

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

March 2017

Please Join Us!

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

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

University of Alaska Southeast Recreation Center, Room 116

An Alaska Big Year by Lynn Barber



Photo taken in Gustavus by Nat Drumheller

In 2016, Lynn Barber completed an Alaska Big Year.* She identified 307 species of birds and traveled all over Alaska, including the Anchorage, Homer, and Kenai areas, the Southeast Panhandle, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Adak, St. Paul, and St. Lawrence Islands, central Alaska, and Barrow. She will talk about her birding travels and present photographs of birds seen.

*A Big Year is a competition among birders to identify the most species of birds in a specific geographic area in a single year. For more information see www.juneau-audubon-society.org or call 907-321-4739

Coming Next... April 13

JAS General Meeting

7 p.m.

UAS Recreation Center, Room 116

Annette Smith

Underwater Life In Juneau

JAS Supporting Bird Research and Monitoring by Gwen Baluss



As an organization JAS has historically been focused on environmental education and conservation in Southeast Alaska, with a focus on birds and wildlife. This is still true, but we also recognize the importance of monitoring and research, especially of bird population for both our migratory and resident species. Here are a few ways we help.

Christmas Bird Count – this is a long-standing, wide range count that Audubon supports. The data from the CBC is now being used to see how birds' winter range, distribution and populations have

changed over time. Comparing this with climate data we can see how some birds have shifted northwards in the winter.

Other citizen science efforts- we are always encouraging our members to use eBird so their data can be pooled with this great emerging database. Specifically, we try to publicize special count events such as the Great Backyard Bird Count, and the Global Big day. Even our field trips are usually entered in to eBird and make for several fairly consistent springtime “snap shots” of the bird life, with plenty of skilled observers.

Tree Swallow Nest Boxes – as a group aerial insectivores have declined. It's hard to believe, but the once common Barn Swallow has dwindled to the point that the species is listed as Threatened in Canada. Tree swallows face similar feeding challenges to other insectivores. By getting a population occupying boxes annually near Juneau we can initiate further studies.

Arctic Tern Monitoring – New this year, JAS in partnership with US Forest Service plans to sponsor an Intern who will study and help protect Arctic Terns around Mendenhall Lake.

Supporting continental scale bird-banding studies – We donate up to \$500 annually to the Institute for Bird Populations. The IBP maintains banding stations in both summer and winter throughout North America as well as Central America and the Caribbean. This is now a powerful large scale data set that checks the pulse of many bird species population fluxes, including some of our migratory songbirds.

(For more info see <http://www.birdpop.org/>)



JAS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS AND IS RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

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: Conservation Chair and At-large. For more information, please email us at: Info@Juneau-Audubon-Society.org

Upcoming Southeast Alaska Bird Festivals

Alaska Hummingbird Festival Events throughout April in Ketchikan

The festival is an educational program to promote awareness of the spring migratory birds of Southeast Alaska through creative arts. Celebrate the return of migratory birds to the southern panhandle of Alaska. The male **Rufous Hummingbirds** begin arriving Ketchikan in mid-March and are seen at feeders and flowers throughout Ketchikan by mid-April. Festival events include guided bird hikes, art shows, and activities for children.

For more information, call festival headquarters at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center at 907-228-6220.



Stikine River Birding Festival April 27-30, 2017 Wrangell

Witness one of Alaska's best kept birding secrets, the amazing Stikine River Delta. This is an important migratory stopover for thousands of shorebird and waterfowl, as well as large flocks of geese, cranes, and grebes. The festival features art and photography exhibits and contests, guided walks with local bird experts, bird banding demonstrations, educational and kids' fun activities, films and a public market. This year's festival will feature special speakers Dan Ruthrauff, an expert on shorebirds, speaking about amazing Rock Sandpipers, and Southeast's favorite naturalist Bob Armstrong will also present a workshop on taking nature videos. Chartered boats will head out of town to the river delta.



Bird gallery near Wrangell in the spring: Bonaparte's Gull, Black Turnstone and Surfbird

For a complete schedule see www.stikinebirding.org.

The Stikine River Birding Festival is organized by the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau, City and Borough of Wrangell, USDA Forest Service, and James & Elsie Nolan Center. All events are free unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions, please contact the Wrangell Ranger District at 907-874-2323 or Wrangell Visitor Center 907-874-2829.



The festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southern most known nesting colonies of Aleutian Terns, as well as Arctic Terns and up to 200 other bird species that nest in or migrate through the area. The festival is family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, kid's activities, evening banquets and other programs, and locally made art. Our guest keynote speaker this year is Dr. Julia K. Parrish. Dr. Parrish is the Lowell A. and Frankie L. Wakefield Professor of Ocean Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, where she also serves as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of the Environment. The featured artist is violinist Linda Rosenthal. Ms. Rosenthal will be performing solo in addition to the Strings & Stories children's programs with Mr. Blush during the festival. Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beach-combing.

