

THE RAVEN

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Juneau Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 21725
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<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday January 4

Juneau Christmas bird count

Thursday January 9

The New Gold Rush: Golden Eagle Studies in Alaska

Thursday March 12 Searching for the Spirit Bear in British Columbia

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Strike Team: Kids Take on Killer Windows

It is estimated that millions of birds die annually as a result of hitting windows. Almost everyone has seen this happen, and most of us live in houses or work in buildings with a lot of glass. **Finding practical solutions to bird strikes is one of the biggest challenges to modern bird conservation.**

Juneau students Elijah and Lydia Goins (13 & 10), Ethan Sinclair (10), Melissa Maxwell (13), and Daisy Montero (12) were looking for such a challenge. They formed a team and, with the help of coaches Ariane and Chris Goins, designed a window treatment that would reduce collisions. Their solution was entered in the FIRST LEGO League competition, in Juneau.

To prepare, the team interviewed Juneau Audubon Society 's Education Chair, Alexia Kiefer, and experts from the Juneau Raptor Center. They learned that Southeast Alaska has lots of bird habitat. But when vegetation is reflected, glass becomes particularly dangerous because birds think they can fly into the "mirror". They also learned that birds can see farther into the UV spectrum than humans. This was the basis for the design they came up with: a 2" x 4" grid of fluorescent strips over a



FIRST LEGO League & Juneau Audubon Society group pose. (JAS Photo)

UV coating. The team also recognized that more public education is essential. They won the Robot Design Core award for their design.

See 6 for more info on how you can prevent window collisions.

Message from the President: Flight Shame

After checking the weather forecast and seeing yet another full week on that uneasy cusp between rain and snow, with 100% cloud cover, and --oh boy!-- a little wind mixed in this time, I'm really looking forward to taking a trip to better climes. I'm also understanding that climate change is no longer abstract; it's affecting me, personally, right now, because my ski season is once again in jeopardy. But I'm also thinking about a birding blog written by a guide in Peru, Gunnar Engblom. He discussed the dilemma that birders face when they fly internationally.

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg– brought as a new phrase, *flygskam* “flight shame”, which should have particular resonance for birders. While most of us birdwatchers are not necessarily twitching around the – or even driving – to rack up a species list, by virtue of living in Southeast Alaska, we have sasquatch-sized carbon footprints. Just sitting around eating and staying warm has to be energetically above the world's average given our distance from most resources. And if you have family down south, or need to travel for work, either a large polluting diesel boat or an airplane is almost unavoidable. So, what can conscientious people in the north do? (Continued Page 6)

Board of Directors

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JOIN THE BOARD What a great opportunity !

We have two vacancies at this time: Field Trips Coordinator and At-large. Please contact Gwen by email: president@juneau-audubon-society.org for more info



Golden Eagle and chick. Photo by Mick Thompson. Flickr Photoshare, Creative Commons License <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Programs

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Juneau Audubon Society lecture series!

January 9

Steve Lewis presents: The New Gold Rush: Golden Eagle Studies in Alaska
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Room 112

February

To be announced. Check our website and Facebook site for updates.

March 12

Jost Bakker presents: Searching for the Spirit Bear in British Columbia
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Hall

April 9

Max Goldman and Rebecca Sentner present: Audubon Alaska unveils the Southeast Alaska Birding Trail
7:00pm at UAS Egan Lecture Hall

All presentations are free and open to the public. ***We hope to see you there!***

Safeguard Your Windows for Birds

You can reduce the danger your home's windows pose to birds with some simple solutions that you can implement today. Try some of the following ideas to make your windows safer:

- **Use barriers.** Barriers are very effective, such as external window mosquito screens tightly tethered bird netting or recycled small mesh fish netting.
- **Break up the glare.** Curtains can help. Use tempera glass paint or craft glass markers to form patterns on the window. Horizontal lines should be spaced no more than two inches apart, and vertical lines should be no more than four inches apart (birds will try to fly through anything larger).
- Placing a sticker of a hawk or other predator alone on a window isn't effective.

For more information on ways to safeguard your windows for birds:

www.AllAboutBirds.org/news/why-birds-hit-windows-and-how-you-can-help-prevent-it.

An Easy Way to Support JAS

Effortlessly give to your favorite nonprofit by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.FredMeyer.com.

