



The Raven is the monthly newsletter for Juneau Audubon Society

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Volume 47 No. 3 Edited by D Hart

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 3

JAN-FEB 2021

More Monthly JAS Virtual Programs ...

A service the Juneau Audubon Society provides is helping our members learn about and enjoy the natural ecosystems of Southeast Alaska. JAS monthly programs will continue to be aired via Zoom on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.; and, when possible, added to our Facebook page afterwards. Keep a lookout on our website page for information on upcoming presentations and links to the Zoom meeting.

February 11, 2021: Birds from Wood—Decoy Carving in a New Direction by Matt Robus

March 11, 2021: Growing Up Eaglets in Juneau by Jos Bakker, Doris Kirchhofer, & Helen Unruh.

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.



Oyster Catcher Decoy by Matt Robus



Harlequin Duck Decoy by Matt Robus

Lamenting the “Extinction” of the Northwestern Crow

By Gwen Baluss

“What”? You might ask. “I just saw a big flock of them on the beach”. True, there appears to still be a healthy population of crows around Southeast Alaska. Their disappearance from bird lists was the doing of taxonomists. The latest *Supplement to the American Ornithological Society’s Check-list of North American Birds* calls for a merger between the Northwestern Crow and their southeastern cousins, the American Crow. This is based on a genetic analysis that shows that while the two crow lines split and differentiated approximately during the Pleistocene glaciation period, their genes have come back together over a broad front where the groups meet along the coast between central British Columbia and Washington State.

Regarding the split, some down-south authors seemed almost gleeful, saying something that roughly translates to “We suspected this all along and we’re happy now because we never could tell them apart anyway”. I am not so thrilled. Here in Alaska where the purest form of the Northwestern type occurs, it was a regional specialty that we could take pride in adopting as a species for which we had stewardship conservation responsibilities. While all crows may look the same, with only subtle variations in size, they vary a lot in terms of behavior, habitat, and vocalizations – what, at the risk of using a human term, I would call culture. Maybe 380,000 years of relative isolation is not a lot of time when looking at mitochondrial DNA clocks, but it is a lot of time for intelligent animals to think of new ways of doing things.

I remember seeing bonified Northwestern Crows for the first time, shortly after landing from my first flight to Juneau. There was a small group of them, eating Cheez-it crackers in the airport parking lot. But usually they are found right on the seashore, getting shellfish and other invertebrates in the intertidal zone. They drop mussels from a height to crack them. They cache food and find it later. They fulfill a niche that might have otherwise been filled by a shorebird or gull. Crows everywhere are smart and resourceful and have a niche to fill.

But watching these crows is a different experience than seeing the flocks on lawns and farms down south.

I enjoy listening to local crows. To the trained ear corvids everywhere have “dialects”. Along with a familiar (and to late sleepers all along the America’s Northwest coast - maddening) cacophonous “caw” type sounds, a common sound is the “caterwaul”, a long drawn out “waaahh” that recalls a feline in great anguish. It seems to be part of a courtship routine, most often heard in spring.

One upside to the crow question is the demonstration of reticulate evolution – a term used to describe when lines split and then rejoin, making the shape of evolution more like a bush instead of a branching tree. A ‘true’ species would survive geographic reunification, being so different that they would not, or could not interbreed. Crows readily did, passing on their culture to their offspring, who became, at least to birders, indistinguishable from their cousins. The mixing was probably natural, at first, as the glaciers receded, and birds moved between coasts and interior zones along corridors such as rivers. But it possibly has been accelerated by modern people’s habit of clearing forest for farmland, making more corridors and habitat for the pastoral inland crows to meet the coastal types.

I will continue to enjoy the antics of the coastal crows. Who knows? May-



Northwestern Crow with urchin at Auke Bay — Photo Gwen Baluss

be like the Baltimore Oriole or the Canada Jay, Northwestern Crow will appear on our lists again. Our picture of the evolutionary tree, or bush, does grow or get trimmed by new findings, even political choices.

JAS has a New Environmental Education Chair!

We are happy to welcome Kim Ramos to the board. A few words from Kim:

I grew up exploring southern California tidepools and the Sierra Nevada mountains. After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in Zoology I spent a year at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. At "Ding" I worked as the education and biology intern. I have always treasured the outdoors and wildlife but I learned to love birds while living and working at "Ding."

After leaving Florida I lived in Washington State where I performed biological surveys and raptor nest monitoring for the US Navy. Looking for adventure in warmer waters, I moved to Maui in 2013 where I worked as an outdoor educator and guided whale watching and snorkel trips. In 2016 I followed the humpbacks to Juneau and worked seasonally as a hiking and whale watching guide. I migrated back and forth with the whales between Maui and Juneau for several years but made Juneau my year-round home in 2018.

Outside is my happy place. I love hiking, kayaking, fishing, and berry picking. I am an avid reader and baker. I have a sourdough starter named Sunshine and bake bread most Sundays. Exploring the Tongass National Forest continues to teach me how interconnected we are to the land and sea. I am passionate about conservation and facilitating connections between people and the natural world. I am excited to get to know the Juneau Audubon community!

Virtual Bird Camps Offered for Kids

A great learning opportunity for youngsters to learn about birds is available through the Environment For the Americas. The course costs are reasonable, and there may be scholarships available.

[Bird Camp – World Migratory Bird Day](#)

Also did you know that JAS has a funding program for Southeast Alaska youth who are interested in doing bird studies, or attending bird camp? Contact info@juneau-audubon-society.org for more information.

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.

JAS Board of Directors

Gwen Baluss *President*
Marsha Squires *Vice President*
Patty Rose *Treasurer*
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Kim Ramos *Education*
Lizzie Solger *Membership*
Brenda Wright *Programs*
Debbie Hart *Newsletter*
Winston Smith *At-Large*

JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity !

We have **3 vacancies** at this time: Field Trips Coordinator, Conservation Chair, and At-large. **We really need help!** Please contact Gwen by email: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

Virtual Festival Adventures

By Marsha Squires

Like many Audubon members, I'm a bird enthusiast. I relish learning from the "experts" either in town while on a field trip, or through a book, or educational program. And when I imagine all these opportunities and resources rich in new knowledge, my tickle nerve begins to twitch.

I first visited a National Wildlife Refuge back in my twenties. Admittedly, I wasn't acutely aware of the mission of refuges compared to National Parks and Monuments, and was shocked to see hunters walking through the morning mist as I tried to sneak up on the waterfowl in the area. A friend informed me that in a month there would be a "festival" in town and asked if I wanted to return and join him in the fun. Of course! Thinking Renaissance, I was surprised to learn we'd be in the area for three days and instead of being in medieval costume, he set me straight with the need for hiking shoes, various outdoor gear, a write-in-the-rain notebook, and binoculars. You can imagine my surprise and exhaustion at the end of the 3-day excursion. My head was full of facts and stories related to birds, the area ecology, conservation efforts, and more.

