

# 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

October 2013

**Juneau Audubon Society  
OCTOBER MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10  
Thunder Mountain High School Library, 7:00 p.m.**

## Great Bird Migrations

The talk by Doug Jones is one he gave in Homer last spring at the Kachemak Shorebird festival. He talks about some of the amazing things birds do on migrations, the fastest, the highest, and the longest migrations. Fun topic!



*Photo by Pattv Rose*

### **President's notes by Brenda Wright**

Welcome back to the regular presentation season of Juneau Audubon. **Note:** For those who live in Juneau, we will be meeting at the fine library at Thunder Mountain high School this year. The library is on the second floor facing the front doors of the high school. There is an elevator to the right of the open area. We hope you enjoy the new location. It is conveniently located in the valley and is a great space to enjoy our great speakers and their amazing photos.

Our meetings are always the second Thursday of each month so mark your calendars for November 14 and December 12 now.

In November, we will be selling our jellies, jams and nature craft items, etc., at the public market. The market is held for three days after Thanksgiving. The dates this year are November

25-27. If you have time to volunteer your time to help Mary Lou make jams the beginning of November or will be available to help at the booth, we would love to hear from you.

We had excellent groups attend our Saturday Wild events this past summer. In June we explored the low tide at Bridget Cove with Pat Harris, July found us in the alpine above Mt. Roberts tram (thank you Mt. Roberts) with Linda Nicklin, and in August mushrooms were thoroughly enjoyed and identified with the leadership of Dave Gregovich. Thanks so much to all the leaders that made our exploration so much fun!

### **“Bird Bits”**

This summer every Friday, Juneau Audubon has had a “Bird Bits” in the “Outdoor Section” of the Juneau Empire. Helen Unruh, Doug Jones, Bob Armstrong, Mark Schwan, and Jos Bakker supplied photos to accompany the brief, local bird sketches. The author of the articles attempted to encourage young parents and older children to consider enjoying the outdoors and birding. For example, a photo was used of Amy C Courtney backpacking her son Nick at an Audubon “Saturday Bird Walk.” Nick can “pish” for birds like an expert.

The summer series ended with the American Dipper and a drawing for two related books by Katharine Hocker and Mary Willson. The winner of the children’s book The Singer in the Stream (out of print) was Nina Chordas. Sharon Baysinger won the book American Dippers: Singers in the Mountain Streams.

“Bird Bits” will continue once a month through the winter featuring local resident birds and migrant birds who winter in Southeast Alaska.

Patricia Wherry – Education chairperson

### **Bird Walks, Cruises, Bird Banding** By Amy Clark Courtney

Like many in Alaska, we in Juneau experienced a rather capricious spring, but the summer surprised us by bringing far more sun than any in recent years! Juneau Audubon was able host seven spring migration walks, four wildlife cruises to Berner’s Bay, one bird banding demonstration. Participation in the programs was surprisingly high, even on inclement days, with almost forty people turning up for one! It was wonderful to see many “fledgling” as well as veteran birders in attendance. Our thanks goes to the seventeen Audubon members and local experts who volunteered their time to lead excursions and share their love of birds and nature here in Southeast.



Photo by Patty Rose

### **Eastern Phoebe** By Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, N.C.

The Eastern Phoebe is a small active fly-catcher that says its name (fee-bee). It has a dark head and a solid black bill. Its tail wagging habit makes it easy to identify. It Darts after flying insects. In the wild they nested on rock cliffs and along streams but quickly adapted to man

made structures. Audubon discovered through banding that phoebes return year after year to the same nest site.

For several seasons an Eastern Phoebe had built a nest above the garage window. There's just a half inch of edging above the window frame to hold the nest to secure it. Each year the Phoebe would come back and reinforce the nesting material of mud, moss, and grass. Then raise two families during spring and summer.

This spring the Phoebe successfully raised another family. After the spring young had left the nest we noticed the nest had fallen off. We observed the Phoebe trying to build up the nesting material again but it just didn't hold anymore. It kept coming down.

I asked my husband if he would be able to attach a thin narrow shelf or something in that spot where the nest had been. He did. As soon as the 'shelf' was in place the Phoebe came right back and built a new nest. We soon noticed her sitting on it. And later we saw the young in the nest as she diligently fed and raised her summer family.

