

# 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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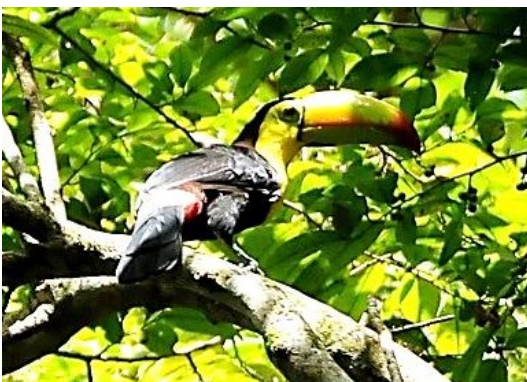
Juneau Audubon Society

January 2016

**GENERAL MEETING --Thursday, January 14, University of Alaska SE -  
Recreation Center, Room 116 -- 7pm-8pm**

## **Birds and Beasts of Belize Alan and Ann Doty**

“In 3 visits to 5 of the 6 Districts of the country of Belize, Alan and Ann Doty have recorded 245 bird species, visited 5 Mayan Sites, and learned so much about this tiny Central American country, which is about the size of Rhode Island!”



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – JANUARY 2 By Mark Schwan

We had 40 people in the field and a small group of people at home watching feeders. We had a boating party, which is unusual for us, but the weather out toward Portland Island was so bad that the party had to abort and come home, with some effort directed closer to home in the bay where birds were a bit concentrated in sheltered areas.

We found 54 species on count day, and had an additional 19 species found during the count week. Nineteen species is likely the most we have ever added during a count week, and this is because we missed so many birds on the count day but the weather improved markedly over the next few days, and birders found many additional species. The 54 species on count day was a substantially below average number, and the number of individual birds counted, 5,982 was way below average and the lowest count since 1980. We also had no record



Surf Scoter

*Bob Armstrong*

high counts, or all-time low counts for the 23 species we have seen every year (all previous 42 counts). However, we had below average, and quite low counts for many species.



Barrows Goldeneye

*Bob Armstrong*

and birds taking shelter and hunkering down . . .

After all the amazing bird activity in Auke Bay this fall, there were still seemingly a good number of fish-eating species around, with above average numbers for Pacific Loon, Common Merganser, and Common Murre tallied on count day. If conditions had been better, it would have been interesting to see what the counts on these species would have been. But, most waterfowl counts were down, except for Barrow's Goldeneye, the Corvid counts were all down but gull numbers were reasonable. Again, most of the low numbers were likely due to viewing conditions

Regarding surprises or rarities, we did have a few species show up either during the count week or on count day that have only been seen a few times, and one species never seen before on our count. For example, a Spotted Towhee was present, a true vagrant species, but it has actually been seen on four prior counts; pretty amazing given it is quite a rare bird in Alaska, anytime, anywhere. On the flip side, a Red-breasted Sapsucker was seen during count week. There are a few local winter records but this was the first time we found one during a count week. We also had two Long-billed Dowitchers and a Yellow-rumped Warbler on count day, and a Redhead and Double-crested Cormorant during the count week. All of these species have been recorded only one or two times previously on our count.

**Juneau Christmas Bird Count Results  
January 2, 2016**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Count</b>
Canada Goose	431
Gadwall	7
American Wigeon	47
Mallard	993
Northern Pintail	cw
Green-winged Teal	3
<b>Redhead</b>	<b>cw</b>
Greater Scaup	109
Lesser Scaup	1
Unidentified Scaup	56
Harlequin Duck	66
Surf Scoter	389
White-winged Scoter	68
Black Scoter	cw
Unidentified Scoters	1
Long-tailed Duck	25
Bufflehead	87
Common Goldeneye	67
Barrow's Goldeneye	410
Unidentified Goldeneyes	10
Hooded Merganser	1
Common Merganser	228
Red-breasted Merganser	84
Unidentified Mergansers	10
Red-throated Loon	cw
Pacific Loon	158
Common Loon	15
Yellow-billed Loon	cw
Unidentified Loons	9
Horned Grebe	3
Red-necked Grebe	5
Unidentified Grebes	7
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>	<b>cw</b>
Pelagic Cormorant	24
Unidentified Cormorants	1
Great Blue Heron	4
Bald Eagle	74
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw
Northern Goshawk	cw
Killdeer	1
Black Turnstone	cw
Rock Sandpiper	50

