

# 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.*

<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Volume 31, Number 5

Juneau Audubon Society

January 2005

## **Juneau Audubon Society January Nature Lecture series**

Thursday, January 13,  
7:30-8:30 PM  
UAS Egan Auditorium

### **Cruising the Bering Sea-- Adventure on the Wild Side**

Join us as Dr. John Schoen shares images and observations from his 2004 cruise in the Bering Sea. From Nome to Dutch Harbor, he and a group of Audubon travelers visited several of Alaska's remotest islands and experienced firsthand their spectacular scenery and wildlife. John will describe his perceptions of this wild, infrequently visited part of Alaska, and describe the natural history, and the conservation concerns, facing the incredibly rich Bering Sea ecosystem.

## **Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Winter Lecture Series**

**WINTER HOURS Thursday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Friday, January 7** First show at 6:30 pm Second show at 8:00 pm

### **Repeat Photography: Studying Successional Change by Retaking Historical Photographs**

In summer 2004, as part of an on-going cooperative agreement with the USFS, Kathy Hocker, Richard Carstensen and Terry Schwarz relocated and re-took a number of historic Juneau-area photos, ranging from century-old views of the Mendenhall Glacier, to 1920s mining camp photos, to 1940s photos on Mt. Roberts. In this talk, Kathy and Richard will discuss these changes and also share tips on the use of digital photography to re-take historical photos.

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**Friday, January 14** First show at 6:30 pm Second show at 8:00 pm

### **Mendenhall Glacier -- Admiralty Island:**

#### **A Personal Reflection of People, Politics and the Gift of Recreation.**

KJ Metcalf, who gave the first Fireside program in 1962, will tell stories of people and places during his 42 years living in Juneau and Angoon.

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**Friday, January 21** First show at 6:30 pm Second show at 8:00 pm

### **Islands Beneath the Sea: Seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska**

Dr. Tom Shirley, Professor of Invertebrate Biology, Juneau Center, School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences University of Alaska Fairbanks will present information on the biology and geology of five previously unexplored seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska that were studied during August 2004. Undersea photos and videos of the seamounts and associated deep-sea organisms will be shown.

**Friday, January 28** First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

**Electricity from Nugget Creek**

David Stone & Scott Willis will present historical photos, maps, and details of the history of Juneau mining and hydropower through the former Nugget Creek Power plant, located near the present site of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center.

**February**

**Friday, February 4** First show at 6:30 pm

Second show at 8:00 pm

**What's Happening to the Glaciers of Southeast Alaska?**

Over 90 % of the glaciers in southeast Alaska have thinned and retreated over the past 50 years, some of them quite dramatically. However, a few are bucking the regional trend and are growing despite global warming. Dr. Roman Motyka will explore the response of SE Alaska's glaciers to climate change and other factors. He will highlight recent findings about the glaciers in our own backyard including Mendenhall Glacier.

**Friday, February 11** First show at 6:30 pm Second show at 8:00 pm

**Berners Bay: More Than Just a Bay**

Along the east side of Southeast Alaska's Lynn Canal, the rugged, glacier-adorned peaks of the coastal mountains give way to a place of outstanding biological diversity, rich cultural and historical significance, diverse recreational opportunity, and scenic beauty -- Berners Bay. Situated just 45 miles north of Juneau, Berners Bay exhibits a range of ecosystems: snow-capped alpine peaks rising above the Juneau Icefield; old-growth spruce and hemlock forest; glacial rivers flowing through steep-walled valleys; and freshwater marshes, saltwater estuaries, sandy beaches, and rocky bluffs. John Hudson will present photographs by some of Juneau's best photographers as he tells the story of Berners Bay's past, present, and uncertain future.

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**Berners Bay/Kensington Mine Update By Kat Hall, SEACC**

A lot has happened on the Berners Bay front during the past 6 weeks! In early December, EPA wrote a letter to the Forest Service re-affirming its support of Coeur's mine plan on the Lynn Canal side, which the agency fully-permitted in 1998. EPA prefers this alternative to a mine in Berners Bay, and ranked it as the least environmentally damaging plan. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in a similar letter, rejected the Forest Service's conclusion that a Berners Bay mine wouldn't harm Steller sea lions and humpback whales. NMFS cited potential adverse impacts to Berners Bay's marine resources and began a formal review to assess these impacts.

