

# 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

March 2013

**Juneau Audubon Society**  
**MARCH MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 14**  
**UAS Egan Building, Room 221/222, 7:00 p.m.**



## Those Crazy Corvids

by  
Bob Armstrong

Bob will show slides and videos that illustrate the behavior of members of the family Corvidae in Alaska. These include jays, magpies, crows, ravens, and the

occasional nutcracker. Much of his talk will be on the craziest of all “the ravens.” He named his pet red-lored amazon parrot “raven” and once ran a bed and breakfast called Ravens Roost. But hey he voted to name the Audubon newsletter “The Dipper.” So he is not completely crazy.



**Note -- April Juneau Audubon meeting will be Moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, April 18. The Saturday bird walks will begin on April 13 – schedule will be in April newsletter and on the Web.**

## **BERNERS BAY CRUISES**

Juneau Audubon Society will sponsor three 2013 cruises to Berners Bay this year. On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m and May 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m and 1:30p.m. The vessel departs Statters Harbor below DeHarts. Audubon members will be on board to act as naturalist guides.

Steller sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles, humpback whale, And tens of thousands of gulls are just some of the species Observed around this time each year.

Tickets for the 4-hour cruise will be available at Hearthside Books by mid-March. Adults \$45 student rates are available for UAS and high school students over 12= \$25, and children under 12 = \$10. Don't miss it!

### **PRESIDENT'S INBOX** by Brenda Wright

Hello, I sure hope your 'winter' has been enjoyable, especially since we are certainly getting longer days. Juneau Audubon is still in need of a few volunteers for the board. We need a person to handle membership and it would be great to find a person to become the president next year. The board is all volunteer and there is no paid staff for Juneau Audubon. The Menbeship chairperson is in charge of keeping both the snail mail and e-mail lists for Juneau Audubon up-to-date. That means a monthly update of additions and deletions from National Audubon membership, making labels for the mailed newsletters, and e-mailing the newsletter. The president gets to chair the board meetings, write articles for the newsletter, help with conservation concerns, and keep up with information flow from the web page and Facebook. Juneau is a great town for volunteers. If you don't have the time, let us know if you think you might know someone is interested in helping the Juneau Audubon Board.

**DO YOU FACEBOOK?** Would you like to help make Juneau Audubon's Facebook more attractive and interactive? Just let us know! [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org)

**Rivers and Wildlife Celebration** *Kearney, Nebraska March 21-24* Witness the migration of over half a million sandhill cranes and millions of waterfowl and other birds through central Nebraska. Events include guided field trips to local birding hotspots; and daily visits to river blinds operated by Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary for up-close views of cranes roosting on the Platte River. For more information, visit <http://nebraskacranefestival.org/> , email [nebraska@audubon.org](mailto:nebraska@audubon.org) or call 402-797-2301.

Also available for sandhill crane migration:

<http://www.strawhatvisuals.com/blog/workshops/cranes/> Experience the remarkable migration of the Sandhill Cranes on a [photo tour](#) along the Platte River in south-central Nebraska. Settle into private viewing blinds directly on the banks of the river and learn how to capture images of Nebraska's rich wildlife, beautiful landscapes and breathtaking sunsets.

Discover hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes as they migrate northward and experience first-hand why so many call this the greatest wildlife spectacle in North America. We invite bird watchers, photographers and nature enthusiasts to capture these moments of the migration, experience the phenomenon and learn from professionals. Hone your skills with premier photographers/filmmakers Bill Frakes, Laura Heald and Tom Lynn as your guides. On March 15th, 16th and 17th we will be providing hands-on instruction near Grand Island, Nebraska.

**AUDUBON CONVENTION 2013: REGISTRATION OPENS THURSDAY, February**

**28**The new Audubon Convention 2013 website is about to launch! This will be your opportunity to register for the convention, sign up for field trips and workshops, make hotel reservations, and review transportation options. We look forward to seeing you there! Please contact [convention@audubon.org](mailto:convention@audubon.org) with any questions.

**Down East Spring Birding Festival: May 24-27**

Cobscook Community Learning Center, Trescott, Maine and New Brunswick's Campobello Island. For schedule and registration: [www.downeastbirdfest@org](http://www.downeastbirdfest@org)

**From American Bird Conservancy:**

**New Website to Minimize Bird Collisions with Communication Towers**

<http://fewerlights.anr.msu.edu/>

**ABC Collisions Website** <http://collisions.abcbirds.org/>

**Wildlife Boom Expected After Eradication of 30,000 Rats on Pacific Island --** Wildlife numbers are expected to rebound at Palmyra Atoll, a 580-acre collection of islets located about 1,000 miles south of Hawai'i, that has been given a rat-free bill of health one year after about 30,000 rats were eradicated as part of a major effort to remove these invasive predators, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Island Conservation (IC) announced.

