For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska Birds and events via email join the yahoo! group EagleChat. For an invite, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com)

For postings in Sitka see: <http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>
And Be sure to check out the Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>

Audubon Membership Information

Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew

National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.

Options:

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to **National Audubon Society** to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. The Membership Chair after recording the information for our mailing list, will then send your check to the proper National Audubon Office.

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only:

Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to **Juneau Audubon Society** to the USPS address above.

More info:

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter *The Raven*
- Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership *does not* include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

Thank you for joining us!

Juneau Audubon Officers and Board Members

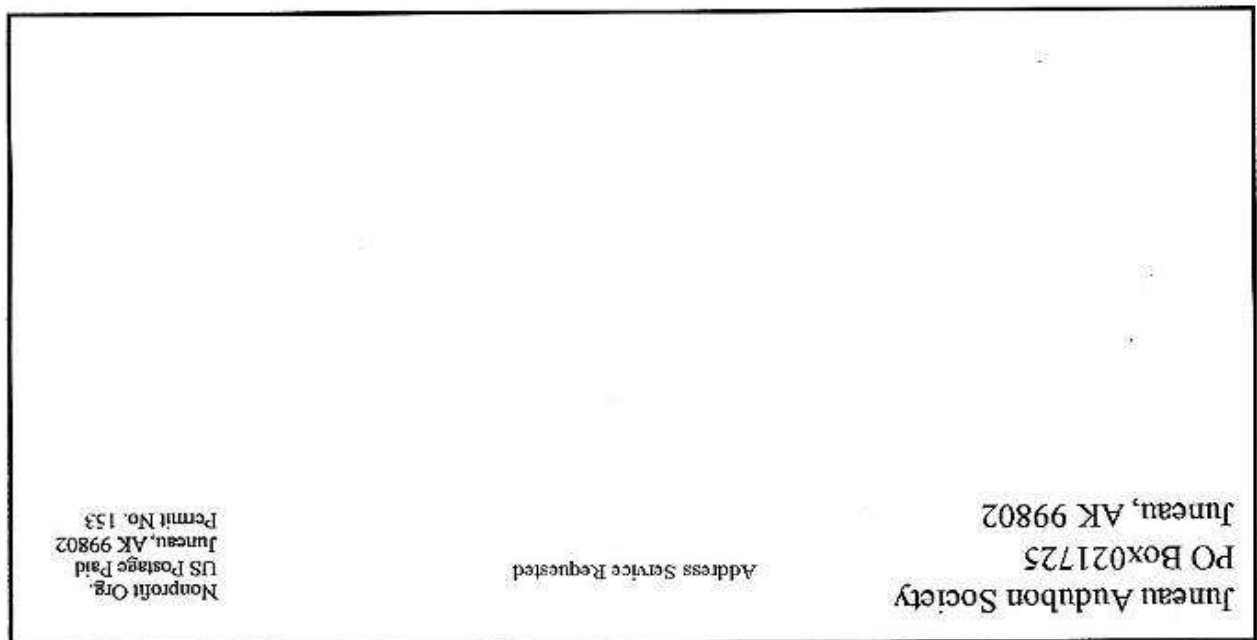
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Web Master - George Utermohle E-mail: webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org



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 43, Number 3

Juneau Audubon Society

November 2016

**JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, November 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Juneau's University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center Room 116**

“Wildlife of Twin Lakes” by Bob Armstrong



Bob will show pictures and talk about the Twin Lakes Area.

Twin Lakes and Pioneer Marsh By Bob Armstrong

Twin Lakes and Pioneer Marsh were created in about 1975 when Egan Expressway cut off a portion of the Mendenhall Wetlands. Since then aquatic vegetation adapted for freshwater/low salinity conditions has become established. This has created good habitat for aquatic insects and fish which in turn provide food for several species of birds and river otters.

As a result this has become one of the best places in Juneau to see certain species of birds. Even some species considered rare to very rare in the Juneau area, such as American Coot, Hooded Merganser, Sora, and Redwinged Blackbird can usually be seen in Twin Lakes or Pioneer Marsh on a regular basis.

River Otters are one mammal that you can often see at Twin Lakes. Here they look for Staghorn Sculpins which can be fairly abundant in the brackish water of the lakes. They also eat Three-spine Sticklebacks.

It is wonderful to see the excitement on people's faces when they see these otters playing and eating on the frozen lake surface. In my opinion, this area is one of the best places to watch otters in the Juneau area.

The recent sighting of a dozen Trumpeter Swans feeding has been a very exciting event. To view a video of this event look at

<http://www.naturebob.com/trumpeter-swans-feeding-twin-lakes>



To see photos and a discussion of the various birds, fish, and otters that feed in this area look at

<http://www.naturebob.com/sites/default/files/Twin%20Lakes%20and%20Pioneer%20Marsh%2032.pdf>

In my opinion two of the biggest threats to the value of Twin Lakes and Pioneer Marsh for wildlife are a proposed trail around the marsh and the draining of Twin Lakes to subdue the vegetation.

A trail around Pioneer Marsh would cause most of the nesting and feeding birds to vacate the area. At present the marsh is only easily accessible to humans on one short side. Opening up the rest to human access would disturb the birds too much.

The periodic draining of Twin Lakes and Pioneer Marsh no doubt destroys a large percentage of the resident sculpins and stickleback. Most of the aquatic insects would be eliminated and the time for them to return to normal abundance may be several years.

The most abundant vegetation in Twin Lakes may not be an invasive plant. It has been identified as Northern Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum exalbescens*). Leaves and fruit of northern milfoil are consumed by a variety of waterfowl. Beds of northern milfoil offer shade, shelter and foraging opportunities for fish and aquatic insects.

Juneau Public Market

Juneau Audubon will host a booth at the Public Market again this year. The market will be at **Centennial Hall Friday, Nov. 25 noon-7pm - Saturday, Nov. 26 10am-5pm - Sunday, Nov. 27 10am-5pm.** Be sure to stop by booth C2 in the Sheffield Ballroom where we'll be selling delicious jams and jellies and other handmade items. We'll also be providing information on birding and conservation issues.

We're seeking **volunteers** to staff the booth. This is a fun way to enjoy the market while at the same time help Audubon with its mission. For volunteer information contact Mary McCafferty at 209-4842 or email public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org

The Public Market is a great place to see friends and enjoy local holiday shopping. For market information www.juneaupublicmarket.com

Plan to save your one cup jelly jars, Mary Lou King 789-7540, will refill them for the booth each year.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -- Let your holiday spirit take flight on Sunday, December 18th, by flocking to the annual Juneau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count and Potluck. All are welcome. Look out for a detailed announcement in our December newsletter!

Moose in Juneau: sometimes it's not so crazy to hope By Gwen Baluss

I've hung my rain cap here in Juneau for most the time since 1998. Something I always pondered is, where are the moose? It didn't seem fair that Gustavus and Petersburg would have them, and Juneau didn't. They were up the Taku and Berners Rivers, but wouldn't venture in between? I made it a point to bring up my inquiry in conversations with biologists, naturalists, and hunters. Sometimes the answer was "lack of habitat". I never bought this one, as I looked around at plenty of the plants that the browsers enjoy in other parts of Southeast: willow, highbush cranberry, even blueberry.

A more persuasive answer was simply "dispersal rate." According to ADF&G reports, moose only started appearing in Southeast Alaska in general in the early twentieth century. The moose simply hadn't found this habitat that, on geologic terms, is new and still being uncovered as glaciers recede. And the fact that other communities were colonized first had to do with proximity to a direct river from interior Alaska-- and some luck.

There had been a few sightings over the years around Juneau though. I even saw the pellets of a cow that had been reported at, of all places, Moose Lake. I eagerly awaited the day when more moose would show up near the Juneau Road system.

Starting in fall 2013, I noticed tracks and browse around Point Bridget State Park, apparently of a cow and at least one calf. A Juneau Empire story reported sightings "out the road" as well that fall. The following year, I found more tracks and sign. But despite many hours

devoted to sneaking around in the rain, never saw even a glimpse. Finally, in fall 2015, I had the incredible luck to see a cow, a grown bull and small bull, all together near Cowee Creek.

And the excitement builds as recently there has been solid evidence of a cow and bull in Mendenhall Valley; also, a cow in the Thunder Mountain bowl and a young bull at Boy Scout Beach.

Where did these moose come from? Perhaps some DNA work will tell us in the years to come. It seems most likely that the animals traveled from Berners Bay. That population there was introduced in 1958 and 1960 with 17 and 11 animals respectively, stock from the Mat-su Valleys. But of course, wildlife dispersal is not always as one would assume.

Moose dispersed into Southeast Alaska from British Columbia. The Anderson subspecies (*Alces alces andersoni*) colonized different areas in a complex pattern, sometimes established by only a few “founders”, but with potential for mixing with subsequent incursions of the larger interior Alaska moose subspecies (*Alces alces gigas*), especially in the Haines and Yakutat areas. (An interesting write up about this can be found here: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=602).

What’s going to happen next? A handful of animals is hardly a population yet, but at least we have the right elements to spur the imagination. Juneau will be different if moose become frequent denizens. I wonder about the human and wildlife interactions. Will drivers learn to slow down going out the road in the evenings? Will animals be shot by poachers? How many loose dogs will be stomped if there is a mom and calf roaming the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation area?

Nobody is more eager to see the moose than I, but cringe the community might love the animals to death: naming them, feeding them, approaching too close to get photos. (“Romeo” the wolf comes to mind here). Either way, it’s bound to make our fall walks around Juneau more exciting for a while.



Moose at Cowee Creek, September 22, 2015. Photo by G. Baluss (taken with a zoom lens while hiding, breathless, behind a log).

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- All About Feathers
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- About Bird Anatomy

Full courses include:

- Be A Better Birder Tutorials
- Comprehensive Ornithology
- Duck and Waterfowl Identification

Learn more about Bird Academy online at academy.allaboutbirds.org



What bird is this?

Save the Date – Climate Watch 2017

The next count period for Climate Watch national Audubon’s newest citizen science project, will be January 15-30, 2017. The Climate Watch team is excited to expand the pilot project to include not only bluebirds (Eastern, Mountain, and Western), but also nuthatches—the Brown-headed, Pygmy, Red-breasted, and White-breasted. If your chapter would like to get involved, please contact climatewatch@audubon.org. Thank you to all chapters who have participated so far and shared their feedback!

If you are planning to attend the 17th Alaska Bird Conference in Cordova, Alaska, please register by November 18, 2016.

<http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/registration/>

Although attendees will be able to register at the event (December 6-8, 2016), early registration will help the organizing committee better plan catering needs and other logistics. Looking forward to seeing you in Cordova!

Olympic Birdfest, April 7-9, 2017. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: noted nature photographer Bonnie Block. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6, 2017. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11, 2017: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.



Yellow-rumped Warbler. Photo by [Kelly Colgan Azar](#) via [Birdshare](#)

Familiar Songbird May Be At Least Three Different Species

Affectionately known to bird watchers as "butterbutts," Yellow-rumped Warblers are at the center of another discussion over what defines a species. In 1973, the Myrtle and Audubon's warbler species were lumped into one to create the yellow-rumped. But ornithologists may have had it right the first time. [Read about what the DNA evidence suggests](#), https://www.allaboutbirds.org/goodbye-yellow-rump-will-we-see-a-return-to-myrtle-and-audubons-warblers/?utm_source=Cornell%20Lab%20eNews&utm_campaign=370bc20706-Cornell%20Lab%20eNews%2009_12_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-370bc20706-277564893

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**

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> > .

For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska Birds and events via email join the yahoo! group EagleChat. For an invite, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com)

**For postings in Sitka see: <http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>
And Be sure to check out the Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>**

Audubon Membership Information

Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew

National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.

Options:

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to **National Audubon Society** to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. The Membership Chair after recording the information for our mailing list, will then send your check to the proper National Audubon Office.

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only:

Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to **Juneau Audubon Society** to the USPS address above.

More info:

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter *The Raven*
- Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership *does not* include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

Juneau Audubon Officers and Board Members

President - Gwen Baluss E-Mail: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

Vice President Marsha Squires E-mail: vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org

Treasurer - Patty Rose E-mail: treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org

Secretary - Amy Sherwin E-mail: secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org

Directors

Field Trips - Jason Colon E-mail: field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org

Raven Editor - Mary Lou King Phone: 789-7540 E-mail <mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org>

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Programs - Ozgur Didrickson E-mail: programs@juneau-audubon-society.org

Conservation - Amanda Pilley E-mail: conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org

Member at Large - Amy Clark Courtney E-mail: at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org

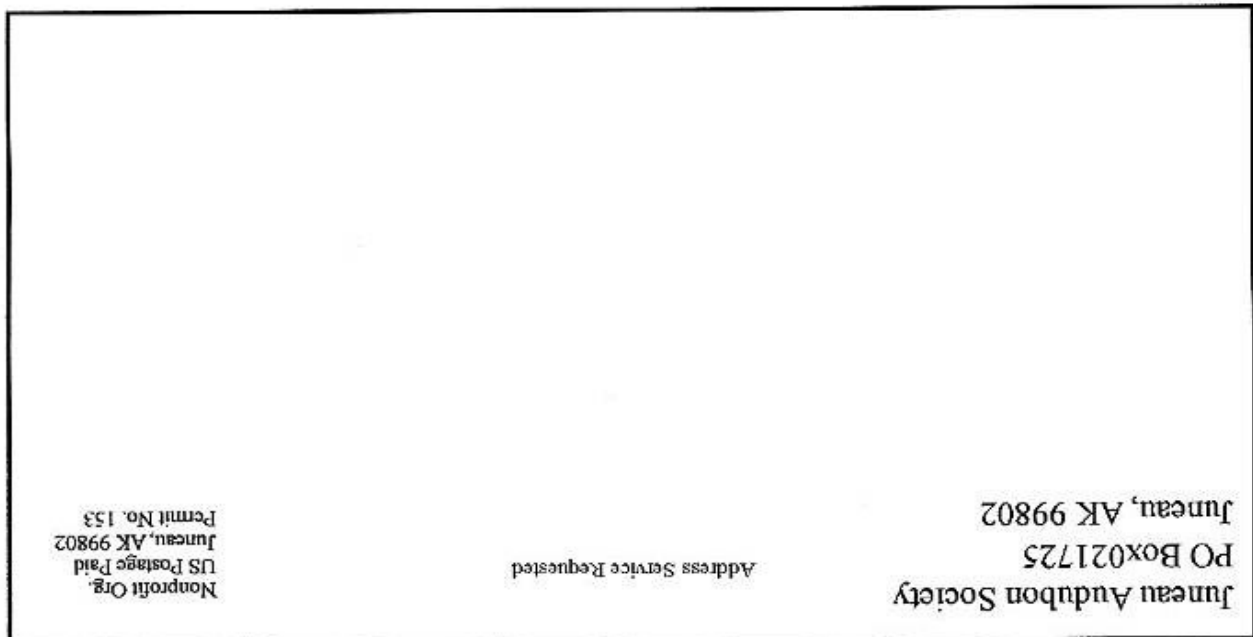
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The Raven



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

Volume 43, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2016

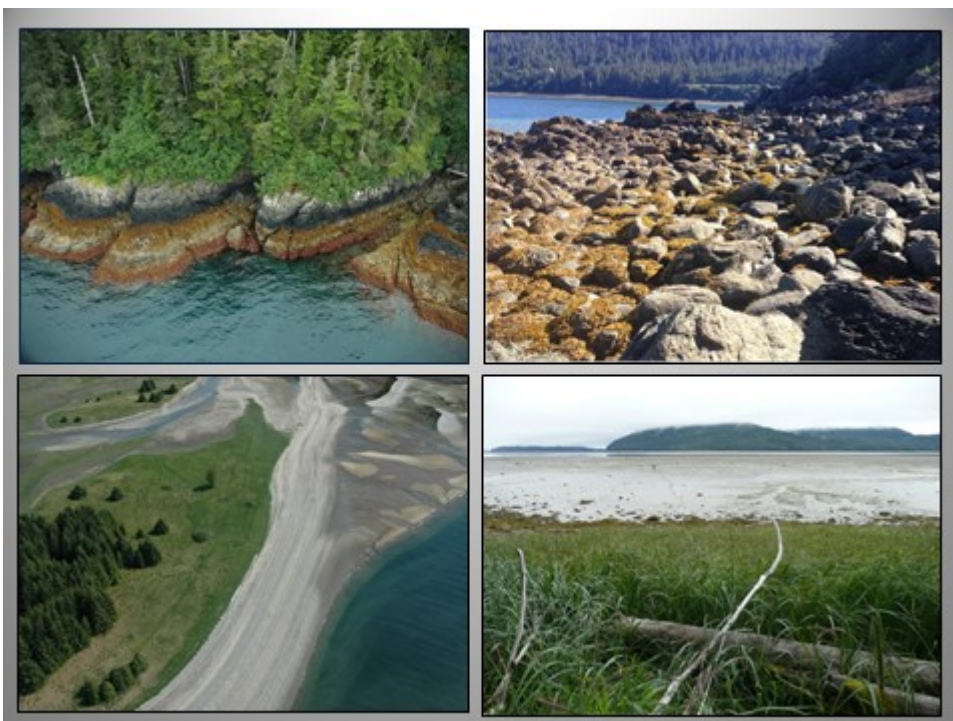
JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, December 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Juneau's University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center Room 116

Southeast's Intriguing Intertidal by Pat Harris and Allison Gillum

The 28,000 mile coastline of Southeast Alaska is a mosaic of wonderfully diverse habitats that support equally diverse intertidal plants and animals. Many of these habitats were surveyed in 2015 by the Southeast Alaska Land Trust in order to field test an assessment tool. This tool is used to rate ecological values of sites proposed for nearshore development. The tool will provide information to aid mitigation or establish fees in lieu of mitigation for projects permitted by regulatory agencies. Join us for a virtual tour of some of these habitats, inhabitants and occasional visitors.





The 2016 Juneau Christmas Bird Count

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on Sunday, December 18, 2016, the first weekend of the designated count period of December 14 through January 5. This marks the 117th year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. This will be our 44th count in Juneau. Again, please take note, our count is on Sunday, December 18.

Here in Juneau our count week will begin on December 15, and go through December 21. We will have our usual two meeting places to stage on the morning of count day. Volunteers should arrive at 8a.m., bring your binocular and be prepared for the weather and walking conditions. 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 on Trout Street opposite the Valley Breeze In. Hopefully, we will have our area leaders arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate leaders and birders to the different groups at our staging locations on count day as needed. We encourage participation from all levels of birders; the more eyes the better. However, this is not a day oriented toward teaching beginning birders how to identify birds, as there is simply not enough time in the day for that.

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 hold back on the good bird sightings until we conduct the tally of birds and species later in the evening. For those needing directions to Mark and Debi's house, this information will be provided on the morning of the count. Mark and Debi's house is smoke free and pet free. Let's have a good turnout and a terrific count! For more information or if you have any questions, call Mark at 209-7401.

Save the Dates for the 20th GBBC

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 20th GBBC, coming up **February 17 through 20, 2017**.

Season's Greetings from JAS

As we move through Alaska's dark time, and we reflect on the year, I'd like to say to all of our members, volunteers and especially our **tireless all-volunteer Board**: Happy Holidays, Happy Solstice, and THANKYOU for helping JAS continue its work in public education, birding, engaging youth and tracking local conservation.

Gwen Baluss, President

Keeping busy. Some of JAS board meeting on Halloween, 2016. Far left, clockwise: Patricia Wherry (Education Chair), Amanda Pilley (Conservation Chair), Marsha Squires (our new Vice President), Amy Sherwin (Secretary), Mary McCafferty (Public Market coordinator), Jason Colon (Field Trips Chair), Mary Lou King (Newsletter editor and wise old owl), Brenda Wright (At Large member), Patty Rose (Treasurer).



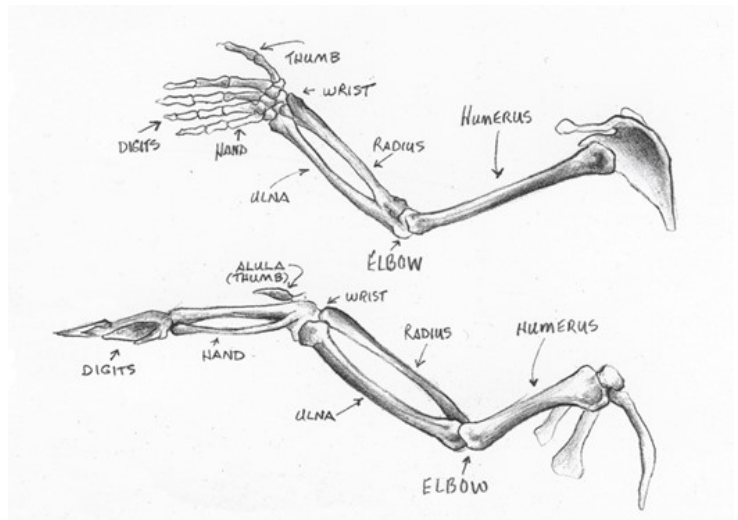
Juneau Audubon Society is proud to announce that we recently purchased copies of the **Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska** for the three Juneau public libraries. This book was compiled and published by the state Audubon office in Anchorage. The publication is also available online for free at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/bb243dff-5852-44c5-bdf5-4b1be96bdc53>

Enjoy!

EAGLE FEATHER COLLECTION PERMIT HOLDERS

Please bring your feathers to the public meeting on December 8th or call Brenda at 321-4739. Our USFWS permit requires Juneau Audubon to submit a yearly report of feathers collected that is due in January. Thanks for all your help!
Brenda Wright

Heads up! Birds up! A beginning bird class will be offered again in February and March of 2017 through Community Schools. Stay tuned for particulars of 2 classes.





Help the Juneau Audubon Society earn donations simply by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. **Here's how the program works:**

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store. For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

Thank You Audubon Booth Volunteers!

Many enthusiastic volunteers helped make the Audubon booth at the Public Market a fun and successful event!

Thanks to those who donated items to sell and to the berry pickers, jelly makers, and booth keepers: Mary Lou King, Brenda and Jim Wright, Patricia Wherry, Molly McCafferty, Sara McDaniel, Laura



Ekins, Paul King, Kay Parker, Doug Jones, Susan Hickey, Mary Willson, Mary Claire Harris, Susan and Gordon Taylor, Bev Agler, Gwen Baluss, Helen Unruh, Meg Cartwright, Deb Rudis, Kari Monagle, Marsha Squires, Patty Rose, Carol Race, Charlie Carlson, and Mary McCafferty. Your participation was greatly appreciated.

Save your jelly jars for next year's batch!

Juneau Rare Bird Report Compiled by Amy Courtney

Since no rare bird reports were included in the previous newsletters this fall, this report will cover the highlights from the months of May through November. The reports are grouped together by type of bird instead of date.

A **Western Grebe** was spotted in Auke Bay off Fritz Cove Rd. from 11/3 through 11/12 (GV, BA, PR). On 11/27 one (likely the same individual) was seen from Auke Rec / Pt. Louisa area on the other side of the bay (GB). **Pied-billed Grebes** made a good showing in Juneau this fall. An immature bird was reported in the float plane pond along the Airport Dike Trail on 10/24 and 10/25 (PR, multiple observers), and on 10/30 another juvenile was observed on Moose Lake (GV, m. obs.). That same day one was spotted on Auke Lake (GV), and that individual stuck around at least till 11/01 (GB). A nice adult **Ring-billed Gull** was present on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Airport Dike Trail for at least two days starting on 11/12 (CS, m. obs.). One of the more rare sightings this year was a juvenile **Ruff** (a large Eurasian sandpiper) that was seen only one day, 8/21, out on the Mendenhall Wetlands (MS). (See the September newsletter for photos)

A **Gyrfalcon**, a rare visitor from the North, was reported at the Mendenhall Wetlands on 9/18 (MS). Falling into that same category was **Northern Hawk-Owl** seen perched on a pine tree up the Auk Nu Trail on 8/21 (TD). On 8/27 a **Common Nighthawk** was found hunting around the Airport Dike Trail (GV).



Palm Warbler

Cameron Eckert

A few rare warblers appeared in Juneau this year. **Tennessee Warblers** are a rare breeder in Juneau, and a few males were seen and heard throughout the valley in June and early July, but a female or immature individual in Auke Bay on 11/6 (GV) may be the latest fall record for Juneau. **Palm Warblers** are a rare but regular fall vagrant from their breeding grounds in north-central Canada, but having three separate sightings this fall was exceptional. The first was on 10/7 on the Airport Dike Trail (PR, m. obs.), the second was about a week later at Rotary Park Pond, and stuck around from 10/15 through at least 10/17 (AC, m. obs.). Shortly thereafter one showed up briefly at a

residence in Auke Bay. (10/19, GV). Earlier, on 9/4 through 9/7, a **Blackpoll Warbler** was observed at the same location (GV, PR).

The now-annual (but still just as shockingly out-of-range) **Spotted Towhee** is back at its Lemon Creek yard, and was reported on 10/23 (JR).

Swamp Sparrow 10/28 PR Dike Trail. **White-throated Sparrow** 11/7-14 PR, m.obs. Dike Trail. 11/18-21 Millsaps family Valley Residence. **Anna's Hummingbird** Multiple individuals continue to be seen at residences around town. **Calliope Hummingbird** 9/3-5 GV, PR Auke Bay.



Bev Agler (BA), Amy Courtney (AC), Tasha DiMarzio (TD), Joann Reiselbach (JR), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Chuck Susie (CS), Gus van Vliet (GV)

Summer Wings by Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, TN

When my brother Pete was a teenager he worked on Scout merit badges and became an Eagle Scout. One badge was about butterflies and moths. He fashioned netting material over an old coat hanger attached to a long pole for catching them. During summer days he was off somewhere looking for butterflies. If any of his friends saw him and asked what he was doing, rather than to appear wimpy, he would laugh and only say that he was using the butterflies for fish bait.

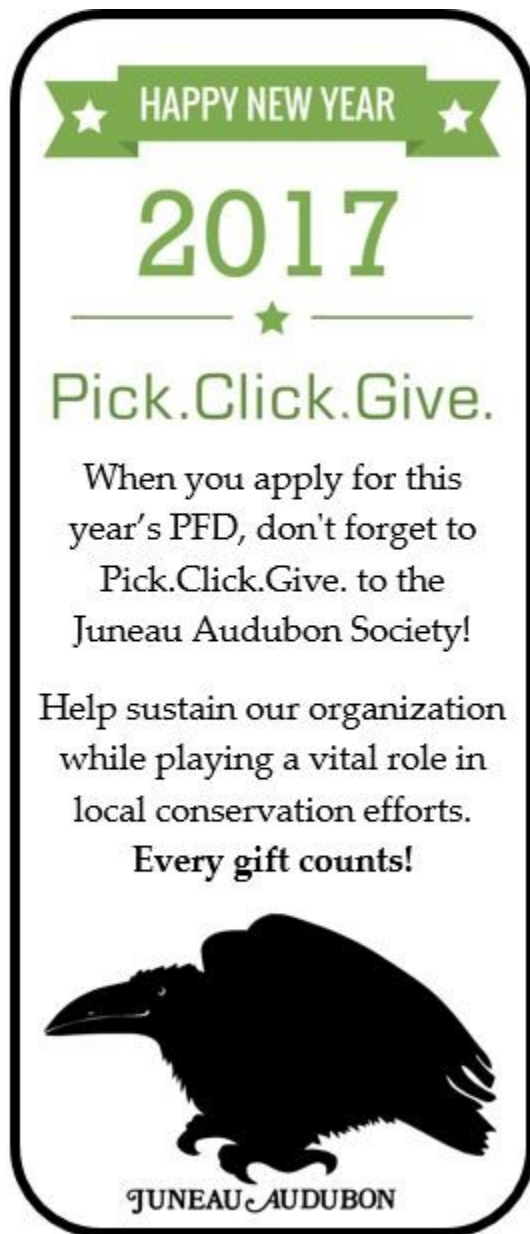
Our dad helped Pete to set up a light by using a long extension cord and a bare light bulb on a pole. It was out in the back yard on a hill overlooking an open field. Out there, on summer evenings after dark, he was able to catch quite a variety of moths. He created a framed box with a glass cover. He mounted and labeled the moths and butterflies. It provided an attractive display.

The Luna Moth: One of my favorite moths is the Luna Moth. It has lovely soft lime-green colored wings with hints of purple and it has beautiful long tails. It is also one of the largest moths in North America and is found in the eastern United States.

One summer afternoon I noticed what I thought looked like a large green leaf stuck on the side of a telephone pole. Then upon closer inspection I discovered a Luna Moth. It was alright, it just seemed to be resting.

Cecropia Moth: Another favorite moth is the Cecropia Moth. It is one of North America's largest moths. It has a reddish brown body with black to brown wings with sections of tan and red. They have a velvety wingspan that can be measured to five or six inches. They usually appear in late spring or summer. They are found in the eastern United States and can be found as far west as the Rocky Mountains.

Sphinx Moth: It's one of my least favorite of moths because of its destructive caterpillar. The moth is thick bodied with narrow wings. They have a nationwide range. Its caterpillar is called tomato worm or tomato hornworm. The caterpillar appears to have a tail or a horn at the end. It can rear up at the head in a snake like action that resembles a sphinx head. It is a pesky, caterpillar that will strip the leaves off a tomato plant and even nibble on the green tomato. This summer I had to pick several of them off the tomato plants almost every other day. Their mint green colors blend in with the color of the tomato plant leaves. Sometimes one can be looking directly at them and almost miss them because of nature's camouflage. (We did manage to have a few good tomatoes.)



****CALL FOR ARTISTS** for the **ALASKA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL JURIED ART SHOW** to be held in the Ketchikan Southeast Alaska Discovery Center beginning with a reception on April 7 from 5 to 7pm. The festival is an educational program to promote awareness of the spring migratory birds of Southeast Alaska through creative arts. The call is for Alaskan Artists for students/juveniles (17 & Under) and adults (18 & Up). **Entry Guidelines:** Artwork must include birds, avian habitat and/or migratory bird patterns from the list provided on the back page. 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. Label each piece with "item 1" and "item 2" to correspond with each entry form. All two-dimensional entries must be framed and ready to hang (hardware, wire etc.) All three-dimensional entries must be ready for display. Note on entry form if you are including stands or props with your piece. You may sell your artwork at the exhibit. Proceeds benefit the artist (65%) with 25% going to SEADC educational programs including this juried art show and 10% to KVB. **Entry deadline: March 31.** For questions contact Leslie Swada at 228-6290 or lswada@fs.fed. Submit your work to: Southeast Alaska Discovery Center 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 C/O Hummingbird Festival.

Climate Watch Pilot Program

Audubon's [Birds and Climate Report](http://climate.audubon.org) (<http://climate.audubon.org>) predicts that over half of North American bird species will lose more than 50% of their current climatic range by 2080. To test these predictions Audubon is piloting the new citizen science project Climate Watch. Climate Watch aims to document species' responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon's climate models project they should be in the 2020s.

This is a **pilot program** between the national climate team and the pilot chapters and centers listed below. The next phase of the pilot will take place **January 15-30, 2017** and is open to all interested chapters and centers.

Target Species

The Climate Watch pilot will focus on specific species for which our climate models have strong predictions and which have a high detectability in the field. For the January 2017 phase of the pilot we will focus on two groups of species: **bluebirds** and **nuthatches**. Specifically, Climate Watch participants are asked to survey for Eastern, Western, and Mountain bluebirds and/or White-breasted, **Red-breasted**, Brown-headed, and Pygmy nuthatches.

