

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>

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Juneau Audubon Society

October 2007

Juneau Audubon Public Meeting – October 11, 2007 7 PM UAS Egan Room 221/222

The first regular Juneau Audubon evening meeting will be a dessert/healthy snack potluck. Please bring 10 slides to share with everyone. All bird, wildlife, and travel photographs are encouraged. Local birding or exotic locations are especially requested. Come and enjoy the food and your talented neighbors stories and photos!

Rats! In the Maritime Refuge of Alaska

**Join Poppy Benson for a presentation on October 25, 2007 7pm
UAS Egan Room 221/22**

Poppy Benson is Public Programs Supervisor at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge in Homer, AK. The topic of her presentation will be Birds and rats don't mix. "On ships, boats, planes, barges and trucks, rats have spread over much of the world. With them come disease, economic harm and wildlife destruction. Much of Alaska remains rat free, one of the last such places on earth. Our climate and remoteness won't keep Alaska and its wildlife safe forever. As travel, development and shipping increase, so too does the risk of spreading rats." Find out more at <http://www.stoprats.org> <http://alaskamaritime.fws.gov> for more about the refuge <http://www.islandsandoccean.org> for a look the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge visitor center

Tongass National Forest Birthday Party- Saturday, October 13th, 8pm

In 1907, President Teddy Roosevelt created the Tongass National Forest. Please join us for the 100th Birthday of the Tongass National Forest at The Hangar Ballroom, in the Merchant's Wharf. \$5 cover charge includes live music, door prizes and a pint of beer. 21+ only please.

For more information contact: SEACC at 586-6942, Emily@seacc.org
Sponsored by the Juneau Audubon Society, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, The Tongass National Forest Juneau Ranger District, The Juneau Watershed Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, and Trail Mix.

Juneau Public Market – November 23-25, 2008

Its that time of year again. Juneau Audubon will be making our famous jams and jellies. Please bring any jelly jars in good condition to MaryLou King or to the public meeting. If you can volunteer to make jelly, or have ideas for other items to sell at the booth, or are able to volunteer your time for the Public Market, please contact Brenda at 789-4656.

Message from the President – Jeff Sauer,
president
Election of Officers October 11, 2007

The October Juneau Audubon meeting is among other things our time to elect the officers of Juneau Audubon. All Juneau Audubon members are welcome to come and vote. The officers of Juneau Audubon are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Under the

bylaws of Juneau Audubon the four officers are elected, and then the other board members are appointed to the board. The total number of board members is 10.

We have an active Audubon chapter, and a great bunch of people on the board. We are always, however, looking for one or two more people to become active and join the board. This fall is no exception as Liz Blecker, our trusted Treasurer for the past five years, is getting off the board. We thank her for her great service to Juneau Audubon. In addition Steve Zimmerman is leaving the board after many years of service. Anyone interested in joining the board in whatever capacity please email me at president@juneau-audubon-society.org.

Board member profile: Beth Peluso
by Jeff Sauer

Juneau Audubon board member and Education Chair Beth Peluso has recently been in the news with the publication of her children's book *The Charcoal Forest: How Fire Helps Animals and Plants*. From her past work in western Montana on national forest issues, Beth wrote the story of what happens after forest fire, and life in the new habitat created by fire. Of the twenty species of plants and animals in the book the Black-backed Woodpecker is of special note to us. This particular woodpecker, relatively rare in Alaska, occurs primarily in burned areas.

This attractive and charming book was written and illustrated by Beth. Beth has a BA in English, with a minor in art, as well as a MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana, with an emphasis on natural history writing and illustration. The *Charcoal Forest* is at Hearthside Books as well as at Internet stores. Beth recently did a book signing

and reading at Hearthside and likely will do another in the near future.

Birding Reports from Southeast

As our editor, MaryLou King, is on vacation, we have fewer southeast bird reports this month. Remember, anyone can contribute to our knowledge about birds, their migrations, and trends in population by adding your information to the e-bird web page

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

It is simple to add your observations to this North American database. You also can read stories about your favorite birds, look at trends, and see all the latest vagrants to our continent!

Juneau September Bird Observations Report prepared by Mark Schwan

September birding started out very exciting with what turned out to be the highlight of the month, when Patty Rose discovered a juvenile **Ruff** accompanying a lingering **Stilt Sandpiper** at Eagle Beach on September 2. The bird was subsequently seen by many birders and was present through September 8. Here are the observations of interest during the month.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was located on one of the airport finger ponds next to the dike on September 20 (PR) and seen the following day (GV, MS). **Ospreys** were spotted on several occasions, with one on September 7 at Point Bridget (PS, MS); 2 up Mount Roberts, with the first one on September 11 (PS, DM) and the second on September 18 (JS); and 2 birds over the airport dike trail on September 23 (PR). There were several reports of **Peregrine Falcons** during the

month, with single birds seen on the Mendenhall wetlands on September 4 (MS), September 10, and 23 (PR) and a single bird also spotted at Point Bridget on September 7 (PS, MS). Rich Gordon also had one Peregrine swooping on an immature **Gyrfalcon** at the wetlands on the 23rd!