**Invitation to Join the Cats Indoors Listserv --** The Cats Indoors listserv is an excellent resource for cat-related news, updates, and action alerts. We hope that you will support ABC's efforts to reduce the negative impacts of feral and free-ranging cats by subscribing to the Cats Indoors listserv today. To join the listserv, send an email to [catsindoors-subscribe@lists.abcbirds.org](mailto:catsindoors-subscribe@lists.abcbirds.org) with subscribe written in the subject line or body of text. Please contact Grant Sizemore with questions, comments, or concerns at [gsizemore@abcbirds.org](mailto:gsizemore@abcbirds.org).

**EAGLE FEATHER COLLECTION PERMITS EXPIRE 3/31/2013!**

If you have a permit to collect eagle feathers, you need to get our updated permit. Please e-mail [president@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:president@juneau-audubon-society.org) to get your new permit. Interested in helping with this project? Please e-mail or call 321-4739. All feathers go to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado for re-distribution to requests. No one can legally keep eagle feathers except native Americans.



## 2013 Great American Arctic Birding Challenge Kicks off March 1

By Beth Peluso

Migration is already starting in some places, even as snow still blankets Alaska—so let the games begin! Arctic-nesting birds have ranges that reach all 50 states and 6 continents, so the migrating birds you see in your backyard or favorite birding spot could be headed to the Arctic for the summer. What better way to celebrate spring and the birds that connect all of us than participating in the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge!

Get together a team of up to six birders and scour the landscape **March 1–June 1** to find as many of the birds as possible on the Great American Arctic Birding Challenge checklist. Submit your checklist by June 1 for prizes and a chance at the 2013 title.

Did we mention there are prizes?

For details on rules, prizes, and printer-friendly versions of the checklist and contest flyer, visit Audubon Alaska's [Great American Arctic Birding Challenge webpage](#). Contact Beth Peluso, Audubon Alaska, at [bpeluso@audubon.org](mailto:bpeluso@audubon.org), if you have questions.

### National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan

The Tongass National Forest is looking for feedback on its main guiding document, the Tongass National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), on the Plan's five year anniversary. The Forest Plan guides resource management, including wildlife (*bird*) habitat, to ensure that today's forest activities do not impact wildlife populations over the long run. The Tongass is looking for feedback from the public on whether the Plan is working as promised, or are some changes needed? **The public comment period is open now until March 31, 2013.** For more information about the 5-year Tongass Plan review go to the Tongass website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/home/?cid=stelprdb5367364>. To comment or add your name to the e-mail list, check out <http://tnf-5yearreview.com/>. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration. Sue Jennings, Forest Planner, Tongass National Forest, 907-772-5864 (office), <http://tnf-5yearreview.com/>



### Juneau's Beginning Birder

Beginning Birder class took a walk on the wetlands Sunday March 3 to celebrate their new birding skills. A big Thank you to their teachers Patricia Wherry and Laurie Lamm. Thanks also to Amy Clark Courtney and Brenda Wright for helping on the bird walk.

## **Juneau Bird Report for February by Patty Rose**

Despite the mild weather, February was a slow month for observing birds in Juneau. Many of the noteworthy birds seen during the month were wintering birds continuing from the previous month. Following are February observations that are listed as "Rare" or rarer on the Juneau Checklist.

A **Eurasian Wigeon**, perhaps the same one reported throughout the winter, was seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Airport Dike Trail on February 10 (MS). A female Canvasback, also reported earlier in the winter, was seen near the Airport Dike Trail on February 11 (KC). Observation of **Northern Pintail** included single birds at Sunny Point on February 12 (GV, NH), February 17 (PR), and February 24 (NF), and a small flock of eight at Salmon Creek on February 27 (NH). Twin Lakes was a good spot to see **Hooded Mergansers**, with one reported on February 11 (KC) and a pair reported on February 28 (ACC).

A **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** was seen in the airport area neighborhood on February 16 (JJ). The only rare shorebirds observed during the reporting period were **Wilson's Snipe**, including one along the Outer Point Trail on Douglas Island on February 14 (MSQ) and eight at Sunny Point on February 12 (NH, GV). A **Merlin** was seen at the Mendenhall Glacier Forelands on February 26 (DS). **Red-Breasted Nuthatches** occurred in small numbers during February from the Mendenhall Valley and north.