Time Period



Climate Watch will occur over two distinct fifteen-day periods each year, in the winter and in the breeding season. The first phases of the pilot occurred in January and June 2016 and the next phase of the pilot will cover the winter season and will run Sunday, January 15 through Monday, January 30, 2017. Please review all of the materials below to learn how to conduct your Climate Watch surveys and enter data.
Climate Watch Pilot Protocol

<https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/7gdo460tustuxfclvmpofbwmтуwcjq03>

If You are interested in participating in SE Alaska to look for our red-breasted nuthatches, please contact at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org

Photo by Bob Armstrong

SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY

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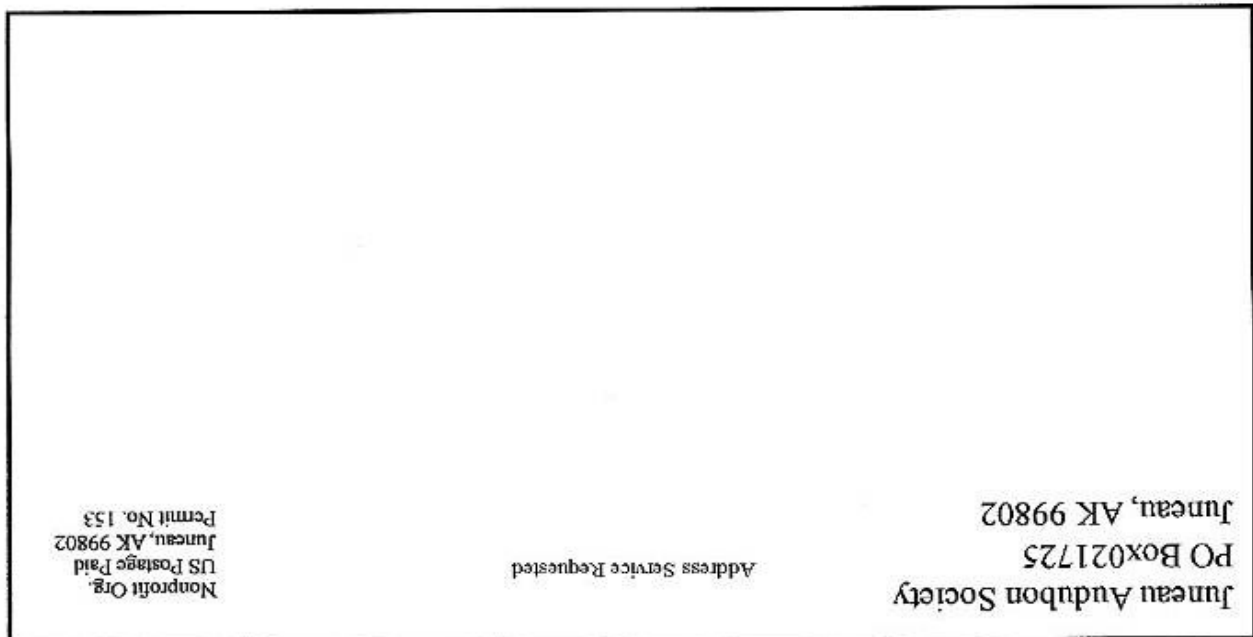
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Volume 43, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2017

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, January 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Juneau's University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center Room 116

Dynamic Shorelines, Shifting Benthic Habitats, and Impacts on Biota

By Adelaide Johnson

Photo credits go to Linda Kruger and Dave Gregovich

Climatic, tectonic, and human-related impacts are changing the distribution of shoreline-associated food resources and habitats in southeast Alaska. We aimed to summarize current and future land and sea level change to assess shoreline geomorphic – biotic relationships in



the vicinity of six communities. We

merged relevant portions of the NOAA ShoreZone database with near shore bathymetry and measures of mean global sea level rise with local global positioning system information (GIS) of tectonic shift and isostatic rebound (land rebound after glacier retreat). We found that both emergence, up to 1.8 m, and submergence, up 0.2 m, of the land will result in

disproportionately larger shoreline length

segment alterations for habitats in protected low-slope gradient bays and estuaries (dominated by eelgrass and butter clam habitats) with less change for rocky steep-gradient exposed peninsulas (red algae and canopy kelp). These changes influence subsistence foods, salmon rearing areas, bird habitats, ocean acidification rate, and ocean carbon sequestration rate.



Beginning bird classes

Option 1:

Dates: February 2, 9, 16, 23

(4 classes)

Day: Thursday

Time: 7:00 to 8:30pm

Location: Harborview Elementary, Commons

1255 Glacier Ave.

Class Fee: \$30.00

Instructor: Patricia Wherry

Option 2:

Dates: April 6, 13, 20, 27

(4 classes)

Day: Thursday

Time: 7:00 to 8:30pm

Location: Mendenhall River Community School, Library

9001 Mendenhall Loop Rd. (back loop)

Class Fee: \$30.00

Instructor: Patricia Wherry

Sign up for an adult oriented class through Community Schools. Yet, expect a great deal of fun!

Do these babies have a ducky look to you? Learn which birdies fling themselves into the world on their second day of life.



Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count was on Sunday, December 18th. The weather was horrible most of count week and our participation on count day was the lowest in many years, with only 18 people in the field. However, there were a few dedicated feeder watchers that contributed to the tally. We saw 59 species for the day and an additional 8 species during the count week. Our species total for the count day was 10 species below the average for the last 30 years, and our individual bird tally of 6,283 was about 40 percent below average.

We had no new species for the count, no new high counts for any species, but one new record low count: Northwestern Crow; where were they? Also, we did not see one loon of any kind during the entire week. This has never happened before on our count. Interestingly, as Gus van Vliet has noted from his long-time view of inner Auke Bay, there have been no loons in sight for some time now, but rather a relatively large number of both Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, and our count day numbers for those species reflected as such. Our more unusual count day species included one male Eurasian Widgeon, one Eurasian Collared-Dove, three Anna's Hummingbirds (perhaps not so unusual any longer), one Ruby-crowned Kinglet, the now "famous" Spotted Towhee, one White-throated Sparrow, and 9 Red-winged Blackbirds. Unusual count week species included a Short-eared Owl, a Downy Woodpecker, and a Lincoln's Sparrow.



Spotted Towhee

Mark

Thanks to all the participants who braved the weather and made the count a success. Below is a table of this year's results.

Species	Count		
Canada Goose	381	Hairy Woodpecker	3
Gadwall	2	Steller's Jay	31
Eurasian Widgeon	1	Black-billed Magpie	9
American Widgeon	312	Northwestern Crow	76
Mallard	752	Common Raven	203
Northern Pintail	2	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	76
Green-winged Teal	20	Brown Creeper	cw
Greater Scaup	222	Pacific Wren	1
Harlequin Duck	45	American Dipper	5
Surf Scoter	847	Golden-crowned Kinglet	44
White-winged Scoter	100	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Long-tailed Duck	1	American Robin	21
Bufflehead	129	Varied Thrush	3
Common Goldeneye	166	European Starling	47
Barrow's Goldeneye	331	Bohemian Waxwing	cw
Unidentified Goldeneyes	11	Snow Bunting	cw
Common Merganser	209	Spotted Towhee	1
Red-breasted Merganser	184	Fox Sparrow	1
Unidentified Mergansers	3	Song Sparrow	14
Ptarmigan sp.?	cw	Lincoln's Sparrow	cw
Horned Grebe	13	White-throated Sparrow	1
Pelagic Cormorant	8	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Unidentified Cormorants	2	Unidentified Sparrows	1
Great Blue Heron	6	Dark-eyed Junco	182
Bald Eagle	90	Red-winged Blackbird	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw	Pine Grosbeak	cw
Northern Goshawk	1	White-winged Crossbill	45
Killdeer	7	Common Redpoll	30
Dunlin	200	Pine Siskin	156
Wilson's Snipe	1	Count Day Species	59
Common Murre	4	Total Individuals	6283
Marbled Murrelet	20	Additional CW Species	8
Mew Gull	141		
Herring Gull	1		
Glaucous-winged Gull	752		
Gl.-winged x Herring Gull hyb.	1		
Unidentified Gulls	300		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1		
Rock Pigeon	44		
Short-eared Owl	cw		
Anna's Hummingbird	3		
Belted Kingfisher	9		
Downy Woodpecker	cw		

2016 Ketchikan Christmas Bird Count -- 17 December 2016

Steve Heint

After three consecutive years of terrible weather on the day of the Christmas Bird Count, we finally had most of a day of decent weather on the Ketchikan Christmas Bird Count (CBC) before the forecasted bad weather kicked in and it started snowing in the afternoon. This season we found a total of 65 species, which is a few more than the average since 1988, when the count was started. We found an additional five species during count week—species that were not seen on count day—which gave us a total of 70 species for the week of 14–20 December. We found a total of 3,472 individual birds during the count, which was nearly identical to the 3,470 individuals found last year, and continues a recent trend of lower than average numbers. The long-term average for the count has been 5,712 individuals. A total of 18 people participated on the count, which is also fewer than normal. Probably the biggest miss this year was the fact that our count organizer, Andy Piston, couldn't participate. Andy's usual method of covering his area of town (Carlanna Creek to Schoenbar) is an extensive and relentless walkabout that almost always turns up a bunch of interesting surprises. A few of us tried to cover Andy's area in town as best as we could, but if Andy had been here we certainly would've done a lot better. The final totals for the 2016 Christmas Bird Count are provided at the end of the summary (Table 1).

Water Birds: The main reason the total number of individual birds recorded on the CBC was below average was because most water birds were found in low numbers. Water birds had been present in lower than average numbers all fall, so it wasn't a surprise that we saw fewer than normal. A total of 2,015 water birds was almost 50% less than the long-term average of 3,936. Waterfowl numbers were 40% below average, gull numbers were 61% below average, and murre and murrelet numbers were almost 90% below average. On the other hand, we missed Rock Sandpiper and Surf-bird, two shorebirds which are regular winter visitants and which were certainly present somewhere around Ketchikan. Somehow none of us saw a Great Blue Heron on count day!! Typically around a dozen herons are tallied on count day.

A few water birds were actually present in good numbers—the total number of Canada Geese was the 4th highest ever recorded, and the Warmouth's count of 95 Lesser Scaup set a new record for the Ketchikan CBC. Two Brandt's Cormorants were observed (Steve Heint), an uncommon species that has been recorded most years since 2007.

Land Birds: The number of land birds recorded on the count (1,421) was about 100 birds more than the long-term average (1,320). The most conspicuous miss was almost certainly Red Crossbill—although there are Red Crossbills around, they are present in low numbers and can be difficult to see as they feed on cone seeds high in the tops of spruces and hemlocks.

Two species were recorded for the first time on the Ketchikan CBC. The first was a Barred Owl calling at Ward Lake at 6:00 AM (Steve Heint and Jerry Koerner), the only owl that was heard on a pre-dawn owling excursion. Barred Owls are uncommon residents in the Ketchikan area, so it was actually overdue to be recorded on the CBC. A Spotted Towhee at Herring Cove, on the other hand, was much more unusual. The bird had been present since November (Figure 2) and was observed at the very end of the day by Jim Lewis. There are only about 15 records of this species in Alaska, and this bird represented only the 2nd record for the Ketchikan area.

Other highlights included three Rock Ptarmigan photographed on Deer Mountain by our ptarmigan commando, Alan Murray, which represented only the 2nd time this species has been recorded on the count (Figure 1). An Orange-crowned Warbler (Jim Lewis) was extremely late and also only the 2nd time the species was recorded on the Ketchikan CBC. Red-breasted Sapsuckers were recorded by most groups, and the total of 10 was the 2nd most ever found on the count; the European Starling count of 219 was the 3rd most ever found on the count; a Red-winged Blackbird at a Shoreline Drive feeder was only the 2nd ever found on the count (Figure 3; it has also been found during count week two other years); four White-throated Sparrows tied the CBC high count (two together at Forest Park, Jim Lewis; two together at Sunset Drive; Steve Heint; Figure 2); and eight White-crowned Sparrows established a new high count.

Count Week Birds: Finally, Jim Lewis found some nice count week birds: Bonaparte's Gull on 16 December, a late migrant that's been found on count day or count week in 17 years since 1988; a Swamp Sparrow on 16 December, a bird that has been present at Herring Cove since November; and two Hermit Thrushes together near Walmart on 16 December (Figure 3), which is very late for this species. Both Kathy Ripley and Steve Heint saw Sharp-shinned Hawks during count week, and, of course, many of us saw Great Blue Herons during count week—just not on count day (rats!).

Participants: Curtis Bower, Ernie DeBoer, Phil Doherty, Bill Halloran, Jane Halloran, Steve Heint, Dan Hoyt, Teri Hoyt, Jerry Koerner, Kris Larson, Jim Lewis, Alan Murray, Jim Pomplun, Kathy Ripley, Stan Stromme, Cathy Taro, Brian Warmouth, Carol Warmouth.

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 Heint at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office any time of the year (225-9677), or call our cell phones if you find something interesting and the office is closed 254-1717 (Andy) or 254-7628 (Steve).

Figure 1. Alan Murray found three Rock Ptarmigan on Deer Mountain on count day, 17 December—only the 2nd record for the Ketchikan CBC. Both Rock and Willow ptarmigan are resident in the alpine on Revillagigedo Island and they can be very difficult to tell apart in their winter plumage. The Rock Ptarmigan has a slightly smaller bill than the Willow Ptarmigan, but judging the difference requires lots of experience and we relied on expert help from Luke DeCicco, Thede Tobish, and Nick Hajdukovich to identify the birds to species.





Figure 2. A Spotted Towhee (left; photo here by Jim Lewis on 16 December) has been present at Herring Cove since November, and it was seen by Jim Lewis at the very end of count day for a 1st record for the Ketchikan CBC. It is a species that is very common in brushy habitat north to southern British Columbia, but it is only the 2nd ever to be found in the Ketchikan area. Two White-throated Sparrows together at Sunset Drive (right; photo by Steve Heintl) were two of four found on the count. Jim Lewis also saw two that have been visiting his neighborhood in Forest Park for a couple weeks. This species is a rare but regular fall migrant and winter visitant in the Ketchikan area.



Figure 3. This Hermit Thrush (left; photo by Jim Lewis) was one of two found near Walmart on 16 December, the day before the Christmas count. This hardy species lingers occasionally into December and has been found on the Ketchikan CBC in five different years; it is extremely rare after December. The Red-winged Blackbird (right; photo by Steve Heintl) was found at a feeder on Shoreline Drive on Christmas Count day. Although the photo is not very good, it does illustrate that even a poor photo can be useful for identifying and documenting an unusual find. This species has now been recorded on count day or during count week in four years.

Table 1. 2016 Ketchikan Christmas Bird Count final results compared to the average for 1988–2015. **Bold font** represents rare or unusual species or unusually high count for the CBC.

SPECIES	2016	Average	NOTES:
Canada Goose	61	27	4th highest count.
American Widgeon	4	3	
Mallard	102	95	
Green-winged Teal	2	2	
Greater Scaup	11	17	
Lesser Scaup	95	6	New high count.
Harlequin Duck	22	22	
Surf Scoter	5	197	Poor numbers.
White-winged Scoter	36	80	
Long-tailed Duck	7	359	Poor numbers.
Bufflehead	9	45	
Common Goldeneye	22	54	
Barrow's Goldeneye	192	165	
Hooded Merganser	1	2	
Common Merganser	394	529	
Red-breasted Merganser	14	22	
Rock Ptarmigan	3	0	2nd count record (2009).
Red-necked Grebe	4	15	
Western Grebe	44	105	
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	127	113	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	22	5	
Anna's Hummingbird	2	1	
Killdeer	10	2	2nd highest count (12 in 2007).
Black Turnstone	51	84	
Wilson's Snipe	2	2	
Common Murre	13	130	Poor numbers.
Marbled Murrelet	12	98	
Bonaparte's Gull	CW	3	Getting late for this species.
Mew Gull	91	130	
Herring Gull	4	66	
Thayer's Gull	12	49	
Glaucous-winged Gull	531	1364	
Red-throated Loon	1	1	
Pacific Loon	172	82	
Common Loon	4	14	
Brandt's Cormorant	2	0	
Double-crested Cormorant	5	22	
Pelagic Cormorant	80	81	
Great Blue Heron	CW	12	Big miss on count day!!!

Table 1. Continued...

SPECIES	2016	Average	NOTES:
Bald Eagle	34	81	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CW	1	
Barred Owl	1		New for Ketchikan CBC.
Belted Kingfisher	9	8	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	10	1	2nd highest count (15 in 2008).
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	
Northern Flicker	15	6	
Steller's Jay	35	24	
Northwestern Crow	110	203	
Common Raven	48	128	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	20	34	
Brown Creeper	2	2	
Pacific Wren	15	10	
American Dipper	10	6	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	92	34	5th highest count.
Hermit Thrush	CW	0	Very late for this species.
American Robin	16	9	
Varied Thrush	52	38	
European Starling	219	79	3rd highest count.
Bohemian Waxwing	7	4	
White-winged Crossbill	5	3	
Pine Siskin	8	153	
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	0	2nd count record (2002); extremely late.
Spotted Towhee	1		New for Ketchikan CBC.
Fox Sparrow	6	12	
Song Sparrow	24	20	
Swamp Sparrow	CW	0	Very rare winter visitant.
White-throated Sparrow	4	1	Tied previous high count (2009).
White-crowned Sparrow	8	1	New high count.
Dark-eyed Junco	512	302	Higher than average count. 2nd count record (2013; also count week 2001, 2009).
Red-winged Blackbird	1	0	
gull sp.	36	379	
sparrow sp.	1	5	
Other water birds	---	114	
Other land birds	---	47	
Individuals	3,472	5,712	
Species	65	62	
Count week species	5	3	
Total	70	65	

Juneau Bird Report, Compiled by Amy Courtney

Juneau hosted a few rare birds this month, and some were even recorded on the Christmas Bird Count on the 18th. A **Eurasian Widgeon**, feeding with some American Widgeons, was found during the CBC (12/18) along the Airport Dike Trail (AC). **Hooded Mergansers** are found rarely here in the winter, so it is a bit surprising that up to four at a time were observed throughout the month along the Dike Trail (m. obs.). A lone **Northern Harrier** was spotted along the Dike Trail on 12/11 (LL).

On 12/04, a very late-lingering American Kestrel was suspiciously close to a **Snow Bunting** flock on the Mendenhall Wetlands (PR, BA). Though they are everywhere in the spring and summer, **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** are rare this time of year, so a bird seen in Lemon Creek by Joann Rieselbach on 12/11 made for a nice winter record. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was spotted on 12/14 in an Airport area neighborhood (GV). We see this species occasionally during migration, but they are quite rare during the winter. The **White-throated Sparrow** in the Millsap's yard on Back Loop has continued through this month. Also in the category of common-in-summer, rare-in-winter, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found hanging out with juncos at an airport-area neighborhood on 12/15 (GV). The **Spotted Towhee**, now regular at a yard in Lemon Creek, was last seen 12/18 (MS).

Thanks to the following people who submitted their observations to eBird:
Bev Agler (BA), Amy Courtney (AC), Laurie Lamm (LL), Millsap family, Joann Rieselbach, Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), and Gus van Vliet (GV).

A Christmas Bird Count Adventure By Amy Courtney

During our Juneau CBC, my route was walking the Airport Dike Trail and the adjacent wetlands. The weather was far from pleasant that day, as all the other participants can attest. The Dike Trail itself was glare ice with a layer of water on top, and the wind was stiff enough that when I stopped walking, I started sliding sideways. By the time I had shuffled my way to the pond by the covered bench ("Gazebo Pond"), I was relieved for the excuse to hunker in the lee of some spruce trees while I scoped out the ducks in the pond. While counting through some Mallards and American Widgeon, I saw a rare male Eurasian Widgeon! That got me excited enough to forget how cold I was, and I fumbled to pull out my camera. As I was adjusting my settings, I glanced up and my heart dropped. There, about fifty feet away from the pond on the other side, was a duck hunter-- stealthily moving over the matted grasses. The race was on. Could I get a decent documenting photo of the bird before he was flushed, or even shot? My point-and-shoot camera struggled to focus in the dim light. "Come-on, come-on, come-on." Click.... Click....

WHOOSH! Fifty ducks took flight at once, and a moment later the shotgun blast punctuated a Mallard from the sky. As it spiraled down to splash in the water, I checked my camera. Phew! Two shots. Not the best quality, but recognizable. I looked up just in time to see a huge Bald Eagle swoop in and snatch the injured Mallard from the pond! Oh the irony. With a sympathetic nod to the hunter, I went back to looking at my photos. It couldn't have been more than twenty seconds later that I turned at a sound behind me. At eye level, an eagle swept by, right over the trail. Cool! But wait, what was that flopping sound after he was long gone? I went to investigate and found the hunter's Mallard, lying on the trail right behind me! To my relief, it died quickly, and I took it upon myself to return the quarry to the disgruntled hunter. He was a little confused when I approached, duck in hand. His facial expression suggested that he thought

I was joking at first, but after a few tries I think he finally accepted my explanation, though he still looked a bit bemused.

I couldn't help but chuckle as I returned to my route. You never know what might happen when you go birding!

LEMON CREEK AREA DEVELOPMENT

Want to be involved in the future and planning of the Lemon Creek area? You can participate in the Lemon Creek Area Plan. The next Steering Committee meeting will take place **January 12, 2017, at the Gruening Park Rec Center, 1800 Northwood Drive, beginning at 6:00pm.**

Get email notifications at: LemonCreek.Plan@juneau.org

More information at: www.juneau.org/lemoncreekplan/

Climate Watch Pilot Program

Audubon's [Birds and Climate Report](http://climate.audubon.org) (<http://climate.audubon.org>) predicts that over half of North American bird species will lose more than 50% of their current climatic range by 2080. To test these predictions Audubon is piloting the new citizen science project Climate Watch. Climate Watch aims to document species' responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon's climate models project they should be in the 2020s.

This is a **pilot program** between the national climate team and the pilot chapters and centers listed below. The next phase of the pilot will take place **January 15-30, 2017**, and is open to all interested chapters.

Target Species: The Climate Watch pilot will focus on specific species for which our climate models have strong predictions and which have a high detectability in the field. For the January 2017 phase of the pilot we will focus on two groups of species: **bluebirds** and **nuthatches**. Specifically, Climate Watch participants are asked to survey for Eastern, Western, and Mountain bluebirds and/or White-breasted, **Red-breasted**, Brown-headed, and Pygmy nuthatches.

Time Period: Climate Watch will occur over two distinct fifteen-day periods each year, in the winter and in the breeding season. The first phases of the pilot occurred in January and June 2016 and the next phase of the pilot will cover the winter season and will run Sunday, January 15 through Monday, January 30, 2017. Please review all of the materials below to learn how to conduct your Climate Watch surveys and enter data. Climate Watch Pilot Protocol

<https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/7gdo460tustuxfclvmpofbwmтуwcjq03>

If you are interested in participating in SE Alaska to look for our red-breasted nuthatches, please contact at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org

Photo by Bob Armstrong



SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl and Andrew W. Piston This publication has beautiful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

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



For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>.

For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska Birds and events via email join the yahoo! group EagleChat. For an invite, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com)

For postings in Sitka see: <http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>

And be sure to check out the Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>

Audubon Membership Information

Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew

National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.

Options:

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to **National Audubon Society** to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. The Membership Chair after recording the information for our mailing list, will then send your check to the proper National Audubon Office.

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only:

Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to **Juneau Audubon Society** to the USPS address above.

More info:

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter *The Raven*
- Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership *does not* include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

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The Raven



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

Volume 43, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2017

Please Join Us!

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2017 | 7:00p.m.

University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center, Room 116

Tanzania: Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro & Wildlife Safari

Presented by Jack Kreinheder



In September 2016, Jack Kreinheder and Amy Carroll traveled to Tanzania, Africa, where they climbed 19,341 foot high Mt. Kilimanjaro. The climb was followed by a wildlife safari in three Tanzania national parks, including Serengeti National Park. Jack will be presenting photos and videos of their African adventure.



BEGINNING BIRDERS CLASS

Have a **FUN** time learning about local birds. Join the Community School course "Beginning Birders." This set of four classes starts on February 2, 2017 and continues every Thursday the rest of the month. Class will be held from 7:00pm-8:30pm at Harborview Commons. Sign up through Community School at (907) 523-1761 or at the first class February 2nd.

Miss a class? No problem! You'll still learn oodles.

Instructor Patricia Wherry, Juneau Audubon

GASTINEAU GUIDING IS HIRING!

Gastineau Guiding is looking for local hires in Juneau. They are seeking people who love the outdoors and would like to work for 3-6 days a week. Find out more on their web page: www.StepIntoAlaska.com. They are looking for trail guides, whale watching guides, photography guides, drivers, and sales people at the Nature Center at the top of the tram. Also, any and all combinations of the above. For more information, please call (907)# 586-2666

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.cornell.edu/ornithology) and the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 20th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2017. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information.



Photo courtesy Doug Jones

CANADIAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Bird Studies Canada extends our sincere thanks to the thousands of participants who have once again made the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) an overwhelming success. From December 14, 2016 to January 5, 2017, thousands of Citizen Scientists scanned the skies, waters, fields, forests, and urban areas – virtually every habitat across the continent – to document millions of winter birds. Find more at: www.BirdsCanada.org.

OLYMPIC PENINSULA BIRDFEST

April 7-9, 2017

San Juan Island Cruise
Neah Bay Birding Excursion
Guided Birding Trips
Bird Drawing Class
Photograph Workshop
Gala Banquet with speaker Bonnie Block

Information at: www.OlympicBirdfest.org
info@olympicbirdfest.org or (360) 681-4076

JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Things are changing at the Juneau Audubon Society! This winter has been a season of transition for us. We have said goodbye to old friends and those of us still here have taken on new tasks.

Brenda Wright, a long-standing member of the JAS Board, will be moving into the Programs Chair, which has been vacant for some time. Additionally, Jane Ginter, who has been overseeing the Membership Chair, has stepped down. She will be replaced by Amanda Pilley, who will transition over from the Conservation Chair. We wish Jane all the best with her new-found free time!

Do you, or someone you know, care deeply about local conservation issues? Do you have substantial time and energy to commit toward a rewarding position in our community? Are you enthusiastic about all things bird? If so, we want to hear from you! We are currently seeking to fill two positions within our Board of Directors. For more information, please email us at: Info@Juneau-Audubon-Society.org.



Help the Juneau Audubon Society earn donations simply by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

EASTERN SANDHILL CRANES

By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, TN

The 2017 Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival was held at The Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Birchwood, TN, which is north of Chattanooga, TN. Various vendors, live raptor show, music, special programs, and children's activities were held throughout the day at the Community Center.

The festival is a celebration of the thousands of Sandhill Cranes that migrate through or spend the winter on and around the refuge. Over 33,500 Sandhill Cranes were reported to have stopped by the refuge on the weekend of January 14 and 15. January and February are the months the birds normally visit that area.

The Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge consists of about 6,000 acres and has an observation platform with an excellent view of the wet lands, and nearby fields. There are plaques picturing a variety of water birds and land birds that have been seen in that area. A White Breasted Nuthatch and several Eastern Bluebirds were in the trees. Each year along with the Sandhill Cranes, a number of other types of waterfowl, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and White Pelicans are often seen.

During the day the cranes forage for food in the fields and overnight use the wetlands area for shallow water habitat and roosting.

In one of the fields walking among the Sandhill Cranes was one beautiful white Whooping Crane, it was quite a contrast from the gray of the Sandhills. In the water there was a raft of Ring Necked Ducks with a few Mallards.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has been managing this refuge for more than 60 years. Since the early 1990's the Eastern Sandhill Cranes from the Great Lakes region have been stopping at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge on the way to and from their wintering grounds in Georgia and Florida. It is estimated that 12,000 cranes now spend the entire winter near where the Tennessee and Hiwassee rivers meet.

BIRDING RESOURCES

- HAINES:** Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist
(<http://www.visithaines.com/sites/default/files/birds.pdf>)
- JUNEAU:** Juneau Audubon Website (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>)
Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>)
- SITKA:** Sitka Postings (<http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>)
- SKAGWAY:** Skagway Bird Club (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/>)
For discussions and latest sightings (<http://groups.google.com/group/skagway-bird-club>)
Skagway checklist (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/home-1/tools-overview/checklists/skagway-bird-checklist>)
- REGIONWIDE:** For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska birds and events, join EagleChat. For an invitation, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com)
Summary of Southeast Alaska Bird Observations Seasonally - Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heidl and Andrew W. Piston. This publication has beautiful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>
- NORTH AMERICA:** 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/>
For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, at:
<http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>>.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

ALASKA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL JURIED ART SHOW

To be held in the Ketchikan Southeast Alaska Discovery Center beginning with a reception on April 7 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. The festival is an educational program to promote awareness of the spring migratory birds of Southeast Alaska through creative arts. The call is for Alaskan Artists for students/juveniles (17 & Under) and adults (18 & Up). Entry Guidelines: Artwork must include birds, avian habitat and/or migratory bird patterns from the list provided on the back page. 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. Label each piece with "item 1" and "item 2" to correspond with each entry form. All two-dimensional entries must be framed and ready to hang (hardware, wire etc.) All three-dimensional entries must be ready for display. Note on entry form if you are including stands or props with your piece. You may sell your artwork at the exhibit. Proceeds benefit the artist (65%) with 25% going to SEADC educational programs including this juried art show and 10% to KVB. Entry deadline: March 31. For questions, contact Leslie Swada at (907) 228-6290 or lswada@fs.fed. Submit your work to: Southeast Alaska Discovery Center 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 C/O Hummingbird Festival.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

From: Whats Up January 26, 2017 Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of The Alaska Center and the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN)

FEBRUARY 7 – The JUNEAU-DOUGLAS FISH and GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold a public meeting at 6pm at the University of Alaska Southeast, Room Egan 223. The agenda includes: Taku King salmon. For further information, contact (907) 465-6097 or email jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov

FEBRUARY 15 – Deadline for applications for THE STUDENT APPLICATION for the JUNEAU ICEFIELD RESEARCH PROGRAM (JIRP). JIRP provides an expeditionary learning experience for upper level high school, undergraduate and graduate students. During the 8-week expedition, students traverse the 75-mile distance across the Juneau Icefield participating in the long-running surveys of glacier dynamics and mass balance, state-of-the-art scientific research, academic lectures, and independent research projects. The cost of the program is \$6, 425 which includes all transportation, food, lodging, 6 upper-division academic credits, and instruction following arrival in Juneau, Alaska. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from Juneau. Scholarships are available. For more information and how to apply, [visit www.juneauicefield.com](http://www.juneauicefield.com).

FEBRUARY 17 & 18 – PREDATOR/PREY: WOLF and DEER DYNAMICS in SE ALASKA This is a graduate level professional development course designed for teachers of students grades 5-12 (but adaptable for other ages too!). Using the revised Wildlife for the Future Curriculum Guide we'll explore how you can teach about food webs, essential questions, habitat, predator/prey relationships using math and science for counting animals. THEN, we'll take a field trip into the habitat afterwards we'll demonstrate some public opinion quandaries for your students to explore. Meet the biologists that are researching this unique dynamic to estimate populations and learn how they call the numbers! For more information, contact a 907-267-2216 or email Brenda.Duty@alaska.gov.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION **Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.*

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to National Audubon Society to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

Juneau Audubon Society Membership only: Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to Juneau Audubon Society to the USPS address above.

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter The Raven
- Please consider getting The Raven by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership does not include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- President** Gwen Baluss | president@juneau-audubon-society.org
Vice President Marsha Squires | vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org
Treasurer Patty Rose | treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org
Secretary Amy Sherwin | secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org
Field Trips Jason Colon | field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org
Raven Editor Mary Lou King | Phone: (907) 789-7540
OR raven@juneau-audubon-society.org
Membership Amanda Pilley | membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
Education Patricia Wherry | education@juneau-audubon-society.org
Programs Brenda Wright | programs@juneau-audubon-society.org
Conservation Vacant | conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org
At Large "A" Amy Clark Courtney | at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org
At Large "B" Vacant | at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org
Saturday Wild Vacant | saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org
Public Market Mary McCafferty | public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org
Web Master George Utermohle | webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org



Chestnut-backed Chickadee.
Photo courtesy of Bob
Armstrong. Bob's wonderful
bird and wildlife photographs are
free to use for educational and
conservation purposes. See more
at: www.naturebob.com.

