

# The Raven



Volume 28, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2002

## February ALMANAC



Brown & black bear cubs are born

Common Raven display courtship behavior

Red squirrels pair for mating



Red fox breed  
Wolves breed  
Beaver mate

Days grow longer



### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library (2nd floor)

### Birding in Gambell, Nome, and the Pribilofs

Kim & Barb Turley

**S**erious birders from all over the country include a visit to Western Alaska in their life experiences. Join Kim and Barb Turley in a slide show sharing their birding adventures in Gambell, Nome, and the Pribilofs.

### Great Backyard Bird Count

Brenda Wright

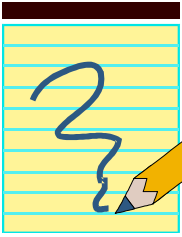
**I**t's fun! It's easy! It is a nationwide effort! Why don't you try it out for yourself?

I am a long time fan of the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>. They have lots of different projects you can join, but one of the most fun, easiest things to do is to contribute to the Great Backyard Bird Count. It is a national effort and you see results as soon as you add your data!

It really can't be much simpler. All you do is look out your window at a bird feeder or take a short walk (within a mile of your home or neighborhood) and keep a tally of the most birds you see of any species at one time. After you have your data, taken any time during the four day period (or every day), you can log onto the web site and deliver your information. The fun starts as you get to see the species lists and numbers of birds observed updated in front of your eyes. They have maps of all the locations where the data was collected and all the species. Last year Juneau was in the top ten locations for species, but places like Sitka, Cordova and Kodiak saw more!

This is your chance to contribute information to a nation-wide study, have fun, and enjoy our birds that stick it out with us though all our seasons. If you do not have easy Internet access you can always mail your information, or share it with the Juneau Audubon chapter. Everything we see helps to understand our most common birds.

*(For more information see page 3)*



# Notes from the board

Chris Kent, Conservation Chair

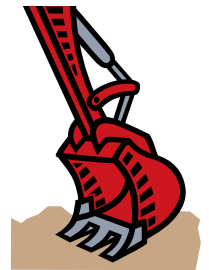
## Watching the Winter Fills

After picking up another thick packet of monthly Corp of Engineer permit announcements from the Post Office, I asked myself if any, other than me really cares about wetland fills. Do we make any difference by publishing permit information? These are darn good questions. What's the purpose of publishing public notices especially when it's the job of the Corps to make the public aware of current permits.

The answer I have rests on several important needs.

To promote an awareness of activities affecting tide and wetlands, and document permitted fill within Southeast. Knowing what activity is going on where and how it is proposed is valuable knowledge to use in comparing what happens on the ground and what happens on paper.

For example, a construction company proposes to dredge out an intertidal area to create moorage and to use fill to create a breakwater to protect it. On paper, they promise to limit activity to avoid salmon out migration, and limit discharged fill to clean rock. However, in reality, the operator dredges far in the migration window because of equipment breakdowns and uses dredge and other waste rock as fill for the breakwater. Only the breakwater cap is clean shot rock. Dredge spoils are piled on an adjacent fill where weathering and the weight of the fill send loose materials and eroded soils into the tidelands. These examples are what happens on the ground and most of the time in plain sight of the public. Who is to know if permit conditions are met if the public is unaware and regulatory agencies backlogged with permits, inspections and paperwork. An informed public is a questioning public. Knowing that activity will happen and what is proposed creates a knowledgeable response when questioning activities or responding to permit proposals. The local public has the best information concerning conditions and what happens in their neighborhood. Having an interest in what happens to our neighborhoods, I hope the Corps permit listing will give you the impetus to speak.



Documenting the cumulative acreage of fill is, remarkably, something nobody does. Dredge and fill permits are very precise in the amount and location but lacking in habitat description and acreage impacted. I have proposed to agencies that they collect "fill acreage totals" as a crude tool in making cumulative impacts analysis. The response has been "we would like to but don't have the time." The response that I have received from the Corps indicates that this type of information is simply not easily available.

JAS has published wetland permits for several years. We have these documents in electronic format. I would like to create a database of wetland acreage fill by type and by region (city/village) to use as a tool in augmenting our arguments for greater protection and mitigation (the vast majority of permits require no mitigation or mitigation comes in the form of best management practices rather than actions that will enhance or remediate other wetland areas). I have been working towards this goal but need assistance. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me at [ckent@alaska.net](mailto:ckent@alaska.net).

