

# The Raven



*The mission of the 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.*

Volume 43, Number 6

Juneau Audubon Society

February 2017

*Please Join Us!*

## JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2017 | 7:00p.m.

University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center, Room 116

*Tanzania: Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro & Wildlife Safari*

Presented by Jack Kreinheder



In September 2016, Jack Kreinheder and Amy Carroll traveled to Tanzania, Africa, where they climbed 19,341 foot high Mt. Kilimanjaro. The climb was followed by a wildlife safari in three Tanzania national parks, including Serengeti National Park. Jack will be presenting photos and videos of their African adventure.



### BEGINNING BIRDERS CLASS

Have a **FUN** time learning about local birds. Join the Community School course "Beginning Birders." This set of four classes starts on February 2, 2017 and continues every Thursday the rest of the month. Class will be held from 7:00pm-8:30pm at Harborview Commons. Sign up through Community School at (907) 523-1761 or at the first class February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Miss a class? No problem! You'll still learn oodles.

Instructor Patricia Wherry, Juneau Audubon

### GASTINEAU GUIDING IS HIRING!

Gastineau Guiding is looking for local hires in Juneau. They are seeking people who love the outdoors and would like to work for 3-6 days a week. Find out more on their web page: [www.StepIntoAlaska.com](http://www.StepIntoAlaska.com). They are looking for trail guides, whale watching guides, photography guides, drivers, and sales people at the Nature Center at the top of the tram. Also, any and all combinations of the above. For more information, please call (907)# 586-2666

# GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.cornell.edu/ornithology) and the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 20th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2017. Please visit the official website at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) for more information.



Photo courtesy Doug Jones

## CANADIAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

**Bird Studies Canada** extends our sincere thanks to the thousands of participants who have once again made the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) an overwhelming success. From December 14, 2016 to January 5, 2017, thousands of Citizen Scientists scanned the skies, waters, fields, forests, and urban areas – virtually every habitat across the continent – to document millions of winter birds. Find more at: [www.BirdsCanada.org](http://www.BirdsCanada.org).

## OLYMPIC PENINSULA BIRDFEST

**April 7-9, 2017**

San Juan Island Cruise  
Neah Bay Birding Excursion  
Guided Birding Trips  
Bird Drawing Class  
Photograph Workshop  
Gala Banquet with speaker Bonnie Block

Information at: [www.OlympicBirdfest.org](http://www.OlympicBirdfest.org)  
[info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org) or (360) 681-4076

## JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Things are changing at the Juneau Audubon Society! This winter has been a season of transition for us. We have said goodbye to old friends and those of us still here have taken on new tasks.

Brenda Wright, a long-standing member of the JAS Board, will be moving into the Programs Chair, which has been vacant for some time. Additionally, Jane Ginter, who has been overseeing the Membership Chair, has stepped down. She will be replaced by Amanda Pilley, who will transition over from the Conservation Chair. We wish Jane all the best with her new-found free time!

Do you, or someone you know, care deeply about local conservation issues? Do you have substantial time and energy to commit toward a rewarding position in our community? Are you enthusiastic about all things bird? If so, we want to hear from you! We are currently seeking to fill two positions within our Board of Directors. For more information, please email us at: [Info@Juneau-Audubon-Society.org](mailto:Info@Juneau-Audubon-Society.org).



## Help the Juneau Audubon Society earn donations simply by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at [www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards).

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, visit [www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards). Please take a moment and sign up today!

### **EASTERN SANDHILL CRANES**

By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, TN

The 2017 Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival was held at The Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Birchwood, TN, which is north of Chattanooga, TN. Various vendors, live raptor show, music, special programs, and children's activities were held throughout the day at the Community Center.

The festival is a celebration of the thousands of Sandhill Cranes that migrate through or spend the winter on and around the refuge. Over 33,500 Sandhill Cranes were reported to have stopped by the refuge on the weekend of January 14 and 15. January and February are the months the birds normally visit that area.

The Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge consists of about 6,000 acres and has an observation platform with an excellent view of the wet lands, and nearby fields. There are plaques picturing a variety of water birds and land birds that have been seen in that area. A White Breasted Nuthatch and several Eastern Bluebirds were in the trees. Each year along with the Sandhill Cranes, a number of other types of waterfowl, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and White Pelicans are often seen.

During the day the cranes forage for food in the fields and overnight use the wetlands area for shallow water habitat and roosting.

In one of the fields walking among the Sandhill Cranes was one beautiful white Whooping Crane, it was quite a contrast from the gray of the Sandhills. In the water there was a raft of Ring Necked Ducks with a few Mallards.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has been managing this refuge for more than 60 years. Since the early 1990's the Eastern Sandhill Cranes from the Great Lakes region have been stopping at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge on the way to and from their wintering grounds in Georgia and Florida. It is estimated that 12,000 cranes now spend the entire winter near where the Tennessee and Hiwassee rivers meet.

