

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 WILL HOLD THE FIRST FALL SEASON GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Election! Juneau Audubon Society will elect officers in conjunction with the public meeting in October. Our four officers serve a term of one year; so all officers need to be elected each year. Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are accepted for all positions. At this writing, the candidates for 2014-2015 are Gwen Baluss for president, Josh Peters for vice-president, no one for treasurer, and Alexia Kiefer for secretary. Please contact any of the officers or board members if you would like to be on the ballot as a candidate for any of the officer positions. We really do need to have someone willing to serve as treasurer, as it is an important position. Anyone wanting to know more about this position please call Brenda Wright at 789-4656. Also, if anyone is interested in joining our board in one of our non-officer positions, we need help, as we currently have a vacant committee chair for conservation. The conservation chair position is especially crucial and needs someone to help the chapter focus and respond to important environmental issues as they arise.

ALEXIA KIEFER: Hello my name is Alexia Kiefer , I moved to Juneau, AK, with my husband 7 years ago, from West Palm Beach, FL. I have a 4 year old son and 2 dogs . I have always had a love for nature and recently I've become very passionate about Birds. This started last fall/winter 2013, when a pair of Ravens were hiding food under the moss in my yard before the first snows started. Well, my dogs kept finding their stash and eating it, and that is when I start leaving food out for the Ravens and in return they blessed me with their continual presence and entertainment of playing in the fresh snow fall over the long winter. Farther into season a flock of (wintering) Rusty Black Birds visited my yard looking very hungry, so I threw some bird seed out onto the snow and to my surprise they gladly received the gift of food and stayed in a spruce tree, in my yard, all winter and just sang a song of Thanks for me (I like to think). These birds helped me through my winter blues and unknowingly guided me onto the path of Birding. I later attended a Beginners Birding class by Patricia Wherry and have been connected with some very fascinating and wonderful people through Juneau Audubon walks. I feel I finally "met my people "here in AK though Juneau Audubon ,and I am very grateful to them. I look forward to working alongside Juneau Audubon Board members and meeting new people.

Thank you, Alexia Kiefer

New Board members Needed!

The level of commitment to serve your organization need not be arduous. Board meetings are monthly, except in the summers, and usually take a few hours. The atmosphere is easy-going. Other duties depend on the position, and the time you have to put in. If you would like to know more, including a more in-depth description of what is expected from the various positions, please contact any of the board members. And please do it soon! Elections are Oct. 9.

President's Note by Brenda Wright

Summer is drawing to a close and the days will soon be noticeably shorter. Must be time to get the freezer completely full of natural resources like fish and berries. This summer has been pretty wet, but at least we set some new records for rainfall. We are looking forward to our fall program presentations that start in October with Meg Cartwright's trip to Antarctica and November with Keith Pahlke in Paraguay,

In December we not only are hosting the 16th Alaska Bird Conference, but we also get the chance to see and hear Gerrit Vyn, accomplished photographer and filmmaker. He has contributed articles to Living Bird and Audubon magazine. Gerrit Vyn will be the banquet speaker at the conference here in Juneau on December 11. We're hoping many of you will be able to attend many of the conference events from December 9-11 at Centennial hall (early registration fees until October 31). (http://www.alaskabirdconference.org/Alaska_Bird_Conference/Home.html).

As usual Juneau Audubon will be having a booth at the public market in November. Soon it will be time to start making the 25+ dozen jars of jams and jellies for the booth. MaryLou King is always happy to have volunteers to help make the jams and jellies and we always accept empty 1 cup glass jars to reuse. This year we may actually need a few more berries, so please contact Mary Lou if you can share some time or berries.

With salmon season in full swing, it is easy to find and pick up all those loose eagle feathers. If you already have a permit to collect eagle feathers, please do. You can contact me (Brenda 789-4656) for pickup or bring them to any public program. I will be happy to get you a valid permit, if you are willing to help collect the feathers for the National Eagle Repository. They still have a several year backlog of eagle feathers for Native Americans and educational purposes.

