

The Raven



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Juneau Audubon Society

March 2002

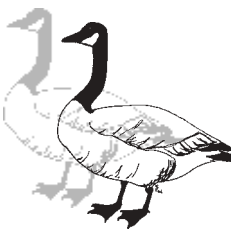
March ALMANAC



Ravens
begin
nesting

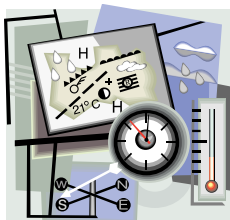
Lynx mate March/early April

Canada
Geese pair
for nesting



Sara Lou McDaniel

Vernal Equinox
10:16 a.m. March 20



Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

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

The Art of Outdoor Nature Photography Brent Keeney

Brent Keeney, local nature photographer and artist, will give a talk and slide show on outdoor nature photography. A graduate of Cal State, Fresno, and a former photography teacher in California, Brent will show how to use elements of light, color, and composition to improve the quality and impact of your own nature photography.

Recent buzz in Eaglechat (*page 3*) is all about local sightings of redpoll. If you've hung birdfeeders in Southcentral, Interior or Southwest Alaska, you'll recognize the small streaked finches with bright red caps as frequent winter visitors. But they're here in Southeast as irruptives, following unpredictable and irregular population shifts likely due to cone shortage in their home area.



Bob Armstrong

Other identifying characteristics of Common redpolls are a stubby yellow bill and black chin. Males have a pink wash on their breasts. They often appear in frenetic flocks and seemingly move and act in unison.

For detailed description, more photos, drawings and recording of their call, check out <http://birds.cornell.edu/BOW/CORE/>

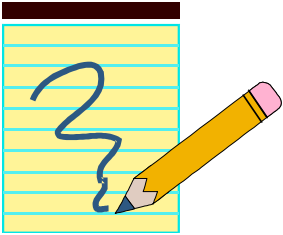


Please complete and return the membership survey form sent to you by mail or e-mail in February. See Notes from the Board on page 2.

Coming in the April Raven:

Schedule for spring migration birdwalks.

Details on 7th annual Berners Bay cruise May 4



Notes from the board

Steve Zimmerman, President

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

The Juneau Audubon Society’s Board of Directors held a strategic planning meeting on February 2, 2002. In keeping with directives from Audubon’s National Office we developed a vision statement, a mission statement, a list of goals, and an action plan to help us attain our goals.

Our vision statement declares that, “We envision a community in Southeast Alaska where environmental stewardship is always a major and meaningful component of planning new and continuing human activity.”

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

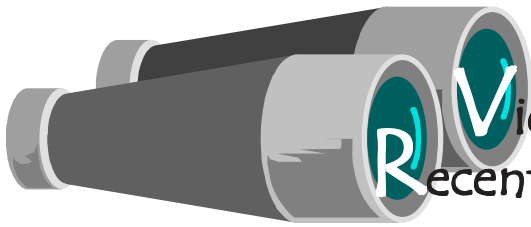
Working within this context, a list of goals was drawn up which covers four main areas: conservation, education, membership, and finance and administration. In putting together an action plan to reach our goals, the biggest area of concern is the lack of members who have enough time to spend on all of the issues that Juneau Audubon should be involved in.

Since we cannot deal with all of the issues of concern, especially in the area of conservation, board members prioritized the conservation issues we will try to deal with in the following order: airport, beaches and wetlands, golf course, mining, and unplanned issues (e.g. off road vehicles). The board also recommended that we survey the members of the Juneau Audubon Society to see if the issues we are dealing with, and the services we are providing, are viewed as important by the membership.

All members of Juneau Audubon should have received, or should soon be receiving the survey. I request that you take the time to let the board know how you feel we are doing, and what our priorities should be. We are also hoping to find more productive ways to use the experience and skills of our members to help us stay on top of local conservation issues. Researching issues, writing letters, testifying at meetings, and mobilizing concerned citizens takes vast amounts of time. Juneau Audubon is an all-volunteer organization and we do not have any paid staff. Therefore, we need help from our members to do these things. Without it we are not going to have much of an impact on many of the very important conservation issues facing us in Southeast Alaska. So—please respond to the survey, and when you become aware of important conservation issues that threaten birds or important habitat, please think about how you might be able to help Juneau Audubon deal with them.

April Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the April issue no later than March 22 to upclose@alaska.net



Viewing Opportunities & Field Trips Recent Sightings



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 to get signed up.

