

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 2011

OCTOBER MEETING: ELECTIONS AND GROUP SLIDE SHOW,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, at UAS Egan Building, Room 220, 7:00 p.m.

The October meeting will be a combined short business meeting, election of officers, and group slide show- social event. All are welcome and encouraged to bring images to share with the group. You need not be a member of Audubon to attend; anyone can participate in the slide show, however, only members may vote in the election. Please note the meeting room; this is not the room we normally have our monthly meetings.

Election! Juneau Audubon Society will hold its annual election for the four officer positions. Our officers serve a term of one year; so all officers need to be elected each year. As stated in last month's newsletter, we currently do not have any candidates willing to run this year for either president or vice president. We have our incumbent treasurer, Patty Rose, and incumbent secretary, Julie Koehler, willing to run again for their positions. We are still hoping to find individuals for the presidency and vice presidency. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting prior to the election.

Program: Once we have completed the short business meeting and election of officers we will do our group slide show. This is always lots of fun. We ask people to bring about 10 to 15 images to share with the group. These can center on something special you did during this past summer, or something you did many years ago, or whatever you might think the audience would find interesting or fun. There is no theme, just bring some images to share with the group. We will have a traditional slide projector, just in case someone actually brings real slides, but will also have a laptop computer and LCD projector. People with digital images should bring them on a CD or small media storage device that can be connected to our laptop via a USB port. We plan to have refreshments. Thanks and hope to see you there.

Thank you from Mark Schwan, the Juneau Audubon President

This is my last newsletter as president of the chapter, so I'll take this opportunity to sincerely thank the other board members for their hard work and dedication to Juneau Audubon. There are people on the board that have been committed to the chapter for many years, and they deserve a huge thank you from all our members. I have thoroughly enjoyed these past three years and leave the office with some trepidation given we have no candidates for the office, but as Mary Lou King says, "we always make do somehow."

I plan to stay on the board and assume the field trips chair, which has come open due to Gwen Baluss' move into the conservation chair. Jeff Sauer, one of our past presidents on the board and our current vice president, will assume the programs chair, so thank you Jeff. The vice president position is one that we consider a "training position" for the presidency, but Jeff moved over to that office three years ago after his presidency, given we had no "trainees" at the time. We are still in that situation. Long-time board members Mary Lou King and Brenda Wright will continue on the board as newsletter editor and membership chair respectively. Kevin O'Malley will stay on doing educational activities and Merrill Jensen has stated he will continue as an at-large board member, so that is all excellent.

But the board needs help all the time, so please consider joining the Audubon Board or just giving some assistance to board members in your area of interest. This would be very helpful, and can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. It does not take much time, we make new friends, and we can do our part in helping to keep our environment a good place for our birds, other wildlife and for us.

With help, the board can continue to successfully complete the tasks and functions the board must do to maintain a viable chapter. So it is with this in mind, I thank those non-board members who have volunteered their time over the past year to lead bird walks and Saturday Wild events, present programs, and help with the Public Market. Thank you all.

Mark Schwan

See you "down the road."



Eagle Feather Collection Permits

Juneau Audubon Society has a US Fish & Wildlife permit to actively collect eagle feathers. We send all the collected feathers to the US Government's Eagle Repository in Colorado. The feathers are distributed to native Americans, educational and scientific requests, and requests from the general public.

If you would like to participate, you will need an official copy of the Juneau Audubon Collection permit. Please e-mail membership@juneau-audubon-society.org to request a copy of the permit. If you already have a permit, please turn in your feathers by sending an e-mail or call 321-4739.

Thank You!
Brenda Wright

Juneau Audubon Booth at the Public Market- November 25-27

We are going to need volunteers at the Public Market to help sell our wonderful jellies and jams again this year. There will be a sign up sheet at the October public meeting or you may e-mail public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org to volunteer your time.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for other items to be sold at the market, please send an e-mail. Let Mary Lou 789-7540 know if you have saved your half pint canning jars to be refilled with the jelly for the booth.