EPA and NMFS have been holding strong so far in assessing the mine's impacts and protecting Berners Bay's resources. This is great news for the bay!

Unfortunately, the Forest Service, despite the fact that NMFS has not completed its review, went ahead and released its decision in support of the mine on Christmas Eve. This kicked off a 45-day period in which organizations or individuals may appeal the decision. The deadline for filing an administrative appeal is on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Coeur and others in the mining industry view the Forest Service's decision as a green light and hope to begin construction in 2005. However, this mine is a *long way* from being a "done deal!" Coeur has not obtained any of its final permits, and there are a number of outstanding legal issues. SEACC has taken the lead on a campaign opposing the mine in Berners Bay and needs your help now more than ever.

## What You Can Do

- If you'd like to help out on this issue during the next several months (e.g. by writing letters, participating in events and rallies, and providing general community support to SEACC), or if you'd just like to stay informed, please contact Kat Hall ([kat@seacc.org](mailto:kat@seacc.org), 586-6942).
- Write a letter to the editor of the Juneau Empire in support of Berners Bay. E-mail to [letterstotheeditor@juneauempire.com](mailto:letterstotheeditor@juneauempire.com). Letters should be 400 words or less. Be sure to include your name, town, and phone number. Contact Kat for more details and talking points.

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## Board News by Brenda Wright, Juneau Audubon Society President

Hello and a very healthy New Year to you all.

I hope you all had a fun time participating in your local Christmas bird count. Its always fun to hear how many and what kinds of birds were found in all the communities in southeast. Are any of those same people interested in helping to organize local efforts for the Great Backyard Bird Count? It will begin on February 18, 2005. We can supply posters or you can find all the information you might need on the web at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> We would like to encourage every community to put an article in your local newspaper about this fun opportunity.

Its time to gear up for several conservation issues. Do you have interest and energy to volunteer to write a letter or review comments? We would love to have your help with our response to the Kensington mine/Berner's Bay issues, commercial uses and eagle baiting in the Eagle Preserve in Haines, and the upcoming release of the Juneau Airport environmental impact statement (due out in March). If you are interested in helping, please contact me at 789-4656 ([president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)) or Sari Saunders, ([conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:conservation@juneau-audubon-society.org)).

In 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct several studies of Bar-tailed Godwits on Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge needs 3-6 volunteers to assist with these studies. Contact information: Brian J. McCaffery U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Phone: (907) 543-1014 Fax: (907) 543-4413 e-mail: [brian\\_mccaffery@fws.gov](mailto:brian_mccaffery@fws.gov)

The National Audubon membership newswire included some web pages for Tips for Greening Your Holidays. These are great suggestions for the entire year.

Make your holidays green, and be sure to recycle, reuse, and remember Mother Nature by following these simple guidelines at [ww.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/Holiday\\_Greening/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/Holiday_Greening/index.html)

[http://www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/Holiday\\_Greening/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/Holiday_Greening/index.html)

Your local Juneau Audubon web page has a local bird checklist, lecture schedules, and past newsletters ([www.juneau-audubon-society.org](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org)).

**\*\*\*\*\*If you would like to save paper and receive your copy of "The Raven" by email, send your request to: [kingfarm@ptialaska.net](mailto:kingfarm@ptialaska.net)**

## **Ketchikan's Christmas Bird Count Results By Teri Goucher**

December 18th was mild with a high temperature near 50 degrees but stormy conditions, gusty winds, and two foot breakers along the coast undoubtedly affected birding here.

Over 4500 birds representing 49 species were tallied by 21 participants. Count week had more agreeable weather, which increased our species count to 54 including Canada geese, brown creeper, red crossbill, and common redpoll. It is unfortunate that the Clover Pass segment of our road system is outside the CBC count circle because a pygmy owl, sharp-shinned hawk, and two American pipits were observed there according to Andy Piston.

Count day numbers were strong for Steller's jays, siskins, and varied thrushes; about 1180 long-tailed ducks and two Bonaparte's gulls were seen along the waterfront.

Ketchikan had a good variety of sparrows on count day. Song, white-crowned, golden-crowned, Lincoln's and fox sparrows were seen in one yard near Saxman. A savannah sparrow was found count week and a tree sparrow was also seen in town recently.

Single sightings of a robin, surfbird, Wilson's snipe, and a Glaucous gull added to the species count. Twenty-six adult and two immature eagles were seen around the Ketchikan area.

