

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

March 2009

Juneau Audubon Public Meeting – March 12, 2009 7:00 PM, UAS Egan Room 221/222

The Jensen-Olson Arboretum Caroline Jensen's gift to the people of Juneau

Merrill Jensen, an avid birder and one of our Chapter's current Board members will present this month's program on the Jensen-Olson Arboretum - Juneau's botanical gem. Merrill is a horticulturist and the manager of the Arboretum (no relation to Caroline). He will share photos, stories and history of the property since it was homesteaded by the Peterson family in 1902. He earned his degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Washington State University and has worked at public botanical gardens in Idaho, Oregon and California prior to moving to Juneau.



SAVE A TREE!

Hello Audubon newsletter reader. Please switch to newsletter by e-mail. You get to see the color photos And we don't have to use as much paper. It's simple: Send your e-mail address to membership@juneau-audubon-society.org

February 2009 Juneau Bird Report By Mark Schwan

There were few reports during the month, but here is a brief summary of the more interesting local bird sightings. There was a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** found near the airport dike on February 17 (LFC). Very interesting were the seven **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels** seen from the ferry near Point Couverden on February 17 (PS). Our only **Northern Goshawk** report was from the outlet of Mendenhall Lake on February 27 (RG). Very rare anywhere in Alaska during winter, a **Red-tailed Hawk** at Auke Bay on February 22 was an exciting find (GV). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at False Outer Point on February 19 (PS). A lone **Killdeer** was on the wetlands on February 20 (MS). Although not listed as rare on our local winter list, **Three-toed Woodpeckers** are hard to locate, so one found near 19 Mile Glacier Hwy, was worth reporting (BW). Passerines of note included a single **American Tree Sparrow** at a Mendenhall Valley feeder during the first three weeks of the month (MW), a reddish-form **Fox Sparrow** at the same feeder during the first week of the month (MW), and the continued stay by the **White-throated Sparrow** at Paul Suchanek's north Douglas feeder. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** visited a feeder through most of month at mile 24 Glacier Hwy (MJ), and a **Hoary Redpoll** was seen on and off through the month at Paul Suchanek's feeder.

Contributors: Laurie Fergeson Craig (LFC); Rich Gordon (RG); Merrill Jensen (MJ); Mark Schwan (MS); Paul Suchanek (PS); Gus van Vliet (GV); Mary Willson (MW); Brenda Wright (BW).

Given the brevity of this month's report, here is a quiz for you to ponder. Can you come up with the current names of the 15 species of birds listed below by obsolete names? All are found in Southeast Alaska except for one Old World vagrant that occurs very rarely in the southwestern part of the state. Have fun.. Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

1) Bartramian tattler; 2) black warrier; 3) black hagdon; 4) brownback; 5) bullhead; 6) cobhead; 7) hell-diver; 8) horn-billed puffin; 9) Kamchatka nightingale; 10) marlin; 11) purre; 12) specklebelly; 13) tell-tale; 14) violet-green Cormorant; and 15) whale bird.

Sunny Point Bird Feeder Report

By Mary Lou King

On February 26, my first of the winter sighting of one **Hoary Redpoll** with the usual 40 or so **Pine Siskin**, 6 **Chestnut Backed Chickadees**, 1 **Song Sparrow**, 8 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. Three **Steller's Jays** came by a couple of days ago for the first time since early last fall. And there was one **Robin** on the upper Auke Bay Beach on February 26.



From Eaglechat: *Winter bird report*

Posted by: "Steve Heidl" scraigheidl@yahoo.com [scraigheidl](#)
Fri Feb 27, 2009 5:42 pm (PST)

It is time to summarize all the interesting winter bird sightings for winter 2008-2009 for the North American Birds report. I've noticed that it has been pretty quiet on Eaglechat this winter, but I know there were some interesting sightings out there. We would appreciate any bird sightings or bird reports that people would care to share - observations made during this past December, January, and February. You can email me directly.

Thank you very much.

We haven't seen an official spring migrant in Ketchikan yet, but the first robins will probably show up within the next week, followed by Fox Sparrows and Varied Thrushes, then hummingbirds and yellowlegs, waterfowl and gulls, then golden-crowned and savannah sparrows, then some warblers, then major movements of shorebirds and waterfowl and songbirds, and.....I sure wish spring was here.