Subject: Winter bird list

There have been a few unusual sightings during the December - February period: the Black-throated Blue Warbler was still around for the first few days in December, Gus had a Mountain Chickadee, Paul has been seeing a hybrid Eurasian Wigeon at Fish Creek, there were some late birds on the Christmas Bird count, and there has been a Sanderling hanging out with the shorebird flock at Eagle Beach. If you have seen birds that you think are worthy of inclusion in North American Birds, please send that information to Thede Tobish, tgt@alaska.net.

Subject: redpolls - February 17

The fields at the wetlands are TEEMING with redpolls. We just walked out and were surrounded. There were hundreds and hundreds. If anyone is good at counting sparrows in a field, try these guys, they rise up in swarms here and there...really lovely.

Subject: Pygmy Owl - February 18

Got a good long look at a northern pygmy owl today at around 2:30 p.m. a few miles south of Eagle Beach. It was sitting up high in tree next to the road. It wasn't disturbed by the occasional traffic. Eventually flew off toward the other side of the road - hopefully for a meal.

Saw a large flock of redpolls and some surf birds and black turnstones.

Subject: Redpolls and others - February 22

Redpolls are still frequenting the Refuge tide flats, feasting on hoarfrost-encrusted grass stalks. Hooded merganser and RB merganser with harem at the river.

Subject: Re: Red Polls - February 22

I'm at a mtg and met up with Vern Byrd (FWS in Homer); he said they're experiencing high numbers of redpolls, and he thought it was unusual, or at least, part of their irruptive behavior.

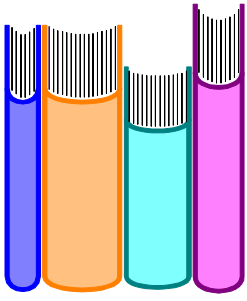
Subject: Re: Redpolls - February 24

The single Redpoll at my feeder outside the kitchen window last Saturday was the first I had ever seen. By Monday there were three, and yesterday there were six! They're so cute! Now, there's a count, to lay alongside your "flocks!" My lone all-winter fox sparrow has now been joined by a friend.

Goldeneye, both Barrow's and Common, are common winter birds in Southeast waters.



Sara Lou McDaniel



Book Review

Jim King

Brown Bears of Admiralty Island. 2002 by Friends of Admiralty Island, Box 20791, Juneau, AK 99802, Phone/Fax 907-586-6738 e-mail admiralty_friends@yahoo.com. Letter size, paperback. 38pp. 71 pictures. \$10 at Juneau book stores.

The Juneau arts community includes a remarkable array of world-class participants many of whom contributed to this lovely little book. It was clearly a labor of love. Contributors include K. J. Metcalf, John Hyde, John Schoen, Cliff Lobaugh, JoAnn George, Bruce Baker, Richard Carstensen, Joel Bennett, Charlie Joseph Sr., John Neary, Ralph Young, Paul Johnson, Butch Laughlin, Kim Titus, R. T. (Skip) Wallen and more.

More than 20 Foundations, businesses and conservationists contributed to the costs of this production.

This is a well written and visual account of the Admiralty bear habitat, bear natural history, bear behavior, bears and spirituality, early day and recent bear advocates, a bit of history, hints on bear viewing, recommendations from Friends of Admiralty Island and so forth.

This great little book was produced by people who cumulatively have hundreds of years of experience on Admiralty Island many in a professional capacity. No one who sees it can fail to be impressed with the quality of the photography, illustrations, writing and bear expertise.

It is a book worth having.



If you joined in February's Great Backyard Bird Count, you can check the latest reports at http://www.birdsource.com/gbbc/toc_page.html

Steps toward a paperless 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 to request The Raven in either rich text (read by most word processing programs) or Adobe Acrobat. If you have Acrobat Reader, you can receive the Raven in a format that looks just like the print version but with occasional touches of color. Rich text versions will not contain graphics. To change your newsletter from rich text to Adobe Acrobat or get information about downloading Acrobat Reader free, contact upclose@alaska.net.

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

March 1 - Mother Nature, Moderation, Money and...Salmon with Ben Van Alen

Learn what Mother Nature, moderation and money have to do with salmon management, enhancement and EVERYTHING IN LIFE.

March 8 - Bicycle Touring in Siberia and the Russian Far East with Mike Blackwell

Biking adventures in Magadan and Lake Baikal Region, Sakhalin and Kamchatka, plus bike touring tips to help you plan your own world tour.

March 15 - Going Alone: Journeys in Wild Alaska with Nick Jans

Juneau author and photographer will show slides and read from his new manuscript, with topics from extreme jet boating to Aurora Borealis to sailing in Prince William Sound.

