

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 2012

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012 at the UAS Egan Bldg Room 112

An exciting program is being planned. Flip Nicklin: Recent Work, or What I Did This Summer, featuring whales and eagles. Flip Nicklin is a photographer who has worked for National Geographic Magazine in a career spanning more than 30 years and 20 feature stories. He has several books to his name including *With the Whales* and *Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises*, published by National Geographic Society, *Whales and Dolphins in Question* published by Smithsonian and *Humpbacks, Unveiling the Mysteries*, by Dr. Jim Darling. His new book is *Among Giants, A Life With Whales* published by University of Chicago Press.

Flip was named North American Nature Photography Association's Outstanding Wildlife Photographer of the Year for 2012. He makes his home in Juneau, Alaska, where he is working on new directions in "backyard photography".

Our annual election of officers will also be held during the October meeting. Running for President will be Brenda Wright, for Treasure Patty Rose, for Secretary Bev Agler. There will be no recruitment of people from the audience, however, we welcome all nominations from the floor for people with an interest in Audubon as new board and committee members. People are needed to fill the Vice President, Membership and Programs positions.

Juneau Audubon Joins Facebook By Brenda Wright

Please check out our new Facebook page. If you want to see the new page, just search for Juneau Audubon Society. You need a Facebook account to log on. I'd appreciate any suggestions for improvements and 'friend' or 'likes'. National Audubon suggested that one way to interest young people to become members is to use the media they use most. I am not up to tweeting-except to an occasional bird, but if anyone wants to begin and maintain a tweet for Juneau Audubon, please let us know. Our address on Facebook is:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Juneau-Audubon-Society/138280412980789>

Public Market in November

If you have any spare 1-cup (half pint) glass canning jars, please bring them to the October meeting. It's time to be making jelly and jam for the Public Market in Juneau. Any suggestions for other items to sell or donations for the booth are also gratefully accepted.

Audubon Members Outside of Juneau

Juneau Audubon has received a DVD from National Audubon entitled: "Birders: The Central Park Effect". This is a HBO documentary film and is approximately 60 minutes. If any member would like to borrow it to show to your fellow members and friends in your own hometown, please contact Brenda membership@juneau-audubon-society.org We will be happy to send it to you in the mail.

President's Message By Julie Coghill

At our October general meeting, a new president will take over for Juneau Audubon. Last year I agreed to join the board for a year because of a shortage of board members. Now we have some new people joining and I'd like to thank them for stepping forward.

A highlight of my brief tenure has been the opportunity to meet many of you, and I hope I continue to run into you around Juneau, especially out on the trails.

This summer, with our regular bird walks and the re-introduction of Saturday Wild, Juneau Audubon has experienced a goodly increase in the numbers of people participating in these events. A big thank you to everyone who led those, and a special note of appreciation to Mark Schwan for coordinating them.

Additionally, I'd like to thank all of the long-term, highly committed board members whose contributions continue to make Juneau Audubon Society thrive from year to year.

Patricia Wherry for Committee Chair for Education

I would like the opportunity to play with Education. This spring I met a great lady from Turkey who remarked on the difference in age makeup between the JN Audubon and Audubon in Turkey. I'm rather keen on helping to whet the interests of new and newer folks interested in birding, old and young.

Juneau Bird Report for September by Patty Rose

In September, after the last Rufous Hummingbird has headed south, another species of hummingbird, the **Anna's Hummingbird**, sometimes visits Juneau. This year, Anna's Hummingbirds have made an especially good showing, with four birds in two separate areas of town. An immature male has been at an Auke Bay feeder since August 31 and was joined by an adult female on September 28 (GV). Two other Anna's Hummingbirds have been at a North Douglas feeder throughout September (SS). Following are other September bird observations that are listed as "Rare" or rarer on the Juneau Checklist.



