

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

September 2013

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

October 10, 2013

Our officers are elected for a one year term every October. If you would like to volunteer to be on the Juneau Audubon board as an officer or membership chairperson or at-large board member, please contact us at membership@juneau-audubon-society.org. Our volunteers for officers are president- Josh Peters, treasurer- Patty Rose, secretary- Bev Agler. Nominations are accepted at the meeting.

OUR FIRST OF THE FALL JUNEAU AUDUBON MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 10, 2013 at a new location!



Western Tanager Doug Jones

Doug Jones will present a talk on bird migration.



Western-wood Pewee Doug Jones

Orchard Oriole
By Prill (Isleib) Mollick
Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The male Orchard Oriole is an all dark Oriole, with rich chestnut rump and under parts. The female is olive-green above yellowish below, and has two white wing bars. Their size is a little smaller than other Orioles. The intricately woven nest does not usually hang but rather rests in the fork of tree branches. They feed on insects, spiders, nectar, and small fruit.

Several Orchard Orioles are seen in this area. They are visitors from the tropics, during spring and mid summer. A female Orchard Oriole was observed feeding two Brown-Headed Cow Bird babies. The Brown-Headed Cow Bird activity in some areas has impacted the populations of the Orchard Oriole.

Years ago while living in South Eastern Pennsylvania, we enjoyed watching several young Orchard Orioles come to our backyard bird bath. They would splash vigorously. On especially hot days, they would just stay and sit and hang out in the water as though it were their own swimming pool.

Wed Aug 21, 2013

Overnight hundreds of marbled murrelets concentrated around Five Finger Lighthouse island. Yesterday and days prior saw normal scattering of murrelets. Today there are hundreds with maybe 5% in bright winter plumage. Karla Hart

Hummingbirds on the move by Gwen Baluss

The Rufous hummingbirds are heading south for the winter. They arrived by coming up the coast, feeding on the early blooms there, but upon return may use a more inland route, taking advantage of alpine wildflowers. Records of banded birds from coastal AK and BC turned up the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. More recent banding records suggest that some Alaskan birds go to the Southeastern US. However, the species main traditional range is Mexico. Isotope studies of feather samples show that the males and females seek out different areas in winter. Females from Juneau were linked to the central mountains of Mexico.

Anna's hummingbirds have spread their range northward. The species has been an uncommon visitor, appearing in the fall or winter, but we had a number of observations in Juneau this summer.

Be on the lookout for these larger, greener hummers, especially now that most of the Rufous have moved on.

It is a myth that leaving up feeders will stop Rufous hummingbirds from migrating. However, the habitat created by yards – open spaces with lush flowers, hedges and feeders – could be the force behind Anna's hummingbirds extending their range.

Raven – September 2013

Sometimes when sitting down to write these reports, I feel like the fairytale princess obliged to spin gold from straw. The past month's birding in Wrangell has been very slow indeed, but there have been a few interesting sightings over the summer.

Moving through the season chronologically, common nighthawks foraged on the hill above town each evening for several weeks in mid-May.

A black-headed grosbeak appeared at the end of June at a feeder in town, then another nearly a month later at the same location. Black-headed grosbeaks have been reported in other years in the same yard and about the same time of year.

Earl Benitz who lives year round on Farm Island in the Stikine River delta contributed an interesting photo of a Northern mockingbird that appeared at his place on June 6. [Northern mockingbird, photographed by Earl Benitz]



Also in May and June, warbling vireos were reported on several occasions, as were alder flycatchers, near the airport. Another June sighting were a flock of about 40 bank swallows nesting in a mountainous pile of wood chips at the abandoned sawmill.

Local boating birder's saw individual red-necked phalaropes in mid July in Sumner Strait and by August 15, a flock of over 750 had gathered at Point Baker, along with about 75 Cassin's auklets. An additional 200 red-necked phalaropes were counted at Red Bay on the east shore of Prince of Wales Island. A handful of rhinoceros auklets, which mainly breed on St. Lazaria and Forester Islands, showed up along the west shore of Hecata Island in late July. Also in late July a flock of about 90 Western grebes was spotted in Chichagof Strait near Wrangell.

A hunter on Zimovia Island quietly sitting and waiting for a deer to walk by was amazed to see a first one, then a second sandhill crane appear out of the brush. He described them as resembling little old men bent over with their hands behind their backs, as they moved along pecking the ground and giving their characteristic harsh rattle. Sandhill cranes have been counted on the island during the Breeding Bird Survey a number of times, though have not yet proven to breed there as their nests are well concealed. One surveyor recalls rounding the bend in a lonely logging road only to meet three sandhill cranes striding towards her – astonishing to both parties.

The last farewell of summer may have been that hummingbird, a probable rufous, seen frantically buzzing around a neighbor's garden last weekend, perhaps seeking one last sip of nectar or a tender gnat before saying goodbye to us for another year.

Bonnie Demerjian
Wrangell

E-Bird

Overview

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in March 2012, participants reported more than 3.1 million bird observations across North America!

