

# 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 37, Number 4

Juneau Audubon Society

December 2010

Free Public lecture  
Thursday, December 9, 2010, at 7pm  
UAS Egan Room 221



## Bats of Southeast Alaska

Karen Blejwas of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will discuss her acoustic monitoring research on bats. Find out how fascinating these animals are, how little we know about them, and what Karen is learning from her investigations.

## Tracks and Signs

**December 4<sup>th</sup> at Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge -- Meet at 10am the parking lot at the end of Radcliff Rd.**

**Experience in the field and educating yourself with field guides can change your relationship with wildlife. Research and life experience will enhance your awareness. Reading the behavior of an animal through its tracks is as exciting and interesting as actually seeing the animal.**



**Come join Juneau Audubon Society and Naturalist Kevin O'Malley for a walk on the wetlands. Dress for the weather. Kids must be accompanied by adults.**

## The 2010 Juneau Christmas Bird Count

Hey Juneau birders, the **Juneau Christmas Bird Count** will be held this year on **Saturday, December 18**, the first Saturday during the designated count period, of December 14 through January 5<sup>th</sup>. As usual, volunteers should meet at either of the two McDonald's Restaurants at 8am on count day, with appropriate attire and binoculars. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown restaurant; birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the valley restaurant. As usual, there will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam to share in the events of the day and to conduct the tally of birds and species seen. Let's have a great turnout and a terrific count! For more information on this year's Count, you can call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841.



**Spotted Towee**      Nick Hajdukovich

### Known Christmas Bird Counts planned in Southeast Alaska

Chilkat	December 18	Dan Egolf* Tim Shields	766-2876 766-2354
Craig-Klawock (1)	No Info; TBA ?	Larry Dickerson	No number
Haines	December 18	Dan Egolf Tim Shields	766-2876 766-2354
Glacier Bay	December 18	Nat Drumheller	697-2166
Juneau	December 18	Mark Schwan Gus van Vliet	789-9841 789-5624
Ketchikan	December 18	Andrew Piston	225-9677
Mitkof Island	December 18	Bill Pawuk	772-3985
Sitka	January 2	Victoria Vosburg	747-7821
Skagway	December 18 **	Elaine Furbish Dawn Adams	983-2049 983-3302
Tenakee Springs	December 27	Beret Barnes	736-2226
Thorne Bay (1)	No Info TBA ?	Brandy Prefontaine	No number
Wrangell	December 18	Bonnie Demerjian	874-3665

\* Forms and information available at the Back Country Ski Shop

\*\* Website for more information: [sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub](http://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub)

- (1) There was a Christmas Bird Count in this community last year with the compiler listed as above, but we have no information whether there will be a count there this year, nor a contact number for the listed compiler.

## Juneau November 2010 Birding Notes By Mark Schwan



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Mark Schwan

A male **Redhead** was on Pioneer Marsh on 11/6 (PR). A well documented **Wandering Tattler** at Outer Point on 11/19 was totally unexpected and perhaps the latest record for anywhere in the state (PS). Single juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** were seen at Phalarope Slough on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 11/7 (PS, BA, AP) and on 11/13 at Eagle Beach (MS). These sightings perhaps represent the latest local records for this species. A **Ring-billed Gull** was spotted in the lower Mendenhall River on 11/7 (PS, BA, AP).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen regularly throughout the month along the lower Mendenhall River and the Back Loop Road (many obs.) Up to 8

birds were seen at a Muir Street residence early in the month (JJ) and 10 birds were seen near the mouth of Lake Creek on 11/27 (BB). A **Northern Hawk Owl** graced the treetops and meadow of Brotherhood Park on 11/18 (NH, many obs.) and, to the delight of local birders, continued to be present in the area through 11/27 (GV). An **Anna's Hummingbird** made repeated visits to a Douglas Island feeder during the afternoon of 11/6 (PR), and then two Anna's Hummingbirds appeared together at this same feeder on 11/20 (PR). One bird continued to visit in subsequent days.

Male **Wilson's Warblers** along the airport dike on 11/9 (GV) and near Lena Point on 11/16 (NH) were rather late, but there are a few local records going into early December. The best bird of the month was certainly the **Spotted Towhee** that began showing at a Paul Suchanek's Douglas Island residence on 11/8. This represents at least the seventh record for Juneau. This is even more fascinating when you consider there are no records for the Ketchikan area. This bird was still present as of 11/28.

