



The Raven is the monthly newsletter for Juneau Audubon Society

501 (C) (3) E IN 92- 0100446

P.O. Box 21725

Juneau, AK 99802

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

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Volume 48 No. 3 Edited by D Hart

# THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 3

JAN FEB 2022

**JAS Monthly Presentations:** Please join us for a virtual presentation **Thursday, January 13th at 7:00pm** for:

**Birds in the Bahamas Islands by Betsy & Scott Fischer**



Summer Tanager, photo courtesy Betsy Fischer

We will host this presentation by Zoom—check our website for updates and virtual viewing options. <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789>.

Also—mark your calendar for

**Thursday, February 10th** for the February presentation. And check out

our December 9th presentation archived on YouTube where **Helen**

**Unruh** presents her photos "**Statter Harbor-Mostly Birds**: The link

is <https://youtu.be/VVnHx0f4tco>.

## Greeting a New Year By Marsha Squires, JAS Board President

As the calendar flips to a new year, one often reflects upon the past 12 months. What has occurred? What has been accomplished? What are the moments to celebrate or perhaps say goodbye to? 2021 was yet another altered year for JAS as for us all. Nevertheless, we continued to serve our members and work for bird conservation the best we could. I am proud of the steadfast work of our board members and volunteers who put in hundreds of hours toward our mission. I am grateful for the successful adaptations our members have taken to engage with new technologies and approaches to programming and events. And I am thankful for the beautiful environment and natural wonders we all are able to admire here in Southeast.

In 2021, JAS continued to support research efforts in regards to Arctic Tern, Black Oystercatcher and American Tree Swallow nesting populations. We employed and mentored a college-level intern supporting a new generation of birders. We partnered with local agencies to clean up beaches, and imparted our mission's view to conserve and protect forest and park lands. We continued with our programming via zoom and encouraged virtual field trips with radio broadcasts of weekly spring migration sightings. We went outside and counted birds during the Great Backyard Birding event, the Christmas Bird Count and JAS' annual Bird-a-thon.

On a day to day basis, looking backwards is not my personal choice but to review the successes and stumbles of the past year does offer an opportunity to choose to move forward, celebrate, and create change. Our 2022 goals are to continue on the path of engaging in community activities, conservation education and supporting bird research. We hope to see you and others on the trails birding and connecting with the peace which is given through nature. And we will continue to strive to improve upon our efforts to meet the needs of our members by conserving the natural ecosystems of Southeast Alaska, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations." With the turn of the calendar year, we are greeting the

2 New Year with joy, enthusiasm, and dedication.

## Guided Bird Walks Are in the Works! By Doreen Prieto - Field Trips Director

We are happy to announce that we are planning the 2022 Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) Guided Bird Walks. Following tradition, the birding field trips will take place on Saturdays at 8 am from mid-April to mid-June. They are free and open to the public. We welcome your participation and look forward to meeting those who are first-time and beginning birders, young and younger! Spread the word!

This season we will be offering birding opportunities in locations both familiar and not so familiar. We are recruiting a slate of Bird Walk Leaders, both long-standing and new. Please feel free to step up if you would like to lead a trip or offer suggestions as to birding locations.

Please note that should Covid restrictions prohibit or limit the number of people who are able to attend the in-person field trips we will modify the schedule to offer weekend birders location options and a listing of possible birds in the area, as we did in the 2021 Season.

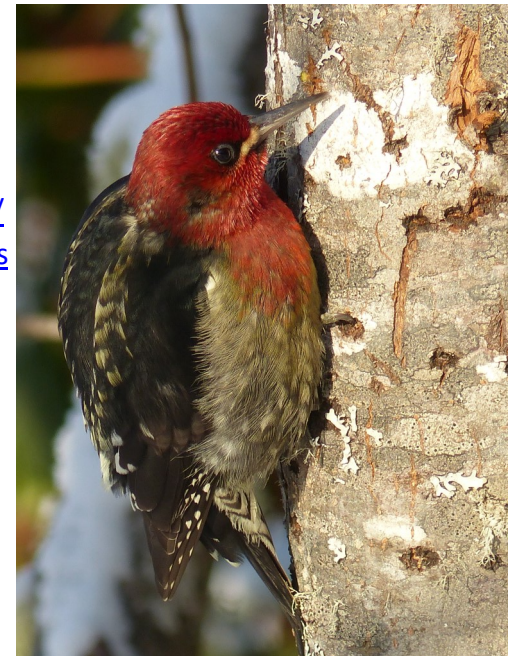
I leave you with a couple of links to articles from the New York Times and Audubon that may inspire and delight. Happy Birding!

[https://  
www.nytimes.com/2020/05/29/  
science/bird-watching-  
coronavirus.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/29/science/bird-watching-coronavirus.html)

[https://www.audubon.org/news/  
more-birds-bring-more-happiness-  
according-science](https://www.audubon.org/news/more-birds-bring-more-happiness-according-science)

Doreen Prieto E-mail: field-  
trips@juneau-audubon-  
society.org

**Red-breasted Sapsucker, a rarity  
in winter seen during the Christ-  
mas Bird Count Week. Photo  
courtesy of Gus van Vliet .**



## The 2021 Alaska Bird Conference (ABC) —By Gwen Baluss

The ABC was held virtually in November. Normally, the bird conference is held every two years. Researchers share their latest findings, agency biologists and others interested in bird conservation meet, and anyone can check out the presentations, some of which are free.

Every bird conference that I attend, I look for patterns and themes that run throughout multiple presentations and discussions. This year I was struck by the urgency expressed for the need to address bird population declines and threats. Bird studies in the Americas, even Alaska, have reached the point where there are many long-term data sets, incredibly sophisticated means of tracking birds, new and powerful statistical models, and a multitude of bright PhD's from diverse backgrounds tackling the questions. That's good news. There are also ever more birdwatchers who report citizen-science-collected data and support conservation. The bad news is that the bulk of studies and trends across the spectrum of species and types of studies raise concerns. Biologists are still saying, as they always have, that more study is needed to draw conclusions. And sometimes new information reveals that the population is higher, or more flexible in its habitat needs than previously thought. But increasingly scientists are also saying that just in case those declines are as steep as they appear, we need to ramp up conservation action, public education, and policy-- and we need to do it right now.



**Arctic Tern  
with baitfish  
at Auke Bay.  
Photo cour-  
tesy Gwen  
Baluss.**

All the abstracts can be viewed at [https://www.alaskabirdconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ABC2021-Abstracts\\_12Nov2021.pdf](https://www.alaskabirdconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ABC2021-Abstracts_12Nov2021.pdf). Within are presentations from two species that breed in Southeast Alaska.—Aleutian and Arctic Terns

Aleutian Terns (found near Yakutat, and at Glacier Bay up through coastal Alaska and eastern Siberia) have a low global population size. Although they are usually colonial nesters, they are difficult to count and monitor due to poorly mapped and remote nesting locations, potential to move between nesting sites, tendency to mix with other tern species and to fly at rapid speeds, and poorly mapped pelagic migration routes (to Asia). Some of the most comprehensive and innovative approaches to date, using and combination of foot counts, drones and aircraft, and working with partners in Russia, yielded low estimates: less than 2500 individuals at the four known large colonies that are thought to hold 30-50% of the total population.

Their cousin, the Arctic Tern is more numerous and widespread throughout the far north worldwide. However, a local observation (at the Mendenhall Lake and Portland Island nesting areas) of a die-off during the 2019 nesting season raised concern for terns and other seabirds in Alaska who also feed on baitfish. During a warm spell, harmful algal blooms resulted in shellfish and baitfish (sand lance and herring) registering high levels of saxitoxin (the poison that causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning in humans) which was ultimately determined to be the cause of death for some of the victims. A similar case found young Kittlitz's murrelets near Kodiak succumbing to saxitoxin poisoning. While these may be isolated incidences, it raises concern for the role of harmful algae in the mix of other issues such food availability in a changing sea.

What to do? Unfortunately, there may not be a lot of local action options that will tackle broadscale changes in ocean temperature or harmful algal blooms directly. But we can remove the threats that we do have some local control over. In the case of terns, their nesting areas can be protected from disturbance. This is something the US Forest Service, Juneau Audubon Society and Alaska State Parks, are working on.

## Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results—By Patty Rose

The 49th Juneau Christmas Bird Count took place Saturday, December 18. Thirty-nine volunteers reported 53 species and 7,239 individual birds on count day. Twelve additional species were seen during count week, for a total of 65 species.

Count day was clear and cold, with temperatures ranging from the single digits near the Mendenhall Glacier to the low twenties near the water. The ground was snow-covered, and ponds and lakes were frozen.

Highlights on count day included a Glaucous Gull at the landfill in the Lemon Creek area, and an Anna's Hummingbird at a residence near Twin Lakes.

Highlights during count week included two Trumpeter Swans, which were observed flying over the Back Loop and also seen on the Mendenhall River, a continuing American Coot at Statter Harbor, a Red-breasted Sapsucker at an Auke Bay residence, an American Three-toed Woodpecker at Fish Creek, and a Barred Owl at a Back Loop residence.

Twenty-two species have been seen on each of the previous 48 counts and were seen on this count. The five most numerous species were Mallard (2060), Glaucous-winged Gull (1418), Canada Goose (411), Barrow's Goldeneye (530), and Surf Scoter (378). A new low count of three White-winged Scoters was recorded this year. Thrushes evaded detection on count day and during count week. Four species of woodpeckers were recorded, including two Downy Woodpeckers and three Hairy Woodpeckers on count day and a Red-breasted Sapsucker and an American Three-toed Woodpecker during count week. A detailed list follows.

Thanks to those who volunteered! Please contact Patty Rose at [p\\_rose\\_raven@yahoo.com](mailto:p_rose_raven@yahoo.com) if you have questions.



Glaucous Gull, photo courtesy of Mark Schwann

Canada Goose - 411  
Trumpeter Swan - count week  
Gadwall - count week  
American Wigeon - 26  
Mallard - 2060  
Northern Pintail - 4  
Green-winged Teal - 1  
Greater Scaup - count week  
    Unidentified Scaup - 17  
Harlequin Duck - 43  
Surf Scoter - 378  
White-winged Scoter - 3  
Black Scoter - 1  
Unidentified Scoters - 1  
Long-tailed Duck - 9  
Bufflehead - 125  
Common Goldeneye - 84  
Barrow's Goldeneye - 539  
    Unidentified Goldeneyes - 11  
Common Merganser - 122  
Red-breasted Merganser - 60  
Pacific Loon - 86  
Common Loon - 8  
Yellow-billed Loon - 1  
    Unidentified Loons - 4  
Horned Grebe - 21  
Red-necked Grebe - 1  
Pelagic Cormorant - 24  
Unidentified Cormorants - 1  
Great Blue Heron - 3  
Bald Eagle - 155  
Sharp-shinned Hawk - count week  
Northern Goshawk - 1  
American Coot - count week  
Killdeer - 6  
Dunlin - 126  
Pigeon Guillemot - 1  
Marbled Murrelet - 35  
Mew Gull - 125

Herring Gull - 1  
Iceland Gull (Thayer's) - count week  
Glaucous-winged Gull - 1418  
Glaucous-winged Gull x Herring Gull Hybrid - 4  
Glaucous Gull - 1  
    Unidentified Gulls - 153  
Rock Pigeon - 141  
Barred Owl - count week  
Short-eared Owl - count week  
Anna's Hummingbird - 1  
Belted Kingfisher - 13  
Red-breasted Sapsucker - cw  
Downy Woodpecker - 2  
Hairy Woodpecker - 3  
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker - count week  
Northern Shrike - 1  
Steller's Jay - 11  
Black-billed Magpie - 17  
Northwestern Crow (American) - 326  
Common Raven - 373  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee - 38  
Red-breasted Nuthatch - cw  
Brown Creeper - 1  
Pacific Wren - 6  
American Dipper - 5  
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 11  
European Starling - 55  
Song Sparrow - 20  
Golden-crowned Sparrow - 1  
Unidentified Sparrows - 1  
Dark-eyed Junco - 138  
Pine Grosbeak - 4  
Common Redpoll - 1  
Pine Siskin - count week

## Eagle Beach Birding with Auke Bay Elementary

By Kim Ramos, Education Chair

On a chilly, drizzly October morning Brenda, our JAS Programs Chair, and I began setting up at Eagle Beach. We had our mounted Mallard, Raven, and Great Horned Owl. We had binos and Mallard wings. All we needed were the fifth-grade kiddos from Auke Bay Elementary. We heard our first small group before we saw them. The unmistakable giggles and shouts of excited children got louder as the students rounded the corner towards our shelter. The students sat around a picnic table and looked excitedly at the covered lumps on the table. I told the students we would start by playing a guessing game. I opened up the Merlin Bird ID app and played a call. The moment they heard the QUACK QUACK QUACK they all started guessing. Not only did they guess duck, but some also knew the call was from a Mallard! I played Raven and Great Horned owl calls too and we talked all about the interesting adaptations these local birds have. What makes Ravens so smart and special? How can owls silently catch their prey?



