ELECTIONS AND GROUP SLIDE SHOW, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, UAS Egan Room 108, 7:00 p.m.

The October meeting will be a combined short business meeting, election of officers, and group slide show- social event. All are welcome and encouraged to bring images to share with the group. You need not be a member of Audubon to attend; anyone can participate in the slide show, however, only members may vote in the election.

Election! Juneau Audubon Society will hold its annual election for the four officer positions. Our officers serve a term of one year; so all officers need to be elected each year. Nominations are also accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. The election slate for 2009 is Mark Schwan for president, Jeff Sauer for vice-president, Patty Rose for treasurer, and we are still looking for someone willing to run/serve as secretary. We established a nominating committee to search for a candidate but at this time no candidate(s) have been found. This is an important position for the Chapter, and we would appreciate someone interested in Audubon to come forward and join the board. You don’t need to be experienced on the board to be a good secretary; the position mainly requires one to be good at taking notes and accurately recording the business of the chapter at our board meetings. Moreover, we are in need of finding an individual that would be willing to serve as president in the fall of 2010. This would require gaining some experience on the board prior to serving in this position. We currently have vacancies on the board for a couple of committee chairs. If anyone is interested in joining the board with the thought of running for president in 2010, please contact Mark Schwan or any of the other officers or board members for more information. The chapter does a lot for the community and the region, and it is a great forum in which to participate!

Program: Once we have completed the short business meeting and election of officers we will do our group slide show. This is always lots of fun. We ask everyone to bring about 10+ images to share with the group. These can center on something special you did during this past summer, or something you did many years ago, or whatever you might think the audience would find interesting or fun. There is no theme, just bring some images to share with the group. We will have a traditional slide projector (it wasn’t used at all last year though) and a laptop computer and LCD
projector. People with digital images should bring them on a CD or small media storage device that can be connected to our laptop. Thanks and hope to see you there.

**Special Presentation on the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Tuesday, October 13, UAS Egan Bldg. Room 221/222, 7pm.**

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is celebrating 100 years of conserving Alaska's marine birds this year. In 1909 President Teddy Roosevelt set aside 50 "federal bird reservations" which were the beginning of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Five island groups within the Alaska Maritime NWR and part of the Yukon Delta NWR were some of these first refuges. How did President Roosevelt learn about these wild Alaska places and their native birds 100 years ago? The answer to this question parallels the historical beginnings of the Audubon Society itself. Please come and join Lisa Matlock, Education Specialist for the Alaska Maritime NWR, on Tuesday October 13 at 7pm in UAS Egan Room 221/222 to learn more.

**Richard Gordon is Migrating to Florida**

Rich Gordon, who has been exploring Alaska’s natural history for nearly 50 years, and who has been a cornerstone in the Juneau birding community for decades, will soon be moving to Florida for the winter. Rich was one of Alaska’s earliest resident birders, but even more significant, Rich’s experiences over much of the state and his dedication to conservation led him to be a key player in helping get lands included into proposed conservation units ultimately established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA.

In 2005, Rich received the Alaska Conservation Foundation’s Celia Hunter Award. This award recognized his significant, long-term efforts as a leader in the grassroots, volunteer environmental movement in Alaska. In fact, Celia Hunter used to refer to Rich as the “d2 philosopher.” Rich truly has made a difference. It will seem strange not to have Rich here for our Christmas Bird Count; he will most likely be counting some very different kinds of birds in Florida. We all wish him well and look forward to seeing him on the Juneau birding trails come next spring.
Murrelet Research in Glacier Bay – a Progress Report

Matt Kirchhoff
Director of Bird Conservation
Audubon Alaska

In summer, 2009, members of the Juneau Chapter, along with other volunteers, converged on Glacier Bay to participate in a study of Marbled Murrelets and Kittlitz’s Murrelets. They are species of high conservation concern, and Glacier Bay is an important population center for both, with an estimated 4,900 Kittlitz’s Murrelets and 41,400 Marbled Murrelets occurring there.

The study was headed by Biologists with Audubon Alaska, and the Department of Fish and Game, with financial and logistical support provided by Audubon (both state office and Juneau Chapter), Alaska Fish and Game, the Park Service, and individuals and foundations in Juneau. It was an exciting partnership that had biologists working with skilled birders to accomplish some important research.

