APRIL JUNEAU AUDUBON PROGRAM

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, at UAS Egan Building, Lecture Hall, Room 112, 7:00 p.m.

Travels Through Northern Tanzania Game Parks

In late October, 2010, Alison Elgee and her husband Doug Rickey joined an Overland Adventure Travel tour of the northern Tanzanian game parks. Over two weeks, they visited the foothills of Kilimanjaro, Tarangire National Park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park. Alison’s pictures capture much of the African wildlife seen during the trip.

Tracks and Signs

The next Tracks and Signs walk will be April 28th 10-12 at Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei (Mendenhall River Trail). Meet at the parking lot across from Don Abel’s store. Our goal is to study and discover the interesting relationship between mammals and birds, to their environment. Dress for the weather and be prepared to walk off trail. This is a free program. Elders come share your stories; and families are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
2012 Berners Bay Cruise

Saturday, April 21
8:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 28
8:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m.

Adults - $45
Students - $25

Children under 12 - $10
(must be accompanied by adult)

Tickets at Hearthside Books

Vessels depart Don D. Statter Harbor below DeHarts. Boarding begins about 15 minutes before departure. Cruise lasts four hours. Juneau Audubon Society members will be on board as natural history interpreters.
Four extraordinary Juneau Audubon volunteers received awards from National Audubon on March 24th. The celebration at DIPAC was attended by sixty people. Matt Kirchhoff, formerly of the Juneau Audubon board, and now Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Alaska presented the awards for National Audubon.

Mary Lou King and Steve Zimmerman received the prestigious Great Egret Award. Less than 45 Audubon members have ever received this award. Mary Lou King received the award for her 27 years of board member - volunteer service to Juneau Audubon. This was not the first conservation award for this Juneau volunteer institution (she received Conservation Educator of the year Award from the Alaska Wildlife Federation, she and husband Jim received the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alaska Conservation Foundation and the National Chevron Conservation Award) but this time it was this very high National Audubon award.

Dr. Steve Zimmerman also received the Great Egret Award for his many years of service on the Juneau Audubon Board, Audubon Alaska (state) Board, and the National Audubon Board (the first member of our chapter to have served at all three levels). Lastly, Brenda Wright and Mark Schwan received Presidential Recognition Awards for their many years (and countless volunteer hours) as President of Juneau Audubon. A nice potluck dinner was served and beautiful wildlife images were shown by Juneau photographer, Juneau Audubon member Doug Jones along with this picture taken above.

Congratulations to the four who have given so much to the Audubon cause for wildlife and environmental protection, and a special thanks to Jeff Sauer and all of those who made this Celebration a rewarding occasion.
April 17 - 19
JUNEAU - COASTAL TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS: INTEGRATING SCIENCE, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, and COMMUNITIES will be held at the Centennial Hall beginning at 8am on Tuesday and 9am on Wednesday and Thursday. This event will highlight the science, resource management, and community development of the rainforests of the North Pacific! You are invited to attend and to submit proposal to present a poster. The event is a 3 day look at the history, current use, and future of coastal rainforest management, with great science, dynamic sessions, and exciting keynote speakers. For more information contact 907-796-6146, acrc@uas.alaska.edu or Scott Owen at 703-358-2636 or email: Scott_T_Owen@fws.gov. To register, go to https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=wrqtfgiab&oeidk=a07e55v49is184c81b1&oseq=.

Kevin Murphy, Alaska State Parks, SE Area Chief Ranger
Alaska State Parks has received funding for beach clean-up in the Channel Islands State Recreation Area. Volunteers will be needed to help rangers hike beaches and help bag up trash. State Parks will provide boat transportation to and from the sites. Clean up dates to be announced. For more information contact. Ranger Kevin Murphy at 465-2483.

Juneau Audubon’s President Message
Bird-dog season will arrive with our first flocks of migrants. At the wetlands we will observe loose dogs disrupting the resting and feeding of numerous species.

I've had many bird-dog interactions, both as a birder and a dog owner. We were fortunate: our dogs understood the drill: walk, sit, binoculars up, dog treat, repeat.