Each day is a new and sometimes challenging opportunity for birding!!! Happy New Year!

## **2004 Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results by Mark Schwan**

Juneau's Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 18. Forty volunteers braved the mild but very wet day to participate in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Christmas count in Juneau. Seventy-one species and a record high 14,210 birds were seen during the day.

The 23 common species seen on all previous 31 counts were seen again; these include mostly waterfowl that over-winter here, along with our most familiar resident species. New high counts were obtained for seven species (numbers in boldface in table): Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Northwestern Crow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin. A Harris's Sparrow was seen the day before the count, so it can be included as a count week (cw) species. It has been 10 years since the last Harris's Sparrow was present during a Juneau Christmas Count. There were no exceptionally rare species found on count day, but owing to the open water at Twin Lakes and the marsh adjacent to the Pioneer's Home, several species were still lingering that are rarely seen during our local count. These included American Coot, Ring-necked Duck, and Northern Shoveler. There were six additional species located during our count week put the count week total at 77 species.

The CBC results will be viewable at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> once they are entered online. Anyone with an internet connect can view all the current and historical counts. The database is becoming very impressive.

Thanks to all the volunteers that gave their day to the count, the group leaders for their efforts, and to Gus van Vliet for conducting the tally at the potluck and keeping track of count week birds.

Pacific Loon	1	Glaucous-winged Gull	2,632
Common Loon	2	Gl.-winged x Herring hyb.	2
Yellow-billed Loon	<i>cw</i>	Unidentified Gulls	77
Horned Grebe	31	Common Murre	8
Red-necked Grebe	20	Pigeon Guillemot	3
Pelagic Cormorant	9	Marbled Murrelet	64
Great Blue Heron	12	Rock Dove	66
Canada Goose	<b>1,098</b>	Northern Pygmy-owl	1
Green-winged Teal	<b>125</b>	Belted Kingfisher	5
Mallard	2,112	Downy Woodpecker	1
Northern Pintail	29	Hairy Woodpecker	1
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<b>2</b>	Unidentified Woodpeckers	1
Gadwall	<b>29</b>	Steller's Jay	44
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>cw</i>	Black-billed Magpie	50
American Wigeon	123	Northwestern Crow	<b>1,814</b>
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>	<b>2</b>	Common Raven	382
Greater Scaup	32	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	91
Lesser Scaup	<b>16</b>	Unidentified Chickadees	15
Unidentified Scaup	72	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5
Harlequin Duck	97	Brown Creeper	4
Long-tailed Duck	9	Winter Wren	13
Black Scoter	1	American Dipper	12
Surf Scoter	680	Golden-crowned Kinglet	59
White-winged Scoter	108	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Unidentified Scoters	25	Unidentified Kinglets	7
Common Goldeneye	155	American Robin	3
Barrow's Goldeneye	285	Varied Thrush	5
Unidentified Goldeneyes	91	Bohemian Waxwing	80
Bufflehead	152	Northern Shrike	<i>cw</i>
Hooded Merganser	5	European Starling	<i>cw</i>
Common Merganser	206	American Tree Sparrow	1
Red-breasted Merganser	124	Fox Sparrow	5
Unidentified Mergansers	35	Song Sparrow	20
Bald Eagle (all)	140	White-crowned Sparrow	3
<i>immatures</i>	15	<b>Harris' Sparrow</b>	<b><i>cw</i></b>
<i>adults</i>	125	Unidentified Sparrows	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Dark-eyed Junco (all)	<b>425</b>
Northern Goshawk	<i>cw</i>	<i>Oregon form</i>	275
Merlin	1	<i>Slate form</i>	56
<b>American Coot</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>unknown form</i>	94
Killdeer	8	Snow Bunting	11
Rock Sandpiper	125	Pine Grosbeak	19
Common Snipe	2	Red Crossbill	111
Mew Gull	159	White-winged Crossbill	45
Herring Gull	7	Common Redpoll	22
Thayer's Gull	1	Pine Siskin	<b>1,967</b>

## **Report from Haines By Georgia Giacobbe**

Last month's newsletter went to press the same week as the Bald Eagle Festival held in Haines from November 17 through the 21st. It turned out to be one of the wettest festivals on record. The weather was also warm, which encouraged the eagles to spread out and not to concentrate in an area for viewing. The actual count (of eagles) was difficult to determine but estimates are approximately 1500 to 2000 during the time of the festival. The number of bird viewers and festival participants was down slightly, however the Juneau Raptor Center once again sponsored a catamaran and brought 114 people from Juneau to attend. After the festival, the eagles started dispersing and by December there were still chum salmon in the Chilkat River at 14 mile on the highway, but the eagles had left. Other November sightings: Dan Egolf was in the pass up by Kelsaw Lake and spotted numerous ptarmigans all spinning their legs and leaving erratic tracks in the snow. Dan also spotted a golden eagle at the same location.