Anna's Hummingbird by Sandi Shaw

An early flock of thirty-seven **Tundra Swans** flew over Brotherhood Park on September 9 (BA, PR). Deanna MacPhail reported a **Pied-Billed Grebe** on Moose lake on September 17. The next day, Mark Schwan observed two, one adult and one juvenile, at the same location. The Pied-Billed Grebes stayed in the area until at least September 25 and were seen by many observers (DM, MS, RA, GV, AC, BP).



Pied-Billed Grebe By Bob Armstrong

Raptors observed on the South migration included a **Golden Eagle** from the tramway trails on August 26 (PS, BA, PR) and another Golden Eagle at that location 9/18/12 (MS). Two Ospreys were observed, one **Osprey** hunting over Twin Lakes on September 17

(GV), and one on the Mendenhall Wetlands on September 29 (PR). Curiously, Falcons have been moved to after Woodpeckers on the Taxonomic list, so will be reported in that order.

In late August, a couple of rare shorebirds visited the Mendenhall Wetlands. A single **Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper** on August 30 (PR) and August 31 (PS, MS) and a **Buff-Breasted Sandpiper** on August 31 (PS, MS). The only rare gull sightings during the month were of **Ring-Billed Gulls**, including an adult on August 31 over Lower Lemon Creek (GV) and a second cycle bird on September 19 on Auke Bay (GV).

Also in the Auke Bay area, one and sometimes two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** visited an Auke Bay feeder throughout the month (GV). A **Common Nighthawk** appeared regularly at dawn and dusk in the same area September 3 – 9. Three reports of **Barred Owls** came in during September, one on the Nugget Creek Trail on September 23 (GB), one at 18 Mile on September 25 (BW), and one at Auke Rec on September 28 (GV).

Notable woodpeckers seen in September included a **Downy Woodpecker** on September 21 at an Auke Bay residence (GV) and **Northern Flickers** at Point Bridget State Park on September 12 (GB), Eagle Beach State Park on September 10, and Rotary Park on Riverside Avenue on September 22 (PR, BA) and 29 (PR).

Peregrine Falcons were seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the mouth of the river on September 1 (PR), September 8 (PR, BA), and September 22 (DS). They were also seen from the Airport Dike Trail on September 15 (GV), September 16 (PR, BA), and September 16 (MS), and from Sunny Point on September 17 (MS). Some of these observations could be of the same bird. A Peregrine Falcon was seen on North Douglas on September 13 (BF). Finally one was seen near Auke Bay September 15 and 24 (GV).



*Barred Owl on Nugget Cr. Trail
By Gwen Baluss*

Although they were scarce earlier in the year, a few **Red-Breasted Nuthatches** showed up in early September in Auke Bay on August 30 (MS) and September 16 and 24 (GV), Wren Drive on September 10 and 21 (GB), West Juneau on September 17 (PR), and above the tram on September 18 (MS). Small groups of **Cedar Waxwings** passed through the area in September, including three in the Mendenhall valley on September 19 (GV) and four near Auke Bay on September 15 (GV).

Gwen Baluss found two **MacGillivray's Warblers** near the Juneau International Airport on September 11. Late lingering common warblers included two **Townsend's Warblers** in West Juneau on September 29 and 30 (PR), **Orange-Crowned Warblers** in West Juneau on September 29 (PR) and on the Airport Dike Trail on September 30 (PR), and a **Yellow Warbler** on the Airport Dike Trail on September 29 (GV). The only rare sparrow was a **Chipping Sparrow** seen with a flock of Dark-Eyed Juncos on Wren Drive on September 21 (GB).

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Robert Armstrong (RA), Gwen Baluss (GW), Amy Courtney (AC), Brad Fluetsch (BF), Deanna MacPhail (DM), Bruce Paige (BP), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Sandi Shaw (SS), David Smerge (DS), Paul Suchanek (PS), Gus Van Vliet (GV), and Brenda Wright (BW).

A Bird In The Hand By Prill (Isleib) Mollick Smoky Mountains, N.C.