Our golden retriever would bring us her leash and carry it as we walked. Comical, yes, but she was focused on that instead of birds. Our chocolate lab, on a hot Fairbanks day, would stop in his tracks, sit, and stare at a tree. He refused to budge until the bird, quietly resting amongst the cool greenery, was located.

Audubon dog owners can demonstrate acceptable dog behavior when sharing space with migratory birds. It's a small step, but important. Our Juneau Audubon Society Board is discussing more active ways of addressing bird-dog problems. We welcome suggestions.
MYSTERY TRACKS

The answer to March's mystery (location of the funky tree):
Admiralty Island close to Pack Creek.

April's mystery track is a mammal that has four toes in the front and five toes in the back. Soon it will be letting you know that it is there if it hasn't already.

Do You Eagle Chat?!

Eaglechat is an online forum for birdwatchers in Southeast Alaska. It’s a place to post observations, show photos, disperse information, solve ID mysteries, and see what’s going on in the birding community. It also serves as a “rare bird alert” system for the Juneau area. You are invited! It’s free to join and you can easily unsubscribe at any time.

1) Navigate to groups.yahoo.com
2) In the “Find a Yahoo! Group” blank, type Eaglechat, and wait for the results
3) Click” Join the Group” under Eaglechat
4) Sign in, or click “Don’t have a Yahoo ID” and complete the form to get an account (if you are concerned about privacy, use the name of a favorite bird)
5) Write a brief comment to the moderator so they know you are not a spammer. Be sure to check if you want to get individual emails, or just be able to read the postings on a home page.
6) Soon you will be approved and able to post your observations to eaglechat@yahoogroups.com

Brown Creeper  Montana Creek
From Judy Hall Jacobson
in Haines

Last year, just in time for the Eagle Fest we were seeing and photographing a leucistic bald eagle. Here is a photo I took through a spotting scope at 14.5 mile last November on the Chilkat River. Road

Last month Greg Brown and Karla Hart and I were communicating on the possible Stellers Sea-Eagle sighting on Facebook. I posted this photo and Greg agreed it looked like the bird he saw in Juneau.

While a Stellers sighting would be quite incredible, keeping track of this leucistic eagle if that's what was seen there in Juneau, is interesting as well.

Trumpeter Swans, Canada Geese and ducks on the Honsinger Pond. Mary Lou King
# Juneau Audubon’s schedule for spring bird walks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time/Comments</th>
<th>Leader(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Auke Recreation Area; meet at large west-end pavilion.</td>
<td>8:00am. Aimed for beginners</td>
<td>Kevin O’Malley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Eagle Beach Picnic area. Meet at parking area near outhouses.</td>
<td>8:00am Two groups; one for beginners and one for experienced birders</td>
<td>Paul Suchanek, Kevin O’Malley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Berners Bay Cruise, Auke Bay Statter Harbor; board 8:15am</td>
<td>No bird walk; harbor parking area still free; other parking at Auke Bay School</td>
<td>Cruise: Linda Nicklin, Mary Willson, Paul Suchanek, and Bev Agler.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Two Berners Bay Cruises; depart from Auke Bay, Statter harbor; 1st cruise boards at 8:15am and 2nd cruise boards at 1:15pm.</td>
<td>No bird walk; harbor parking area still free; other parking at Auke Bay School</td>
<td>Early cruise: Laurie Craig, Patty Rose.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Late cruise: Laurie Craig, Merrill Jensen,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Sunny Point to airport dike ; if weather is bad could opt for shorter outing.</td>
<td>8am - noon Meet at airport dike parking</td>
<td>Mark Schwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Hike toward mouth of Mendenhall River from dike trail parking area.</td>
<td>8:00am Meet at dike trail parking area at end of Radcliffe Road.</td>
<td>Jeff Sauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Bird Banding Demonstrations and kids activities Arctic Tern viewing</td>
<td>7:00-11:00am Community Garden 3:00-5:00pm at Photo Point past glacier visitors’ center</td>
<td>Gwen Baluss and possible bird walk after with Jeff Sauer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gwen Baluss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Sandy Beach</td>
<td>7:00am Meet at parking lot</td>
<td>Patty Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Moose Lake</td>
<td>8:00am Meet at parking lot on Back Loop Rd. next to bridge.</td>
<td>Steve Zimmerman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SATURDAY WILD -- SUMMER 2012

These free public summer walks are led by experts and are interesting and fun for both adults and children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather.