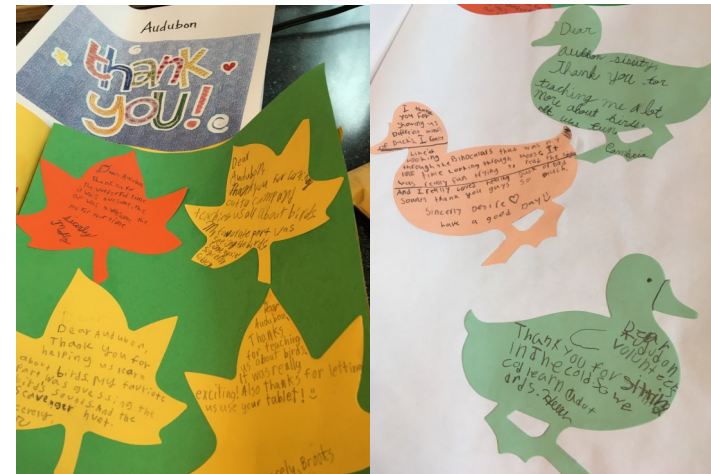
Eagle Beach photos courtesy Kim Ramos.

After discussing some fun facts about the birds Brenda pulled out the tablet to show the kids more fun features on the Merlin Bird ID app. She



showed the kids how to use the app to help identify birds. Brenda told the kids to grab a pair of binoculars. After going over how to use binoculars we all went for a walk. Brenda and I had put out signs that had bird pictures on them and the kids excitedly shouted when they spotted a Steller's Jay hiding in the forest or a Harlequin Duck near the river. We met with six different small groups of students. The students were enthusiastic and curious and it was incredibly refreshing to have an in person

educational event. COVID had put a pause on many of Juneau Audubon's in person activities. There is still a lot of uncertainty ahead but I am hoping that 2022 brings more opportunities to gather safely. We are all undoubtedly experts on zoom by now so I am sure the JAS community will



stay connected no matter the method.

Thankyou cards from Auke Bay Elementary Students, photos courtesy Marsha Squires.

## Tracking Local News of Interest:

### Fish Creek Estuary Planning Underway—By Gwen Baluss

The CBJ and multiple partners are considering improvements for recreation and habitat restoration at Fish Creek Natural Area Park.

All users have been invited to comment by Jan. 10, 2022.

More information and a survey link can be found here. <https://www.mrvarchitects.com/portfolio-item/fish-creek-estuary-area-planning/>

Earlier in the fall, JAS President and Vice President Gwen Baluss and Marsha Squires participated in a walk through for local professionals. They thought most of the ideas for improvements would benefit user enjoyment and the wildlife/birding in the area. However, there is concern for one of the concepts put forth—the removal of a dike that would potentially half the area of the so-called North-east Pond, a known hotspot for foraging bats and breeding Boreal Toads. The river might be on the way to removing the dike via erosion, but either way, they felt that toads and bats, both being relatively rare locally and taxa of concern globally, should be a high priority for future management of the area.

### Tongass Roadless Rule Revisited—By Lois Killewich

In 2001 the US Forest Service established the “Roadless Area Conservation Rule,” which was designed to protect inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System, “within the context of multi-use management.” It specifically prohibited road construction, road re-construction, and timber harvest in these areas, although there would be “some exceptions.” The original rule covered 9.3 million acres of the Tongass National Forest, constituting roughly 55% of its acreage.

Based upon a lawsuit filed by the State of Alaska regarding economic considerations, the US Department of Agriculture exempted the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in 2003. The Roadless Rule was reinstated for the Tongass in 2011 but reversed again in 2020 after a lengthy process in which the concerns of local groups within the state of Alaska were given more weight. The “2020 Alaska Roadless Rule” purports to increase timber harvest and road reconstruction, while maintaining important areas of conservation and wilderness.

There is now a repeal to the 2020 Alaska Roadless Rule pending (Alaska Roadless Rule Repeal #60904), and comments are being solicited. **The comment period ends January 24, 2022. Comments can be submitted at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FS-2021-0007-0006>.**

## Field Notes from a California Bird Walk

### *JAS Membership Chair, Lizzie Solger, reminds us to look up our Audubon friends when we visit new places.*

An early morning drive up a typically twisting neighborhood road off of Mulholland drive takes you to the Franklin Canyon birdwalk hosted by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. It was a warm Sunday in November and vivacious Paula gathered her group together, adorning us with name tags before leading the way. We were immediately met with a tree full of acorn woodpeckers in the lingering morning mist. As the day heated up we traipsed through the canyon spotting Scrub Jays, and towhees—both California and Spotted. The knowledgeable resident birders were quick to offer info to those of us who are visiting, or new. As we waited patiently for the California Thrasher to thrash his way out of his thicket, I took comfort in our familiar friends the Common Raven and American Crow soaring above us. Upon arriving at the second of two ponds on the walk we were lucky to find the resident male Wood Duck. As we start to travel again, I recommend looking up bird walks hosted by Audubon chapters in the destination of your choosing. I was impressed by the variety of birds we saw on this semi-urban bird walk. Who knew you could find such feathered delights in basically the exact center of LA county?



Occasionally Wood Ducks can be seen in Southeast Alaska as well. Photo courtesy Gwen Baluss.



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### Juneau Audubon Society FUN FACT

#### Swainson's Thrush Fun Fact by Kim Ramos

Hearing the return of Swainson's Thrush song in the forest is one of those springtime signifiers. These incredible birds arrive to Alaska after migrating as much as 3,000 miles from Central and South America. If that wasn't impressive enough, these birds have also mastered the art of efficient travel. Swainson's

Thrush sleep on the wing! While flying they can take 9 second power naps where they rest half of their brain at a time, a skill many of us wish we had. Photo courtesy of Betsy Fischer



betsyfischer.2020

# THE RAVEN

## JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 4

MAR APR 2022

**JAS Monthly Presentations:** Please join us for virtual presentations **Thursday, March 10th and April 14th at 7:00pm**

- **March 10th—Winter Birding Adventures in Central America with JAS Board member Kim Ramos**
- **April 14th "Canoeing the Noatak River June 2021" Presenters will be Jeff Sauer, Theresa Svancara, Mary Hausler, and Doug Woodby.**



Canoe setup on the Noatak River, shared by Doug Woodby

We will host presentations by Zoom—check our website for updates and virtual viewing options. <https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789>.

## Berner's Bay Cruises and Guided Bird Walks

Juneau Audubon Society is planning the return of Saturday Bird Walks and Berners Bay Cruises this spring after a two-year COVID-induced hiatus.

**On April 16** we will kick off the season with a **walk at Fish Creek**, a wonderful spot for birding. The walk will start at 8 a.m., and continue until about 10:00 a.m. Beginning birders are especially welcome. **For safety, bird walks may be limited in size, with preregistration necessary.** In the event that we have co-leaders there will be the opportunity for an additional participants. **Keep an eye on the JAS website and Facebook page for field trip details <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/>.**

On Saturday **April 23** and **Saturday May 7** we will set sail to **Berner's Bay** aboard a 78-foot catamaran chartered with Allen Marine Tours. The Berner's Bay Cruises are very popular and will be limited to 112 passengers. Again, check the JAS website and Facebook page for details.

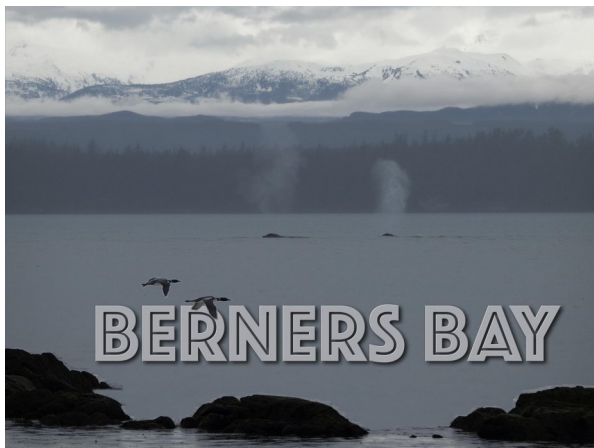


Photo courtesy of Kenneth Gill

All walks will be free and open to everyone who registers. For Berners Bay tickets must be purchased in advance.

NOTE: As of March 4, 2022, the CBJ Emergency Operations Center assesses the Overall Community Risk at Level 1 - Minimal. At this risk level, Community Mitigation Strategies strongly recommends that masks or face coverings be worn at crowded outdoor events. The single most effective strategy to mitigate COVID is to stay up to date on vaccinations. For EOC updates, please [visit https://juneau.org/covid19-eoc-updates](https://juneau.org/covid19-eoc-updates).

## 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](mailto: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!

**Join us in welcoming Lois Killewich to the Juneau Audubon Society Board's Conservation Chair! Thanks for joining us Lois!**

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



### From the JAS Board: Spring Discoveries by Marsha Squires, President

The spring equinox will soon be upon us bringing increased daylight as well as bird species to Southeast Alaska. As grasses emerge, larvae and insects appear, and berries, seeds, fish and other food sources become readily available, migrating birds either pass through the area to refuel, destine for other territories, or find habitat here that is rich in high energy food as well as ideal for breeding and nesting.

The Neotropical migrants, birds which winter in Mexico, or Central or South America, travel thousands of miles to arrive in Southeast to devour a wide range of invertebrates found in our wetlands, forests and meadows. Examples of such Neotropical birds include most species of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, terns, and swallows. Their migration may include crossing large bodies of water, encountering tropical storms, and expand long-distances which may take weeks or months to fly, depending on the species.

Other migrants may travel mostly over land and for much shorter distances from closer locations such as California or British Columbia. These migrates rely on forms of agricultural lands, parks and refuges, forests, swamps and marshes to arrive in Southeast for the summer months. Some of these spring migrants remain all summer while others are here for a fleeting amount of time, just fueling up for their continued flight north. And, some birds that have adorned our waterways (Long-tailed Duck) and forests all winter leave us during the spring migration, again heading north for breeding and nesting grounds.

After several decades living in Southeast, I still shake my head at what appears to me to be a short spring, and sometimes even shorter summer. Yet I am aware that seasons are not determined by the number of warm blue-sky days I birdwatch in shorts and a t-shirt here in Juneau but actually the tilt of the Earth's axis in relationship to exposure to the sun, which doesn't really change from year to year. Yet seasons do change and the birds know it even if I wear shorts or not.

So, rest assured, spring is on its way and birds are moving now, here and in other areas of the world. Come April, we will begin to notice the early arrivals. Swans, Snow and White-fronted Geese, and Ring-necked Ducks may dot the lakes in the area or be feeding in open fields. Rufous Hummingbirds will be looking for nectar and feeding stations. By May, shorebirds such as plovers, godwits, turnstones, and sandpipers will be darting the coastlines. In June, the flycatchers will be flitting about the alders and cottonwoods, and the various warblers will decorate the forest with various shades of yellow.

The three months of spring fade into summer quickly. Green becomes the dominate color and with the abundance of foliage, birdwatching sometimes becomes more of a lovely stroll outside. Nevertheless, birds are here, and taking advantage of the breeding and nesting grounds provided. Some species may even be on their second brood of chicks, like the juncos I find in my hanging flower baskets every year. With the seasons' change, the activity of birds does too. There is a lot of flurry in spring. Birds are arriving, feeding, perhaps courting and mating, then building nests. By mid-summer it might seem a bit quiet as young are being cared for. Yet, there is never a time or season not to stop, look and observe. The excitement is in what may be found.

If you are interested in learning more about when birds arrive to Juneau or other areas in Southeast, you can find data on species in eBird (eBird is an online database of bird observations created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology). Go to [eBird.org](http://eBird.org), Explore Regions, enter your region (example Juneau, Alaska), click on Bar Charts to see observations.



Dark-eyed Junco in hanging basket  
courtesy of Marsha Squires

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Review 2022 by Marsha Squires

Thank you to all who participated and supported this year's **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**. Despite the varied weather, cool and rainy to blue sky and wind, the 4-day event was a success! In Southeast, there were roughly 40 birdwatchers who took part in the count with approximately **105 checklists** submitted to eBird with a total of **56 species identified**.

In Juneau, on the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge, a Great Horned Owl excited many while the top of the Tyler Rental roof offered a glimpse at the rare Glaucous Gull. Backyard feeders brought sights of Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos, Pine Siskins and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Those who wandered into the woods submitted checklists with a Downy Woodpecker, Pacific Wren, Varied Thrush and a



Chestnut-backed Chickadee landing, photo courtesy of Bob Armstrong

Northern Goshawk. And the numerous waterways offered views of a multitude of ducks, American Crows, Bald Eagles, Ravens and more. Your efforts in this citizen-science event offer conservationists and scientists with

data to assess the status of bird populations in our area. Your time and energy are appreciated. And if you enjoyed the GBBC, mark your calendars for the next citizen-science bird event, May 14 - Global Big Day. This is a 24-hour global event to identify as many bird species as possible. In 2021, over 51,000 people around the world participated with over 7,200 birds identified. Why not get out there yourself this year and add to the discoveries?