Thanks

Juneau Bird Report for September by Patty Rose

During September, Juneau had a bit less rain and more clear days than during August, new snow dusted the mountaintops, and a nice stream of migrating birds passed through the area.

The southbound raptor migration produced some interesting observations. A **Swainson's Hawk** soared in circles high above the wetlands on September 1 (PR). **Golden Eagles** were seen from the trails above the tram, including a juvenile on September 10 (MS) and an adult and a juvenile on September 11 (PR, BA, MS). An **Osprey** was seen at that location on September 10 (MS), one was seen at the Airport Dike Trail on September 25 (GV), and one was seen near Auke Bay on September 24 (GV). **Peregrine Falcon** observations included two from the trails above the tram on September 10 (MS) and 11 (MS, PR, BA), one on the West Juneau waterfront on September 17 (PR), one on the Mendenhall Wetlands near Fred Meyer on September 20 (DR), and one at Sunny Point on September 27 (GV).

Mark Schwan reported three species of doves in his Auke Bay neighborhood--Mourning Dove, Eurasian-Collared Dove, and Band-Tailed Pigeon. A single **Mourning Dove** first appeared on

September 13 and was seen a few times after that. On September 24, while watching for the Mourning Dove, a **Band-Tailed Pigeon**, conspicuous with its bright yellow bill and legs, landed briefly in a mountain ash tree. This species has been reported only a few times previously in Juneau.

Paul Suchanek identified a juvenile **Pied-Billed Grebe** at Fish Creek on the pond near the parking lot on September 5. It stayed through September 8 and was seen by many observers (PS, PR, GV, MS). On September 23, Gus van Vliet saw a flock of 150 **Sandhill Cranes** at Sunny Point, and Brenda Wright saw a flock, perhaps the same one, at Tee Harbor (BW). The first **American Coot** reported in Juneau this year was at Twin Lakes on September 29 (GV).

Notable shorebirds for September included single **American Golden-Plovers** at the Airport Dike Trail on September 5 (GV) and at Eagle Beach on the scout camp side on September 25 (MS), a **Solitary Sandpiper** in the Moose Lake area on September 1 (PS) and two along the Airport Dike Trail on September 5 and 9 (GV, PR, MS), and a lingering **Stilt Sandpiper** on the Airport Dike Trail on September 5 (MS, PR).

Northern Flickers showed up in September at Auke Bay on September 4 and 13 (GV), at



Lemon Creek on September 5 (PS), at Outer Point on September 8 (PS), at the North Douglas Powerline Trail on September 10 (MS), and at Eagle Beach on September 22 (MS).

Unusual songbird sightings included a **Black-Capped Chickadee** at Sandy Beach on September 17 and again on September 25 (PR) and a pair of **Townsend's Solitaires** near Gastineau Peak on September 11 (MS, PR, BA). A **Common Redpoll** was seen at Point Bridget State Park on September 7 (PS).

Thanks to those who contributed to this report. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Patty Rose (PR), Deb Rudis (DR), Mark Schwan (MS), Paul Suchanek (PS), Gus van Vliet (GV), and Brenda Wright (BW).

WRANGELL BIRD REPORT By Bonnie Demerjian

The mournful trills of **Sandhill Cranes** have filled the day and night skies over Wrangell this past week, a sign, if one was necessary, that autumn is here. The birds have been stopping over on the Stikine River flats, where they are sought by hunters and birders alike. Fall warblers – **Yellow, Orange-crowned** and **Wilson's** – are still moving through. Considerable numbers of juvenile **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** are still feeding around town. A few **Trumpeter Swans** have also been reported.

A Red-tailed hawk has been spotted by several observers the last weekend of September. The Stikine River's lower islands provide excellent habitat for **Short-eared** and **Great-horned Owls**. One observer followed a Great-horned owl's nesting success over the course of the summer. Whether they were pushed or jumped, late in the season two owlets fell from their nest and were seen walking about. One died later but the other survived and was later observed once again in the treetops.