**June 23 – Jensen-Olsen Arboretum**  Meet at 11:00 a.m. The Jensen-Olsen Arboretum is located in an area known locally as “Out the Road”. The Arboretum is just past Mile 23 on Glacier Highway. Enjoy a tour of the Arboretum, identify birds, and enjoy the Minus Tide Walk on the beach by the Arboretum.

**Driving Directions** From downtown Juneau, take the Egan Expressway northwest toward the Juneau Airport. The divided four lane Expressway eventually becomes a two lane road at Brotherhood Bridge and changes name to Glacier Highway. Continue driving west past Auke Lake and Auke Bay on Glacier Highway which will bend to the north. Watch for the square green mile markers on the shoulder of the road. Just after Mile 22, you will pass the Shrine of St. Therese. Continue seven-tenths of a mile, passing Mile 23 and look for the Arboretum sign. Turn left and follow the short lane to the small parking area.

**July 14 – Mount Roberts Tram**  Meet at the Tram Office on South Franklin Street at 8:00 a.m. Linda Nicklin will explore flowers and other plants and Audubon naturalists and birders will identify birds and other wildlife. If you arrive at 8 a.m., the tickets for the tram can be purchased for a reduced rate.

**August 18 – Fish Creek** is located at Mile 8.3 North Douglas Highway. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the town side of the Fish Creek Bridge. Learn about both mushrooms and fish during this walk.

**September 8 – Eaglecrest**  10:00 a.m. Meet beside the Lodge. Berries will be found and identified. After getting to know the berries you will be free to pick berries on your own, so bring along something to put them in.

**Alaska Hummingbird Festival April 6-12, Ketchikan.**  
This is a great chance to expand your Alaska bird list with some of the southern specialties with local expert birders.


**Stikine River Birding Festival Apr 26-29, Wrangell**
AK Airlines is offering a discount for travel there too!

And... stay tuned for more on **Yakutat's second annual Aleutian Tern Festival May 31-June 3**  [http://www.yakutatternfestival.org/](http://www.yakutatternfestival.org/)
A few early migrants turned up in March, some before the first day of Spring. **Dark-eyed Juncos** and **Song Sparrows** started singing, signaling the change of seasons. Some rare overwintering birds continued in the area, including two **Western Grebes** and some interesting raptors. Following are observations that are rare or rarer on the Juneau Checklist for the season in which observed or are interesting for another reason:

**Trumpeter Swan.** Two at Fish Creek on March 14 (PS), and two at Auk Nu Cove on March 21 - 22 (GV, MS, RG Photo).

**Northern Shoveler.** A single female at Fish Creek on March 17 (PS, PR), and two females at Fish Creek on March 22 (PS).

**Hooded Merganser.** Five at Brotherhood Park on March 4 (PS), and one at the Airport Dike Trail on March 3.

**Yellow-billed Loon.** Four were reported during the period, one at the North Douglas boat launch on March 11 (GV), one at Auke Rec on March 12 (PS), and two at the North Douglas powerline trail on March 16 (PS).

**Western Grebe.** One continued in the area and was at Fish Creek on March 1. On March 9 and 17, two were seen together at Fish Creek (PS). This species is listed as very rare on the Juneau Checklist.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk.** A near-adult with distinctive white spots on the upper parts was at Sandy Beach March 3 - 5 (PS Photo), and a dark-plumaged adult was at a Fritz Cove residence on March 10 (GV).

**Merlin.** One was at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center on March 2 (TD), and one continued in the downtown area through March 8 (GV).

