

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 39, Number 9

Juneau Audubon Society

May 2013

**The next Juneau Audubon general meeting will be:
Thursday, October 10, 2013**

SPRING 2013 BIRD WALK SCHEDULE

Date/Time:

Activity:

Leader/s:

May 11	8am-11am	Bird Banding Demonstration @ Juneau Community Garden	Gwen Baluss
May 18	8am-10am	Airport Dike Trail End of Radcliffe Road	Jeff Sauer
May 25	8am-10am	Eagle Beach picnic area 28.7 Mile Glacier Highway	Mark Schwan
June 1	8am-10am	Moose Lake area	Mark Schwan
June 8	8am-10am	Sandy Beach/ Treadwell Trails	Patty Rose
June 15	8am-10am	Brotherhood Bridge Trail	Brenda Wright

SATURDAY WILD WALKS

Check schedule updates on: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

Sunday June 23 7:30 am South Bridget Cove 38.5 Mile Glacier Hwy. Pat Harris
Minus Tide Walk

July TBA Nature Walk at the top of the Tram with Linda Nicklin

August 24 10am Mushrooms on North Douglas with Dave Gregovich

September 7 10am Eaglecrest Berries – Meet at Lodge with Mary Lou King/Brenda Wright

President's Notes by Brenda Wright

Spring is definitely in the air now! You might have been a little worried with all the new snow lately, but our birds are definitely arriving and hopefully spring is here now too.

As you will see in the bird report, our **Rufous Hummingbirds, Varied Thrushes, Robins, Bonaparte's Gulls, Golden Crowned Sparrows, Northern Harriers, Greater Yellow legs,** and other species are here already and many are singing. The first arctic terns were seen at the glacier on May 3, 2013. I hope many of you will be able to come out for the free bird walks every Saturday from now until mid June.

Happy birding!

Events and Bird News

10 Tips for Bird-Friendly Backyards and Communities

You can do your part to help keep migrating birds safe from the many perils they encounter, including bright lights and tall buildings, cats and toxic lawns. Backyards and parks can become bird-friendly with a few simple steps. Audubon magazine lists 10 Tips: <http://bit.ly/153ppOn>

Audubon's Bird Cam Reveals All Explore.org streams Audubon's HD Osprey Cam, where Ospreys Rachel and Steve first captivated viewers with a *Real Housewives of Hog Island* episode (<http://bit.ly/11yVU11>).

The First-ever Global GBBC Results are In! 19 April 2013 – One-hundred and eleven countries participated in the 2013 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) on February 15-18, and a whopping 2973 species of birds were reported.. Please visit the **GBBC**

website to see more 2013 results and highlights. **Hummingbirds at Home Questions?** An opportunity for more citizen science. Have a question about the Hummingbirds at Home citizen science program? Check it out (<http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org/>)

Christmas Bird Count Results and Citizen Science eNewsletter This year Audubon is going digital. Audubon will be producing a quarterly citizen science eNewsletter which will contain the results of all our Citizen Science programs, including the CBC articles. If you would like to receive this citizen science eNewsletter, please sign up online at www.audubon.org/citizenscience by entering your email address just to the right of "Want to keep up with Citizen Science?"

Berners Bay Trips 2013 A new first for our Berners Bay trips was snow flurries on April 27. Good thing Allen Marine boats are heated. Most everyone enjoyed the bird and wildlife sighting. A special thanks to all our volunteers and especially to Laurie Craig for being the lead interpreter. Doug Jones shared some of his excellent photos. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a fun trip for all.





Juneau Bird Report for April by Patty Rose

At the end of April, fog, snow, rain, wind, and low temperatures grounded hundreds of waterfowl in Juneau, producing good wildlife viewing opportunities. A flock of about 400 **Cackling Geese** could be seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands. Large flocks of **Snow Geese**, **Greater White-Fronted Geese**, and other waterfowl were also present.

Rare waterfowl sightings during April included two **Brant** at Eagle Beach State Recreational Area from April 18 through the end of the month (MS, mobs.) joined by a third on April 28 (NH). **Eurasian Wigeon** was well documented during the period. Participants on the Audubon bird walk at Fish Creek on April 20 saw two (NH, mobs.). Eurasian Wigeon was also seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands, Airport Dike Trail, throughout the month, including two on April 2 (LL), two on April 18 (NH), and one on April 29 (BP), and farther out, near the mouth of the Mendenhall River, including one on April 18 (DS, AC), one on April 19 (MS), and one on April 27 (GV, NH). One was also seen at Eagle Beach April 27 - 28 (AC, LL, PR). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at Twin Lakes on April 11 (AC, TC), and one was seen at Fish Creek on the April 20 (NH, mobs.)

Interesting observations of northbound raptors included single **Rough-Legged Hawks** on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course on April 10 (MS, NH) and April 30 (AC), near the Temsco facility on April 29 (GV, GB), and at Brotherhood Park on April 30 (GV).

Pacific Golden-Plover was the only rare shorebird reported during the beginning the shorebird migration. Single birds were seen on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 27 (NH, GV) and at Eagle Beach State Recreational Area on April 28 (NH). **Snowy Owls** were reported at the Bayview subdivision on April 17 (RB) and on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course on April 28 (SR). A female **Anna's Hummingbird** visited an Auke Bay feeder starting April 5 through the end of the month (GV, NH).

A **Northern Flicker** at Mile 35 on April 21 was the only rare woodpecker during the month (GV). Two late-lingering **Black-Billed Magpies** were seen at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Airport Dike Trail, on April 5 (SS), one was seen at an Auke Bay residence on April 5 (GV), and one was seen at Auke Nu Cove on April 7 (GV). **Peregrine Falcons** turned up at the end of the month. Observations on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course included one on April 28

(MSQ) and two on April 29 (AS), and observations near the mouth of the Mendenhall River included one on April 28 (PR) and one on April 29 (LL).

