

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

February 2010

Juneau Audubon Public Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

UAS Egan Bldg, Glacier View Room 221/222

Jeff Sauer presents photo images and stories on his Hut to Hut Mountain Bike Ride Telluride Colorado to Moab Utah, 200 miles, 6 huts, 7 days of bicycling

This is a fun one week moderate bike ride using 6 fully stocked San Juan Huts, to ride from the mountains of southern Colorado, through mesa country, to the slick rock country of Moab Utah. All food, water, place to sleep, and sleeping bags provided by the San Juan Hut System. Most riding is on backcountry dirt roads, with some mountain bike trail riding as an option close to Moab for the more adventurous. Huts sleep eight.



SATURDAY WILD--Come join me naturalist Kevin O'Malley on a walk in the woods.

February 27th at Fish Creek (Meet at bridge on Douglas Hwy.) 10 a.m. - noon
March 13th at the Boy Scout Trail (Meet at parking lot/trail head) 10 a.m. - noon

Pellets are a fascinating thing connecting the bird and the environment it frequents. On our Tracks and Signs hike we have investigated the relationships birds and mammals have with their specific habitat. Tracks have told us stories of critters that move around at night. Signs have explained birds foraging habits.

Questions still lurk, do Great Horned Owls take birds as prey? Are short tailed weasels diurnal, crepuscular and nocturnal? Juneau Audubon Societies next hikes we will continue to discover the relationships with Juneau's terrestrial and marine environments. This is an invitation to folks who want to share their knowledge about the local environment and learn more about the wildlife and Who they are...?

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 12-15, 2010

It's fun, easy, family-friendly, free and open to all ages. This February marks the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Its really easy to participate.

- 1) Count the birds alone or with friends
- 2) After at least 15 minutes of watching in one place, report your results online (you can watch longer if you want).
- 3) Send in your observation to www.birdcount.org

You can repeat your count at the same place on each day of the Great Backyard Bird Count, or you can visit other locations. Submit a new checklist for each day that you count.

Go on line and view the Top 10 most commonly reported birds in the Great Backyard Bird Count, the number of reports sent in for your city or state, or even for the whole country! The maps update even as you watch! This event is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

So go out and count birds to help understand trends in populations in North America. Don't forget to have fun!

Juneau Bird Report for January 2010 by Patty Rose

So far in 2010, Juneau weather has been milder and less snowy than in recent years. During January, Juneau birders found over 80 species of birds, including many rarities. Winter finches were present, but numbers seemed to be down. Shorebirds, including Dunlin, Rock Sandpiper, Black Turnstone, and Surfbird, were reported in the Eagle Beach area.

Rare ducks included single **Eurasian Wigeons** seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands from Fish Creek on Douglas Island on January 2 and 22 (PS) and from the Airport Dike Trail on January 22 (NH) and two **Eurasian Wigeons** seen at Fish Creek on January 28 (PS).

A very rare occurrence in the Juneau area, a **Western Grebe** was spotted from Point Louisa on January 4 (MS).

A **Harlan's Hawk**, a rare race of Red-tailed Hawk, was present throughout the period in the Vanderbilt Creek area near Western Auto and the Juneau Pioneers' Home (GV, NH, LE, PS, PR). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen near Swampy Acres on January 19 (NH). Two falcons were observed in January, an **American Kestrel**, last reported January 12,

in the Norway Point area near downtown Juneau (GV, MS) and a **Peregrine Falcon** on January 23 along the trail to the boy scout camp in the Eagle Beach area (NH, PS).

Two over-wintering **Long-billed Dowitchers** frequented lower Vanderbilt Creek during the period (NH, GV, LE). **Glaucous Gulls** were reported in the Mendenhall Valley on January 23 (PS, NH) and in Auke Bay on January 25 (GV). Four **Eurasian Collared-doves**, which were first observed in Juneau in Spring 2009, continued to stay in the airport area throughout January.