A **Swamp Sparrow** was caught lurking near Phalarope Slough on the wetlands on 11/7 (GV, MM). Two sightings of a brightly striped **White-throated Sparrow** occurred near the gazebo on the airport dike trail on 11/10 (PS) and 11/15 (MS). This could have been the same bird lingering in the area. Then, Gus van Vliet found another individual along the Back Loop Road near Lake Creek, on 11/21. Finally, Patty Rose located yet another along the dike trail on 11/27. As mentioned before, perhaps this was the same individual bird seen the previous two times this month in the same area. Regardless, this was quite the month, and fall for this species in Juneau.



Northern Hawk Owl

Contributors: Bev Agler, BA; Beth Bellflower, BB; Nick Hajdukovich, NH; Jeanne Josephson, JJ; Molly McCafferty, MM; Andy Piston, AP; Patty Rose, PR; Mark Schwan, MS; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV. Compiled by Mark Schwan

## Returning hybrid ducks

Posted by: "Paul Suchanek" in Eaglechat  
Sun Nov 21, 2010 5:38 pm (PST)

A hybrid male Common X Barrow's Goldeneye was hanging out with a flock of Common Goldeneyes today near Picnic Cove (False Outer Point), Douglas Island. It is presumably the same bird returning for at least its 5th winter in that location.

Today, Patty Rose also relocated HOGO, the hybrid Hooded Merganser X Goldeneye which wintered near the Douglas Boat Harbor last year (and was relocated there). HOGO has changed quite a bit since last year but I'm pretty sure it is the same bird, now an adult plumaged male. I suspect the bird is a hybrid with Barrow's Goldeneye as some photos of similar hybrids on the web have a lot more white on their sides. Attached are links to a couple of photos of the bird taken today, a link to a HOGO photo from last year, and a link to a very similar bird from California

## JUNEAU PUBLIC MARKET BOOTH A BIG SUCCESS



Jeff Sauer and Nancy Waterman "Jamin" in Mary Lou King's kitchen. Record number of Jelly's made this year.

**Thank you to all those who helped in our fund raising effort in this year's booth.**

Brenda Wright needs a huge thank you for not only helping make jelly, but produced many more items for the booth. She also helped set up the many items and then take it down and store all the items needed for next year.



## **Eagle Feather Collectors**

If you have been collecting eagle feathers under the Juneau Audubon Society USFWS permit, please bring them to the public meeting or call Brenda at 321-4739 so that they can be sent into the National Eagle Repository in Colorado. Our old permit expired in March, so you can get a copy of the new permit by calling Brenda or sending an e-mail to [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org) Thanks for your help.

## **Protect Wildlife Habitat in Your Community!**

*Submit Nominations for LWCF priorities  
by January 14, 2011*

Your Audubon Public Policy Division is currently seeking nominations for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) priorities for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12). Land acquisition funding for federal lands is a critical component of preserving valuable bird and wildlife areas and protecting threatened and fragile ecosystems – so do not miss this opportunity to highlight a critical habitat area for birds and wildlife in your community!

[Learn more at http://chapterservices.audubon.org/news-announcements](http://chapterservices.audubon.org/news-announcements)

## **Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

President:	Mark Schwan,	<a href="mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org">president@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Vice-President:	Jeff Sauer,	<a href="mailto:vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org">vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org</a>
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Programs:		<a href="mailto:programs@juneau-audubon-society.org">programs@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Membership:	Brenda Wright, 789-4656,	<a href="mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org">membership@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Education:	Kevin O'Malley,	<a href="mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org">education@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
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Field Trips:	Gwen Baluss,	<a href="mailto:field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org">field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Raven Editor:	Mary Lou King, 789-7540,	<a href="mailto:raven@juneau-audubon-society.org">raven@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large:	Mark Anderson,	<a href="mailto:at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
At-large:	Merrill Jensen,	<a href="mailto:at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org">at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Public Market:		<a href="mailto:public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org">public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>
Web Master:	George Utermohle,	<a href="mailto:webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org">webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org</a>

## 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

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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*.

\*\*\*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

\_\_\_\_\_.

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