

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 2015

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

Summer Slide Show! Bring a few of your favorites from the summer to share with the group. UAS Recreation Hall (back loop road) 7:00pm.

Election! Election! October 8, 2015 Election of Officers

All Audubon members are eligible vote for our officers. This year our candidates are Gwen Baluss for President, Josh Peters for vice-president, NO ONE for treasurer, and Amy Sherwin for secretary.

President's Message by Gwen Baluss

Summers in Alaska are too short! It's already fall and that means we are looking forwards to regular JAS meetings and programs. And, we have elections coming up in October. If you have ever thought of getting more involved as volunteer or board member, now is a great time. We have multiple vacancies to fill. So, this is shout out for any birders or any community member with a little time and energy who are interested in conservation. JAS has hundreds of members, great community support, lots of activities, even a reasonable funding flow - but we're short on people power. Despite being composed of mostly twitchers, we are a pretty low-key and easy-going group. We need you!

Saturday Wild Walks

September 19	am TBA	Mushroom Walk 1 Location TBA	Dave Gregovich
September 26	am TBA	Mushroom Walk 2 Location TBA	Dave Gregovich

To register for the mushroom walks (maximum 10 people each date) send an e-mail to at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org, please include preferred date and number of people.

Check juneau-audubon-society.org later in the month for possible schedule updates.

Saturday Wild Walks

Thanks so much to our Field Trips Coordinator Amy Courtney for organizing our fun and making posters, joining the radio for Juneau afternoon, adding our events to the calendars, posting on Facebook, and joining in the fun! Fun times on Saturday Wild trips this summer:

Low Tide Walk in June (photo by Brenda Wright)



Mt Roberts Tram in July (photo by Bev Agler)

The weather got clearer the higher we went!



Berry picking at Eaglecrest in August



Juneau Bird Report - May through August

By Amy Courtney

We have had a few good birds here in Juneau since our last newsletter in early May. Two male **Eurasian Wigeon** were seen at Eagle Beach on 5/5 (AC), and one on the Mendenhall Wetlands SGR 5/13-16 (DS; MS). A male **Redhead** and three **Canvasback** made a convenient appearance on Rotary Park pond off Riverside Dr. on 5/4 (AC, m. obs.), and most of them stuck around at least till 5/11. On 5/12 a **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted on a pond in the Mendenhall Forelands (MS; GV, DM) and it was present for the next three days. The passengers on the afternoon JAS Berners Bay Cruise on 5/2 got a treat when a **Double-crested Cormorant** was spied perched on Aaron Island in Favorite Channel (MS, AC).

Two **Sora** were present in Juneau this year-- one on the Peterson Creek flats on 5/10 (BA), and another at the Community Gardens from 5/16-25 (GB; PR, BA). On 5/20 Mark Schwan heard an **Upland Sandpiper** flying overhead on the Pt. Bridget Trail, and on 8/17 Gus van Vliet heard one on the Mendenhall Wetlands. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was an exciting find at Eagle Beach on 6/6-7 (GV, AB, m. obs.). Another rare shorebird report was a **Stilt Sandpiper** near the Dike Trail on the Mendenhall Wetlands on 8/9 (GV; m. obs.), and then the next day a second one appeared nearby! Both were last reported on 8/26. For the second year in a row, a very-rare **Black-headed Gull** has been spotted at Eagle Beach. It was present for at least two days, 6/24-25 (MS; m. obs.). Also found at Eagle Beach was a **Ring-billed Gull** 8/5-10 (PL, GV; m. obs.). One **Glaucous Gull** was reported from Pt. Bridget on 5/15 (DS), and another at the Salmon Creek Delta on 8/5-8 (PL, GV; MS).



Stilt sandpiper by Amy Courtney

Rare passerines were few in Juneau this summer. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was singing on the Mendenhall Forelands on 6/21 (MS). A male **Red-eyed Vireo** was found singing enthusiastically in the same spot that the Red-eyed and Warbling Vireo had a nest and brood last year next to the Brotherhood Bridge Trail (LL; m. obs.). It seems likely that this individual is the male from last year, but no other vireos were observed in that area this season. He was present at least from 6/14- 7/22.

Thank you to the following people who submitted their sightings to eBird for citizen science use: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Alan Burger (AB), Amy Courtney (AC), Laurie Lamm (LL), Paul Lehman (PL), Deanna MacPhail (DM), Patty Rose (PR), David Schmerge (DS), Mark Schwan (MS), Gus van Vliet (GV).



Black-headed gull by Mark Schwan

Bird Festivals in Southeast Alaska

Wrangell/Stikine Festival in early May

A group of Juneau Audubon members traveled to Wrangell last spring to enjoy the bird migration on the Stikine River. Jointly they rented a boat to take them up river near to the bird concentration areas. A great deal of fun was had by all. Thanks to Steve James for organizing the trip and providing photos.