Fast forward a few decades to 2020 - 2021. Through ingenuity and creativity, like in so many other aspects of our lives this past year, online learning has come to the forefront not only for public schools and universities, but the face-to-face "festivals" that lured enthusiasts such as myself to new locations. Granted, I may not be lured to travel this year but I am fully aware that our feathered friends, as well as the scaly, furred, eight-legged and such are going to continue to molt, migrate, nest, mate, feed, and behave as "normal" as their instincts propel them through their life-cycles. Perhaps a new normal for humans and bird watching has shifted in this new environment, and virtual learning added to our cycle and adaptations.

JAS has shared information regarding the 2020 Arctic Refuge Virtual Bird Fest already on Facebook. Yet, if you haven't taken the time to review the content, I encourage you to do so. You can test your bird id skills, learn about the connection between the Valle de Oro NWR and the Arctic NWR, and more.



Other virtual festivals include the [Virtual Festival of Birds](#), which is occurring now the entire month of January 2021, and near the end of January, there are two virtual festivals, one location-specific (Florida), the [Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Virtual Festival](#) and another unique in itself, titled [For the Love of Birds Festival](#). Events and presentations are usually broadcasted live and often recorded for later viewing.

If you dream of traveling again but would like to stay closer to our home (SE Alaska), the [Yakutat Tern Festival](#) in May has a list of events planned such as field trips, presentations, artists, a photo contest, and 5K race. If you find yourself in the lower 48 in the future and are driving, you might want to check out the [National Wildlife Refuges](#) in the area. These locations are hidden treasures for birders and may have an annual festival scheduled. Although 2021 is looking sparse in regards to festivals, in the future you can also search on the Cornell Lab, [All About Birds page](#) for festivals and events.

If you prefer to settle down with a cup of [bird-friendly joe](#) and read a book, please consider partaking in the [Environment for the Americas](#), Home of the International Migratory Bird Day, upcoming [book club](#). The books vary from scientific lead research to personal backyard observations, and heart-felt stories of migrations and growth to humorous yet meaningful relationships with birds. There is a plethora of learning opportunities out there and although I never imagined a festival online, I am tickled to know I can dress in whatever costume I want nowadays and learn about our fascinating world of birds.

Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 12-15

Bird anywhere! Count for at least 15 minutes at your site, and send info to eBird. You can go as many places as you would like and participate on any or all days. Try not to count birds twice! <https://www.birdcount.org>

Great Backyard Bird Count results from 2020:

268,674 Estimated Participants

27,270,156 Total Birds Counted

6,942 Species of Birds Identified

194 Countries



Photo from Jamie Burriss/GBBC

Beach watchers wanted for coastal observation and seabird survey team (COASST)

On February 20 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) will deliver a virtual training session for the residents of Alaska. COASST participants help make a difference for the environment by collecting data on beach-cast carcasses of marine birds on a monthly basis to establish the baseline pattern of beached bird mortality on North Pacific beaches.

Reserve your training spot by registering in advance at this [link](#). Learn more by calling COASST at 206-221-6893, emailing coasst@uw.edu, or visiting the website at

www.coasst.org.



Book Review

By Lizzie Solger

J. Drew Lanham's **The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature** is a warm and delightful journey through the "rolling fields of waist-high green rye and sun-ripened wheat" of his youth. Birders will enjoy the colorful descriptions of quail, vultures, and more, written with the childlike wonder of a young Lanham exploring with his first field guide. Many will see themselves in the antics of a kid fascinated by flight, clutching for "the briefest sensation that I'd finally beaten gravity". Pick this book up for an enjoyable escape from our dreary winter weather.

Check it out: Naturalist Bob Armstrong continues to make great videos of local critters, free to view on Vimeo. Check out the Christmas Bird Count species album here: <https://vimeo.com/497735497>



White-throated Sparrow seen on the CBC - Gwen Baluss

Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results

By Patty Rose

The 48th Juneau Christmas Bird Count took place Saturday, December 19. This year's count was held under COVID-19 guidelines for distancing, masking, and group composition. Thirty-eight volunteers, including 28 field volunteers and 10 feeder watchers, reported 51 species and 8,352 individual birds on count day. Nineteen additional species were seen during count week, for a total of 70 species.

Because of the pandemic, the National Audubon Society encouraged the participation of feeder watchers. Seven first-time volunteers participated in the Juneau count this year as feeder watchers.

Unfavorable weather on count day contributed to relatively low counts. Counters reported sustained winds of about 20 mph with gusts to about 40 mph, rain in all areas, and snow flurries at the higher elevations. Ponds and lakes were frozen or partly frozen.

Highlights on count day included a continuing **Trumpeter Swan** on Auke Lake, a **Ring-necked Duck** at the DIPAC hatchery, a **Double-crested**



Long-billed Dowitcher—photo by Patty Rose



Northern Flicker — photo by Sandi Shaw

Cormorant on the South Douglas waterfront, a **Bonaparte's Gull** on the downtown Juneau and Thane Road waterfront, a continuing **Northern Flicker** at a North Douglas residence, and a continuing **White-throated Sparrow** at a Back Loop residence.

Highlights during count week included a **Northern Shoveler** at the Fish Creek access to the Mendenhall Wetlands, a continuing **Long-billed Dowitcher** at the Industrial Boulevard access to the Mendenhall Wetlands, an **American Three-toed Woodpecker** on the Richard Marriott Trail in the Lemon and Switzer Creeks area, and a **Merlin** in the Sandy Beach area of South Douglas.

Twenty-two species have been seen on each of the previous 47 counts and were seen on this count. The five most numerous species were Mallard (2013), Glaucous-winged Gull (1079), Canada Goose (712), Barrow's Goldeneye (636), and Surf Scoter (394). No new high or low counts were recorded this year. The only finches reported on count day were one Pine Grosbeak and one Red Crossbill. Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, and White-winged Crossbill were reported during count week. A full list of CBC results are available on the JAS website.

Thanks to those who volunteered! Please contact Patty Rose at p_rose_raven@yahoo.com if you have questions.



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MAR-APR 2021

Our Last Spring Monthly JAS Virtual Program will be April 8th at 7pm:

A service the Juneau Audubon Society provides is helping our members learn about and enjoy the natural ecosystems of Southeast Alaska. JAS monthly programs run October through April (Bird Walks begin in May—details towards the end of the newsletter) and are aired via Zoom on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.; and, when possible, added to our Facebook page afterwards. Keep a lookout on our website page for information on upcoming presentations and links to the Zoom meeting.