## Eagle Feather Collection Permits by Brenda Wright

Juneau Audubon Society has a USFWS permit to actively collect eagle feathers. We were asked to help collect feathers in SE Alaska send all the collected feathers to the US Government's Eagle Repository in Colorado. The feathers are distributed to native Americans.

For hundreds of years Native Americans and Alaska Natives have used eagle feathers for religious and cultural purposes. In recognition of the significance of these feathers to Native Americans, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the National Eagle Repository (Repository) in the early 1970s.

The collection efforts of the USFWS provides a legal means for Native Americans to acquire eagle feathers for religious purposes, which in turn, reduces the pressure to take birds from the wild and thereby protecting eagle populations. It also promotes a government to government relationship with federally recognized tribes, as well as, fulfills the U.S. governments trust responsibilities to Native Americans. For more information on this program check <https://www.fws.gov/eaglerepository/>.

Recently, with the increased population of Bald Eagles in the United States, the demand for feathers has decreased. However, Golden Eagle feathers are still in high demand.

Juneau Audubon Society's permit expires this year in March 2022. We will have a new permit, valid for three years soon. If you would like to participate in collecting eagle feathers, you will need an official copy of the Juneau Audubon Collection permit.

Please e-mail programs@juneau-audubon-society.org to request a copy of the new permit or call 907-321-4739.

Thank You!



Bald Eagle, photo courtesy of Bob Armstrong

## A Starter Guide to Birding in Juneau, Alaska

By Lauren Cusimano

Alaska is known as a great place for birding — but Southeast? This state's distinct tail of islands and communities offers more than 350 bird species. Juneau, the capital, is set along the Southeast Alaska Birding Trail and features many bird-heavy trails and viewing spots on its own. Here, it's common to see the iconic Bald Eagle sitting atop a light pole or a flock of Glaucous-winged Gulls flying in off the ocean.

If you're new to town, visiting, or just enjoying an extended stay, here's a starter guide to birding in beautiful Juneau.

### *The Best Birding Trails and Viewing Spots*

The Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge and the [Juneau International] Airport Dike Trail offer a walk along the wetlands — and one of the most accessible birding habitats. The trail is level, about a mile, and only a little slippery if ice is still present. As the peak of spring approaches, thousands of birds are seen here at the end of Radcliffe Road. Along with families, and dogs, a multitude of species can be seen throughout the year including the Northern Harrier, Short-Eared Owl, Common Redpoll, Pectoral Sandpiper, Gadwall, American Wigeon.

Near the northernmost part of Juneau, Point Bridget State Park and Cowee Creek offer forest, meadow, riverine, and marine habitats — though keep in mind this option takes commitment thanks to the drive and hiking required. The trail cuts through muskegs, a wet forest, and along the Cowee meadow. When you reach the mouth of the creek, you can look out toward Berners Bay. From here, there is a chance to spot Northern Goshawk, Warbling Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Three-toed Woodpecker.

Eagle Beach State Park is an extensive intertidal mudflat on the eastern shore of Lynn Canal and the perfect spot to view shorebirds, gulls, waterfowl, and seabirds — including the Western Sandpiper and, of course, the Bald Eagle. Spring and fall you may see godwits or turnstones mixed in with the many peeps and dowitchers. Mudflats are exposed a couple hours after high tide. Free tide books are available at most local stores.

The Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area Dredge Lakes Unit offers deciduous habitat and glacial ponds. Some local specialties include the American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Vaux's Swift, and Warbling Vireo. The Mendenhall Lake shore also offers deciduous habitat as well as breeding Arctic Tern, Herring and Glaucous-winged Gulls, and breeding shorebirds such as Semipalmated Sandpiper. You can head down to the shore a number of ways, but a good route starts next to the glacier's viewing ramada.

But not all of Juneau's excellent birding spots are trails. Head to the Aurora Harbor downtown or Statter Harbor toward Auke Bay to view seabirds (all seasons) and shorebirds (spring and fall) off the docks. Some possible highlights are the Red-breasted Merganser, and the quick-diving Marbled Murrelet. Spots like these are also ideal for spotting multitudes of sea-ducks. (Perfect for beginners to identify birds as they're often large, slow-moving, and in the open).

### *Field Guides and Information for Birding in Juneau*

Traveling light? The free Merlin Bird ID mobile app may be all you need to identify birds in Juneau and Southeast Alaska. Be sure to log what you spot in the also-free eBird app from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

It is also useful to consult Audubon Alaska's Southeast Alaska Birding Trail: the virtual guide provides information about birding sites throughout the region.

But if you're used to physical guides, we have a few suggestions — as well as where to find them.

Local non-profit, Discovery Southeast, offers a laminated, trifold guide packed with labeled, hand-drawn illustrations of resident and migratory landbirds, as well as Southeast's birds of the sea, shore, and marshes. This is an extremely easy-to-use guide, helping even the most novice bird watcher spot the difference between a Common Raven and an American Crow, and identify one of Southeast's most distinct birds — the Steller's Jay. The "Discovery Guide to Common Birds of Southeast Alaska" can be found in the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and Hearthside Books & Toys (two locations); they also offer a number of printable natural history guides online for free.

## A Starter Guide to Birding in Juneau, Alaska

By Lauren Cusimano...continued

Find the Juneau section in “A Birder's Guide to Alaska” on page 421. This chapter was written by local birder and former Juneau Audubon President Steve Zimmerman and highlights Juneau’s primary birding areas, including Fish Creek, Gold Creek Basin, and Sheep Creek Valley. This large spiraled guide is found pretty much anywhere, even online, but we snagged a decent copy for just a few bucks at The Amazing Bookstore from The Friends of the Juneau Public Libraries in Mendenhall Valley.

If you’re downtown, the entire front room of Rainy Retreat Books is dedicated to Alaskan authors and topics — including birds! Find go-to guides here like “Guide to the Birds of Alaska” by Robert H. Armstrong and the “Birds of Alaska Field Guide” by Stan Tekiela.

And what’s an outdoorsman in this town without a copy of “90 Short Walks Around Juneau” — even though it’s actually more like 130? This popular guide to Juneau trails authored by Juneau Audubon Society founder Mary Lou King, often references what birds can be found on what paths and access points throughout town. Note that “short” walks range from casual strolls to full-day adventures for fit hikers — so it is good to find a map at the US Forest Service Juneau Ranger District (8510 Mendenhall Loop Road; 907-586-8800) if setting out on a longer hike.

### Where to Gear Up

Of course, any excursion into Alaska — even the more accessible trails we suggested — requires some outdoor gear. And there are many locally owned outdoor gear outposts in Juneau.

Find Foggy Mountain Shop downtown, which is loaded with Alaska-approved gear like clothing and outerwear, backpacks, boots, and binoculars. In the Valley, find Nugget Alaskan Outfitter (NAO) anchoring Mendenhall Mall stocked with clothing, backpacks, camping gear, survival and protection gear, and pairs of XTRATUF boots — aka the Alaskan sneaker ideal for donning on muddy trails, shallow streams, or just a wet parking lot.

For birding gear on a budget, Second Wind Sports (also in the Valley) comes recommended. This is a resale shop absolutely packed with well-loved but not well-worn clothing, footwear, protective gear, and some recreation equipment, too. You may just find the perfect puffer for hitting the birding trails during spring in Southeast.

### Helpful Links

Southeast Alaska Birding Trail: The virtual trail provides information about birding sites throughout the region. <https://ak.audubon.org/southeast-alaska-birding-trail>

More information for birders visiting Juneau on Juneau Audubon Society’s website:

- <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/Documents/InfoForBirdersVisitingJuneau2018.pdf>
- <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/Juneau%20Birding%20Sites.htm>



Photo courtesy Lauren Cusimano

## Tracking Local News of Interest:

**Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area (MGRA) Revision Plan Comment Period Re-Opens**—On March 4, the US Forest Service announced the beginning of a 45- day comment period for the MGRA Plan. We hope that members will consider changes to this locally important habitat. The agency has reviewed earlier input, but it is important for the public to review the latest.

From the USFS: “The Tongass National Forest has published the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvements Project. The project proposes to implement a variety of infrastructure projects over several years, including parking and access expansion, a new Welcome Center complex, a Lakeshore trail along the south shore of Mendenhall Lake, public use cabins, docks and motorized commercial boat use on Mendenhall Lake, a remote glacier visitor area, new and improved multi-use trails throughout the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, and more. The proposal also includes new management strategies including changes to visitor capacity and commercial use and adjustments to management unit boundaries.”

Info about upcoming open houses, webinars and how to see the plan and comment here: [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDAFS/2022/03/04/file\\_attachments/2095044/MGRA%20Public%20DEIS%20Release.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDAFS/2022/03/04/file_attachments/2095044/MGRA%20Public%20DEIS%20Release.pdf)

### Juneau Tracker Certification & Workshop Registration is Open!

Kevin (Porcupine) O'Malley will be hosting the Juneau Tracker Certification and Workshop in Juneau on July 30th & 31st. It will be two days of looking at tracks and signs and talking about them. You can find all the details here: [Monthly Science and Nature Programs — South Sound Nature School](#) , <https://southsoundnatureschool.org/>

**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](http://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.

### Book Review: by Kim Ramos “A Shape in the Dark” by Bjorn Dihle

Spring is just around the corner and I am looking forward to migrating birds and yellow skunk cabbage poking through the snow. Thinking about spring also has me thinking about all the bears emerging from winter dens. I was afraid of brown bears long before I moved to Alaska. I have a distinctive childhood memory of watching one of those overly dramatic shows that depict reenactments of people getting attacked by wild animals, this particular episode featured a grizzly bear mauling a hiker. I have always loved animals. I was obsessed with sharks when I was a kid and never shied away from fangs and talons, but that show about the grizzly attack left a lasting impression.

I have spent the last 3 summers working as an expedition guide, leading guests on bushwhacks throughout remote parts of Southeast Alaska. We see brown bear sign everywhere and sometimes we even see the bears themselves. Living in Alaska for 6 years has made me feel more prepared for living in brown bear country and I love seeing wild bears, but the fear is still there. My heart still races when I see a bear while guiding but I have also personally sought out bear viewing at places like Pack Creek.

Like many, my feelings about brown bears are complex. In A Shape in the Dark, author and Douglas Islander Bjorn Dihle shares his personal experiences living and guiding around brown bears. He explores the complicated relationships, past and present, that humans have had with these powerful creatures. Dihle discusses indigenous people, early explorers, and conservationists with an honest and more nuanced lens than I have seen in other natural history texts. A Shape in the Dark is bursting with fascinating history, bear adventure stories, and cautionary tales of bear attacks. How many folks know that the DNA of the bears on the ABC islands are more closely related to polar bears than the other brown bears on the mainland? I devoured this book and could not put it down. Like the grizzly show I saw as a child, this book will also stay with me. Bear lovers and history enthusiasts go grab a copy of A Shape in the Dark.

The theme for **World Migratory Bird Day 2022** is [light pollution](#) and [its impacts on migratory birds](#). We can all do our part in preserving the night sky by making smart lighting decisions and encouraging the attendees of our events to take small actions in their homes. Reducing the amount of light outside your home and changing the color of your lights from cool to warm are some steps that can help. Check out our page on simple actions to help birds for more helpful tips. [Light Pollution #WMBD2022 | World Migratory Bird Day](#) , <http://worldmigratorybirdday.org>.

## Beachwatchers Wanted for Coastal Observation & Seabird Survey Team (COASST)



On March 13 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am AKST, 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. Through an interactive workshop held via Zoom, trainees will become acquainted with COASST survey protocols, and have a chance to learn more about the seabirds that live in their area. The COASST training provides participants with the tools to monitor for potential changes in the marine environment and promote stewardship of local marine resources.

COASST is a citizen science project of the University of Washington in partnership with state, tribal, and federal agencies, environmental organizations, and community groups. COASST believes citizens of coastal communities are essential scientific partners in monitoring marine ecosystem health. By collaborating with citizens, natural resource management agencies and environmental organizations, COASST works to translate long-term monitoring into effective marine conservation solutions. Currently, nearly 1000 participants survey beaches in Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska.

Participants need NO prior experience with scientific data collection, just a commitment to survey a specific beach at least once a month. Reserve your training spot by registering in advance at this link: [https://washington.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XC7oyagITjGy1eY5CBgRPQ](https://washington.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XC7oyagITjGy1eY5CBgRPQ). Learn more by calling COASST at 206-221-6893, emailing [coasst@uw.edu](mailto:coasst@uw.edu), or visiting our website at [coasst.org](http://coasst.org). You can also find a link to the event on Facebook here: <https://fb.me/e/1fepcEMnl>

## Birds of a Feather. Hey, that's what we are! By Doreen Prieto

“Birds of a feather”.....this phrase comes from the proverb “birds of a feather flock together” . . . meaning similar or like-minded people, who have similar interests, ideas, or characteristics, and tend to seek out or associate with one another.

