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

**Berners Bay cruise tickets are available now for purchase at Hearthside Books – see Page 3 for information.**
Saturday Bird Walks by Jason Colon

Are you brand new to birding, with not even a pair of binoculars to your name? An avid intermediate birder looking to learn more? A seasoned expert who wants to show off his/her ability to recognize hundreds of songs for a crowd? Saturday bird walks are for everyone.

Please join us this season on one or more of our Saturday birding field trips. The walks are led by seasoned birders who have volunteered their time to help us identify our avian neighbors and feathered summer vacationers. Let us know if you need to borrow a spare set of binoculars, as there are a few available for the trips.

Guided field trips are scheduled every Saturday between April 16 and June 18, usually at 8 am, and each one will be unique. Except for the April 30 and May 7 trips, which will be cruises to Berners Bay, all of the guided walks are free to attend.

The schedule is:

4/16/16 Fish Creek, led by Brenda Wright and Owen Squires
4/23/16 Auk Rec/Pt. Louisa, with optional volunteer beach cleanup on the return trip, led by Laurie Lamm
4/30/16 Berner’s Bay Cruise, big boat, led by Brenda Wright and Mary Willson
5/7/16 Berner’s Bay Cruises, five smaller boats, led by Brenda Wright, Mary Willson, Laurie Craig, Mark Schwan, and Amy Clark Courtney
5/14/16 Bird Banding and International Migratory Bird Day Celebrations at Juneau Community Garden, led by Gwen Baluss
5/21/16 Moose Lake, led by Mark Schwan
5/28/16 Sheep Creek, led by Gus van Vliet
6/4/16 Sandy Beach/Treadwell, led by Patty Rose
6/11/16 Eagle Beach, led by Jeff Sauer
6/18/16 Pt. Bridget, led by Gus van Vliet

Please email me at field-trips@juneau-audubon-society.org for specific meeting places, if you have any questions, or if you would like to request binoculars for a field trip.

See you at Fish Creek on Saturday, April 16th!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
We are seeking volunteers to do bird reports to be printed in the newsletter. If you are interested in creating ones for Juneau or any Southeast Alaska community please contact Mary Lou at kingfarm@ptialaska.net Creating a bird report is a great way for evolving birders to connect with others and learn what’s been seen locally.
Bird Quiz
Do you know what this bird is? Email Amy at avianblue15@hotmail.com with your answer, and if it’s correct, your name will be in the next newsletter!
The January quiz bird was an immature White-crowned Sparrow.

Berners Bay Cruises with Juneau Audubon Society April 30 & May 7

This year we are trying a brand new way for people to travel to Berners Bay for a wildlife cruise. On April 30, we will have an Allen Marine charter boat, with 2 decks, 3 bathrooms, plenty of seating, and hot drinks available.

On May 7, we are leasing 5 Gastineau Guiding Company 43’ whale watching boats. They are powered by 3 huge outboard motors, hold 20 guests each, have a single marine head bathroom, and are heated. They have an aft and forward viewing area plus windows that open for better photos.

The choice is yours!! The Allen Marine boat is a well-known venue, comfortable & spacious. For a few dollars more, you can enjoy the whales and birds from a new perspective= up close & personal.

Please remember we have different prices for the 2 types of cruises this year. Hope you can join us on either April 30 or May 7. Tickets on sale at Hearthside Books.
WRITING AND VISUAL ARTS CONTEST

WIN A TICKET FOR JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY ‘S BERNERS BAY CRUISE ON APRIL 30, 2016

Babe Whale in Berners Bay early morning by Gillfoto

The theme: BIRDS, WILDLIFE or CONSERVATION of BERNERS BAY

Rules:

- Submit entries electronically by April 18, 2016 to education@juneau-audubon-society.org.
  - Six winners will be chosen on April 25, 2016
  - Essays, poems, outdoor photographs, photographs or your original drawings/paintings or sculpture all accepted. Size limit 1000 words or 5 Mb.
  - Submit up to four entries, but each artist can only win one ticket.
  - Youth entries are welcome, please include age.
- Include your name and contact information with the entry. (JAS will not share personal information).
- Winning works will be published once in the JAS Newsletter “The Raven”; artist retains all other rights to the work.

Trip to Berners Bay is April 30, 2016 with Allen Marine, leaving Statter Harbor (below DeHart’s Auke Bay) at 8:30 AM and last about 4 hours. Tickets at Hearthside Books.