April 8, 2021: Two Ways to Enjoy Birds: Citizen Science and Music—This program will have an Introduction to eBird Cornell University Citizen. Also, JAS will share a classical music concert by the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra: "Bird Flight Patterns and Music Concert video Program." We will watch the Introduction to the Concert and Children's Learning opportunities. All Audubon members will get a free link to enjoy the entire concert. Join us to learn how to report your bird sightings and learn more about Birds!



Thank you to Jos Bakker, Doris Kirchofer, & Helen Unruh for sharing the March presentation on Juneau's eaglets!

Look for login information and recordings on our [Facebook Page](#) and [Website](#).

If you missed our February presentation: **Birds from Wood—Decoy Carving in a New Direction** by Matt Robus—you can find a recording here:

[Decoy Carving Facebook](#)

Seraph —“winged, angelic being”

With a Little Help from My Friends—Story, photos and captions by Kerry Howard

As autumn arrives in Juneau, we are occasionally lucky to hear the sonorous honk or catch a glimpse of a bevy of trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) migrating to their winter grounds. Last November, such a sight was visible when a small group of swans landed on Auke Lake. After several days of resting and feeding, they took to the air to continue their migration—that is, except for one—a cygnet. For some reason, the juvenile swan couldn't get airborne. The best he could muster was a short flight a couple of feet off the ground. After living in a family for his entire short life, he was suddenly left all alone.

Allegedly, there had been an encounter between the swans and several river otters on the lake. And, for a while, the juvenile swan exhibited a small injury on its neck. More worrisome, however, was the condition of the primary feathers on its left wing-- they were tattered and ragged. Could the river otters have caused this damage? Over the next several weeks, the cygnet would be seen moving around Auke Lake feeding, grooming, and resting. A number of people noticed and watched him. As the lake began to freeze, the bird's inability to fly was concerning.

The Juneau Raptor Center (JRC) was made aware of the swan and attempted a couple of rescues during this time. Unfortunately, they were not successful—the bird was simply too mobile and had too much maneuvering room.

In situations like this, it is hard to know what to do. Let nature take its course? Actively intervene? Watch and monitor? On a cold morning in mid-December, I sat quietly at Auke Lake observing the swan. He slowly walked towards me and then stood at the water's edge, shivering. The swan looked so dejected and alone. At that moment, my heart told me this bird needed some kindness and support, so the next day I started feeding it.

It took a little time to figure out what the swan liked to eat. I first tried regular bird seed, which he'd pick at but largely ignore. Then I bought a high protein “flock raiser” food that is fed to domestic geese and ducks. The

swan seemed to relish it! As I began to bring him food daily, he'd see me coming, wait till I put food down and left, and then come in to eat. A routine was established. As fall officially became winter and the weeks rolled by, everything seemed temporarily ok, but the open water and natural food sources in Auke Lake continued to diminish as the lake froze.

With February's cold snap, the swan was left with only a small passage of open water. The JRC decided to mount another rescue attempt. That day, I went to the lake early to check on the swan. I located him in an open channel adjacent to the highway, and our chances seemed good. However, when we returned a couple hours later, the swan had disappeared—no trace. We weren't sure what happened, but guessed he may have gone down Auke Creek to Auke Bay. I looked all over for him that afternoon and, amazingly, just as I was about to give up, spotted him about sunset all the way over by Auke Nu Cove! How were we going to keep an eye on him in this much larger area?

Luckily by the next day, the swan was back at the mouth of Auke Creek and, for the next two weeks, pretty much stayed along the shoreline between there and the Cannery Cove condos. Occasionally, he would swim



A cold morning in December at Auke Lake.

This was the day I knew I had to help this bird.

over by the docks to the delight of many people who observed him there.

Life in Auke Bay was different but still challenging. Since he stayed in a small area, he was fairly easy to monitor. A couple of friends who live in

that area, Linda Blefgen and Denice McPherson, agreed

With a Little Help from My Friends continued....

to help feed and watch him, so he was able to get three meals a day. Although he'd follow a group of mallards around and mimic their feeding behavior, he didn't seem to have much success, and was always hungry when we'd bring food. We continued to observe and adjust what we fed him. We added finely chopped vegetables to his pellets and topped everything off with warm water so it was soup consistency. He'd slurp it down! Although swans are able to drink small quantities of salt water, we guessed he was somewhat dehydrated.

The swan was more active in the open water and sunshine, but hazards were also present—eagles, sea lions, and harbor activities. About this time, he also acquired a name. I asked a biologist friend, Scott McPherson, who lives in the area to come up with a name. A beautiful name—Seraph—was bestowed, which roughly translates as “winged, angelic being.”

Unfortunately, Seraph's condition continued to deteriorate in this intertidal environment. He pulled at his feathers and skin, would act irritated, and even his attempts to fly diminished. On a stormy day, he also temporarily



The damaged primary feathers on the swan's left wing are easily seen in this photo taken during early January at frozen Auke Lake.

relocated to Andrew's Marina, which was more difficult to monitor. At this point, the JRC agreed to try for one more rescue attempt. We had done some research on swan capture and came up with a new plan. Since Seraph was comfortable around me, I would lure him onto land with food and then another friend, Matthew Brown, would slowly approach us and grab Seraph by his neck. Kathleen Benner with the JRC would then run in and cover the swan with a blanket. Now we just needed Seraph to cooperate.

Wouldn't you know, a half-hour before the rescue attempt Seraph disappeared! He wasn't at any of his usual spots in Auke Bay. Fortunately, just shortly before the appointed rescue time, he showed up at Cannery Cove. We had intentionally not fed him that morning and he was very hungry. I went to the beach to monitor him while waiting for the others to arrive.



Kerry Howard feeding Seraph at Auke Creek on a cold but sunny February day. Photo by James Beedle.

The minute Seraph saw me he started walking towards me, actively vocalizing he was hungry! I was trying to avoid feeding him until the others arrived so we'd be able to distract him with food. I sat on the ground and Seraph practically sat down in my lap. Moments later, Matthew and Kathleen arrived, we put our plan into effect and, much to our delight, we were successful! We expected this spirited bird to put up some resistance, but the minute Matthew grabbed him, he went limp and relaxed.

After a night at the JRC clinic in Juneau, Seraph was flown to the Alaska Raptor Center in Sitka. After a thorough evaluation, they let us know his left primary wing feathers were broken by unknown means, but they should grow back in. Seraph also had bumblefoot. “Bumblefoot” is an oddly playful-sounding name given to a serious condition that strikes the feet, joints and bones of primarily captive birds worldwide. It is an inflammatory condition of the soles of the feet that, if treated quickly and aggressively, can be resolved without long-term or significant damage.