Steve Heidl (scraigheidl@yahoo.com)

signs of spring?

Posted by: "Gwen Baluss" gwenbaluss@yahoo.com [gwenbaluss](#)
Sat Feb 28, 2009 6:31 pm (PST)

A golden-crowned kinglet singing in the sunshine in our yard in the valley, and crows acting possessive at a nesting area near Auke Rec Campground.



**Mark Schwan's Marbled Murrelet in
Auke Bay**

FEBRUARY BIRDS IN KETCHIKAN-by Teri Goucher

Wow...what a winter! Here in Ketchikan we have enjoyed lots of invigorating chilly clear sunny days all February! This type of weather is great to combat the winter blues that may affect some, but local bird numbers and sightings were diminished somewhat.

The largest harbor in town was host to a couple **American Coots** for quite a while along with a **Brandt's Cormorant**. A female **Purple Finch** was seen mid-month in a hillside neighborhood. Quite a few sparrows remain, such as a **White-throated Sparrow** that continued to visit it's favorite garden throughout this winter. A **Harris's Sparrow** was seen several times, and this largest sparrow species has been recorded here frequently the past few years. A small group of two male and two female **House Sparrows** are still around indicating this species may become established here as it has done in many urban areas. Another **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found at a feeder about 15 miles north of town and this species too is rapidly expanding it's range in North America.

While birding the Herring Bay area a melodious song pierced the sunny sub-freezing morning turning my thoughts to Spring. It was a pair of **American Dippers** commonly heard singing in winter as they mark their territory. Most folks in S.E. Alaska are familiar these amazing birds that thrive along streams year round. Their thick layer of feathers waterproofed by special oil glands, low metabolic rate, and blood that is capable of carrying extra oxygen allows our only aquatic songbird to be uniquely adapted. We are lucky to enjoy one of the five species of dippers found worldwide, most of which spend their entire lives along a single water drainage area. In late summer these birds are flightless as they molt all their wing and tail feathers at once. The Eskimo name is anaruk kiviruk, which means, "old woman sunk". Watching these active birds is always very interesting and entertaining! Hearing these birds singing in winter is a nice reminder that Spring really is on the way!

Haines Report by Georgia Giacobbe

Haines residents participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count with the following results as of February 28. Eleven lists were submitted with a total of 24 different species.

Trumpeter Swan	3	Glaucous-winged Gull	9
Mallard	24	Marbled Murrelet	4
Black Scoter	7	Northern Hawk Owl	1
Long-tailed Duck	6	Steller's Jay	13
Bufflehead	26	Black-billed Magpie	21
Common Goldeneye	3	Common Raven	52
Barrow's Goldeneye	44	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	9
Common Merganser	5	American Dipper	3
Red-breasted Merganser	41	Bohemian Waxwing	1
Pacific Loon	1	Red Crossbill	3
Bald Eagle	32	Hoary Redpoll	1
Herring Gull	8	Pine Siskin	13

Total 330

CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT APPLICATIONS

To see the full permit go to: [tp://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PNnew.htm](http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PNnew.htm)

Juneau

Corps Permits: Applicant: JEREMY SIDNEY

Activity: Applicant's stated purpose is "is to construct a 24-stall horse stable, an indoor riding arena, an outdoor riding arena to Olympic standards, 50 foot workout round pens, a riding area, and a parking lot."

Proposed Work: 20,454 cubic yards of fill on approximately 3.11 acres of waters, including wetlands

Waterway: Mendenhall River 46

Application No: POA-1995-41-M3

Nearest Community: Juneau, Alaska

Public Notice Posted for: March 2, 2009 Public Notice Comment Period

Expires on: April 2, 2009



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National Audubon Society Membership Application

For first time members or renewals to the National Audubon Society, please mail this form to:
National Audubon Society, PO Box 422246, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6714

You will receive the *National Audubon Magazine* plus Juneau Chapter newsletter *The Raven*.

\$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
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Local Audubon Society Membership Application

If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only, please complete the form above and send \$10 (*1-year membership*) to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. You will receive the Juneau Chapter news letter *The Raven*.

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