For more information and inspiration about Berners Bay see: Page 3 and
http://netapp.audubon.org/iba/Site/2712
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifenews.view_article&articles_id=611
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berners_Bay
JAS Brings Award Winning Migration Movie to Juneau

In Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day and the 100th Anniversary of Migratory Bird Treaty Act, JAS is sponsoring a very special event. **THE MESSENGER** is a film bound to delight and inspire all, a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it will mean to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them.

**Synopsis:** Su Rynard’s wide-ranging and contemplative documentary **THE MESSENGER** explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own. Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, **THE MESSENGER** brings us face-to-face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks and many other airborne music-makers.

On one level, **THE MESSENGER** is an engaging, visually stunning, emotional journey, one that mixes its elegiac message with hopeful notes and unique glances into the influence of songbirds on our own expressions of the soul. On another level, **THE MESSENGER** is the artful story about the mass depletition of songbirds on multiple continents, and about those who are working to turn the tide.

In ancient times humans looked to the flight and songs of birds to protect the future. Today once again, birds have something to tell us.

Check out this review: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/the-messenger-our-movie-review/](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/the-messenger-our-movie-review/)

See trailers and more at [http://songbirdos.com/](http://songbirdos.com/)

**Gold town Theater May 2 at 6:30 pm and 8 pm FREE tickets available at the door** (we recommend showing up EARLY as its likely to be a full house)

AND… Prepare to be greeted by the “**Birdtrippers**” Jean Carlos Rodriguez-Ramos— and Christian Michael McWilliams, exceptional young adults who will be migrating with the birds along the Pacific Flyway, working on migratory bird conservation and public education, and stopping over in Juneau. You can find out more about their adventures and mission here: [http://birdtrippers.com](http://birdtrippers.com) Help us welcome them on their journey!

**ALASKA BIRD FESTIVALS**

- Alaska Hummingbird Festival - Ketchikan, Alaska    April 2016
- Stikine River Birding Festival - Wrangell, AK    April 28 - May 8, 2016
- Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival - Cordova, AK    May 5 - 8, 2016
- Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival - Homer, AK    May 12 - 15, 2016
- Kenai Birding Festival - Kenai, AK    May 19 - 22, 2016
- Yakutat Tern Festival -- June 2-5, 2016
- Alaska Bald Eagle Festival - Haines, AK    November 14-20, 2016
100 Years – 100 Pledges
Local youth to celebrate birds in big way!

This year we mark the centennial of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds - also called the Migratory Bird Treaty (MTB) - that was signed on Aug. 16, 1916. Celebrated by conservationists everywhere, it banned the heedless taking of wild birds.

Most celebrations will kick off around annual birding events that happen in May, such as International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). Around the world, bird lovers, ornithologists, conservationists, and others will be busy with birding events and festivities. Some will be casually enjoying the day birding while others will have specific tasks and purpose.

In Juneau, our local Audubon chapter will be present at the Community Garden on May 7, along with the US Forest Service, banding birds and sharing the science behind the process with anyone who is interested and stops by. Scoping the birding hotspots, there will also be a few local young birders with a goal in mind.

Last year, 14-year-old Owen Squires celebrated IMBD by participating in the Cornell’s Lab of Ornithology’s Global Big Day: an event that encouraged birders around the globe to submit a list of birds seen on one specific day. Owen took his participation one step further, to help support birding organizations. Prior to the event, he requested from family and friends a pledge for the number of birds seen. His goal was 50 species in Juneau. He saw 67. He also raised roughly $1000, half which was given to Cornell and the other half to our local Audubon chapter.

This year Owen intents to obtain 100 pledges to commemorate the 100th year of MBT on the Global Big Day. He hopes to create a team effort asking other young birders to participate. The goal isn’t directly related to the number of birds seen but the number of people the team can influence to support birding, conservation and scientific efforts.

The Global Big Day will be on May 14 this year. If you are a young birder (18 years or under) and are interested in being a part of the team, please contact Owen Squires at squiresfamily@gci.net for more details and information. If you would like to support Owen and his team by being one of the 100 pledges, again, use the email above to submit your pledge. Pledges can be a specific amount or can be based on the number of birds seen. For example, if you just want to pledge X number of dollars to the day’s event you can, or you can indicate a pledge of $1- $2 or $3 dollars for every bird seen.