Probably the rarest bird of the month was a single **Swamp Sparrow** at the Miller-Honsinger pond near Temsco that was first seen on November 8 and was present at least through February 20 (NH, mobs.). As many as five **American Tree Sparrows** were at that same location until at least February 20 (NH, mobs.). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** has been at a Sunny Point feeder all winter and was seen on February 12 (GV) and 20 (NH). A **White-Crowned Sparrow** was seen in the Lemon Creek area near the police station on February 20 (NH).

Also in the Lemon Creek area, as in recent years, a flock of **Red-Winged Blackbirds** wintered over and was seen by many during February, including on February 18 (AK), February 20 (NH), and February 22 and 27 (ACC). Merrill Jensen reported that a single **Hoary Redpoll** was at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum on February 15.

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bev Agler (BA), Brad Bentner (BB), Keith Confer (KC), Amy Clark Courtney (AC), Nathan Frost (NF), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Merrill Jensen (MJ), Jeanne Josephson (JJ), Art Kolter (AK), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), David Schmerge (DS), Marsha Squires (MSQ), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).

## **Sign Up to Receive Christmas Bird Count Results**

This year, Audubon will be producing a quarterly citizen science eNewsletter which will contain the results of all our Citizen Science programs, such as the Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count and the new Hummingbirds at Home program. This electronic publication will contain articles and summaries that previously were distributed in the printed edition of "American Birds: Summary of the Christmas Bird Count" as well as information about these other national Audubon citizen science programs.

If you would like to receive information regarding this new citizen science eNewsletter, please sign up online at [www.audubon.org/citizenscience](http://www.audubon.org/citizenscience) by entering your email address. Even if you participated in the CBC, or the GBBC and your email address is currently in one of those systems, you will receive this new eNewsletter only if you sign up through the new citizen science network.

Joining Audubon's online citizen science network this way also ensures you will receive updates on the latest research results, reports from Audubon scientists, and notification when CBC count summaries are posted online. In addition, you will learn about other citizen science programs and opportunities that may interest you. Please take a moment to sign up now and also to share this information with others who may find it of interest.

**From "Whats Up"** Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN) and Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE)

**March 11** Deadline for participation in the **2013 LIVING ON THE OCEAN PLANET VIDEO CONTEST** for students enrolled in high school (grades 9-12) for the 2012-2013 school year. Students are encouraged to work in teams. The theme is **A WINDOW INTO FRESHWATER SCIENCE** that invokes the interconnectedness of freshwater and marine systems. Full contest rules and guidelines are available at [www.nosb.org/competitions-2/nosb-video-contest/](http://www.nosb.org/competitions-2/nosb-video-contest/).

**March 15** Deadline for submissions for the **2013 ALASKA JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONTEST** from K-12 students. Participants select a species of North American waterfowl, do research on this species and its habitat, and then depict their findings through art and writing. Prizes, cash awards, and national recognition await the winners. Get to know North America's waterfowl and enter the contest! For more information, go to <http://alaska.fws.gov/jrduck>.

**March 31** Deadline to submit entries for **WILDLIFE FOREVER'S NATIONAL K-12 STATE-FISH-ART CONTEST**. Contest details for Alaska students/teachers are available at [http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fish/contest\\_art.htm](http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fish/contest_art.htm).

The **SOUTHEAST ALASKA GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION (SAGA)** is currently recruiting **AMERICORPS MEMBERS** for the Alaska Service Corps (ASC) program. ASC crews will be trained and deployed to conduct on-the-ground environmental stewardship activities on public lands in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. SAGA is seeking experienced **CREW LEADERS** for the adult and summer youth corps program, and Crew Members for the adult (21+) and summer youth (17-20 yrs. old) program. To learn more about positions and benefits, and to apply online, go to [www.servealaska.org](http://www.servealaska.org). For more information, contact Beverly Schoonover, Executive Director, at (907) 790-6403 or email [www.servealaska.org](http://www.servealaska.org).