With a Little Help from My Friends continued....

Seraph likely developed this condition after several months of walking on rough ground after his flying was impaired. Otherwise he was in good health--no broken bones and his weight was normal. So, as of this writing, we have high hopes he can be rehabilitated and released back to the wild!



Seraph getting a good stretch in the intertidal area near Andrew's Marina.



Finally we rescue Seraph! Matthew Brown holding the swan and Kathleen Benner coming in with a blanket to cover him.

Author's Postscript: It is with great sadness that I learned the Alaska Raptor Center euthanized Seraph on March 3rd. Their vet made the decision that Seraph's bumblefoot had reached a painful and unmanageable level. I'm grateful for their care and to all of those in Juneau who helped make his final months easier. I will always remember this very special bird.

Seraph has proven himself to be a very smart, tenacious, and adaptable bird. We'll never know for certain what caused his feather damage but are grateful that his injuries are not insurmountable. Since trumpeter swans can live up to 20 or more years in the wild, Seraph still has many years to thrive. Once an endangered species, active management and restoration efforts have allowed this species to regain abundance and distribution. Trumpeter swans are now considered "not listed" under the Endangered Species Act.

I personally can't wait for the day when Seraph is released and one more trumpeter swan takes to the sky again. I know the song he'll be singing-- "I can fly with a little help from my friends!"

JAS Presidents afternote:

If you find an injured bird in the Juneau area please contact JRC, a licensed wildlife rehabilitation group (907) 790-5424; check out their website on how you can support their rescue and educational work. [Juneau Raptor Center](#) We share this story because we value the connections that people have to birds. We do not necessarily condone the feeding -and naming -of wildlife. We recognize that there are a range of perspectives on these topics; and that in most cases "keeping wildlife wild" is the best choice for all involved.

National Eagle Repository

By Brenda Wright

In spring of 2010, Juneau Audubon Society was invited to a seminar being held by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There was a representative from the National Eagle Repository (<https://www.fws.gov/eaglerepository/>) asking for volunteers to collect shed bald eagle feathers.

The National Eagle Repository is in charge of distributing bald eagle feathers to native Americans who request them for traditional uses. They are allowed six feathers per request and USFWS had a three year backlog on requests. We were told that although Alaska has the majority of bald eagles in the US, we were almost last in collecting feathers and shipping to the repository. So Juneau Audubon Society purchased a collection permit and started to contribute.

Over the last ten years we have always sent at least 600 feathers and once or twice, nearly 2000! The feathers don't have to be in excellent condition. However, although we still have a valid feather collection permit, we need a few new volunteers. Please let Brenda know if you can help by picking up bald eagle feathers and letting Juneau Audubon send them to the repository (programs@juneau-audubon-society.org).



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Global Big Day (GBD) and Juneau Audubon Society's

2021 Birdathon: Birding for a Cause!

Last May, we had a great time with our first annual JAS Birdathon! Over 50 birders around Southeast Alaska participated, tallying at least 130 species!

We plan to have this event again, coinciding with eBird's Global Big Day.

While we are not back to our normal spring bird walks, we do want everyone to go out birding for some socially distanced fun this spring. This will be a great opportunity to both enjoy the outdoors and help our organization.

It will also be a fundraising opportunity and we decided to share proceeds again with Southeast Alaska Food Bank.

What:

- ◆ Go birding anywhere in Southeast Alaska on Global Big Day and report your sightings via eBird
- ◆ Birders at all skill levels are invited to participate. There is no sign up sheet for birders, just make sure you have an eBird account and practice using it beforehand.
- ◆ AND/OR pledge to contribute either an amount per species seen in Southeast Alaska, or a set total amount.
- ◆ Any donation is appreciated! We will be posting a pledge sheet and accepting donations via Pay Pal. Log in and request funds to be sent to: president@juneau-audubon-society.org
- ◆ Have fun birding and/or checking out our local results.

Why: To offer hope and enjoyment through bird watching while supporting JAS and the local community members in need.



When: May 8, 2021

More about the Global Big Day:

eBird's GBD is a worldwide event that includes bird watching and data collection. Although this is a 24-hour event, you may bird watch for as little as 10 minutes in your backyard or for up to 24 hours afield!

Check out last year's results here: Global Big Day - eBird (<https://ebird.org/globalbigday>)

Safety Reminders for Birders:

Remember to keep the six-foot social distancing space, don't share binoculars or scopes, and minimize the group size to your "bubble".

To Find out More:

Keep checking JAS website, Facebook page and emailed updates. Further questions, please email: info@juneau-audubon-society.org



“No Action” Alert

By Gwen Baluss

This month I share a topic that continues to resurface in our board meetings, and in discussions with members. As we all know there are always processes going on for decisions that will affect the places and things we care about. JAS is considered an environmental organization, but we differ from other groups, even other Audubon groups, in some important ways. As an apolitical group with rules against lobbying, we don't send out “action alerts” to our members or urge them do things like contact their representatives. Its not that we don't care about what's going on-- quite the contrary-- it's just that there are limits to what we can do, both for legal reasons, and, for some of us, a feeling that we can be more affective avoiding contentiousness on some issues.

In brief, here's what we do:

Let residents know if we know of planning actions in Southeast Alaska that will affect wildlife habitat, and how they can submit their own comments.

Encourage all of our community to engage with and care about nature with positive activities: monthly programs, bird walks, publications, Facebook postings, youth activities, etc.

Participate in land planning processes when invited as stakeholders or sources of expertise.

We do not:

Comment on legislation, or anything political, or tell our members to.

Taking the long view, I feel that nature education and bolstering the appreciation for our wildlife locally will form a citizenry that makes good choices for the environment. I feel that our intelligent members do not need to be told how to react.

Here's how YOU can help:

We need help keeping abreast of things going on and making sure that our busy members are aware. There are often projects that fly under our radar, especially Alaska State and Army Corp of Engineers permits. If you have a few hours a month to research such things, and write short communications, please get in touch with us! This is especially important at this time as we do not have a dedicated Conservation Chair on the board currently.



Eurasian Wigeon, a beautiful target species for walks or the birdathon/GBD. A "regular rarity" , usually a few can be found around Juneau in the spring. Photo by Ekaterina Chernetsova (Flickr Creative Commons).

2021 Juneau Audubon Society (JAS)

Spring/Summer Weekend Birding

Due to Covid-19, JAS annual field trips will not be in-person but instead modified to offer the weekend birder a location option and a listing of possible birds in the area (see partial details below; full spring and summer list will be posted to the JAS website). To assist you, the JAS Facebook page will be updated on Fridays to indicate what has recently been seen on the indicated site. You are encouraged to check on eBird to discover birds in other areas of Juneau as well as to post your own sightings.