A **Short-eared Owl**, rare in winter, was seen near the Airport Dike Trail and in the golf course area on January 22 (GV, PS, NH). Although not rare in Juneau, a **Barred Owl** on the side of road along the Auke Recreation Area Bypass from December 28 through January 1 provided a rare opportunity to observe this species (GB, GV, MS, MM, PR).



A **Downy Woodpecker** was seen on the Airport Dike Trail on January 22 (GV). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found in the Evergreen Cemetery on January 21 (NH) and on River Road on January 24 (GV). An **American Robin** was seen on the Airport Dike Trail on January 23 (GV). At the Evergreen Cemetery in downtown Juneau, one **American Robin** was seen on January 20 (PR), and 12 were seen on January 22 (GV). **American Pipit** is not often seen in Juneau in the winter, but one was found on the Mendenhall Wetlands near Lemon Creek area on January 26 (NH).

Sparrows spotted during the period included a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** and a reddish **Fox Sparrow** at an Auke Bay residence on January 3 (MS) and a Lincoln's Sparrow near the golf course and Industrial Blvd. throughout January (PR, GV, NH).

Thanks to those who contributed to this report. Contributors include Gwen Baluss (GB), Larry Edfelt (LE), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Mary McCafferty (MM), Mark Schwan (MS), Paul Suchanek (PS), Gus van Vliet (GV), Patty Rose (PR).

Haines Report – Georgia Giacobbe

The Chilkat Valley Christmas Bird Count was conducted on the 20th of December 2009 with the results tabulated several weeks later. This year more people were involved with the count--40 people in the circle centered in Haines and 8 people in the Bald Eagle preserve area. A higher diversity of species was also counted this year, 47. One possible contribution was the good weather the day of the count. At the top of the list were **Barrow's Goldeneyes** at 500 and **Common Goldeneyes** at 259. Other sea birds include 193 **Mallards** and 114 **Buffleheads**. The gulls were the most numerous sea-associated birds but the most difficult to count because of their location off shore. Two hundred **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, 100 **Herring Gulls** and 25 **Mew Gulls** were counted. The groups counted a normal number of **Bald Eagles** and **Trumpeter Swans**. Of note were 2 **Plovers**, 2 **Northern shrikes** and 1 **Robin**. The forest bird count has not been submitted as of this writing.

Haines is home to some nonnative birds that were brought over 15 years ago, domestic pigeons. They went feral and now are concentrated downtown on Second Avenue where a few folks feed them, where more people have noticed them this winter. Of course they fall prey to the Eagles from time to time.

JUNEAU AUDUBON WEB SITE <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org> has recently been updated and is easier to read and has good information. The *Summary of the Fall 2009 Birding Highlights from the Southeast Alaska Region* by Steve Heintz and Andy Piston – found in Regional Birding Information – has really wonderful photos of Southeast birds.

Nick Hajdukovich's Report

It all started with the **Laughing Gull** that Rich MacIntosh found in Kodiak right around the first of January this year. I was in Fairbanks for Christmas Break and I decided to travel to Kodiak to try to see this gull that has only been seen a handful of times in Alaska. While searching for the bird in Kodiak I spent a few days with local birder, Rich MacIntosh and he told me about a competition that he usually participates in. Since January is typically a hard month to find birds in Alaska, it would only make sense to have a competition to see who can find the most species in January! That's exactly what Mr. MacIntosh and several other birders attempt to do every January. I decided to give it a shot since I would be spending time in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Kodiak, and then back in Juneau. This would give me the opportunity to see many species that I would not be able to find if I just stayed in one location.



Kodiak treated me well and I was able to find many species that I would not be able to see anywhere else including: **Emperor Goose, Black Oystercatcher, and Steller's Eider.** We were not able to relocate the Laughing Gull; however, I quickly found out that Kodiak is truly an amazing place to be if you are interested in birds. From Kodiak I was back up to



Fairbanks via Anchorage where I picked up a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. In Fairbanks I was able to find birds like **Common** and **Hoary Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, Black-capped Chickadees, Gray Jays** and a **Great Horned Owl**.