The rainy weather slacked up a bit for the "first" Christmas bird count on December 18. Numerous volunteers including Audubon members, Lynn Canal Conservation members, and just bird lovers in general showed up for the count. This was held at the radius near town. A second count was scheduled for December 26 with the radius centered at Wells Bridge, in the Bald Eagle Preserve. Appears that no birds will remain uncounted in Haines.

## **Petersburg By Don Cornelius**

On December 18th, seven Petersburg birders braved over 2 1/2 inches of rain on their binoculars to count 6,579 local winged residents. An even 50 species contributed to this tally. This is as close as you can get to bulls eye for the past five-year average of 49.6 species.

Comparing this data with counts over the previous five years, one thing is obvious -- the number of birds in most species with more than a few individuals is all over the map. The tidal stage, local distribution of feed, disturbance by boats, weather all contribute to the species totals. On my daily walks along a particular stretch of shoreline I may see a handful of scoters (all three species), harlequins and long-tailed ducks or a handful of hundreds. However, I unscientifically spotted some possible trends. In 1987, the first year Mitkof Island counts are recorded on the Audubon website, a measly 485 glaucous-winged gulls were recorded. Gulls are famous for responding to food delicacies like noncompliant cannery discharges. Petersburg is no exception. Since 2000, the number of this species has steadily risen from 554 in 2000 to this year's tally of 2752.

In 1987, a mere 7 rock pigeons were observed in town. Thanks to a local lover and feeder of anything wearing fur or feathers, the number of ex-rock doves has also risen. This year counters recorded 265 hungry members of this introduced species. It will be interesting to see how pigeons fair now that their food source may be gone. A decade ago their scouts discovered, then brought their 60 or so closest friends to our bird feeder. The smell on our roof, among other indignities, ultimately forced us to stop feeding birds for several years.

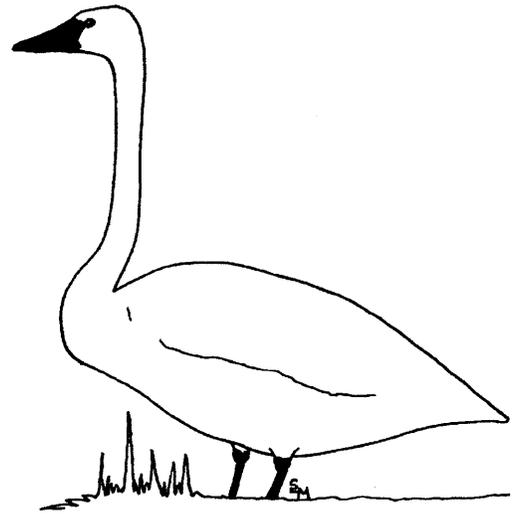
One species that seems low were a mere 21 Black Turnstones. This contrasts with numbers ranging from 60 to 360 in other recent counts. Of course, the 2 1/2 inches of rain may have been a factor in counting this well camouflaged shorebird. A month ago I saw flocks numbering closer to 100 shorebirds, a mixture of the turnstones and rock sandpipers. A quick flight across Wrangell Narrows and they're out of the count.

While writing this, I stepped outside on a warm clear December evening. Over on Kupreanof Island I could here a great horned owl calling. We didn't record any owls this year. Guess it could have been 51.

## **Glacier Bay/Gustavus Christmas Bird Count, Bruce Paige, Count Compiler, 12/29/04**

Over the years, the Glacier Bay/ Gustavus Christmas Count has been held in 0 degree temperatures, a 65 mph gale, and with up to 44 inches of snow cover. The 34th annual Christmas Count on Saturday, December 18th took place in nearly optimal conditions. The temperature was a count record high of 47 degrees F,. The day was calm so the ocean surface was flat and though there were intermittent rain showers, visibility was good. On top of this, fresh water surfaces were all open, and the absence of snow cover made it easy to walk about. Sixteen observers took advantage of the conditions to cover numerous routes and to watch bird-feeding stations during the day, and noted **7171** birds of **71** species (second highest number of species ever!).