Yakutat Tern Festival in late May

Thanks to Steve James to help organize our visit to the Yakutat Tern Festival this past May. What a really fun time! We had guided walks every day, interesting talks by bird experts, bird banding, great meals, wonderful dancing by the local Yakutat Mt. St. Elias group and NICE Weather! If you have ever happened to have experienced Yakutat rainy weather, you would have loved this visit. Not only did we have sunshine, but also three types of terns to observe. The Arctic terns and Aleutian terns were our target species, but then we also got Caspian terns to fill out the list! We can highly recommend the Yakutat Tern Festival to all!

Photo of **Aleutian Tern**, **Caspian Tern**, **red-necked phalaropes**, and sign by Ann Doty.



FREE! Merlin Bird Id -Identification App from Cornell University

To download your free bird app **Merlin Bird Id** (works on both iPhone and Android) just visit this site <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/> Just answer five easy questions and the app will display the most likely birds to be found in your zip code. The app has 400 of the 700 North American bird species and is great fun to use with children.

Merlin Bird Photo Id

You asked for it! The Merlin Bird ID team has been hard at work with colleagues from Caltech and Cornell Tech to develop computer vision capabilities enabling Merlin to identify birds in digital photos. We'd like you and other Lab members to be among the first to help us test this online tool using your own bird photos or screenshots of birds that you pull from the web. **Using a desktop computer or laptop, we invite you to check out Merlin Bird Photo ID.** <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id-help/>

eBird

Global tools for birders, critical data for science

- Record the birds you see
- Keep track of your bird lists
- Explore dynamic maps and graphs
- Share your sightings and join the eBird community
- Contribute to science and conservation

Overview

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/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

SPECIAL Thank you to Amy Courtney for being an excellent field trips coordinator the last three years! We will miss your organization talents and your excellent birding skills. Thanks, Amy

[Keep an eye out for this Anna's Hummingbird](#)

By Gwen Baluss

I caught this in the yard August 6. Probably a hapless young male, banded today at lunchtime, after he set up shop in my Mendenhall Valley back yard. It is the first to be tagged in Alaska. It will be interesting to see if his survival over the winter can be documented. The band is hard to see, but not impossible. (Photos by Gwen Baluss).



Tree Swallow Nest Box Update Fall 2015

With the help of many volunteers, Juneau Audubon Society erected 47 new tree swallow nest boxes. They were located at Sunny Point, Switzer Creek meadow, Brotherhood Bridge meadows, Fish Creek (Douglas), Pioneer Home marsh, and 2 private homes on North Douglas. Volunteers also checked the boxes to keep a record of how many were used and by what species. If any one has time to help remove the boxes for winter, please contact Brenda at 321-4739.

Photo courtesy of Bob Armstrong.



What's Up?

September 30

Deadline for registration for the **COSTA RICA | BIRDING WITH AUDUBON ALASKA TRIP** for **February 21 to March 2, 2016**. Pack your binoculars and embark on the birding trip of a lifetime. With approximately 900 bird species, Costa Rica provides countless opportunities for birders to expand their list. From the colorful Scarlet Macaw to the White-winged Becard, your eyes will have something to feast on every step of the way. Explore Costa Rica's pristine ecosystems and birding hotspots with Audubon Alaska on this 11-day journey. Led by Audubon Alaska Director of Conservation and Costa Rica birding expert Melanie Smith this trip offers a unique opportunity for participants to interact with Costa Rica's avifauna while simultaneously learning about them. Space is limited, only 8 spots left. Check out the itinerary and reserve your spot today at <http://holbrooktravel.com/dated-departure/audubonalaska2016>.

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (ACF) is accepting applications for the **RAPID RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM**. Rapid Response grants provide support for direct conservation action to address unforeseen opportunities or threats of statewide significance, leading to more robust environmental policy and enduring conservation impact. Rapid Response grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for a project period of no more than six months. The Rapid Response Program accepts Letters of Inquiry on an ongoing basis through ACF's online application system. For more information about the selection and eligibility criteria and how to submit an application, please go to <http://alaskaconservation.org/grant-opportunities/rapid-response-2/>.

BOARD of FORESTRY - The Office of Boards and Commissions is accepting **APPLICATIONS for the ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE SEAT** and the **COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ORGANIZATION SEAT**. Please submit your application online at <http://gov.alaska.gov/Walker/services/boards-commissions/apply-info.html> or email your resume to: boards@alaska.gov.

Eagle Feather Collection Permit

Juneau Audubon Society has a USFWS permit to collect eagle feathers for the National Eagle Repository in Colorado. Volunteers anywhere in SE Alaska can get a copy of the permit and pick up eagle feathers from the ground. If you are interested in volunteering to collect feathers, please contact Brenda at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org If you already have a permit, please bring your feathers to any public meeting in Juneau.

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. Heintz and Andrew W. Piston

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>

For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: <http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>> .

Visit Bird Studies Canada to learn more about birds in our nearest neighbor's territory. A great story on tracking birds from South America through the US and northern Canada can be found at <http://www.birdscanada.org/research/motus/>

Visit Cornell University Lab of Ornithology for great stories on a new species of hummingbird, mystery sounds from birds, bird quizzes, and more at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>

Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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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

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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 US 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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