**From "Whats Up" 9/25/13 Peg Tileston**

November 4 - 6

JUNEAU - SOUTHEAST ALASKA WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM will be held in Centennial Hall sponsored by the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition and the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership. The symposium will share information about our local fish and their important habitats in Southeast Alaska and bring together the many stakeholders who are currently working in aquatic resource management in the area. For more information go to <http://alaskawatershedcoalition.org/> and <http://www.seakfhp.org> or by email either Jess Kayser at [alaskawatersheds@gmail.com](mailto:alaskawatersheds@gmail.com) or Debbie Hart at [coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org](mailto:coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org). There is no cost to attend.

HAINES - Due to the number of public comments and additional details requested the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) decision document for the HAINES HIGHWAY PROJECT will not be completed until the end of December this year. The ADOT&PF has reallocated funding for the first phase of the Haines Highway project from federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 to FFY 2014. For more information, contact Jim Scholl, Project Environmental Coordinator, at (907) 465-4498 or email [haineshighway@alaska.gov](mailto:haineshighway@alaska.gov) or Alex Viteri, Southeast Area Engineer, at (907) 586-7544 or email [Alex.Viteri@dot.gov](mailto:Alex.Viteri@dot.gov)

October 16 - 18

SITKA - The ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (AMHS) will celebrate its 50th Anniversary as part of the Alaska Day Festival with museum openings, road races, essay contests, and much more. For more information, go to [www.FerryAlaska.com/50years](http://www.FerryAlaska.com/50years).

October 31 - November 3

SITKA - 17TH ANNUAL SITKA WHALEFEST theme is ARCTIC SEA CHANGE: WHAT'S AHEAD? The Arctic is changing. The festival includes many community and cultural activities such as the science symposium lectures, interactive student sessions, marine wildlife cruises with scientist, a marine themed artisan market, music, local foods, a banquet, art and a fun run/walk. For more information go to <http://www.sitkawhalefest.org/>. For the schedule, go to : <http://www.sitkawhalefest.org/img/schedule.pdf>.

November 1

Deadline for requests for the COMMUNITY-BASED MARINE DEBRIS PREVENTION AND REMOVAL GRANTS PROGRAM. This funding supports locally driven, community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and wildlife including migratory fish. Projects awarded through this grant competition have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components involving the removal of marine debris, including derelict fishing gear. Projects also provide benefits to coastal communities, and create long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Through this solicitation NOAA identifies marine debris removal projects, strengthens the development and implementation of habitat restoration through community-based marine debris removal, and fosters awareness of the effects of marine debris to further the conservation of living marine resource habitats, as well as contribute to the understanding of debris types and impacts. Successful proposals through this solicitation will be funded through cooperative agreements. Funding of up to \$2,000,000 is expected to be available for Community-based Marine Debris Removal Project Grants in FY2014. Typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000. To see the full announcement, go to [http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/2014\\_marine\\_debris\\_ffo.pdf](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/2014_marine_debris_ffo.pdf). For more information or to discuss the opportunity further, contact Peter Murphy at [peter.murphy@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.murphy@noaa.gov) or call 206.526.4661 or Erika Ammann at [erika.ammann@noaa.gov](mailto:erika.ammann@noaa.gov) or call 907.271.5118.

### **THE ONLINE GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS**

As a newbie to what bird guides and interesting bird information are available online, I finally hooked up with “The Online Guide to North American Birds.” It is a deep well of information on individual birds. There is the opportunity to learn about parts of birds, plumage differences, classification/bird families, and conservation. Comparison photos, maps, sounds are available at a key stroke. Experienced birds I trust know all about this resource, but if you haven’t yet decided to try open this treasure chest, do. Patricia W

<http://birds.audubon.org/birdid>

## WEB OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\* Bob Armstrong's wonderful bird and other wildlife photographs that are free to use for educational and conservation purposes – [www.naturebob.com](http://www.naturebob.com)

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### *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](mailto:steve.heinl@alaska.gov)

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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.

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

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### 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](mailto: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*. \$35 Basic renewal\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed\_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me C3ZA510Z 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](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)