The mild weather and lack of snow cover may have allowed birds to disperse around the area to forage rather than concentrating at feeding stations. Some species counts were somewhat lower than expected as a result. Also, the lack of a boat to cover the Beardslee Islands and Lower Glacier Bay, resulted in low numbers of many waterbirds. Even with these limiting factors, fourteen species were seen in record high numbers. These include trumpeter swan (32), sharp-shinned hawk (3), merlin (3), killdeer (5), dunlin (1515), glaucous gull (1), northern flicker (2), black-billed magpie (59), red-breasted nuthatch (47- the previous high was only 5!!), golden-crowned kinglet (49), song sparrow (17), white-crowned sparrow (2), and dark-eyed junco (242). One species, a juvenile glaucous gull, was new to the count. This individual had been in the Salmon River area for at over a month. A greater yellowlegs was seen for only the second year, but two years in a row. Three mountain bluebirds were found near Pt. Gustavus, also the second record for the count. The formerly endangered Trumpeter swan continues to overwinter in increasing numbers. Dunlins appear to be staying well into the winter as well, whereas they were nearly absent in December until recently. The red-breasted nuthatch invasion that began last August, has continued with unprecedented numbers remaining in the area. Every one of the feeding stations seems to have a cluster of regularly visiting nuthatches. All in all, it was a very successful count, and the following observers deserve thanks for their great participation; Allison Banks, Abigail Calkin, Nat Drumheller, Ernie King, Tanya Lewis, Barb Mahoney, Sean Neilson, Jamie Ogilvy, Sharon Paige, Rose Salazar, Chad Soiseth, Phoebe Vanselow, Julie Vathke, Shelly Webb, and Julie Williams.



**DEAD SISKINS FOUND** By Deborah D. Rudis, Environmental Contaminants Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 3000 Vintage Blvd. #201, Juneau, Alaska 99801, 907/586-7648 fax 907/586-7154

In December, we had an outbreak of salmonellosis in a flock of siskins at a feeder in North Douglas. Dead siskins were also collected at a feeder in the neighborhood of the Pioneer Home. We do not have lab results back from those carcasses to date. Another incident of dead siskins was reported from Back Loop Rd.

Salmonellosis is caused by a salmonella bacterial infection, typically transmitted among birds through ingestion of contaminated food and water from fecal discharges. Pine siskins are particularly susceptible to salmonellosis due to their dense feeding groups and ground scavenging behavior. They are the most frequent species of songbird found dead from Salmonellosis outbreaks at bird feeding stations in the US. This infection can cause sudden death or the disease can have a more prolonged infection course over several days. Salmonellosis is highly contagious in bird flocks.

Those who feed birds need to be conscientious about sanitation and food quality to prevent infectious disease problems that may be due to exposure of the birds at feeding, watering, or congregation sites under one's control. The information below presents details on precautions against disease. If anyone has more than one siskin or other bird die near or at their feeders, please follow these guidelines and close down your feeding stations. If salmonella is found the only option is to remove feeders and waterers for several weeks to disperse the birds and lower disease transmission in order to stop the die-off. Please contact me at the information above if you have additional questions. If you remove dead birds, use proper sanitation such as disposable rubber gloves and wash your hands after handling birds or potentially contaminated feed & feeders.

Here are two web sites with information on salmonella and bird feeding: Technical info in Chapter 9 of the Field Manual of Wildlife Disease on the NWHC website at:

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/pub\\_metadata/field\\_manual/chapter\\_9.pdf](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/pub_metadata/field_manual/chapter_9.pdf) . An information bulletin on control of diseases at bird feeders is at:

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/whats\\_new/fact\\_sheet/fact\\_birdfeeder.html](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/whats_new/fact_sheet/fact_birdfeeder.html) .

People who feed birds cannot ignore the disease issue. Eight relatively easy steps can be taken to prevent or minimize disease problems at feeders.