Juneau was my most productive location and I quickly added many species to my list. At first I would find up to 4 or 5 new birds a day but I quickly lost much of my momentum. Some of my highlights for Juneau were as follows: **Eurasian Wigeon** – Seen from the Dike Trail; I walked out to one of the spruce tree islands and I was able to look through the hundreds of waterfowl that were feeding on an incoming tide. **Ring-necked Duck** – Seen from the pullout along Egan Drive that overlooks the Lemon Creek wetlands (South of Sunny Point). **American Pipit** – Seen out on the Lemon Creek wetlands. **Long-billed Dowitcher** – I saw a pair of birds that has been regularly hanging out on the wetlands near the dump, across from the Pioneer Home Marsh. The **American Pipit** was the last new bird species that I was able to find in January and I ended with a grand total of 88 bird species, 68 of them being seen in Juneau. Rich MacIntosh ended up finding 92 bird species in Kodiak alone! A better strategy for next year might be to stay in Kodiak, but this competition was a lot of fun and my January went by in a flash!

NEWS FROM THE AUDUBON NETWORK

John Flicker Stepping Down after 15 Years Service as Audubon President

The transition comes after major advances during the past year, including the spread of an Audubon-championed approach to save imperiled Greater Sage-Grouse while allowing properly located domestic energy development, and the opening of three new Audubon Centers serving urban communities.

During Flicker's tenure, Audubon focused on keeping [common birds common](#), educating the public and decision makers about the important role of birds as indicators of environmental health, and connecting new and diverse audiences to nature and their power to protect it. Flicker envisioned a network of Audubon Centers nationwide to build that connection. Today, 43 [Audubon Centers](#) engage more than a million people each year in nature discovery and conservation action. Urban Centers in places such as Los Angeles, Baltimore, Phoenix and New York City are helping to revitalize abused landscapes and empower local communities. Flicker also led Audubon through dramatic growth in revenue and programs as the organization identified more than 2,400 [Important Bird Areas](#) across America.

As Audubon begins a nationwide search for a new leader, Dr. Frank Gill, well-known current national Board Member and former Audubon Chief Scientist, will be serving as interim President. Frank is the former Vice President of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and past President of the American Ornithologists' Union. He is also the author of the acclaimed textbook *Ornithology 3e*. Frank understands the unique strengths of the Audubon network and will seek to maximize their benefit as we pursue our shared conservation objectives.

John Flicker will take some well deserved time off (birding!) but will return to work with Audubon in a new capacity to advance our vital mission.

Carol Browner on John Flicker's Leadership and Vision <http://tinyurl.com/y9fjgoa>

Expert Birder Kenn Kaufman on John Flicker <http://tinyurl.com/ya2plsa>

Screech Owl from Eaglechat

Posted by: "linda.shaw@noaa.gov" linda.shaw@noaa.gov
Mon Jan 11, 2010 6:46 am (PST)

I heard a screech owl calling, actually I should say screeching, in my yard this morning about 5 AM as I headed out to walk my dogs. It scared me at first, but when the thinking part of my brain kicked in, I pulled up recorded screech owl screeches off the internet and sure enough that is definitely what it was! Pretty cool, I hope it sticks around for awhile, now that I know what it is!

STATE PARK'S PHOTO CONTEST

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation as well as four of our state parks: Chilkat, Kachemak Bay, Chugach and Denali. In honor of this milestone State Parks plans to produce and distribute six color posters illustrating not only the beauty and diversity of Alaska's state parks but the attachment many of us feel to these special places.

They have launched a photo contest, **open to all**, to find the right photographs to use for the 40th anniversary posters. Six photos will be selected and made into 24" x 18" color posters which will be distributed through the state. Entries should be high quality images taken of or within any state park managed area during any season and from any year.

For more details about the contest go to: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/photocontest.htm> or contact Claire Holland LeClair at 269-8696 or claire.leclair@alaska.gov



Pine Siskin

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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
A51 7XCH

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*.

*****Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To choose this option, write your email address here _____.**