I like being a member of our flock of birders here in Juneau! And I really like getting to know ponds, fields, coves and my favorite - muskeg - and the feathered surprises that we see there. Once, I pulled over to the side of the road to Eaglecrest to take in the view of that strange ecosystem that we call "muskeg." Suddenly, I heard a loud "croak" and looked up to see a Yellowlegs perched in the top of an ancient tree. Then, another yellowlegs flew from out of nowhere and dive-bombed me at eyebrow level—several times! I got out of there pronto! Apparently, they had a nest to protect and, boy, did they.

I follow Mia McPherson's wonderful, gorgeous website, "On the Wing Photography." She generously gave me permission to share with you her collection of these descriptive group names and life span of these birds. I hope they bring a smile of recognition to your day.

Ducks - a raft, paddling, flush, brace. They can live to 20 years.  
Coots - commotion, shoal, swarm, fleet - up to 22 years  
White Faced Ibis - congregation, stand, wedge - up to 14 years  
Great Blue Herons - hedge, scattering, battery, rookery - up to 24 years  
Gulls - squabble, flotilla, screech, scavenging - up to 30 years  
Ring Billed Gulls - squat - up to 32 years  
Common Ravens - rant, constable, bazaar, storytelling - 15 years  
Canada Geese - string, plump, knot, chevron, gaggle, blizzard - 33 years  
Black-Billed Magpies - tribe, tittering, gulp, charm, mischief - up to 15 years  
Pelicans - scoop, pod, pouch, squadron - 23 years  
White Throated Sparrows - flutter, crew, ubiquity, quarrel - 14 years  
Belted Kingfishers - rattle, crown -  
Scaups - choir, chorus - 11 years  
House Finches - development - 12 years

Grebes - water dance - up to 5 years  
Gold Finches - charm, rush, treasury, vein - 11 years  
Hawks - tower, spiraling, steam kettle, know - 21 years  
Eagles - jubilee, tower, soar - 40 years  
Kestrels - bazaar, eyrie, stooping up, tower - 15 years  
Robins - worm - 13 years  
Shrikes - watch- 11 years  
Common Mergansers - raft, paddling, flush, brace - 13 years  
Merlins - leash, brace, illusion - 15 years  
Red-Winged Blackbirds - cluster, cloud - 15 years  
Double-Crested Cormorants - rookery, swim, flight, gulp - 22 years  
Wild Turkeys - crop, gang, posse, raffle - 9 years



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501 (C) (3) E IN 92- 0100446

P.O. Box 21725  
Juneau, AK 99802

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Facebook.com/JuneauAudubonSociety

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# THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

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MAY/JUNE 2022



*Two birders on the Boy Scout Camp Trail. Photo: Marsha Squires*

## 2022 JAS Spring/Summer Field Trips and Events

Face-to-face field trips and events are back! Registration is required (see [bit.ly/JAS-Eventbrite](https://bit.ly/JAS-Eventbrite)) and limited to 10 participants per guide. All guided field trips and events are free and open to the public.

For guided bird walks, please bring binoculars, layer clothing, rain gear, water, **rubber boots** and a bird book or phone ID app for personal bird identification purposes. Please note that trip departure times do vary.

Also, please leave your four-legged (dog) friends at home.

**May 7, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Berners Bay Cruise:** Our annual JAS fundraising event via Allen Marine Tours. Tickets are on sale through the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council (JAHC).

## Spring/Summer Field Trips and Events cont.

**May 14, 7 to 10 a.m. — World Migratory Bird Day Celebration:** Stop by the Juneau Community Garden and observe a bird banding demonstration by Gwen Baluss, U.S. Forest Service.

**May 14, all day — Global Big Day:** Bird on your own and see how many species you see and/or hear in 24 hours. Remember to post on eBird!

**May 21, 7 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. — Guided Bird Walk at Mendenhall State Wildlife Refuge, the EVAR Dike Trail:** The first two-hour hike will be led by Patty Rose. A second hike will begin at 7:30 a.m. with Marsha Squires.

**May 28, 8 to 10 a.m. — Guided Bird Hike at Eagle Beach State Recreation Picnic Area:** Rubber boots recommended (this is the beach turnoff, not the cabins) Leaders will be Mark Schwan and Rob McDonald.

**June 4, 8 to 10 a.m. — Guided Bird Hike at Sunny Point:** This walk will be led by Brenda Wright and Southeast Alaska Land Trust partners.

**June 11, 8 to 10 a.m. — Guided Bird Hike at Dredge Lakes:** Park near the Mendenhall River on Back Loop Road. Leaders will be Deb Rudis and Gus van Vliet.

**June 15, 7:45 to 10:45 a.m. — Low Tide Walk on Bridget Cove:** The walk will be led by Brenda Wright and JAS intern Mali Tamone. Check JAS website for meeting point.

**July 15, 8 to 10 a.m. — Low Tide Walk on the Rainforest Trail:** The walk will be led by Brenda Wright and JAS intern Mali Tamone. Check JAS website for meeting point.

Questions? Ask Doreen Prieto, Field Trip Chair, at [field-trip-coordinator@juneauaudubonsociety.org](mailto:field-trip-coordinator@juneauaudubonsociety.org). All our field trip leaders are volunteers. JAS thanks them for their time, enthusiasm, and expertise.



**World Migratory Bird Day**  
**Dim the Lights for Birds at Night**

SIMPLE ACTIONS TO HELP BIRDS AT NIGHT

- Reduce the amount of light outside your home or business. Turn off all non-essential nighttime lights. Use timers or motion detectors to minimize usage. Use the minimum wattage necessary for the task.
- Change the color of your lights from cool to warm. Studies suggest that green and blue light attracts more birds than red, orange, or yellow light.
- Direct all lighting downward. Place lights to illuminate the floor or ground and use lighting shields to prevent shining into the sky.
- Advocate for bird-friendly lighting in your town. Consider working with your local government to create a lighting ordinance in your community or to enforce or improve existing guidelines.

Become a community scientist. Measure your night sky brightness and submit your observations to the Globe at Night program at [globeatnight.org](http://globeatnight.org).

For more information, see [migratorybirdday.org](http://migratorybirdday.org)!

World Migratory Bird Day in the Americas is coordinated by Environment for the Americas

© Omiz Custodio Atobache

## World Migratory Bird Day 2022 Celebration in Juneau —By Gwen Baluss

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) celebrates one of nature's greatest wonders — bird migration. Most events in North America will be held May 14.

Returning to a long-standing tradition, Juneau Audubon Society and U.S. Forest Service plan to host a bird banding demonstration at the Juneau Community Garden (5669 Montana Creek Road). This will allow close-up views of songbirds, and the public can learn how this technique of scientific study increases our knowledge of migratory birds. The activity has been especially popular with families and youth. It serves as a gateway to conversations about bird conservation.

Every year, the organizers for WMBD focus on a conservation theme. This year will focus on the harmful impacts of light pollution. According to the WMBD website, "Most birds migrate at night. They have been



## World Migratory Bird Day 2022 cont.

doing this for eons, as a night sky typically means calmer air space and fewer predators. Nocturnally migrating birds include ducks and geese, plovers and sandpipers, and songbirds of all kinds. These birds may travel thousands of miles between their breeding and non-breeding grounds.

However, the night sky is under threat. Artificial light is increasing globally by at least two percent a year, presenting a problem for birds. Light pollution from homes, businesses, and other infrastructure attracts and disorients migrating birds, making them more likely to land in dangerous areas where they are more vulnerable to collisions and predation. Artificial light also impacts birds in the breeding and winter seasons, disrupting feeding and other vital behaviors.

In 2022, the impact of light pollution is the focus of World Migratory Bird Day, an annual global campaign that celebrates the migration of birds across countries and continents. Throughout the year we will spread the message to “dim the lights for birds at night” and highlight the steps that individuals, communities, and governments can take to reduce the impact of light pollution on our shared birds.”

In Southeast Alaska, light pollution effects on birdlife are not well studied. The consistent cloud cover may change some aspects of migration in comparison to other zones. Perhaps a lot of birds migrate at once when it's clear, making them more vulnerable as large numbers could be moving on the rare clear nights? Some likely head east first, perhaps using corridors such as mainland rivers, and use a more interior flyway.

Urban areas are classically hazardous to birds. There is little urbanization in the region which could be good news for flyers. However, the literature describes the “beacon effect” showing that birds can be particularly attracted to a single very bright light that appears in an otherwise darker area. Perhaps more investigation is due to isolated structures or towers that may be lighted. Research has shown that flashing red lights are safer than other types.

Check the community calendars, the Juneau Audubon Society website,

or the JAS Facebook page for event details. Participants will be able to drop in throughout the morning of May 14 at the Juneau Community Garden. There may be requirements for masks and/or distancing according to city, JAS, or USFS COVID-19 guidelines.

## JAS membership — need to join or renew?

Joining or renewing membership with the National Audubon Society using an address in Southeast Alaska will include automatic JAS membership. Visit [action.audubon.org/renew/membership](http://action.audubon.org/renew/membership) to do so.

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

- Members receive a one-year subscription to *The Raven*. **Please note if you can receive it electronically — saves paper and funds!**
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service at [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto: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!**



*Global Big Day is coming up! Photo: Marsha Squires*

## **Spring 2022's Global Big Day Is May 14**

**By Marsha Squires**

The annual celebration of spring migration is upon us. As in years past, JAS will be celebrating World Migratory Bird Day at the Juneau Community Garden early in the morning with a bird banding demonstration (see our events calendar above for more details). But, on this same day around the world, individuals, families, and teams will be logging their bird sightings in eBird as a part of a Global Big Day event.

A Global Big Day (GBD) has been defined as any effort to identify as many bird species as possible in a single day. It can take shape as a personal challenge, an informal fun activity with the family, or a competition among serious birders. A GBD can be as simple or demanding as you would like it to be. Just 15 minutes of viewing in your backyard is fine. Or, if you prefer the hardcore, the official count time is 24-hours, midnight to midnight. You may submit multiple eBird checklists from various locations throughout the day or just one from your favorite birding location.

There are actually two Global Big Day events per year — one occurring in the spring and the other during the fall migration in October. The observations and counts during these events assist researchers in better understanding bird populations and trends. Your participation supports the scientific community, offering information from the physical world to those who study and examine long-term changes or occurrences in ecological and life-history traits of individual bird species. The contributions to scientific evidence can and may be used to influence policy or actions on a local, state, or national scale.

GBD participation has been increasing each year all over the world. With more bird enthusiasts out there, more species have been observed and tallied each year during these annual events.

Last year, in Southeast Alaska, there were over 50 birders who participated in the spring GBD, tallying over 130 species. However you choose to participate, for 15 minutes or 15 hours, JAS encourages you to spend some time outdoors, listening and viewing the birds in our area. This is not only a great opportunity to run into fellow birder enthusiasts in our community but a chance to participate in a valuable and meaningful citizen-science activity here in town which may prove to have far-reaching effects in the future.

I hope to see you out there!

## **Thank you to Troop 6 Boy Scouts in Juneau**

**By Brenda Wright**

JAS has had the good fortune for the past few years in getting help from Boy Scout Troop 6 of Juneau to put up Tree Swallow nest boxes. This year, the troop helped us put up 41 nest boxes in just a few hours.

We are very lucky to have permission from Southeast Alaska Land Trust to put up boxes on their protected properties around the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge. We have found the open grassy sites to be very popular with our summer visitors the tree swallows. Last year we had 41 boxes on those lands and had 41 nests!

We very much appreciate Troop 6 bringing so many willing hands to get



*Troop 6 putting up bird boxes at Mendenhall Peninsula. Photo: Lauren Cusimano*

so many boxes up in a short time. Although the tree swallows have not quite arrived in Juneau when the boxes go up, I have been told it is important to the birds to see nest boxes when they arrive.

We hope to have another successful breeding season again in 2022 and it's made so much easier by help from Troop 6!

Thanks again, Brenda

## **Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area; Comments Now Due May 9**

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvements Project provides updates to the Visitor Center — but also analyzes developments throughout the recreation area. Those include miles of new pathways (some of them hardened surfaces potentially up to 12 feet wide), commercial use in new areas, 50-

foot boats and shoreline docks, and new buildings and bridges. Facilities are under consideration in areas that are now not developed for high-volume visitation.

The DEIS found at [bit.ly/MGRA-DEIS](http://bit.ly/MGRA-DEIS). A video describing the project proposal is available at [vimeo.com/689860131](https://vimeo.com/689860131).

Comments submission options include:

- Online through the project public participation portal (preferred) at: [cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=53780](http://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=53780).
- Fax to 907-586-8808
- Mail or hand-deliver to 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, Alaska, 99801. Hand delivery is by appointment only and can only be accepted during weekday business hours, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.



*American Redstart, found in the Dredge Lakes Unit of the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, a favorite place for bird-watchers.*

**JOIN THE BOARD! What a great opportunity!**

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



*Hummingbird and fireweed. Photo: Bob Armstrong*



*JAS Berners Bay Cruise attendees on April 23. Courtesy of Debbie Hart*

## The 2022 Alaska Botany Bioblitz

By Lauren Cusimano

Need a project this summer? Alaska Native Plant Society will be hosting a Botany Bioblitz — “a citizen science project to document as many species as possible in a designated time period and location.”