Shorebirds of interest included one or possibly two juvenile **Sanderlings** on September 1 at Eagle Beach and the Scout Camp side of Eagle River (PS, MS). A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was seen adjacent to the airport dike on September 3 and 4 (GV, RG) and again on September 7 on the tidal flats of north Douglas Island (SZ). A mysterious looking bird that challenged local birders turned out to be a Dunlin. The bird, seen at Phalarope Slough on the wetlands (September 5) was still in mostly juvenile plumage, which is normally lost through molt before the birds leave the breeding grounds (PS, PR, MS). In addition to the Stilt Sandpiper seen with the Ruff, mentioned above, three **Stilt Sandpipers** were located on the previous day (September 1) on the scout camp side of Eagle River (PS).

Two **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen near the gazebo on the wetlands on September 3 and 4 (PS, GB), and our rather famous **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was once again seen in the lower Mendenhall River on September 11 (DM). A **Mourning Dove** was reported from the Sunny Point area on September 22 (fide LE), and a **Northern Flicker** was present at Mile 33 Glacier Highway on September 3 (GV).

Passerines of interest included 21 **Horned Larks**, and six **Townsend's Solitaires** on Mount Roberts on September 11 (PS,DM,RA,RG). A

female **Western Tanager** at Brotherhood Park on September 18 seemed surprisingly late (MS). Finally, one adult **Chipping Sparrow** was observed on Mount Roberts on September 11 (PS, DM). Thanks to those that provided observations.

Robert Armstrong = RA; Gwen Baluss = GB; Larry Edfelt = LE; Rich Gordon = RG; Deanna MacPhail = DM; Patty Rose = PR; Jeff Sauer = JS; Mark Schwan = MS; Paul Suchanek = PS; Gus van Vliet = GV; Steve Zimmerman = SZ

Wrangell Bird Observations Submitted by Bonnie Demerjian



Photo credit-Carol Ross

Fall migrations can bring surprise visitors and this month was no exception in Wrangell. A white-winged dove was seen for several days, as was a male American goldfinch, feeding with a flock of juncos. Though common along the coast, a Black-legged kittiwake at the ferry terminal provided excitement for local birders. A lone Opsrey was spotted flying amidst several Bald eagles.

Flocks of Sandhill cranes have been appearing overhead in town for the past few weeks. They stop to rest and feed by

the thousands on the Stikine River delta until a clear day sends them on their way. One moose hunter was sitting in his tree when two thousand of the cranes landed beside him. They fed until dusk, then, along with several thousand more already there, took off in a honking flurry while Canada geese answered from a nearby slough. Harriers were numerous on the Stikine flats this month. Earl and Mary Benitz who live year round on an island in the delta report seeing a Band-tailed pigeon recently while in town a flock of about fifty of the birds that frequented a local feeder much of the summer has left for warmer places – smart birds.

A weekend cruise brought some treats including large flocks of Western grebes, Pacific loons and a lone Fork-tailed storm petrel. We watched a Northern goshawk unsuccessfully dive bomb a considerable flock of Surfbirds. Surf scoters, White-winged scoters, single Marbled murrelets and a Pomarine jaeger were also spotted.

The Wrangell City Council this past week whether to back a proposal that the Stikine River Delta be named an International site (100,000 plus annually) within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve System. Local birders and hunters appeared before the council to express their support and emphasize the economic impact of attracting birding visitors to the community. Council responded by voting to send a letter of support for inclusion in the Reserve System.

**SEPTEMBER SIGHTINGS IN
KETCHIKAN
by Teri Goucher**

As summer came to an end; some interesting birds were seen in the Ketchikan area this past month.

Several Morning Doves were seen around open areas on our island and numerous Sandhill Cranes were spotted noisily flying overhead. A cowbird was seen in town around the middle part of the month. A sighting of a Rufous Hummingbird on September 9th was one of the latest ever for Ketchikan! A Hammond's Flycatcher was seen in town on the 19th and is only the 3rd record for that species here. A few juvenile and adult Western Screech Owls were north of town on the 15th of September! Perhaps the first White-throated Sparrow of the season was seen about 14 miles north of town just a few days ago!

Many birds are still migrating to their southern wintering areas so keep on birding because you never know what exciting birds you may be lucky enough to briefly enjoy!!

Enjoy your wildlife!

Alaska Wildlife Viewing Locations is a service of ADF&G Wildlife Conservation. Visit the web page for trails and information on your local area http://www.wildlifeviewing.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trails.locale&locale_id=1

Another great web site is <http://wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=birding.main> "Wings Over Alaska" is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game program that encourages more people to enjoy Alaska's birds and to take their birding skills to a higher level. Alaska is home to a huge variety of birds – 471 species have been positively identified to date – and makes the 49th state a paradise for birders and a destination for many who hope to see rarities like the Bluethroat, Whiskered Auklet, and Bristle-Thighed Curlew.

Wings Over Alaska participants are awarded free certificates for bird species they have seen in Alaska. There are four levels of certification for birders based on identifying 50, 125, 200 and 275 species in the state.

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