### March Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the March issue no later than February 22 to [upclose@alaska.net](mailto:upclose@alaska.net)

# Great Backyard Bird Count

February 15-18

Why count backyard birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic, they are constantly in flux. The Great Backyard Bird Count, a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, takes a snapshot of North American bird populations.

When you participate you are part of that big picture, whether you identify, count, and report five species coming to your backyard feeder or 75 species during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

## **Your data can help answer many questions**

How will this winter's snow and cold temperatures influence bird populations?  
Where are the winter finches and other irruptive species?  
Will late winter movements of many songbird and waterfowl species be as far north as they were last year?

The data that you collect will be combined with Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch data to give an immense picture of our winter birds. Each year that these data are collected makes them more important and meaningful. So as coordinators see patterns, discover new questions and insights, you'll be updated as well.

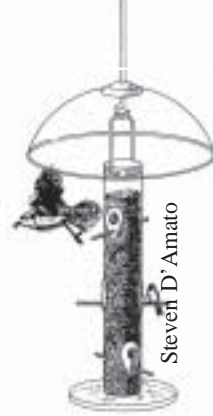
All you need to participate is basic knowledge of bird identification and ideally, access to the internet.

## **Here's what you do**

Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days. You can count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area. Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate--a half-hour or more is even better.

For each species that you see, keep track of the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time. Use a "Tally Sheet" to help keep track of your counts. Be careful not to count the same bird more than once. For example, don't add another Steller's Jay to your tally every time you see one at the feeder. You could be counting the same bird over and over. If you record only the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time, you're sure to never count the same bird more than once.

At the end of the day go to "Submit your bird checklist" on the GBBC web site, at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. Fill out the questions about your location, local habitat, and count duration. Then enter your high counts for each species sighted on that day and location. You can submit one bird checklist for each day that you count or for each new area that you count in.



## **Species you're apt to see in Southeast backyards**

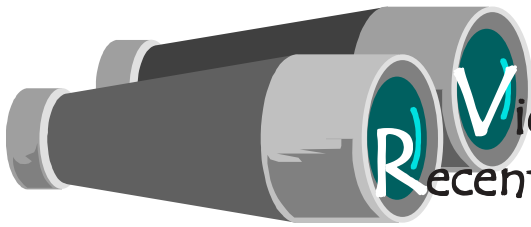
Chestnut-backed chickadee  
Steller's jay  
dark-eyed junco (both Oregon and slate-colored)  
red-breasted nuthatch  
song sparrow  
northwestern crow  
pine siskin  
black-billed magpie

## **Possible but less likely sightings**

hairy woodpecker  
downy woodpecker  
northern flicker  
fox sparrow,  
golden-crowned sparrow  
white-crowned sparrow  
lincoln's sparrow  
rusty blackbird  
common redpoll  
varied thrush  
black-capped chickadee  
red crossbill  
brown creeper  
american tree sparrow

*(List courtesy Paul Suchanek)*





# Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings

## Christmas Bird Count at Mayo, YT

**Cameron Eckert**

We completed our Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 29th. We had 2 field teams and 2 feeder watchers. Everyone taking part in the count noted that there seemed to be little activity of birds on the count day—this was noticed in particular by the feeder watchers, who closely follow the birds that come each day. It was quite warm (-14 C) and windy, and the wind may have played a role in the low numbers.

In any case, we saw only 8 species, down from the last 2 years' counts of 11 and 10. We saw 6 ruffed grouse, 2 downy woodpeckers, 14 grey jays, 156 ravens, 9 black-capped chickadees, 5 boreal chickadees, 19 common redpolls, 46 unidentified redpolls, and 2 pine grosbeaks.

There was a small group of waxwings around Mayo during the week preceding the count (very unusual for this time of year here), but they disappeared before count day and haven't been seen since.

There seems to be an near total cone crop failure of spruce trees within the count area, and we didn't see any of the usual crossbills.

Check out birds of the Yukon at Yukon Bird Club Web Site: <http://www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/>

Contact Cameron Eckert at [ceckert@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:ceckert@yknet.yk.ca).