The family-friendly virtual event will take place from July 1 to 15 and is available participants statewide. Join the project at [inaturalist.org/projects/alaska-botany-bioblitz](https://inaturalist.org/projects/alaska-botany-bioblitz). Then, you’ll upload photos and notes to iNaturalist — the “social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe” — which has both a desktop and mobile version. Pro tip: Familiarize yourself with the app or website now!

Prizes will go to participants with the most observations, identifications, and individual species, as well as the widest geographic extent of observations and, of course, the best photo!

Questions? Email [ak-botany-bioblitz-2022@aknps.org](mailto:ak-botany-bioblitz-2022@aknps.org).

## Tales From the First Berners Bay Cruise

The Berners Bay boat cruises, Juneau Audubon Society’s major fundraiser, are back in person this year. First, thank you all for your support! Second, we had an incredible time on the first voyage. The Allen Marine Tours vessel departed from Statter Harbor on the misty morning of April 23, but we’ll let some of our board members tell the rest.

### Debbie Hart, Vice President

What a great day on the water! On Saturday, April 23, nearly 90 people once again participated in the first of two of JAS’ annual spring fundraiser trips into the magical Berners Bay. Captain Dan and the expert crew of the Allen Marine Tours’ 78-foot catamaran charted a sightseeing voyage from Auke Bay along Shelter Island, by Aaron and Benjamin islands, and into Berners Bay.

Our very own Programs Director, Brenda Wright, helped to moderate our journey and was joined by two wonderful volunteers — Ernestine Hayes and Laurie Craig. Each shared their talents of storytelling, deep knowledge of the history and ecology of Lingit Aani, and the many birds and marine life that showed themselves along our journey.



Zev Levive photographing the sea lions on Benjamin Island. Photo: Debbie Hart

Other volunteers included Doreen Prieto, JAS Field Trips Coordinator, Betsy Fischer, JAS Treasurer, Jessica Millsaps, and Cody Millsaps. We were also joined by many fisheries and ecology experts who shared their knowledge and passion for this place. It was especially heartwarming to see so many young people on the trip as well. We saw Pigeon Guillemot, Surf Scoters, Marbled Murrelet, Red Breasted Merganser, and Bald Eagles, as well as oystercatchers, lots of gulls, and loons.

Marine animals included seals, sea lions, and whales. The highlight of the trip was when we entered the cove at Slate Creek. There were hundreds of sea lions in there herding what seemed to be hooligan. Even a whale joined the feeding frenzy. It was an absolutely amazing sight, helping to remind us all how important this cove and surrounding Berners Bay is to marine life in northern Southeast Alaska.

**Brenda Wright, Programs Director**

What a fun day! We were lucky to have low winds and hardly any rain! I had my fingers crossed last week hoping the high winds would die down. Yes, they did.

As usual, Allen Marine had a wonderful captain and crew to help us enjoy the

Black Oystercatchers on Aaron Island, the Steller sea lions on Benjamin Island, and a lovely tour around Berners Bay. The Surf Scoters were concentrated around Pt. Bridget, but a whale made an appearance near Echo Cove and also in Slate inlet.

There was some fun activity with a “boiling” pod of sea lions and a humpback whale in Slate Cove. What fish were they concentrating on?

Of course, our whole trip was much enhanced by our invited guests Laurie Craig and lots of shipwreck stories. It was extra special to have Ernestine Hays increase our knowledge of traditional uses of food and stories from her life. Other volunteers included our bird expert Jessica Millsaps and board members Betsy Fischer and Debbie Hart.



Storyteller and author Ernestine Hayes was aboard. Photo: Debbie Hart

We invite you to join us on the next cruise on May 7 at 8: 30 a.m. Tickets are available at the JAHC and online at jahc.org. The Allen Marine Tours vessel holds 112 people and departs from Statter Harbor below DeHart’s. Boarding begins 20 minutes prior to departure.

JAS board members and special guests will be on board as natural history interpreters and moderators.



The Raven newsletter from Juneau Audubon Society  
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P.O. Box 21725  
Juneau, AK 99802

Juneau-Audubon-Society.org  
Facebook.com/JuneauAudubonSociety  
Instagram.com/Juneau.Audubon.Society

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Edited by Lauren Cusimano

# THE RAVEN

## JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 6

JUL/AUG 2022



Early morning birders at Eagle Beach on Global Big Day. Photo: Marsha Squires

### Thanks to an Active Juneau Audubon Society Board By Marsha Squires

Even though the JAS Board takes a hiatus from monthly meetings May through August, don't think things haven't been happening. Spring 2022 has been full of events and accomplishments in bird education, conservation, and research. Take a look at the list of achievements and where our energy is focused on serving our community and its members:

- Face-to-face guided bird walks returned to the trails
- Two Berners Bay cruises offered more than 170 passengers the beauty of birding with accomplished storytellers and naturalists
- New technology was tried: Eventbrite for walk registrations
- JAS partnered with Annie Kaill's Gallery and artist Evon Zerbetz

## Thanks to an Active JAS Board Cont.

- A low-tide walk occurred, and one more is scheduled for July 15 **(Please register on Eventbrite at [bit.ly/jas-eventbrite!](https://bit.ly/jas-eventbrite))**
- A partnership with Alaska State Parks allowed posts of “Caution: Nesting Area” signs in critical habitat on Portland Island
- Research on Tree Swallow nesting continues with close to 65 boxes monitored weekly
- A college intern was hired to support the Arctic Tern research project and other related work
- The Global Big Day and World Migratory Bird Day events spurred a bonanza of birding on eBird and in southeast Alaska
- Several articles regarding birding, events, and citizen science were written and appeared in local media
- KTOO radio spots have happened and are going to continue every Friday through August
- A long-standing partnership with Icy Strait Birding Tours supported JAS to employ a local artist to create two interpretive signs for the Hoonah Harbor. The manufacturing process is beginning.
- A new Instagram account was created and shout-outs to followers have been timely, professional, and eye-catching
- JAS partook in the first meeting regarding the Juneau-Douglas Second Crossing
- And finally, a JAS board retreat is being planned for late August

Thank you to all JAS Board members and volunteers for a successful and full spring season.

**JOIN THE BOARD — A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**  
**We 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](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org).**



Board members with artist Evon Zerbetz. Photo: Colleen Goldrich

## Gallery Nights Are for the Board

**By Lizzie Solger**

On May 12, several Juneau Audubon Society board members joined Alaskan illustrator Evon Zerbetz as she debuted 15 new bird portraits at Annie Kaill's Gallery in downtown Juneau for the exhibit "To Know Birds is to Love Birds." Board members enjoyed discussing the feathered subjects of the portraits with those visiting the exhibit. You can find the linocuts portraits in the new children's book "Alaska is for the Birds!" This book (found at [evonzerbetz.com](https://evonzerbetz.com) for \$18.99), is illustrated by Zerbetz and features poems by Susan Ewing.

## Here's to the Guided Bird Walks/Events of 2022

**By Doreen Prieto**

Happy summer, everyone! By the time you read this article, we will have nearly completed our 2022 season of JAS Guided Bird Walks and events. Flush with success, we offered seven bird walks and a low tide walk with an estimated total of 90 participants.

Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, we did cancel our June 4 Sunny Point Bird Walk with Southeast Alaska Land Trust, but they



Birders on the Dredge Lake walk. Photo: Lauren Cusimano

## Here's to the Guided Bird Walks/Events of 2022 cont.

will be back with us in 2023. Our last event will be on July 15, and we will take a low tide walk at Rainforest Trail with Brenda Wright. I hope we are going to Shaman Island!

Here are some highlights from spring 2022:

— On a glorious **April 30**, about 20 of us trekked out to Auke Rec. We walked along the beach, down a wooded path, and then out to Point Louisa. I just happened to look into the water, and several of us saw two harbor porpoise. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Southeast population numbers about 17,000 individuals. It is always a gift to see marine mammals so close. Also seen were an estimated 30 Surf and 45 White-winged Scoter, two Black Oystercatchers, a Pigeon Guillemot, five five Marbled Murrelets, and Glaucous-winged, Bonaparte's and Short-billed Gulls.



Gwen Baluss demoing a bird band. Photo: Doreen Prieto

— On **May 14**, a small group met Gwen Baluss of the U.S. Forest Service at the Juneau Community Garden to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and to observe the banding of three birds — a dark-eyed junco, a Lincoln's sparrow, and a Steller's Jay. The banding included an examination of each bird to potentially determine the age and sex of the bird, and indicators of body condition, such as fat level. Birds who are still carrying fat in the spring are likely continuing their journeys farther north. We learned migratory birds are able to “shut down” part of their brain during long-distance migration, adding a humorous twist to the phrase “autopilot!” The Steller's Jay was originally banded by Gwen on May 11, 2013, as a second-year bird that hatched in 2012. It was recaptured in May 2015, so this individual has survived for 10 years and has been seen in the Juneau Community Garden several times.

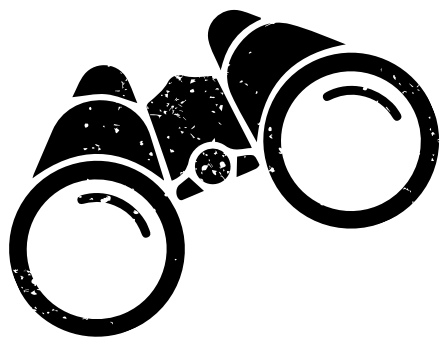
— We traversed Eagle Beach on **May 28** with our intrepid leader, Rob McDonald, as he simultaneously scanned the beach, answered



our many questions, set up his scope, and gave each of us as much time as we wanted to look. We saw 23 species! A solitary Snow Goose and two Greater White-fronted Geese stood out among the many Canada Geese. The best sight was five Black-bellied Plovers.

— On **June 11**, a sold-out crowd met to join Deb Rudis and Gus van Vliet at Dredge Lake. I joined Deb's group, and our focus was identifying birds by ear! We heard Orange-Crowned, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, American Redstarts, and Hermit Thrush. The standout for me was hearing the Northern Waterthrush. No matter if I have seen a bird for the first time or for the 100th time, I am always thrilled to see and hear them. Guess I am hooked!

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have a location suggestion or a hankering to lead a JAS Guided Bird Walk in 2023. Reach me at [field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org). Tell friends and family about our 2023 walks! And thank you for your supporting JAS!



No, thank you, Doreen, JAS' dedicated Field Trips Director, for hosting a great 2022 field trip season!

See you in 2023!



Field Trips Director Doreen Prieto!  
Photo: Marsha Squires

## Spring 2022 — Global Big Day Results

By Marsha Squires

Here in Juneau, the grass was wet, the thermometer read 38 degrees, and there wasn't a bird in the yard when my son and I packed up at 5:30 a.m. for Global Big Day (GBD) adventure. Nevertheless, we had high hopes and giddy attitudes. By 7:30 a.m., we were shedding layers with abandon and had had our eyes on dozens of species. We anticipated a great day of birding ahead!

For us, GBD proved to be a grand opportunity to see numerous shorebirds and ducks, with the Snow and White-Fronted Geese an added treat. We were a bit disappointed not to see or hear an Orange-Crowned Warbler, or encounter a Belted Kingfisher or Wandering Tattler but birding is like fishing at times, right? Can't catch them all the time.

Yet, around the world on every continent, birds were seen, heard, enjoyed, and counted, making this GBD the best year on record. An astounding 7,673 species were recorded with more than 433 more species than last year. With roughly 10,000 species of birds on our planet, I'd say the effort was outstanding!

In Juneau, **101 species were recorded by 24 participants with 60 checklists** submitted to eBird. See the day's list at [bit.ly/gbd-22](https://bit.ly/gbd-22).

For GBD purposes, our local Audubon encompasses seven regions (counties) in eBird (Juneau, Sitka, Yakutat, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan, Ketchikan Gateway, and Wrangell-Petersburg). Keeping this in mind, our sister regions added an additional **27 more species, 12 more participants, and 70 more checklists for the grand total of 128 species, 36 eBird participants, and 130 checklists.**

After a full day of birding, in eight different locations, my son and I sat at the dinner table scarfing our meal and half-heartedly viewing



The Global Big Day birding crowd. Photo: Cynthia Krehbiel

## Spring 2022 — Global Big Day Results cont.

our backyard. We wanted a few more species to cap our total. With mouths full, sharing the tales of the day to our audience of one, we both screamed at the same time “sapsucker!” We jumped up to see a Rufous Hummingbird at the feeder as well.

Both of us have found so much joy in sharing birds with each other that I honestly didn’t want the day to end. Yet, we decided that we really did need to call it a day. Our feet were tired and our hearts were full. We look forward to more days of birding together and participating in future GBD events.

Thanks to all of you who participated and encouraged others to share in this special day of birding, and I welcome others to join in the excitement and joy the next time a GBD event hits the calendar.

