Southeast’s Intriguing Intertidal by Pat Harris and Allison Gillum

The 28,000 mile coastline of Southeast Alaska is a mosaic of wonderfully diverse habitats that support equally diverse intertidal plants and animals. Many of these habitats were surveyed in 2015 by the Southeast Alaska Land Trust in order to field test an assessment tool. This tool is used to rate ecological values of sites proposed for nearshore development. The tool will provide information to aid mitigation or establish fees in lieu of mitigation for projects permitted by regulatory agencies. Join us for a virtual tour of some of these habitats, inhabitants and occasional visitors.
The 2016 Juneau Christmas Bird Count

The Juneau Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on Sunday, December 18, 2016, the first weekend of the designated count period of December 14 through January 5. This marks the 117th year of the CBC, with counts planned across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. This will be our 44th count in Juneau. Again, please take note, our count is on Sunday, December 18.

Here in Juneau our count week will begin on December 15, and go through December 21. We will have our usual two meeting places to stage on the morning of count day. Volunteers should arrive at 8a.m., bring your binocular and be prepared for the weather and walking conditions. People wanting to count in the downtown, Douglas, and north Douglas Island areas should meet at the downtown Foodland IGA grocery coffee bar. Birders wishing to work the Lemon Creek, airport, Mendenhall Valley and Auke Bay areas should meet at the McDonald’s restaurant on Trout Street opposite the Valley Breeze In. Hopefully, we will have our area leaders arranged ahead of time, but we will allocate leaders and birders to the different groups at our staging locations on count day as needed. We encourage participation from all levels of birders; the more eyes the better. However, this is not a day oriented toward teaching beginning birders how to identify birds, as there is simply not enough time in the day for that.

There will be a potluck after the count at the home of Mark Schwan and Debi Ballam. This is always a nice event and highlight of the day, as we share stories, eat some good food, and hold back on the good bird sightings until we conduct the tally of birds and species later in the evening. For those needing directions to Mark and Debi’s house, this information will be provided on the morning of the count. Mark and Debi’s house is smoke free and pet free. Let’s have a good turnout and a terrific count! For more information or if you have any questions, call Mark at 209-7401.

Save the Dates for the 20th GBBC

Greetings from the Great Backyard Bird Count team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 20th GBBC, coming up February 17 through 20, 2017.

Season’s Greetings from JAS

As we move through Alaska’s dark time, and we reflect on the year, I’d like to say to all of our members, volunteers and especially our tireless all-volunteer Board: Happy Holidays, Happy Solstice, and THANKYOU for helping JAS continue its work in public education, birding, engaging youth and tracking local conservation.

Gwen Baluss, President
Keeping busy. Some of JAS board meeting on Halloween, 2016. Far left, clockwise: Patricia Wherry (Education Chair), Amanda Pilley (Conservation Chair), Marsha Squires (our new Vice President), Amy Sherwin (Secretary), Mary McCafferty (Public Market coordinator), Jason Colon (Field Trips Chair), Mary Lou King (Newsletter editor and wise old owl), Brenda Wright (At Large member), Patty Rose (Treasurer).

Juneau Audubon Society is proud to announce that we recently purchased copies of the Ecological Atlas of Southeast Alaska for the three Juneau public libraries. This book was compiled and published by the state Audubon office in Anchorage. The publication is also available online for free at: https://indd.adobe.com/view/bb243dff-5852-44c5-bdf5-4b1be96bdc53

Enjoy!

EAGLE FEATHER COLLECTION PERMIT HOLDERS
Please bring your feathers to the public meeting on December 8th or call Brenda at 321-4739. Our USFWS permit requires Juneau Audubon to submit a yearly report of feathers collected that is due in January. Thanks for all your help!
Brenda Wright

Heads up! Birds up! A beginning bird class will be offered again in February and March of 2017 through Community Schools. Stay tuned for particulars of 2 classes.
Help the Juneau Audubon Society earn donations simply by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating $2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here’s how the program works:

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Juneau Audubon Society at www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards.

You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number: 90656. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Juneau Audubon Society earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store. For more information, visit www.fredmeyer.com/community-rewards. Please take a moment and sign up today!

Thank You Audubon Booth Volunteers!

Many enthusiastic volunteers helped make the Audubon booth at the Public Market a fun and successful event!

Thanks to those who donated items to sell and to the berry pickers, jelly makers, and booth keepers: Mary Lou King, Brenda and Jim Wright, Patricia Wherry, Molly McCafferty, Sara McDaniel, Laura Ekins, Paul King, Kay Parker, Doug Jones, Susan Hickey, Mary Willson, Mary Claire Harris, Susan and Gordon Taylor, Bev Agler, Gwen Baluss, Helen Unruh, Meg Cartwright, Deb Rudis, Kari Monagle, Marsha Squires, Patty Rose, Carol Race, Charlie Carlson, and Mary McCafferty. Your participation was greatly appreciated.