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit Applications**

**KETCHIKAN** -- PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 25, 2013 | EXPIRATION DATE: March 25, 2013 REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2013-33 | WATERWAY: Tongass Narrows  
LOCATION: **Behind D-1 Loop Road off of North Tongass Highway in Ketchikan, Alaska.**  
PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to access a rock quarry and to develop a site to place overburden from off-site projects. CONTACT: Please contact Marcia L. Heer at (907) 753-5759, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at [Marcia.L.Heer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Marcia.L.Heer@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**JUNEAU -- EXPIRATION DATE: March 26, 2013 REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2013-30  
WATERWAY: Hawk Inlet LOCATION: Greens Creek Mine; Admiralty Island, near  
Juneau, Alaska.**

APPLICANT: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company, PO Box 32199, Juneau, AK 99803.

AGENT: Jennifer Saran, PO Box 32199, Juneau, AK 99803, (907) 790-8474.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to "replace the existing barge loading facility that has been in use for more than 20 years with a facility that improves safety and efficiency."

CONTACT: Please contact Randal Vigil at (907) 790-4491, by fax at (907) 790-4497, or by email at [Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil](mailto:Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

Recent and Archived Public Notices:

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

**From the "Red Pole"** Arctic Audubon Society's newsletter

**Alaska's Internet Birding Resources** by Dave Shaw, Arctic Audubon & Audubon Alaska Board

It probably won't come as a surprise, but people aren't using the telephone the way they used to. Five or ten years ago, I suspect most birders were getting their rare bird alerts and sightings over the phone, but that has changed. Arctic Audubon has decided that with the rise of internet birding resources, our Birding Hotline might not be needed. So, sadly, the Hotline may be discontinued. For those of you that still use the Hotline and haven't migrated over to the instant gratification of the internet, here is a guide to the best of Alaska's internet birding resources.

1. eBird: This is a worldwide database of bird sightings. It is used by many thousands of birders across the globe. eBird is largely a citizen science initiative that uses bird sightings to generate a huge databases of lists. Sign up and explore local bird activity or lists from all over the planet: [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)

2. Boreal Birder: This Yahoo list serve is the best resource for birders in Interior Alaska. Arctic Audubon's Birding Hotline has been transcribed onto the site for some time. Check the list or sign up for the email alerts here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BorealBirder/>

3. Alaska Rare Bird Alert: Just as the title implies this site is about rarities. If you want to chase the Siberian Accentor in Seward or be ready the next time the White-winged Tern ends up at Fairbanks' South Cushman Ponds, this is the place to look:

<https://lists.alaska.edu/mailman/listinfo/alaskabirds-l>

4. Alaska Birding: This is another statewide list worth following: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/akbirding/>

The following lists are useful if you live or are traveling in other parts of Alaska:

1. Eagle Chat: This list follows sightings in Southeast Alaska:

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Eaglechat/>

2. Beringia Birders: For the far western portion of Alaska:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/beringia\\_birders/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/beringia_birders/)

3. Kachemak Bay Birders: Birding info for Homer and surroundings:

<http://kachemakbaybirders.org>

4. KPBirding: Bird sighting information for the Kenai Peninsula:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kpbirding/>

5. Kenai Bird Festival: The webpage for this birding festival has a portion dedicated to current sightings on the Kenai: <http://kenaibirdfest.com/>

6. Kodiak Birding: Sightings on Kodiak Island: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KodiakBirding/>

These sites should keep even the most enthusiastic Alaska birders busy for quite some time. If you discover more resources not listed, here, please let us know!



**The Juneau Audubon will be participating in the 2013 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Pick.Click.Give. online donation program.**

**The application period for 2013 dividend payments begins Tuesday, January 1. Within the PFD online application you will find the Pick.Click.Give. option, a simple, secure way to donate \$25, \$50 or more from your dividend to Juneau Audubon.**

**Contributing to Juneau Audubon through Pick.Click.Give takes just 4 easy steps:**



1. At the end of the application form you will see the Pick.Click.Give. logo. Check the "Yes" box.
2. Search for us by name: Juneau Audubon
3. Select the amount that you would like to donate from your PFD. There is an option for donating to multiple organizations.
4. Finally, if you would like to receive a tax receipt and thank you letter from JN Audubon, please click the "Release Information" button. This will give us your name, address and donation amount, and it is the only way we will be able to identify donors.

**You're done!**

You can find more information about the Pick.Click.Give program, including frequently asked questions at: <http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/about/> .

**Your generous donation will help us support education and scholarships.**

**Thank You!**

Please forward this e-mail to fellow Alaskans who might be interested.  
Warmest and Best Regards for the New Year,

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

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### *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](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

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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.

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

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

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### Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?

You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service

[audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto: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*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed\_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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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 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](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)