The study had 3 goals: (1) Gather information on population trends by repeating a survey that had been last conducted in 1993, (2) map the distribution of both species within the bay, and (3) measure activity budgets, dive attributes, and prey-capture success in different regions of the Bay.

The logistics and training schedules were complex, with 20 people and 4 large vessels involved in the research. We established 3 field camps, one in Wachusett Inlet (East Arm), one in Reid Inlet (West Arm), and one in Blue Mouse Cove (Mid-bay). These camps were responsible for monitoring the numbers and behaviors of birds in specific focal areas, hourly, throughout the day. Other people worked aboard vessels, replicating the original 1993 survey 3 times. Fortunately, the weather during the 10 days we were working in Glacier Bay was ideal, with mostly smooth seas and warm, sunny weather every day!

The survey data have been summarized and revealed interesting results. Marbled Murrelet numbers in Glacier Bay were about the same in 2009 as in 1993, but Kittlitz’s Murrelet numbers were substantially higher! This was unexpected given the fact that Kittlitz’s Murrelets are declining elsewhere in their range. Perhaps there were unusual conditions in Glacier Bay that attracted large numbers this summer, or maybe their populations are truly on the upswing. The answers to those questions will be gained through continued monitoring and research.

The Audubon state office is committed to supporting these efforts, and working with a broad coalition of agencies and individuals to ensure the welfare of these 2 species. We thank the Juneau Chapter and other volunteers from Juneau for your support, both financially and in the field, to make this a reality. Stay tuned for more information on this project, and the conservation status of these species, as it becomes available.
Editors Note: If you’d like to hear more about the natural history of these species, Matt Kirchhoff will be giving a talk on November 6 titled: “Where cold is hot— a Murrelet’s-eye view of Glacier Bay”. It starts at 7:00 PM in the Egan Auditorium on the UAS campus.

Melanie Smith, a biologist with Audubon Alaska, scans for murrelets as the SV Sierra approaches Marjorie Glacier in Tarr Inlet.

**Funding for Wildlife Adaptation**

Taldi Walter, Communications & Policy Associate, Alaska Audubon

Climate change poses an imminent danger to the survival of many species of birds and wildlife and the integrity of the ecosystems on which they depend. Recently over 100 of Audubon’s state offices and local chapters endorsed a letter to the Senate requesting that they pass climate legislation that includes crucial funding to protect wildlife and natural resources from the ever-growing threat of climate change.

While the letter is a great step in the right direction, it is essential that we continue to let our senators know that we strongly support climate legislation that provides for 5% of total revenues generated through the cap and trade program to go toward natural resources adaptation. A legislative approach to conquering climate change is not complete without provisions that help our wildlife survive a warming planet.
These funds would increase the coffers of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Endangered Species Act and other successful conservation programs. They would provide much needed resources to National Wildlife Refuge managers as they battle invasive species and other refuge threats that will only be exacerbated by climate change. Research, monitoring and education need to increase as well. A 5% dedication of funds to address the impacts of global warming will allow us to protect and expand crucial habitats and more thoroughly understand the effects that climate change has on wildlife.

This fall, the Senate will take up global warming legislation. Now is the time to voice your support for increased adaptation funding. A quick call or email to your senators will help us build public demand for strong climate legislation and increased funding – 5% -- for wildlife.

To reach your senator please call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or find your senator’s contact information online at www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm. If you prefer to send an email, you can do so through Audubon’s Action Center, www.audubonaction.org. Tell your senators that you want:

- Strong climate legislation this year to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Legislation that protects birds, wildlife, natural resources, and ecosystems by dedicating 5% of revenues for wildlife adaptation.

Audubon has always spoken for birds, wildlife and their habitats, no matter the threat. Now is the time to speak out for strong climate legislation and the resources we need to protect Alaska’s birds and wildlife.

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**Photo and information from Ron Gile**

I found and photographed what I believe is a barred owl today at the north end of Douglas Highway on the trail that continues onto the beach. This shot is from the little bridge that goes over the little stream just as you enter the woods. The only reason I saw it is that I was shooting a landscape of the stream and this owl was chasing a little bird. It flew right by me then gave up the chase and landed. Poor photo as that it was pretty dim in there.
Juneau Birding Highlights, September 2009 By Mark Schwan

Birders had a few breaks from the blustery and wet weather over much of the month but those venturing out found their efforts rewarded, as fall migration was in full swing. Well knowing that the hurrah will be over soon, a number of active birders were compelled to give it a shot, with the Mendenhall Wetlands being their primary destination.