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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 43, Number 7

Juneau Audubon Society

March 2017

Please Join Us!

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 9, 2017 | 7:00p.m.

University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center, Room 116

An Alaska Big Year by Lynn Barber



Photo taken in Gustavus by Nat Drumheller

In 2016, Lynn Barber completed an Alaska Big Year.* She identified 307 species of birds and traveled all over Alaska, including the Anchorage, Homer, and Kenai areas, the Southeast Panhandle, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Adak, St. Paul, and St. Lawrence Islands, central Alaska, and Barrow. She will talk about her birding travels and present photographs of birds seen.

*A Big Year is a competition among birders to identify the most species of birds in a specific geographic area in a single year. For more information see www.juneau-audubon-society.org or call 907-321-4739

Coming Next... April 13

JAS General Meeting

7 p.m.

UAS Recreation Center, Room 116

Annette Smith

Underwater Life In Juneau

JAS Supporting Bird Research and Monitoring by Gwen Baluss



As an organization JAS has historically been focused on environmental education and conservation in Southeast Alaska, with a focus on birds and wildlife. This is still true, but we also recognize the importance of monitoring and research, especially of bird population for both our migratory and resident species. Here are a few ways we help.

Christmas Bird Count – this is a long-standing, wide range count that Audubon supports. The data from the CBC is now being used to see how birds' winter range, distribution and populations have

changed over time. Comparing this with climate data we can see how some birds have shifted northwards in the winter.

Other citizen science efforts- we are always encouraging our members to use eBird so their data can be pooled with this great emerging database. Specifically, we try to publicize special count events such as the Great Backyard Bird Count, and the Global Big day. Even our field trips are usually entered in to eBird and make for several fairly consistent springtime “snap shots” of the bird life, with plenty of skilled observers.

Tree Swallow Nest Boxes – as a group aerial insectivores have declined. It's hard to believe, but the once common Barn Swallow has dwindled to the point that the species is listed as Threatened in Canada. Tree swallows face similar feeding challenges to other insectivores. By getting a population occupying boxes annually near Juneau we can initiate further studies.

Arctic Tern Monitoring – New this year, JAS in partnership with US Forest Service plans to sponsor an Intern who will study and help protect Arctic Terns around Mendenhall Lake.

Supporting continental scale bird-banding studies – We donate up to \$500 annually to the Institute for Bird Populations. The IBP maintains banding stations in both summer and winter throughout North America as well as Central America and the Caribbean. This is now a powerful large scale data set that checks the pulse of many bird species population fluxes, including some of our migratory songbirds.

(For more info see <http://www.birdpop.org/>)



JAS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS AND IS RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

Do you, or someone you know, care deeply about local conservation issues? Do you have substantial time and energy to commit toward a rewarding position in our community? Are you enthusiastic about all things bird? If so, we want to hear from you! We are currently seeking to fill two positions within our Board of Directors: Conservation Chair and At-large. For more information, please email us at: Info@Juneau-Audubon-Society.org

Upcoming Southeast Alaska Bird Festivals

Alaska Hummingbird Festival Events throughout April in Ketchikan

The festival is an educational program to promote awareness of the spring migratory birds of Southeast Alaska through creative arts. Celebrate the return of migratory birds to the southern panhandle of Alaska. The male **Rufous Hummingbirds** begin arriving Ketchikan in mid-March and are seen at feeders and flowers throughout Ketchikan by mid-April. Festival events include guided bird hikes, art shows, and activities for children.

For more information, call festival headquarters at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center at 907-228-6220.



Stikine River Birding Festival April 27-30, 2017 Wrangell

Witness one of Alaska's best kept birding secrets, the amazing Stikine River Delta. This is an important migratory stopover for thousands of shorebird and waterfowl, as well as large flocks of geese, cranes, and grebes. The festival features art and photography exhibits and contests, guided walks with local bird experts, bird banding demonstrations, educational and kids' fun activities, films and a public market. This year's festival will feature special speakers Dan Ruthrauff, an expert on shorebirds, speaking about amazing Rock Sandpipers, and Southeast's favorite naturalist Bob Armstrong will also present a workshop on taking nature videos. Chartered boats will head out of town to the river delta.



Bird gallery near Wrangell in the spring: Bonaparte's Gull, Black Turnstone and Surfbird

For a complete schedule see www.stikinebirding.org.

The Stikine River Birding Festival is organized by the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau, City and Borough of Wrangell, USDA Forest Service, and James & Elsie Nolan Center. All events are free unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions, please contact the Wrangell Ranger District at 907-874-2323 or Wrangell Visitor Center 907-874-2829.



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 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, and locally made art. Our guest keynote speaker this year is Dr. Julia K. Parrish. Dr. Parrish is the Lowell A. and Frankie L. Wakefield Professor of Ocean Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, where she also serves as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of the Environment. The featured artist is violinist Linda Rosenthal. Ms. Rosenthal will be performing solo in addition to the Strings & Stories children's programs with Mr. Blush during the festival. Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beach-combing.

Please see www.yakutatternfestival.org visit Yakutat Tern Festival on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

FOR A LISTING OF MORE ALASKAN BIRD FESTIVALS SEE :

<https://alaskacenters.gov/bird-festivals.cfm>

OR

<http://ak.audubon.org/birds/2015-bird-festivals-alaska>



Help the Juneau Audubon Society earn donations simply by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**. You need to re-link your Fred Meyer rewards card to your non-profit of choice every year. If you need to re-link your rewards card, check that it is, in fact, linked, or link it for the first time, you can do so at [this link](#). JAS' nonprofit number is 90656

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation! You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store. For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

BIRDING RESOURCES

- HAINES:** Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist (<http://www.visithaines.com/sites/default/files/birds.pdf>)
- JUNEAU:** Juneau Audubon Website (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>)
Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>)
- SITKA:** Sitka Postings (<http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>)
- SKAGWAY:** Skagway Bird Club (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/>)
For discussions and latest sightings (<http://groups.google.com/group/skagway-bird-club>)
Skagway checklist (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/home-1/tools-overview/checklists/skagway-bird-checklist>)
- REGIONWIDE:** For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska birds and events, join EagleChat. For an invitation, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com) Summary of Southeast Alaska Bird Observations Seasonally - Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz and Andrew W. Piston. This publication has beautiful bird photos and information for Southeast Alaska and the most recent report is for Fall 2016, which covered the four months August to November. Feel free to forward the report to anyone you know who might be interested, particularly those whose sightings were included in the summary. The winter season report will cover the three months December through February (winter's almost over!). I'm hoping to have the winter report completed by early May.
You can view it on our web page at: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>
- NORTH AMERICA:** 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/>

For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, at: <http://www.aba.org/nab>
<http://www.aba.org/nab>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

From: Whats Up February 23, 2017 Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of The Alaska Center and the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN)

****March 16 -18**

JUNEAU - AEYC EARLY CHILDHOOD SYMPOSIUM: GROWING UP WILD: LEARNING THROUGH THE SENSES - ~EXPLORE, ENGAGE, ENERGIZE will be held at Centennial Hall beginning at 4pm on Friday. Join us for lively workshops and captivating speakers, focusing on effective strategies for engagement that involve sensory exploration and are responsive to the skill and developmental level of each child. Take a look at the [conference brochure](#) and to register, go to www.aeyc-conference.org. For more information, go to contact AEYC at info@aeyc-sea.org or 1-888-785-1235.

March 15

Deadline for submissions for the **2017 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! Visit this webpage for more information <http://alaska.fws.gov/jrduck> or contact Tamara Zeller at (907) 786-3517 or email Tamara.Zeller@fws.gov.

****March 6**

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND - PLAN AMENDMENT and LAND CLASSIFICATION ORDER is being noticed concurrently with a Preliminary Decision (ADL 108428) to authorize a **10-YEAR LEASE TO SEALASKA TIMBER COMPANY, LLC** for a 60.7-acre parcel of State tide and submerged land in **MCKENZIE INLET** on for the purpose of constructing and operating a ramp, log-rafting area, two log storage areas, and a ship-mooring area in support of commercial timber harvest on adjacent uplands owned by Sealaska Corporation. The proposed plan amendment and Land Classification Order (LCO) will change the designations and classifications for a 175-acre portion of, **SKOWL ARM**, in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan. This amendment expands an area currently designated "Forestry", "Prime Habitat/Intensive Community Use" and "Recreation" to allow support facilities for commercial timber harvest on both the eastern and western sides of the head of McKenzie Inlet while accommodating other uses. Commercial timber harvest activity is contemplated in McKenzie Inlet by the current Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, and the total number of log transfer facilities allowed in McKenzie Inlet will not change with this amendment. For more information or to submit comments, contact Christy Gentemann at (907)465-3524 or email christy.gentemann@alaska.gov.

weekend to learn more about Citizens' Climate Lobby and hear how you can get involved: For more information, go to <http://www.sitkawild.org/>.

Jessalynn Rintala at 907-465-6097 or email jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov.

****April 11 & 12**

KETCHIKAN - ALASKA WOOD ENERGY CONFERENCE 2017 will be held from 8am to 5pm on Wednesday and from 8am to 3pm on Thursday at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. Community leaders, agency representatives, scientists and individuals from around the state and region will gather to share experiences, resources and knowledge of Alaska's growing utilization of woody biomass as an alternative energy resource in our State. Some sessions will qualify for Society of American Foresters Continuing Education Credits. The conference typically draws 150 participants. [Registration is available online.](#)

REMOTE LAND FOR SALE! The Trust Land Office is offering 50 parcels of land to be sold in its 2017 Spring Land Sale. The parcels are located in the northern, southcentral, and southeast regions of the state, and are being sold on behalf of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. Land sale proceeds are used to fund mental health programs in the state. Sale parcels in the northern region are located in Delta Junction, Salcha, Olnes, Chena Hot Springs, and Ester; sale parcels in the southcentral part of the state are located in Moose Pass and Little Tutka Bay; sale parcels in the southeast region are located in Meyers Chuck, Wrangell, Bull Island, and Yakutat. **Bids will be accepted through 4:00 pm, March 31.** To learn more about the 2017 Spring Land Sale, go to <http://mhtrustland.org/index.php/2017-spring-land-sale/> or call the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION **Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew*

National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.

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- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to National Audubon Society to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

Juneau Audubon Society Membership only: Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to Juneau Audubon Society to the USPS address above.

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter The Raven
- Please consider getting The Raven by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
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- Local or national membership does not include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

President: Gwen Baluss | president@juneau-audubon-society.org
Vice President: Marsha Squire | vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org
Treasurer Patty Rose | treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org
Secretary Amy Sherwin | secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org
Field Trips Jason Colon | field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org
Raven Editor Mary Lou King | Phone: (907) 789-7540
OR raven@juneau-audubon-society.org
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Programs Brenda Wright | programs@juneau-audubon-society.org
Conservation Vacant | conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org
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At Large "B" Vacant | at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org
Saturday Wild Vacant | saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org
Public Market Mary McCafferty | public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org
Web Master George Utermohle | webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org



Chestnut-backed Chickadee.
Photo courtesy of **Bob Armstrong**. **Bob's wonderful bird and wildlife photographs** are free to use for educational and conservation purposes. See more at: www.naturebob.com.

Address Service Requested

Juneau Audubon Society
PO Box 021725
Juneau, AK 99802

The Raven



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

Volume 43, Number 8

Juneau Audubon Society

April 2017

Please Join Us!

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2017 | 7:00p.m.

University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center, Room 116

"The Beauty of Life in the Cold Dead Seas of Alaska".

Presented by Annette Smith, diver and photographer.



"I thought of this title because I can't even count the number of times I've had tourists say they thought our waters were dead because they are so cold. Come see what really lives in our vibrant ocean!"

– Annette Smith

Spring BERNERS BAY Boat Cruises

Juneau Audubon Society will sponsor two 2017 cruises to Berners Bay this year. On **Saturday, April 29th at 8:30 a.m** and **May 13th at 8:30 a.m.** All vessels depart Statters Harbor below DeHarts. Boarding begins 15 minutes prior to departure.

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 are available at Hearthside Books beginning April 1. Adults \$70 Students \$40 (includes UAS) Children under 12 \$25 (must be accompanied by adult)

This is a vital fundraising event for JAS. Please help us spread the word!

BEGINNING BIRD CLASS Starting Soon!

APRIL 6, 13, 20, and 27 Mendenhall River School

Appropriate for novice adults and older students. Register online at Juneau Schools – Community School – **Classes Thursdays 7-8:30pm**



**Identification skills,
interesting how-comes,
hands on activities**

More info: Patricia Wherry
209-3374



JAS Spring Field Trips Coming Soon!

Check out our website and Facebook page for updates.

The first trip will be Fish Creek Trail to wetlands on Douglas Island on April 15. Meet at 8 AM at the parking lot. For more info in participating or if you are a learned birder and interested in LEADING a field trip please contact field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org

Upcoming Southeast Alaska Bird Festivals

Alaska Hummingbird Festival

Events throughout April in Ketchikan

For more information, call festival headquarters at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center at 907-228-6220.

Stikine River Birding Festival

April 27-30, 2017 Wrangell

For a complete schedule see www.stikinebirding.org

2017 Yakutat Tern Festival

Please see www.yakutatternfestival.org visit Yakutat Tern Festival on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

For a listing of more Alaska bird festival information see:

<https://alaskacenters.gov/bird-festivals.cfm>

Or

<http://ak.audubon.org/birds/2015-bird-festivals-alaska>

Other Items of Interest in Southern Alaska

From “Whats Up” by Peg Tileston

.
**To see the U.S. FOREST SERVICE ALASKA REGION STRATEGIC PLAN FY 2017 2021, go to https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd533667.pdf .The Plan defines clear strategies that they will work on in FY17 and beyond to move them forward in meeting that intent.

WRANGELL MOUNTAINS CENTER PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS for the summer are available at <http://www.wrangells.org/2017-schedule>

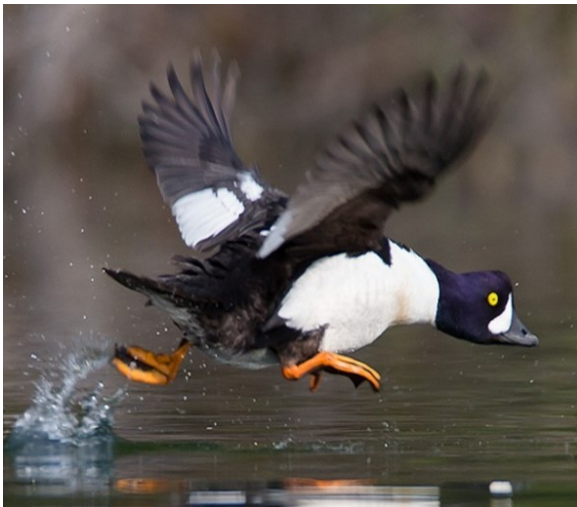
Juneau Community Conservation Event!



APRIL 29 ~ 9:00AM

Juneau Wetlands Community Cleanup

- Join the Juneau Audubon Society for a wetlands cleanup at Sunny Point.
- Kid's activities provided by Discovery Southeast.
- Bring rubber boots, gloves, and friends!
- Event also supported by: Southeast Alaska Land Trust, NorthStar Trekking, Alaska Geographic, Litter Free, Inc., Alaskan Brewing Company, and the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
- For more information: SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org



Duck beak. Need for a running start with feet far back on body, better to dive for food. Telling eye color. Sharp light/dark patterns. White tear drop at beak. Often seen in area in winter months. Who am I?

(Check your answer in the next newsletter. No guesses? Sign up for a beginner bird class!)



Help the Juneau Audubon Society earn donations simply by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**. You need to re-link your Fred Meyer rewards card to your non-profit of choice every year. If you need to re-link your rewards card, check that it is, in fact, linked, or link it for the first time, you can do so at [this link](#). JAS' nonprofit number is 90656

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation! You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store. For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION **Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.*

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to National Audubon Society to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

Juneau Audubon Society Membership only: Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to Juneau Audubon Society to the USPS address above.

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter The Raven
- Please consider getting The Raven by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership does not include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

Tree Swallow Nest Box Construction and Update April 2017

By Brenda Wright



Emmet

Last year we put 40 tree swallow boxes up around Juneau and were happy to find we had 15 successful nests. This year we decided to spend a little more money and find out how many nest boxes could be built for ~\$300.



Bob Armstrong

After putting some information in our Raven newsletter, a person contacted me from the Juneau Community Charter School. The middle school students were looking for a construction project for February and March. I was very happy to supply them with most of the wood and hardware. The students seemed to enjoy this project and with the help of some parents, they were able to build 24 new nest boxes.



Josh



Peyton

I can't thank them all enough for completing this project. **In May, there will be an update on where all the boxes have been placed in 2017.**

Volunteers are needed to monitor the boxes. Please contact Brenda at programs@juneau-audubon-society.org

Photos by Sean Cone

BIRDING RESOURCES

HAINES: Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist

(<http://www.visithaines.com/sites/default/files/birds.pdf>)

JUNEAU: Juneau Audubon Website (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>)

Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page:

(<https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>)

SITKA: Sitka Postings (<http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>)

SKAGWAY: Skagway Bird Club (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/>)

For discussions and latest sightings (<http://groups.google.com/group/skagway-bird-club>)

Skagway checklist (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/home-1/tools-overview/checklists/skagway-bird-checklist>)

REGIONWIDE:

For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska birds and events, join EagleChat. For an invitation, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com) Summary of Southeast Alaska Bird Observations Seasonally - Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz and Andrew W. Piston. This publication has beautiful bird photos and information for Southeast Alaska and the most recent report is for Fall 2016, which covered the four months August to November. You can view it on our web page at: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

JAS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS AND IS RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

Do you, or someone you know, care deeply about local conservation issues? Do you have substantial time and energy to commit toward a rewarding position in our community? Are you enthusiastic about all things bird? If so, we want to hear from you! We are currently seeking to fill two positions within our Board of Directors: Conservation Chair and At-large. For more information, please email us at: Info@Juneau-Audubon-Society.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- President:** Gwen Baluss | president@juneau-audubon-society.org
Vice President: Marsha Squire | vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org
Treasurer Patty Rose | treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org
Secretary Amy Sherwin | secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org
Field Trips Jason Colon | field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org
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Programs Brenda Wright | programs@juneau-audubon-society.org
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At Large "A" Amy Clark Courtney | at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org
At Large "B" Vacant | at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org
Saturday Wild Vacant | saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org
Public Market Mary McCafferty | public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org
Web Master George Utermohle | webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org



Chestnut-backed Chickadee.
Photo courtesy of Bob
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The Raven

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

Volume 43, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2017

Have a great Summer. Next General Meeting will be in October and next newsletter in September.

Spring BERNERS BAY Boat Cruise

May 13th at 8:30 a.m. The boat cruise departs Statters Harbor below DeHarts Auke Bay. Boarding begins 15 minutes prior to departure.

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 are available at Hearthsides Books. Adults - \$70, Students- \$40 (includes UAS), Children under 12 --\$25 (must be accompanied by adult).

This is a vital fundraising event for JAS. Please help us spread the word!

Upcoming Southeast Alaska Bird Festival

2017 Yakutat Tern Festival Please see www.yakutatternfestival.org visit Yakutat Tern Festival on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

For a listing of more Alaska bird festival information see: <https://alaskacenters.gov/bird-festivals.cfm>

Spring/Summer Audubon Bird Walks

Date/Time	Activity/Location	Tide Info	Leader/s
Sat. May 6 8am to 11 am (drop by anytime)	International Migratory Bird Day Celebration - Bird Banding/Juneau Community Garden	Lo 2.17' @ 5:07a Hi 13.99' @ 11:14a	Gwen Baluss
Sat. May 13 8:30am (Boards at 8:15am)	Berners Cruise 1 boat, 1 trip	Lo -1.08' @ 9:23a Hi 14.46' @ 3:51p	Brenda Wright Patty Rose Ernestine Hayes Bev Agler
Sat. May 20 8am	Eagle Beach	Lo 4.57' @ 3:07a Hi 12.49 @ 9a	Mark Schwan
Sat. May 27 8am	Sheep Creek	Lo -4.86 @ 9a Hi 16.98' @ 3:30p	Brenda Wright
Sat. June 3 8am	Sandy Beach / Treadwell	Lo 3.13' @ 3:36a Hi 12.54' @ 9:41a	Gus van Vliet
Sat. June 10 8am	Moose Lake	Lo -1.45' @ 8:31a Hi 14.56' @ 3:03p	Jeff Sauer
Sat. June 17 8am	Pt. Bridget	Lo 4.36' @ 1:14a Hi 12.68' @ 7:02a	Gus van Vliet

Let's Give Gratitude and Go Birding for Ken Leghorn

Conservationist and bird enthusiast Ken Leghorn passed away last month. His loss is widely felt throughout the state of Alaska, as well as within our Juneau community. As an Audubon supporter, Ken participated in decades of Christmas bird counts, joined numerous Saturday Bird Walks and other field trips, rallied for conservation efforts throughout Southeast Alaska, and inspired countless others to pick up a pair of binoculars and simply enjoy the outdoors. To say that Ken will be missed would be an understatement.

Ken had hoped to go birding every day in May just outside his home in Juneau. We, the Juneau Audubon Society Board, would like to suggest that you celebrate Ken's dedication to conservation in Alaska and give gratitude by fulfilling his desire to go birding yourself, every day in the month of May...and all the days to come.

JAS Welcomes New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Sidney Campbell as Conservation Chair, and Alexia Kiefer as an At-large Member. Here's their introductions. Thanks Alexia and Sidney!

Alexia Kiefer: I am a Homeschooling Mom, who works part time for a nonprofit organization, REACH. I've lived in Juneau for 10 years. I'm passionate about nature conservation and education. On my free time my hobbies include: birding, harvesting wild edibles, or hiking. I'm a naturalist at heart and enjoy volunteering for various organizations like Audubon, The Raptor Center, Beaver Patrol, Humane Society and most recently added, bat surveying.

Sidney Campbell: I am a UAS graduate with a BS in Biology. I currently work at the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines where I promote raptor conservation through publications, outreach, and programming with the avian ambassadors who live here. I spend my free time outside when at all possible, usually looking for birds.

JAS Offers Work Experience for Intern

A summer volunteer is sought to conduct bird surveys and data work for the US Forest Service and the Juneau Audubon Society. Duties will include: Arctic Tern and gull nest monitoring, Tree Swallow nest box maintenance and monitoring, assist with hummingbird banding, data entry and document scanning; may also include assistance with environmental education projects, deployment of bat recording devices, and fish or restoration projects.

Deadline: Review of applicants is underway; open until filled.

Dates: Approximately late to mid-July

Compensation: Travel reimbursement to Juneau, AK, depending on need up to \$700. Stipend for food up to \$1125 for the 6-week period. Housing (in shared USFS bunkhouse), bicycle for transportation, and equipment for surveys provided.

Required skills: Basic bird ID skills and interest in wildlife management and/or working with non-profit organizations, general computer skills – use of Microsoft Excel and scanner; an introductory college biology or natural resource course passed; ability to hike up to 6 miles and deal with some uneven trails; ability to ride a mountain bicycle up to 10 miles round trip on a road; ability to take neat and complete field data. Volunteer needs to have a cell phone plan that will work in Alaska, and health insurance.

To apply: Send a short letter explaining interest and qualifications summary, and a resume to both GWEN BALUSS (president@juneau-audubon-society.org) and BRENDA WRIGHT (at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org)

Saturday Bird Events Kick-off By Marsha Squires

On a chilly yet sunny Saturday (April 15), thirty eager and delightful birders gathered at the Fish Creek Watershed on North Douglas for the first Audubon-led bird walk of the season. The chorus of migrants welcomed everyone to the parking lot. Varied thrush, robins, and ruby-crowned kinglets flitted and sang as we all bundled up and perused the scene on the pond in front of us. A northern pintail spooked off as more and more birders arrived yet the mallards, American wigeons and a pair of buffleheads stayed near the water's edge.



As the group quietly shuffled over the bridge in search of a dipper and into the wooded trail area, kinglets were visible in the alders, juncos tit-tit titted at us while Steller's jays made a ruckus as they flew closer and closer to us offering a good view of their brilliant blue plumage. A red-breasted sapsucker zoomed by on its way to drum on distance tree trunks, and off we went to the next pond. Here, we encountered two belted kingfishers, and numerous northwest crows gathering and carrying nest material.

Out on the bluff the variety of sea ducks and other water birds were abundant: surf and white-winged scoters, green-winged teal, common goldeneyes, red-breasted mergansers, horn grebes, and three species of gulls. Two pairs of bald eagles sat on the sandy shoreline, and at one point one flew off and swooped back in on a flock of feeding mallards but was unsuccessful in the hunt. A male orca was viewed in the distance while a song sparrow popped out into view just momentarily. Nevertheless, further along on the trail near the point three other song sparrows hopped around in the grass and up and around a woody bush being very corporative while a Pacific wren sang its beautiful long song to us.

The official hike ended with a grand view of the Mendenhall Glacier in the distance and sun on our faces. As goodbyes were made a pair of greater yellowlegs finally showed themselves, one in the brackish pond and another high on top of a spruce. Thinking that was *it* for the morning, a dipper was seen back at the bridge. Twenty-seven species in total and a content group of birders: what a great way to start the season!

Please join us for the upcoming bird events and continue to learn more and share in the excitement of birding with other fellow community members and bird enthusiasts.

Juneau Audubon Bird Walk-Saturday, April 22 By Mary McCafferty

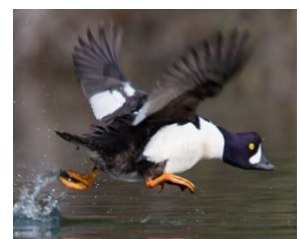
Gus Van Vliet led birders on a sunny walk through the woods at Auke Village Recreation area and continued on out to Point Louisa. Birders enjoyed seeing the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and hearing the strong spring songs of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Varied Thrush. A highlight was spotting three Black Oystercatchers at the point. Other sightings included Bonaparte Gulls, Song Sparrows, Pacific Wren, Chickadees, Robins, Red-breasted Mergansers, Barrows Goldeneye, and Harlequin Ducks.



Spring Bird Migration Arrived On Sunny Point During Late April Can you identify these birds?



Answer to last month's bird ID challenge: Barrow's goldeneye



Tips for Safe Bird-feeding

By Gwen Baluss

Feeding birds can be fun and increase our appreciation and awareness of them. However, it's vital that in doing so we avoid creating problems. It's also important to note that birds don't need handouts from us. What they need most is wild habitat to survive.

When considering feeding, the first question is: is it a good idea to lure birds in? Unfortunately, if there are hazards nearby such as a loose cat, a dog that chases birds, a busy street, lots of windows, an electric fence, or any kind of pesticide use, etc. the answer is "no".

If you do decide to feed birds, there are some other things to consider.

One is **bears**. They should be waking up and prowling around, right about now. Feeders need to be way up where bears can't access them. Seeds on the ground should be sprinkled lightly preferably in a thick bushy area or up on a high porch so that it would not be efficient for a bear to lick them up. Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends taking bird feeders down during the months that bears are at large.



Squirrels and other small mammals can be slowed down by sprinkling seeds (or suet) with hot chili pepper powder such as cayenne. Birds are not affected by capsaicin, the "hot" substance in chilies. Squirrels, while annoying, are not always a threat to birds. It depends on the squirrel. Studies have shown that some individual red squirrels are good at nest searching and have a taste for eggs. Others don't. I've personally seen certain squirrels attempt to pounce on feeding juncos. All of them can eat a lot of expensive birdseed in a short time.

Sanitation is important. Feeders need to be cleaned consistently and frequently to make sure there is never any spoiled or moldy food, and to reduce the risk of disease being passed between birds. And watch out for sharp, dangling or catchy parts. There are lots of do-it-yourself feeder designs online and elsewhere. Take a close look at these, as they are not necessarily good designs for birds. Even some commercially available are dubious. Buying from a vendor that specializes in bird supplies is usually a good bet. Seed feeders should be emptied at least once a week, washed with a nontoxic cleaner and dried before putting back out. Clean suet feeders once a month or whenever suet is replenished. Personally, I find a wide sprinkling of seeds in a patch of thick bushes to be a much easier option.

Placement in relation to windows is another consideration. Feeders should either be right next to a window, or far, as in more than 40 feet away. The concept is that if something spooks a group of feeding birds, these options allow that either the bird has space to navigate around the window, or would not have started going fast enough to be hurt if it does hit. Of course, anything that makes windows more visible is a good idea too.

Hummingbird feeders should be changed twice a week. All surfaces should be scrubbed with a brush (you can buy small bottlebrushes online or try using pipe cleaners for the small holes). Soak first in vinegar if any mold has formed. Glass reservoirs can also be sanitized with very hot water. Avoid feeders with plastic storage reservoirs, and any surface that are not easy to clean. Feeders with holes that are on a flat platform should be drilled to make at least as big as a standard school pencil eraser; smaller holes on a flat plane can catch birds beaks or legs and cause serious injury if something startles them.



Bob Armstrong

The best recipe for hummingbird food is one cup of *white* sugar to three cups of boiling water. Dyes are not necessary and may not be safe. Brown, raw or organic sugar contains iron which can be bad for the birds. Honey is dangerous too, as it may cause food poisoning.

Not sure you want to deal with cleaning a feeder or buying seeds? Birds are attracted to **alternatives**. Native plants, for example. Willows are one of the best for attracting a variety of species, but any native tree or shrub will have its fans. Around here most can either be grown from cuttings along a roadside, or will just sprout out of an untrammeled area. And the more you let them grow wild and unkempt the better. Any kind of shelter, even if it's just a pile of boards or junk, sticks, etc. all are good for small Sbirds. What a great excuse to not clean up the yard! Avoid leaving out dead-ends like crab pots, loose fibers, or netting, and *especially pipes left upright*, that could trap a bird. Old dead branches, snags and logs may look a little

unsightly, but if you can tolerate them, they are wonderful breeding grounds for beetles and other tasty invertebrates that nesting birds love. A simple source of shallow clean water can bring birds in to bathe, even in our wet environment.

Ornamental plants with fruit or flowers can be excellent for attracting showy birds like waxwings. But they come with another serious precaution: buy organically grown stock or get assurance that the plant has not been treated with systemic pesticides. These days, a lot of nursery plants are treated with neonicotinoid pesticides, some of which have been shown to be toxic or sickening agents to birds. All parts of treated plants, including nectar, carry the pesticide. These pesticides are also toxic to bees, flies, and other insects that local birds might be interested in eating.

Now here's something you **don't have to worry about**: cutting off the food supply. Wild birds are adaptable. If you go traveling and nobody can feed the birds, don't fret too much. You might miss your birds when you get back because they've moved on, but they *will* move on. Ephemeral food sources are a natural reality for every species. You are not going to change a migratory bird's pathway. It could be that on a long-term time scale, food available from humans does change distributional patterns, but migration is complex and instinctual, and not going to be influenced either way by a single food source.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, TN

The Southern Pine Beetle is a tree killer. When full grown is about half the length of a grain of rice, a small insect with a devastating impact. It lives in the inner bark of pine trees and disrupts the flow of nutrients. It is a widespread and destructive pine insect pest.

Forestry officials are concerned about a large number of trees that have been left stressed from last year's drought. Drought stressed trees don't make sap as well as healthy ones and that sticky sap helps the trees defense against the beetles. Beetle infestations often begin in weaker, stressed trees and then can spread to healthy trees.

The US Department of Agriculture estimates a widespread outbreak began in 1999 in east Tennessee that caused more than \$1 billion in timber losses. The Pine Beetle infestation has had an impact in the Cherokee National Forest, as well as Alabama, where there has been the need to clear dead pine trees. The usual course of action for Southern Pine Beetle infestations is to clear a buffer area around the infested trees at least as wide as the tallest trees in the infested group to prevent the beetles from spreading. Those trees can be burned or simply left behind a safe distance from healthy forest trees.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service reports that Alabama produced more than \$10 billion in forest products in 2010 and more than \$11 billion when commercial logging products are included. Alabama's forest products industry is one of the largest industries in that state. It is second in the country in production of pulp and paper and seventh in lumber production. A study found more than 23,000 direct jobs created by Alabama forest products industry as well as many more of indirect employment.

