

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

December 2012

DECEMBER MEETING: GROUP SLIDE SHOW, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, at UAS Egan Building, Room 220, 7:00 p.m.

Given the Christmas Bird Count will be just two days away, we will briefly go over a few count details. Then we will move on to our group slide show. This is always lots of fun. We ask people to bring about 10 to 20 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 laptop computer and LCD projector. People should bring their digital images on a CD or small media storage device that can be connected to our laptop via a USB port. If someone wants to bring traditional slides, please let Doug Jones or Mark Schwan know ahead of time so we can arrange to bring a slide projector.



Long-Eared Owl Bob Armstrong

The 2012 Juneau Christmas Bird Count

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on **Saturday, December 15**, the first Saturday during the designated count period, of December 14 through January 5th. This marks 113th year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Here in Juneau, this will be our 40th count.

The big news of course is that the Christmas Bird Count is now free! Apparently this has been under review for several years but a recent survey of participants resulted in the decision. The fees have been viewed as a deterrent to participation and also a complicating factor with regards to assessing participant effort on the counts. The Society will compensate with this loss in revenue by going paperless with the American Birds issue of the Christmas Bird Count.

Here in Juneau our count week will begin on December 12, and go through December 18th. On the 15th, we will have our usual two meeting places to stage on the morning of the count. Volunteers should arrive at 8a.m. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north

Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown Foodland IGA grocery coffee bar. Birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the McDonald's restaurant across from the Nugget Mall. Again, please arrive at 8a.m. and be prepared for the weather and bring your binoculars. We will have our area leaders arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate birders to the different groups at our staging location on count day.

There will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam. Debi will be away visiting her family in Victoria, so it will be up to Mark to pull it off all by his lonesome. It might be smart for some folks to keep an eye out that nothing gets torched in the oven during reheating . . . But, in any case, this is always a nice event, as we share in the activities of the day, eat some good food, and conduct the tally of birds and species seen. For those needing directions to Mark's house, we will provide a handout on count day. Let's have a great turnout and a terrific count! For more information or if you have questions, call Mark Schwan, at 789-9841.

Christmas Bird Counts planned in Southeast Alaska

December 14, 2012 – January 5, 2013

Count name	Date	Contact person(s)	Phone number
Chilkat	No update available	Dan Egolf (last year) Tim Shields	766-2876 766-2354
Craig-Klawock	No update available	Victoria Houser (last year)	826-1614
Haines	No update available	Dan Egolf (last year) Tim Shields	766-2876 766-2354
Glacier Bay	December 15	Nat Drumheller	697-2166
Juneau	December 15	Mark Schwan	789-9841
Ketchikan	December 15	Andrew Piston	225-9677
Mitkof Island	No update available	Bill Pawuk (last year)	772-3985
Sitka	December 30	Victoria Vosburg	747-7821
Skagway	December 15 *	Elaine Furbish	983-2049
Tenakee Springs	December 21	Beret Barnes	736-2226
Wrangell	December 29	Bonnie Demerjan	874-3665

* Website for more information: sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub.

We were unable to obtain current information for four communities where counts were held last year. There will likely be counts but we have no information other than the contacts from last year.

Wrangell Christmas Bird Count By Bonnie Demerjan Ph. 874-3665

Wrangell's Christmas Bird Count this year will take place on December 29. We hope this post-Christmas date will enable more observers to participate. We also hope the weather will cooperate so that we can cover as much of our water territory as possible. Some years boats must hug the shoreline of Wrangell Island but in good years, they can venture across Zimovia Strait and the Eastern Passage to cover Woronkofski and Etolin Islands as well as a portion of the mainland.

Sitka Christmas Bird Count Jennifer Cedarleaf

This year the count will be held on Sunday December 30th. We are going to try something a little different this year and have the planning meeting the day before the count on Saturday December 29 at 4 pm at the Raptor Center.

As in past years we will have an after-birding gathering at the Raptor Center at 4 pm on count day. Coffee, tea, and hot cocoa will be available. You can bring your tally sheets and turn them in at this time and find out what others saw during the count.

Juneau Bird Report for November by Patty Rose

Several interesting birds showed up in Juneau during November. The rarest bird of the month was a single **American Crow** at Auke Bay on November 18. This observation is the only Juneau record of American Crow in eBird, although the species has been found in Juneau at least once before. Following are other November observations that are listed as "Rare" or rarer on the Juneau Checklist.

