

# The Raven



Volume 28, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2001

## December Meeting

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

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

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

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

View from Airport dike trail



Judy Shuter

## Market Report

Kathy Weltzin, coordinator

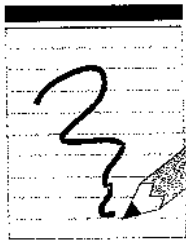
**THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Audubon booth at the Juneau Public Market. People stored things, made things, hauled things, sold things, donated things.

It was a great cooperative venture!

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

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

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



## Notes from the board

Brenda Wright, vice-president

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

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

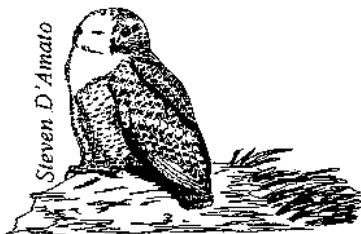
Every time of year has its special rewards when you live in as beautiful a place as Juneau. This period of shortening days is often one of my favorites to get out on the water for a short paddle in the kayak. There may not be multitudes of birds to see, but when the water is calm you can see all of our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

Enjoy the season!

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

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

### E-Raven?

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

### January Raven Deadline

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

# Claiming our middle ground

Chris Kent, conservation chair

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

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

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

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

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

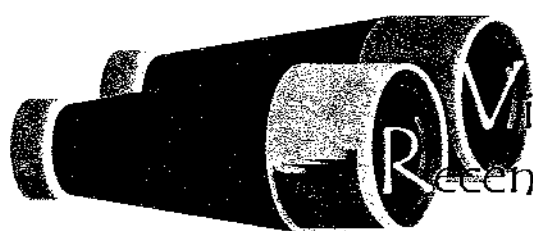
On one point I do agree with the name callers, things have to change. America has to change. America can not afford to continue to use a quarter of the world's resources at the expense of the future's environmental equity and expect the third world not to notice.

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

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

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

Is this your  
last Raven?



## Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings



### 2001 Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Mark Schwan

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

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

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

#### Community Christmas Bird Count schedules

##### **Craig**

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

##### **Gustavus**

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

##### **Juneau**

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



### Ketchikan

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

### Sitka

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

### Thorne Bay

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

### Wrangell

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

## EAGLECHAT



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

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

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

### Seeking Swifts

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

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

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

## The swans are here

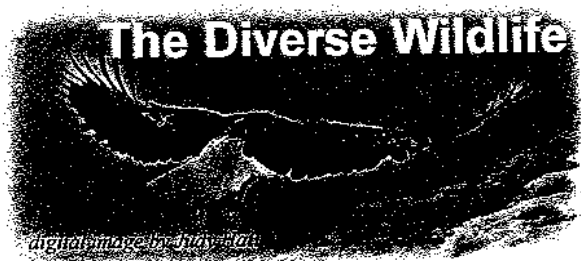
### Barry Bracken, Petersburg

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

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



Kirsten Munson



# Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

## Beyond but not above Eagles

Judy Hall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Katya Kirsch, SEACC

### The Threats

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please contact:

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

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

Send copies to:

Bob Leoffler  
Director, DNR Div. of Lands  
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1070  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Bob\_loeffler@dnr.state.ak.us  
Phone: (907) 269-8600  
Fax: (907) 269-8904

Katya Kirsch  
Executive Director Southeast Alaska Conservation Council  
419 Sixth Street #200  
Juneau, AK 99801  
katya@seacc.org <http://www.seacc.org>  
Phone: (907) 586-6942  
Fax: (907) 463-3312

# Gustavus' Sandhill Crane Critical Habitat

Hank Lentfer

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

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

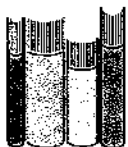
The wetlands here provide both food (mostly grass seeds) and good visibility for approaching predators. The "crane flats" are centered within the Dude Creek Critical Habitat area. The state legislature set these lands aside at the urging of local residents. The Critical Habitat Area borders Glacier Bay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

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

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

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

Book  
Review  
Jim King



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





**But you don't have much time!**  
 A great holiday gift

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

**Important**

The form must be mailed to the New York address on the bottom of the form  
 It must be **received in New York (not just postmarked) no later than December 15**  
 Payment must be by check; no credit cards are accepted for this special offer

Fall Gift Membership

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In order for our chapter to receive credit for this special promotion, this form **must** be mailed to:

**National Audubon Society**  
**Membership Dept.**  
**700 Broadway**  
**New York, NY 10003**  
**Attn.: K. Totaro**

2GFFT

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Calendar of Events

### **Tulsequah Mine Hearing**

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

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



**Rare Bird  
Alert Hotline  
586-2591**

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

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

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