The observations of each participant join those of others in an international network of eBird users. eBird then shares these observations with a global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists. In time these data will become the foundation for a better understanding of bird distribution across the western hemisphere and beyond. <http://ebird.org/ebird/eBirdReports?cmd=Start>

Most recent new species added by ebird listers in Juneau:

	Observer	Most Recent Addition
1	Gus van Vliet	Black-legged Kittiwake (Aug 5, 2013)
1	Mark Schwan	Glaucous Gull (Aug 28, 2013)
3	Patty Rose	Olive-sided Flycatcher (Jul 28, 2013)
4	Amy Clark Courtney	Mourning Dove (Aug 25, 2013)
5	David Schmerge	Sandhill Crane (Aug 25, 2013)
6	Nick Hajdukovich	Northern Flicker (May 6, 2013)
6	Beverly Agler	California Gull (Jul 20, 2013)
8	marsha squires	Merlin (Aug 13, 2013)
9	gwen baluss	Canada Goose (Aug 25, 2013)
10	Brenda Wright	Northern Goshawk (Aug 6, 2013)
11	L. Lamm	Mourning Dove (Aug 26, 2013)
12	Bill Tweit	Tennessee Warbler (Jun 10, 2013)

eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: Date [e.g., February 2, 2012]).

Conservation Notes:

American Bird Conservancy:

Early August 2013—out of concern for bees and other pollinators—EPA announced new labeling requirements for four neonicotinoid pesticides. American Bird Conservancy commends EPA for taking this first step. However, as EPA undoubtedly recognizes, this new labeling requirement will not solve the many problems, including impacts to birds, resulting from the use of neonic insecticides. The labels, along with EPA's efforts to address dust drift and to advance Best Management Practices, do not get to the heart of the problem: that these insecticides are systemic (infiltrating the entire plant, including the pollen and the nectar) and persistent (lasting in the environment for months and even years). A 100-page report by the American Bird Conservancy, *The Impact of the Nation's Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds* <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/130319.html> examined the risks to birds and aquatic systems, including extensive comparisons with the older pesticides that the neonics have replaced.

Haines Bald Eagle Preserve Issue

The Alaska Department of Transportation plans to widen and straighten the scenic Haines Highway through parts of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, potentially filling acres of wetlands, and re-routing streams. In addition to being an important feeding and roosting area for eagles, the riverside through which the road travels contains valuable wetlands crucial to fisheries and habitat for songbirds, moose and other wildlife. The JAS Board shared concerns and ideas for improvement to the current plan. The official comment period has recently passed, but interested parties can find more information and request the DOT to extend this comment period. The Environmental Assessment and appendices can be found at: http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/haines_hwy/documents.shtml. The project director is Jim Scholl, Box 112506, Juneau AK 99811-2506. (907) 465-4498. The email addresses are haineshighway@alaska.gov and jim.scholl@alaska.gov

Juneau Low Income Housing development at Lawson Creek, Douglas Island

A proposed new housing development to be located between an unnamed stream and Lawson Creek is causing concern for local residents. The ground seems highly erodable and unstable already. If you would care to comment, look for more information on the CBJ web site for the Planning Commission and The Corps of Engineers-Mr. Randall P. Vigil. Lawson Creek is an estuary on Gastineau Channel that is highly utilized by migratory and resident birds.

Anyone Interested in Developing a Photo Contest for Juneau Audubon Society?

Audubon Magazine would like to share information about the number and scope of **photography-focused clubs/events/contests** that are regularly planned by Audubon Chapters.

If our chapter offers a Photo Contest, a photography club or any related activity, please send the following to Susan Loredo, Marketing Director for Audubon Magazine (sloredo@audubon.org or 212-979-3101 if you have any questions):

Phrase describing the nature of the event/club (nothing formal needed.
Photography-centric clubs, workshops, events, gallery exhibits, blogs - anything)
Event frequency (ongoing, weekly, monthly, annual); Estimated number of participants
Contact person

FROM: **What's Up -- August 21, 2013** -- Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN) and Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE)

****September 12**

JUNEAU - ALASKA TRAILS - SUSTAINABLE TRAILS 101 CLASS will be held from 1:30 to 5pm in Centennial Hall as part of the **ALASKA RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION (ARPA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE**. This is the introductory course on sustainable trail building in Alaska. See what it takes to make the great trails that you have been using all these years. This class will emphasize sustainable design elements, trail planning, and management concepts for all trail enthusiasts. Also learn the importance of using a clinometer in a short outdoor exercise. Sign up for one day or the whole conference at http://www.alaskarpa.org/2013_Annual_Conference.html. The Wildlands Section of ARPA is made up of wilderness managers, wild & scenic rivers, and trail, interpretation folks. For more information on ARPA, go to: http://www.alaskarpa.org/ARPA_Homepage.html. For more information on the class, please contact Alaska Trails at 907-334-8049 or email office@alaska-trails.org.

September 11 - 13

JUNEAU - ALASKA RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE The keynote speaker is **JODI RUDICK** (www.littleredsbigideas.typepad.com). The Wildlands Section of ARPA is made up of wilderness managers, wild & scenic river, and trail, interpretation folks. For more information, go to http://www.alaskarpa.org/2013_Annual_Conference.html.

****September 18 (TELECONFERENCE)**

ALASKA MARINE POLICY FORUM - At 1pm the Alaska Ocean Observing System and Alaska Sea Grant will host a **ONE-HOUR CONFERENCE CALL** at 1pm with **PARTICIPANTS ACROSS the STATE INTERESTED in MARINE POLICY in ALASKA**. Join us to hear the latest about marine funding, legislation, and state and federal policy issues. Come prepared to share information you are aware of that's important to other

friends of Alaska. The call in number is 1-800-893-8850 and the PIN is 7572160. For more information, contact Darcy Dugan at dugan@aoos.

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

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