What's Up 4/28/17

June 1

Deadline to participate in **AUDUBON ALASKA'S 2017 GREAT AMERICAN ARCTIC CHALLENGE**. During the spring, many birds travel from all over the USA and from all six continents to reach their breeding grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other ecologically rich areas of the American Arctic. Celebrate the importance of the Arctic by participating in the **GREAT AMERICAN ARCTIC CHALLENGE** this spring! Recruit some fellow birders, grab a pair of binoculars, and find as many Arctic birds as you can as they pass through Alaska. Download the bird checklist, and find out more information about prizes and rules here: <http://ak.audubon.org/birds/2017-great-american-arctic-birding-challenge>. Email egustafson@audubon.org with questions.

CORPS MEMBERS for STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION AK TRAIL CORPS TEAMS Join the SCA for a summer of conservation work and adventure! Teams consist of 5 members and 1 leader, living and working together in front and backcountry settings throughout Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. Good candidates have a strong work ethic, are adaptable to change, like to challenge themselves, and have a desire to contribute to a team. In exchange, teams have the opportunity to engage with wild places while completing meaningful work. SCA provides all travel, food, and tent/kitchen materials for crews, under the lead of experienced project leaders and guidance from partnering organizations. Duties: Trail construction and maintenance, invasive plant removal, vegetation restoration and general resource management projects. **Duration: May 22-Sept 10**. Requirements: 18 years or older. Benefits: \$100.00/weekly stipend, and eligible for Americorps Education Awards. Apply: www.thesca.org (position # PO-00722479) contact Lesley Seale directly with questions at lseale@thesca.org.

Birding Resources – Find checklists for Southeast Alaska on our webpage. Also see:

HAINES: Check out the Haines Birding Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hainesalaska>

JUNEAU: Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>

SITKA: Sitka Postings <http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds>

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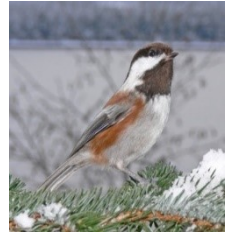
- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com OR Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826 OR Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided.
- USPS: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to: National Audubon Society and send to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

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- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership does not include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org>

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At Large "B" Alexia Kiefer | at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org
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Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Photo courtesy of Bob Armstrong. Bob's photographs are free to use for educational and conservation purposes. See more at: www.naturebob.com

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

Volume 44, Number 1

Juneau Audubon Society

September 2017

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center, Room 116

Theresa Svancara and Brenda Wright will present a program on the Tree Swallow nest box project in Juneau and Fairbanks.

Election! Election! October 12, 2017

Election of Officers: All Juneau Audubon members are eligible to run for and vote for our officers. This year our candidates are Gwen Baluss for President, Marsha Squires for vice-president, Patty Rose for treasurer, and Amy Sherwin for secretary. We welcome and

encourage all our members to volunteer for positions on our Board and Committees. There are many opportunities help protect our environment for birds and other wildlife.



The **November 9** General Meeting presentation TBA.

December 14 General Meeting will be: **Scott & Betsy Fischer "Beginning Birding Through the Lens"**.

Juneau Audubon President's Report by Gwen Baluss

THE END OF A GREAT ERA

With sadness we announce that our incredibly long-time newsletter editor Mary Lou King will be retiring from this volunteer job. From all the board, past and present: THANK YOU MARY LOU!

Stay tuned for potential changes in format and the way we bring you JAS news as we adjust to this momentous change over the next few months.

If you are interested in editing a newsletter or blog, please contact: president@juneau-audubon-society.org.

Note that this is work that could be done from any Southeast AK community, as long as you have internet access, and the board welcomes all residents with an interest in conservation. We love birds, but you don't have to be an expert in birds! Having a working knowledge of basic writing, editing and general computer programs to make an attractive product are the skills that will be most helpful.

Get out of the house with Audubon this fall

If you are sad to have missed the mushroom walk, don't despair.

We are working on more fall outside activities. On our radar: lichens, insects, bird migration and yes, more mushrooms. Keep checking our website and Facebook page, as well as the Juneau community calendars for updates.

SATURDAY MUSHROOM WALK SEPTEMBER 9



The "fall bloom" is enjoyed by all ages.



David Riccio displays a beautiful coral fungus.



A beautiful cornucopia of mushrooms. No, most of these are not considered edible.

Birds and Eclipse Activity

Bird behavior during the eclipse

On 21 August, a total solar eclipse left millions of people spellbound across North America. Have you wondered how birds react a total eclipse? Thanks to your eBird checklists submitted by more than 1,000 eBirders during the eclipse, we have some answers! Swifts and swallows dropping out of the skies; nighthawks and owls coming out to call and feed; and herons, magpies, and doves going to roost in the middle of the day. http://birdcast.info/forecast/eclipse/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=36536ea854-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-36536ea854-277564893

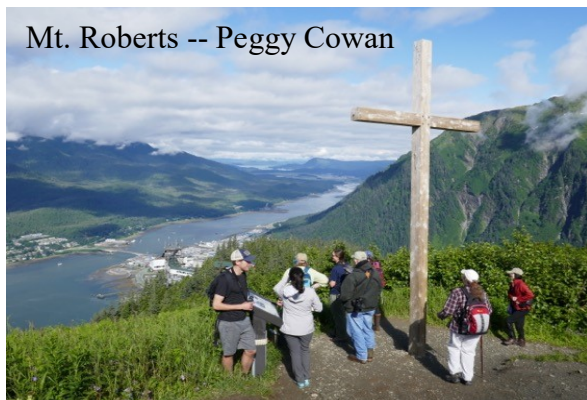
Watch Bird Migrations across North America **BirdCast is back!**

Autumn is here in the northern hemisphere! Check out the latest migration forecasts for North America on BirdCast as well as updates on interesting migrations worldwide—all based on your eBird

checklists. http://birdcast.info/forecasts/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=36536ea854-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-36536ea854-277564893

Other Saturday Wild Walks In The Summer of 2017

Juneau Audubon Society hosted four Saturday Wild Walks this summer. In June Pat Harris led us into the mysteries of low tide organisms-plants and animals at Bridget Creek beach.



In July, the Mt. Roberts tram generously allowed us to travel up the mountain for the discount non-profit fee. We enjoyed the best weather for several weeks as the sun came all the way out for several hours!



Sea Star -- Pat Harris

In August, we led some happy berry pickers into a better knowledge of our edible berries at Eaglecrest.



Thanks to all the volunteers who help make these outings so much fun!

Exciting Birding By Sidney Campbell, Audubon Conservation Chairperson

Although summer is my busiest work season with cruise ships bringing thousands of guests through the doors of the American Bald Eagle Foundation, I still found the time to get out and see a few wild birds here and there. My most exciting experience actually came on a work trip to Skagway, when an intern and I were lucky enough to see not one, but TWO merlins. The second smallest species of falcon in North America, merlins can be tough to spot in the wild because of their size and high speed hunting style. Merlins don't stoop the way their more famous cousin the peregrine falcon does, nor do they perch and pounce the way I often saw American Kestrels doing in the Willamette Valley. Instead they are pursuit hunters, putting on enormous bursts of speed to snatch songbirds out of the sky. I was excited to see a nesting pair continually leaving and returning to their nest with small feathered treats for their clutch of babies. The birding I was able to do this summer may not have been large in quantity, but was certainly of very gratifying quality.

STORY ABOUT PETE ISLEIB – Pete had lived in Juneau and was a very active member of the Juneau Audubon Society when it was first established in Juneau. He was an avid bird watcher and knew most of the birds that lived in and migrated to Alaska. He was killed several years ago in a tragic accident when working with his commercial fishing gear. Pete grew up in Connecticut and his sister Prill wrote the following article about her brother when he was young. Those who knew him will enjoy reading this story.

RED FOX -- By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, TN

When my brother Pete was a teenager he had a trap line and caught small animals such as mink. He used some of his earning to buy his first spotting scope for birds. He learned to do taxidermy work for which he was also earning a merit badge toward becoming an Eagle Scout.

Townpeople, where we lived at that time in rural, central Connecticut, knew about Pete and his scouting adventures. One day a man, while driving on the highway, accidentally hit and killed a beautiful red fox.

He inquired around town, about having it preserved, and found out about Pete. Then he called and asked Pete if he could do some taxidermy work for him and mount that fox. Pete accepted the challenge and worked on that fox. When he was putting the finishing touches on it he had it in the middle of his small upstairs bedroom. I remember that fox fur was draped over a form and mounted on a smooth polished board, in a standing position, with the bushy tail pointing out straight. He had ordered the fox eyes from a catalogue. Those piercing yellow eyes looked quite life like. When Pete's work was finished the fox owner was very pleased with the work Pete had done.

A few years ago when my husband and I were driving along a country road, in the Smoky Mountains, we came upon a red fox on the side of the road that brought back memories of my brother. Most of the time a fox is usually very illusive, yet that fox was reluctant to leave the road. We cautiously drove by it and could see it was not injured but that he was feeding on some dead animal and didn't want to leave it. The fox did not move off the road. We drove past and left him alone. He was so engrossed with his meal, that it seemed as though he never noticed we had been there.

BIRDING RESOURCES

HAINES: Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist

(<http://www.visithaines.com/sites/default/files/birds.pdf>)

JUNEAU: Juneau Audubon Website (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>)

Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>)

SITKA: Sitka Postings (<http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>)

SKAGWAY: Skagway Bird Club (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/>)

For discussions and latest sightings (<http://groups.google.com/group/skagway-bird-club>)

Skagway checklist (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/home-1/tools-overview/checklists/skagway-bird-checklist>)

REGIONWIDE: For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska birds and events, join EagleChat. For an invitation, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com) Summary of Southeast Alaska Bird Observations Seasonally - Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz and Andrew W. Piston. This publication has beautiful bird photos and information for Southeast Alaska and the most recent report is for Spring 2017, which covered the four months March to May. You can view it on our web page at: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION **Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew*

National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to National Audubon Society to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

Juneau Audubon Society Membership only: Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to Juneau Audubon Society to the USPS address above.

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter The Raven
- Please consider getting The Raven by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership does not include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

JUNEAU AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gwen Baluss | president@juneau-audubon-society.org
Vice President: Marsha Squires | vice-president@juneau-audubon-society.org
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Saturday Wild Vacant | saturdaywild@juneau-audubon-society.org
Public Market Mary McCafferty | public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org
Web Master George Utermohle | webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org



Chestnut-backed Chickadee.
Photo courtesy of **Bob Armstrong**. Bob's wonderful bird and wildlife photographs are free to use for educational and conservation purposes.

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THE RAVEN



JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY
VOLUME 44, ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 2017

Neotropical Migrants in the Rio Grand Valley

Juneau Audubon Society is excited to welcome Juneau's very own Bill Heard as the speaker at November's JAS meeting. Heard will be speaking about his experience photographing neotropical birds as they migrated through the Rio Grand Valley. JAS will host a talk at the UAS Rec Center, room 116, every second Thursday from October through April. Talks begin at 7pm and will cover a range of topics. Next month JAS welcomes the executive director of Audubon Alaska, Dr. Nils Warnock, as he discusses the 2017 Alaska Watchlist. Stay tuned for the 2018 schedule!



Photos by Bill Heard

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

American Bald Eagle Foundation Haines, Alaska

Nov 6-11

JAS Meeting with speaker Bill Heard

Chasing Neotropical Migrants in the Lower Rio Grand

Nov. 9

Juneau Public Market

Centennial Hall

Nov. 24-26

JAS Meeting with Dr. Nils Warnock

Alaska Birds in Decline: Findings from the 2017 AK Watchlist

Dec. 14



JAS Founder Mary Lou King Retires

The Juneau Audubon Society witnessed the end to an era last month as a long-time board member of the Juneau Audubon chapter officially retired. Mary Lou King was a founding member of the Juneau chapter, and has been an active member of the board nearly continuously since its inception in 1977. Her contributions to Audubon are numerous and diverse; from leading birding classes to making jam for the JAS booth at the public market each year.

Beyond her work with Audubon, Mary Lou has been an advocate for conservation in Juneau for more than 50 years. She has published numerous books on topics ranging from hiking to birding field guides, including the household staple *90 Short Walks Around Juneau*.

Her passion for the outdoors has been shared with generations of students through programs she has created including Sea Week. She continues to share her love for history and Native culture by writ-

ing and teaching Native arts at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Nearly every person in Juneau has benefitted from Mary Lou's work; from the bike paths she advocated for in the 1970's, to curricula she developed for schools, to programs she supports with returns from her book sales. The community is lucky to have such a dedicated individual among them, and the Juneau Audubon Society thanks her for her many years of hard work.

Although she has retired from the Board, Mary Lou continues to be an inspiration and a valuable resource for the organization.

JAS is going paperless!

We are committed to conserving natural resources, and digital newsletters go a long way toward this goal. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of our newsletter, please let us know by emailing membership@juneau-audubon-society.org



Tree Swallow Nest Watch

By Brenda Wright and Gwen Baluss



Photo: Tree Swallow by Ferd Brundick; Creative Commons

Juneau Audubon Society and local student volunteers have constructed Tree Swallow nest boxes (using a pattern developed by the Golondrinas project) and placed them in wetlands near Juneau since 2015. They were monitored for occupancy by citizen scientists. Observers were encouraged to use the Cornell Nestwatch protocol when checking nest boxes, and to visit at least bi-weekly. In 2016, there were 15 successful nests in the 40 nest boxes erected. A bear knocked down 2 nest boxes at Pioneer marsh. In 2017 there were 67 nest boxes erected (+10 for Violet-green Swallows), 27 of which had nests. We again lost two boxes to bears, but after the birds had fledged. The first Tree Swallows were observed between

April 15-18. The first eggs were observed May 2. Active feeding at nest boxes occurred June 12-25. This year was much colder on average than 2016. Nest boxes were removed from most sites for the winter. The continued goals for the project in 2018 include: 65 boxes up before April 1, recruiting more citizen scientists, continuing to record phenology, and finding optimal locations for occupancy. We found that Violet-green Swallows do not often use constructed nest boxes, so we will use those boxes for more Tree Swallow locations. This project was started with support from Audubon Alaska for swallow box building

materials and continued with funds from JAS. Thanks to the Juneau Community Charter School for new box construction in 2017. Many of this year's swallow observations were compiled by Hannah Scharf, our summer intern. Thanks to the US Forest Service Juneau Ranger District for housing and equipment for Hannah. We are planning to initiate a banding project at the nest boxes with the help of local Master Bander Cathy Pohl in 2018. This will allow better information about the return rates for adult birds and open the door for more study. Equipment purchase is underway thanks to a grant from Alaska Songbird Institute in Fairbanks. **(CONT. PG 5)**

JAS Helps Study Juneau's Amazing Migrants



Photo: Arctic Tern at Auke Bay Story and photo by Gwen Baluss

Probably the best moments I spent last summer were observing some of the world's longest-distance migrants, Arctic terns, practically in our backyard. While the sooty shearwater and bartailed godwit certainly give this species a run for its money as the "longest-distance migrant", the arctic tern is still often hailed as number one. Last year news came out that a tagged bird from UK's Farne Islands took a 59,560 mile route to Antarctica. Our own Alaskan terns make a more modest 10,000 mile journey where they might rub

wingtips with those UK birds around the Weddell sea. (This calculation is an estimate of the straight-line distance between recorded points; the actual miles logged could be double that or more). Such efficient and aerodynamic flyers are simply beautiful to watch. Arctic terns have been recorded near Mendenhall Glacier since the 1920's. The last few years, the birds at Mendenhall Lake have occupied two nesting zones. One at Photo Point near the Visitor Center and the other on a route that leads towards the now nationally famous ice caves. The latter colony is of management concern due to high foot traffic that goes by, and sometimes through, the nest areas. In both 2014 and 2015 nesting success was poor with two or less young produced each

year and less than 30 adults returning. Birds spooked off nests are more likely to have their eggs eaten by ravens, or young chilled in the rain. Even adults are vulnerable to marauding eagles. Last summer Juneau Audubon Society and the US Forest Service sponsored an intern to help gather data at unprotected nesting areas so we could get better information with more regular standardized observations. The news was good for those birds near the Visitor Center, with an estimated seven young fledged. The birds near the ice cave route were less successful, with likely only one fledgling to show for their efforts. Tern watchers were elated to see the return of more adults in 2017 with about 80. Historic high counts top 115.

Bald Eagles Flock to Chilkat River

One of Southeast Alaska's most exciting birding opportunities is fast approaching. The Alaska Bald Eagle Festival takes place in Haines each year when bald eagle concentration peaks on the banks of the Chilkat river. The unique hydrogeology of the Chilkat prevents part of the river from freezing, even during the coldest winter days. Eagles depend on late salmon runs to prepare for the onset of winter and salmon remain available to eagles late into the year on the Chilkat, when other rivers in Alaska have fro-



*Bald eagles on the Chilkat river during the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival
Photo by Bill McRoberts, courtesy of American Bald Eagle Foundation*

zen over. The late runs of chum and coho salmon on the Chilkat River attract one of the largest congregations of bald eagles in North America-- eagles come from all over to have access to this valuable resource. Each year, between two and four thousand bald eagles gather on a five-mile stretch of water at the

confluence of the Chilkat and Tsirku Rivers near Haines. In addition to some fantastic eagle viewing, the Foundation has many events planned to highlight science, conservation, culture, and community. The week culminates with a banquet celebration and keynote speaker Melanie Smith from Audubon Alaska.

(SWALLOW CONT.)

A network of Tree Swallow studies is forming statewide. Swallows are of interest to researchers now because, as a group, aerial insectivores have demonstrated steep declines on

broad scale studies in North America such as the Breeding Bird Survey. We hope to provide information that may someday be able to contribute to the conservation of these species.



Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

Haines: [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](#)

Haines Birders Facebook group

Juneau: [Juneau Audubon Society](#)

JAS Facebook

Sitka: Sitka Nature [bird postings](#)

Skagway: [Skagway Bird Club](#)

Regional: Join EagleChat to see discussions and birding events taking place in Juneau and the rest of Southeast AK. Contact Gwen Baluss for an invitation!
(president@juneauaudubonsociety.org)

Also check out:

[Southeast Alaska Regional Bird Observations—Spring](#)

This quarterly report summarizes seasonal bird sightings complete with locations and photos.

JOIN JAS at the PUBLIC MARKET

Get a jump start on holiday shopping and support your local Audubon chapter!

November 24-26 at
Centennial Hall

Famous JAS jams and preserves will be on sale, but **supplies will be limited.** This year's poor nagoon crop means early birds get the jam!

We are looking for
volunteers!

If you can help with sales or set-up, contact publicmarket@juneauaudubonsociety.org

Featured Photo

Have you noticed our new look? Along with the new format, JAS is introducing a monthly featured photo. Have a shot you're proud of? Send it in and it may be featured in our newsletter. Submissions can be sent to newsletter@juneauaudubonsociety.org. Be sure to include the species, date, and location you took the photo.

Right: Juvenile Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). Photo by Leia Minch near Chilkoot Lake in Haines, AK. Taken on August 12, 2017.



**Juneau Audubon Society
Board of Directors**

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Vice President: Marsha Squires

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Secretary: Amy Sherwin

Field Trips: Jason Colon

Newsletter: *Vacant*

Membership: Amanda Pilley

Education: Patricia Wherry

Programs: Brenda Wright

Conservation: Sidney Campbell

At Large A: Amy Clark Courtney

At Large B: Alexia Keifer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2017 Christmas Bird Count begins

December 13



Watch JAS Facebook, newsletter,
and website for more information
in December

Questions?

Contact Patty Rose

treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org

Be a part of conservation in your community

Juneau Audubon Society's mission 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.** When you become a member, you support this mission.

National Membership~

Join [online](#) and you'll automatically join the Juneau chapter. Memberships start at just \$20. When you join, you receive a one year subscription to the Raven newsletter and support JAS education, research, and more!

Local Membership~

If you don't want to join nationally, you can support JAS directly by mailing your name, address, email, and a check for \$10 to P.O. Box 021725 Juneau, AK 99802

Board Seats~

Think you want to take your love for birds a step further? The JAS board of directors has seats open. Send inquiries via email to president@juneau-audubon-society.org



Audubon Alaska 2017 WatchList

Announcing the December Audubon meeting! Join Dr. Nils Warnock, Executive Director of Audubon Alaska, for a talk on the state of Alaska's birds. Audubon Alaska recently released the 2017 Alaska WatchList, a report that ranks regularly occurring bird species in Alaska based on vulnerability. This year, an unprecedented



Two surf scoters and one black scoter, a species on the WatchList

number of species made it onto the WatchList's Red List, the list with the highest level of conservation concern. Nils will review which species are most at risk, explore the factors contributing to de-

clines in Alaska bird populations, look at success stories, and explain what can be done to conserve vulnerable species. December 14 at 7pm in UAS Rec Center rm. 116.

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS Meeting with Speaker Dr. Nils Warnock

2017 Alaska WatchList

Dec 14

Christmas Bird Count - Juneau (more on pg. 3)

118th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

Dec 16

Christmas Bird Count - Hoonah

118th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

Dec 17

Sitka Winter Bird Observation

Since 2012, I have visited Sitka every November for a small research project. We capture birds and band them in hopes of learning more about the birds that frequent yards in Sitka. Three species: Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Oregon (Dark-eyed) Junco and Song Sparrow receive colored bands and the standard numbered aluminum band. By using school yards as banding locations, inviting classes to watch the banding, and enlisting the public to report sightings of birds, the project also helps educate about birds and the challenges they face.

We have some interesting results to report:

- A high proportion of the juncos in Sitka are young males. Other studies have noted the geographic partitioning of junco populations according to age and gender.
- About 2-3% of the juncos in Sitka are a Slate-colored type. The nearest breeding area for these would be in mountains of BC and Yukon Territory, so we know that at least some of the birds are traveling to the coast for the winter.
- Likewise, we suspect some of the Oregon type juncos are also going inland (or to higher elevations). A young male junco banded at Blatchley



Have you seen this bird? A handsome male junco shows his new colors.

Middle School in November 2016 appeared in the Mendenhall Valley in Juneau the following May.

- Juncos probably have a small winter range once they arrive. Oregon Juncos are sometimes resighted or recaptured throughout the winter in which they were banded and sometimes **CONT PG 4**

JAS is going paperless!

We are committed to conserving natural resources, and digital newsletters go a long way toward this goal. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of our newsletter, please let us know by emailing membership@juneau-audubon-society.org



Join JAS for the 118th Christmas Bird Count

Birders of all levels are invited to join JAS for the Juneau Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 16, 2017. The Christmas Bird Count started in 1900 as an alternative to the tradition of shooting birds on Christmas Day, and has since become widespread across the Western hemisphere. The 2017 count is the 118th CBC and the 45th Juneau count.

Juneau volunteers will meet at 8:00am; those wishing to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas areas will meet at the downtown Foodland IGA coffee bar. Those wishing to count in the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley, and Auke Bay areas will meet at the McDonald's restaurant on Trout Street opposite the Valley Breeze In. Bring binoculars and be prepared for the weather and walking



Two Anna's hummingbirds in winter. Photo by Patty Rose

conditions. We will divide into groups at the staging locations.

Afterward, there will be a potluck at the home of Jeff Sauer and Theresa Svancara, where the birds and species seen on count day will be tallied. Directions to the potluck will be available on the morning of the count. The potluck is a nonsmoking, pet-free event.

Birders who would like to take the count to the next level can get out and collect data during the entire week of Dec. 13 through Dec. 19. Species seen during count week that are not seen on count day will be noted in our report.

Special note- Mark Schwan is stepping down from our compiler team this year. We appreciate Mark's many years of service. Fortunately, compiler Gus van Vliet is staying on, and Patty Rose has volunteered to fill the vacancy left by Mark's retirement.

Contact Patty Rose at (907) 321-3328 with questions.

Can't participate in Juneau? The CBC will also take place on Dec. 17 in Hoonah this year, hosted by Amy Courtney! Contact atlargeA@juneau-audubon-society.org

•subsequent winter, suggesting that some birds have fidelity to their winter site. Most of the time, the re-encounter is in the exact same location as banding location. Other sightings were only a short distance away, with an all-time maximum of about 1.4 miles.

•Some song sparrows stay in Sitka year round; others leave for the summer and return the following winter.

•No long distance chickadee movements have been documented. This was expected as they were thought to be a true resident species that does not migrate at all.

•Kids love to see the banding operations; even the notoriously fidgety middle school crowd will give their full attention as the bird flies back to freedom.

Please help us find continue to find these birds! Some could show up in any Southeast Alaska community.

If you see a banded bird:

•Record the species (or best guess), the colors and position of bands, location and date. A photograph is very helpful. If your camera is not good with zoom or action shots, try a video. Even most phones can take video that would be helpful.

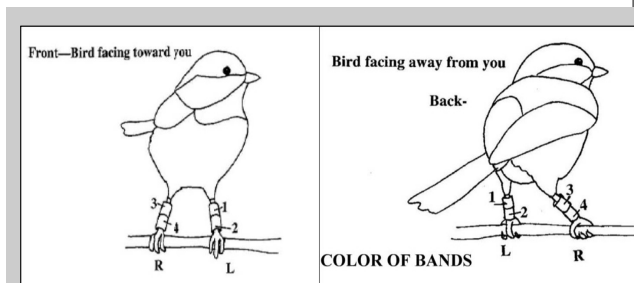
•In Sitka, try the online entry system at www.seaknature.org contact Matt Goff at:

s i t k a n a t u r e - ATgmail.com

•Outside Sitka, contact: gbalus-sATgmail.com

•If you find any banded bird, anywhere, and are able to get the numbers (sometimes possible with a good set of digital photos), report to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl. They keep a database of all licensed bird banders, and which numbers are assigned to each.

•If the bird is dead, collect the band(s), as these may be useful to the bander.



How to note a color combination. Note the bird's left leg, top (1) and bottom (2) and the right leg top (3) and bottom (4). Note that there will always be an aluminum numbered band somewhere. Note its position too. There may just be a numbered band or combinations on either leg up to a maximum of four bands. The possible colors for Sitka are: red, light blue, black, white, green, orange, yellow and brown.

Looking for more ways to support JAS?



Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give.

Here's how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

Pick.
Click.
Give.

When you apply for this year's PFD, don't forget to Pick.Click.Give. to the Juneau Audubon Society!

Help sustain our organization while playing a vital role in local conservation efforts.

Every gift counts!

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

Haines: [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](#)

Haines Birders Facebook group

Juneau: [Juneau Audubon Society](#) webpage www.juneauaudubonsociety.org

Links to even more bird lists and quarterly reports about whats hot (and what's not) compiled Steve Heinl and other local experts are archived

here: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

JAS Facebook

Sitka: Sitka Nature [bird postings](#)

Skagway: [Skagway Bird Club](#)

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Also check out:

[Southeast Alaska Regional Bird Observations—Spring](#)

This quarterly report summarizes seasonal bird sightings complete with locations and photos.

[6th Edition Audubon Guide to the Birds of Alaska](#)

<http://wiki.seaknature.org/Category:Bird>

Ever wonder which community is the best (or worst) place to find a target species? Want to see multiple online lists in one easy spot? Matt Goff's SEAKnature has it!

www.naturebob.com

Articles, photos and links to free articles and natural history books can be found on local nature writer Bob Armstrong's site.

Featured Photo

Have you noticed our new look?

Along with the new format, JAS is introducing a monthly featured photo. Have a shot you're proud of? Send it in and it may be featured in our newsletter. Submit photos to newsletter@juneau-audubonsociety.org. Be sure to include the species, date, and location you took the photo.

Right: Pigeon guillemot (Cephus Columba) by Jake Shurba. Taken October 5, 2017 in Haines, Alaska.



Juneau Audubon Society

Board of Directors

President: Gwen Baluss

Vice President: Marsha Squires

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Secretary: Amy Sherwin

Field Trips: Jason Colon

Newsletter: Sidney Campbell

Membership: Amanda Pilley

Education: Patricia Wherry

Programs: Brenda Wright

Conservation: *Vacant*

At Large A: Amy Clark Courtney

At Large B: Alexia Keifer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2017 Christmas Bird Count begins

December 13



Watch JAS Facebook, newsletter,
and website for more information
in December

Questions?

Contact Patty Rose

treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org

Thank You
for
Reading!

Be a part of conservation in your community

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National Membership~

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Local Membership~

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Board Seats~

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THE



RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY
VOLUME 44, ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2017



(C) Jim Beedle

JAS January Meeting: Juneau's Birds in Spring

Start the year right and join JAS for our January meeting featuring speaker and photographer Jim Beedle and get excited about Spring birding! The meeting takes place Thursday, January 11th at 7pm in UAS Recreation Center room 116. As always, the event is free and open to the public. Hope to see you there!



Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS meeting with Jim Beedle
Juneau's Birds in Spring

Jan 11

Juneau Audubon Society

P.O. Box 021725

Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

State Watchlist Birds in Southeast Alaska: Part I, Winter

By Gwen Baluss

Recently Dr. Nils Warnock, Executive Director for Audubon Alaska, spoke in Juneau about the latest Audubon watchlist for Alaska. The list uses the best available trend information to highlight species that are in decline, or especially vulnerable to big population drops, and for which key parts of the birds' habitat is within Alaska. This will be the first article of a series discussing the red-listed watchlist species that are found locally in Southeast Alaska, and some ideas about what we can do to help these birds.

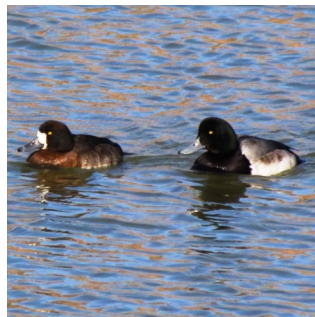
The following birds may be found on the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for Juneau. Information gained on the CBC is part of the picture that scientists use to make assumptions about species declines and changes of ranges. We thank all volunteers who help with this event.

Greater scaup: These ducks often congregate in our area during spring and fall migrations, occasionally in large flocks (of over 800 birds) have been registered on the CBC.

Reasons for widespread and serious declines over past decades are not known. There are many hypotheses; contamination issues and loss of boreal wetlands as permafrost melts are strong contenders.

What can we do? If you

hunt or know hunters, consider passing on taking scaup. Since it's difficult for most to quickly distinguish the greater from the lesser scaup, and there are also some



Greater scaup pair— note wide bill and pure green sheen to the drake's head. Photo by Bryant Olson. Flickr Photoshare/Creative Commons.

concerns about both species; avoiding both is a safe option. Suggest targeting more common species, such as mallards. Currently the limit in Southeast game unites is 7 ducks per day (freshwater types, with no more **CONT PG 3**

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community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping JAS earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.

Please take a moment and sign up today!

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Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

Haines: [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](#)

Haines Birders Facebook group

Juneau: [Juneau Audubon Society](#) webpage www.juneauaudubonsociety.org

Links to even more bird lists and quarterly reports about what's hot (and what's not) compiled Steve Heintz and other local experts are archived

here: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

JAS Facebook

Sitka: Sitka Nature [bird postings](#)

Skagway: [Skagway Bird Club](#)

Regional: Join EagleChat to see discussions and birding events taking place in Juneau and the rest of Southeast AK. Contact Gwen Baluss for an invitation!

(president@juneau-audubon-society.org)

Also check out:

[Southeast Alaska Regional Bird Observations—Spring](#)

This quarterly report summarizes seasonal bird sightings complete with locations and photos.

[6th Edition Audubon Guide to the Birds of Alaska](#)

<http://wiki.seaknature.org/Category:Bird>

Ever wonder which community is the best (or worst) place to find a target species?

Want to see multiple online lists in one easy spot? Matt Goff's SEAKnature has it!

www.naturebob.com

Articles, photos and links to free articles and natural history books can be found on local nature writer Bob Armstrong's site.

JAS Seeks Conservation Chair

Members, please consider joining our dynamic board!