Enjoy these last few weeks of berry, mushroom, and fish harvest. See you all in October.

Web Notes and Announcements

Angoon Airport Update: FAA is pleased to announce that we have posted the August Project Update to our Angoon Airport project website. We invite you to visit the site at www.angoonairporteis.com. Please visit our web page at www.angoonairporteis.com and our [Angoon Airport EIS Facebook Page](#) for project information and updates. Remember to "like" the page!

American Bird Conservancy Opinion: A Federal Agency Emerges as a Leader in Banning Deadly Pesticide: Many people have heard the disturbing news: the world's most commonly used insecticides are deadly to bees, birds, and other wildlife. American Bird Conservancy helped launch the current state of awareness regarding neonicotinoids (or neonics) with its 2013 landmark assessment (<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/130319.html>) of the impacts of neonics on birds. Several more studies have been published since, all documenting the serious mortality impacts of these chemicals on birds and pollinators, especially bees.

Bird Studies Canada Announces new book: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International have produced the first-ever *Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World*. This is a complete checklist whose taxonomy incorporates the most up-to-date information. It contains illustrations and distribution maps for every bird species in the world. The book includes the original artwork from the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (HBW) series, as well as hundreds of new illustrations, all in two compact volumes. Volume 1 (Non-passerines) has just been released; Volume 2 (Passerines) will be published in 2016.

A modern, broad version of the Biological Species Concept has been applied, with the aid of the scoring system to evaluate differences in morphology, vocalizations, ecology, and geographical relationships published in *Ibis* by Tobias *et al.* (2010). For the non-passerines, this has resulted in relatively few lumps (21), but a much higher number of splits (462), compared with the taxonomy presented in the HBW series.

The full price for Volume 1 is 185 Euros, but purchase before the end of September to take advantage of a special offer (145 Euros, including free worldwide shipping)! Order your copy **online** or email lynx@hbw.com.

For your chance to win a copy of the *HBW-BirdLife Checklist* Volume 1, please visit **[Bird Studies Canada's Facebook page!](#)**

Southeast Alaska Spring Bird Report: See the Juneau Audubon Society web page (<http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/>) for a link to the Southeast Alaska spring bird report. The spring period covered the three months March to May. The summer season report will cover the period June-July. We hope to have a summer season report completed by late September. Thank you very much to all of you who continue to share information and photographs with us!

Steve Heinl and Andy Piston

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology new Online Course

Investigating Behavior: Courtship & Rivalry in Birds

Why does a Red-winged Blackbird flare its colorful wing patches? What does it mean when ducks bob their heads? Is the way a bird arranges its feathers significant?

Answering these questions gets to the heart of bird behavior. During this five-week course, you'll learn how to observe and interpret some of the ways birds are communicating with their behavior.

[\(http://www.birds.cornell.edu/courses/courtship/\)](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/courses/courtship/)

The cost of the course is \$295 (\$255 for Cornell Lab members). To receive the Cornell Lab member discount, sign up by phone at (866) 326-7635.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology ... Free APP, Instant Bird ID Answer 5 simple questions and get your choices for any of 400 North American birds! You set the location and the App gives you the choices. <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Juneau Summer Bird Report

Can it be that our summer is already over? The excitement of fall migration has definitely begun, but we birders in Juneau had our fair share of exciting birds this summer as well.

The “biggest” bird by far was a **Long-billed Curlew** that Martina Kallenberger found and photographed near the Eagle Beach Boy Scout Camp on 5/3. This species was “unsubstantiated” in Alaska until then, meaning that the couple of sightings in the past had never been “proven” with photographic evidence. Over the next five days many birders got the chance to further document this rarity before it moved on. The Long-billed Curlew’s breeding range is mostly the upland plains of the north-central and western “lower 48,” and stretches into southern British Columbia.



On 5/14 Gus van Vliet spotted an immature **Swainson’s Hawk** on the Mendenhall Wetlands between Sunny Point and the airport. Four other birders also saw it over the next three days (PR, BA, BC, LM). This species is a very rare migrant in Southeast Alaska.

