

The Raven

The mission of Juneau Audubon Society 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.



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Juneau Audubon Society

October 2003

October Almanac

Black bear begin to enter dens in late October. **But many linger longer; don't re-hang feeders until December.**

Trumpeter & Tundra Swan migrate through Southeast Alaska. Some winter in Petersburg, Yakutat and Cordova.

Silver salmon spawn in Steep Creek near the Mendenhall Glacier, piquing the interest of bald eagles and bear.

Bald eagles begin to gather in the Chilkat Valley north of Haines, first by the hundreds, then the thousands. Numbers peak in early to mid-November.



Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Library

Public cabins by kayak

Steve Kocsis

Juneau area public cabins include several that can be reached by kayak. This summer Steve Kocsis and his wife traveled to four of them in a double kayak: Blue Mussel, West Turner, St. James and Berners Bay cabins. All are in areas rich in wildlife and scenery. He will cover the planning, photos and experiences of these local journeys. Steve will also share his favorite local kayaking spots and future cabin destinations.

As fall rains return, it's a perfect time to plan next summer's outings.

Juneau checklist revised



The Juneau Bird Checklist has been revised for the first time in five years, thanks to the efforts of Rich Gordon, Steve Zimmerman, Gus van Vliet, Paul Suchanek, and Mark Schwan. They made numerous updates--many new species were added and seasonal status for many of the birds was revised. Copies will be available at monthly meetings and Juneau Public Market (see page 2). You can also print it off our web site at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Annual meeting and election of officers

Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers at its October membership meeting in conjunction with its annual meeting, as prescribed by chapter by-laws. Our officers serve a term of one year.

Our current officers have agreed to serve another term. They are Brenda Wright, president; Chris Kent, vice-president; Liz Blecker, treasurer; and Deanna MacPhail, secretary. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted for all positions. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as an officer, or are willing to volunteer for any of our standing committees. Standing committees include membership, program, field trip, education, conservation, and newsletter.



From National Audubon Society

2020 Vision - creating a culture of conservation

“We envision a world where humankind accepts the obligations of being part of nature, especially the obligation of stewardship. We seek to shape a culture in which the violation of nature is socially, politically, and morally unacceptable. In short, we seek a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.” Preamble, Audubon Strategic Plan, June 18, 1995

2020 Vision would implement two of the 10 major components of the 1995 Strategic Plan, a network of Audubon Centers and the use of education to achieve a culture of conservation.

Its primary objective is to broaden, diversify, and increase the number of people who care about the protection of birds, other wildlife, and habitat. Its goals include the establishment of one thousand Audubon Centers by the year 2020, with each center providing at least one in four children in its community with a direct experience in nature each year. In the process of establishing these Centers, thousands of acres of land will be protected and restored, and hundreds of thousands of new people will join Audubon and the conservation movement.

Audubon has a long history of educating people about the environment. The 2020 Vision builds on this tradition, with a network of Audubon centers and chapters and a coordinated public policy, science, and education agenda in every state. Learn more about this ambitious plan at <http://www.audubon.org/local/>.

It's not too soon to plan for Juneau Public Market

Juneau Public Market is one of Juneau's major community-wide events. It attracts a large and varied audience that cuts across the spectrum of the community. For many years our chapter has rented and staffed a booth to sell the ever-popular home-made jams and jellies, books, ornaments and other nature-related items. The funds we raise help support the chapter's education and conservation activities. Participation in Public Market also affords us an opportunity to be a visible part of our community.

Public Market opens the day after Thanksgiving in Centennial Hall and continues throughout the weekend. You can help by donating an hour or two of your time to staff the booth (a great way to see your friends!), or by making or donating things to sell. Please contact Kathy Weltzin at 789-0288 and let her know how you can help. If you have empty one-half pint canning jars you can recycle for the booth, please call Mary Lou King at 789-7540 to arrange for a drop-off or a pick-up. She would also welcome anyone who would like to come to her house to help make jelly.

Last year we also provided a table where children could make their own craft items from pine cones, rocks, moss and other gleanings we provided. Thanks to a generous donation of space from Juneau Public Market, we plan to offer this popular activity again. Call Mary Lou at 789-7540 to help.

November Raven Deadline

Please submit articles for the November Raven by October 23 to raven@juneau-audubon-society.org



To get all your chapter news on line, send an e-mail to education@juneau-audubon-society.org 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, contact raven@juneau-audubon-society.org. **NOTE:** if you are using an e-mail address at your workplace, please insure you are able to receive mail that is not work-related or send us a home e-mail address.



My favorite bird



Sandhill Crane

Laurie Craig, Juneau

From an interview with Marge Hermans

Sandhill crane filled September skies over the Mt. Roberts tram in downtown Juneau last year. Photos by Bob Armstrong.



My favorite bird has to be the Sandhill Crane, because of my associations with it. About once a year I see or hear Sandhill Cranes here in Southeast. They remind me of wonderful times living in the Interior in the mining community of Kantishna near Mt. McKinley. In late August the tundra there is a blaze of red and yellow; you can feel the cold, crisp air and a little bit of frost; and the cranes move by the hundreds and thousands on the McKinley River Bar. The McKinley River is between Wonder Lake and Mt. McKinley, and is a very braided river. The cranes rise above it in huge kettles—thousands of birds, rising higher and higher.

I love watching them fly. Cranes are very distinctive. They're big. They fly with their long necks extended (not tucked in like herons) and their long feet behind them. When they land, their great wings are spread out, their legs are out, and their giant feet are braced to land.

Their calls are a far-off, alluring sound like the distant train whistles I remember hearing when I was growing up. Those were times when I had to stay put. The trains were leaving, and I'd wonder where they were going and what they'd learn that I wouldn't get to learn because I couldn't go. With the cranes I got to go, because it was autumn, and it was the time of year for us to move on too, because the park road leading to our home closed for the winter.

I've seen cranes at Creamer's Field in Fairbanks, where there is a feeding program in an attempt to keep migrating birds away from the airport. Here in Southeast, Gustavus has flocks of them in September on the flats. And in June 1960 I saw some cranes flying northward in the late evening. I could hear their distinctive call. They circled and landed on the flats by the Mendenhall Peninsula.

In June 2001 I watched two groups of cranes on the wetlands for 12 days. They stopped near the river where the Dike Trail turns. They spent all their time feeding in that one particular area. When people would walk out on the flats, they'd just move away. But the eagles didn't like them, and when an eagle would fly by and scream, the cranes would scream, and they'd all fly away; but before long they'd be back, doing what they had been doing before. A few years ago I saw one in the meadow by Sunny Point. They're so tall, if they're there you'll see them. Some seem to drop out of the flock for a few days, then they must find their way back somehow to their destination and their family.

I'm not a very experienced birder. I like big birds like cranes that I can figure out, and maybe that's how many birders start out, being interested in birds they can recognize. So I love cranes, even though I don't see them very often. For me they signal the end of summer, the beginning of winter—the excitement of a change in the seasons. They remind me of a time of year, a time of life, and an incredibly beautiful place.

If you'd like us to feature one of your favorite birds, please contact Marge Hermans at marjorie.hermans@acsalaska.net to set up an interview.

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 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529

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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. **NOTE: if you wish to join National Audubon Society, please send your check with the membership application to Boulder, CO.**

Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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|---------------------------------------|--|
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