The only rare ducks reported during the month were two **Eurasian Wigeons** on the Fish Creek side of the Mendenhall Wetlands on November 17 (NH, BB).

Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** visited an Auke Bay feeder on November 24 and 28 (MS). A **Long-Eared Owl** was seen and photographed along the Airport Dike Trail on November 12 (PR, BA, GV, RA, AC). The bird frequented that area for several days. This species was first recorded in November 2009 and was also recorded in November 2010.

Four **Anna's Hummingbirds** were reported in Juneau in November, including an immature male and an immature female at an Auke Bay feeder through November 8 (GV), an immature male on Starr Hill in downtown Juneau on November 22 (CR), and an immature male in West Juneau through the end of the month (DC, PR).

A **Northern Flicker** at Auk Nu Cove on November 20 was the only rare woodpecker of the month (NH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Eagle Beach State Recreation Area on November 3 (GV).

On November 17, observations of three **Horned Larks** were recorded on the Airport Dike Trail (GV) and also across the river at the Industrial Boulevard access (NH). Observations of **Snow Buntings** on the Mendenhall Wetlands from the Airport Dike Trail during the month included a flock of 45 on November 12 (GV), two birds on November 14 (GV), and a flock of 50 on November 16 (BB).



Palm Warbler *Nick Hajdukovich*

A very rare **Palm Warbler** was observed at the Airport Dike Trail November 4 – 8 (GV, PR, NH, AC, GB). A late-lingering **Wilson's Warbler** was observed at Indian Cove past the ferry terminal on November 6 (NH).

Nick Hajdukovich found a **Swamp Sparrow** on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Temsco facility on November 8 (NH, GV). On November 19, Nick relocated the bird near the



Swamp Sparrow *Nick Hajdukovich*

Temsco parking lot, where it continued through the end of the month and was seen and photographed by many observers (NH, MS, PR, DJ, BA, AC). A **White-Throated Sparrow** appeared at a Lake Creek feeder on November 20 (VM) and continued until at least November 24 (GV).

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), Brad Bentner (BB), Amy Courtney (AC), Deborah Craig (DC), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Doug Jones (DJ), Van Madding (VM), Claire Richardson (CR), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).

Backyard & Birdfeeders By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

In the Backyard and around the birdfeeders we've seen Field Sparrows, Carolina wrens, Tufted Titmouse, Blue Jays and Eastern Phoebe. The ground feeders have been the Mourning Doves and American Crows.

The Downy Woodpecker, Red Bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow Shafted Flicker prefer the peanut-butter-suet. The Brown Creeper spirals up the trees as the White Breasted Nuthatch meets it on the way down.

The American Gold Finch have changed out of their bright yellow feathers and are now wearing their muted dark mustard colored feathers. The Eastern Bluebirds come by several times a week and check out the Bluebird houses.

The Pied Billed Grebe was seen on the slow moving river downtown. And two Common Ravens have been seen in the area as well.

Alaska Audubon Chapters Meeting 2012 by Gwen Baluss

I was lucky to have the opportunity to attend the chapter's meeting in Anchorage this fall. It was interesting to compare and contrast our local activities and challenges with our counterparts in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, and Cordova. Groups organize field trips and community presentations, participate in citizen science and conservation education, and promote bird watching through various forums. We share the challenges of working with limited volunteer staff, recruiting board members, and reaching out to youth and a wider portion of our population in general. We shared our successes in fundraising, providing educational opportunities free to the public and continuing to be relevant even in a time when everyone seems to be overly busy. Some interesting projects included: a loon nest camera in Anchorage that was picked up on the internet nationally by Cornell Ornithology Lab; Fairbanks encouraging science "beyond birding" with small research grants; Kodiak working on a restoration project and influencing a decision to change the location of an airport runway expansion to be less damaging to habitat. If you are traveling to these communities, be sure to look up the busy Auduboners there.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR JUNEAU AUDUBON

Linda Nicklin is an at-large Board Member who was first drawn to the Audubon Society by its positive approach to conservation, reflected in its mission : "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".

Linda works as a professional naturalist, sharing her knowledge and passion for the natural world with visitors to Southeast Alaska and other locations. She also runs her own business training naturalists, tour guides, and other interpreters, and here in Juneau she works as Director of Training and Interpretive Programs for Gastineau Guiding Company. She spends part of each winter in Hawaii, helping with education and research on the social lives of humpback whales, and she is the author of two nonfiction books published by National Geographic Children's Books, *Face to Face with Dolphins* and *Face to Face with Whales*. Most mornings in Hawaii she is awakened by the raucous cry of Grey Francolins that live nearby, and her daily birds there include Java Sparrows, Red Crested Cardinals, Nutmeg Mannikins, Myna Birds, Cattle Egrets, Zebra Doves, and the always-inspiring Golden Plovers.