Last month's Raven report from Wrangell included mention of the huge flock of **Cliff, Bank and Barn Swallows** that Bill Neumann observed on the lower Stikine. His photos only hint at the 360-degree mass of 2000-4000 birds that appeared each evening for a week before disappearing entirely August 27.



Mixed swallows at rest, from left: **Adult Barn Swallow**, two juvenile **Bank Swallows** and juvenile **Cliff Swallow(????)**. Photo by Bill Neumann

Two unusual late season birds were a female **Evening Grosbeak** that appeared at a local feeder for several days. Middle school birder Kaylauna Churchill observed the bird in her grandmother's yard for several days and photographed it on September 24.. Kaylauna submits regular observations to Alaska eBird.



Another rare sighting was of a **Western Kingbird** seen and photographed by Bill Niendorff at Petroglyph Beach on September 17.

WHITE HUMMINGBIRD By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

A White Hummingbird has been a frequent visitor at a hummingbird feeder in our area. A local family had the rare experience of having a white ruby-throated hummingbird appear with the other hummingbirds.



Bird watchers from several states have reported occasionally seeing white hummingbirds at various feeders.

Albinos are more rare than white leucistic ones, but the white ones are still quite rare. Leucistic means lack of pigments.

A full albino has no pigment and has all white feathers and its eyes, beak, and legs are pink or reddish. The partial albino or leucistic white hummingbird shows black eyes, feet, and bills. Their white feathers are mixed with other shades of tan, gray, or brown.

Through the years, some bird experts have caught and banded the white hummingbirds hoping to track their movements and migration. Little information is available to note if they have returned to the same area the following year. Their white feathers may be harder for them to escape predators. They don't seem to survive long.

MYSTERY TRACKS

Hey folks-- try and pick out all the different tracks and identify what animal made them?

Oh ! Which ones came first?

E-mail your answers to the monthly Mystery Question to Kevin at education@juneau-audubon-society.org.



WEB OPPORTUNITIES

***New Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – www.naturebob.com

SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: steve.heinl@alaska.gov

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab> < <http://www.aba.org/nab> > . The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird (www.ebird.org < <http://www.ebird.org/> >)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The US Forest Service has just begun the process of updating the plan for the **Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area**, a favorite Juneau location for birdwatching and wildlife viewing. Do you have conservation concerns? Contact Juneau Ranger District at 586-8800 or see for more information on how the public can comment.

http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/MGRA/MGRA_CommentSheet_ForElectronicResponses_Sept12-2011.pdf

Scoping has begun for a potential hydroelectric plant (by the company Juneau Hydropower) located above **Sweetheart Creek south of Juneau**. This is a favorite area for Sockeye salmon fishing, and near Port Snettisham, a globally recognized Important Bird Area for its numbers of Marbled Murrelets, loons, and other sea birds. For more information see <http://184.154.226.3/~juneauhy/JHI%20sweetheart%20scoping%20document%20final%2008-8-11.pdf>

Alternatives for SE Transportation System

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Southeast Region Planning, has developed a Scoping Report as part of the process for the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP) update. This Scoping Report can be found on the Alaska DOT&PF Website at the following address:

<http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/satp/index.shtml>

The purpose of this document is to present a set of alternatives for the transportation system in Southeast Alaska that the department is considering. The public is invited to review and provide comments, suggestions, and ideas. Deadline for comments is November 4, 2011. **Marie Heidemann** Non-Motorized Planner Alaska DOT&PF - Southeast Region, P.O. Box 112506, Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506 Phone: (907)-465-1775, Email: marie.heidemann@alaska.gov