## JAS Tree Swallow Nest Box Project 2022

By Brenda Wright

Hard to believe this is the eighth year of the Juneau Audubon Society’s Tree Swallow Nest Box Project — and we have quite a few out there. This year — with the help of Boy Scout Troop No. 6 — we successfully put up 42 nest boxes on Southeast Alaska Land Trust (SEAL) lands at both Sunny Point and Mendenhall Peninsula. In addition, JAS president Marsha Squires and her family put up the 10 nest boxes at Fish Creek on the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge. Our other 11 nest boxes are on City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) parks and recreation areas like Kingfisher Pond.

This was a bit of a colder spring. The birds’ first arrival was noted on April 29 at Kingfisher Pond and on May 1 near the mouth of Mendenhall River. The birds got to work building nests pretty quickly and the first egg was laid on May 16. As usual, some nests progress faster than others. So now, at the third week of June, we have a few nests with birds almost ready to fledge and a few still not hatched. We hope this warm weather interspersed with the chillier rainy days helps more bugs to be produced and more healthy chicks. It looks like we will definitely have 200 eggs laid in the 56 boxes with nests.

This project couldn’t proceed without the help of our summer intern, Amalia Tamone. We are glad we have good help with this project. And to all of you for your support.

A tree swallow nest box. Photo: Jessica Milsaps





Arctic tern before the Mendenhall Glacier. Photo: Kari Monagle

## Mendenhall Lake Arctic Tern Nesting Update

By Mali Tamome

The Juneau Audubon Society assists the U.S. Forest Service in monitoring the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) Colonies near Mendenhall Lake. Known for their long migration, Arctic Terns are one of the favorite seasonal residents in Juneau.

Each year a population travels from Antarctica to their rocky breeding ground near Mendenhall Glacier. This year was no exception. A colony of more than 60 individuals established nests on the gravel bar near the Photo Point Trail. Thus far no nests have been observed on the West Glacier Spur Trail. A game camera was recently installed at the West Glacier site to monitor daily activity.

The colony appears to be mostly free of predation, though a mink and a Raven have been seen near the nesting sites. The adults appear to be leaving the nests unattended more than usual. The cause for this is still unknown. No eggs have hatched so far. However, one gull nest near the colony has been successful with two healthy-looking chicks hatched last week.

Currently, the Terns can be easily spotted (and heard!) from Photo Point Trail and from the unpaved Nugget Falls Trail. This year a

webcam overlooking two nests on the gravel bar has been made public at [player.audiovideoweb.com/stream1138](http://player.audiovideoweb.com/stream1138). We hope to see eggs hatching soon and that good nutrition remains abundant and easily accessible to the parents.



*The Raven* editor Lauren Cusimano. Photo: Charles Barth

## JAS Board Member Spotlight

By Lauren Cusimano

As a newish board member with JAS, I compile and edit *The Raven* newsletter — a complete honor. It's a dream to assemble articles and photos from JAS board members and send our booklet out to members. I hope you've been enjoying it! I also assist with social media management, mostly in running the Instagram account (follow us at [@juneau.audubon.society!](https://www.instagram.com/juneau.audubon.society/)),

While my background is in journalism, my personal interest is in conservation. Last year, I was hired as the Communications Lead for SEACC and was living in Juneau by August. There I create messaging on behalf of irreplaceable old-growth trees and waterways and work to help amplify the voices of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples as the stewards of Southeast Alaska.

But back in Arizona, I volunteered with Audubon Southwest. My favorite job was feeding some tented Burrowing Owls mice every. I'd bike in 100-plus degree weather, fast so the frozen mice wouldn't melt too much, to push in their Sunday supper in an effort to acclimate them back into the open after injuries.

Juneau has proven to be an exceptional birding town. Bald Eagles are not old news to me yet, and I'll never forget the first time I spotted a perfectly round golden-crowned kinglet at Kingfisher Pond. What a place. I also "get" to survey beaches for beached birds on behalf of COASST with for the University of Washington. My area is Spaulding Beach. So if you see a gal weirdly counting her paces in XtraTufs just off Statter Harbor, give me a wave!



Arctic tern spotted on the Berners Bay Cruise. Photo: Kari Monagle

## **The Year's Last Voyage to Berners Bay**

**By Doreen Prieto**

On **May 7**, a contingent of intrepid passengers boarded a catamaran that began navigating a course through Favorite Channel to Berners Bay with Captain Dan and crew from Allen Marine Tours on deck. After a delayed boarding under gray skies, the sun broke out and remained so for the rest of our cruise, illuminating Herbert and Eagle glaciers and numerous Juneau Channel Islands. We saw Arctic Terns which kept pace with us. Long-tailed and Harlequin Ducks,

Surf Scoters, Black Oystercatchers, and Bonaparte's and Glaucous-winged Gulls were spotted, along with some much-anticipated humpback whales and many sea lions that had hauled out on Benjamin Island to get some of that sun.

Suzie Teerlink, Ph.D., marine mammal specialist from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Laurie Craig, artist and storyteller extraordinaire, and professor emerita and Tlingit author Ernestine Saankaláxt Hayes joined us. All three contributed to our knowledge of the waters. We returned to Auke Bay through Saginaw Channel where we all parted ways, happy, a little sunburned, and looking forward to our 2023 voyages back to Berners Bay.

## **JAS Has Two Open Board Positions!**

**Programs Director:** The objective of this position is to make all plans and arrangements for the regular and special meetings of the Society, and promote interest and appreciation of the Society. Examples of this can include making plans and arrangements while finding guest speakers for our monthly JAS programs from September through April to promote an interest in birds, as well as bird conservation and research.

**Conservation Chair:** The objective of this position is to keep informed on local, state, and national government policies and actions affecting the natural environment and the conservation of natural resources, advise the Board and assist in carrying out the policies of the Society. Further, this committee shall endeavor to coordinate the Chapter's actions with the policies and activities of the National Audubon Society and to keep the National Audubon Society informed of the Chapter's activities. Examples of this can include writing letters on proposed land issues, attending community meetings, and organizing with partners in restoration work.

Interested? Email us at [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org).



Join us at Sandy Beach this August! Photo: Kayti Coonjohn

## You're Invited! Attend Our August Audubon Potluck

By Deborah Hart

The Juneau Audubon Society Board of Directors will hold a two-day retreat and membership potluck barbecue on August 26 and 27.

On the first day — Friday, August 26 — Board members will meet at Sandy Beach to explore the surrounding trails looking for birds while also getting a chance to visit with each other. During the height of the pandemic, the Board has met virtually, so this will be the first time we gathered in person for some time!

From 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. you're welcome to Savikko #2 (Log Cabin) at Sandy Beach for a potluck-style membership barbecue. Members and folks interested in learning more about JAS are welcome to join us! Board members will share a brief overview of recent activities and some ideas that they will discuss for the coming year. We are hoping many of our members will join us for the picnic so we can learn what types of activities you'd like to see JAS work toward.

The next day — Saturday, August 27 — the Board will meet for a full day of visioning and setting goals for the next few years. If you have any questions about the retreat or membership potluck barbecue, please reach out to JAS's acting vice president Deborah Hart at hartdebbi@gmail.com or at 907-723-0258.



A Tree Swallow Nest Box in action. Photo: Jessica Milsaps

## JAS membership — need to join or renew?

Joining or renewing membership with the National Audubon Society using an address in Southeast Alaska will include automatic JAS membership. Visit [action.audubon.org/renew/membership](http://action.audubon.org/renew/membership) to do so. Or for local-only JAS membership, print or copy and mail in this section of the page with a check for at least \$10 made to Juneau Audubon Society for annual dues.

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Members receive a one-year subscription to The Raven. Please note if you can receive it electronically — saves paper and funds!

Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service at [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto: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!



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Juneau, AK 99802

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JAS Membership Potluck at Sandy Beach. Photo: Picnic Attendee

## **On a Successful JAS Member Picnic and Retreat By Deborah Hart**

On Friday, August 26, JAS held a member's picnic at the log cabin shelter at Sandy Beach. We were joined by more than 25 members and many JAS board members. The intent of the picnic was to meet with members to learn what they enjoy about JAS's efforts as well as celebrate the opportunity to gather in person and reflect back on all the amazing work the JAS has accomplished these past years under the additional challenges of COVID.

We were also able to use this opportunity to recognize both past and current board members and active volunteers. Those recognized for their longstanding contributions to JAS included George Utermohle, 1

## JAS Member Picnic and Retreat Cont.

Brenda Wright, Jeff Sauer, and Patty Rose. Keep a lookout for an article in *Juneau Empire* to celebrate their efforts on a broader scale with the community, including details on their specific contributions.

Following the picnic, the JAS Board of Directors met on Saturday, August 27, at the Eaglecrest Ski Area for a day-long visioning retreat facilitated by the fantastic Timi Tullis. Our JAS Board President, Marsha Squires, provided strong constructive leadership in developing the agenda and encouraging all JAS Board of Directors to share and contribute ideas on how to strengthen the society in the coming years.

We discussed input from members at both the picnic and through an online members survey (which you may still take at [bit.ly/jas-survey-2022](https://bit.ly/jas-survey-2022)). We received excellent feedback and appreciation for the activities and events JAS provides, including our wildly popular bird walks, our educational and birding classes, our seasonal programs, our informational newsletter *The Raven*, and our informational presentations (which will begin again on October 13 and run every second Thursday through April 2023). We also received feedback opportunities for improvement, including how better to communicate with our membership, ideas for strengthening partnerships with other organizations, and elevating our ability to inform our membership on topics of interest concerning conservation.

We left the retreat with three focal goals — improve JAS' organizational components (updating our bylaws, creating operational procedures, defining Board of Directors' roles and responsibilities), modernize and improve JAS communications, and build and diversity our membership through outreach and engagement activities (like a birding field trip leading workshop to build our volunteer group).

We look forward to putting these goals into action!



Brenda, Jeff, and Patty (George not pictured). Photo: Lauren Cusimano

## Membership Picnic 2022 Volunteer Recognitions By Marsha Squires

### GEORGE UTERMOHLE

George Utermohle is the ultimate behind-the-scenes kind of guy and has been with our organization for decades. George has been a volunteer, board member, President, and Treasurer, and in 2005 became our dedicated “rock” of a webmaster — and hasn't stopped. He uploads reports, posts events, shares valuable reports and documents of regional and statewide interests, archives our records, provides public information, and has assured that the Mission and goals are front and center for the public. He doesn't say much or ask much — he doesn't even want to go for coffee! But he is always there for our organization. George is the mystery man behind the web, and the Chapter wants to take the opportunity to thank him for his long-standing commitment to the JAS. You are appreciated, George, more than you know.

### BRENDA WRIGHT

Brenda is known for being tremendously kind and genuine to the core. She is dedicated to educating *all of us* about birds, science,



A special board member in her natural habitat. Photo: Courtesy Brenda Wright

## Volunteer Recognitions Cont.

conservation, science, and habitats. She has spent decades working and volunteering in the science and conservation realm. She has also been involved with Audubon for over two decades and has held every position on the Board of Directors. Most recently she pulled us through COVID offering educational programs from October through April via Zoom. Not an easy feat!

For the past seven years, she has dedicated much of her spring to the Alaska Tree Swallow Project, which Audubon became a part of in 2015. Brenda has worked with Boy Scouts troops to have nesting boxes built and has networked with various people to obtain nesting locations and create partnerships. She has led countless field trips, hosted the annual Berners Bay cruises, made jams and coordinated our efforts at the Public Market, written articles, spoke with reporters, and posted flyers everywhere.

She is the first to volunteer for radio spots on KTOO and enjoys volunteering for our youth educational programs. Brenda has also worked directly with our Audubon intern and has been an incredible role model and teacher. She has done all these things and more —

all while representing JAS with a tad of humor, a smile, and class.

## JEFF SAUER

Jeff Sauer has been a long-time conservationist and birder in the Juneau community. He too has a history with JAS going back two decades. He served on the JAS Board for 10 years filling the roles of Vice President and President. During that time and beyond, he has shared his expertise and enthusiasm for birds, the environment, and the organization through board guidance and support, guided field trips, interesting and entertaining programs, citizen science projects, fundraising, and teaching.

Most recently he and his wife, Theresa, along with two other friends, presented an excellent account of their kayak and birding trip in northern Alaska — the most attended program in years! His sightings of the Wandering Tattlers are well known on eBird, and some of us are envious of his “backyard” birding situation out the road. Thank you Jeff for your constant support, friendly approach, and honest love for birds and our environment.

## PATTY ROSE

Patty is a humble, dedicated birder. One might even say she’s “hardcore”. I believe she’s a great example of passion and curiosity. Her interest in birding began roughly 20 years ago, and at that time, she got involved with our local Audubon chapter as a volunteer. In 2006, she jumped onto the Board in the Secretary position, and in 2010 moved to the Treasurer’s Chair until 2021.

Her contributions to the local birding community have been extensive. When you look at eBird, it is more than likely that you will see Patty’s name along with an extensive list of birds found for the day. Patty has sighted 256 species in Juneau and has submitted over 2,300 eBird lists to Cornell. She also has the knack and patience to find those rare birds and is kind enough to take the time to share them with others. Personally, I consider Patty to be one of my “birding gurus” and am always pleased when I get the chance to





Patty Rose leaving the picnic with a prize basket. Photo: Lauren Cusimano



Some current JAS board members. Photo: Lauren Cusimano

### **Volunteer Recognitions Cont.**

walk a trail and spend time with her.