Patricia Wherry, Education Chair

Alaskan of 30+ years, with 10+ years in Juneau, other half of my life lived in Eastern Washington. Variety of jobs including Elementary Educator and Youth groups-outdoor programs. Retired. Interests: life learner; flora/fauna of areas living in; writing; quilting; a right brain person. Willing to pitch in to help.

Active Member of Beaver Patrol

Juneau Public Market Booth -- The Juneau Audubon Society sponsored a booth at the Juneau Public Market on Thanksgiving weekend. As in the past, we sold handmade jam and preserves from local berries and plants as well as nature-themed books and other items. The booth was a success, and we sold out of our jams and preserves. We took in over \$2,600. After expenses, we should clear over \$1,500. This income will allow us to sponsor field trips and educational programs. We are grateful to those who supported the booth and to those who volunteered in the booth.

From *Alaska Trails* December Newsletter

ALASKA TRAILS HAS INFO TO HELP GET ALASKANS ON TRAILS

Alaska Trails has an online database of trail guides and other trail-related information found on the Internet. The information is broken down into folders based on regions including statewide, Southeast, Southcentral, and Interior. Clicking on a folder gives a user more folders from which to choose.

The online trail maps are extremely varied. Some are produced by government agencies, such as the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation or the National Park Service, while others are produced by private groups or individuals, such as TrailMapper, a statewide resource that allows users to add their own trails and descriptions. People interested in exploring new trails will find an abundance of resources at their fingertips.

See the database at: www.alaska-trails.org/cgi/otg/otg.cgi

Following taken from: ***What's UP*** To **RECEIVE** What's Up, or to **ADD** meetings, contact Peg Tileston at 907-561-0540, FAX 907-563-2747 or pegt@gci.net.

PRINCE of WALES ISLAND – December 10 Deadline for comments on the **BIG THORNE PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)**. The DEIS proposes to harvest timber from approximately 5,000 acres on Prince of Wales Island south of **COFFMAN COVE**, around the community of **THORNE BAY** and out to the **CONTROL LAKE** area north of Klawock. . The comment period for the Big Thorne Project DEIS provides the public an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to the Forest Service making a final decision. Those who provide comments by the close of the comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision. The DEIS is available online at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=31542>. Submit comments to comments-alaska-tongass-thorne-bay@fs.fed.us with "Big Thorne Project," in the subject line. For more information, contact Frank Roberts, Zone Planner, at (907) 828-3250 or email fwroberts@fs.fed.us.

ALASKANS FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING, a coalition of conservation groups, Tribal organizations, and communities working on mining issues in Alaska, has launched a new website that is intended to be “one-stop shopping” for communities and organizations dealing with mining issues in Alaska. It contains: Information about current mining issues in Alaska; Resources about the permitting process; Information about strategies such as good neighbor agreements; Freedom of Information Act request templates; Useful science; and much more! Check it out at www.akmininginfo.org. For more information, contact us at rebecca@seacc.org.