## 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.*

### **January 24**

#### **Subject: Lots of ducks and shore birds this afternoon ...**

Along Egan between Lemon Creek Exit and 2mi (going into town) at about noon there were large numbers of shore birds and ducks feeding along the tide line near the highway. .... at 50 mph my bird-ID-ing is not very good but I would estimate the total count was over a hundred birds, maybe near two hundred ... [driccio@ptialaska.net](mailto:driccio@ptialaska.net)

### **January 24**

Very quiet on the river trail today; eagles, ravens, several Buffleheads on the river. But over in the oxbow, I saw my first ermine, a wonderful, quick little job. It popped out of a spruce root bole 6 or 8 times to have a look at me. So fast and nimble, with a black-tipped tail. made my day [Deanna\\_MacPhail@envircon.state.ak.us](mailto:Deanna_MacPhail@envircon.state.ak.us)

### **January 24**

#### **Subject: Redpolls**

Today on the wetlands was gorgeous! Soft snow and clearing skies. Great blue heron, eagles — Juan was panhandling from the otters for some tidbits (they did not oblige) — geese, mallards, two types of mergansers, and redpolls. They were conveniently feeding in an alder beside the trailhead by the parking lot. About a dozen. Rosy breasts, white bellies, red topknot. Chattering and flocking together and heading out the trail. [lauriecraig@gci.net](mailto:lauriecraig@gci.net)

## January 23

### Subject: Mergansers and other delights of the Dike Trail

Just wanted to let you know that for at least three days four Hooded Mergansers have been paddling and feeding in the Mendenhall River conveniently close to the Airport Dike Trail at the point just beyond the float pond where the trail turns abruptly away from the river. One handsome male and three females. Watched two females struggle to swallow small fish. Also, upstream from the landing lights we have been seeing common mergansers.

Last Thursday, four large swans flew from the channel east of the dike trail's gazebo to the float pond and landed there, swimming near the south shore of the pond when there was open water (all frozen now). Yesterday many eagles (19) were feeding on something I could not see below the bank of the river upstream of the sewage treatment plant. River was frozen there also.

A pale juvenile shrike seems to be hanging around the trail's forests. Has barring on his chest and wings, tail and head markings are not very black. He seems to be curious and perches fairly close to people and dogs without apparent fear.

Wigeons and scaup and mallards are using the tidal pond in front of the gazebo and several hundred geese confine themselves to the far reaches of the flats and to open water. So food for the eagles is far off from their stump and tree perch sites.

The mama river otter and her three pups spend time at the near end of the float pond, especially in the open water cage surrounding the culvert which is the intake from the river at 16.3 foot high tides. The other day she presented them with a large flounder — dark bars alternating with light areas on the perimeter fins. Kids were being their usual goofball selves and disinterested in food. They are absolute delights to watch! [lauriecraig@gci.net](mailto:lauriecraig@gci.net)

## January 22

### Subject: pine grosbeaks

We just had 10 pine grosbeaks behind our lab in the valley. I know others have been seen lately, but this group included 2 bright red males. Also saw a shrike at the wetlands yesterday. [bev\\_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:bev_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us)

## January 20

### Subject: sanderling

There was a little pack of 150 or so shorebirds at Eagle Beach today. It consisted of mostly Rock Sandpipers (~100), Dunlin (~50), Surfbirds (~5-10) and one lone sanderling. That little white guy sticks out.

Has anyone else been out there lately? Before Christmas there were 500-1,000 birds and today only 150 or so. But there were a lot of people and dogs today. The birds were pretty skittish.

The whale #'s at the Shrine have diminished to 3 last weekend and 3-5 today. They appear to have moved even closer to town. I can see them very well from Tee Harbor and I could only see faint blows before. [bev\\_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:bev_agler@fishgame.state.ak.us)

## January 14

### Subject: Misc. sightings yesterday

1 Tundra Swan and 3 Trumpeter Swans (adults) at the Temsco gravel pit pond

1 Northern Goshawk at Eagle Beach

1 Sanderling at Eagle Beach

125 Thayer's Gulls at Eagle Beach

1 Northern Shrike near Amalga

2 Yellow-billed Loons side by side at Lena Cove

[Gus\\_vanVliet@envircon.state.ak.us](mailto:Gus_vanVliet@envircon.state.ak.us)



# Dogs on Trails

Richard Carstensen



**The mere presence of dog odor, more than actual chases or frightening encounters, is the chief culprit.**

**I**n 1980 my best friend was a dog. At the time I lived with him I would probably not have agreed with what I'm about to write. If you have a dog, I can only hope you'll read this more objectively than I could have 22 years ago.