Save your jelly jars for next year’s batch!
Juneau Rare Bird Report Compiled by Amy Courtney

Since no rare bird reports were included in the previous newsletters this fall, this report will cover the highlights from the months of May through November. The reports are grouped together by type of bird instead of date.

A Western Grebe was spotted in Auke Bay off Fritz Cove Rd. from 11/3 through 11/12 (GV, BA, PR). On 11/27 one (likely the same individual) was seen from Auke Rec / Pt. Louisa area on the other side of the bay (GB). Pied-billed Grebes made a good showing in Juneau this fall. An immature bird was reported in the float plane pond along the Airport Dike Trail on 10/24 and 10/25 (PR, multiple observers), and on 10/30 another juvenile was observed on Moose Lake (GV, m. obs.). That same day one was spotted on Auke Lake (GV), and that individual stuck around at least till 11/01 (GB). A nice adult Ring-billed Gull was present on the Mendenhall Wetlands near the Airport Dike Trail for at least two days starting on 11/12 (CS, m. obs.). One of the more rare sightings this year was a juvenile Ruff (a large Eurasian sandpiper) that was seen only one day, 8/21, out on the Mendenhall Wetlands (MS). (See the September newsletter for photos)

A Gyrfalcon, a rare visitor from the North, was reported at the Mendenhall Wetlands on 9/18 (MS). Falling into that same category was Northern Hawk-Owl seen perched on a pine tree up the Auk Nu Trail on 8/21 (TD). On 8/27 a Common Nighthawk was found hunting around the Airport Dike Trail (GV).

A few rare warblers appeared in Juneau this year. Tennessee Warblers are a rare breeder in Juneau, and a few males were seen and heard throughout the valley in June and early July, but a female or immature individual in Auke Bay on 11/6 (GV) may be the latest fall record for Juneau. Palm Warblers are a rare but regular fall vagrant from their breeding grounds in north-central Canada, but having three separate sightings this fall was exceptional. The first was on 10/7 on the Airport Dike Trail (PR, m. obs.), the second was about a week later at Rotary Park Pond, and stuck around from 10/15 through at least 10/17 (AC, m. obs.). Shortly thereafter one showed up briefly at a residence in Auke Bay. (10/19, GV). Earlier, on 9/4 through 9/7, a Blackpoll Warbler was observed at the same location (GV, PR).

The now-annual (but still just as shockingly out-of-range) Spotted Towhee is back at its Lemon Creek yard, and was reported on 10/23 (JR).

Bev Agler (BA), Amy Courtney (AC), Tasha DiMarzio (TD), Joann Reiselbach (JR), Patty Rose (PR), Mark Schwan (MS), Chuck Susie (CS), Gus van Vliet (GV)

Summer Wings by Prill (Isleib) Mollick, Smoky Mountains, TN

When my brother Pete was a teenager he worked on Scout merit badges and became an Eagle Scout.  One badge was about butterflies and moths.  He fashioned netting material over an old coat hanger attached to a long pole for catching them.  During summer days he was off somewhere looking for butterflies.  If any of his friends saw him and asked what he was doing, rather than to appear wimpy, he would laugh and only say that he was using the butterflies for fish bait.

Our dad helped Pete to set up a light by using a long extension cord and a bare light bulb on a pole.  It was out in the back yard on a hill overlooking an open field.  Out there, on summer evenings after dark, he was able to catch quite a variety of moths.  He created a framed box with a glass cover.  He mounted and labeled the moths and butterflies.  It provided an attractive display.

The Luna Moth:  One of my favorite moths is the Luna Moth.  It has lovely soft lime-green colored wings with hints of purple and it has beautiful long tails.  It is also one of the largest moths in North America and is found in the eastern United States.

One summer afternoon I noticed what I thought looked like a large green leaf stuck on the side of a telephone pole.  Then upon closer inspection I discovered a Luna Moth.  It was alright, it just seemed to be resting.

Cecropia Moth:  Another favorite moth is the Cecropia Moth.  It is one of North America's largest moths.  It has a reddish brown body with black to brown wings with sections of tan and red.  They have a velvety wingspan that can be measured to five or six inches.  They usually appear in late spring or summer.  They are found in the eastern United States and can be found as far west as the Rocky Mountains.