**Killdeer.** Four were at Fish Creek on March 14, and five were at Fish Creek on March 20 (PS).

**Red-breasted Sapsucker.** The first two of the season were seen on March 13 from the North Douglas Highway (PS). On March 18, another winter observation of this species was made at an Auke Bay residence (MS).

**Black-Billed Magpie.** A large flock of 120 was at Mendenhall Lake on March 24 (DR).

**Snow Bunting.** One was on the Mendenhall Wetlands on March 21 (PS, MS).

**White-crowned Sparrow.** An over-wintering juvenile turned up at a North Douglas residence on March 4 (PS).

**Rusty Blackbird.** Six were at Duck Creek near Super Bear in the Mendenhall Valley on March 2 (PS).

These observations were compiled from eBird and Eaglechat. Thanks to those who contributed. Contributors included Tasha DiMarzio (TD), Ron Gile (RG), Patty Rose (PR), Deb Rudis (DR), Mark Schwan (MS), Paul Suchanek (PS), and Gus Van Vliet (GV).
Report from Haines By Pam Randles

Despite the record shattering snowfall we have had this year, spring birds are beginning to show up. There were about 400 Surf Scoters in the inlet. They are gathering to fuel up for the summer and to choose mates. Pigeon Guillemots are also back and gathering near the docks where they nest.

There is quite a bit of activity at the mouth of the Chilkoot River. Two local residents found a capelin washed up on the beach, so that may be the reason. They also heard a Hooter (Blue or Sooty Grouse) in the forest and saw a hawk. Quite a few eagles are on the Chilkoot side of the mountain. Other residents such as ravens, crows, gulls and Common Mergansers are hanging out in Lutak Inlet. Several Northern Shrikes have been spotted recently, and Pygmy Owls have been hooting. One person observed four Common Goldeneyes, three males and one female plus a pair of Trumpeter Swans.

**Eastern Bluebirds** -- By Prill(Isleib)Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

A couple summers ago a pair of bluebirds nested in one of our bird houses. Our family enjoyed watching them but last summer there some housing competition with the chickadees, tufted titmouse, and the nuthatches. This year in late February we noticed the bluebirds checking out a couple of our birdhouses. We went around and made sure that all the bird boxes were cleaned out and ready for the coming season.

To avoid any nesting competition this spring, I bought 4 cedar wood bluebird houses and we posted them on different trees. We then waited to see what would happen. To our delight the bluebirds came back, checked out the new boxes and went in and out of each of them. A few days later we noticed that a particular bird box was chosen. It faces northwest toward a lower open area on the property. We have observed the male bringing various insects to the nest for his mate. The male often perches on the roof of the birdhouse or on a branch near by where he keeps watch about his surroundings.

Male Eastern Bluebirds are a brilliant deep blue on the back and head, and warm red-brown or brick-red on the breast. His colors seem to glow in the sunlight. Females are grayish above with bluish wings and tail, and a subdued light orange-brown breast. According to several sources the Eastern Bluebirds mostly range east of the Rockies and from southern Canada to the Gulf States. They are also reported to be found in Southeast Arizona to Nicaragua.
Teshekpuk Lake: the Crown Jewel of the National Petroleum Reserve–Alaska
Beth Peluso, Communications Manager, Audubon Alaska

The National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (Reserve) encompasses an immense and spectacular Arctic ecosystem that provides critical habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. The Reserve is a vast landscape that has remained largely unchanged in character over millennia and boasts wilderness and wildlife values that rank among the highest on the continent.

The wetlands along the northern edge of the Reserve teem with life during the summer. An epicenter of this activity is the vast wetland maze surrounding Teshekpuk Lake. This biological hotspot provides essential habitat for the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd and hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds. For tens of thousands of geese, this area provides a critical safe haven when they are flightless during molt. Birds that breed here migrate to places across the Lower 48 and to six continents—some of the birds you see in your backyard during migration may be on their way to the Reserve!