I first began to notice the impact of dogs on wildlife in the mid-1980s as I led elementary classes and eventually teacher workshops on tracking trips in the snow. Some of these field trips were only minutes on foot from Juneau schools. Others were far from roads or dogs. Where dogs roam from nearby homes, or accompany skiers on trails, it's hard to find sign of wild animals other than red squirrels and porcupines.

But there are a few off-trail wildlife hotspots near Juneau so far undiscovered by skiers or hikers with dogs. Here the tracks of sensitive mammals like weasel, mink, marten, otter, lynx, wolf, deer, snowshoe hare, beaver, shrews, voles and deer mice are found. Only the wolverine seems to flat-out avoid any suggestion of civilization. These other mammals come surprisingly close to buildings and roads in places free of dogs and cats. In one of our best dog-free tracking locations we led successive field trips with groups of 30 kids and continued to see fresh sign.

I feel that a trail-user with a dog - well behaved or not - is more disruptive to wildlife than a party of 10 people or an ORV. The occasional dog-killed mink pup or deer fawn is just the tip of an iceberg, almost a distraction from the more pervasive but less visible dog impact - the displacement of wild things from essential habitat. The mere presence of dog *odor*, more than actual chases or frightening encounters, is the chief culprit.

For 12 years I lived in an off-road cabin 2 miles from the nearest resident dog or cat. Every winter, ermine made nightly mouse-patrols through my pantry, often running across my desk as I worked. Like these weasels, I learned to wince if hikers with dogs appeared. It would usually be days before I found weasel tracks in my woodpile again.

Winter tracking provides the most indisputable evidence of the inverse correlation of sign densities between dogs and wild mammals. Yet summer is a time of even greater impacts. From May through July dogs become nursery pillagers. Prancing pets flash repeatedly into trailside brush hiding ground- and shrub-nesting birds and breeding mammals, scattering grouse chicks and baby hares.

The new Mount Roberts Tram provided an unplanned experiment into summertime dog-wildlife interactions. Prior to tram construction, the Mount Roberts ridge trail was the most popular high-country walk for Juneau residents, many of whom brought dogs. This hike has since lost favor, and those who continue to use Mount Roberts trail must leash their dogs as they pass the upper tram landing.



In that area, precisely where the hordes of tourists congregate, hoary marmots and ptarmigan have become exceedingly tame. You can now sit 10 feet from a grazing marmot in a meadow where, 10 years ago, it would have shrieked and dived for its burrow at your first appearance. A ptarmigan fledged her brood in a ground nest just a step or two from the central trail. I'm not suggesting that such extreme habituation should be a model for human-wildlife interactions. The tram example simply demonstrates that co-existence of people with wild things is far more feasible than that of wild things with our dogs.

Juneau's dog-traveled trails trace streams and beachfront and mountain ridges, almost as if designed to preempt the most critical wildlife habitats. Can we improve this situation? I know several naturalists who own dogs but who have an evolving sense of where and where not to take their pets.

Sandy Beach in winter is a good place for dogs. Really bad places and times include the Boy Scout or Cowee trail and meadows in May, Steep Creek during salmon time, or the Blackerby Ridge flower fields in late June. It requires a strong commitment to wildlife to leave your dog behind on exactly those trails and in those seasons when her nose would be most pleased by enticing feral smells.

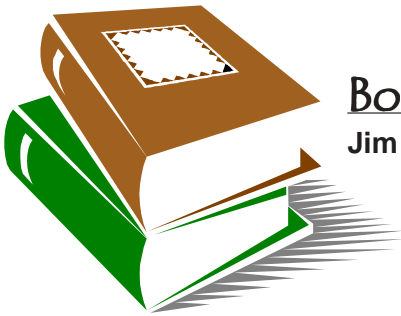
Such awareness and commitment are rare. And in any case, personal restraint by a few people may do little to help wildlife if others continue to bring dogs on sensitive trails.

Community restraint is called for. Can we face the implications of dogs as we plan new trails and other developments? When we speak of outdoor ethics and "leave no trace" travel skills, are we only concerned with the quality of the next human visitor's "wilderness experience?" That experience can be a willful self-deception, that all is well in the backcountry. If I'm right that a dog displaces more wildlife than an ORV, then shouldn't we be zoning for dogs as well as for snowmachines?

I can hear a chorus of yelping at mention of the z-word. But the interesting thing about this particular emerging conflict is that – unlike the golf or ORV debates - it doesn't pit one Juneau subculture against another. Instead it pits two values held by almost every Juneau trail walker, each of whom would profess a strong loyalty to wildlife, and most of whom love dogs. We should be biting our own tails.