Please see www.yakutatternfestival.org visit Yakutat Tern Festival on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

FOR A LISTING OF MORE ALASKAN BIRD FESTIVALS SEE :

<https://alaskacenters.gov/bird-festivals.cfm>

OR

<http://ak.audubon.org/birds/2015-bird-festivals-alaska>



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

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. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**. You need to re-link your Fred Meyer rewards card to your non-profit of choice every year. If you need to re-link your rewards card, check that it is, in fact, linked, or link it for the first time, you can do so at [this link](#). JAS' nonprofit number is 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. Please take a moment and sign up today!

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) [Summary of Southeast Alaska Bird Observations Seasonally](#) - Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heintz and Andrew W. Piston. This publication has beautiful bird photos and information for Southeast Alaska and the most recent report is for Fall 2016, which covered the four months August to November. Feel free to forward the report to anyone you know who might be interested, particularly those whose sightings were included in the summary. The winter season report will cover the three months December through February (winter's almost over!). I'm hoping to have the winter report completed by early May.
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>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

From: Whats Up February 23, 2017 Compiled weekly by Peg Tileston On behalf of The Alaska Center and the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN)

****March 16 -18**

JUNEAU - AEYC EARLY CHILDHOOD SYMPOSIUM: GROWING UP WILD: LEARNING THROUGH THE SENSES - ~EXPLORE, ENGAGE, ENERGIZE will be held at Centennial Hall beginning at 4pm on Friday. Join us for lively workshops and captivating speakers, focusing on effective strategies for engagement that involve sensory exploration and are responsive to the skill and developmental level of each child. Take a look at the [conference brochure](#) and to register, go to www.aeyc-conference.org. For more information, go to contact AEYC at info@aeyc-sea.org or 1-888-785-1235.

March 15

Deadline for submissions for the **2017 ALASKA JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONTEST** from K-12 students. Participants select a species of North American waterfowl, do research on this species and its habitat, and then depict their findings through art and writing. Prizes, cash awards, and national recognition await the winners. Get to know North America's waterfowl and enter the contest! Visit this webpage for more information <http://alaska.fws.gov/jrduck> or contact Tamara Zeller at (907) 786-3517 or email Tamara.Zeller@fws.gov.

****March 6**

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND - PLAN AMENDMENT and LAND CLASSIFICATION ORDER is being noticed concurrently with a Preliminary Decision (ADL 108428) to authorize a **10-YEAR LEASE TO SEALASKA TIMBER COMPANY, LLC** for a 60.7-acre parcel of State tide and submerged land in **MCKENZIE INLET** on for the purpose of constructing and operating a ramp, log-rafting area, two log storage areas, and a ship-mooring area in support of commercial timber harvest on adjacent uplands owned by Sealaska Corporation. The proposed plan amendment and Land Classification Order (LCO) will change the designations and classifications for a 175-acre portion of, **SKOWL ARM**, in the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan. This amendment expands an area currently designated "Forestry", "Prime Habitat/Intensive Community Use" and "Recreation" to allow support facilities for commercial timber harvest on both the eastern and western sides of the head of McKenzie Inlet while accommodating other uses. Commercial timber harvest activity is contemplated in McKenzie Inlet by the current Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, and the total number of log transfer facilities allowed in McKenzie Inlet will not change with this amendment. For more information or to submit comments, contact Christy Gentemann at (907)465-3524 or email christy.gentemann@alaska.gov.

weekend to learn more about Citizens' Climate Lobby and hear how you can get involved: For more information, go to <http://www.sitkawild.org/>.

Jessalynn Rintala at 907-465-6097 or email jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov.

****April 11 & 12**

KETCHIKAN - ALASKA WOOD ENERGY CONFERENCE 2017 will be held from 8am to 5pm on Wednesday and from 8am to 3pm on Thursday at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. Community leaders, agency representatives, scientists and individuals from around the state and region will gather to share experiences, resources and knowledge of Alaska's growing utilization of woody biomass as an alternative energy resource in our State. Some sessions will qualify for Society of American Foresters Continuing Education Credits. The conference typically draws 150 participants. [Registration is available online.](#)

REMOTE LAND FOR SALE! The Trust Land Office is offering 50 parcels of land to be sold in its 2017 Spring Land Sale. The parcels are located in the northern, southcentral, and southeast regions of the state, and are being sold on behalf of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. Land sale proceeds are used to fund mental health programs in the state. Sale parcels in the northern region are located in Delta Junction, Salcha, Olnes, Chena Hot Springs, and Ester; sale parcels in the southcentral part of the state are located in Moose Pass and Little Tutka Bay; sale parcels in the southeast region are located in Meyers Chuck, Wrangell, Bull Island, and Yakutat. **Bids will be accepted through 4:00 pm, March 31.** To learn more about the 2017 Spring Land Sale, go to <http://mhtrustland.org/index.php/2017-spring-land-sale/> or call the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658.

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
- 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
- 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 (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 Armstrong**. **Bob's wonderful bird and wildlife photographs** are free to use for educational and conservation purposes. See more at: www.naturebob.com.

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