This volunteer position is flexible in its duties, and time commitment. We'd love to have help with monitoring local management activities that would affect bird and wildlife habitat, bringing awareness of emerging conservation issues to our membership, and providing comments, where appropriate. Our charter does not generally allow weighing in on legal matters or creation action alerts, so the number of actions will be limited. The focus will be on Southeast AK, particularly news that will affect Important Bird Areas. Interest in birds is helpful, but you do not need to be an expert birder. Residents of SEAK communities outside of Juneau need to be able to call in to monthly meetings September – April.

For more information please contact Gwen Baluss: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

WATCHLIST breakdown by species given). This could give the false impression that all duck populations are equally abundant in Alaska. Nationwide, waterfowl species in general are well managed by a collective of federal and regional coordinators, and hunters have been a positive force in habitat conservation. As a result, many duck populations are doing well. However, local regulations have not caught up with national conservation priorities. Report large flocks of scaups on eBird. A good summary of how to tell the two species apart can be found online [here](#).

Greater Scaup are often seen in salt water. Add this "freshwater" duck to the countless species that will benefit from any initiative keeping our water clean.

Yellow-billed Loon

Audubon Alaska lists a global population for this species at only about 24,000. Consider-

ing its breeding range covers parts of Northern Alaska, Canada and Russia, it's a lucky birder who sees impressively large and indeed yellow



Yellow-billed loon. A young/winter bird. Photo by Tim Lenz. Flickr Photoshare/Creative Commons.

-billed bird.

Southeast Alaska is lucky to have a smattering of observations near most communities, and is considered part of its normal winter range.

This species is not considered endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), but concern has led to extensive assessment of its threats and information needs.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, "Breeding habitat loss or degradation, re-

duction of prey base due to overfishing, incidental mortality in fisheries, subsistence harvest, and predation are the main potential threats to yellow-billed loons."

The good news for this species is that it is on the radar of managers in Alaska. According to the USFWS "The Conservation Agreement (Agreement) for the yellow-billed loon (YBLO) *Gavia adamsii*, has been developed as a cooperative effort among local, state and federal resource agencies in northern and western Alaska in order to take measures necessary for the conservation of the species."

What can we do? Speak up for the federal and state agencies who employ trained biologists to responsibly monitor and inform the public about wildlife management. Budget cuts and vilification from the public continue to dampen the effectiveness of agencies to **CONT PG 4**

WATCHLIST do their lower research esti-
job. mates, some 100,000

Contribute to members of this species
knowledge of where that is listed as endan-
these birds breed and gered in the lower 48
range by reporting obser- states.
vations in eBird. In
winter it can be quite
difficult to distinguish at
a distance from the
Common Loon. In fact, a
quick perusal of biding
forums on the internet
will yield vigorous dis-
cussion and plenty of
conjecture by hopeful
watchers. An advanced
birding guidebook is
helpful to distinguish
the two.

Support fisherman who
are taking measures to
reduce or eliminate by-
catch of seabirds.

Marbled Murrelet
Southeast Alaska is a
hotspot for this species,
where we can enjoy by



Marbled murrelet, winter plumage. Auke Bay. Photo by Gwen Baluss.

The watchlist states
"Threats in Alaska in-
clude marine regime
shifts that affect food
supply, predation by
avian predators, inci-
dental bycatch in gillnet
fisheries, and logging of
old growth habitat."

What can we do? Sup-
port fisherman who are
taking measures to pro-
tect seabirds.

Support conservation
and research for recover
of the small bait fish
eaten by murrelets.
Consider that Marbled
Murrelets in Southern-
most Alaska could be
affected by timber sales
of large trees. (Note that
murrelets do use other
habitats, such as mossy
rocks, farther north).
Maintaining water quali-
ty in the Inside Passage
will help murrelets.

See more about the
watchlist (including
some yellow-listed birds
that may be vulnerable)
here:

[http://ak.audubon.org/
conservation/alaska-
watchlist](http://ak.audubon.org/conservation/alaska-watchlist)

**Pick.
Click.
Give.**

When you apply for this
year's PFD, don't forget to
Pick.Click.Give. to the
Juneau Audubon Society!

Help sustain our
organization while
playing a vital role in
local conservation efforts.

Every gift counts!

For all their hard work picking berries, making jam,
and staffing our Public Market booth, JAS would like
to sincerely thank volunteers! Mary Lou King, Brenda
Wright, Patricia Wherry, Jeff Sauer, Doug Jones, Su-
san Hickey, Mary Willson, Mary Claire Harris, Bev
Aglar, Hetty Barthel, Deb Rudis, Kari Monagle, Karen
Capp, Bob Piorkowski, Theresa Svancara, Marsha
Squires, Alexia Kiefer, Carol Race, Molly McCafferty,
Gus Van Vliet, Patty Rose, Amy Sherwin, and Gwen
Baluss, we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank
you

Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results

by Patty Rose
The 45th Juneau Christmas
Bird Count took place Satur-
day, December 16. Thirty-one
volunteers went out in the
rain and wind and reported
52 species and 9,393 individ-
ual birds. A few feeder watch-
ers also contributed their ob-
servations to the count. The
weather undoubtedly affect-
ed the outcome, and the
number of species reported
was one of the lowest on rec-
ord. Fortunately, good weath-
er during count week enabled
volunteers to add 22 count
week species, for a respecta-
ble total of 74.

The rarest birds of the day
were four evening grosbeaks
seen at a downtown feeder.
Evening grosbeak had not
been previously seen on a
Juneau Christmas Bird Count.
Other noteworthy observa-
tions were Bonaparte's gull,

Eurasian collared-dove, great
horned owl, and Anna's hum-
mingbird on count day, and
Northern shoveler, American
three-toed woodpecker, and
hoary redpoll during count
week.

The count resulted in one
new high and one new low. A
count of seven black-billed
magpies set a new low for
that species. The previous low
was eight in 1981. A count of
four evening grosbeaks add-
ed a new species to the
checklist and established a
high count for that species.

Despite the weather, the 23
species that have been seen
on each of the other 44
counts were seen on count
day. The five most numerous
species were mallard (2,243),
surf scoter (1,684), Canada
goose (1,398), glaucous-
winged gull (1,032), and
Northwestern crow (865).

2nd Annual Hoo- nah CBC Report

by Amy Courtney
Despite this being
only our second year,
and thus a "fledgling"
Christmas Bird Count
circle, I was quite
pleased with the
numbers and variety
of birds that the
handful of us Hoo-
nah birders were able
to find this year. We
did our count on De-
cember 16th. The
first half of the day it
poured rain,
and small land birds
proved to be quite
elusive. Fortunately
the skies cleared in
the afternoon, and
we were able to re-
deem our numbers a
bit.

TOTALS:
Individual birds: 2,054
Species: 43

THE



RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2018

Beginning Birding through the Lens

Join JAS for our February free meeting 'Beginning Birding through the Lens' with Juneau birders Scott and Betsy Fischer. As always, the meeting takes place at the UAS rec center in room 116. Meetings are free and open to the public. Learn more on our website www.juneau-audubon-society.org or call 321-4739.

Hope to see you there!

Top photo by Scott Fischer
Bottom photo by Betsy Fischer



Scott Fischer



Betsy Fischer 2017

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS Meeting with Scott and Betsy Fischer

Feb 8

Beginning Birding through the Lens

Classes for Beginning Birding with Patricia Wherry

Feb 8, 15, 22

7-8:30pm Harborview Elementary

Mar 1

JAS Meeting with Ted Murphy-Kelly

Mar 15

Juneau Audubon Society

P.O. Box 021725

Juneau, AK 99802

Address Service Requested

Birding for Beginners with Patricia Wherry



Patricia has enjoyed teaching the basics of birds through Community School for Juneau Audubon going on 6 years, and is excited to offer a new round of four classes. The classes will cover local area birds - those resident and those migrating. Students will also consider some interesting bird basics: Why wrens can sing so rapidly; Where birds come by all the energy to fly from here to Antarctica; and How herons clean up after lunch. There will be a lot of

hands on material thanks to educational bird kits provided by ADF&G, Wildlife. Classes will be Thursday evenings 7-8:30pm in Harborview Elementary School. Feb 8, 15, 22, March 1. You can sign up now for the course through Community School by calling 523-1761. Other up-

coming courses include a 2 evening course about those resident birds who get first crack at setting up housekeeping in the spring to meet April 12 and 19; and one evening about warblers as they begin to return, taught May 10. All aspiring birders are encouraged to come learn and have fun!

YELLOWLEGS CONT that parallels movement seen along the Atlantic and through the middle of the continent, it does not seem to be published yet for individual birds. A surprising threat has been identified for yellowlegs: hunting at migratory stopovers. With the exception of snipe and limited subsistence take, hunting of shorebirds is rare in North America, thanks to their inclusion in the Migratory Bird Treaty, and something most birders think of as only a past, not a current conservation threat. However, these birds do not enjoy the same protection though out their entire range. For example, in Barbados, a key strategic stopover point for exhausted birds traveling towards South America in the fall, hunting is a long-term tradition. Luckily, entities like the US FWS and Birdlife International are working with the hunters in Barbados on species conservation and voluntary limits. However, the story could be different

in places such as Guyana where apparently all shorebird species can be hunted. What can we do? Support healthy wetlands and estuaries, where these birds stop to feed. The Mendenhall Wetlands Important Bird Area often has concentrations yellowlegs. It is threatened by continued adjacent urban development, and sewage treatment. If you see a bunch of these birds report it in eBird. Hotspots in migration could be important information. Around Juneau, dogs chasing shorebirds could have an impact. Yellowlegs have a long, long, ways to go—disrupting important feeding time could affect their schedule, making them more vulnerable to problems they may face on the way, such as storms. Encourage those you know to keep the pups close when around shorebird feeding hotspots. Support organizations and government groups that

study shorebirds such as: US Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, University of Alaska at Anchorage, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Birdlife International. Report Lesser Yellowlegs in eBird, especially if wandering out in our many "underbirded" areas of remote Southeast Alaska. Beginning birders will enjoy this challenge: separating from Greater Yellowlegs. Be sure to look closely at the bill length, compared to the rest of the head.



THIS YEAR IS BIG FOR BIRDS Get ready to help take action for birds! The [National Audubon Society](#), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#), [National Geographic](#), and [BirdLife International](#) have joined with more than 100 other organizations and millions of people around the world to celebrate 2018 as the "[Year of the Bird](#)." Visit [BirdYourWorld.org](#) to take the Year of the Bird pledge and discover simple but meaningful steps that anyone can take to help birds each month--steps that include participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count!

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www.naturebob.com

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Juneau Removes Bald Eagle Nest Buffers

By Gwen Baluss

In January the CBJ Assembly narrowly voted to remove extra protections for Bald Eagles that limited development and disturbance within 350 of active nests and 50 feet of non-active nests. The reason given was that there was no way to enforce the rule and no federal biologists available to find and check on eagle nests. This rule change no doubt will be a disappointment to those who want to see the local eagle population continue to thrive, and are concerned that nests will be disturbed. However, eagles are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act



Bald eagle nest, photo accessed from pixabay.com

and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The CBJ also drafted Best Management Practices, where developers can voluntarily be better neighbors to eagles. Some eagles can be quite tolerant to development. Now, it may be in part up to citizens to keep tabs on known nests, to ensure that eagles are not being

hassled. If you know of an eagle's nest that does not already have a yellow eagle sign at the tree base, it's a good idea to document its exact location (such as a GPS point, or a pinpoint on Google Maps), and the dates that birds are using it, especially when the young are present. If there is a development planned nearby, or you are concerned that an eagle or any raptor has been jeopardized, inform the US Fish and Wildlife Service 907-780-1160.

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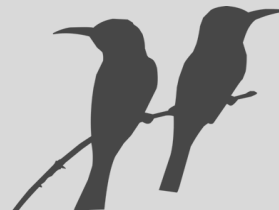
Education: Patricia Wherry

Programs: Brenda Wright

Conservation: *Vacant*

At Large A: Amy Courtney

At Large B: Alexia Keifer



State Watchlist Birds In South- east Alaska: Part II, A Super- migrant in Decline

By Gwen Baluss

In December, Dr. Nils Warnock, Executive Director for Audubon Alaska, spoke in Juneau about the latest Audubon watchlist for Alaska. The list uses the best available trend information to highlight species that are in decline, or especially vulnerable to big population drops – and for which key parts of the birds' habitat is within Alaska. Last month, I discussed three red-listed species from this list that may be found in winter locally: Greater Scaup, Yellow-billed Loon and Marbled Murrelet.

I continue the discussion this month with a bird that passes through Southeast AK on its journeys: **Lesser Yellowlegs.** This species breeds in bog areas throughout much of interior AK and boreal Canada. They



A Lesser Yellowlegs rests on flats near Juneau airport in late August.
Photo by G. Baluss

like to forage in open, shallow mud areas such as river mouths and wetlands.

Lesser Yellowlegs are complete migrants, meaning there is no overlap between breeding and non-breeding range. And they cover a lot of distance. Boreal breeding birds may be heading into South America. Its not known how and if the birds divide up by sub-population into different continental routes or flyways. A fascinating presentation about this, along with interesting results from tagged birds can be found here: <https://goo.gl/T7wKEC> The results show that birds from Anchorage went essentially all over the Americas. For example, one bird

stopped over in New Brunswick and Guyana before spending most the winter in Argentina. I always assumed that a Lesser Yellowlegs I saw at Mendenhall wetlands in August was using the Pacific flyway and heading for places like the estuaries of Northern California and Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico, because these are places I happened to have seen groups of them. If there is a Pacific coast movement **CONT PG 7**

Looking for more ways to support JAS?



Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give.

Here's how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

Pick. Click. Give.

When you apply for this year's PFD, don't forget to Pick.Click.Give. to the Juneau Audubon Society!

Help sustain our organization while playing a vital role in local conservation efforts.

Every gift counts!

THE



RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2018

JAS March Meeting: Special Place and Time!

Don't miss this month's very special JAS meeting with Ted Murphy-Kelly, founder of the Society of Yukon Bird Observatories. Join JAS on Thursday, March 15th at 7pm in the Egan Lecture Hall at UAS. Note- **this is a different place and time than our usual meeting** to accommodate Ted's travel from Whitehorse. Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

As always, these meetings are free and open to the public. Hope to see you there!



Above: Ted Murphy-Kelly with Northern harrier by Jukka Jantunen
Below: Yellow-bellied sapsucker by Gwen Baluss



Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS Meeting with Ted Murphy-Kelly
Bird Migration Monitoring in the Yukon

Mar 15

PFD Application Deadline

Be sure to pick, click, give for JAS!

Mar 31

JAS Founder Honored

We are proud to announce that Mary Lou King is being inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame this May. Mary Lou recently retired from JAS board after a remarkable and successful continuous run of over 40 years. Beyond her work with Audubon, she has been an advocate for

conservation and natural history learning in Alaska for more than 50 years. She has published numerous books on topics ranging from hiking to birding field guides, created student outdoor curricula, and promoted cultural learning.

Thanks, and congratulations Mary Lou!



Juneau Audubon by the Numbers

By Gwen Baluss

Completing our Annual Report is always a spreadsheet chore that I don't look forward to. But once it's done, I'm so excited to see some of our accomplishments totaled up. Here are some highlights I picked out from fiscal year 2017.

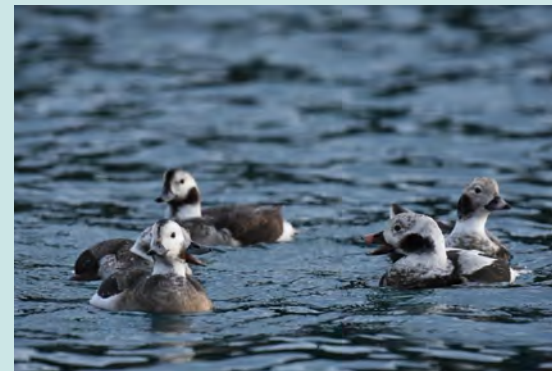
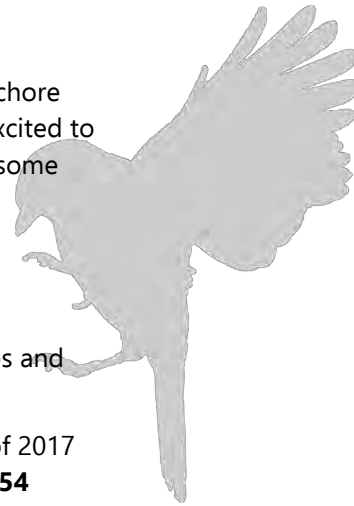
Kids reached in bird-based education activities: **140**

Volunteer hours: **925**

Estimate of people hours spent participating in field trips and evening programs: **800**

Number people reached, top JAS Facebook page post of 2017 (an outreach for swallow boxes looking for homes): **2,954**

We couldn't do it without your support- THANK YOU!



Featured Photo

Left: A group of long-tailed ducks chatting this winter in Auke Bay by Gwen Baluss

Have you taken a bird photo you are proud of? Email newsletter@juneau-audubon-society.org for a chance to be featured in our newsletter!

KNOW YOUR AUDUBON

Did you know that Alaska hosts five different Audubon chapters in addition to the state Audubon and the national Audubon? Make sure you know where your valuable donation is going and, if you're in any of these areas, be sure to take advantage of the resources offered by the local chapter!



National Audubon Society

Service Area: Nation-wide

(Funds are shared with local chapters. Membership includes automatic enrollment in local chapter.)

Staff or Volunteer: Staffed

www.Audubon.org



Alaska Audubon

Service Area: State of Alaska

(Funds are not shared with local chapters.)

Staff or Volunteer: Staffed

www.AKAudubon.org

LOCAL CHAPTERS

Anchorage Audubon

Service Area: Anchorage

Staff or Volunteer: All Volunteer

www.AnchorageAudubon.org

Arctic Audubon

Service Area: Fairbanks

Staff or Volunteer: All Volunteer

www.ArcticAudubon.org

Juneau Audubon Society

Service Area: Southeast Alaska

Staff or Volunteer: All Volunteer

www.Juneau-Audubon-Society.org

Kodiak Audubon

Service Area: Kodiak

Staff or Volunteer: All Volunteer

www.KodiakAudubon.blogspot.com

Prince William Sound Audubon

Service Area: Cordova

Staff or Volunteer: All Volunteer

No Website Available

Juneau Audubon Society

Board of Directors

President: Gwen Baluss

Vice President: Marsha Squires

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Secretary: Amy Sherwin

Field Trips: Jason Colon

Newsletter: Sidney Campbell

Membership: Amanda Pilley

Education: Patricia Wherry

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Conservation: *Vacant*

At Large A: Amy Clark Courtney

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JAS Needs You!

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JAS SEEKS SUMMER INTERN

Juneau Audubon Society seeks locally based volunteer internship. Duties will include Tree Swallow nest box monitoring, assistance with swallow and hummingbird banding research project, data entry and document scanning; may also include assistance with environmental education projects, web design, and help with other wildlife projects. Good work experience for students!

Deadline: Open until filled. Review of applicants will begin immediately.

Dates: Approximately mid-May through early July 2018

Compensation: \$1200 food and expense stipend for a 6-week period.

Required skills: Basic bird ID skills and interest in wildlife management and working with non-profit organizations, general computer skills – use of Microsoft Excel and scanner; an introductory college biology or natural resource course passed; ability to hike and bicycle several miles; ability to take neat and complete field data. Volunteer needs to have a cell phone, and health insurance, and be age 18 or older.

For more info contact: Gwen Baluss (president@juneau-audubon-society.org) and Brenda Wright (programs@juneau-audubon-society.org)

Looking for more ways to support JAS?



Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give.

Here's how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

Haines: [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](#)

Haines Birders Facebook group

Juneau: [Juneau Audubon Society](#) webpage www.juneauaudubonsociety.org

Links to even more bird lists and quarterly reports about whats hot (and what's not) compiled Steve Heint and other local experts are archived here: <http://bit.ly/2oNaZPY>

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Also check out:

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This quarterly report summarizes seasonal bird sightings complete with locations and photos.

[6th Edition Audubon Guide to the Birds of Alaska](#)

<http://wiki.seaknature.org/Category:Bird>

Ever wonder which community is the best (or worst) place to find a target species? Want to see multiple online lists in one easy spot? Matt Goff's SEAKnature has it!

www.naturebob.com

Articles, photos and links to free articles and natural history books can be found on local nature writer Bob Armstrong's site.

Pick.
Click.
Give.

When you apply for this year's PFD, don't forget to Pick.Click.Give. to the Juneau Audubon Society!

Help sustain our organization while playing a vital role in local conservation efforts.

Every gift counts!

THE



RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2018

State Watchlist Birds in SEAK: Part III, Early Spring

By Gwen Baluss

We continue to discuss the Audubon "red" watchlist for Alaska, updated in 2017. The list uses the best available trend information to highlight species that are in decline, or especially vulnerable to big population drops, and for which key parts of the birds' habitat is within Alaska.

Black-legged Kittiwake

This species might even be appropriately called "sea gulls" because they make their nests in sea cliff and tend to spend winters far out to sea.

In Southeast Alaska, there are a few nesting colonies from Glacier Bay North into Aleutian and Arctic zones. Mostly we see



Black-legged Kittiwake by TheMadBirdLady/Flickr Creative Commons

them in spring, as birds stop by to eat tasty fish like capelin, fattening up before they go to nest.

These medium-sized gulls are one of the more distinctive, making them slightly less maddening to identify than most gulls. The key is the thick dark colored wing tips, said to look as if the wing tipped was dipped in ink. And yes, they do have dark legs, making them stand out from other local species.

It was surprising to see a gull on the watchlist; gulls as a group tend to be nu-

merous and successful. And indeed, the world-wide population is over 2 million. However, according to Audubon Alaska: "Numbers in the Gulf of Alaska dropped after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill and have been in a long, steady downward trajectory over the last three and half decades. Current declines appear to be correlated with increasing ocean temperatures." And Alaska hosts the majority of the world's kittiwakes.

So, while the conservation of this gull is not urgent, it can be added to species that are affected by ocean temperature changes in the north. Like other seabird species, any efforts to conserve water quality and combat global warming will help kittiwakes survive into the future.

CONT PG 3

Annual Berners Bay Cruises

Join Juneau Audubon Society on a cruise to Berners Bay aboard a spacious, comfortable Allen Marine Tours catamaran. Learn all about spring wildlife from humpback whales and sea lions to gulls and eagles while supporting JAS! The dates this year are Saturday, April 28, and Saturday, May 12. The boats leave from Statter Harbor in Auke Bay at 8:30 a.m., and board about 15 minutes before departure. Conditions permitting, we will go up into Berners Bay, returning to Statter Harbor at 12:30 p.m. During the cruises, our onboard naturalists will speak on the history and wildlife of the area.



Tickets will be available at Hearthside Books in early April at a cost of \$70 for adults, \$40 for students, including UAS, and \$25 for children under 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Birding Events:

JAS Meeting—Identifying Spring Arrivals and Migrants Apr 12

UAS Rec Center rm 116 at 7pm

Berners Bay Cruise

Tickets available at Hearthside Books

**Apr 28 &
May 12**

2018 Alaska Hummingbird Festival

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, Ketchikan

Apr 6-28

2018 Stikine River Birding Festival, Wrangell

Keynote by Julia Parrish, Executive Director COASST

Apr 27-30

2018 Yakutat Tern Festival, Yakutat

Celebrate one of the largest breeding colonies of Arctic tern

May 31-Jun 3

Sooty Grouse



Sooty Grouse by Gwen Baluss.

Locally, this grouse is more familiarly known as "hooter". And its distinctive "whoop" "whoop" is a happy sign of spring. The sound is made from pushing air through colorful throat sacs.

Formerly this species was lumped with a closely related species, the Dusky Grouse, into the Blue Grouse.

Found from sea level to alpine, Sooty Grouse are fond of openings with older trees, like subalpine forest with well-spaced trees and gaps. They do not do well in urban areas.

Concerns include: forest management practices (creating overly thick or shady types of forest); global warming in the southern part of their range where they are re-

stricted to tall, isolated mountains, and a simple lack of monitoring range wide. Historically, game transplants, such as the addition of Marten to Baranof Island, may have contributed to loss of grouse there.

Grouse of course are hunted. This is both an opportunity to engage hunters in studies and conservation efforts, and a potential hazard. The current bag limit of 5 birds per day may be over-generous given the low densities of grouse in some areas, and the world population estimated by

Audubon as only around 533, 000. Over-hunting has contributed to the extinction of one grouse species in North America, the Heath Hen, and the endangerment of others such as the Attwater's Prairie Chicken.

This species can be helped by supporting the AKDF&G efforts to monitor and study this species. Hunters can participate in wing submissions of game birds when requested. See more about the watchlist (including some yellow-listed birds) here: <http://ak.audubon.org/conservation/alaska-watchlist>

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A BOREAL BIG YEAR



over by the Alaska Songbird Institute. Now, he is going to help out with their work with an interesting challenge. Nick says: "I will be participating in ASI's Big Year fundraiser. The rules are simple: find as many bird species as you can in the year 2018! Instead of keeping a list of birds that I see around the entire state, I will be limiting my list to species that I find in Alaska, North of the Arctic Circle several times, at places such as Utqiagvik (Barrow), Prudhoe Bay, Kaktovik, and Kotzebue, to name a few." Working as a pilot, Nick will have an opportunity to visit and explore some of the "underbirded" corners of the far north. Winter of course is tough up there, so to date Nick has only logged . But he hopes for a lot more species as the spring comes.

We should also note that ASI helps support our efforts to monitor Tree Swallows locally. They have provided grants to initiate a banding effort this year and have been responsible for protocol development and data keeping state wide.

If you would like to support this effort, consider donating. Learn more at www.borealbirdathome.org where you can search for Nick to add your support. Best of luck, Nick!

If you follow eBird, or Alaska rare bird postings, you probably know of Nick Hajdukovich. Most notably, he found a Great Crested Flycatcher on the UAS campus in late September, 2009. Local birders still remember that incredible find. Nick got his start in birding helping with swallow boxes and other projects at Alaska Bird Observatory in Fairbanks. Following the closure of ABO, projects were taken

2018 Stikine River Birding Festival

Visitors to the Stikine River in the spring have a chance to see one of the biggest migratory bird gatherings on the entire West Coast. Thousands of sandpipers, thousands of Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes and more stop at the delta, an Audubon Important Bird Area. From April 27-30, activities in town include bird walks with local experts, songbird banding demonstration, Ducks Unlimited banquet, bird art, and more. This year's featured speaker is Julia Parrish, the Executive Director of the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team. Also featured is Alaskan Photographer Mark Kelly. For more information about the festival see: <http://www.wrangell.com/birdingfestival>



Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

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Haines Birders Facebook group
- Juneau:** [Juneau Audubon Society](#) webpage www.juneauaudubonsociety.org
Links to even more bird lists and quarterly reports about whats hot (and what's not) compiled Steve Heint and other local experts are archived here: <http://bit.ly/2oNaZPY>
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JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 8

APRIL 2018

ONE MORE BERNER'S BAY CRUISE!



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Upcoming Birding Events:

Berners Bay Cruise

May 12

Tickets available at Hearthside Books

2018 Yakutat Tern Festival, Yakutat

May 31-Jun 3

Celebrate one of the largest breeding colonies of Arctic terns

JAS Low Tide Walk

Jun 16

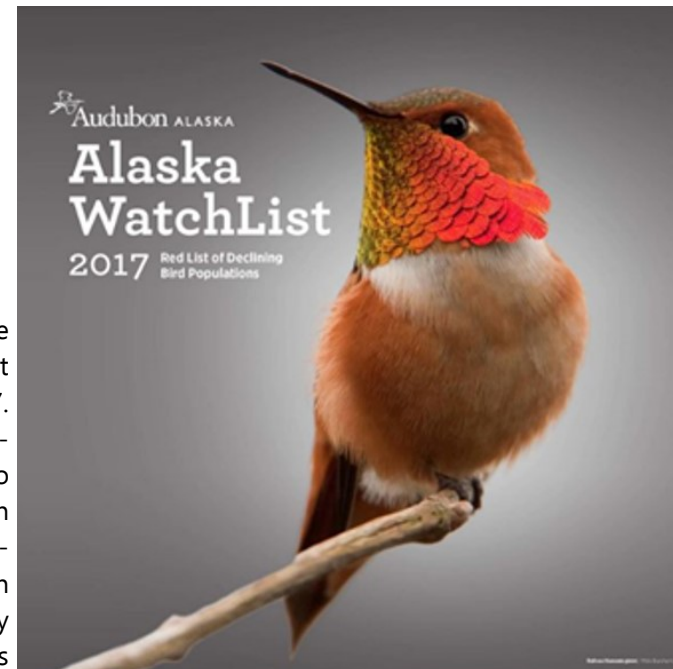
9:30am, location TBD

State Watchlist Birds in Southeast Alaska Part IV: A Refuge for Hummingbirds?

By Gwen Baluss

We continue to discuss the Audubon "Red" watchlist for Alaska, updated in 2017. The list uses the best available trend information to highlight species that are in decline, or especially vulnerable to big population drops, and for which key parts of the birds' habitat is within Alaska. What species is on the cover? The Rufous Hummingbird.

We are lucky to encounter this species frequently during Southeast Alaska's short summers. Their arrival is celebrated in April; they are even the center of birding, arts and other fun events at the Ketchikan Hummingbird Festival. Usually the first sightings are males, but both males and females set up shop between mid-April and early May. The males don't help at all with the nest or nestlings and take off by July 1. Females begin to migrate out in July and are rarely seen after August 1. A few young birds may linger in to fall, but they too are mostly gone by the first week in August. Rufous hummingbirds breed throughout the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rocky Mountains. They winter in Mexico, especially in the Sierra Madre mountains. Some also use drier parts of Mexico or



the US Gulf states. Hummingbirds eat a variety of insects and spiders in addition to nectar and sap from sapsucker wells.

Unfortunately, multiple broad scale bird surveys suggest a potential decline in the species. Because hummingbirds behave differently than most songbirds, being more clustered around food sources such as flowers, the differences detected could be related to different flowering patterns and not differences in hummingbird populations. However, different flowering times could mean trouble for these migratory birds as the climate warms. Other concerns that have come to light recently include: changes in flower availability due to climate change or land use change, drying of forests in the northern Rocky Mountains, fire suppression in the Sierra Madre, systemic pesticide use, and wide use of hummingbird feeders. Perhaps Alaska will become more important **CONT PG 4**

Yakutat Tern Festival Set to Begin May 31



The Eighth Annual Yakutat Tern Festival is May 31-June 3, 2018. The festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southernmost 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, bird banding demonstration, and other programs.

This year's keynote speaker, Lynn Schooler is an Alaskan writer, photographer, and woodworker who worked as a wilderness guide for over 25 years, specializing in serving wildlife photographers and natural history film makers. He is the author of the *Blue Bear*, *Walking Home*, *The Last Shot*, and *Heartbroke Bay*. *Walking Home* was awarded Canada's Banff Film and Book Festival 'Best Mountain Literature' award in 2011. He is a regular contributor to the Japanese arts, travel, and culture magazine *Coyote*, and his writing has been published in a dozen languages. His photos of Alaska have been featured in publications world-wide. In 2014 he was invited to France as the 'Foreign Guest of Honor' at Eu-

rope's largest outdoor photography event, the Festival Montier, where an exhibition of his photos was viewed by more than 40,000 visitors.

Kathy Hocker, the featured artist, grew up in Juneau and now lives in Gustavus. She holds a degree in biology from Harvard University and a graduate certificate in science illustration from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Kathy's professional career has focused on learning, writing, teaching, and illustrating about Southeast Alaska's landscape, plants, animals, and people. Certified as a Teaching Artist by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, she offers art residencies and workshops in schools throughout Alaska. She has written and illustrated several books for children and adults.

Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beachcombing. Please see www.yakutatternfestival.org, visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

Tree Swallow Boxes Are Back Up!