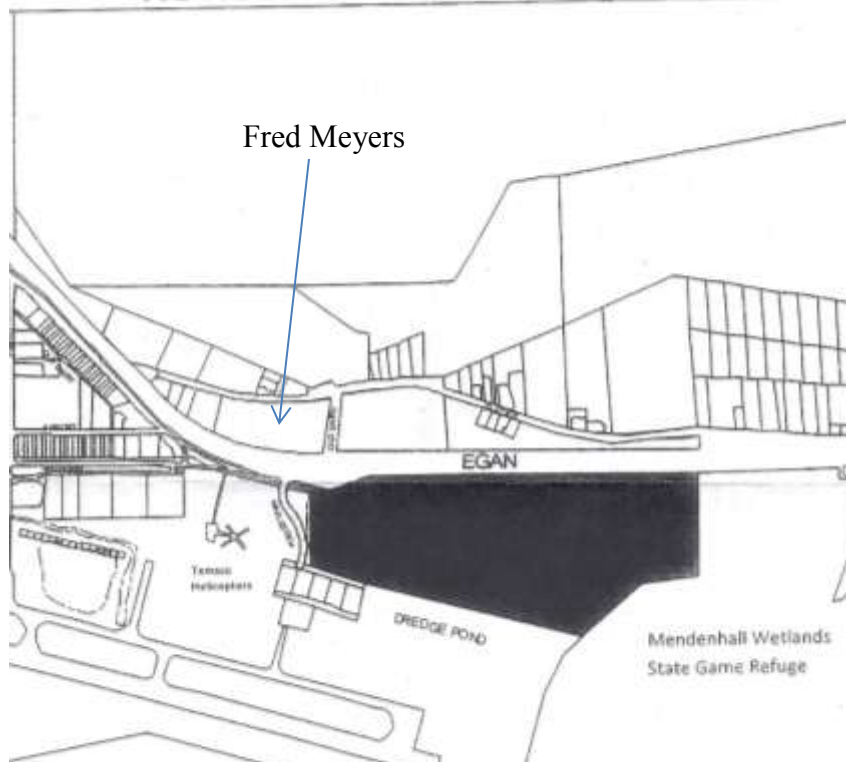
From: *Bird Studies Canada* 23 November 2012 – Where can you find the most current North American birding posts and discussions, information about sightings and eBird rarity alerts, and more? The American Birding Association’s “**Birding News**” site is a hub for online birding listservs from across Canada and the U.S., and around the world. “Birding News” grew out of and expanded upon the “Birdingonthe.Net” site maintained by Jack Siler since the early 1990s. Since August, the ABA has assumed responsibility for this resource, and has implemented a new site that includes enhanced searchability and a “What’s Hot” Twitter feed. Visit the [ABA website](#) to learn more, or [select this link](#) to read about Canada’s first Citrine Wagtail.

EU Launches Seabird Plan of Action 17 November 2012 – The European Commission has launched a Plan of Action to reduce the incidental killing of seabirds in fisheries. BirdLife Europe estimates that over 2 million seabirds have died in the fishing gears of vessels in EU waters since 2001. The EU Seabird Plan of Action aims at reducing and, where possible, eliminating seabird bycatch, and outlines mitigation measures to minimize the impacts of fishing activities on marine ecosystems. Details and a link to the action plan can be found on the [BirdLife Community website](#).



When you apply for your 2013 Permanent Fund Dividend, you will have the opportunity to give to the Juneau Audubon Society for **scholarships, educational programs, field trips, and other activities**. Last year our first scholarship was given to a graduating Juneau High School student who was heading off to college this year. The PFD Charitable Contributions Program began a few years ago, but this coming year will be our first time to participate. It provides a safe, secure and easy way to make a donation, and is available to all Alaskans who file on-line. When you go online to apply for your dividend, you will see the option called “**The Gift of Giving.**” **Click on Juneau Audubon Society. Chose the amount you would like to donate.** You can find more information about the program, including frequently asked questions at <http://www.forakergroup.org/pfd>. Or you may call 888-785-GIFT (4438).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



PROPOSAL: Rezone Parcel to a combination of Industrial and Light Commercial Classifications.

FILE NO: AME2012 0011	APPLICANT: Bicknell Incorporated
TO: Adjacent Property Owners	Property PCN: 5-B14-0-102-007-0
HEARING DATE: December 11, 2012	Size: 82.66 acres
HEARING TIME: 7:00pm	Zoned: RR
PLACE: ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS Municipal Building 155 South Seward St Juneau, Alaska 99801	Owner(s): Bicknell Incorporated
	Site Address: Glacier Highway
	Accessed via: Glacier Highway

PROPERTY OWNERS PLEASE NOTE:

You are invited to attend this Public Hearing and present oral testimony. The Planning Commission will also consider written testimony. You are encouraged to submit written material to the Community Development Department no later than 8:30 A.M. on the Wednesday preceding the Public Hearing. Materials received by this deadline are included in the information packet given to the Planning Commission a few days before the Public Hearing. Written material received after the deadline will be provided to the Planning Commission at the Public Hearing.

If you have questions, please contact Beth McKibben at beth_mckibben@ci.juneau.ak.us or call 586-0465

Editor Note: This parcel is part of the largest wetlands in Southeast and a little like Juneau's front lawn with the spectacular fireweed in the fall and the little tree that invites decoration. This is a part of Juneau's image that folks recognize and it would be a loss to the community.

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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audubon@emailcustomerservice.com or call 1-800-272-4201

Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.

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