A single **Black Swift** was seen over the Mendenhall Wetlands on 7/22, first by Gus van Vliet, and then by Gwen Baluss. This bird can be quite difficult to identify, and is virtually unheard of in Alaska anywhere north of the Stikine River.

Three “very rare” flycatchers were found in Juneau this summer; a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** near Moose Lake on 6/19, (GV, MS, PR); a **Willow Flycatcher** at Eagle Beach SRA on 6/22, (BA, PR); and a tentative sighting of a **Least Flycatcher** on the Airport Dike Trail on 8/30, which would be a first fall record, and only the third ever for Juneau (GV).

On 6/15 Laurie Lamm heard and recorded a **Veery** singing near Moose Lake. Over the next four days, other birders were able to record calls and songs from the bird, but despite much effort, were never able to get a visual identification (GV, BA, MS, AK, DMP). This bird is the first eBird record of a Veery for the state of Alaska!

The trees of Juneau hosted a very unusual species pairing this year, which was of interest not only to local birders, but the ornithological community at large.



On 6/15 a rare **Red-eyed Vireo** was heard singing near the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail (Brotherhood Bridge Trail), (GB) and over the next month or so was seen and heard by many other birders as well. On 7/20, Gwen Baluss managed to spot a nest, which much investigation revealed belonged to the male Red-eyed Vireo and a female **Warbling Vireo**! Over the next week, many birders sought out the odd couple and observed at least two fledglings

leave the nest. We will likely never know, but one can't help but wonder which parent's call notes/songs the young adopted. Warbling Vireos are uncommon yet regular breeders in Juneau, but a Warbling/Red-eyed Vireo breeding pair seems to have only been documented one other time— last year in Nevada.

Thanks to the following people who shared their sightings on eBird: Bev Agler (BA), Gwen Baluss (GB), Barbara Carlson (BC), Deanna Mac Phail (DMP), Martina Kallenberger, Alexia Kiefer (AK), Leo Miller (LM), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Gus van Vliet (GV).

Celebrate 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act: Protect the Arctic Refuge

By Beth Peluso, Audubon Alaska

September 3 marked the 50th anniversary of President Johnson signing the Wilderness Act in 1964. This landmark law has protected our nation's heritage of wild places across the country, including places in Southeast Alaska such as the Kootznoowoo Wilderness on Admiralty Island and Kuiu Island Wilderness.



The efforts to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge inspired the creation of the Wilderness Act. The coastal plain of the refuge hosts over 150 species of birds, as well as polar bears, musk oxen, wolves, and the 197,000-animal Porcupine caribou herd during the calving season. An Important Bird Area of continental significance, the coastal plain is a crucial staging area for up to 325,000 lesser Snow Geese as they prepare for their fall migration south.

Unfortunately, this unparalleled 1.5-million-acre habitat has never received Wilderness protection, leaving it vulnerable to harmful oil and gas development. National Audubon has worked for more than 30 years to protect the coastal plain area from development.

There is no better time than right now, at the anniversary of an American ideal of treasuring our wilderness heritage for future generations, to push for Wilderness Act protection for the coastal plain. Stay tuned for an action alert in the next few weeks asking the Obama Administration to make a Wilderness recommendation for the Arctic Refuge coastal plain to Congress. Only Congress can designate Wilderness, and this recommendation would be an enormous step towards that goal.



July Saturday Wild hike up Mount Robert's trail to the cross.

WEB OPPORTUNITIES

*** 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. Heint, 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 Heint's mailing list to receive this summary and to contribute observations, you can contact him at: steve.heint@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> >)

PICK, CLICK, GIVE

As you fill out your application for the Alaska Permanent Fund, please consider making a donation to Juneau Audubon Society. The funds we receive help to pay for all our free events all year. Thanks for your help.

Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators

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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 _____

Address _____

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___ My check for \$ ___ is enclosed ___ Please bill me C3ZA510Z A51

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