By Brenda Wright

Although spring is late, it is slowly coming— no frosts for 10 days! This means JAS volunteers have been putting up tree swallow nest boxes around town. Juneau Audubon Society started this program 4 years ago. Almost all insect eating birds are in drastic decline. Several brand new pesticides are the likely culprits— the same neonicotinids that are killing all the honey bees back east. In any case, we put up boxes, monitor success, and then take them back down.

Almost all the boxes are on public land, either parks & rec or our wetlands refuge. We also have some up next to the refuge on SEAL Trust lands. We tried

leaving some up all winter but the snow or winds bent them over as they are just on pipes with 1/4" rebar in the ground for structure.

So a small army of volunteers gathers and we put the boxes up. With enough people it goes pretty easily. However, this year the ground was frozen solid for 6-8". Pretty hard to pound the rebar in for 2.5'! Tree swallows have been seen in Juneau, but not yet at any of our 8 nest box sites. I look forward to seeing the swallows return. We all hope they have many successful nests this year!



WATCHLIST CONT as a breeding area, remaining lush and moist as parts of the Northwestern US become drier.

What can we do? Support initiatives that help pollinators. These will help hummingbirds too. Support limits to use of systemic pesticides (neonicotinoids) both at home and in Mexico. Plant organically grown flowers. This is the safest way to enjoy hummingbirds.

Wondering what the best plants are? The new USDA guide *Maintaining and Improving Habitat for Hummingbirds in Alaska* compiles information about hummingbird habitat and food habits: goo.gl/MmXBck

If you decide to keep a feeder, keep in



mind that it's a commitment to keep the birds safe. Think about any hazards including windows. Avoid feeders with sharp edges or small downward facing holes (birds can get startled and catch a bill or feet in these). Clean and scrub all surfaces of feeders at least twice a week. Mold can kill hummingbirds. Boil white sugar and water only, no dye or brown-colored sugar.

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

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www.naturebob.com

Articles, photos and links to free articles and natural history books can be found on local nature writer Bob Armstrong's site.

Spring Bird Walks are Back!

Every Saturday from now until June 16, join JAS for a guided birding walk at a variety of Juneau locations. See our website for times and locations—hope to see you there!

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JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2018

JAS Gets a New Look

By Gwen Baluss

A little over two years ago, we decided it was time to update our image. We needed a snappy logo, ready for the digital age, that could be used on the web or social media. The prevalence of similar raven logos being used by multiple local organizations and businesses prompted some of us to want something that might set help our group stand out visually.

We decided to commission an original from local artist Tanna Peters, Juneau resident and Alaska-raised artist who has done work for local organizations like KTOO and Trail Mix. Various iterations with different designs and bird species emerged.

The Juneau Audubon Society board tends to be a quiet group with nearly all



de-

decisions being made quickly with 100% consensus. The logo project was a notable exception. Each of us had a different take on what would work best. It must be said too that some did not see the utility in changing at all. I took this level of passion as sign that our graphic image is important.

Tanna, with our input, created one that we all liked: the Steller's Jay! Keep an eye out for our new logo as we transition from old to new!

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

October Big Day

Cornell Lab of Ornithology Backyard Bird Count

Oct 6

JAS Monthly Meeting

Beaver Impact on Wildlife with Chuck Caldwell

Oct 11

Last day to comment on Tongass Roadless Rule

Learn more about public comment on PG 2

Oct 15

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

American Bald Eagle Foundation - Haines, AK

Nov 7-10

a WORD from the CONSERVATION CHAIR

By Debbie Hart

Hello Audubon members,

Two efforts are taking place this fall that could have important long-term impacts to habitat conservation in Alaska – these include new efforts to revise the 2001 Roadless Rule on National Forest System Lands across the state and the State of Alaska Ballot Measure #1 which could change how habitat permits are addressed by the State. For more information on these two efforts please see the following:

Possible revisions to the 2001 Roadless Rule on National Forest System Lands in Alaska:

In early August 2018, the State of Alaska and the USDA Forest Service signed a memorandum of understanding to develop an Alaska state-specific roadless rule. You can find more information on this on the USFS website at: <https://goo.gl/h1dz12>

The Forest Service has held public meetings throughout the month of September and they are taking comments through October 15, 2018 through an online portal system which can be as-

essed here: <https://goo.gl/KhoCgU>

You can also sign up to receive project notifications through this portal as well or by sending them by mail to this address:

USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff,
P.O. Box 21628,
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

As outlined through the Forest Service press release an Alaska state-specific roadless rule will determine which currently designated roadless areas would require a different management designation to further Alaska's economic development or other needs, while still conserving roadless areas for generations to come. The state-specific rule will amend the 2001 Roadless Rule, which prohibits road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on certain National Forest System lands across the country. Currently, in Alaska, the majority of National Forest System lands are inventoried roadless areas. About a quarter are designated Wilderness, where road construction is also prohibited. In establishing this new rule, the USDA Forest Service is responding to Alaska's petition for a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The petition was accepted by **CONT PG 4**

JAS is going paperless!

We are committed to conserving natural resources, and digital newsletters go a long way toward this goal. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of our newsletter, please let us know by emailing membership@juneau-audubon-society.org



Reflecting on a Busy Summer

Juneau Audubon Society completed the fourth year of the tree swallow nest box data project. This year we were able to have a student intern to help with the data collection. Not only did Delana Wilks help with opening all the boxes to count eggs and young, she took lots of photos and kept our data organized to share with the statewide tree swallow database. Many thanks to Delana for her excellent work, and to the Alaska Songbird Institute for assistance in expanding our monitoring to include bird banding. In 2018 we had nests in 32 of our 59 nest boxes. Thanks also to all of our dedicated volunteers!



Our summer events also included our summer outdoor adventures with a low tide walk in June, an alpine walk above the Mt. Roberts tram in July, and our most popular non-birding event, discovering our local mushrooms. To all Juneau Audubon Society members, thank you for your continued support which allows us to sponsor exciting community events such as these!



Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in April 2018, with the decision to pursue a state-specific roadless rule. National Forest System lands in Alaska that are designated Wilderness would be unaffected by this rulemaking.

In addition, Governor Bill Walker issued Administrative Order 299 in early September 2018, establishing the Alaska Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee, and creating an opportunity for Southeast Alaskans to advise the State of Alaska on the future management of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest. This Committee will consist of up to 13 voting members, representing federally recognized tribes in Alaska and Alaska Native regional corporations; environmental organizations; the timber, mining, tourism, energy, and commercial fishing industries; and state and local governments. A list of Committee members is expected soon.

State of Alaska Ballot Measure #1

On November 6th Alaskans will have a chance to vote on a ballot initiative addressing the habitat permitting process used by the state. A yes vote on this initiative will alter the existing process revising Title 16 in an effort to strengthen the protections for fish and aquatic habitats

that are at risk due to a variety of human activities.

You can find the initiative description on the Lt. Governor's website at: <https://goo.gl/E7rXuM>

In addition, State law requires a minimum of two public hearings be held on the initiative in each of Alaska's four judicial districts before October 6. Only in-person testimony will be allowed during community meetings, though Alaskans will be able to follow along remotely by watching online at <http://akl.tv> or by calling 844-586-9085. There will also be a statewide teleconference where phone comments will be allowed. Anyone wishing to provide an online comment can visit this website (<https://goo.gl/5gakNR>), this site also provides information on previous testimony as well as other resources pertinent to the initiative such as State Agency responses to frequently asked questions: <https://goo.gl/kKugJG>

The remaining hearing will take place: Statewide Teleconference Only Session - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 13, 2018 – Testimony will be taken only over the phone for this hearing.

BOREAL BIG YEAR UPDATE

Earlier this year we reported that former Juneau birder Nick Hajdukovich was doing a north-of-the-arctic-circle big year. As the northern summer comes to a close he has ticked 129 species. Nice work, Nick! You can still donate for the rest of the year. This benefits the Alaska Songbird Institute. Go to ASI's Big Year Website: http://www.borealbirdathon.org/3/sponsor_participant.htm



Looking for more ways to support JAS?



Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give.

Here's how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **PF013**

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

MONTHLY PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

Juneau Audubon Society resumes monthly free public lectures this October, scheduled every 2nd Thursday from October to April and held at UAS. Thursday October 11 features "Beaver Impact on Wildlife" presented by Chuck Caldwell (to be immediately preceded by JAS board elections). Meetings will be in a new location this year: UAS Egan hall room 112. All meetings start at 7pm, hope to see you there!

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

Haines: [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](#)

Haines Birders Facebook group

Juneau: [Juneau Audubon Society](#) webpage www.juneauaudubonsociety.org

Links to even more bird lists and quarterly reports about whats hot (and what's not) compiled Steve Heinl and other local experts are archived here: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

JAS Facebook

Sitka: Sitka Nature [bird postings](#)

Skagway: [Skagway Bird Club](#)

Regional: Join EagleChat to see discussions and birding events taking place in Juneau and the rest of Southeast AK. Contact Gwen Baluss for an invitation! (president@juneau-audubon-society.org)

Also check out:

[Southeast Alaska Regional Bird Observations—Spring](#)

This quarterly report summarizes seasonal bird sightings complete with locations and photos.

[6th Edition Audubon Guide to the Birds of Alaska](#)

<http://wiki.seaknature.org/Category:Bird>

Ever wonder which community is the best (or worst) place to find a target species? Want to see multiple online lists in one easy spot? Matt Goff's SEAKnature has it!

www.naturebob.com

Articles, photos and links to free articles and natural history books can be found on local nature writer Bob Armstrong's site.

24th Annual Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

A yearly celebration of bald eagles is fast approaching! Hosted by the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska, the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival coincides with one of North America's largest congregations of bald eagles. Between 2000 and 4000 bald eagles can be seen on the Chilkat River during November and December feasting on salmon made accessible by the unique hydrogeology of the river. Learn from local experts and attend birding-themed events all while experiencing the beauty of Haines in winter. See the full schedule at: baldeagles.org/festival-schedule/



Left: eagles on the Chilkat
Right: eagle release at Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center
Photos: Bill McRoberts

Juneau Audubon Society

Board of Directors

President: Gwen Baluss

Vice President: Marsha Squires

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Secretary: Amy Sherwin

Field Trips: Jason Colon

Newsletter: Sidney Campbell

Membership: Amanda Pilley

Education: Alexia Keifer

Programs: Brenda Wright

Conservation: Debbie Hart

At Large A: Amy Clark Courtney

At Large B: *Vacant*

ELECTION!

All JAS members are invited to vote in upcoming board member elections on

Oct 11, 2018

preceding the October Program.

Positions for election, and Nominees as of 10/1/2018:

President, Gwen Baluss

Vice President, Marsha Squires

Treasurer, Patty Rose

Secretary, Amy Sherwin

Thank You
for
Reading!

Fall Birds on the Move

Juneau's Indian summer has brought in sparrows from the interior, with lots of Slate-colored Juncos, some American Tree Sparrows, record numbers of red Fox Sparrows, at least three White-throated Sparrows, and recently rare Hariss' Sparrow reported from Douglas. Keep an eye out for more! There are lots of ways to report unusual birds. Find info about chat groups on our website. Facebook now has several forums, and you can always message the Juneau Audubon Society page as well. If that all seems daunting are you are really stumped, board contact email addresses are on our website as well.

www.juneau-audubon-society.org



Above: Red Fox Sparrows Below: American Tree Sparrow
Photos by: Gwen Baluss



THE



RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2018

Support JAS at the Public Market!

Get your favorite jams and support the Juneau Audubon Society again at the Public Market. This year, JAS wares will be on sale in the **JACC Annex** just across the parking lot from Centennial Hall.

We still need volunteers to staff our booth! Contact Patricia Wherry if you would like to help out: wherry.patricia@gmail.com (907)209-3374



Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

American Bald Eagle Foundation Haines, Alaska

Nov 7-10

Juneau Public Market

Join JAS at the JACC

Nov 23-25

JAS Monthly Meeting

Winter bird ID—get ready for the Christmas bird count!

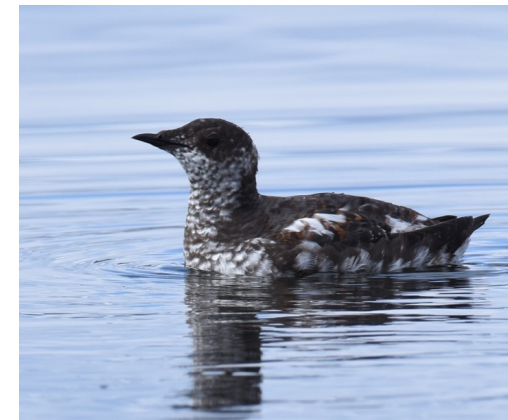
Dec 13

Southeast Alaska Birding Trail

By Gwen Baluss

Raven readers know that Southeast Alaska offers specialties, such as high densities of Marbled Murrelets, Bald Eagles, and a shimmering summer chorus of Varied and Hermit Thrushes. They also know the challenges of birding the region, especially accessing good birding spots.

How to share this wild corner of the world with more birders? How to boost tourism with more independent, low impact travelers? How to put information from the many existing bird lists and guides in a central place? Audubon Alaska, with help from Juneau Audubon Society, and the US Forest Service, is building a virtual birding trail. This will be a web-based map with downloadable or save-to-phone options. The map will highlight known birding sites throughout the region from Yakutat to Prince of Wales Island and the local avifauna



Marbled Murrelet in Auke Bay by Gwen Baluss

around popular attractions.

Countless locals have shared their knowledge about good places to see birds, and site visits have rated the feasibility of pointing visitors to these spots. Planning continues, with an unveiling projected by fall 2019.

Have a great tip to share? Contact **Melanie Smith** at masmith@audubon.org or (907) 276-7034

Get Ready for the Christmas Bird Count!

December's monthly Juneau Audubon Society meeting is all about identifying Juneau's winter birds. Learn from local experts and prepare to ID the birds who visit your backyard during the Christmas Bird Count. Meeting on December 13th at UAS Egan lecture hall, room 112 at 7pm. Just in time for the Christmas Bird count on December 15th!

Photo: black-billed magpie by Gwen Baluss



Bald Eagles Return to Chilkat Valley

The Alaska Bald Eagle Festival takes place each year as eagles from all over Alaska return to the confluence of the Chilkat, Tsirku, and Klehini rivers where plentiful salmon await. A unique aquifer in the area traps warm water which percolates upward as temperatures begin to drop, resulting in a large section of the river remaining unfrozen. While other waterways in the area are host to salmon runs this time of year, the fish are often inaccessible due to freezing. This makes the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve an appealing destination. Between two and four thousand bald eagles are present on the river between November and December. Birders from around the world travel to Haines, Alaska to see this sight. The Alaska Bald Eagle Festival offers naturalist

walks, interpretive programs, speakers and story-

2017 Bald Eagle Festival photos by Bill McRoberts



*Thank You
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THE



RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2018

Happy Holidays from Juneau Audubon Society



Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS Monthly Meeting

Winter bird ID—get ready for the Christmas bird count!

Dec 13

Juneau Christmas Bird Count

Learn more on pg 5!

Dec 15

JAS Monthly Meeting

Golden Eagle researcher Steve Lewis of USF&WS

Jan 10

Proposal to Expand Mountain Goat Hunting Around Juneau Trails

Gwen Baluss

Mountain goats are some of the most popular animals to view from the Mount Roberts Tramway and Juneau alpine trails. Sometimes a goat is visible even from downtown looking up at Mount Juneau, or from the Mendenhall Valley looking up at Thunder Mountain. Spring visitors to the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center often are treated to groups of goats visible on Mount Bullard.

It wasn't that long ago that goats became a rare sight around Juneau. In 1984 most of the areas near town were closed to goat hunting, because of very low goat numbers. Residents called for the management of goats to be focused on wildlife viewing opportunities.

Then, there was an initiative to reestablish goats by transplanting

some from the Whiting River-Tracy Arm area. The Juneau Audubon Society raised the funds, over \$12,000, Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists volunteered their time, and Temsco helicopters donated trips to help with the move to Mount Juneau.

The success of the project is not exactly known. In the first two years, 6 radio-collared goats stayed (within 5 miles) but 2 others strayed much further (up to 35 miles) from the release point. Certainly, the goat numbers increased over the next few decades, but it is unclear if goats seen around Mount Juneau are mostly decedents of those goats, or different individuals that naturally dispersed in from surrounding zones.

Currently, there is **CONT PG 4**



Thanks to our Public Market Volunteers!



Many thanks to all our supporters for another great year at the public market. This year Juneau Audubon Society had a special drawing for members. All present members were eligible as well as any new members. We had three jars of nagoonberry jelly as prizes for the drawing. The winners were Peter Froelich, Julie North, and Sue Walker. This drawing raised \$270 in dues and renewals. Juneau Audubon Society booth sold all 23 dozen jars of jam/jelly/sauce/pickles. The children's books and the calendar of local birds by a local photographer were very popular.

Thanks to all of our volunteers: Patricia Wherry, Brenda Wright, Amy Sherwin, Betsy Fischer, Winston Smith, Carol Race, Susan Hickey, Alexia Kiefer, Kari Monagle, Mary Willson, Mary Claire Harris Bev Agler, Hetty Frank, Deb Rudis, Lauree Morton, Lauren Smoker, Kristine Benson, Connie Conlon, Debbi Hart, Molly Hodges, and Jason Colon. We couldn't do it without you!

GOAT CONTINUED a limited bow hunt around upper Sheep creek and Blackerby ridge, extending back around the ice field. From 2014 to 2017 between 1 and 7 goats were harvested within that area per year, plus at least one illegal rifle kill stated by ADF&G.

A proposal will be considered by the Board of Game this winter to further expand this hunt to include everywhere between the between the south bank of the Mendenhall River and the Mendenhall Glacier and south to the western bank of Taku Inlet and Taku Glacier. The goal of the proposal is to create more road-system based hunting opportunities.

While a limited and managed hunt may not directly significantly affect the local goat population, might it affect goat's behavior to make them less "watchable"? Might it push them to areas with less quality forage and thus affect their condition as they face the long winter?

Recently there appears to have been a decline in goat numbers locally. The ADF&G comments regarding the hunt proposal from

state that in 2014 over 400 goats were counted via aerial survey in the total area described above. In 2018, it was less than 90. Goats could have been taking cover due to warm weather last summer, but it raises a concern by biologists to understand the numbers and potential decline better before increasing the harvest.

One factor could be wolves; trail users have reported increased sightings in the last several years.

If you would like to add to the discussion, BOG accepts comments. Please see the complete proposal book for more information found on ADF&G web here: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main>

Or call (907) 465-4110

Written comments should be received two weeks before the Jan. 10 work session (Dec. 27) for the upcoming 2018/2019 meeting season. Email: adfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov (PDF format only) Fax: 907-465-6094 or Mail: ADF&G Boards Support Section ATTN: Board of Game Comments P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Christmas Bird Count to Take Place December 15

Join Juneau Audubon Society for the Juneau Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 15, 2018. Birders of all levels are welcome. The Christmas Bird Count started in 1900 as an alternative to the tradition of shooting birds on Christmas Day. The idea caught on and spread across the Western hemisphere. The 2018 count is the 119th Christmas Bird Count and the 46th Juneau count. The National Audubon Society organizes the data generated by the event.

As usual, Juneau volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. on count day at either McDonald's or Foodland IGA. Those wishing to count in the downtown, Thane, Douglas, and north Douglas areas will meet at the downtown Foodland IGA coffee bar. Those wishing to count in the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley, and Auke Bay areas will meet at the McDonald's restaurant on Trout Street opposite the Valley Breeze In. We will divide into groups at the staging locations.

Volunteers should bring binoculars and be prepared for the weather and walking conditions. Expect to spend 3 to 5 hours in the field.

The Juneau count week will be Wednesday, December 12 – Tuesday, December 18. For those who



want to take the count to the next level, get out and look for birds during count week. Species seen during count week that are not seen on count day will be noted in the final report.

After the count, there will be a potluck at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam, where the birds and species seen on count day will be tallied. Directions to the potluck will be available on the morning of the count. The potluck is a nonsmoking, pet-free event.

We hope you can participate. If you have questions, please call Patty Rose at (907) 321-3328.



*Thank You
for
Reading!*

THE



RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2018

Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results are in!

The 46th Juneau Christmas Bird Count took place Saturday, December 15. Twenty-nine volunteers reported 59 species and 7,180 individual birds. A few feeder watchers also contributed their observations to the count. Ten additional species were seen during count week, for a total of 69.

The weather was overcast, with temperatures in the upper teens to upper twenties, zero precipitation, and calm winds in all areas except downtown and Douglas, which were windy. Most ponds and lakes were frozen.

Highlights include Sanderling, Spotted Towhee, White-Throated Sparrow, Anna's Hummingbird, and Red-Winged Blackbird on count day and Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black Turnstone, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Short-eared Owl, Wilson's Warbler, and Harris's Sparrow during count week. Those species have been seen on fewer than 20 previous counts.



Wilson's Warbler courtesy pixnio.com

The count resulted in two new highs, one new low, and a new species. Counts of 873 American Wigeon and 345 Dunlin are new high counts for those species. A count of 112 Surf Scoters is a new low for that species. Additionally, Wilson's Warbler, which was seen during count week, is a new species for the Juneau count.

The 23 species that have been seen on each of the other 45 counts were seen on count day. The five most numerous species were Mallard (2,049), American Wigeon (873), Canada Goose (724), Glaucous-winged Gull (714), and Common Raven (274). **See pg 3 for a detailed list of species counted.**

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS Monthly Meeting

Jan 10

Antarctica at Solstice with Jack Kreinhelder

January Program Update

With the Federal government still shut down, Juneau Audubon Society regrets to report that US Fish and Wildlife Service researcher Steve Lewis will no longer be able to make his previous scheduled program about Golden Eagles in Alaska. A new program has been organized featuring Jack Kreinhelder speaking about his experiences in Antarctica at the Solstice. Join us January 10th at 7pm in UAS Egan Lecture hall room 112. Our thanks to Jack for the last minute schedule change. As always, we hope to see you there!



Chinstrap Penguin by Jack Kreinhelder

2018 Review

By Gwen Baluss

The JAS president submits answers to a long questionnaire to National Audubon every year. Here are some interesting numbers from this report, which covers the period between July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

- Estimated volunteer hours (including our all-volunteer board): 1000
- Number of volunteers: at least 38
- People directly engaged in programs/ field trips/ citizen science and other outreach: about 600
- Important Bird Areas that we "watchdog" and promote awareness of: 3 (Berners Bay, Stephens Passage and Mendenhall Wetlands)

I was proud of the work we did in the following areas:

- Assisting Audubon Alaska with the Southeast Alaska Birding Trail and bring

attention to the latest Alaska Watchlist of vulnerable bird species with a presentation and a series about some of the species that occur in Southeast AK.

- Updating and improving our image with the unveiling of a new logo.
- Gathering even more data from our over 50 Tree Swallow nest boxes
- Fundraising with successful Berners Bay cruises and jam sellout at the Juneau Public Market.

What will be the emphasis for this year?

I hope to focus on improving diversity in our membership, volunteers and board, and to build bridges to other organizations, including those outside of traditional conservation groups.

And as always, we need to build capacity. Have some time to help? Give us a shout at info@juneau-audubon-society.org

Thanks to all for your support and wishing you the best in the coming year.

Christmas Bird Count Species List

- Canada Goose - 724
- Gadwall - 12
- American Wigeon - 873
- Mallard - 2,049
- Northern Pintail - 18
- Green-winged Teal - 1
- Greater Scaup - 14
- Lesser Scaup - 3
- Unidentified Scaup - 105
- Harlequin Duck - 47
- Surf Scoter - 112
- White-winged Scoter - 26
- Unidentified Scoter - 12
- Long-tailed Duck - 2
- Bufflehead - 134
- Common Goldeneye - 71
- Barrow's Goldeneye - 210
- Unidentified Goldeneye - 9
- Common Merganser - 41
- Red-breasted Merganser - 53
- Unidentified Mergansers - 4
- Pacific Loon - 5
- Common Loon - 3
- Horned Grebe - 11
- Red-necked Grebe - 12
- Pelagic Cormorant - 12
- Great Blue Heron - 1
- Bald Eagle - 124
- Sharp-shinned Hawk - count week
- Killdeer - 12
- Black Turnstone - count week
- Sanderling - 2
- Rock Sandpiper - count week
- Dunlin - 345
- Wilson's Snipe - 1
- Unidentified Sandpipers - 230
- Pigeon Guillemot - 1
- Marbled Murrelet - 24
- Mew Gull - 133
- Herring Gull - 3
- Glaucous-winged Gull - 714
- Glaucous-winged Gull x Herring Gull - 7
- Unidentified Gulls - 7
- Eurasian Collared-Dove - count week
- Rock Pigeon - 102
- Northern Pygmy-Owl - 1
- Short-eared Owl - count week
- Anna's Hummingbird - 1
- Belted Kingfisher - 5
- Hairy Woodpecker - 1
- Northern Shrike - 2
- Steller's Jay - 35
- Black-billed Magpie - 16
- Northwestern Crow - 259
- Common Raven - 274
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee - 43
- Brown Creeper - 1
- Pacific Wren - 4
- American Dipper - 5
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - 54
- Varied Thrush - count week
- European Starling - 64
- Snow Bunting - count week

- Wilson's Warbler - count week
- Spotted Towhee - 1
- American Tree Sparrow - 3
- Song Sparrow - 28
- White-throated Sparrow - 1
- Harris's Sparrow - count week
- White-crowned Sparrow - 5
- Golden-crowned Sparrow - 1
- Dark-eyed Junco - 73
- Red-winged Blackbird - 8
- Red Crossbill - 3
- White-winged Crossbill - count week
- Pine Siskin - 23

Count Day Species - 59
Count Week Species - 10
Total Species - 69
Total Individual Birds - 7,180
Volunteers: 29



*Thank You
 for
 Reading!*

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

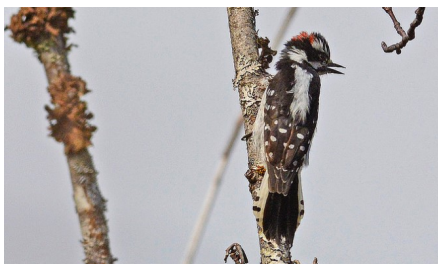
VOLUME 45, ISSUE 4

JANUARY 2019

GET READY FOR THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National



Male downy woodpecker by Mark Schwan

Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share.

Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded. The 21st annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18, 2019. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more info.

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS Monthly Meeting

Mountain Goat Ecology with Kevin White

Feb 14

Great Backyard Bird Count

Join the global citizen science project!

Feb 15-18

2019 Olympic Bird Festival

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

Apr 12-14

A YEAR of ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

By Alexia Keifer

Over the Summer and Fall of 2018, I had the privilege of hosting some nature field trips for The Raven Correspondence school children ranging from K-5th grade .

We had great turn outs for our events. Our first presentation was in June and held at Sandy Beach where the topic was learning the keys to bird identification: habitat, behavior, shape and size, color pattern, and field marks . We also included a hands on kit about bird beak adaptations and an educational bird kit loaned by Alaska Department of Fish and Game which consisted of bird bones, feathers, and stuffed bird bodies for the children to get a closer look at. Each child learned how to correctly use binoculars before starting out on our scavenger hunt for the many bird species we had painted onto rocks . When each rock was found, the children used a phone app to quickly identify the bird and learn information about them. Afterwards the children shared one thing they learned with the group and listened to birds calls to help them recognize live calls on the trail .

In August we hosted a second event about hornworms and woollybear caterpillars. Our group, consisting of the

Raven Homeschool students ranging from K-12th grade, met at the airport dike trail where there was a surprisingly large amount of both species in the fall of 2018. We talked about their life cycles and what moths they would turn into as well as some fun facts about their anatomy. Afterwards, the children were taught how to hold a caterpillars very



carefully, as not to harm them, before they were released.

Our third event in September was all about beavers. We met at The valley library with special guest speaker Chuck Caldwell, the president of Trout Unlimited who has done volunteer work monitoring beaver dams for over eight years. He did a brief slideshow presentation about beaver habitat, and how beavers can help create salmon rearing habitat. There were some hands-on items like beaver skeletons, foot print castings, scat castings and pelts to touch, all provided by ADF&G, along with some book ideas to check out from the library. **CONTINUED PAGE 4**

eBIRD: EASY AND FUN CITIZEN SCIENCE

By Debbie Hart

Bird count contributions are important and can directly support conservation actions.

A huge thank you to all who participated in the recent Christmas Bird Count – and a big thank you to Patty Rose, our Juneau Audubon board member who helped to coordinate the event and upload the data collected into Audubon's database. You can find our 2018 contributions online here: <http://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx>.

In addition to Audubon's efforts to collect bird count information, many bird enthusiasts chose to utilize eBird to capture their sightings, share photos and capture audio recordings. eBird is the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science project, with more than 100 million bird sightings contributed each year. At the eBird website (www.ebird.org), you can view these shared data as maps or other visualizations and browse by species, location, and date. For more formal analyses, the entire data set is freely available to download.

The idea around eBird is that every bird-watcher has unique knowledge and experience. And researchers are discovering the power this data-driven approach can bring to conservation actions. In 2016, researchers explored how people



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

are using data from eBird specifically to achieve conservation goals such as saving endangered species, protecting eagles from wind turbines, expanding protected lands, and even outlawing drones from bothering wildlife. The team published their findings in the journal *Biological Conservation* and you can read their findings online here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320716301689>.

According to their results people are using eBird data in various ways; from researching and monitoring conservation areas and species, to conservation planning, habitat and species management and protection, and even in making policy decisions and laws.

So in addition to capturing your knowledge as part of organized bird counts – we also want to encourage you to share your knowledge and local bird sightings on eBird; this can help us explore conservation actions at our local scale.

EDUCATION FROM PAGE 2 The event ended with a field trip to Dredge Lake to get up close and personal with active beaver dams. Lastly the children got a chance to put on chest waders, water gloves and use tools to help clear out some culverts of sticks and debris.

The fourth event is one we look forward to every year: our annual presentation for Auke Bay Elementary 5th graders during their Fall camp. This was a larger group of students that meet us at Eagle Beach. We set up 3 main stations rotating groups of 10 students at a time.

The first station is "Bird Behavior" taught by Patricia Wherry; she has a fun way getting children involved learning about bird behavior through roll play using stuffed birds. While the children are having fun acting out bird behaviors, they are also learning about field marks, color patterns, feathers, diets, and how they benefit each bird in nature.

The second station is "Bird Migrations" taught by Brenda Wright. She uses a huge blown up globe that shows the migratory paths of the birds that we might see in Southeast Alaska. The children are actively involved passing around the globe to each other engaged in fun facts and conversations.

The third station is "Bird Viewing" taught by me. Here the children are shown how to use binoculars and master zooming in and out on a sign. Afterwards they are lead on a short walk along the river.

Children enjoy the satisfaction of learning how to use binoculars by being able to see the birds from a distance and practice their bird identification skills.



If you're interested in learning more about upcoming events or would like us to host a presentation for your school, check out our Facebook page and website for dates and locations or to contact us.



MORE PHOTOS FROM 2018 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS...



Top left: Chuck Caldwell shares his beaver expertise with students



Top right: JAS education chair Alexia Keifer sharing bird skins with students at Auke Bay Elementary



Middle: Students get outside and visit an active beaver dam



Bottom: Collecting and observing caterpillars at the Airport Dike Trail

Educational programs are made possible by contributions from members like you! Visit our website to learn more about being a part of conservation in your community.

www.juneau-audubon-society.org

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

Haines: [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](#)

Haines Birders Facebook group

Juneau: [Juneau Audubon Society](#) webpage www.juneauaudubonsociety.org

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Pick. Click. Give.

When you apply for this year's PFD, don't forget to Pick.Click.Give. to the Juneau Audubon Society!

Help sustain our organization while playing a vital role in local conservation efforts.

Every gift counts!

JAS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Lizzie Solger was recently voted into the position of Membership Chair. Lizzie was born and raised in Northern California but has made Juneau her home since 2005.