Sphinx Moth:  It’s one of my least favorite of moths because of its destructive caterpillar.  The moth is thick bodied with narrow wings.  They have a nationwide range.  Its caterpillar is called tomato worm or tomato hornworm.  The caterpillar appears to have a tail or a horn at the end.  It can rear up at the head in a snake like action that resembles a sphinx head.  It is a pesky, caterpillar that will strip the leaves off a tomato plant and even nibble on the green tomato.  This summer I had to pick several of them off the tomato plants almost every other day.  Their mint green colors blend in with the color of the tomato plant leaves.  Sometimes one can be looking directly at them and almost miss them because of nature’s camouflage.  (We did manage to have a few good tomatoes.)
**CALL FOR ARTISTS** for the ALASKA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL JURIED ART SHOW to be held in the Ketchikan Southeast Alaska Discovery Center beginning with a reception on April 7 from 5 to 7pm. The festival is an educational program to promote awareness of the spring migratory birds of Southeast Alaska through creative arts. The call is for Alaskan Artists for students/juveniles (17 & Under) and adults (18 & Up). **Entry Guidelines:** Artwork must include birds, avian habitat and/or migratory bird patterns from the list provided on the back page. Artwork must be recent, original and not previously exhibited in Ketchikan. Open to all Alaskan artists working in all media with a maximum of two entries per artist. Label each piece with “item 1” and “item 2” to correspond with each entry form. All two-dimensional entries must be framed and ready to hang (hardware, wire etc.) All three-dimensional entries must be ready for display. Note on entry form if you are including stands or props with your piece. You may sell your artwork at the exhibit. Proceeds benefit the artist (65%) with 25% going to SEADC educational programs including this juried art show and 10% to KVB. **Entry deadline:** March 31. For questions contact Leslie Swada at 228-6290 or lswada@fs.fed. Submit your work to: Southeast Alaska Discovery Center 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 C/O Hummingbird Festival.

Climate Watch Pilot Program
Audubon’s Birds and Climate Report ([http://climate.audubon.org](http://climate.audubon.org)) predicts that over half of North American bird species will lose more than 50% of their current climatic range by 2080. To test these predictions Audubon is piloting the new citizen science project Climate Watch. Climate Watch aims to document species’ responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon’s climate models project they should be in the 2020s.

This is a pilot program between the national climate team and the pilot chapters and centers listed below. The next phase of the pilot will take place **January 15-30, 2017** and is open to all interested chapters and centers.

**Target Species**
The Climate Watch pilot will focus on specific species for which our climate models have strong predictions and which have a high detectability in the field. For the January 2017 phase of the pilot we will focus on two groups of species: bluebirds and nuthatches. Specifically, Climate Watch participants are asked to survey for Eastern, Western, and Mountain bluebirds and/or White-breasted, Red-breasted, Brown-headed, and Pygmy nuthatches.
Time Period

Climate Watch will occur over two distinct fifteen-day periods each year, in the winter and in the breeding season. The first phases of the pilot occurred in January and June 2016 and the next phase of the pilot will cover the winter season and will run Sunday, January 15 through Monday, January 30, 2017. Please review all of the materials below to learn how to conduct your Climate Watch surveys and enter data. Climate Watch Pilot Protocol

https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/7gdo460tustuxfclvmpofbwmtuwcj03

If You are interested in participating in SE Alaska to look for our red-breasted nuthatches, please contact
at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org
Photo by Bob Armstrong

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

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/

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

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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>.

For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska Birds and events via email join the yahoo! group EagleChat. For an invite, please contact Gwen Baluss (gwenbaluss@yahoo.com)
For postings in Sitka see: http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds/
And Be sure to check out the Juneau Audubon Society Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789/
Audubon Membership Information

*Note there have been some changes in how to join or renew*

**National Audubon Society Membership** (includes automatic membership in your local chapter, which is JAS if your zip is anywhere in Southeast Alaska). Memberships begin at $20/year.

Options:
- Use the online form to join at [https://www.audubon.org/membership](https://www.audubon.org/membership)
- Current members can renew online at [http://www.audubon.org/renew](http://www.audubon.org/renew) or by emailing [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com)
- Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826
- Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided
- US Postal Service: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to **National Audubon Society** to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802. The Membership Chair after recording the information for our mailing list, will then send your check to the proper National Audubon Office.

**If you prefer to support Juneau Audubon Society only:**

Please send name, address, and email with a check for $10 (1-year membership) made out to **Juneau Audubon Society** to the USPS address above.

More info:
- All memberships include the Juneau Chapter Newsletter *The Raven*
- Please consider getting *The Raven* by e-mail instead of snail mail to save paper, time, and money and view photos in color. Send notification with renewal or email memo to: [membership@juneau-audubon-society.org](mailto:membership@juneau-audubon-society.org)
- Receive too much mail from the National Audubon Society? Ask to be taken off the mass mailing list by emailing Customer Service [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) (Opting out of extra mailings will not stop magazine subscription.)
- JAS does not send members any offers, action alerts or share our membership addresses with anyone
- Local or national membership *does not* include support for Audubon Alaska state group. We encourage members to support that group as well. See [http://ak.audubon.org/](http://ak.audubon.org/)
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