Peregrine Falcons, always a treat to find, seemed to be present over most of the month on the Wetlands. There clearly was a variety of birds, with individuals representing different age classes and subspecies (many obs.). Shorebird highlights included a juvenile Pacific Golden-Plover on the Wetlands on 9/12 (GV, MS), and another there on September 27 (MS), an Upland Sandpiper at Eagle River on 9/6 (PS, BA), and a great showing of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, with four or possibly five different birds found on the Wetlands during the month. Two birds were found on 9/4 (RG, PR), one bird was found on 9/9 (PS), another bird was found on 9/15 (PR, MA), and yet another observation came on 9/18 (GV). A lone Stilt Sandpiper frequented the sloughs adjacent to the airport dike trail from 9/11 through 9/14 (many obs.).

A Pomarine Jaeger photographed (RGI) near Poundstone buoy on 9/4 represented the first documented individual for the Juneau area, although there have been several previous sight records. Our well-known Lesser Black-backed Gull was readily visible along the lower Mendenhall River and adjacent areas during mid month (many obs.). A brief visit by a Mourning Dove along the airport dike (MS, DM) on 9/21 was a nice break from all the Eurasian Collared-Dove excitement, as up to four birds kept being seen near and on the wetlands all month long (many obs.). Two Common Nighthawks were heard overhead at the Wetlands parking area at dusk on 9/26 (DM). A Rufous Hummingbird at an Auke Bay yard on 9/11 seemed unusually late (MS). A Hammond’s Flycatcher was vocalizing enough for an identification at Brotherhood Park on 9/14 (MS). Cassin’s Vireos have become almost annual in Juneau but the bird found at Sandy Beach on 9/4 and 9/8 may be the latest local record (PS). The Warbling Vireo on Douglas Island on 9/21 was also very late (PR).

Perhaps a record-early fall report for Juneau, a Mountain Bluebird was photographed above the Mount Roberts tram terminal on 9/7 (RA). Townsend’s Solitaires are always far and few between around Juneau, but there were three reports during the month, with one bird found at Brotherhood Park on 9/12 (PS, BA), another found at Auke Bay on 9/14 (MS), and a third individual found at the airport dike trail parking area on 9/26 (PR). A very late American Redstart was a surprise find along the airport dike trail on 9/22 (PR, GB, MS). The best sparrow of the month was a White-throated Sparrow spotted amongst the Golden-crowns and White-crowns along the Wetland dike on 9/23 (GV). Finally, the only report of Brown-headed Cowbird during the month came from the Wetlands dike on 9/6, a single juvenile bird (GV, PR).

Contributors: Bev Agler, BA; Mark Anderson, MA; Robert Armstrong, RA; Gwen Baluss, GB; Ron Gile, RGI; Rich Gordon, RG; Deanna MacPhail, DM; Patty Rose, PR; Mark Schwan, MS; Paul Suchanek, PS; Gus van Vliet, GV. Compiled by Mark Schwan
Wrangell Birds -- October 2009  By Bonnie Demerjian

Birds are on the move this month. Sandhill Cranes have been reported from the Stikine flats from early in September and continuing as of this writing. Unlike spring migration when the birds speed north within a week, fall birds have been passing overhead in small flocks all month. This weekend, however, saw a surge of activity. Bill Neumann reports that a flock of nearly 1000 flew by at ground level on either side of his delta cabin just days ago. Thousands more were observed resting and feeding on the flats, then passing noisily over town during this week’s calm, sunny days.

A larger than usual number of Golden-crowned Sparrows mixed with a small number of White-crowned Sparrows have been reported at local feeders. The full moon of September 25 and 26 probably sent these birds on their way since fewer are now around. The bushes around town are still full of Savannah, Fox and Song Sparrows and they might be the attraction for the Merlins, Kestrels, Northern Harriers and a Red-tailed Hawk seen riding the thermals above town. A number of Northern Harriers were also reported from the Stikine delta as were Great-horned Owls, three or four of which are resident at each of two delta cabins. Two Ospreys were reported by an observer on Zimovia Strait.