One evening in mid July I was on the deck reading the paper. The cat was on the deck railing. It looked like it was sleeping. Suddenly there was a flash of gray feathers as a bird flew against the window, fell to the deck floor, and quickly started to fly up again.

Just as the bird started to fly up the cat had snatched it and held it in her mouth. In that instant the bird had been caught. I immediately grabbed the cat and made her let the bird go. When she dropped it on the deck floor, I picked it up.

It was a beautiful Carolina Chickadee, so small, and so light weight. The chickadee didn't look injured. It laid on its side as I carefully held it in my open hands, out in the open in clear view of the trees. The cat wanted it back but now it was mine. The chickadee's little heart was beating wildly. Its beak and eyes were wide open. It didn't move. The cat gave up and left.

After several minutes the chickadee relaxed and righted itself. Then it started to breathe normally. A few minutes later it sat up in my open hands and just looked out at the trees. For quite a while it sat quietly in my hands and started to observe other birds flying around. After about 20 minutes it flew off toward the trees. Every time I see a chickadee I wonder if that might be the one I had in my hands.

September 18, 2012

Audubon Science Office | 545 Almshouse Road | Ivyland, PA 18974 | (215) 355-9588 ext.10
www.christmasbirdcount.org | cbcadmin@audubon.org

Greetings Chapter Leaders,

The CBC is now FREE!

Important and Exciting news for the Christmas Bird Count program

After nearly two years of internal discussions, budget modeling, head-scratching, and intense decision-making, two major changes will come to the Christmas Bird Count program effective with the upcoming 113th Count in December, 2012.

First, the CBC is now a free program. Audubon will no longer charge the \$5.00 fee of field participants.

Second, to minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, American Birds will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants, and Audubon will move to an online delivery of the summary results of the CBC.

To help Audubon make these important decisions regarding the Christmas Bird Count program, we invited people involved with the count to participate in an online survey earlier this year. The results of the online survey last spring were very enlightening, and are summarized in the upcoming 112th CBC summary issue of American Birds—the last one to appear in print. The 130 pages of written comments were the most telling aspects of the survey feedback. Some people understand the fee and don't mind paying it, but the main thrust of written comments was that the fee is a major obstacle to the program, and the strong message was that more people would be involved, more counts would be included in the CBC database, and more accurate effort data would be collected if the fee was dropped.

Also highly informative were peoples' comments regarding American Birds. While a few folks commented that they enjoyed the information it contains and enjoy

reading at least parts of it each year, the primary sentiment expressed was that recipients do not value American Birds in its current format, that they do not read most of it. Many survey respondents felt that an interactive, online version of the magazine would better suit their needs—especially if the participation fee was dropped.

In order to continue to fund the Christmas Bird Count program in the long term, Audubon will be moving to a voluntary donation model for the CBC.

With the online delivery of American Birds via a new interactive web presence including photos, summaries, and features, content can now be presented online as they are completed. Most critically, a new Citizen Science gateway will enable Audubon to be in touch directly with those participants who elect to take part and directly service the needs of participants as well as compilers.

While the integrity of the CBC is crucial to maintain for its bird trend data, it has become equally important for the ability to engage people in other citizen science projects. Toward that end Audubon will be expanding its Citizen Science projects, and the CBC will, of course, be a cornerstone program.

The Audubon Science team looks forward to working with chapters to increase participation both by including more participants on existing Christmas Bird Counts and by creating new counts in areas where coverage is lacking. We also look forward to further engaging CBC participants and other chapter members in the other seasonal citizen science programs that will be available in the future.

We thank you for your work in making the CBC the continued success that it is.

Thanks very much, and have a wonderful ...**FREE** ... Christmas Bird Count season.

Good birding!

Geoff LeBaron
Director, Christmas Bird Count
National Audubon Society

Gary Langham
Vice-President & Chief Scientist
National Audubon Society

Contact chapterleaders@audubon.org if you wish to unsubscribe from the Chapter leader email list.

WEB OPPORTUNITIES

*** 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/> >)

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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 C2ZA510Z A51

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

