

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 2014

GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:00 p.m.

Thunder Mountain High School Library



Antarctica: Land of Exotic Animals among the Icebergs

Can you image standing on a beach with 50,000 king penguins? Meg Cartwright will present slides from her trip to Antarctica in January 2014 as a tourist on a Russian ice breaker. Come see pictures of breathtaking scenery and exotic animals and learn about some surprising ecological similarities between the Antarctic region and the place we call home.

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY Officers Election! Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers in conjunction with the public meeting in October. Our four officers serve a term of one year; so all officers need to be elected each year. Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are accepted for all positions. The candidates for 2014-2015 are Gwen Baluss for president, Josh Peters for vice-president, Patty Rose for treasurer, and Alexia Kiefer for secretary. Nominations for any of the positions are also accepted at the general meeting. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as a candidate for any of the officer positions. Also, if anyone is interested in joining our board in one of our non-officer positions, we need help, as we currently have a vacant committee chair for conservation. The conservation chair position is especially crucial and needs someone to help the chapter focus and respond to important environmental issues as they arise.

Public Market November 28-30, 2014: Volunteers needed to help can jams and jelly. (Call Mary Lou 789-7540) Please sign up for the booth at the public market at the general meeting or call any of the board members. We need two people at the booth for all three days. Friday 11:30am-2pm, 2-5pm, 5-8pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am-2pm and 2-5pm. If you have items to donate or ideas for products, please contact Brenda or MaryLou.



President's Note by Brenda Wright

This will be my last contribution as president of Juneau Audubon Society. I'm not actually leaving the board this year. I will remain as a member-at-large. I look forward to attending all the great public presentations, bird walks, and Saturday Wild events. It is always impressive to me that a small group of dedicated volunteers can offer such a wide range of activities and be pro-active on so many conservation concerns. I look forward to all of it.

Just want to keep the 16th Alaska Bird Conference on the top of your things to look forward to in Juneau. The conference will be held in Centennial hall from December 9-11. We're hoping many of you will be able to attend (early registration fees until October 31).

(http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Home.html). I hope you will all be able to attend the presentation by Gerrit Vyn, accomplished photographer and filmmaker. He has contributed articles to Living Bird and Audubon magazine. Gerrit Vyn is the invited speaker at the conference here in Juneau on December 11 (presentation time to TBA).

Web Notes and Information

National Audubon Society, *Birds and Climate Change Report* Released Sept. 9

– A new study warns that global warming is a serious threat to nearly half of the bird species in the continental United States and Canada. According to Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change Report* (<http://climate.audubon.org>), 314 North American bird species will lose more than 50% of their current ranges by 2080. The study predicts that 126 of those species will lose more than 50% of their current ranges by 2050, with no possibility of moving elsewhere if global warming continues on its current trajectory.

BIRD Studies Canada News Updates, The 2014 Canadian Lakes Loon Survey Season is Complete: September 2014

– The 34th season of the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey ended on September 15. More than 700 Citizen Scientists across the country monitored loons and their reproductive success. Bird Studies Canada gratefully acknowledges all volunteer surveyors for participating, and collecting important information. We thank the participants who have already submitted their observations. For survey results to date, please see our 32-year report (<http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls/resources/CLLSsummary.pdf>), associated technical paper (<http://www.ace-eco.org/vol8/iss1/art1/>), and BirdWatch Canada article (<http://www.birdscanada.org/download/BWCwi13.pdf>). This program is supported by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the Kenneth M. Molson Foundation.

North American bird populations are declining in several key habitats, according to *The State of the Birds 2014* (<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>) In addition to assessing population trends, the authors created a "Watch List" of 230 bird species that are currently endangered or at risk of becoming endangered without significant conservation help. Fortunately, the report also reveals that bird populations are recovering in areas where a strong conservation investment has been made. The report was prepared by the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, a 23-member partnership of government agencies and organizations dedicated to advancing bird conservation. The scientists analyzed four decades of data from several continental-scale monitoring programs, including the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Christmas Bird Count. Bird Studies Canada thanks all those who participate in our Citizen Science programs.