Dunlin	cw
<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>	<b>2</b>
Mew Gull	216
Glaucous-winged Gull	1,189
Gl.-wing x Herr. hyb.	1
Unidentified Gulls	15
Common Murre	159
Pigeon Guillemot	8
Marbled Murrelet	71
Eurasian Collared-Dove	cw
Rock Pigeon	2
Northern Pygmy-owl	cw
Anna's Hummingbird	2
Belted Kingfisher	8
<b>Red-breasted Sapsucker</b>	<b>cw</b>
Downy Woodpecker	cw
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Steller's Jay	40
Black-billed Magpie	11
Northwestern Crow	246
Common Raven	138
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	97
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Brown Creeper	3
Pacific Wren	1
American Dipper	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	15
Unidentified Kinglets	3
Varied Thrush	1
European Starling	56
Bohemian Waxwing	cw
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Spotted Towhee</b>	<b>1</b>
Song Sparrow	10
Unidentified Sparrows	1
Dark-eyed Junco	115
Snow Bunting	cw
Red-winged Blackbird	14
Pine Grosbeak	cw
Common Redpoll	cw
<b>Hoary Redpoll</b>	<b>cw</b>
Pine Siskin	103

Species on Count Day 54  
Birds counted 5,982  
Count Week Species 19

## **JAS by the numbers** By Gwen Baluss

Recently I completed an annual report to National Audubon about our activities in fiscal year 2015. Much of the time we are too busy to record what we are up to, so some of these are conservative estimates at best—and don't even cover all of the things we do. Interestingly Brenda Wright independently arrived at very close figures for the previous year. The bottom line is that we were active!

Have a happy new year and many thanks to everyone who made these achievements possible.

1	Sponsorship of the Alaska Bird Conference
1	(each) Website, Facebook Page, Twitter account & birding chat group
2	Grade school birding activities
3	Important Bird Areas visited with public or highlighted in a presentation
8	Evening nature programs
8	Monthly journals
11	Field trips free to the public
12	Beginner birding classes for adults
45	Volunteers
50	Citizen Scientists
53	Tree Swallow nest boxes built
240	Program attendees
300	Field trip participants
330	Members
649	Volunteer hours contributed
1000	Dollars for scholarship for local student attending university
4149	Birds tallied on the 2014 Christmas Bird Count

## **Happy New Year 2016**

Thank you Audubon members and public who chose to donate in the past during *Pick Click & Give* to the Juneau Audubon Society. We hope you will continue to consider Juneau Audubon in the current cycle of *Pick Click & Give*. Thank you!

### **Classes - Beginning Birder** - Patricia Wherry

Coming in the 2016 January Community School Flyer will be another opportunity to partake in a Beginning Birder class. There will be a choice of a set of 4 Thursday evenings held in town February or a repeat of the course in March at a valley location. Ask newbie birders who have taken the class in the past and I believe you will hear words like “great fun” and “covered so much.” As the leader I enjoy myself and learn something more about birds each time I offer the class. Get ready to experience how a bird folds its wing and which ducks dine in a dive or fish butts up. For more information about the class which is open to adults and older youth email: [education@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:education@juneau-audubon-society.org).

## **GBBC is Coming! Are You In?**

Greetings from the Great Backyard Bird Count team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 19th GBBC, coming up **February 12 through 15, 2016**. Because the GBBC is integrated with the eBird program you can start practicing now

**What's Up January 2, 2016** Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of the Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) and Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN)

**January 16 JUNEAU** – Deadline for comments on the **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) for TREADWELL DITCH TRAIL BRIDGES CONSTRUCTION PROJECT** to replace 38 bridges, perform some tread work, and protect and preserve heritage resources on the Treadwell Ditch Trail between the Blueberry Hills Access Trail and the Bonnie Brae Access Trail. The EA briefly explains the current conditions of the area, fully explains the proposed action as well as the no-action alternative, briefly summarizes public involvement and public input, and explains how comments were used in the analysis. It also explains the expected effects of the two alternatives on the environment and people. For full details of the proposed action, refer to the Environmental Assessment (EA) at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=35471> (case sensitive). The EA and associated maps are located under the “Project Documents–Analysis” heading. The Tongass National Forest and Juneau Ranger District wish to thank Juneau residents for participating in the public meetings and providing comments on plans. For more information or to submit comments, contact Michelle Putz at 907-747-2708 or email [mputz@fs.fed.us](mailto:mputz@fs.fed.us).