## BIRDING RESOURCES

- HAINES:** Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist  
(<http://www.visithaines.com/sites/default/files/birds.pdf>)
- JUNEAU:** Juneau Audubon Website (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>)  
Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/>)
- SITKA:** Sitka Postings (<http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/>)
- SKAGWAY:** Skagway Bird Club (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/>)  
For discussions and latest sightings (<http://groups.google.com/group/skagway-bird-club>)  
Skagway checklist (<https://sites.google.com/site/skagwaybirdclub/home-1/tools-overview/checklists/skagway-bird-checklist>)
- REGIONWIDE:** For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska birds and events, join EagleChat. For an invitation, please contact Gwen Baluss ([gwenbaluss@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenbaluss@yahoo.com))  
Summary of Southeast Alaska Bird Observations Seasonally - Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintl and Andrew W. Piston. This publication has beautiful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at: <http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html>
- NORTH AMERICA:** 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/>  
For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, at:  
<http://www.aba.org/nab>< <http://www.aba.org/nab>>.

### CALL FOR ARTISTS

#### ALASKA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL JURIED ART SHOW

To be held in the Ketchikan Southeast Alaska Discovery Center beginning with a reception on April 7 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. The festival is an educational program to promote awareness of the spring migratory birds of Southeast Alaska through creative arts. The call is for Alaskan Artists for students/juveniles (17 & Under) and adults (18 & Up). Entry Guidelines: Artwork must include birds, avian habitat and/or migratory bird patterns from the list provided on the back page. Artwork must be recent, original and not previously exhibited in Ketchikan. Open to all Alaskan artists working in all media with a maximum of two entries per artist. Label each piece with "item 1" and "item 2" to correspond with each entry form. All two-dimensional entries must be framed and ready to hang (hardware, wire etc.) All three-dimensional entries must be ready for display. Note on entry form if you are including stands or props with your piece. You may sell your artwork at the exhibit. Proceeds benefit the artist (65%) with 25% going to SEADC educational programs including this juried art show and 10% to KVB. Entry deadline: March 31. For questions, contact Leslie Swada at (907) 228-6290 or [lswada@fs.fed](mailto:lswada@fs.fed). Submit your work to: Southeast Alaska Discovery Center 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 C/O Hummingbird Festival.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*From: Whats Up January 26, 2017 Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of The Alaska Center and the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN)*

**FEBRUARY 7** – The JUNEAU-DOUGLAS FISH and GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold a public meeting at 6pm at the University of Alaska Southeast, Room Egan 223. The agenda includes: Taku King salmon. For further information, contact (907) 465-6097 or email [jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov](mailto:jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov)

**FEBRUARY 15** – Deadline for applications for THE STUDENT APPLICATION for the JUNEAU ICEFIELD RESEARCH PROGRAM (JIRP). JIRP provides an expeditionary learning experience for upper level high school, undergraduate and graduate students. During the 8-week expedition, students traverse the 75-mile distance across the Juneau Icefield participating in the long-running surveys of glacier dynamics and mass balance, state-of-the-art scientific research, academic lectures, and independent research projects. The cost of the program is \$6, 425 which includes all transportation, food, lodging, 6 upper-division academic credits, and instruction following arrival in Juneau, Alaska. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from Juneau. Scholarships are available. For more information and how to apply, [visit www.juneauicefield.com](http://www.juneauicefield.com).

**FEBRUARY 17 & 18** – PREDATOR/PREY: WOLF and DEER DYNAMICS in SE ALASKA This is a graduate level professional development course designed for teachers of students grades 5-12 (but adaptable for other ages too!). Using the revised Wildlife for the Future Curriculum Guide we'll explore how you can teach about food webs, essential questions, habitat, predator/prey relationships using math and science for counting animals. THEN, we'll take a field trip into the habitat afterwards we'll demonstrate some public opinion quandaries for your students to explore. Meet the biologists that are researching this unique dynamic to estimate populations and learn how they call the numbers! For more information, contact a 907-267-2216 or email [Brenda.Duty@alaska.gov](mailto:Brenda.Duty@alaska.gov).

**AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION** *\*Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew National Audubon Society Membership (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at \$20/year.*

- Use the online form to join at <https://www.audubon.org/membership>
- Current members can renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/renew> or by emailing [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com)
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to National Audubon Society to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

Juneau Audubon Society Membership only: Please send name, address, and email with a check for \$10 (1-year membership) made out to Juneau Audubon Society to the USPS address above.

- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter The Raven
- Please consider getting The Raven by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership does not include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See <http://ak.audubon.org/>

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

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Chestnut-backed Chickadee.  
Photo courtesy of Bob  
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