Last year’s Global Big Day was a huge success. Let’s make this year another spectacular day of celebration, giving to a cause and a purpose worth the effort: young birders, science, conservation, and community.
Blooms ---and Doom? By Gwen Baluss

This year by many measures was one of the warmest on record. Sea ice, for an example is at the lowest level since measurements began in the early 80’s. But what effects might we be seeing locally, and more importantly, how is our familiar wildlife going to react? Blueberries started blooming, literally in my backyard, about a month earlier than they would have a decade ago. *Vaccinium* species like blueberries are recognized as an important food source for Rufous Hummingbirds as they migrate North along the pacific coast. Usually the birds seem to have an uncanny ability to show up literally on the day the flowers appear. But this year the flowers peaked locally before the first Rufous was seen in Juneau on March 29. Migratory bird biologists fear these “phenological mismatches” where flowers, insects, even fish, many of whom use temperature as a signal for the “right” time to emerge, are now available at a different time than in the past, and thus bird’s migration no longer align with their much-needed food sources. To what extent birds can adjust, and adapt? I see this question as one of the biggest questions in conservation today.

Some examples in the literature are interesting. Great Tits, a European bird related to chickadees, were studied in a park in the Netherlands. It was noted that caterpillars, a main food source, were emerging earlier than in the past. Presumably in the response, in a period of only decades, birds began nesting weeks earlier. A long term study of bird counts in Denali Park showed expansion of shrub-dwelling birds into new areas, following the vegetation changes. Some forest birds, however, failed to take advantage of forest expansion, or actually retreated.

The bulk of long term studies, such as the North American Breeding Bird Survey suggest widespread declines in more species than species thought to be stable or increasing. The causes are likely to be most related to habitat loss, but changes within the habitat that they have left available to them could be an added stressor.

Farther north where human development is scarce, the early results of studies such as the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Program also suggest declines in coniferous forest birds. Many are migrants, but we do have to wonder about summer habitat changes caused by the effects of a warming climate. Most alarming in North America is the decline of aerial insectivores, birds that primarily feed on high-flying insects.
Specialists estimate that the Olive sided flycatcher has declined by 76% in the last 40 years, with half of that decline occurring in the last decade. Barn Swallows, considered by many of us a “weedy” backyard species because of their willingness to literally nest on barns and other buildings, have declined so much in the north that they are now listed as a threatened species in Canada. Pesticide use is potentially a contributor, but mismatches in timing of insect hatches could be another.

Besides protecting as much as habitat as possible, we as citizens can also help monitor the situation. Citizen science projects are key in understanding the annual timing, or phenology, of plants and animals. Anyone with a keen eye and willingness to enter their data on a computer can help; a science background is not necessary. The links below are phenology related projects that use citizen scientists. They are also good sources of information if you simply interested in watching the results as they come in.

http://ebird.org/content/ebird/ eBird, everybody’s bird observations, all the time, everywhere!

https://www.learner.org/jnorth/ Journey North, a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change

http://budburst.org/ Project BudBurst is a network of people across the United States who monitor plants as the seasons change


Juneau Audubon is starting a local Tree Swallow nest monitoring project, and can set you up with a swallow nest box to watch! Contact E-mail: at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org

There is also a great need for “citizen analysts”. While there are currently only platforms for citizens to enter data, those with knowledge of computer and data management will be just as important in the quest for compiling information about our changing world. Contact the managers of any of the above to find your niche.
The Northern Mockingbird is a medium-sized songbird. Both males and females look alike. Its upper parts are a beautiful gray, the under parts have a whitish-gray color. It has white outer feathers on its long black tail, and large white patches on its wings that are visible in flight.

While foraging on the ground, they sometimes spread their wings in an odd two-step motion showing the white wing patches. Grasshoppers and other insects in the grass may be startled by this action and try to hop away allowing the mockingbird to grab a quick snack. They will defend their territory by dive bombing toward any cat, dog, or person who comes too close to their nesting area. J. J. Audubon painted a mockingbird fiercely defending its nest against a rattlesnake.

Northern mockingbirds can often be seen singing while perched on the tallest tree or light post or the highest corner of a shopping mall building. They were created with the ability to copy and repeat other bird songs making them their own. They also mimic the sounds of people whistling, croaking frogs, squeaky hinges, barking dogs, and the ringing of door bells. There are several reports of them imitating car alarms. The car owner rushes out to see what caused his car alarm to sound only to see no one or anything that may have sounded the alarm. After rushing out again after the second or third time of the car alarm sounding, the disgusted owner then discovers it was only a noisy gray bird.

A relative of ours complained for several summers that a mockingbird would perch at the top of their tall Balsam Fir tree and sing all night long disturbing their sleep night after sleepless night. One theory is that they are singing in defense of their territory. Another theory is that only the bachelor mocking birds sing at night. The night singing is thought to be a love song, and after finding a mate, the night singing may (or may not) stop.