One cabin owner also reports a lingering hummingbird, Anna’s he believes, but no photo available for this issue.

A few scattered shorebirds were also seen this month including Spotted Sandpipers and a single Sanderling.

Two Band-tailed Pigeons were reported as was a Blue Grouse that wandered into a local yard.

A Northern Crow afflicted with warty lesions around its eyes, bill, legs and feet was photographed at the Post Office on September 26. The same bird was brought to the Forest Service office dead on the 28th.

Bruce Page Bird Ruminations from Eaglechat

It's raining and blowing today, I've gotten wet once already birding, so I thought I'd jot down a few Gustavus bird thoughts and see how they resonate on a more regional basis.

The status of certain bird species appear a bit off-center, based on this past month's observations.

Northwestern Crow- I can't remember ever going a full month around the Gustavus Foreland without seeing or hearing a crow in August. There are multiple colonies in the area, they are usually flocking up about now and are foraging around the golf course, beaches, and are being their obvious,
mischievous selves. What would explain their near total absence? There have been flocks noted in Glacier Bay and a huge one of about 500 crows on the Porpoise Islands recently, but none at Gustavus, where there are berries, fish carcasses, spawning salmon, beach goodies, refuse, bird feeders, and all kinds of food right now. Are the numbers indeed down, or have they moved elsewhere for the moment (and if so why this year and not any other)? Common ravens, on the other hand, seem distributed normally.

Some other species around Gustavus seem to be scarce, notably Great Blue Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Winter Wrens, and Song Sparrows. Have the last three long, cold, wet winters taken a toll on them, is there some other reason, or are they in usual concentrations elsewhere in SE?

Lastly, Steller’s Jays, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and the cyclical finches (like Siskins and Crossbills) seem at a very low ebb at Gustavus. Is this also true elsewhere in SE?

**Posted by: "Paul Suchanek" Eaglechat**

Just a couple of impressions for Juneau. Crows numbers seem about normal here (i.e. abundant) but I think that local populations of Great Blue Herons, Kingfishers, and Winter Wrens (and Brown creepers) are down here - presumably due to the last couple of tough winters. Song sparrows seem to be doing OK. Crossbills and Siskins are very scarce, but these species often are boom or bust here. Nuthatches are typically scarce here also but I think jay numbers seem a bit off - perhaps again due to the recent snowy, cold winters.

A quick plug here: Although these mailing lists normally just discuss rarities, a great way to actually document changes in numbers of more common birds is for birders to enter their sightings into eBird from their daily walk in the park, on the beach, birding trip, or just looking out their window. For the Juneau area, there are now enough data in eBird for 2008 and 2009 for the interested observer to actually look at the differences between years in relative abundance for a number of species

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**Interesting bird observations in Canada**

**For more information contact:** Cameron Eckert, Whitehorse, Yukon

yukon bird club [yukonbirdclub@gmail.com]

I compile a seasonal report summarizing bird observations and trends from Northern Canada which is published quarterly in the journal North American Birds [www.aba.org/nab/](http://www.aba.org/nab/). I am thrilled to announce that the Region has now been expanded to include Greenland. I am hoping that you can help make the Northern Canada & Greenland report an exciting, accurate, and informed synopsis of our northern birdlife.

I would very much appreciate any bird observations you can provide from anywhere in the Region. I am also very keen to receive suggestions you have for other birders who might have observations from the Region. I would especially welcome new contacts in the remoter parts of the Yukon, NWT, Nunavut, and Greenland. This could include birdwatchers, researchers, professional biologists, people on the land, bird tour leaders & tourists - anyone who might have noteworthy observations.
Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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Eagle feather collectors: Please bring all your feathers to any public meeting
or call Brenda for pickup- cell phone-
321-4739. Mark Schwan or Brenda
Wright will collect them for shipping to
Colorado! Thank you!

Juneau Audubon Board: Back row: Merrill Jensen, Patty Rose, Brien Daugherty,
Brenda Wright, Mary Lou King. Front row: Jeff Sauer, Mark Schwan
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.
$20 (1-year introductory rate) _____; $15 (1-year student/senior rate) _____
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A51 7XCH

Local Audubon Society Membership Application

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.

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