Happy birding!!!

Date/Time:	Activity/Location:	Tide Info:	Bird Possibilities
April 10 and 11	Fish Creek Delta	Lo .29 @ 0712 Hi 16.03	American and Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, American Dipper, Yellowlegs
April 17 and 18	Airport Dike Trail and Mendenhall Wet-	Lo 1.10 @ 1059 Hi 12.3 @ 1722	Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, scaups, Bufflehead, golden-eyes, mergansers, Killdeer, Bonaparte's Gull, Kingfisher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet
April 24 and 25	Outer Point Trail	Lo 1.27 @ 0553 Hi 15.7	Harlequin Duck, scoters, loons, Horned Grebe, Black Oystercatcher, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Red-breasted Sapsucker

May 1 and 2	Eagle Beach State Recreation Area	Lo -1.85 @ 1109 Hi 14.16 @ 1750	Brant, Blue-winged teal, Red-necked Grebe, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Dunlin, sandpipers, dowitchers, Black-legged Kittiwake, Northern Harrier
May 8 and 9	Mendenhall Glacier State Recreation Area		Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Wilson's Warbler, Barn Swallow, Yellow-rumped Warbler
May 8	JAS Bird-athon Day and eBirds Global Big Day		Participate in both events by posting all the birds you see on this day to ebird. For participant details, review the JAS March/April newsletter.
May 15 and 16	Mouth of Mendenhall East of River (Wetlands Flats by airport)	Lo -.5 @ 1001 Hi 13.31 @ 1631	Pacific-golden Plover, Red Knot, Godwits, sandpipers, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur



The Raven is the monthly newsletter for Juneau Audubon Society

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Volume 47 No. 5 Edited by D Hart

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 5

MAY JUNE 2021

Join Us on May 8 for the 2021 Birdathon: Birding for a Cause!

Last May, we had a great time with our first annual JAS Birdathon! Over 50 birders around Southeast Alaska participated, tallying at least 130 species! Many thanks to those who made our first Birdathon a success and encouraged us to try it again.

We plan to have this event again, coinciding with eBird's **Global Big Day**.

We had to postpone (again) the Berners Bay wildlife cruises, so this will be our only big fundraiser this year. And, to help our community, we will donate half the proceeds to Southeast Alaska Food Bank.

How YOU can participate:

Go birding anywhere in Southeast Alaska on May 8

Birders at all skill levels are invited to participate.

AND/OR pledge to contribute either an amount per species seen in Southeast Alaska, or a set total amount. *Any donation is appreciated!*

Please visit the pledge sheet here: [Pledge Form Bird-a-thon 2021 \(google.com\)](#)

Have fun birding and/or checking out our local results.

How to Report your birds: Put your list on eBird. We will tally the species from there.

How to Donate- 3 easy ways

1) Via **Square Site** (secure link) [Click Here](#) (Print readers can find the link on our website; click on the "How You Can Help Juneau Audubon Society")

2) Via **PayPal**: Login to persona account and request funds to be sent to: **president@juneau-audubon-society.org**

3) **By Check**. Make out to Juneau Audubon Society and mail to: Birdathon 2021, Juneau Audubon Society P.O. Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802-1725

To Find out More: Keep checking [JAS website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates.

Further questions, please email: info@juneau-audubon-society.org

Bird Flight Patterns and Music

A Gift to Our Juneau Audubon Membership

Dear Juneau Audubon Society,

We are excited to present Bird Flight Patterns and Music. Your organization is now able to access the online concert video and curriculum. The link and password below will bring you to the Bird Flight Patterns and Music webpage. On this page you will find the full concert video and online curriculum with activities, lessons, extra musical performances, composer interviews and educational games.

While adults will enjoy watching the concert video all the way through, we are recommending that teachers show the concert video in segments. For example, the students may watch the segment on the flap and glide flight pattern and listen to this motion imitated in the performance of Strauss' Acceleration Waltz. Following this segment the teacher can stop the video and lead the children on activities connected to the flap and glide flight pattern on the website.

The Bird Flight Patterns and Music webpage with concert video and online activities will remain active for at least one year. Therefore, you may visit and revisit at any time from now through June 2022!

I hope you will share your feedback regarding this program and responses from your chapter members and local schools. Kindly reply with an email back to me to confirm you received this message and the link and password are operational.

Thank you so much for your support,

Terry
twolkowicz@nbsymphony.org
Bird Flight Patterns and Music Link:
<https://nbsymphony.org/bird-flight-patterns-and-music-curriculum/>
Password: BFPMC *all capital letters in the password



JAS Tree Swallow Nest Box Project 2021

By Brenda Wright

Thanks to amazing volunteers, we are on track to put up our 61 tree swallow boxes in Juneau for 2021! Not only is spring being a little slow to arrive this year, in many places, the snow is not receding very quickly. We have had this swallow nest project in Juneau now for six years. With the help of many volunteers, we get our nest boxes up in several locations. Juneau Audubon is very happy to add our data to the state and national databases about insect eating birds. If you would like to be involved, we'd love your help to monitor the birds from nest box inspection to fledging. We have an excellent intern again this year, but more help is welcome. So glad to welcome spring this year.

Photos from Marsha Squires—husband Steve is a huge help in getting the boxes in place!



JAS Board of Directors

Gwen Baluss *President*
Marsha Squires *Vice President*
Patty Rose *Treasurer*
Amy Sherwin *Secretary*

Kim Ramos *Education*
Lizzie Solger *Membership*
Brenda Wright *Programs*
Debbie Hart *Newsletter*
Winston Smith *At-Large*

JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity !

We have **3 vacancies** at this time: Field Trips Coordinator, Conservation Chair, and At-large. **We really need help!** Please contact Gwen by email: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

Need to join or renew your JAS membership?

Joining or renewing membership with the National Audubon Society using an address in Southeast Alaska will include automatic JAS membership. <https://action.audubon.org/renew/membership>

OR for local-only JAS membership print or copy and mail in this page with at least \$10 check to Juneau Audubon Society for annual dues.

Name(s) _____

Mailing address _____

Email _____

(Please note if you can receive the Raven electronically – saves paper and funds!) Phone _____

Date _____ Amount enclosed _____

Notes:

Members receive a one year subscription to **The Raven**.

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 Audubon magazine subscription.)

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

Thanks for joining our team!