The first **Mountain Bluebirds** of the year were reported on April 7, with seven on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course (DJ, mobs.) and four at Eagle Beach State Recreation Area (RL). Subsequent observations near the golf course included one on April 13 (MS), one on April 19 (PR), and two on April 22 (GV). At Eagle Beach, two were later seen on April 28 (NH, AC, LL, PR). Three were near Thunder Mountain High School on April 28 (AC), and five were on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 28 (DS).



Townsend's Solitaire made a good showing, with one at Eagle Beach on April 7 (RL), 10 along the road between Eagle Beach and Point Bridget on April 27 (RA), two along the road past Point Bridget State Park on April 28 (GV), and one on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 29 (GB),

Bohemian Waxwings appeared in multiple locations around Juneau April 27 through the end of the month, after having been absent all winter. Unusually late observations of **Snow Bunting** included five on the Mendenhall Wetlands on April 4 (NH), one on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the golf course on the April 17 (NH), one at Eagle Beach State Recreational Area on April 18 (MS), and three near the golf course on April 22 (NH, AC). A **Swamp Sparrow** that wintered over near the Temsco facility continued through April and was observed on April 28 (NH). A **Hoary Redpoll** was seen at a West Juneau residence on April 28 (PR).

These observations were compiled primarily from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Bob Armstrong (RA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Ron Berg (RB), Amy Clark Courtney (AC), Thomas Courtney (TC), Nick Hajdukovich (NH), Doug Jones (DJ), Laurie Lamm (LL), Rosary Lombardo (RL), Bruce Paige (BP), Scott Ranger (SR), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), David Schmerge (DS), Steve Scordino (SS), Andy Smoker (AS), Marsha Squires (MSQ), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).

Wrangell Bird Report by Bonnie Demerjian

Despite icy blasts and serious downpour the day before, hardy Wrangell birders turned out in force for the Stikine River Bird Festival bird walk on April 25. The weather turned surprisingly mild and dry that day. Twenty-six species were counted on the route around the Muskeg Meadows Golf Course. Highlights included the first **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler** of the season, a very patiently perched **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, three **Wilson's Snipe**, a pair of **Ring-necked Ducks**, and a single **Red-winged Blackbird**. The stormy day preceding the bird walk grounded 50 **Greater White-fronted Geese** on the running field. The birds spent the day there

and provided many in town with a fine close-up look. Participants on the bird walk agreed that another walk to find later-arriving birds should be scheduled.

Flocks of 300-400 **Greater White-fronted Geese** as well as hundreds of **Snow Geese** are refueling on the Stikine River flats these days. Fifty of the birds, grounded by harsh weather on April 24, drew locals to a field near the elementary school where the birds spent the day feeding and resting. **Sandhill Cranes** began flying over town around April 16 and were continuing as of April 29. Their arrival, as well as that of the **Snow Geese**, appears to be more prolonged and scattered than in other years. Also spotted on Sergief Island on the river flats this week were **Black-bellied Plover**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and hundreds of **Western Sandpipers** and **Dunlin**.

Residents on the Stikine flats report a **Short-eared Owl** pair likely nesting near their cabin. One of the pair drove off a **Northern Harrier** on the ground, indicating a possible nest close by. Swallows at this site are late this year with only a handful of **Tree** and **Violet-green Swallows** appearing so far. Small numbers of **Rufous Hummingbirds** are busy fueling up, as illustrated in the accompanying photograph. Another river resident reported seeing hummers with snow on their beaks.



A small number of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** arrived in town around April 22 but have still not reached their usual ravenous hordes. **Wilson's Snipe**, however, are reported in unusually high numbers this year. The usual **Killdeer** are on the grassy stretches beside the airport runway and are being tracked by a **Northern Harrier**. As has been common around the region, **Pine Siskins** are still around in large numbers. The small numbers of **Common Redpolls** that were here earlier have departed. In an as-yet mostly uninspiring spring, we look forward to a cessation to snow, warm temperatures and MORE BIRDS.

Nick Hajdukovich's Photos of Bird Sighting



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches out at Eagle Beach on 28 April. The first photo shows two subspecies, the coastal (*L. t. littorals*) and interior (*L. t. tephrocotis*), the latter being much more rare in the Juneau. The second photo shows a coastal bird, which breeds in the mountains around Juneau.

This photo was taken on 27 April and shows a mixed flock of Greater White-fronted Geese and Cackling Geese (*B. h. minima*). There are also likely two Canada Geese in the front of subspecies *B. c. parvipipes*. There were nearly 400 Cackling Geese and 350 Greater White-fronted Geese out by the river mouth on this day.



Volunteers Needed: St. Lazaria Island Seabird Monitoring - contact Leslie Slater for more information (leslie_slater@fws.gov, 907-226-4607)

Work begins in Sitka ~ May 22-28 and ends September~28. Food is provided. We will arrange round-trip travel from your home to Sitka (as well as travel required on the job). The work is quite varied & changes throughout the summer. Species studied intensively are: fork-tailed & Leach's storm-petrels, pelagic cormorants, glaucous-winged gulls, common & thick-billed murre, tufted puffins, rhinoceros auklets, & pigeon guillemots. Our seabird work is focused on annual productivity, long-term population trends, diet composition, and chick growth.

The refuge provides the majority of items you will need (heavy raingear, sleeping bag and pad, waterproof duffles, hipboots, rubber boots, personal flotation device, immersion suit, binoculars, bird and fish identification guides, and safety gear such as emergency locator beacons and flares).

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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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