**It pits two values held  
by almost every  
Juneau trail walker...**





## Book Review

Jim King

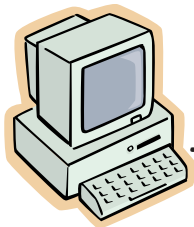
Ehrlich, Paul R., David S. Dobbin and Darryl Wheye. 1988 **The Birders Handbook, A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds.** 785 pp. Simon and Schuster. New York. Paper \$17.00.

**T**his remarkable book is intended as a next step for those who have a bird field guide and want to learn a little, or a lot more, about a bird they have just identified for the first time. It includes the 650 species that nest in North America. Short species accounts occur on the left hand pages and short essays on relevant subjects (displays, nesting, eggs, diet, flying, migration, conservation and so forth) on the right hand pages. Each species account includes cross-references to other essays and references to several current sources for further study listed in a bibliography of some 1600 titles. Though this book was published in 1988 it remains in print for there is no other book of any size or any price that contains anywhere near as much information.

Author Paul Ehrlich, a professor at Stanford, has written over 400 scientific papers and 20 books including The Population Bomb. David Dobkin is a professor at Rutgers and Derryl Wheye is a biologist /writer.

In a unique format this book presents a basic education in ornithology in a painless way. Whether one just wants a few facts on a new bird (number of eggs, number of days incubation) or is preparing to write a technical book this is a good place to start. Casual readers will find they are drawn into learning more than they anticipated. There is a four page section on observing and recording bird biology for those who want to get more serious and perhaps to contribute to one of the many bird journals.

This is a one volume bird library that every bird guide owner should have. I use mine all the time.



## Two small steps toward a paperless home office

**1**. Receive The Raven electronically. The chapter's major expense is printing and mailing the newsletter. 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) to request The Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat.

**2**. Instead of receiving multiple renewal notices from National Audubon, call 1-800-274-4201 and ask to sign up for Audubon's Paper Free Renewal Program. Your membership will be automatically renewed each year, and you'll receive one bill about two months before your membership expiration date. You can still cancel membership at any time.





# Calendar of events

## **Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Fireside Chats**

**7:30 - 9 p.m. Fridays**

### **February 1 - Shuyak Island State Park with Gail Smith**

Northern-most island in the Kodiak Archipelago. This little-known park covers most of the island's 47,000 acres and offers wildlife viewing, recreation and pristine wilderness.

### **February 8 - Preserving underwater history; a look at Juneau shipwrecks. Underwater slides by John Lachelt**

Wreckage of Princess Kathleen, Princess Sophia and Clare Nevada are a few of the more famous ones you will visit.

### **February 15 - Chameleons of Madagascar's eastern forest with Allison Banks**

People, places, chameleons and lemurs, contemporary music, handicrafts, books and clothing. A personal journey to the rainforests of eastern coastal Madagascar.

### **February 22 - Williamsburg through the seasons with Pamela Finney**

Cultural, economic, political and ecological aspects of life in the 1770's in one of the first permanent European settlements on the American east coast are accurately restored.

## **Rare Bird Alert Hotline**

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**



**586-2591**

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: 0204 means April 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.



# 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.

**Special Public Notice 2001 – 13, General Permit 89-4N – General Permitting Procedure For Floating Houses In Navigable Waters Of The United States Within Alaska.** On December 13, 2001, the Alaska District Corps of Engineers published Special Public Notice 2001-13 regarding a General Permitting Procedures (89-4N) for authorization of floating houses in navigable waters of the United States within Alaska. The purpose of this special public notice is to show revisions made to Special Conditions #1 and #16. These conditions cover the moorage conditions and the address and phone number of the U.S. Coast Guard. For more information contact Ms. Susan Hitchcock at (907) 790-4490. This general permit will be in effect until December 13, 2006.

**Whittier — Passage Canal 16**, (Reference Number P-1969-0024) Applicant: Alaska Railroad Corporation. Location: In the vicinity of the Alaska railroad's Whittier Barge Slip. Proposal: The applicant proposes to modify permit number O-1969-0024 by constructing two 34-feet by 60-foot access platforms. The platforms will be supported by galvanized piles and concrete beams.. The platforms will not extend further waterward than the existing sheet pile dolphins. The applicant will also place an additional 1,500 cubic yards of clean fill to increase the total fill for this project to 21,500 cubic yards. The total intertidal habitat to be filled will be .73 acres. Purpose: To increase the ability of the railroad to handle barge traffic. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 8, 2002.