She has been diligent in citizen science and has participated in and contributed to the Global Big Days, bird-a-thons, and Backyard Birding events. And her leadership with the Christmas Bird Count has been impeccable and greatly appreciated. Patty has also filled the shoes of field trip leader many times, written articles for the newsletter, participated in numerous Audubon events and provided solid and helpful advice to the Board.

I miss working with you, Patty but I know that relinquishing your post with Audubon has created more time for you to bird and nobody wants to get in your way of finding that usual or rare bird! Thank you for all you have done for birding, our community, and JAS.

### **FOR ALL**

I'm sure I've missed projects and tasks many of you have taken part in over the years. Please pardon me, but what I most want to impart is that JAS has genuine gold nuggets in you as volunteers. You are a treasure and we are thankful for your dedication and involvement.

### **JAS Annual Meeting and Election**

**7 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, at UAS (room TBD)**

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, but general membership will be encouraged at the meeting to put forth additional nominations and make selections.

#### Current JAS Officers:

- President — Marsha Squires
- Vice President — Deborah Hart
- Treasurer — Betsy Fischer
- Secretary — Amy Sherwin

#### Current JAS Board of Directors:

- Education — Kim Ramos
- Field Trips — Doreen Prieto
- Membership — Lizzie Solger
- Programs — Brenda Wright
- Conservation — Vacant
- Communications — Lauren Cusimano
- At-Large — Gwen Baluss
- At-Large — Winston Smith

## JAS Annual Meeting and Election Cont.

### Officer nominations for the JAS Board of Directors:

President — Marsha Squires

Vice President — Vacant

Treasurer — Betsy Fischer

Secretary — Amy Sherwin

### Other JAS Board of Directors include:

Education — Kim Ramos

Field Trips — Doreen Prieto

Membership — Lizzie Solger

Programs — Vacant

Conservation — Winston Smith

Communications — Lauren Cusimano

At-Large — Gwen Baluss

At-Large — Brenda Wright



Pectoral Sandpiper. This species relies on mud flats in the Mendenhall Wetlands to eat and rest on its journey toward South America. Photo: Gwen Baluss

## From the Field: October Big Day and More

### By Doreen Prieto

Hurray! Fall is practically here! The Autumnal Equinox on September 22 will officially usher in autumn, and October Big Day will take place

on Saturday, October 8. From midnight to midnight in their local time zone, birders from around the world will be watching and compiling checklists of what birds they spot. By spending as few as 10 minutes from your living room window you will join thousands of birders taking part in this annual event.

I recommend getting an eBird account (if you don't have one already) and taking the free eBird Essentials course ([academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/eBird-essentials](https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/eBird-essentials)). eBird is super easy, and it will open to you a whole new world of birding!

I also suggest you visit [eBird.org/news/october-big-day-2022](https://eBird.org/news/october-big-day-2022) for an excellent summary of this year's OBD and how you can participate. Here is a snippet of what to do on the big day:

- Enter what you see and hear on eBird (see instructions at [bit.ly/entering-on-eBird](https://bit.ly/entering-on-eBird)) You can enter your sightings via our website or download the free eBird Mobile app to make submitting lists even easier. Please enter your checklists before 12 October to be included in our initial results announcement.
- Watch the sightings roll in. During the day, follow along with sightings from more than 190 countries in real-time on our October Big Day page ([eBird.org/octoberbigday](https://eBird.org/octoberbigday)).

See you in the field!



## Please Take the JAS Membership Survey!

Greetings, JAS members and readers of *The Raven*! We are looking for your feedback to help us incorporate our membership interests in future JAS activities.

Please take five minutes to complete the 2022 JAS Membership Survey. Visit [bit.ly/jas-survey-2022](https://bit.ly/jas-survey-2022).



Juneau Douglas North Crossing area. Photo: Lauren Cusimano

## News on the North Crossing

### By Winston Smith

On July 19, 2022, the JAS Board participated in a Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members Workshop as part of the Juneau Douglas North Crossing (“second crossing”) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, which construction engineering firm DOWL is undertaking on behalf of the City and Borough of Juneau and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

A previous virtual introductory meeting was held in April during which background information, including a statement of purpose and need and details of the study area, were presented. Organizers of the July 19 workshop reviewed the draft statement of purpose and need via slide presentations. Workshop attendees were divided into multiple predetermined working groups to consider various alternatives that could potentially address needs and meet additional stated goals. Each working group shared alternatives with each rationale and justification for selection. Alternatives are being reviewed by DOWL and cooperating agencies for further discussion and consideration at a future Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members Workshop. (Note: Future outcomes may affect the Mendenhall Wetlands, a globally recognized Important Bird Area (see [audubon.org/important-bird-areas/mendenhall-wetlands](http://audubon.org/important-bird-areas/mendenhall-wetlands)).

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Juneau Douglas North Crossing Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study is to identify a north crossing corridor that will reduce dependency on the existing North Douglas Highway, improve network connectivity, reduce travel time and emissions, provide redundant access, improve emergency response time, and provide infrastructure consistent with the City and Borough of Juneau's planning framework.

## NEED

The successful solution should address the following needs:

- Add roadway capacity and utility infrastructure to support the development of growth areas envisioned on North and West Douglas Island.
- Provide redundancy and reduce travel times for public safety and emergency response in the event of traffic disruption on the North Douglas Highway, Douglas Island Bridge, or Egan Drive.
- Create a traffic network with connectivity to Egan Drive and Glacier Highway, including improved motorized and non-motorized access to North Douglas Island and reduces transportation barriers to land development and emergency response.

## STATED GOALS

- Reduce overall vehicle miles traveled and thereby reduce emissions and improve the viability of electric vehicles.
- Improve the quality of life through reduced emissions, improved access, utility infrastructure, and economic development.
- Improve existing natural environmental conditions where possible and avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts to the natural environment.
- Improve access and connection to recreational, cultural, and subsistence resources.
- Enhance and protect public health and safety.
- Satisfy applicable federal, state, and local plans, policies, and regulations.



Group of birders in Mendenhall Glacier Forelands. Photo: Lauren Cusimano

## Alaska's Bird Tourism Means Big Bucks

By Lauren Cusimano

There's been a lot of talk about Alaska bird tourism dollars lately. Why? We'll give you a key-points summary.

The recent hype was ignited by a study released in July by the journal PLUS ONE titled "Small sight—Big might: Economic impact of bird tourism shows opportunities for rural communities and biodiversity conservation." (Read at [bit.ly/ak-bird-tourism-study](http://bit.ly/ak-bird-tourism-study).) It was co-authored by Tobias Schwoerer of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Natalie Dawson — a name you might recognize as she was the executive director of Audubon Alaska and vice president of the National Audubon Society. It was reported on by *Alaska Beacon*, *Anchorage Daily News*, and *Chilkat Valley News*, among other outlets.

This study is a big deal as it proves Alaska's birdwatching visitors stay longer, spend significantly more money, and are more likely to visit areas outside of usual tourist destinations. The study, which is based on metrics from 2016, reads that "nearly 300,000 birdwatchers visited Alaska and spent \$378 million supporting approximately 4,000 jobs."

On another note, four in every five these birdwatchers in 2016 arrived not on a cruise ship, making them independent travelers, and more likely to reach (and spend money in) Alaska's more remote areas, in addition to communities with cruise ship docks.

This is all building up to the big, fun piece of reporting — "A total of 3,273 annual average statewide jobs are directly associated with the expenditures of bird tourism and an additional 1,100 jobs stem from businesses supporting and supplying goods and services to the bird tourism sector." This means that birding creates the same number of jobs (in fact, slightly more) as mining in Alaska, which totaled 3,111 annual average statewide jobs in 2020.

To give Southeast Alaska a little praise, the study found that, "Among Alaska's Bird Conservation Regions, the Rainforest region received the most birders and had the largest spending with \$184.2 million, almost half of the statewide total." Go us!

Now that we've done our homework, you have some, too. The study paired reporting from the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program with eBird data! From this, we can draw our own conclusion — keep using eBird! For birding events like the upcoming October Big Day, during JAS-hosted walks, or anytime you're just out birding in Juneau, keeping eBird fired up is generating important data for bird-friendly tourism and conservation in Southeast and beyond.



**JOIN THE JAS BOARD**

**— A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**

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



Brenda hailing up boxes from Mendenhall Peninsula. Photo: Lauren Cusimano

## Tree Swallow Nest Box Project for 2022

By Brenda Wright

Do you remember our cold winter and spring this year? Our first Tree Swallow was seen on April 29 — a week later than average.

To summarize the season, Marsha Squires and family placed 10 boxes at Fish Creek on April 5. Juneau Boy Scout Troop No. 6 placed 41 nest boxes at Sunny Point (20) and Mendenhall peninsula (21) on April 16. And 11 boxes were installed at Twin Lakes and Kingfisher Pond in mid-April. Even though the spring was cold, the first Tree Swallow egg observed ranged between May 14 and 24.

In 2022, 53 nest boxes had nests with a total of 295 eggs. At least 250 eggs hatched and 230 fledged. This year there were two nests with eggs that did not hatch, and one box was stolen. The sites with the most bugs are always the most successful. All the boxes on the Mendenhall Wetlands had the best fledge rates. Our summer intern, Amalia Tamone, was a great resource to collect data and help compile information. We shared our summaries with the Alaska Swallow Monitoring Network and Cornell's Nestwatch.

In 2023, the plan is to repair our present boxes and possibly build some more. If anyone is interested in volunteering some time, please contact me at [at-large\\_b@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org).



Anti-collision retrofit on windows at the Egan Library. Photo: Courtesy UAS

## How to Be Feather Friendly

By Amalia Tamone

I am a senior at the University of Alaska Southeast studying biology. I recently had the great pleasure of interning with the JAS from May through the middle of July. During this time, I learned about bird migration, techniques to monitor populations, and observed bird tagging first-hand. I also learned more about the kind of collaboration between scientists and the community that is integral to the conservation of the animals we love.

One example of this is the recent installation of bird deterrents on windows in the Egan Library at UAS. After reaching out to the Facilities Staff director, I met with him and other library staff to discuss areas where bird strikes were prevalent. They agreed to install Feather Friendly® window dots (deterrents that help to prevent birds from flying into windows) on seven windows on the second floor of the library where strikes were common. Enthusiastic about the idea of contributing to migratory bird conservation, UAS facilities have agreed to install the deterrents on more windows in the building. We are currently working toward installing them on two walls on the ground floor of the Egan Wing. This should greatly

## Feather Friendly Cont.

reduce the number of strikes and deaths which occur there.

According to the American Bird Conservancy, window collisions kill at least 365 million birds a year. Feather Friendly window deterrents consist of tape with small white dots placed 2 inches by 2 inches apart. After peeling the tape off, only the white dots stick to the window. This serves to discourage birds from flying in while also preserving the view outside.

Other types of window deterrents exist, such as “Zen Blinds” which are strings that hang in front of the window. Simple solutions like this can save the lives of birds and ultimately help the conservation of the local bird populations. So far, JAS helped the U.S. Forest Service install Feather Friendly dots in several USFS public use cabins. I look forward to continuing work with UAS. I am incredibly appreciative of the support both UAS and JAS have shown in the project and am excited to see it come to fruition.

## Programs Chair is Open!

### By Brenda Wright

I have enjoyed finding great presentations for our public meetings but will be stepping down as Programs Chair for the JAS board.

Do you enjoy birding? Do you have friends and acquaintances that enjoy birding, too? If you can say yes to this question, then you are the one we need. It is so easy to find new and exciting travelers (birds and people) with excellent photos, too.

The duties are to find presenters for our public meetings that occur from October through April. You get to help promote the presentations on the radio, on community calendars, and on social media. You also help find a location for Juneau Audubon’s public meeting. The best reward is getting to enjoy all kinds of new birds, birding locations, and talented photographers.



Townsend's Warbler. This beautiful long-distance migrant is still plentiful in Southeast Alaska until late fall. They mostly feed in coniferous habitat and help reduce the numbers of Western black-headed budworm, a pest of hemlock trees that is browning local forests. Photo: Gwen Baluss

## JAS membership — need to join or renew?

Joining or renewing membership with the National Audubon Society using an address in Southeast Alaska will include automatic JAS membership. Visit [action.audubon.org/renew/membership](http://action.audubon.org/renew/membership) to do so. Or for local-only JAS membership, print or copy and mail this section with a check for \$10 made to Juneau Audubon Society for annual dues. Members receive a one-year subscription to *The Raven*.

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

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P.O. Box 21725  
Juneau, AK 99802

Juneau-Audubon-Society.org  
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Edited by Lauren Cusimano



# THE RAVEN

## JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 49, ISSUE 2, NOV/DEC 2022



October program on bird studies and citizen science. Photo: Lauren Cusimano

### JAS 2022-23 Program Season

Juneau Audubon Society's monthly programs are back — and so is the audience! JAS is hosting in-person programs each month until April 2023. Here is the event information for the November and December programs.