Search using our name or by our non-profit number: **90656**.

Every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation! ***Please take a moment and sign up today!***

We Want to Hear From You

We'd love to know... do we have a lot of newsletter readers? Is it worth going beyond the normal website and Facebook posts? We put substantial effort into publishing The Raven, and funds to print it, without much feedback. If something has caught your interest any time in the last year, or you'd like to know more about something in particular, please send an email to: raven@juneau-audubon-society.org.

And as always, if you receive the print version of the newsletter, and are ready to switch to the electronic version by email, please let us know.

Respondents will be eligible for a prize, announced in the spring newsletter!

FLIGHT SHAME (from Page 2)

Engblom discussed the merits of ecotourism, and supporting reserves when you do travel. Its not safe to assume your visit to the area will improve things, often it doesn't, unless you can directly track donations to local people or reserves. The American Bird Conservancy has an interesting website for conservation birding: www.ConservationBirding.org. Carbon offsets are another option for appeasing guilt. Of course, it's not really possible to "cancel" anything, but things like planting trees certainly can't hurt. Check out this fairly well-vetted site: www.CarbonFund.org/carbon-offsets/ (Here's an answer to gifts for that person who has everything?)

I don't have any one best solution. Who does? I like the concept of a "staycation" – in the summer. I admit that I'm not yet ready to give up traveling altogether, but here are some things I'll be doing this year, to assuage the guilt and maybe lower my impact a little. I keep going with "meatless most days" (the popular "meatless Monday is a start, but we can do better than that!), as animal products, especially beef, have huge environmental impacts. I'll be doing most my birding and short errand trips by bike. Logging miles for bike- to-work month the last few years I found that even a few casual trips a week adds up to well over 100 miles a month not spent in a car. I'm trying to think a little more creatively this year maybe for example, assessing my IRA investments. Could those be greener? Its resolution time, I hope you will join me in thinking about this! - Gwen Baluss



Common Redpoll. Mark Schwann photo

**Happy
New Year !**

Wrapping Up Christmas Bird Count Season

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the nation's longest-running community science bird project. This is the 120th year of the CBC.

The Ketchikan Christmas Bird Count took place on December 14, 2019. This report came in from Steve Heinl:

- Total species: 70 (slightly more than average)
- Total individuals were above average (huge numbers of siskins)
- Water birds were below average (waterfowl, gulls, loons, grebes)
- Of note was a **record-high tally of 20 Anna's Hummingbirds**, which probably represents <50% of the number that are actually present in the Ketchikan area.

Juneau's CBC will take place Saturday, January 4. Count week is Wednesday, January 1, through Tuesday, January 7. We hope there are many successful counts around Southeast Alaska this year, and we'd love some highlights for upcoming newsletters. To submit a report, or for more information, email Patty Rose at: p_rose_raven@yahoo.com.

There are Christmas Bird Counts across the Americas. Curious about hotspots for a particular species or results for a place? Learn more at: www.Audubon.org/



Surf Scoter, is typically abundant in Juneau's CBC. Last year, however, was a low count for these declining sea ducks.

Don't miss the 10th Annual Yakutat Tern Festival!

The 10th annual Yakutat Tern Festival will take place May 28-31, 2020.

The Festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska.



Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southernmost 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. Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beach-combing. The Yakutat Tern 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, the Wildman foot race, music, and art.

Keynote speaker Hob Osterlund, is an award-winning writer, photographer, and conservationist living on the island of Kaua'i. Her work has appeared in publications including *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Explorer*, *Audubon*, *National Wildlife*. She founded Kaua'i Albatross Network. Her work included monitoring of Laysan albatross, assisting with predator control and serving as a link between private landowners and state and federal wildlife agencies. Hob worked as a Kaua'i Coordinator for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology "TrossCam" project. She will discuss the albatross and its role in Hawaiian culture.

Featured artist is Ray Troll, an iconic figure in Southeast AK. From his studio on a hill above Tongass Narrows in Ketchikan, Ray Troll creates fishy images that swim into museums, books and magazines, and onto t-shirts worn around the world. He draws his inspiration from extensive field work and the latest scientific discoveries, bringing a street-smart sensibility to the worlds of ichthyology and paleontology

For more information and to register, go to www.YakutatTernFestival.org or call (907) 784-3359. The festival can be found on Facebook and Instagram