**\*\*Skagway — Taiya Inlet 32**, (Reference Number 2-1997-0732) Applicant: Alaska Power and Telephone Company. Location: Approximately three miles south of Skagway on the eastern shore of Taiya Inlet near the confluence of Kasidaya Creek and Taiya Inlet. Proposal: This is the start of the Otter Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project Number 11588. The purpose is to construct a hydroelectric project on Kasidaya Creek by impoundment and to construct a jetty with heliport to provide access. An impoundment structure will be constructed below the ordinary high water mark of Kasidaya Creek. The structure will be

35-feet long by 30-feet wide. The structure will consist of a concrete core and riprap facings. An earthen jetty/barge ramp will be constructed along the shoreline of Taiya Inlet. The jetty will be 120-feet long by 150-feet wide and will be constructed using 2,500 cubic yards of material excavated from upland project area. The jetty will impact .413 acres of intertidal habitat. Mitigation: None Comments due January 31, 2002

**\*\*Juneau — Favorite Channel 43,** (Reference Number 4-1996-0019) Applicant: City and Borough of Juneau. Location: Lena Point. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 2,500 cubic yards of clean fill into 2.34 acres of forested wetlands for the construction of a 1,100 foot long by 50-foot wide access road and a 8-foot wide by 1,205 foot long walking path. Purpose: Development of an alternative access to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and University of Alaska Fisheries Science Department, Lena Point Research Facility. The entire proposed access road will be 5,109 feet long and the walking path will encircle Lena Point. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 8, 2002.

**Juneau — Gastineau Channel 430,** (Reference Number N-1991-0187) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: Marty Holmberg. Location: Lots B and C 7833 North Douglas Highway. Proposal: The applicant wants permitting for discharging 1,500 cubic yards of fill that was placed into 9,610 square feet of forested wetland area. The fill created a 90-foot wide by 90-foot long house pad and a 24-foot wide by 100 – foot long access road. The applicant also wants to place additional fill into to expand the house pad to accommodate a garage and yard area. The total area impacted will be .38 acres. Purpose: The construction of a residential structure. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 8, 2002

**Angoon — Kootznahoo Inlet 3,** (Reference Number 1-2001-1276) Applicant: Joseph Thompson. Location: Near the Angoon Trading Post. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 24-foot by 32-foot pile supported landing dock that will extend partially below mean high tide water. A 6-foot by 60-foot aluminum walkway and a 20-foot by 60 foot floating dock. The applicant will also construct a 6-foot by 8-foot by 24-foot retaining wall to anchor the landing dock. The landing dock will be supported by galvanized steel pilings. Purpose: General public access from Kootznahoo Inlet to the Angoon Trading Post.. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 8, 2002

**Petersburg — Frederick Sound 55,** (Reference Number 4-2001-1294) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Location: Petersburg Airport. Proposal: The applicant proposes to fill 28,200 square feet (0.65 acres) with 8,950 cubic yards of native material to create a building pad and driveway and install a water line. Purpose: To construct a sand and chemical storage building; improve the turning area of an existing driveway and install a new waterline. This is part of a larger airport expansion project. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 22, 2002

**Wrangell — Zimovia Strait 96,** (Reference Number N-1993-0195) Applicant: Arnold Bakke. Location: Mile 1.5 Zimovia Highway. Proposal: The applicant proposes to fill 0.29 acres of intertidal habitat with 937 cubic yards of fill to enlarge an existing fill area. Purpose: To create a building pad for a single-family dwelling. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 17, 2002

**Juneau — Port St. Nicholas 30,** (Reference Number 1-2001-0641) Applicant: Robert and Tina Bell. Location: Lots 51A and 51B, Port St. Nicholas Subdivision #2. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a 6-foot by 110-foot long walkway that would lead to a 50-foot by 6-foot floating walkway that will provide access to a 16-foot by 24-foot floating dock. The dock will be supported by three galvanized pilings. In addition, the applicant will place two breakwater boom sticks, one 70 foot long and one 50 foot long. Purpose: To provide marine access to property. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 22, 2002.

\*\* 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.

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### Great Backyard Bird Count

**February 15-18, 2002**

*See pages 1 & 3*