She recently finished her Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast. As a child visiting her grandmother she learned to appreciate the northern cardinals in her familial Kentucky homeland. Her recent interest in bird-watching developed on a 2016 trip to South Africa. Welcome, Lizzie!

Juneau Audubon Society Board of Directors

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Treasurer: Patty Rose

Secretary: Amy Sherwin

Field Trips: Jason Colon

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Thank You
for
Reading!

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2019

BERNER'S BAY CRUISES RETURN!

Join Juneau Audubon Society for our yearly Berner's Bay Cruise fundraiser! The dates this year are Saturday, April 27th and Saturday, May 4th. The boats leave from Statter Harbor in Auke Bay at 8:30 a.m., and board about 15 minutes before departure. On-board naturalists will share their knowledge of seasonal wildlife. We usually see sea lions, gulls, whales, loons, and more

Tickets will be available in early April with student and youth rates available. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Hope to see you there!



Top: Humpback whales by Josh Peters



Bottom: Bald eagles by Ed Grossman

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION and ALASKA

By Debbie Hart

Scientists are monitoring carbon dioxide conditions entering the ocean and are finding acidic conditions appearing in Alaska (detailed ocean monitoring information for Alaska can be found on the Alaska Ocean Observing System's website at: www.aoos.org). Additionally, they are finding in coastal Alaska and British Columbia that meltwater from glaciers and large volumes of freshwater from rivers intensify ocean acidification conditions, making this region a potential hot spot for change. Negative impacts are expected, especially to shellfish fisheries and other important aquatic organisms. Sea and shore birds may also be impacted as a result of anticipated changes to the ocean's food web. This past February during a presentation to the public in Juneau,

scientists from NOAA shared the latest on ocean acidification in Alaska and how different species may respond (check out the live stream on the Alaska Ocean Observing System's Facebook page, February 20, 2019 or visit the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network webpage at: <https://aoos.org/alaska-ocean-acidification-network/>). During the evening members of the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center shared an update on efforts to measure ocean acidification conditions in the Inside Passage, where ocean chemistry information is collected from the Alaska State Ferry M/V Columbia during its weekly journey between Bellingham and Skagway, learn more at www.aoos.org/ferry-for-science. Staying educated, engaging in proactive activities and being energy smart are a few ways the general public can become involved – for more in depth details on ocean acidification in Alaska check out the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network at: www.aoos.org/alaska-ocean-acidification-network.

Upcoming Events:

JAS Monthly Meeting

Orchids of Southeast Alaska

Mar 14

2019 Olympic Bird Festival

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

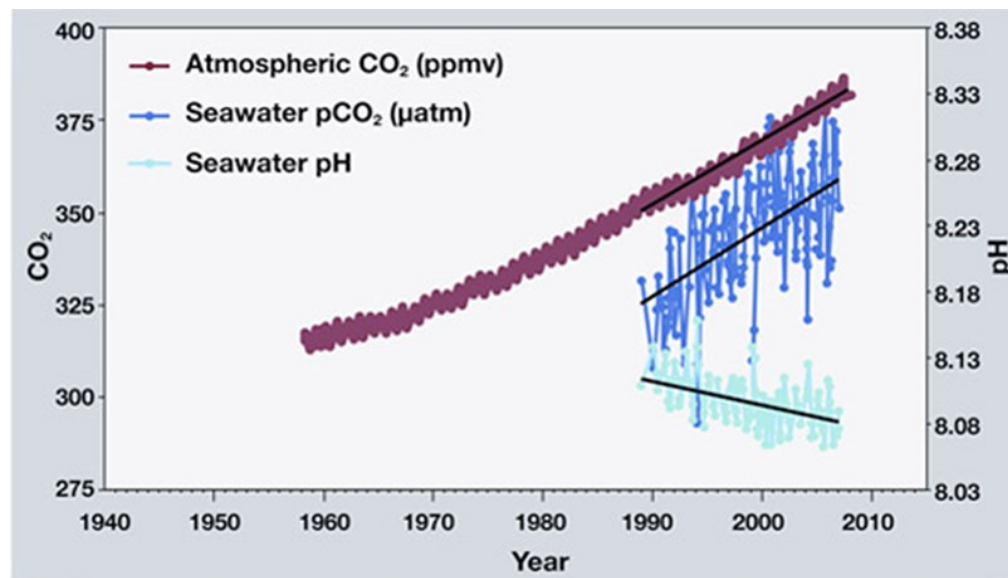
Apr 12-14

Berner's Bay Cruise

Support Juneau Audubon Society!

Apr 27

May 4



WHERE ARE THE SEABIRDS?

By Gwen Baluss

That's my question for you, if you wander Southeast Alaska in the summer.

Seabird nesting colonies are an important natural resource and wherever they occur warrant special protection. However, without those being mapped its difficult to head of development or ask recreationalists to take extra care when traveling to sensitive areas.

I recall the excitement of seeing Pigeon Guillemots carrying fish into a burrow near Auke Bay. Then returning the next year and seeing the cliff was no longer used. Was it a coincidence that a new wall and dock had just been built right next to it?

Historically the US Fish and Wildlife Service has maintained databases on seabird nesting areas and made those maps available to the public. However, at this time its been a while since those have been updated locally, due to budget shortfalls.

The recent publication of the [Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska](http://ak.audubon.org/conservation/ecological-atlas-southeast-alaska) (<http://ak.audubon.org/conservation/ecological-atlas-southeast-alaska>) by Audubon



Pigeon Guillemots by Gwen Baluss

Alaska added to the knowledge base as has Audubon's Important Bird Areas designation system.

However, there are still gaps in the maps. Plus, birds may move over time. A few years ago, after doing some surveys for the Forest Service around Tracy Arm, I started keeping track of where seabirds were known to nest. I realized that some of the nest areas I found in that survey, or knew about from other travels, did not appear to be mapped. It would be great to add to that information. Then, it will be available to the whomever may be publishing the next map. Maybe we could even find a web-savvy volunteer to put the information up ourselves for Juneau Audubon. **CONT PG 4**

SEABIRDS CONT If you come across seabirds (including gulls) or Black Oystercatchers nesting, please document with as much as possible of the following information:

- Photos.
- Date (if your camera is not set to correct date).
- Detailed descriptions of location, or a GPS point (note that there are now free apps for your smart phone for getting GPS points), or a Google Earth point.
- Species and number of birds.
- Any notes about the evidence of breeding and number of nests and or young.

- Send above to president@juneau-audubon-society.org
- Or, enter the info using eBird's breeding bird feature. But please send the link to the eBird list, because we are unable to query the information directly from eBird.

Please remember to watch birds from afar and gather this information with as little disturbance as possible.



CONSCIENTIOUS COOP CONSTRUCTION

By Sidney Campbell

A recent rash or raptor rescues from chicken and duck coops in Haines has encouraged me to share a few resources about how chicken owners can keep their animals and local raptors safe. First and foremost, coop construction should be done with sturdy materials in which raptors won't become entangled like the great horned owl in the photo. A chicken wire roof over your run is much more safe an effective than netting which is prone to tears and an entanglement hazard. Shiny objects like mirrors are also great deterrents to raptors and other predators. For ideas about raptor-resistant coop construction, check out: <https://goo.gl/dCW9HD>



Juneau Audubon Society Presents:

"Orchids of Southeast Alaska, with an Emphasis on Juneau"

by Marlin Bowles & intro by Bob Armstrong



Left: Western fairy slipper Right: white bog orchid photos by Bob Armstrong

March 14, 7 pm UAS Egan lecture hall,
room 112

Free & open to the public; for more information check www.juneau-audubon-society.org, 321-4739

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

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Haines Birders Facebook group

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INVASIVE PLANT PATROL

By John Hudson

Alaska may be remote and mostly pristine, but it's not immune to invasive plants. More than 100 species of non-native plants have invaded Juneau. Although most of these rarely venture off disturbed areas like road sides and yards, several species are considered highly invasive (like knotweed and canarygrass) and are taking over native plant communities that provide habitat for fish and wildlife. The Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition is mapping invasive plant distributions all around Juneau and actively managing priority infestations to



Invasive cherry trees near Eagle River

protect and restore important habitat. We could use some help. If you want to restore habitat for birds and other wildlife, please contact John Hudson at 419-4677 or john@sawcak.org. I'm looking for volunteers to tackle a major invasive cherry tree infestation near Eagle River this spring.

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THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY
VOLUME 45, ISSUE 6 MARCH 2019

BERNER'S BAY CRUISE TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Tickets are on sale now at Hearthside book for Juneau Audubon Society's yearly Berner's Bay Cruises! Join our knowledgeable naturalists for a four hour cruise in search of marine wildlife, Saturday, April 27th and May 4th. Cruises board at 8:15am and depart at 8:30.

Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$45 for students, and \$25 for children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Seats are limited so be sure to buy your tickets early!



Top: Humpback whales by Josh Peters



Bottom: Bald Eagles by Ed Grossman

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

Birds and Beans: Or How My Quest for the Perfect Cup of Coffee led me back to Birds

Join Juneau Audubon Society for an exciting presentation by Doug Jones. Free and open to the public, April 11 at 7pm in the UAS Egan Lecture Hall. Hope to see you there!



Left: Hooded Oriole Right: Western Tanager Photos by Doug Jones

TREE SWALLOW BOXES INSTALLED WITH THE HELP OF THUNDER MOUNTAIN BOYSCOUT TROOP

Juneau Audubon Society extends sincere thanks to a troop of boy scouts who helped to install 35 of our 53 Tree Swallow Boxes! Our thanks also to our tree swallow box project coordinator Brenda Wright for coordinating the effort. Great work, everyone!



Upcoming Events:

Alaska Hummingbird Festival

Ketchikan, Alaska ; details at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/tongass/

Apr 2-27

Stikine River Birding Festival

See pg 7 for details

Apr 20-May 8

Yakutat Tern Festival

See pg 4 for details

May 30-Jun 9

NOTES from the 18th ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE

By Gwen Baluss

In March 2019, a couple hundred mostly bird biologists convened as they do every two years to present and discuss recent scientific work on Alaska birds. I was lucky enough to attend the meeting, held in Fairbanks.

Many of this year's presentations focused on seabirds and shorebirds, and studies in the far north. And for good reason. The arctic sea and shore birds are the ones to be acutely concerned about as the climate warms. We also heard from climate scientists from UAF and the recurrent theme was "accelerated change". Two issues were salient.

First, drastic sea ice reduction and warming. How will birds react? There's already been changes to diet, and, unfortunately large die-offs of seabirds such as murres and kittiwakes have been recorded in the North Pacific, with greater frequency over the last few years. Suspected culprits are plain starvation, or starvation as a secondary or acting in conjunction with poisoning from microorganism blooms. Both could be caused by warming.

Second, development in and near the Yellow Sea. Many Alaskan shorebirds use this area during winter and migration. These issues seem and are far away from us in Southeast AK, but it's good to get a perspective on what groups of birds are the most vulnerable when we prioritize conservation. The bottom line is that we all have limited time and funds, but if you are looking for ways to advocate and "save the birds", whether its supporting legislation, research, or preservation, it seems safe to assume that any long-distance migrant especially Asiatic migrant, seabird or shorebird needs all the help it can get.

The ABC abstracts will be posted on the JAS website.



Photo (Gwen Baluss) A Common Murre in Auke Bay, December 2015. Thousands of Murres died in Alaska the following spring, coincident with the higher than normal sea temperatures. Many were seen in places they are not normally recorded; in Auke bay they fed on herring and hopefully survived the winter.

9TH ANNUAL YAKUTAT TERN FESTIVAL



The Ninth Annual Yakutat Tern Festival will take place May 30-June 2 2019. The Yakutat Tern Festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. It's family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, kid's activities, evening banquets and other programs, a Wildman foot race, and art. This year's keynote speaker is Ned Rozell. He writes weekly newspaper columns about science and natural history for the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He first hiked the Alaska Pipeline path with his dog Jane in 1997. He wrote *Walking my Dog, Jane* about that trip. Ned will

be doing a book sale and book signing after his keynote.

Our Featured Artist is Holly Churchill. Holly is a member of the Haida Eagle clan of *Gawa Git'ans Gitanee* practicing traditional Haida-style cedar bark and spruce root basketry. Her work has been displayed at museums throughout Alaska including the Alaska State Museum, the Tongass Historical Museum and the Totem Heritage Center, and reaches audiences across the globe in the Smithsonian Institute and the Eiteljorg Museum.

Please see www.yakutatternfestival.org for more information and follow us on Facebook and Instagram! Yakutat Tern Festival and @yakutat_tern_festival. You can also call (907) 784-3359.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Juneau Audubon Society would like to recognize two retiring board members for their years of excellent service:

Patricia Wherry Education Chair Juneau Audubon Society Board August 2012 through September 2018.

Thank you for teaching the adult Beginner's Bird Watching classes through Community Schools. Not only did you write your own teaching plan, but tried to accommodate more students by having classes in both the valley and downtown. You instigated the printing of the SE Tracking Booklet, shared as a teaching tool with Discovery SE. You represented Juneau Audubon Society at countless public events including Earth Day, Community Day, etc. You helped to redo the look of our public market booth and were instrumental in getting Juneau Audubon Society into the permanent fund Pick, Click, Give program. You were always eager to reach out to grade school children through educational events for Auke Bay Elementary and others. Thank you, Patricia, you were a great asset to the Juneau Audubon Society board.



Amanda Pilley Membership Chair Juneau Audubon Society Board May 2016 through December 2018.

Thank you for joining the Juneau Audubon Society Board as our Conservation Chair and morphing into our Membership Chair when we needed to re-organize. Thanks for being such a great organizer! Not only did you have to cope with National Audubon Society's changing database for members but also for creating a Juneau Audubon Society board reference manual with duties and procedures defined. You helped to get our Juneau Audubon Society board minutes into order and available from our web page. You organized our search

for a new logo, provided the information for Juneau Audubon Society members to sign up for Fred Meyers Community Awards, offered many suggestions for website protocol and strategic plan. Thank you, Amanda, for helping Juneau Audubon Society be better organized.

Juneau Audubon Society

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Stikine River Birding Festival 2019 Schedule of Events

Festival Contests

Art & Photo Contests

Entries due at the Nolan Center by noon, Thursday, April 25th.
Winners announced at the reception on Friday, April 26th. For
detailed contest rules & entry forms, go to www.stikinebirding.org.

Name That Tweet!

Tune in to KSTK 101.7 from April 22-26 to listen for the day's
featured bird song and "Name that Tweet" to win a prize!

Saturday – April 20

9:00 am Nature Journaling Workshop

Learn the basics of field sketching & journaling with guest artist
Kim McNett. Half day workshop starts indoors, moves outside for
practice & returns indoors. Free; bring a journal & pencil.
Location: Meet at Nolan Center, followed by excursion to outdoor
location to be determined by participants.

Thursday – April 25

5:00 pm Birding ID Workshop

Want to improve your birding skills? Gwen Baluss will provide tips
on identifying our local birds.

Location: James & Elsie Nolan Center

6:30 pm River Flats Open Mic Night

Share your talent with the community during April's bird themed
open mic night.

Location: James & Elsie Nolan Center

Friday – April 26

6:00 pm Birding Festival Reception

Kim McNett has been teaching art workshops in school classrooms
for 2 weeks; now stop by to see some student art and meet our
festival presenters. Contest winners will be announced.

Location: James & Elsie Nolan Center

6:30 pm Sandhill Cranes of the Pacific Flyway

Dr. Gary Ivey will describe the life history of Sandhill Cranes and
the challenges they face. He will talk about the 2 subspecies that
breed and migrate through Alaska and where they go after their
stop at the Stikine River Delta.

Location: James & Elsie Nolan Center

7:45 pm The Miracle of Life Along the Pacific Shore

This multi-media presentation is based on the "The Miracle of Life
a La Jolla Cove," an award-winning coffee table book by Dr. David
Sattler, and will present gorgeous coastal landscapes along the
Pacific Ocean and the wildlife that lives there, including Alaska.
Location: James & Elsie Nolan Center

Saturday – April 27

Birding Boat Tours

Local operators are running special tours this weekend for birding
& spring wildlife watching. Contact the following for more details
on price, time & locations:

Alaska Charters & Adventures: (888) 993-2750

Breakaway Adventures: (888) 385-2488

7:00 am Breakfast with the Birds Walk

Join Bonnie Demerjian on a morning bird walk. A continental
breakfast is provided.

Location: Muskeg Meadows Golf Course

Saturday – April 27 continued

10:00 am – 1 pm Wrangell Community Market

Vendors offer their homemade crafts, food, and more!

Location: James & Elsie Nolan Center

10:00 am – 11:00 am Jr. Birder Activities

Crafts & games for youth will be going on during the market.

Location: Outside James & Elsie Nolan Center

11:00 am Critter Craft: Bird Feeder Building

Stop by and make your very own bird feeder! Remember to bring
your own hammer. Sponsored by Angerman's Inc.

Location: Outside James & Elsie Nolan Center

1:00 pm Black Swifts: One of Alaska's Most Threatened Birds

Gwen Baluss will discuss how the Stikine River corridor is one of
the few Alaskan hotspots for this species.

Location: Nolan Center small theater

2:00 pm Photo Workshop with David Sattler

This photography workshop is for photo enthusiasts of all levels.
We will explore ways of creating artistic photographs of animals
and their homes, and discuss topics such as composition, lighting,
lens selection, and camera operation.

Location: Meet at Nolan Center small theater

4:00 pm Alaska Raptor Center Live Bird Presentation

The Alaska Raptor Center from Sitka will show off some of their
educational birds and give information on these birds of prey.

Location: Evergreen Elementary Gym

6:00 pm Ducks Unlimited Banquet

Doors open at 6 pm; dinner served at 7 pm. Raffles, live and silent
auctions. For more information or to buy tickets call Keene Kohrt
at 907-874-3877.

Location: Nolan Center; Cost: Single tickets \$70; Couples \$100

Sunday – April 28

7:00-9:00 am City Park Bird Banding

Bird bander Gwen Baluss will mistnet and place bands on
songbirds to track their migratory flight. Stop by at any time to
watch! Weather dependent (can be canceled due to rain/wind).

Location: City Park

Wednesday – May 8

7:00 pm San Quintin Bay in My Migration Route: Sharing the Habitat with Friends

Executive Director of Terra Peninsular, César Guerrero, shares his
presentation on conserving shorebirds in Baja California.

Location: Nolan Center

For more information & schedule updates:
www.stikinebirding.org

The Stikine River Birding Festival is organized by the Wrangell
Convention and Visitor Bureau, City and Borough of Wrangell, USDA
Forest Service, and James & Elsie Nolan Center. If you have any
questions, please contact the Wrangell Ranger District at 907-874-
2323 or Wrangell Visitor Center 907-874-2829.

Thank You
for
Reading!

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY
VOLUME 46, ISSUE 1 SEPT-OCT 2019

HAPPY FALL!

Monday Sept. 23 marks the equinox, and from now on the days will be getting shorter. This seems to have been the sunniest summer that anyone can remember. Droughts in Southeast Alaska: who would have imagined that! We balance our extreme concern about climate instability with enjoying a few rays outdoors.

Fall marks the beginning of Juneau Audubon Society monthly meetings. See page 2 for details about October's program and important information about JAS board elections.

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

JAS Board Elections <i>See pg. 2 for details</i>	Oct 10
JAS Monthly Meeting <i>An evening with Northern Goshawk researcher Winston Smith</i>	Oct 10
Alaska Bald Eagle Festival <i>Haines, Alaska</i>	Nov 6-9

OCTOBER JAS MEETING

Join us Thursday October 10 at 7 p.m. at the UAS Egan Lecture Hall, Room 112 to learn about Northern Goshawks from local researcher Winston Smith. Free and family friendly.

Before Smith's program, JAS will be holding brief board elections. A short vote and board discussion will be held at the beginning of the next member meeting and program (see below).

The following are officer candidates:

Secretary: Amy Sherwin

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Vice President: Marsha Squires

President: Gwen Baluss

We will be filling by appointment the following vacancies as soon as suitable candidates are available:

Education Chair and Newsletter Editor

Please let us know if you are interested in



either of these positions. We invite members from outlying communities to assist with newsletter as it can all be accomplished electronically. If you are not ready to commit to being on the board, we can always use volunteer help with any of the duties. Contact: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

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THANK YOU!

We say good bye to several board members this cycle. **All will be sorely missed.** We so much appreciate their time, serving as volunteers and on top of having very busy lives.

Amy Courtney has served as At-large for several years even as she juggled little kids, moving to Hoonah, a growing bird guiding business and a need to go out and find as many birds as possible.

Alexia Kiefer stepped in as education

Chair last year, and impressed everyone with her boundless energy and passion for getting kids outside, leaning, and doing new things. We are happy to say that Alexia will stay on as an At-large member and you still might see her scoping trails for birds, frogs or caterpillars.

Sidney Campbell did a great job making our newsletter look more professional for the last two seasons. We have enjoyed getting to know her and learning a little more about the Bald Eagles and conservation issues in Haines.

Thank You for Reading!



Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

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THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 2

NOV. - DEC. 2019

Newsletter Update

Dear Readers,

We are currently without a designated newsletter editor. The rest of the board will be putting together the news **every two months** (instead of every month) during the JAS active season (September through May), until we can recruit an editor.

If you enjoy the Raven and would like to help it continue, **please help us find an editor**. The ideal candidate will be proficient in the basics of Microsoft Word and Publisher and be able to edit short documents for common grammar errors.

Normally, the newsletter editor is also a full voting board member. However, we are glad to accept the help of regular volunteers. And, since everything is done electronically, we welcome help from members anywhere.

Contact: raven@juneau-audubon-society.org AND cc info@juneau-audubon-society.org OR Chat with us at a program OR message us on Facebook!

Upcoming Events (See details inside):

<i>Monthly Program: Aleutian Tern Migration</i>	Nov. 8
<i>Monthly Program: Tree Swallows</i>	Dec. 12
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Jan. 4

Juneau Christmas Bird Count

JAS has long been the organizer of the Juneau Christmas Bird Count. This time the official count will take place on Saturday, January 4, 2020. Detailed information regarding the event will be announced in December. **If you are not on the CBC email list but would like to be, please email Patty Rose at p_rose_raven@yahoo.com.**

We did not hear about other communities count dates yet, but we hope you will ask around and participate where ever you are.

Pick, Click, Give Success

Thanks to the generosity of Alaskans who donated a portion of their PFD to JAS: \$675 donated!

Did you know? [You can watch past programs on our Facebook Page.](#)

Our events are free and family friendly.

Juneau Audubon Society

Board of Directors

President: Gwen Baluss

Vice President: Marsha Squires

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Secretary: Amy Sherwin

Field Trips: Jason Colon

Newsletter: Vacant

Membership: Lizzie Solger

Education: Vacant

Programs: Brenda Wright

Conservation: Debbie Hart

At Large A: Alexia Kieffer

At Large B: Winston Smith

Upcoming Programs

Sumatra to Southeast Alaska: what the journey of a migratory seabird can teach us. Dr. Sanjay Pyare will discuss Aleutian Tern migration. November 14, 7 p.m. at UAS Glacier View Room (*Upstairs, near the Egan Library, note this is a location change from recent shows*)



Aleutian Tern feeding near Yakutat. G. Baluss photo.

Report on Juneau Audubon Society Tree Swallow nest box project with our own Programs Director, Brenda Wright and JAS volunteers/ photographers Jessica and Cody Millsaps. December 12 ,7 p.m. at UAS Egan Lecture Hall (116).



Tree Swallows near nest boxes on Mendenhall Wetlands. J.Millsaps photo.

Talking Trash

By Gwen Baluss

Trash. There's a lot of it around Southeast Alaska. Despite the pristine nature of our wildlands, our communities are anything but clean. Seems like every week a junked car appears along the side of the road near where I live in Juneau, stuffed to the ceiling with refuse. I've learned to take a big litter bag and some gloves if I want to have campfire at a local rec area to clean up before (and after). Even remote places can have a surprising amount of junk. I visited some remote bays on Chichagof Island last summer with a group of visitors that had expended a lot of time and money to experience "wild" Alaska. It was indeed wild, with bear and other animal sign. But we ran across a huge pile of tarps, traps, mattresses and other junk. The outer coast might be able to blame marine debris from other places, but most the inside passage has clearly been polluted by local use.

Recently I spent a few weeks car-camping in Arizona and Utah. There, dispersed camping is popular. Pull over on any side road on public land, and chances are you can set up camp for the night, for no fee, under the starry sky. It's hard to believe this is still possible in this crowded century, but it's a very special way to enjoy our public lands. Many places now are establishing spots where use is allowed, and instituting a few rules, mostly related to fire safety. But the ability to patrol these areas with limited staff at agencies like the Forest Service and BLM means that good behavior by and large must be voluntary. Given that I never saw anyone patrolling these areas, I expected to see a lot of garbage. I didn't. Aside from a few toilet paper bouquets, all the camps were completely clean. Even the fire pits. I wish I knew what cultural influences have made this the case, but it appears we have a long way to go to catch up with some of our neighbors down south. (See pg. 5)

TRASH CONT. FROM PAGE 4 The problem is not just that it looks ugly. We should be particularly concerned about plastic waste along our streams and wetlands; these end up in the ocean with dire effects to marine life, especially seabirds who are facing potentially catastrophic levels of danger from ingestion of plastics.

To help change the culture and get rid of a bit of that trash, JAS is proud to help sponsor litter and beach clean ups, including those involving youth.

If you are a cleaner of beaches or waterways, there are many cool phone apps and websites available to report your data, hosted by organizations like the Ocean Conservancy : <https://www.coastalcleanupdata.org/>



Juneau Public Market—Not This Year

JAS had a long tradition of selling jam and other local made or enviro-friendly goodies at the holiday market. However, the board made a difficult decision this year to take a break from the market and try other fund raisers. We looked at the tremendous number of hours it took and the overhead of renting a booth and other supplies and realized that the profit margin was quite slim. It would have been approaching negative had it not been for the generous donation of jars and labor by our tireless jam makers.

We thank the many, many hours contributed by volunteers, and hope you will enjoy a deserved rest this holiday season.

Bird-a-thon Planned Next Spring

If you miss seeing us at the market booth, don't worry, there will still be ways to give to JAS. We plan to add a new fundraiser to our annual activities next spring, one that we hope for will fun both for the board and membership, and even gather some data about birds: a bird-a-thon. We will be asking for donations based on the number of birds found a given day, probably coinciding with other events such as World Migratory Bird Day or eBird's Global Big day. Stay tuned!

Join or Renew Membership Today

- ◆ National Audubon Society membership: Join online and you'll automatically join the Juneau chapter.
<https://action.audubon.org/renew/membership>
- ◆ Local only membership: If you don't want to join nationally, you can support JAS directly by mailing your name, address, email, and a check for at least \$10 to P.O. Box 21725 Juneau, AK 99802

Roadless Rule— Another Chance to Comment

The Tongass National Forest provides vast habitat for forest-dwelling birds. Recently, there is a proposal to remove most of the Roadless Rule set aside to large tracts of forest. The new rule would possibly lead to increase in logging and other activities.

As a non-political and non-advocacy group, we are not going to comment on the latest plans or tell our readers what they should conclude. But we hope our members do weigh in! As it turns out, one personal letter, explaining how you as an individual, or your local business might specifically be affected, is probably worth 100 form-letters generated through an organization.

The public has until midnight Alaska time on Dec. 17, 2019, to submit comments. You can submit comments in the following ways:

Web: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511

Email: akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us

- Mail: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska, 99802
- Fax: 907-586-7852
- In-person delivery to Forest Service, 709 W. 9th Street, Room 535B, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Also, public hearings will take place in November. Visit the [project webpage](#) for the most up-to-date schedule.

(If the links above don't work, you can find this information on the Tongass National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions Website <https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/components/reports/sopa-111005-2019-04.html>)



Juneau Audubon Society's mission 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.



Happy Holidays
from JAS!



An Action-Packed Year of Environmental Education Events

Fall 2018 Juneau Audubon's Education Chair Alexia Kiefer lead a talk along the Airport Trail with homeschoolers and families learning about hornworms (hawk moth larvae) and woolly bear (spotted tussock moth larvae), their lifecycles, interesting anatomy and metamorphosis.

Spring 2019 Raven and Idea Homeschool volunteers, JAS, Juneau Raptor Center (JRC) and Litter Inc. worked together to keep Juneau clean and birds safe! Groups cleaned accumulated trash in the back of the Fred Meyer store. Families learned the dangers of plastic to seabirds globally. The topic them was based on the 2019 World Migratory Bird Day slogan: "protect birds: be the solution to plastic pollution". And we added: "Hold on to your balloons.... what goes up must come down.... or birds will drown! "

Spring also brought many school class visits and field trips that involved hands-on learning with taxidermy birds, understanding beak adaptations, and bird skeletons. Alexia enjoyed sharing her love for birds with future birders from The Juneau Co-Op preschool, Raven, Idea correspondence schools, Glacier Valley Elementary LEAP Program, and Juneau School District's STEM event.

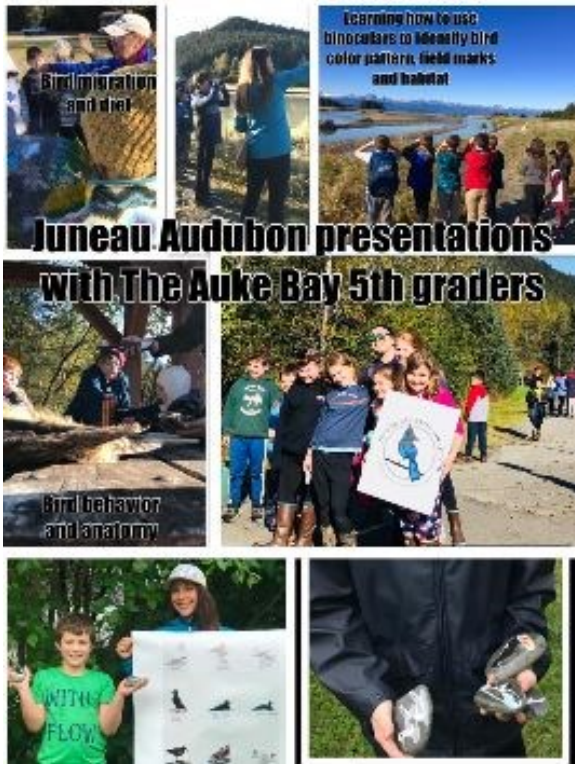
Alexia hosted a field trip legally collecting eagle feathers with the Pack 6 Cub Scouts on the Mendenhall Wetlands. Participants learned about the National Eagle Repository and why they distribute eagle feathers to federally recognized Native American Tribes. The search started slow, but then a scout found an entire dead juvenile bald eagle, a major score for the repository!

In May, JAS had a blast sponsoring The Girls and Boys on the Run event. The plastic pollution theme was continued, as well as bird learning activities for participants and their families. (See pg. 10)

EDUCATION -CONTNUED FROM PAGE 9. Thanks to Marie Martin for placing bird posters on the designated running trail, to JRC for their plastics awareness display and ADF&G for the prize drawing “Birds of Alaska” CD. Shout out to Marsha Squires, Alexia Kiefer, event volunteers, and to all the runners!

Summer 2019 JAS did several seabird presentations at River Bend Elementary School Summer Rally Program. Students learned all about seabird’s special abilities, names, behaviors. They felt feathers and bones, learned how to use binoculars, and played a fun seabird painted rock hunt- and- match game! Big thanks to Alexia Kiefer, Patricia Wherry and Brenda Wright for volunteering their time and sharing their knowledge.

Fall 2019 Every Fall JAS looks forward to hosting bird education stations for the Auke Bay 5th graders for a camp event at Eagle Beach. Volunteers this year were Patricia Wherry, Brenda Wright and Alexia Kiefer. The children are rotated between three different stations where they learned about diet, anatomy, migration and bird ID. The kids are always so engaged and enjoy all the fun hands-on learning .