The Reserve is the largest tract of public land in the country, encompassing more than 22 million acres of the North Slope. In 1976, Congress recognized that there were special areas in the Reserve with exceptional qualities. It directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to balance future development with “maximum protection” for the special qualities of these areas, including fish and wildlife, subsistence, recreation, historical, and scenic values. Several “Special Areas” have been designated by the BLM in recognition of their wildlife and natural values: Teshekpuk Lake, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and the Utukok River Uplands. None of them, however, has permanent protection.

Although more than 3 million acres of the Reserve are presently leased for oil and gas exploration, so far there is no established oil production. Most of the highest-value habitat areas in the Reserve remain largely undisturbed. This spring, you have an unprecedented chance to help protect these highest-value habitats. The BLM is currently working on an area-wide plan that will dictate how the resources in the Reserve will be managed in the future. This is the greatest opportunity we’ve had to secure a management plan that protects the area surrounding Teshekpuk Lake by designating it as not available for oil and gas leasing.

The BLM will seek public comments on the Plan when it releases the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, scheduled for release this spring. This will be an opportunity to support permanent protection of the special areas. To find out more, visit www.AudubonAlaska.org.
Reaching Out to a Younger Crowd

The Audubon flock has an amazing amount of collective knowledge and wisdom. But you might have noticed our functions are not well attended by the next generation of naturalists and conservationists. What is the future of our environmental groups, and ultimately the environment, if we can’t attract new members? How can we get more interest from younger birders, or those that that have not found a good way to connect with the outdoors?

Do you have ideas? Let us know!

One idea that we have talked about is utilizing social media (Facebook, blogs, and so forth) However, we do not have a board member currently with the time and expertise in this realm to dive in. Do you know good ways to connect with young adults? Suggestions and volunteers are welcome.

Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair

I just wanted to thank you and your organization for sponsoring an Award at the 2012 Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair on March 10, 2012. The students chosen for the Juneau Audubon Society award this year were:

**Kathe Tallmadge** for her project "Respiration Rates of Pacific Herring and Yellowtail Rockfish"

**Ian Andrews & Fiona Brown** for their project "How Feeding After a Period of Starvation Affects RNA/DNA Ratios in Juvenile Capelin (Mallotus villosus) Over Time" **Kiana Hunter-Skeek & Thea McCluskey** for their project "Shells That Stick, Bad Eggs, or Just Badly Prepared?" and **Ariana Gross & Amalia Tamone** for their project "The effects of potential anesthetics on the nervous system of Humpy Shrimp (Pandalus goniurus)"

On behalf of the students I would like to thank you for supporting this worthwhile activity.

Lawrence Schaufler, Fair Director
OTHER WEB OPPORTUNITIES

**** New Bob Armstrong’s wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – www.naturebob.com

SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY

Sub-regional Compilers: Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901
Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. If you want to be put on Steve Heinl’s mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: steve.heinl@alaska.gov

If you are interested in additional information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information: http://www.aba.org/nab<http://www.aba.org/nab>. The seasonal reports cover all of North America and give excellent overviews of unusual numbers of particular species (high or low), early or late dates of occurrence, changes in status, and rare finds for each region.

There is also an extensive list of all bird sightings entered in eBird (www.ebird.org<http://www.ebird.org/>).

Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

President: Julie Coghill
Vice-President: Jeff Sauer,
Secretary: Julie Koehler,
Treasurer: Patty Rose,
Programs: Jeff Sauer
Membership: Brenda Wright, 789-4656,
Education: Kevin O’Malley,
Conservation: Gwen Baluss
Field Trips: Mark Schwan
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field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org
raven@juneau-audubon-society.org
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at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org
public-market@juneau-audubon-society.org
webmaster@juneau-audubon-society.org

Too much paper mail from the National Audubon Society?

You can ask to be taken off the mass mailing list: Email Customer Service audubon@emailcustomerservice.com or call 1-800-272-4201

Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.
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) ____ $30 Basic renewal ___

Name_______________________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________

City/State/Zip Code____________________________________________

Telephone number_______________________

____ My check for $_______ is enclosed_____ Please bill me CZZA510Z A51

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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*.

***Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color.

To request this option email: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org