Panama Tourism Adventures: Check out birds, plants, and special

sightings(<http://www.canopytower.com/newsletters>)

New Canopy Family Mobile Website Launched: Welcome to Canopy Family's new mobile website! For all those who surf the internet from your smartphone devices, you will now experience a more readable, user-friendly Canopy Family website. Our new mobile website provides a better text size on smaller devices, and all the general information our users want on this clean, simple site.

American Bird Conservancy

Annual report available on line:

http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/annualreport/ABC_Annual_Report_2013.pdf

Juneau September Bird Report, By Amy Courtney

September has been a little slow bird-wise here in Juneau, but we still have a few good birds to report.

Though not terribly rare, **Ospreys** and **Peregrine Falcons** can be a real treat to see, and there have been



Black-headed Gull Gwen Bayless

numerous reports of both this month, mostly from the Mendenhall Wetlands and Eagle Beach. Two **Great Horned Owls** have been spotted periodically on the Mendenhall Wetlands, and Gwen Baluss heard a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** on Heintzleman Ridge on 9/14, and at Point Bridget State Park on 9/16.

On 9/10 a **Black-headed Gull** was discovered at Eagle Beach State Park (AC), and re-found later that day on the Boy Scout Camp side of the river (GB). This was the third record for Juneau, and the first fall record anywhere between Vancouver and Anchorage.

Alexia Kiefer found a **Common Nighthawk** at Brotherhood Bridge Trail on 9/11, which is the first sighting in eBird since 2012! **Mourning Doves** may have popped up all over Southeast last year, but this year seems more typical, with Juneau's one report from Auke Bay on 9/27 (GV). The lone **Say's Phoebe** sighting of the year came from the Airport Dike Trail on 9/9 (AK), and likewise the only **Cinnamon Teal** sighting on 9/28 (GV).

On 9/9, Gus van Vliet found a **Blackpoll Warbler** in a Fritz Cove neighborhood, and on 9/11, a **Chipping Sparrow** at Eagle Beach. On the Boy Scout Camp side, David Schmerge spotted a first-year **Snow Bunting** on 9/17, which is unusual since they normally don't begin showing up here in Juneau till mid-October.

The first of our fast-becoming-regular winter visitors, an immature male **Anna's Hummingbird**, showed up on 9/9 at a feeder in Auke Bay where individuals have wintered in the past (GV). Soon after, an adult male was spotted at a Douglas feeder (also a previous ANHU hotspot), and was soon joined by an adult female (PR). All three are continuing, so perhaps they will overwinter!

Thanks to the following individuals who submitted these sightings to eBird: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Amy Courtney (AC), Alexia Kiefer (AK), Patty Rose (PR), David Schmerge (DS), Gus van Vliet (GV).

HEY. YOU 300 JUNEAU AUDUBON MEMBERS by Patricia Wherry

This is what a few members of Juneau Audubon and some kids did this summer. Marjorie Hamburger, with the City Museum, designed a special outdoor week for children. She invited Juneau Audubon Society to help with a bird walk around the downtown area. Amy Courtney Clarke and I engaged a diverse group of kids in birding. Quite a morning. We ended at the beach at the mouth of Gold Creek scoping gulls, making bird nests of mud and vegetation, and burying each other in the sand.

The 5th grade classes from Auke Bay School enjoyed a two day with overnight stay at the Methodist Camp, outdoor science and fun. Jane Ginter and I did some virtual birding and hands-on bird resources loaned by ADF&G, Wildlife Conservation.

The one room Advent School grouped on the floor last week to become birds.

The Raven Correspondence School has asked Juneau Audubon Society to help for 4 seasons of bird walks.