**\*\*January 11 HAINES** – Comments are due on an application from **SOUTHEAST ALASKA BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES, LLC** for the **FREERIDE WORLD TOUR COMPETITION** for the use of state land as a location for an annual ski competition at the Tahkin Ridge area near Chunekukleik Mountain (Mt. Chunny). The site would be in addition to three sites, currently permitted under LAS 30011, which may be used to hold the event. The purposed dates of use are March of 2016 and 2017. The application is available at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=101945>. Map of the area is available at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=101944>.

Please find the application materials for LAS 30724 in the attachments below. The public is invited to comment on the applied-for activity. To ensure consideration, written comments must be received by the Division of Mining, Land and Water at PO Box 111020, Juneau, AK 99811-1020 on or before 5:00 p.m. on the date noted above. Questions concerning this application should be directed to the Southeast Regional Lands Office, Telephone: (907) 465-3401; Fax: (907) 465-3886 or e-mail: [megs.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:megs.harris@alaska.gov). Supplemental Questionnaire for Uplands can be seen at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=101946>. For more information or to submit comments, contact Southeast Regional Lands Office, Telephone: (907) 465-3401; Fax: (907) 465-3886 or e-mail: [megs.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:megs.harris@alaska.gov).

**\*\*January 8 JUNEAU** – Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Fireside Lecture will be held at 6:30pm, repeated at 8pm. **WATCH THE FUR FLY!** will be presented by Researcher **WINSTON SMITH**. Northern flying squirrels are elusive forest dwellers found rarely around

Juneau but abundantly in other parts of Southeast Alaska. Smith will explain how his studies help us understand these mammals and their habitat needs. Warm beverages and cookies will be served to create a nice social atmosphere for people to gather and chat before and after the lectures provided by bookstore partner, Alaska Geographic. Some bookstore items will be for sale this year.

### **TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST DRAFT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**AMENDMENT AVAILABLE for PUBLIC COMMENT** that is being to support a transition from old growth harvest to a young growth-based timber program for the Tongass, recognizing the importance of preserving Southeast Alaska's exceptional natural resources while also preserving a viable timber industry that provides jobs and opportunities for Southeast Alaska residents. The amendment is also needed to support the development of renewable energy resources in Southeast Alaska. The Forest Service's Preferred Alternative—Alternative 5—is based on the unanimous recommendation of the Tongass Advisory Committee that was established to provide input and advice on the transition to a young growth timber program to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service. Members of the committee represent a broad range of viewpoints, expertise and geographically diverse communities in and outside of Alaska including representatives of local and state government, Alaska Native Corporations, the timber industry, the environmental community, and the public. The amendment process has a narrow focus and does not include changes to the Tongass conservation strategy, Wilderness or Wild and Scenic River designations, or changes to most land use designations. The draft documents are available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/?cid=stelprd3801708>. **Deadline for comments is February 22** and can be submitted to [comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us). For additional information, please contact Susan Howle, Project Manager, at 907-228-6340, or [showle@fs.fed.us](mailto:showle@fs.fed.us)

**WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN (BIRDS) at TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, JUNEAU**, to conduct avian point counts and other bird and wildlife projects (e.g. bird banding, seabird counts, and goshawk surveys) throughout the Tongass National Forest, Southeast Alaska. This is an opportunity to explore and bird-watch in America's largest, wildest temperate rain forest. Season expected to be mid- Apr through late Jul with some flexibility, but applicants must be available late May for safety training week and all of June for surveys. The season potentially may be extended if technician is willing to work on other natural resource projects, depending on funding. Government housing is usually available in Juneau (costs approx. \$13 per night) and some travel and field camping is required. **To Apply:** Apply through USA JOBS system. Go to <https://www.usajobs.gov> and create a profile and upload a resume - this can take a few days so best to do this in advance. Starting January 5, look for announcement number 16-TEMP-R10-0404-7BSTBM-DT and verify that it is for GS-0404-07, Biological Science Technician (Bird Monitoring) and follow the application instructions. Only US citizens are eligible. Issues with USA JOBS are best answered via the help link <https://www.usajobs.gov/Support>. If there are specific questions about the job that remain after carefully reviewing this outreach, and the official announcement online, you may contact [gwenbaluss@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenbaluss@yahoo.com). For more information, go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tongass/home>.

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

**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. <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

\*\*\* **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)



## *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>**

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**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>**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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