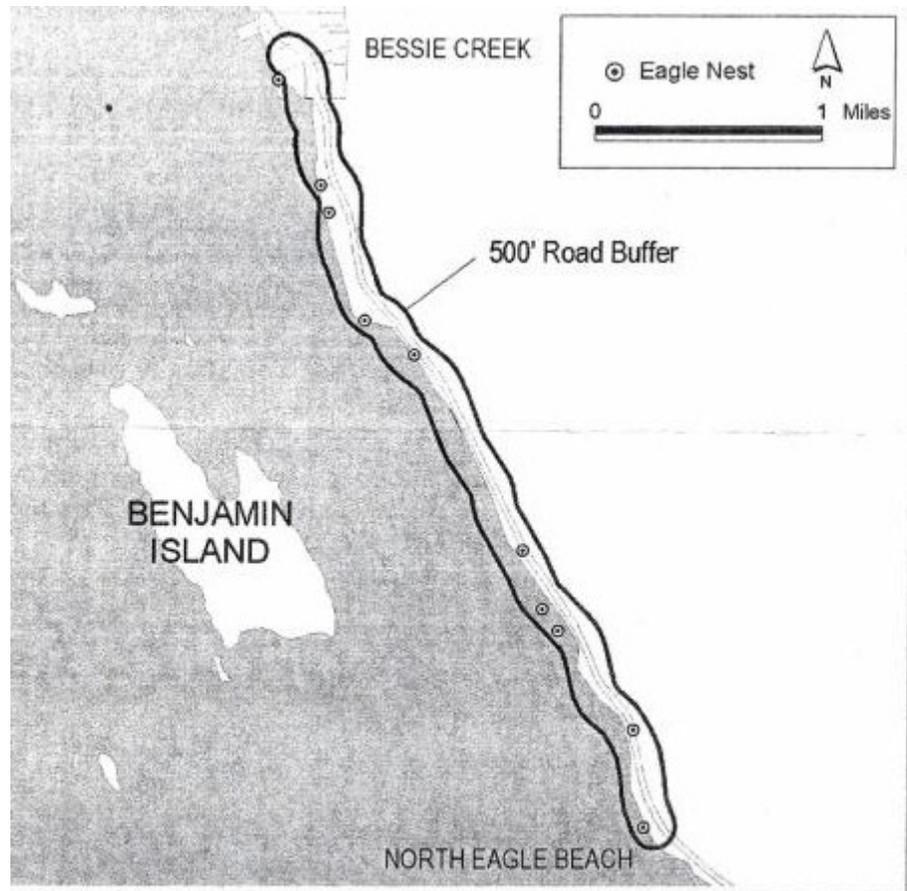
PUBLIC NOTICE* POA-2010-774, Trucano, Lemon Creek, Juneau

Purpose: Obtain sand and gravel from Lemon Creek for commercial Sale
Please contact me for any further information

Heidi Firstencel, US Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District, Regulatory Division
Juneau Field Office Supervisor
8800 Glacier Highway, Suite 106
Juneau, AK 99801
907-790-4492

http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PN_Scanned/2011%20September/POA-2010-774.pdf

Juneau – The Alaska Department of Transportation’s Plan to widen Glacier Highway from Eagle Beach to Bessie Creek. A hearing was held by the Planning Commission last week, however, if you have questions about how the eagle nests are to be protected, contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 780-1160



A Variance to widen and straighten the roadway between North Eagle Beach Kayak Launch and Bessie Creek within 330 feet of 11 eagle nests, including potential damage to 7 nests by fly rock from blasting.

Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

President: Mark Schwan,
 Vice-President: Jeff Sauer,
 Secretary: Julie Koehler,
 Treasurer: Patty Rose,
 Programs:
 Membership: Brenda Wright, 789-4656,
 Education: Kevin O'Malley,
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 Field Trips: ,
 Raven Editor: Mary Lou King, 789-7540,
 At-large: Mark Anderson,
 At-large: Merrill Jensen,
 Public Market:
 Web Master: George Utermohle,

president@juneau-audubon-society.org
vice-president@juneau-audubon-ociety.org
secretary@juneau-audubon-society.org
treasurer@juneau-audubon-society.org
programs@juneau-audubon-society.org
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raven@juneau-audubon-society.org
at-large_a@juneau-audubon-society.org
at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org
public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org
webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org

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 newsletter *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 request this option email: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org