March 22 - Point Adolphus: Wildlife and Human Interaction, Brady Scott and Bob Christensen

Discoveries by Southeast Alaska Wilderness Exploration Analysis and Discovery (SEAWEAD), a non-profit organization which facilitates research-based cooperative stewardship of wild lands in Southeast Alaska.

The National Audubon Society website at <http://www.audubon.org/> has a wealth of information, from conservation issues and how you can get involved to wildlife-friendly landscape tips to links to chapters in other states and countries.



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.



Juneau Audubon Society has members in these communities:

Coffman Cove, Craig, Funter Bay, Gustavus, Haines, Hydaburg, Juneau, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Ward Cove, Wrangell

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 2002 – 02, Announcing new Nationwide Permits. On January 15, 2002, the Federal Register (67FR 2020-2095) announced the re-issuance of all existing Nationwide Permits (NWP), General Conditions, and definitions with some modification and one new General Condition. The Federal register notice is available for viewing at the COE district offices or on the internet at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/2002nwps.pdf>. As an alternative URL web users can also access the Federal Register at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html. The COE has also issued final decision documents for the new and modified NWPs. These documents are available on the Internet at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/nw2002dd/index.htm> Comments concerning regional issues should be directed to Mr. Mike Holley or Steve Meyers , Regulatory Branch, ATTN: CEPOA-COR-E. P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898. Comments must be received by March 15th 2002.

****Sheyma — Pacific Ocean 19**, (Reference Number 4-2000-0729) Applicant: Missile Defense Agency, Ground –Base Defense Joint Program Office, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, Alabama 35807-3801. Location: On Shemya Island (Eareckson Air Station). Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct a portion of a Missile Defense System test bed. Activity will include land clearing and grading. The applicant will discharge dredged or filled material into 17.44 acres. The Borrow area would be expanded by 1.0 acres, a temporary beach barge area would be expanded by -0.5 acres., a beach staging area would be created filling 1.72 acres, a 2.35 million gallon fuel storage tank would be cited on a 5.25 acre fill, a In-flight interceptor communication system would fill 1 acre, and a satellite communication system will fill 2 acres. A east road fill borrow pit will be expanded into 5 acres. A fuel line will impact 0.02 acres and install a power line will fill 0.6 acres. Additionally there will be fill for a fiber optic line 0.25 acres and a water main will impact 0.6 acres. Purpose: To support the proposed test bed facilities of a ground based defense test bed to defend against ballistic missile threat. A copy of the final EIS may be viewed on the web at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/nmd.html> . Mitigation: None is current proposed. Comments due March 4, 2002.

Haines — Chilkat Inlet 13, (Reference Number 2-2001-1362) Applicant: Alaska Department of Natural Resource. Location: Within Chilkat State Park. Proposal: The applicant proposed to discharge 140 cubic yards of riprap /armor rock over .04 acres of intertidal habitat. Purpose: Provide erosion protection for an existing boat launch ramp. Mitigation: None Comments due March 11, 2002

Juneau — Gastineau Channel 399, (Reference Number M-1985-0057) Applicant: Douglas Island Pink and Chum. Location: Just North of mouth of Sheep Creek. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install and operate a salmon fry rearing facility consisting of six to eight 40-foot by 40-foot net pens and a 16-foot wide by 100-foot long feed storage float secured by two 7-ton concrete anchors and two 1,000 pound anchors attached to existing rock bolts. The pens would be in 40 feet of water within a area of 3.4 acres. Purpose: The pens would be for the temporary rearing of up to 24 million salmon fry annually. Fry would be in the pen for up to two months. Mitigation: None. Comments due February 22, 2002.

Sitka — Beaver Lake 2, (Reference Number 4-2001-1302) Applicant: U.S Forest Service. Location: Approximately 7 miles southeast of Sitka, near Sawmill Creek Campground. Proposal: The applicant proposes to construct 5,607 linear feet of pedestrian trail. 4.5 feet high and 2-feet wide. The project will discharge 83 cubic yards of clean fill into 2, 990 feet of wetlands. The applicant proposes to place 36 cubic yards of stepping stones in the lake for 28 linear feet. The combined impact will be .189 acres of filled wetlands. Purpose: To extend the Beaver Lake trail for recreational uses around Beaver Lake. Mitigation: Proposes efforts to reduce impacts by confining trails to specific location through wetlands and bridges to prevent damage to vegetation.. Comments due March 15, 2002

Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 522, (Reference Number 2-1998-1094) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: Bill Smart. Location: Gravina Island along Tongass Narrows. Proposal: The applicant proposes to install a 6-inch marine outfall to a -12 feet elevation, install a residential septic system, construct a 6-foot wide by 44-foot long steel walkway on four 10-inch galvanized piles, retain a 16-foot wide by 134-foot long steel float in Tongass Narrows and place a 6-foot wide by 60-foot long steel ramp attaching the walkway to an existing float. The applicant also proposes to retain 500 cubic yards of fill placed onto the intertidal zone for a house pad and septic tank. Purpose: To construct a residence . Mitigation: None. Comments due February 22, 2002

****Ketchikan — Tongass Narrows 525**, (Reference Number N-2000-0307) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Location: Ketchikan International Airport, Gravina Island. Proposal: The applicant proposes to discharge 529,500 cubic yards of fill to construct a 3,200 foot long by 125-foot wide taxiway extension and expand the runway safety area (end of the runway). The fill will impact 46.45 acres of wetlands including tidelands, and streams in conjunction with the taxiway. The taxiway will impact 24 acres of scrub/shrub and emergent wetlands, 2.25 acres of tidelands and 2 streams. The Applicant will also discharge 35,500 cubic yards of overburden from 12 acres of muskeg for expansion of an existing quarry onto 6.2 acres of adjacent muskeg/wetlands. The disposal area will be 100 feet by 2,000 feet. Discharge 6,500 cubic yard of fill onto 2 acres of muskeg wetlands to construct the perimeter road an access control fence. The Ketchikan Airport has currently impacted 205 acres of wetlands on Gravina Island. Purpose: General public access from Kootznahoo Inlet to the Angoon Trading Post.. Mitigation: The applicant will place fill into the tidelands only on lower tidal stages and will reduce the slope of the fill. The applicant will use the overburden on the exposed quarry slopes to restore some function. A sediment and erosion plan will be developed to reduce impacts to North Airport Creek (anadromous stream). The applicant will install ample culverts to maintain hydrologic connectivity. The applicant will pay \$45,000 to Southeast Alaska Land Trust for impacts to tidelands and provide \$123,760 for use in improving fish passage on Schoenbar Creek in Ketchikan Comments due March 7, 2002

Ketchikan — Ward Cove 34, (Reference Number 1-2001-1315) Applicant: Robert Holston Jr.. Location: In Ward Cove. Proposal: The applicant proposes to permanently moor seaward of mean high tide one 570-foot long by 150-foot wide wood decked, log and plastic drum float. The float will be connected to shore by a 70-foot long by 25-foot wide aluminum ramp. The ramp will rest on a 8-foot long by 40-foot wide concrete abutment. Purpose: To create a visitor attraction. Mitigation: None. Comments due January 17, 2002

Kasaan — Saltery Cove 5, (Reference Number 1-2001-1225) **AFTER THE FACT** Applicant: Irwin Brock. Location: In Saltery Cove, near Kasaan. Proposal: The applicant proposes to retain a structure located seaward of mean high water. The structure is 18-foot long by 20-foot wide, wood deck, encapsulated foam mooring dock, connected to at the top decking with an 14-foot long by 5-foot wide wood skiff ramp. Purpose: To provide mooring for private boat. Mitigation: None. Comments due March 8, 2002

Hyder — Portland Canal 55, (Reference Number M-1961-0030) Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation, Public Facilities. Location: Seaplane and boat harbor. Proposal: The applicant proposes to dredge 17,800 cubic yards of material near the outlet channel of the boat basin of Portland Canal. Another 2,100 cubic yards of material would be dredged from the large vessel float basin. In addition, the log breakwater at the seaplane facility would be replaced, three concrete anchors would be relocated, and the concrete boat launch ramp would be replaced by discharging 145 cubic yards of fill below high tide line. The new seaplane dock will be anchored by three 12-inch diameter steel pilings. . Purpose: To improve the channel depth so that seaplane and boat facilities are usable at all tidal stages. Mitigation: No in water work during juvenile fish migration. Comments due March 18, 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.

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:

- A one-year subscription (9 issues) of our chapter newsletter, *The Raven*
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to the award-winning Audubon magazine.

Audubon Society Membership Application

_____ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) _____ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zipcode _____

Telephone number _____

____ My check for \$ _____ is enclosed _____ Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001,
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

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*If you prefer to just support Juneau Audubon Society, fill out the form above and send with \$10 to:
Juneau Audubon Society, P.O. Box 021725, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn.: membership*

Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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