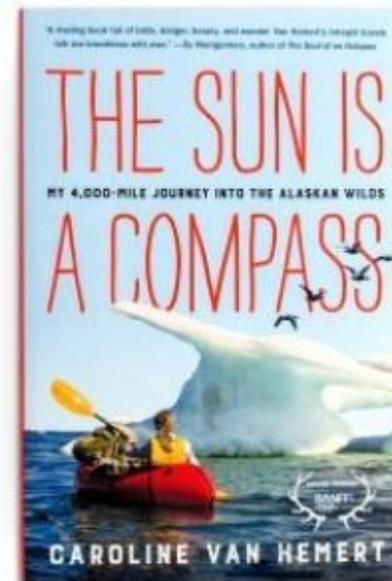
Book Review

The Sun Is a Compass:

A 4,000-Mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds

By Kimberly Ramos

During the last year, the pandemic radically changed our lives. Instead of planning trips near and far, our focus has been on staying healthy and social distancing. Now that vaccines are becoming more widely available and there is a light at the end of the COVID tunnel, I am finally allowing myself to dream about going on adventures during the next year. If like me you have never felt more ready to explore, then Caroline Van Hemert's book *The Sun Is a Compass: A 4,000-Mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds* is for you. In *The sun is a Compass*, Van Hemert tells the story of how her and her husband row, ski, hike, and packraft 4,000 miles from Bellingham to Kotzebue. Throughout the book Van Hemert, who just finished her PhD studying chickadee beak deformities, wrestles with some of life's biggest questions including if and when to start a family and picking the "right" career path. She recounts once in a lifetime wildlife encounters, a close call with an aggressive bear, the highs and lows of the journey, and wonderful tidbits about the birds she sees along the way. The pandemic has forced many people to stay indoors over the last year. It was easy to connect with this epic adventure that describes Alaska's many natural wonders, especially during a time when I have never felt more grateful to have easy access to the outdoors. Once I picked it up, I could not put it down. Whether you are a birder or simply someone who loves adventure tales, *The Sun is a Compass* has something for you.



2021 Juneau Audubon Society (JAS)

Spring/Summer Weekend Birding Continues!

Due to Covid-19, JAS annual field trips will not be in-person but instead modified to offer the weekend birder a location option and a listing of possible birds in the area (see details below). To assist you, the JAS Facebook page will be updated on Fridays to indicate what has recently been seen at the indicated site. You are encouraged to check on eBird to discover birds in other areas of Juneau as well as to post your own sightings.

Happy birding!!!

May 8	JAS Bird-a-thon Day and eBirds Global Big Day		Participate in both events by posting all the birds you see on this day to ebird.
May 15 and 16	Mouth of Mendenhall East of River (Wetlands Flats by airport)	Lo -.5 @ 1001 Hi 13.31 @ 1631	Pacific-golden Plover, Red Knot, Godwits, sandpipers, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur
May 22 and 23	Mendenhall Forelands (Moose/Dredge Lake area)		Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Duck, Sooty Grouse, Spotted Sandpiper, Arctic Tern, Northern Goshawk, Warbling Vireo

May 29 and 30	Treadwell Trail by Sandy Beach	Lo -3.53 @ 1004 Hi 15.44 @ 1645	Great-blue Heron, Hairy Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Red Crossbill, Orange-crowned warbler, Yellow Warbler
June 5 and 6	Point Bridget State Park	Lo 3.34 @ 1650 Hi 12.37 @ 1058	Long-tailed Duck, Common Murre, Western Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Brown Creeper, Common Yellowthroat

Please note the following:

1. Tides are indicated for Saturdays only.
2. Be especially aware of incoming high tides at Eagle Beach and by the mouth of the Mendenhall Wetlands. One can be easily caught stranded on high ground.
3. Bears are always a possibility at any time, any site.



Photo from Gwen Baluss, - a Hudsonian Godwit at the Eagle Beach State Recreational Area



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Volume 48 No. 1 Edited by D Hart

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 1

SEPT OCT 2021

JAS Monthly Presentations Are Kicking Off In October:

Please Join Us (Virtually) **Thursday, October 14th at 7pm** for the JAS Annual Meeting (including Officer Elections for the JAS Board of Directors) and the following Presentation:

“2021 JAS Tree Swallow Nest Box Project”

By

Brenda Wright and Jessica Millsaps



(photo by Jessica Millsaps)

The meeting will take place virtually—please check our website for updates and virtual viewing options. <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789>

JAS Annual Meeting & Election

Thursday, October 14th 7pm

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting will be virtual. It will precede the first monthly program. Members: please check our website and Facebook site for login details.

Each fall, per the JAS Bylaws, the general membership meets to elect the Officers for the JAS Board of Directors. The following are Officer positions, including current nominations. At the meeting the general membership will be encouraged to put forth additional nominations and make selections.

Officers nominations for the JAS Board of Directors

President—Marsha Squires

Vice President—OPEN

Treasurer—Betsy Fischer

Secretary—Amy Sherwin

The other JAS Board of Directors include the following:

Education— Kim Ramos

Field Trips—Doreen Prieto

Membership—Lizzie Solger

Programs—Brenda Wright

Conservation—OPEN

Newsletter—Debbie Hart

At-Large—Winston Smith

AT-Large—Gwen Baluss (Outgoing President)

JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity!

We really need help! If you would like to be nominated for a position on the JAS Board of Directors please email your name and position of interest to: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

JAS Tree Swallow Nest Box Project 2021

By Brenda Wright

This year the Juneau Audubon Society put up 62 tree swallow nest boxes in six sites around Juneau.

As usual, we had seven boxes not used at all for nesting. We had a bear



travel over from Douglas one day and knocked four down at Sunny Point.

One nest was not badly damaged and fledged some birds. The other three had no success.

It was a cooler,

wetter year than our previous years. We had a normal amount of eggs laid=288, but only 221 hatched. Of those 201 fledged.

The season also was later than previous years with the majority of eggs laid in June, not May.

Our intern, Jessica Millsaps was a great asset and also helped with tern and hummingbird projects.

We are excited to share more details with you for during the annual meeting planned for October 14th.

(Photos by Helen Unruh)



Need to join or renew your JAS membership?

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OR for local-only JAS membership print or copy and mail in this page with at least \$10 check to Juneau Audubon Society for annual dues.

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- 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 Audubon magazine subscription.)
- *JAS does not send members any offers, junk mail, or share our membership addresses with anyone.*

Thanks for joining our team!