**Nov. 10, 7 p.m., UAS Egan Lecture Hall — The Healing, Medicinal, and Spiritual Properties of Native Plants in Southeast Alaska:** Heather Evoy will be presenting on the healing, medicinal, and spiritual properties of native plants in Southeast Alaska. Heather, who's from Ketchikan and is an Alaska Native, Tsimshian, and Tlingit, lives in Juneau where she enjoys harvesting, advocating for plant knowledge, and connecting with the land with her two children.

## JAS 2022-23 Program Season Cont.

**Dec. 8, 7 p.m., UAS Egan Lecture Hall — Red Knots of Controller Bay:** Jenell Larsen Tempel just finished her first pilot season up in Controller Bay on the Red Knot. She is excited to share with Juneau Audubon the importance of the study site to shorebirds, why the Red Knot was her bird of choice, and a bit of insight into the dietary needs of this fascinating and beautiful bird.

Did you miss the first program of the season on **Bird Studies and Citizen Science** from University of Alaska Southeast student and former Juneau Audubon Society Bird Studies and Conservation Intern Mali Tamome? Don't worry! The recording from Oct. 13 is posted at [facebook.com/JuneauAudubonSociety/videos/](https://facebook.com/JuneauAudubonSociety/videos/)!

## JAS Board Member Spotlight — Kim Ramos

Hi, I'm Kim Ramos — the new Programs Chair for the Juneau Audubon Society.

Growing up and exploring the land and sea in California inspired my love of nature. Passion turned into academic exploration as I studied for my degree in Zoology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Since graduating, I have worked in biology and outdoor education all over the country. I moved to Maui in 2013, fell in love with humpback whales, and eventually migrated to Juneau in 2016.

I assumed I would just spend one summer in Alaska but, like many, I fell in love with this place and returned for another summer and decided to make Juneau my year-round home. Most recently I have worked as an expedition guide. I am passionate about sourdough bread, conservation, travel, and exploring the wonders of Southeast on foot or by kayak.

I joined JAS in 2021 as the Education Chair and am very excited to transition to Programs Chair with the goal of facilitating meaningful



The new JAS Programs Chair. Photo: Courtesy of Kim Ramos

opportunities for JAS to connect our community with the incredible birds, wildlife, and entire ecosystem of Southeast Alaska.

I look forward to seeing you at our next program!

## JAS Has Two Open Board Positions!

**Vice President:** Do you care about birds, people, board members, and working to connect all three? The Juneau Audubon Society needs a Vice President! Responsibilities for this role may include attending all meetings for JAS members and the Board of Directors, coordinating JAS internship(s) and community partnerships, overseeing special projects interpretive signs, and planning our JAS summer retreat!

As a member of the Board of Directors, the Vice President shall exercise all the powers, authority, and duties of the President during the President's absence or inability to act. That includes countersigning all negotiable instruments made by the Treasurer, signing all contracts entered into on behalf of the Chapter, fixing the time and place of any special meetings, and other fun duties.





The JAS board at the August retreat. Photo: Timi Tullis

## Open Board Positions Cont.

**Education Chair:** Love to teach ... about birds and birding? The JAS Education Chair's main responsibility would be to further the purposes and programs of the National Audubon Society and of the Juneau Audubon Society through education, outreach, and interpretation.

The Education Chair would plan, develop, and present educational programs while coordinating with the Program Committee. Examples of this can include hosting educational programming at regional schools and institutions, creating educational birding activities, attending events on behalf of JAS like the UAS Campus Kickoff, art shows, book releases, and more!

**JOIN THE JAS BOARD  
— A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**  
Interested in either role — Vice President or  
Education Chair? Email us at  
[president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org).



The Northern Goshawk. Photo: Bob Armstrong

## The Queen Charlotte Goshawk: An Endemic of Southeast Alaska

**By Winston Smith**

The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is a forest raptor that occurs throughout southeastern Alaska. The breeding home ranges of northern goshawks in Southeast are quite large, commonly encompassing 10 square miles.

In western North America, breeding home ranges of northern goshawks are spatially configured as a hierarchical sequence of three areas, all of which need to be considered simultaneously in land use planning: nest area, post-fledging (family) area, and foraging area.

Nest areas provide alternate nest trees, roost trees, prey plucking posts, and serve as centers of essential breeding behaviors or life-history events. Post-fledging areas surround active nest trees and represent the core-use area of adult female and young goshawks after fledging but before becoming independent of adults and dispersing.



Prince of Wales Island. Photo: Bradley Morris

### Queen Charlotte Goshawk Cont.

The northern goshawk has been given special consideration by the U.S. Forest Service as a “sensitive species” on the Tongass largely because of viability concerns over populations of the endemic Queen Charlotte goshawk (*A. g. laingi*).

Recent genetic studies revealed that a population of Queen Charlotte Goshawks in the Queen Charlotte Islands of British Columbia is genetically distinct from regional mainland populations. Formally described as a “meta-population” (group of spatially separated breeding sub-populations), the Queen Charlotte goshawk’s distribution includes Prince of Wales Island and barrier islands and coastal British Columbia and nearby islands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed Queen Charlotte Goshawks nesting in Canada as a threatened subpopulation, although all subpopulations were deemed essential for long-term viability (U.S. Federal Register 2012). The most imminent threats to breeding populations are loss or fragmentation of nesting or foraging habitat from extensive clearcut logging.

**ATTENTION, TONGASS SUPPORTERS!**  
Are you up to date on all the projects happening on the Tongass? Check out the Tongass National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the current quarter — now till the end of 2022, and past SOPA reports are also on display. View the current and past reports at [bit.ly/sopa-reports](https://bit.ly/sopa-reports).



Common Redpolls feeding in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

### Winter Counting With Project FeederWatch

By Lauren Cusimano

The FeederWatch counting season runs from November to April and is a survey of birds that visit our porches, public areas, and other outdoor spots across North America during the winter months. The program is exactly what it sounds like — you watch birds as they feed, count them, and enter your date online. According to the website — [feederwatch.org](https://feederwatch.org) — your findings will “contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance.” This will also allow FeederWatch scientists to analyze “winter bird abundance and distribution.”

## Project FeederWatch Cont.

As bird feeders can be problematic in Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends bird feeders be taken down due to bear activity from April to October. Luckily the FeederWatch data collection runs the opposite months of the year. (But here are other considerations to ensure bird safety, and some excellent tips are listed at [fws.gov/story/feed-or-not-feed-wild-birds](https://fws.gov/story/feed-or-not-feed-wild-birds)).

The program, overseen by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada, has been around since 2016. Cost is \$18 in the United States, which gets you instructional materials, digital access to Living Bird magazine and other birding publications, and more.

Visit [feederwatch.org/join-or-renew](https://feederwatch.org/join-or-renew).



Great Blue Heron in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

## Christmas Bird Count 2022

**By Patty Rose**

The 2022 Juneau Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 17, 2022. The Christmas Bird Count is a national citizen science event sponsored by the National Audubon Society. This year's count is the 123rd national count and 50th Juneau count.

If you would like to participate in the count as a field volunteer or feeder watcher, or if you have questions, please contact Patty Rose at [p\\_rose\\_raven@yahoo.com](mailto:p_rose_raven@yahoo.com).



Pine Grosbeak in winter. Photo: Gwen Baluss

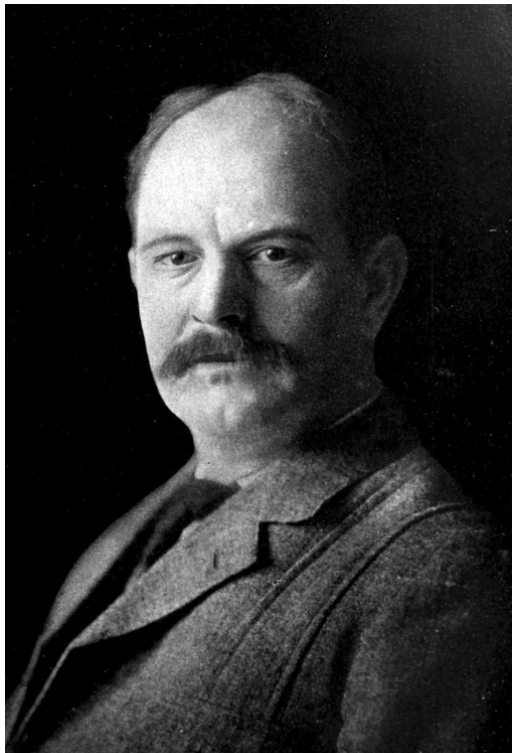
## The Story of the Christmas Bird Count

**By Doreen Prieto**

On Christmas Days prior to the turn of the 20th century, gentlemen hunters across New England and the Midwest would step out of their country homes with the savory aromas of Christmas dinner wafting behind. Attired in the style of the time and accompanied by their retrievers, the men — and perhaps a few ladies — arranged themselves into teams.

Proceeding into the fields and woods they would bring down any winged or furred creature that had the misfortune to come into the sites of their guns. The winner was the group that bagged the greatest number of quarry, a tradition known as the “side hunt.”

Enter Frank Michler Chapman. He was born on June 12, 1864, in West Englewood, New Jersey during the reign of Queen Victoria, a period in which the sciences underwent major development and expansion, including the field of avian biology. A banker by trade, he volunteered to study bird migration with the American Ornithologists’



Frank Michler Chapman. Photo: Wikipedia

## Story of Christmas Bird Count Cont.

Union. He received an offer to become an assistant to the bird curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York where he worked for the next 54 years.

His impact on the museum was huge. Traditionally, rows and rows of stuffed specimens were displayed on plain shelves. Chapman thought visitors would be more attracted to a new type of showcase — the diorama — displaying birds in natural settings, postures, and activities. The diorama became the standard museum format for generations.

Among his many achievements, Chapman conducted fieldwork across the Americas, wrote 23 major research articles and books, was the first recipient of the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the National Academy of Sciences in 1917, received the John Burroughs Medal for distinction in the field of natural history for his 1906-published “Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America” in 1929, and created and edited the magazine *Bird-Lore* for 35 years. (*Bird-Lore* was published bi-monthly until July-August 1940. Audubon Magazine succeeded the following year.)

But arguably the greatest contribution to ornithology by Chapman was his alternative to the “side hunt.” He proposed “a new kind of Christmas side hunt, in the form of a Christmas bird census, and we



Long-tailed Ducks in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

hope that all our readers who have the opportunity will aid us in making a success by spending a portion of Christmas Day with the birds and sending a report of their ‘hunt’ to *Bird-Lore* before they retire that night.”

Twenty-seven bird enthusiasts participated in the first year, counting birds at 25 separate locations. They counted 90 species. Compare those numbers to those for the 2020-2021 Christmas Bird Count: 72,815 folks tallied birds across the hemisphere and beyond, and all counts in all regions tallied 2,355 species. Ponder how Frank Chapman's remarkable accomplishments were achieved with paper, pen, and a formidable intellect.

For some winter reading, here are a few pieces from and on Frank Chapman and the Christmas Bird Count:

- “A Proposal to Start a Christmas Census” by Chapman in *Bird-Lore* in 1900: [bit.ly/3gPTWeq](https://bit.ly/3gPTWeq)
- “Annual Summaries of the Christmas Bird Count, 1901-Present”: [bit.ly/3sAygph](https://bit.ly/3sAygph)
- “B&C Member Spotlight — Frank M. Chapman” from Boone and Crockett Club: [bit.ly/3TMV1m0](https://bit.ly/3TMV1m0)



Bohemian Waxwing. Photo: Bob Armstrong



American Dipper with colors in winter. Photo: Bob Armstrong

### Story of Christmas Bird Count Cont.

- “*Bird-Lore*, Volume I — 1899 — Editor: Frank M. Chapman”: [bit.ly/3gE5hOG](https://bit.ly/3gE5hOG)\*

\*Designated the “Official Organ of the Audubon Societies,” *Bird-Lore* is a great read for those who wish initiation into the arcana of an era we shall not see again. (The prize-winning essays written by two 14-year-olds about their bird walks in February are especially fun.)

Send questions to the JAS Field Trips Chair or [info@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:info@juneau-audubon-society.org). Enjoy Christmas Bird Count 2022!

The Juneau Audubon Society acknowledges the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples of Southeast Alaska who have been the caretakers of this land since time immemorial. We at JAS are grateful to bird and hold events, field trips, and presentations on the ancestral and traditional lands of Indigenous peoples in the Áak’w Ḵwáan and adjacent T’aaḱú Ḵwáan territories and throughout Lingít Aaní.

### JAS Membership — Need to Join or Renew?

Joining or renewing membership with the National Audubon Society using an address in Southeast Alaska will include automatic JAS membership. Visit [action.audubon.org/renew/membership](https://action.audubon.org/renew/membership) to do so. Or for local-only JAS membership, print or copy and mail this section with a check for \$10 made to Juneau Audubon Society for annual dues. Members receive a one-year subscription to *The Raven*.

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**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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