What don't a large group of vocal youngsters see or hear on a bird walk? Probably few birds! The big group needs to be broken down into smaller units of "neobirders," for a more successful experience. Unfortunately, all the events have taken place during the week this summer. Hey you 300 Juneau Audubon members, which of you enjoy children and are willing to give some time to help them continue to develop their interest and knowledge in birds? Don't say that, "I'm not so good with identification." Phooey! You know more than the kids. They are so eager! Usually these groups have what I refer to as a kid wrangler with them so the guests do not have to. There is more to birds than putting a name on a LBJ. There are so many fascinating pieces of information. Each of us knows something another does not. The kids are ripe to learn.

Contact me to help the Raven Correspondence School kids have a great birding experience. Remind me to be quieter; I get excited. Patricia Wherry, Juneau Audubon Society education chair, 209-3374

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



Photo: Dennis McAfee

A raven with a curlew like beak or a chickadee with the beak of a tropical hummingbird – what is going on here? Check out this article in [Environmental Health News](#), September 15, 2014, by Jane Kay. The article follows past and current research to search for an answer to the question. This eletter raised my eyebrows and awareness of conservation problems facing birds.

Patricia Wherry

Big Brother Big Sister

Interested in a fun, easy, and rewarding way to help better our community? Become a Big Brother or Big Sister! It's simple, it's fun, it takes as little as an hour a week, and it makes a BIG difference in the lives of local youth and our community. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska (BBBS) helps children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships, with a focus on friendship. Research has shown that the positive relationships between youth (Littles) and their mentors (Bigs) have a direct and measurable impact on kids' lives, helping them to develop confidence, avoid risky behaviors, and succeed in school. Littles matched with a Big for at least a year are more likely than their peers to graduate high school and attend college.

Littles come to BBBS from many different backgrounds and for many different reasons; the common thread is that they all want and could benefit from a positive role model and friend. BBBS is one of the only resources for youth and their families that is free of cost to them. We strive to serve as many youth as possible in Juneau, but we can only serve as many kids as we have volunteers.

Please give serious consideration in stepping forward as a volunteer. By sharing a little time you can make a big difference to a child, a classroom, a school, and our community!

For more information or to get started, you can visit the BBBS website at www.bbbsak.org, call 586-3350, or feel free to contact Lena Gilbertson at lena.gilbertson@bbbsak.org.

Thank you!

Lena Gilbertson
Recruitment and Development Director

Another Successful Summer of Saturday Wild



About 60 people attended the last JAS summer program, a mushroom identification walk lead by local expert Dave Gregovich. Despite a healthy September downpour, walkers found lots of interesting "fall blooms". Some even came away with a few known edibles to try at home.



September 30, 2014

Dear Juneau Audubon,

Rusty Blackbirds, like the one below, are gather in flocks and American Robins feast on berries as birds pack in the last bit of fuel for fall migration. In this issue of Audubon Alaska eNews, learn about birds at risk from climate change and how you can help, see new Important Bird Areas in Alaska, find out the results of the Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz, and see how Audubon is planning for the future for seabirds in the Aleutian Islands.

To see more on these stories, visit Audubon Alaska. <http://climate.audubon.org/>

- 1. New Audubon Study Reveals Climate Change Effects on Bird Species**
- 2. New Alaska Important Bird Areas Are on the Map**
- 3. Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz results**
- 4. Planning Ahead in the Aleutian Islands**
- 5. Giving Corner: Take a Vacation that Helps Birds**
- 6. Bird Photo Quiz**

Beth Peluso



Dan Elstad

Is this bird seen recently in the Lemon Creek area an aleucistic robin?

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. Heinel, 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 Heinel's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: steve.heinel@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/>>)

PICK, CLICK, GIVE

As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

President: Brenda Wright 789-4656

Vice-President: Josh Peters

Secretary: Bev Agler

Treasurer: Patty Rose

Programs: Doug Jones

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Conservation: Gwen Baluss

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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 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

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