BBC Documents Southeast Alaska Flying Squirrels

By Winston Smith

BBC has produced a new series entitled **Eden - Untamed Planet**, which includes 6 episodes and an epilogue that describes their experiences in producing each of the episodes. The 6th episode is about Alaska and focuses on Southeastern Alaska. I was contacted by BBC in the fall of 2019 and asked if I would help them get video segments of the northern flying squirrel for the Alaska episode in the spring of 2020 because of my two decades of experience studying them on the Tongass. Initially, I suggested we do this in the Juneau area because the logistics would be simpler for them and me. Bob Armstrong helped me with efforts to convince flying squirrels to visit bait stations established in areas where the flying squirrels would be abundant in an attractive natural setting. The pandemic interrupted the process, which was fortuitous because red squirrels were too common around Juneau and aggressive in consuming the bait. The project was moved to sites of my previous study area on Prince of Wales Island where there are no red squirrels. With the help of Kristina Harkins, a doctoral student with the University of Wyoming and resident of Craig, I was able to conduct a reconnaissance and establish bait stations near Eagle's Nest Campground during early December 2020. I returned to POW near the end of May for a week and with Kristina guided the BBC crew to our established bait stations and helped them set up the video sites. I remained for a couple of days as a spectator as the BBC crew began daily videography sessions that lasted throughout the night for a period of about 2 weeks. Kristina continued to help with logistics and occasionally attended nightly video sessions after I left POW. She also was instrumental in periodically attending to the bait stations after I left POW in December until BBC arrived in late May.

The episode on Alaska is available at the following link <https://www.divicast.com/tv/watch-eden-untamed-planet-2021-online-free-70914>

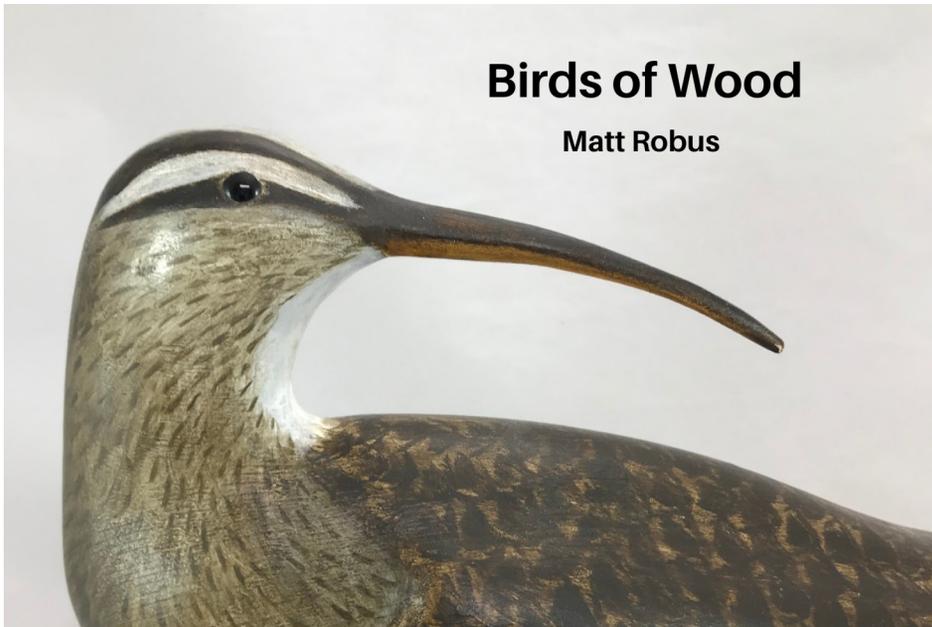
Upcoming Events:

Birds of Wood

Hand carved exhibit by Matt Robus

Juneau's October First Friday opening and month long exhibit at the Juneau Arts & Cultural Center

Beginning **October 1st 4:30—7pm**



Birds of Wood

Matt Robus

19th Annual Alaska Bird Conference—Virtual

The planning committee has decided to have a virtual conference for the 19th Annual Alaska Bird Conference. Dates for this conference will be **November 15-19, 2021**. If the COVID situation improves this fall, we may schedule some additional field trips and/or meetings in Homer.

We are also looking for additional volunteers to participate in our planning committees. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Trowbridge, Center for Alaska Coastal Studies at:

birdconferenceak@gmail.com.

Home > News

October Big Day—9 Oct 2021

By Team eBird | September 20, 2021



Mark your calendars for **October Big Day—9 October 2021!** Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far.

Time to Look for Fall Birds

Let's Make this a Southeast Contest! Who can see the most or rarest!

Submit your eBird lists and we'll check for the best in our area!

Results will be in the Nov-Dec Juneau Audubon newsletter.

More details here:

<https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-2021>



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Volume 48 No. 2 Edited by D Hart

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 2

NOV DEC 2021

JAS Monthly Presentations: Please join us at the Marie Drake Planetarium **Thursday, November 11th for two showings (6:30pm and 7:30pm)** for:

“Birds in the Sky: Avian Constellations” By Steve Kocsis



In person viewing dependent on Juneau Covid-19 precautions. Only 15 people per show, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B45A5A82DA7F58-heavenly>. We are hoping to capture a video to share, check website for updates and virtual viewing options. <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789>

December’s presentation (*Ducks or Birds in Winter*) will be held virtually Thursday, December 9th.

Messages from our Past and Incoming Presidents

Moving On

Gwen Baluss— Past JAS President

This fall I am glad to pass the reins to our new president, Marsha Squires. As Marsha has been our VP, as well as double-hatting running our virtual field trips, she knows the organization well. She brings new ideas combined with a long-time commitment. I will continue as At-large member, to help with the transition.

Some of the most rewarding projects I have been involved with are helping Audubon Alaska with the Southeast Alaska Birding Trail and bringing on bird conservation interns. I've learned a lot by writing articles and often being the one who makes sure our newsletters appear (more or less regularly) and creating or editing the majority of the JAS Facebook posts.

While always frustrated with our limited capacity, I'm always impressed with what a small group of busy volunteers can accomplish. JAS is a great group. There are more spots available for board members and volunteers who care about Southeast Alaska's birds and their habitats. Now is a great time to get involved! While JAS has no paid positions, our fundraising ability might be that key ingredient for that conservation or education project you've been dreaming about tackling. Maybe you could use a resume-builder in the non-profit world? Or, if you just want to help for few hours, chances there is something to help with. Contact info@juneau-audubon-society.org

THANK YOU GWEN AND PATTY!!!