- 1. Give them space** - Avoid crowding by providing ample feeder space. Lots of birds using a single feeder looks wonderful, but crowding is a key factor in spreading disease. If birds have to jostle each other to reach the food, they are crowded. This crowding also creates stress which may make birds more vulnerable to disease.
- 2. Clean up wastes** - Keep the feeder area clean of waste food and droppings. A broom and shovel can accomplish a lot of good, but a vacuum such as you might use in your garage or workshop will help even more.
- 3. Make feeders safe** - Provide safe feeders without sharp points or edges. Even small scratches and cuts will allow bacteria and viruses to enter otherwise healthy birds.
- 4. Keep feeders clean** - Clean and disinfect feeders regularly. Use one part of liquid chlorine household bleach in nine parts of tepid water (a 10 percent solution) to disinfect. Make enough solution to immerse an empty, cleaned feeder completely for two to three minutes. Allow to air dry. Once or twice a month should do, but weekly could help more if you notice sick birds at your feeders.

5. **Use good food** - Discard any food that smells musty, is wet, looks moldy or has fungus growing on it. Disinfect any storage container that holds spoiled food and the scoop used to fill feeders from it.
6. **Prevent contamination** - Keep rodents out of stored food. Mice can carry and spread some bird diseases without being affected themselves.
7. **Act early** - Don't wait to act until you see sick or dead birds. With good prevention you'll seldom find sick or dead birds at your feeders.
8. **Spread the word** - Encourage your neighbors who feed birds to follow the same precautions. Birds normally move among feeders and can spread diseases as they go. The safest birdfeeders will be those in communities where neighbors cooperate with equal concern for the birds.

Just because bird feeding is not problem-free does not mean that it is bad or should be stopped. It does mean you have an ethical obligation not to jeopardize wild birds. What is called for is intelligent bird feeding. Follow the precautions listed above, and you can continue to enjoy feeding healthy wild birds.

**Editor's Note:** The following comments were taken from Eaglechat Digest Number 917

**Subject: Re: The ethics of bird feeding From: Paul Suchanek**

I've always assumed there are both positive and negative impacts to bird feeding, but I don't spend much time thinking about the issue as in the grand scheme of things, the habitat loss and changes (think global warming on a grand scale and filling in a wetland on a small scale) caused by the 6+ billion (and rising) people on earth affect bird populations much more directly and most often negatively. Birds constantly have to deal with risks of disease and predation. If those who intentionally feed birds keep a bit more in touch with the natural world and perhaps keep their yards a bit more bird friendly, I'd rate it a positive especially if they follow the guidelines in a previous Eaglechat message. Personally I don't mind seeing bears in my back yard but I certainly wouldn't want to intentionally feed them - they can be obnoxious guests. If someone doesn't want to feed birds but is concerned about bird populations, I'd heartily endorse donations to any (or all) of many organizations trying to save bird habitat in lieu of bird seed purchases - they need habitat more than extra food!

**Subject: Birds at the Dump, From: Laurie Ferguson Craig**

Today as I was driving to town another thought occurred: is the dump a new opportunity for disease to spread throughout the bird population? Since the incinerator shut down and garbage is being landfilled there have been massive numbers of gulls—hundreds—concentrated at the dump along with ravens, crows and eagles. These birds are actively feeding as garbage is being emptied from vehicles and trucks despite Waste Management personnel on loaders on the spot. If you are a typical homeowner and leave your garbage at the curb for pickup, this scenario is probably an unfamiliar world for you. With a small household we generate such small amounts of trash that we take it to the dump ourselves on an infrequent basis. We go on Wednesdays when we can also recycle plastic jugs, steel cans, cardboard glass and aluminum.

This mountain of covered garbage has grown noticeably in the past couple of months. The bird use is actually very distressing since they are completely absorbed in devouring garbage. I scanned the flock to see if any were trapped in soda pop can plastic rings but none were. As people who care about birds and their well being we should be doing more about this situation. Until we can get better control of our garbage, please be aware that everything we throw away ends up in a giant pile at Lemon Creek. Before disposing of them please cut up pop can rings that might harm birds. Anyone with ideas to help protect birds should post ideas for us all.

As a hopeful thought: two guys from Waste Management told me we could cut our trash volume by 50 percent if we instituted residential recycling. Are there any heroes out there ready to tackle this? I'd welcome an open discussion on how to reduce our troubling trash disposal situation and protect wildlife at the same time.

## National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society please mail this form to:  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (1-year introductory rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (1-year student/senior rate) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Basic renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, send the completed form and \$10 to  
Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (1 year Juneau Audubon Society Chapter dues) You will receive 9 months of the  
Juneau Audubon Society newsletter the Raven.

Please let us know if you prefer electronic \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail  
or paper copy \_\_\_\_\_

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