There is a Law to protect the bird and its romantic love singing. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 makes it illegal to remove active nests, or harass, or kill, the mockingbird (and other migratory birds) even if it does sing all night long.

Eagle Feather Collection Permits

Hello all volunteers that collect eagle feathers on the Juneau Audubon Society US Fish & Wildlife Service permit. The permits are available by e-mail and paper from Brenda. Each of our permits are good for three years.
Global Big Day, 14 May 2016. A single day, uniting birdwatchers worldwide across political boundaries and language barriers, all brought together by our shared passion for birds. In 2015, 14,000 people from 135 countries took part. **In 2016, will you join us?**

It’s simple to contribute: go birding and then submit your data to eBird—how easy and fun is that? You don’t need to do a full day of birding; even an hour or 10 minutes makes a difference!

**How do I make my sightings count?**
To have your sightings be included in the Global Big Day, they have to be entered in eBird as one or more checklists. Go to [http://eBird.org/globalbigday](http://eBird.org/globalbigday) to learn more. Don’t forget, **every bird counts for the Global Big Day**.
Whether it is a Red-winged Blackbird in your neighborhood (pictured here) or a critically endangered species on some remote island, eBird and the world want to know about it.

**How can I follow the Global Big Day results?**
[http://eBird.org/globalbigday](http://eBird.org/globalbigday). This page will be updated throughout May 14th with sightings and photos from eBirders worldwide. Team eBird will also be posting updates here. Use #GBD2016 to join in and share on Facebook or Twitter, and perhaps you’ll be featured on the Global Big Day summary page!

**Global Big Day Tips—how to have the most fun**

1. **Explore the Birding “Hotspots” in your area.** eBird’s Hotspot Explorer is a fantastic way to find great places to see birds, and to learn more about birds in your area. [http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspots](http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspots)
2. **Note sightings with eBird Mobile.** Record your sightings in the field with the free eBird Mobile app, available for iOS and Android. [http://tinyurl.com/ebirdmobile](http://tinyurl.com/ebirdmobile)
3. **Share your bird photos.** Take photos of birds you see on the day and then upload these images directly to your eBird checklist. These photos document your sightings, make your checklist a work of art, and become a part of the Macaulay Library. More info: [http://tinyurl.com/ebirdphotos](http://tinyurl.com/ebirdphotos)
4. **Get others excited about the Global Big Day!** Encourage two friends to take part in the GBD! If everyone does that, how many people will join in the fun? 20,000? 25,000? It is in your hands. Different people enjoy the GBD in different ways; we have some ideas for getting people excited here: [http://tinyurl.com/shareGBD](http://tinyurl.com/shareGBD)
5. **Learn more about what eBird has to offer.** Cutting edge migration visualizations. Over 300 million bird observations, freely available to all. Trip-planning and educational tools. [http://tinyurl.com/ebirdexplore](http://tinyurl.com/ebirdexplore)

Of course, most importantly, get outside, see some birds, have fun, and contribute your sightings to global bird conservation! Thanks for being a part of a truly Global Big Day.
WEB OPPORTUNITIES

**eBird**  Global tools for birders, critical data for science  Record the birds you see, Keep track of your bird lists, Explore dynamic maps and graphs, Share your sightings and join the eBird community, Contribute to science and conservation.  [http://ebird.org/content/ebird/](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/)

*** 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)

**SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS SEASONALLY**

Sub-regional Compilers:  Steven C. Heinl and Andrew W. Piston

This publication has wonderful bird photos and information. You can view it on our web page at [http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html)

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For more bird information, subscribe to North American Birds, here is a link to see more information:  [http://www.aba.org/nab](http://www.aba.org/nab) .

Visit Bird Studies Canada to learn more about birds in our nearest neighbor’s territory.  A great story on tracking birds from South America through the US and northern Canada can be found at [http://www.birdscanada.org/research/motus/](http://www.birdscanada.org/research/motus/)


**Juneau Audubon Society Officers, Committee Chairs, Events Coordinators**

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Too much 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.

***In National Audubon’s continuing efforts to improve the level of service we provide, Audubon supporters are telling us we need to make changes to improve the clarity and consistency of our membership offers. Effective immediately, all annual memberships to the National Audubon Society will be $20.

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 Basic renewal___

Name_______________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________________
City/State/Zip Code____________________________________________
Telephone number_______________________

___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 US mail to save paper, time, money and view photos in color. To request this option email: membership@juneau-audubon-society.org