**Your service and dedication to JAS
is sincerely appreciated!**

Gratitude to Two Prominent Board Members

Marsha Squires— Incoming JAS President

The Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) has been fortunate to have had two long-standing dedicated board members share their time, ideas, and expertise for decades. Patty Rose has been on the board for over 20 years while Gwen Baluss is not far behind in service years. Patty, a passionate birder with an eye and ear for bird identification, leaves JAS most recently as Treasurer. Her impeccable skill, not only in the field, but with financial details has been greatly appreciated, and her desire to educate and encourage new birders admirable. Gwen, our outgoing President, has been the backbone of JAS. She has established partnerships and internships, mentored young birders, supported avian research, and championed the newsletter while also communicating to the board month after month. Together, Patty and Gwen have seen many changes and successes in the organization, and the JAS Board would like to express their sincere thanks for their dedication and hard work over the decades. We know the organization as well as the greater birding community is grateful for all you have given.



Female, white winged crossbill by Jessica Millsaps

JAS Annual Meeting & Election Results

On Thursday, October 14, 2021 JAS met to elect the Officers for the JAS Board of Directors. The following are our elected Officer positions:

President—Marsha Squires

Vice President—OPEN

Treasurer—Betsy Fischer

Secretary—Amy Sherwin

The other JAS Board of Directors include the following:

Education— Kim Ramos

Field Trips—Doreen Prieto

Membership—Lizzie Solger

Programs—Brenda Wright

Conservation—OPEN

Newsletter—Debbie Hart

At-Large—Winston Smith

AT-Large—Gwen Baluss (Outgoing President)

Please note—we do have open Board positions—please consider joining!



JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity !

We really need help! If you would like to be nominated for a position on the JAS Board of Directors please email your name and position of interest to: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

JAS BOARD MEMBER SPOT LIGHT—Doreen Prieto

Hey there! My name is Doreen Prieto.

For the past 18-plus months I, along with many others, have been denied the pleasure of in-person birding field trips with our local Audubon Society Chapter. As a novice birder I have long looked to the Audubon Society to fulfill three of my favorite pastimes: to be outdoors (preferable places that I had not seen before), to meet new and like-minded friends, and to learn from experts.

So a couple of months ago I decided to act. I thought - instead of complaining that birding trips were not available and that I really did not know where to go to find birds and I wasn't meeting new friends or learning from local experts - that maybe I could be the person who would be able to contribute to getting all these things happening again. So, I threw my Muck Masters into the muskeg and submitted my name for consideration as the Field Trip Chair with Juneau Audubon Society. At the JAS Annual Meeting & Election on October 13, 2021, I beat out the competition. I am now your Field Trip Chair on Juneau Audubon Society Board of Directors!

Just like many birders I have a story to tell about how I became one. One year my mother bought me a copy of the *Little Golden Book of Birds*. When I was eight or nine years old our family went on a summer trip to the Los Angeles Arboretum. As usual, I wandered off on my own to explore Nature. I pushed aside some tall reeds and grasses. I saw a small pond and there rested a male Wood Duck! I identified him immediately from my Little Golden Book which I had read cover to cover. My first Life Bird! That was it. I have been looking at birds ever since.

I am a newcomer to Juneau, and I am happy to be living here. I arrived in April 2019, from Bend in Central Oregon, another great birding area. I work at Little Eagles and Ravens Nest - LEARN - as an Early Child Educator Aide, and I have a garden plot at the Juneau Community Garden.

I hope to make a contribution to the Juneau Audubon Society. I bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm. I am largely self taught, and I hope to introduce others to the many birds who live here year round and those wonderful surprises to be discovered during migration.

Gunałchéesh, Thank you! Doreen

Looking for something to read:

Ecologic Aspects of Lipid Deposition in Some Postbreeding Arctic Birds by David W. Johnston

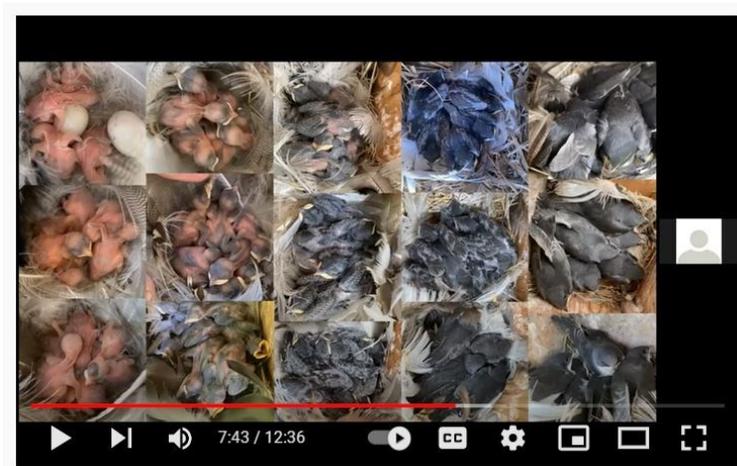
<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2307/1934931>



Male, white winged crossbill by Jessica Millsaps

Check out the JAS YouTube Channel

Tree Swallow Nest Box Project for Juneau Audubon Society by Jessica Millsaps <https://youtu.be/wOyERT28muc>



Global Bird Day October 9, 2021

By Brenda Wright

Bird viewing is being encouraged all over the world by creating Global Bird Day counts. Cornell and eBird are challenging local birders to go out and see local birds. The Global bird days are to help document local birds at times when birds are migrating to winter homes. It is also a good way to see which local birds are still in the neighborhood. For us in Juneau it is a chance to see how many of our winter species have returned to our town.

In Juneau we didn't have the most pleasant weather, but luckily, our birders can enjoy a birding challenge any time of year.

So I checked in the eBird (eBird.org) submissions for Juneau and other locations around SE Alaska and this is what I found:

- Juneau had 30 complete checklists and 66 species observed.
- Gustavus had 2 complete checklists and 25 species observed.
- Ketchikan had 2 complete checklists and 55 species observed.
- Sitka had 6 complete checklists and 48 species observed.
- Prince of Wales Island had 2 complete checklists and 9 species observed.
- I could not find any checklists for Hoonah, Petersburg, Wrangell, Haines, or Skagway.

Some of the interesting birds reported included black oystercatchers, Sabine's gull, and fork-tailed storm petrels in Sitka. Yellow and orange crowned warblers, 32 robins, red breasted loon, Iceland and California gull, a flotilla of 270 common murres, and 150 western grebe in Ketchikan. Gustavus reported 35 Northern pintails, a pectoral sandpiper, Wilson's snipe, American pipit, and a Lapland longspur.

Juneau's birds included Anna's hummingbird, Northern shoveler, yellow warbler, peregrine falcon, herring gull, Lincoln sparrow, short-eared owl, merlin, white-throated sparrow, great-horned owl, American coot, and Pelagic cormorants. Our best hot spot was the Mendenhall wetlands, both the dike trail and river mouth. The next best were Eagle beach and Kingfisher pond.

Hope everyone can get out and enjoy birding all year round.



Mark your calendars for **October Big Day—9 October 2021!** Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far.