Juneau Audubon presentations with The Auke Bay 5th graders



Raven & Idea Homeschool walk with an appearance from The Juneau Audubon Society at the Airport trail



THE JUNEAU AUDUBON TEACHING BIRD BEAK ADAPPTIONS AT GLACIER VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEAP PROGRAM.

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 3 JAN-FEB 2020



Juneau Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 21725
 Juneau, AK 99802
<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday January 4

Juneau Christmas bird count

Thursday January 9

The New Gold Rush: Golden Eagle Studies in Alaska

Thursday March 12 Searching for the Spirit Bear in British Columbia

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Strike Team: Kids Take on Killer Windows

It is estimated that millions of birds die annually as a result of hitting windows. Almost everyone has seen this happen, and most of us live in houses or work in buildings with a lot of glass. **Finding practical solutions to bird strikes is one of the biggest challenges to modern bird conservation.**

Juneau students Elijah and Lydia Goins (13 & 10), Ethan Sinclair (10), Melissa Maxwell (13), and Daisy Montero (12) were looking for such a challenge. They formed a team and, with the help of coaches Ariane and Chris Goins, designed a window treatment that would reduce collisions. Their solution was entered in the FIRST LEGO League competition, in Juneau.

To prepare, the team interviewed Juneau Audubon Society 's Education Chair, Alexia Kiefer, and experts from the Juneau Raptor Center. They learned that Southeast Alaska has lots of bird habitat. But when vegetation is reflected, glass becomes particularly dangerous because birds think they can fly into the "mirror". They also learned that birds can see farther into the UV spectrum than humans. This was the basis for the design they came up with: a 2" x 4" grid of fluorescent strips over a



FIRST LEGO League & Juneau Audubon Society group pose. (JAS Photo)

UV coating. The team also recognized that more public education is essential. They won the Robot Design Core award for their design.

See 6 for more info on how you can prevent window collisions.

Message from the President: Flight Shame

After checking the weather forecast and seeing yet another full week on that uneasy cusp between rain and snow, with 100% cloud cover, and --oh boy!-- a little wind mixed in this time, I'm really looking forward to taking a trip to better climes. I'm also understanding that climate change is no longer abstract; it's affecting me, personally, right now, because my ski season is once again in jeopardy. But I'm also thinking about a birding blog written by a guide in Peru, Gunnar Engblom. He discussed the dilemma that birders face when they fly internationally.

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg– brought as a new phrase, *flygskam* “flight shame”, which should have particular resonance for birders. While most of us birdwatchers are not necessarily twitching around the – or even driving – to rack up a species list, by virtue of living in Southeast Alaska, we have sasquatch-sized carbon footprints. Just sitting around eating and staying warm has to be energetically above the world's average given our distance from most resources. And if you have family down south, or need to travel for work, either a large polluting diesel boat or an airplane is almost unavoidable. So, what can conscientious people in the north do? (Continued Page 6)

Board of Directors

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Patty Rose *Treasurer*
Amy Sherwin *Secretary*
Lizzie Solger *Membership*

Alexia Kiefer *Education*
Brenda Wright *Programs*
Debbie Hart *Conservation*
Winston Smith *At-Large*

JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity !

We have two vacancies at this time: Field Trips Coordinator and At-large. Please contact Gwen by email: president@juneau-audubon-society.org for more info



Golden Eagle and chick. Photo by Mick Thompson. Flickr Photoshare, Creative Commons License <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Programs

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Juneau Audubon Society lecture series!

January 9

Steve Lewis presents: The New Gold Rush: Golden Eagle Studies in Alaska
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Room 112

February

To be announced. Check our website and Facebook site for updates.

March 12

Jost Bakker presents: Searching for the Spirit Bear in British Columbia
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Hall

April 9

Max Goldman and Rebecca Sentner present: Audubon Alaska unveils the Southeast Alaska Birding Trail
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Hall

All presentations are free and open to the public. ***We hope to see you there!***

Safeguard Your Windows for Birds

You can reduce the danger your home's windows pose to birds with some simple solutions that you can implement today. Try some of the following ideas to make your windows safer:

- **Use barriers.** Barriers are very effective, such as external window mosquito screens tightly tethered bird netting or recycled small mesh fish netting.
- **Break up the glare.** Curtains can help. Use tempera glass paint or craft glass markers to form patterns on the window. Horizontal lines should be spaced no more than two inches apart, and vertical lines should be no more than four inches apart (birds will try to fly through anything larger).
- Placing a sticker of a hawk or other predator alone on a window isn't effective.

For more information on ways to safeguard your windows for birds:

www.AllAboutBirds.org/news/why-birds-hit-windows-and-how-you-can-help-prevent-it.

An Easy Way to Support JAS

Effortlessly give to your favorite nonprofit by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.FredMeyer.com.

Search using our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation! ***Please take a moment and sign up today!***

We Want to Hear From You

We'd love to know... do we have a lot of newsletter readers? Is it worth going beyond the normal website and Facebook posts? We put substantial effort into publishing The Raven, and funds to print it, without much feedback. If something has caught your interest any time in the last year, or you'd like to know more about something in particular, please send an email to: raven@juneau-audubon-society.org.

And as always, if you receive the print version of the newsletter, and are ready to switch to the electronic version by email, please let us know.

Respondents will be eligible for a prize, announced in the spring newsletter!

FLIGHT SHAME (from Page 2)

Engblom discussed the merits of ecotourism, and supporting reserves when you do travel. Its not safe to assume your visit to the area will improve things, often it doesn't, unless you can directly track donations to local people or reserves. The American Bird Conservancy has an interesting website for conservation birding: www.ConservationBirding.org. Carbon offsets are another option for appeasing guilt. Of course, it's not really possible to "cancel" anything, but things like planting trees certainly can't hurt. Check out this fairly well-vetted site: www.CarbonFund.org/carbon-offsets/ (Here's an answer to gifts for that person who has everything?)

I don't have any one best solution. Who does? I like the concept of a "staycation" – in the summer. I admit that I'm not yet ready to give up traveling altogether, but here are some things I'll be doing this year, to assuage the guilt and maybe lower my impact a little. I keep going with "meatless most days" (the popular "meatless Monday is a start, but we can do better than that!), as animal products, especially beef, have huge environmental impacts. I'll be doing most my birding and short errand trips by bike. Logging miles for bike- to-work month the last few years I found that even a few casual trips a week adds up to well over 100 miles a month not spent in a car. I'm trying to think a little more creatively this year maybe for example, assessing my IRA investments. Could those be greener? Its resolution time, I hope you will join me in thinking about this! - Gwen Baluss



Common Redpoll. Mark Schwann photo

**Happy
New Year !**

Wrapping Up Christmas Bird Count Season

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the nation's longest-running community science bird project. This is the 120th year of the CBC.

The Ketchikan Christmas Bird Count took place on December 14, 2019. This report came in from Steve Heintz:

- Total species: 70 (slightly more than average)
- Total individuals were above average (huge numbers of siskins)
- Water birds were below average (waterfowl, gulls, loons, grebes)
- Of note was a **record-high tally of 20 Anna's Hummingbirds**, which probably represents <50% of the number that are actually present in the Ketchikan area.

Juneau's CBC will take place Saturday, January 4. Count week is Wednesday, January 1, through Tuesday, January 7. We hope there are many successful counts around Southeast Alaska this year, and we'd love some highlights for upcoming newsletters. To submit a report, or for more information, email Patty Rose at: p_rose_raven@yahoo.com.

There are Christmas Bird Counts across the Americas. Curious about hotspots for a particular species or results for a place? Learn more at: www.Audubon.org/



Surf Scoter, is typically abundant in Juneau's CBC. Last year, however, was a low count for these declining sea ducks.

Don't miss the 10th Annual Yakutat Tern Festival!

The 10th annual Yakutat Tern Festival will take place May 28-31, 2020.

The Festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska.



Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southernmost 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. Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beach-combing. The Yakutat Tern 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, the Wildman foot race, music, and art.

Keynote speaker Hob Osterlund, is an award-winning writer, photographer, and conservationist living on the island of Kaua'i. Her work has appeared in publications including *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Explorer*, *Audubon*, *National Wildlife*. She founded Kaua'i Albatross Network. Her work included monitoring of Laysan albatross, assisting with predator control and serving as a link between private landowners and state and federal wildlife agencies. Hob worked as a Kaua'i Coordinator for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology "TrossCam" project. She will discuss the albatross and its role in Hawaiian culture.

Featured artist is Ray Troll, an iconic figure in Southeast AK. From his studio on a hill above Tongass Narrows in Ketchikan, Ray Troll creates fishy images that swim into museums, books and magazines, and onto t-shirts worn around the world. He draws his inspiration from extensive field work and the latest scientific discoveries, bringing a street-smart sensibility to the worlds of ichthyology and paleontology

For more information and to register, go to www.YakutatTernFestival.org or call (907) 784-3359. The festival can be found on Facebook and Instagram



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THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 4

MAR-APR 2020

Lots of Spring Events on the Way!

Check out Juneau's "slow motion nature festival" with our line-up.

Thurs. March 12 Evening Lecture

Jos Bakker presents: Quest for the Spirit Bear in British Columbia
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Hall

Thurs. April 9 Evening Lecture

Audubon Alaska Presents: The Southeast Alaska Birding Trail: Audubon Alaska's bird-centric strategy for fostering an enduring conservation ethic"
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Hall (See more about the train [on pg. 3](#).)

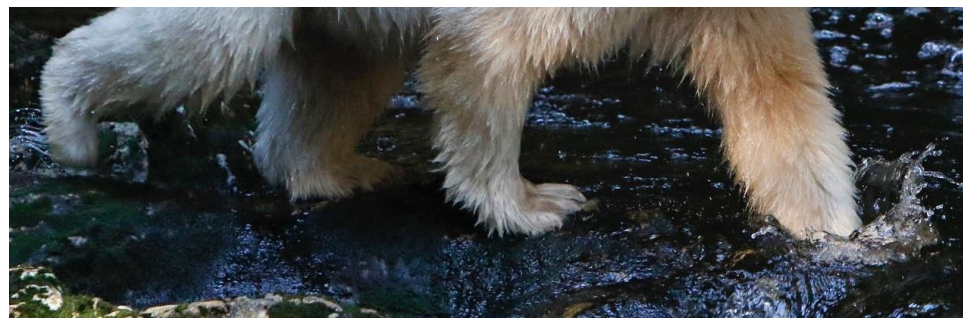
Sat. April 11 Field Trip

First spring bird walk! Fish creek delta. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Fish Creek Parking Lot (Off Douglas Highway). Leaders local experts Marsha Squires and Laurie Lamm.

Sat. April 25 BERNERS BAY Wildlife Cruise A traditional favorite to a local Important Bird Area

Sat. May 2 *NEW* Wildlife Cruise highlighting Juneau Channel Island State Marine Park

(See more about events starting on pg. 3)



*Maybe we will see the rest of this beautiful bear at the March 12 program.
(Jos Bakker photo)*



Southeast Alaska Birding Trail Nearly Fledged

By Gwen Baluss

The Southeast Alaska Birding Trail is now online! This first version, viewable now, will be updated throughout the spring and, we hope, attract the first set of visitors to try it out this summer. The virtual trail includes 17

communities and over 200 birding sites throughout the region. The website offers maps, tips, checklists, and other useful information to help visitors plan their trip. An app will follow that allows birders to have all the info handy, even offline, on their phones. (More on pg. 4)

Support Our Regional Birding Festivals

Please consider a partial "Stay-cation" this year. You are certain find lots of birds and adventure. *Visitors are key to making ecotourism work in these communities.*

Stikine River Birding Festival Apr. 30—May 3 <https://www.wrangell.com/birdingfestival>

Yakutat Tern Festival— May 28-31 <https://www.yakutatfestival.org>



Alaska Bald Eagle Festival (Haines) - Nov. 11-14 <https://baldeagles.org/festival-schedule>

A feast for the eyes. Thousands of shorebirds visit the Stikine River Delta each spring. (G. Baluss photo)

More JAS Events (Cont. from front page)

Bird Walks : All skill levels are welcome! Walks are **free** and open to the public, and begin at 8:00 am with an estimated end time at 10:00 am. Please bring binoculars, carry rain gear, water, and a bird book or phone id app for personal bird identification purposes. JAS can provide binoculars to borrow .

Wildlife cruises : These are offered thanks to local company Allen Marine. **Look for tickets at Hearthside Books. Adults \$75; Students \$45 (includes UAS); Kids under 12 \$25. (must be accompanied by an adult).**

The first trip should coincide with the famous eulachon (fish) run that attracts thousands of birds and hundreds of marine mammals to Berners Bay.

Additionally, we are excited to offer a new cruise itinerary. Boat will linger near several spectacular spots within the Juneau Channel Island State Marine Park. Expect to see lots of oystercatchers, breeding areas for Pigeon Guillemot and Arctic Terns, Steller sea lion haul outs and more! We will also approach Admiralty Island, and maybe see a few bears! Cruises last about 4 hours.

Outdoor activities will be planned for most Saturdays until mid June. Please check our website, Facebook page and community calendars for updates. Additional questions email info@juneau-audubon-society.org



Humpback whale tail by Gwen Baluss

Birding Trail

(Continued from pg. 2) This Audubon Alaska project received help from the US Forest Service Alaska Region and Juneau Audubon Society, who share the goal independent travelers interested in bird-centered ecotourism with detailed information on some the regions best birding sites and logistics.

We appreciate the countless birders and community leaders who have lent their expertise and enthusiasm to this endeavor. Birders have given their time directly to the project via meetings, site reviews or phone interviews; or contributed to the knowledge of bird distribution in the area by publishing lists or books or contributing via eBird. Now, we hope that you all will peruse the 'final draft' and share widely with anyone you know who might be interested in visiting. Its beautiful! <https://ak.audubon.org/southeast-alaska-birding-trail>

JAS will host project coordinators from Audubon Alaska for a public program April 9 to talk more about this exciting project.

Remember to apply for your PFD...And Please, Pick, Click, Give

Thank you fellow Alaskans for your generous donations in the past years!

JAS is on the list again of charitable organizations that you can select to donate part of your permanent fund dividend.

And finally... We are planning a **Bird-a-thon Fundraiser** in May. Stay tuned!



Marbled Murrelets in Auke Bay (Gwen Baluss Photo)



Steller sea lions a haul out by Gwen Baluss

We Want to Hear From You

We'd love to know... **do we have a lot of newsletter readers?** Is it worth going beyond the normal website and Facebook posts? We put substantial effort into publishing The Raven, and funds to print it, without much feedback. If something has caught your interest any time in the last year, or you'd like to know more about something in particular, please send an email to: raven@juneau-audubon-society.org.

And, if you receive the print version of the newsletter, and are ready to switch to the electronic version by email, please let us know. **Respondents will be eligible for a prize drawing, announced in the May-June Raven!**

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Alexia Kiefer *Education*
Brenda Wright *Programs*
Debbie Hart *Conservation*
Winston Smith *At-Large*

JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity !

We have three vacancies at this time: Field Trips Coordinator, Newsletter Compiler and At-large. **We really need help!** Please contact Gwen by email: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

JAS Offers Summer Internships

Early career conservationists have an opportunity to gain experience in Juneau. Paid interns will help with citizen science projects, primarily Tree Swallow nest box monitoring, as well as nesting seabird protection, hummingbird monitoring and other research projects; the college level intern will also work on public outreach, social media and organizing activities such as coastal cleanup. *Please help us spread the word especially to young people who may not be Audubon members yet.* **Application information will be announced on our website.** www.juneau-audubon-society.org

Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results

The 47th Juneau CBC was Jan. 4. Twenty-four volunteers reported 70 species and 10,069 individual birds. Twelve more species were seen during count week, a total of 82. Highlights included Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-breasted Sapsucker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Lapland Longspur, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow and the first ever Red-breasted Sapsucker count day; Canvasback, Surf-bird, Great Horned Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, and Lincoln's Sparrow for count week. Those species have been seen on 10 or fewer previous counts.

Surprisingly, the count resulted in nine new highs: Pied-billed Grebe (2), Bald Eagle (220), Killdeer (22), Dunlin (440), Merlin (5), Pacific Wren (18), Varied Thrush (120), White-winged Crossbill (670), and Pine Siskin (2,065).

For the first time on a Juneau count, Long-Tailed Duck was not reported. A count of seven White-winged Scoters was a new low count. The five most

numerous species were Mallard (2,146), Pine Siskin (2,065), White-Winged Crossbill (670), Glaucous-winged Gull (590), and Common Raven (488).

Thanks to organizer Patty Rose, to the National Audubon Society that keeps records, and to all the local volunteer birders.

A detailed list is available on the JAS website.



Photo: The Spotted Towhee, a rarity for Alaska in winter. G. Baluss.



Photos. Left: hands-on learning (by Juneau STEM coalition) ! Right: 'fill the bill' teaches about bird diets. (by Debbie Hart).

Bird Focused Education Continues

On Jan. 21, on an in-service (no school) day, JAS volunteers set up four learning stations at the Mendenhall Valley Public Library. Kids and their families fun opportunities at four stations: beak adaptations, binocular use, taxidermy birds and a migration globe. Thanks to organizer Amelia Mass and to JAS volunteers Alexia Kiefer, Brenda Wright, Patricia Wherry, Debbie Hart and Marsha Squires. We also continued participation in Juneau School districts "curiosity unleashed" event in January. It focused on Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) plus Art (STEAM).

Local Carbon Offset Program

Last month's article about "Flight shame"—birders are thinking about climate change brought comment from an alert reader. We learned about an exciting new Juneau-based carbon offset program installing energy saving heat pumps *Check out this site!* <https://renewablejuneau.org/juneau-carbon-offset-fund>

Tracking Certification Offered in Juneau

Former Education Chair Kevin O'Malley and tracker will help with a special event June 6-7, sponsored by Discovery Southeast. (\$200 fee) From the course info: "CyberTracker system provides a rigorous standards for training, evaluating, and certifying wildlife trackers...and leaves participants feeling more connected to the landscapes in which they live. Learn more at : <http://trackercertification.com>. From there, scroll to upcoming trainings, and find even more links and a sign up sheet there. Or call Discovery Southeast at 907-463-1500



The Raven is the monthly newsletter for Juneau Audubon Society

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Volume 47 No. 1 Edited by Gwen Baluss

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 1

SEPT-OCT 2020

Fall & Winter Programs Going Virtual

The whole world is changing due to Covid-19 but our commitment to bringing educational and fun programs to Southeast Alaska has not.

Available online soon: Juneau Rare Bird Photo Share. This was held as a Zoom meeting, and recorded for posting on our Facebook page.

This was our first attempt and it was quite successful, with over 30 members, friends and neighbors joining in real time.

Stay tuned for more! Info will be posted on the JAS website and Facebook pages.



Photo: Turkey Vulture at Mendenhall Wetlands, summer 2017. G. Baluss.

President's Message: What's in a Name?

Gwen Baluss

Audubon. For me, more than anything, it's a brand. It means birds. And conservation. Something we can all be proud to be associated with as members, as volunteers, a little plus mark on our own personal "branding". Most of us know that John James Audubon painted birds in beautiful detail and his legacy increased the appreciation of birds that the American public carries on today. All true. But unfortunately Audubon's full history is not all positive. Like many influential early scientists, he espoused racist viewpoints, and, even worse, was a slave holder.

It seems a good time to move away from naming things, including clubs, after people who do not symbolize all of our values. Or really, people at all, because by singling out some, you belittle others; better to focus on the mission. I hope there will be helpful discussion that ensues as National Audubon Society faces up to its imperfect past and invites more voices into our collective future. For years, the Society has been putting diversity and inclusion forward as a priority and, as a metric in each chapter's annual reporting, giving a strong signal that chapters should be doing the same.

If you have ideas on how JAS can improve at reaching out to groups who may have not traditionally been part of our activities, please let us know.



Audubon's "American Crossbill"

Once, I went to see a big exhibit of Audubon's art in a museum. What inspired me was how *bad* the early work was. Clearly with persistence it got better. We must get better at what we do.

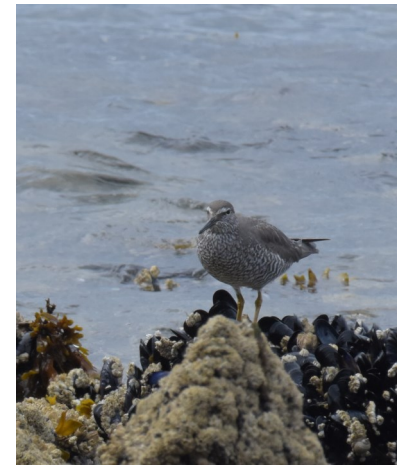
Nature is for everyone. Enjoying it and preserving it everyone's right and responsibility. We look forward to celebrating and preserving biodiversity—and human diversity.

(First Annual) Bird-a-thon a Huge Success

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and the tenacity of birders the May event surpassed our expectations. Over 50 birders around Southeast Alaska participated, tallying at least 130 species on a beautiful sunny day! It was especially nice to have an event that could be pulled off safely outdoors, and yet bring a sense of community. Half the proceeds were in turn donated to Southeast Alaska Food Bank.



Gwen Baluss hands over donation to SEAFB Manager Chris Schapp



Wandering Tattler, one of the less common species found on May 9.

Board of Directors

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Marsha Squires *Vice President*
Patty Rose *Treasurer*
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Lizzie Solger *Membership*
Brenda Wright *Programs*
Debbie Hart *Conservation*
Winston Smith *At-Large*

JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity!

We have **four vacancies** at this time: Field Trips Coordinator, Newsletter Compiler, Education Chair and At-large. **We really need help!** Please contact Gwen by email: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

Successful Summer Internships

Thanks to a National Audubon Society Collaboration Grant, and JAS internal funds, JAS was able to host two Bird Conservation Interns summer 2020. JAS recruited **Ashley Murphy**, a UAS student, and **Jessica Millsaps**, a recent Juneau local graduate.

Both worked on monitoring Tree Swallow Nest boxes, and Arctic Tern breeding colonies, as well as education and outreach. We appreciate their hard work and are happy to have provided some great experience for their budding careers.

Ashley: "This internship has been a great opportunity for me to explore more of my interest in wildlife. I have really enjoyed seeing how many different species of birds we have in this area and learning to distinguish the different, and learn more about hummingbirds, swallows, terns, and gulls. A highlight so far was being able to hold a female Rufous Hummingbird and watch it fly off as it was released!" Ashley is studying Environmental Science.

Jessica: "As an intern for the Juneau Audubon, I assist in trapping Rufous Hummingbirds and monitoring the nests of Tree Swallows and Arctic Terns. I also help collect data and enter it on science websites. Monitoring the breeding success in swallows and terns helps us to understand how they are adapting to changing weather conditions and food sources. I have really enjoyed being a part of this project." Jessica is already an accomplished birder and photographer.



Jessica, left with camera, and Ashley, right, with hummingbird.

Farewell and Thanks to Board Members Who Have Migrated

We appreciate the work and company of both **Jason Colon** who served as Field Trips Coordinator, and **Alexia Kiefer**, who has been Education Chair. They will be sorely missed! JAS especially appreciated having Alexia and Jason serve because they are a little younger than our average board member, offering fresh perspectives. We hope they gained good experience on this board and, when the work and school loads calm down a bit, trust they will find their wings again as volunteers or employees in the non-profit world.

Some retrospectives. Check out this great article about **birding for everyone** in the Juneau Empire, by Jason: <https://www.juneauempire.com/life/sustainable-alaska-counting-for-conservation>

We fondly remember the many, many great events Alexia organized with youth, and her wonderful **energy and commitment to conservation**.



Alexia "womaning" JAS table at Boys and Girls Run event.

Wetland Cleanup with Juneau Youth

By Ashley Murphy

The Audubon Society was able to collaborate with a local Boy Scout group and clean-up along the wetlands near Egan Highway south of Sunny Point. This clean-up got young Scouts involved in cleaning up one of the most diverse ecosystems in Southeast, Alaska. This clean-up also helped give a look into the amount of trash that can accumulate when it is not disposed of properly. This is a great exercise everyone can practice when outdoors. When we see trash, we can dispose of it properly (if it is safe to handle).

One of the reasons The Audubon Society organized this wetland cleanup was to spread awareness of the danger of plastics to shore birds. This clean-up helped reduce the likelihood of plastics and waste from breaking down into hard to remove microplastics. This was a very successful wetland clean-up and we collected 6 bags of trash, with much of it localized along the highway. The microplastics can be dangerous because they are often mistaken for food by the shorebirds, causing health problems. Our goal for this clean-up was to spread awareness of the dangers that plastics pose to birds and preserve their habitats so they can be here for today, tomorrow and seasons to come. Clean-ups are a great way to get more people involved in keeping shorebird ecosystems clean.



Fall sunrise near Sunny Point, a little cleaner now thanks to **local youth**. Photo by G. Baluss

Tree Swallow Season Summary 2020

By Jessica Millsaps

- Of the 58 Tree Swallow nest boxes JAS put up around Juneau this year, 49 boxes had swallow eggs laid in them, 9 were unused, and 3 were taken over by Chestnut-backed Chickadees.
- The first tree swallow egg was laid 5/15 and the last was laid 6/19, the average lay dates being 5/19 and 5/20.
- Tree swallows laid a confirmed total of 283 eggs with average clutch size being 6 eggs.
- The largest clutch had 8 eggs (an unusually high number for this species).
- Of 283 eggs, only 14 failed to hatch.
- The first chick hatched 6/7 and the last one hatched 7/4.
- A total of 254 chicks hatched with **191 chicks successfully ledged**.
- 2 nests were predated and 7 nests failed, possibly due to cooler than average temperatures.
- The first chicks to fledge took flight 6/24 and the last ones to fledge finally left 7/28 (probably our latest record). 41 nests successfully fledged some chicks but only 16 nests were 100% successful with no losses.



Tree Swallows at a Juneau nest box. Photo by J.Millsaps



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Volume 47 No. 2 Edited by Gwen Baluss

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 2

NOV-DEC 2020

More Virtual Programs on the Way

While hunkering down we continue leaning about and enjoy the nature of Southeast Alaska . Programs will be aired via Zoom meeting the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. and, when possible, added to our Facebook page afterwards.

December 10 : JAS Summer Bird Conservation Interns will talk about the studies they helped with: Tree Swallow nest boxes, Arctic Tern Monitoring & Rufous Hummingbird banding.

January 14 : John Hudson with Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition will address local watershed restoration and invasive species.

Look for login information on our Facebook Page and Website.

And, if you miss a program, it may be posted on the JAS Facebook Page.



Arctic Tern nest. A. Murphy photo



Tree Swallow nest. A. Murphy photo.

Environmental Education Continues

Despite the pandemic and a vacancy for our Education Chair, board members have pulled off a few youth events.

This fall Programs Chair Brenda Wright and a Girl Scout group fought the cold and wet to glean the Mendenhall Wetlands for Bald Eagle feathers. JAS maintains a permit to submit citizen-collected feathers to the US Fish and Wildlife Service -who in turn distributes the feathers to Native Americans for ceremonial use.

At-Large board member Winston Smith reached several classes at Mendenhall River Elementary School (remotely) to teach about animal migration and the risks climate change. School-age kids like hearing from "real scientists" of which Winston, an esteemed researcher, certainly is.



Masked and distanced scouts brave the weather at Mendenhall Wetlands.

PFD Time, Don't forget to Pick, Click, Give

We want to thank the incredible generosity of those who thought of us when they participated in the PCG. This has turned out to be a major source of funding for Juneau Audubon Society.

Heres' Another Way to Help: Fred Meyer Will Donate to Non-profits



Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Search for us by name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the JAS earn a donation! You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk.

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President's Message: More about names.

Gwen Baluss

Birds, unlike most kinds of living things, have fairly consistent officially recognized English common names. It could be argued that we don't need two sets of names, since the scientific name is unambiguous. But, considering the number of hobbyists and citizen scientists who use the names, it's nice to have a universal system that doesn't have people trying to write or say something like "*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*" every time a Bald Eagle goes by. Even Spanish-speaking ornithologists usually know the English name (in addition to the scientific; just one of the ways we who study migratory birds are regularly outclassed by our southern counterparts). But despite the ease of use, the official common names do come with their fair share of consternation. In addition to the disruptions that frequent taxonomic rearrangements create for listers and biologist's databases, there may be heartburn over what the bird should be called. There are a lot of names that we all recognize as in need of improvement. Perhaps a bird is named after a place that it only rarely migrates through (e.g. Nashville Warbler—which, by the way, was recently seen in Juneau!), or a field mark that is not really conspicuous (e.g. Ring-necked Duck) or, they are *just plain boring*. I was disappointed when the Winter Wren became Pacific Wren in the West. After all, a peak at any field guide that covers south of Alaska will reveal there are many wren species towards the Pacific. It's also odd to talk about a bird whose name includes "Common" when it is seriously uncommon, either in its total population, or perhaps in that particular location. In general, the American Ornithological Society North American Classification Committee (in case you're wondering, that's who is 'in charge' of the naming) seeks to be highly conservative in re-naming birds, only doing so when they feel there is no other way to distinguish between two different species, or merge two forms of the same animal. So probably none of the reasons I've brought up so far would be an urgent reason to create the "Pacific Northwest Wren". But recently an interesting and compelling debate has emerged about eponymous bird names. Who were all these guys anyway—Swainson, Wilson, MacGillivray and the like? (See pg. 5)

(Name, from pg. 4) While we assume they made important contributions to ornithology, how long should that legacy live? Unfortunately most of them lived and opined in a time when formal science was pretty much the exclusive ken of wealthy white men, some of whom had pretty bad attitudes towards the rest of humanity. To this end, the first name change based on recognizing this history happened this year. It's time to cross out that field guide entry for McCown's Longspur, and pencil in Thick-billed Longspur. (McCown was a high-ranking Confederate, and veteran of wars with American Indians). A twitter group #BirdNamesForBirds has identified other problematic figures, among them, Mr. MacGillivray. Which brings up another issue with eponyms: some of them are hard to spell. Kittlitz's Murrelets are fantastic, but it gets old checking that spelling, and teaching the computer to recognize the correct one. I'm all for some new names, and nowadays it's pretty easy to convince my computer to make a universal name code change. I just hope the Naming Committee gets a little more precise, and creative in the process.



MacGillivray's Warbler. Juneau Community Garden. G. Baluss photo.

Christmas Bird Counts

Its CBC season, but things will be a bit different this year. National Audubon Society has put out some safety guidelines that feel they can continue this 100+ year tradition of valuable data collection.

In Juneau, there will be a count, Saturday Dec. 19; but with limitations due to Covid-19. The compiler will assign discrete areas to experienced birders who have done the count before. Unfortunately there will be no training of new counters or gatherings of birders this year.

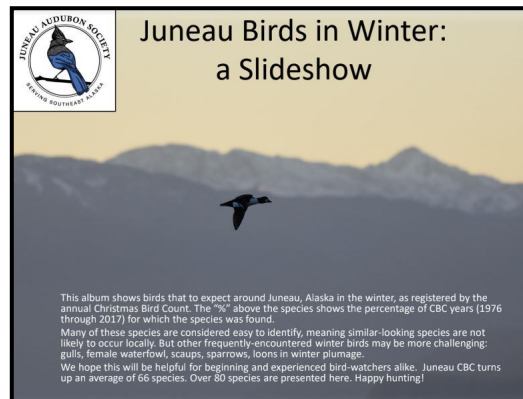
There is an opportunity to sign up as a feeder watcher and, as always, please report any unusual species sightings seen during count week (Wednesday, December 16 – Tuesday, December 22) via eBird or directly to compiler Patty Rose. (email: p_rose_raven@yahoo.com)

For other communities, you can find out more at National Audubon's website <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>

Then go the map and click on the little bird in your area and see contact information for the compiler.

(Or, trying calling your local USFS Ranger District office, most have personnel that are organizers or participants.)

Want to brush up on what birds are around SEAK in the winter? Check out our new photographic slide show of species that occur on Juneau's CBC—link is on the Home Page of our website.



Happy Holidays

To all our members: we appreciate you, we miss you, we understand its been a tough year for some of you, and hope for a better year ahead.