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.

Volume 43, Number 9  Juneau Audubon Society  May 2017

Have a great Summer. Next General Meeting will be in October and next newsletter in September.

Spring BERNERS BAY Boat Cruise

May 13th at 8:30 a.m. The boat cruise departs Statters Harbor below DeHarts Auke Bay. Boarding begins 15 minutes prior to departure.

Audubon members will be on board to act as naturalist guides.

Steller sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles, humpback whale, and tens of thousands of gulls are just some of the species observed around this time each year.

Tickets for the 4-hour cruise are available at Hearthside Books. Adults - $70, Students- $40 (includes UAS), Children under 12 --$25 (must be accompanied by adult).

This is a vital fundraising event for JAS. Please help us spread the word!

Upcoming Southeast Alaska Bird Festival

2017 Yakutat Tern Festival Please see www.yakutat ternfestival.org visit Yakutat Tern Festival on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

For a listing of more Alaska bird festival information see: https://alaskacenters.gov/bird-festivals.cfm
## Spring/Summer Audubon Bird Walks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Activity/Location</th>
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<th>Leader/s</th>
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| **Sat. May 6**  
8am to 11 am  
(drop by anytime)  
International Migratory Bird Day Celebration - Bird Banding/Juneau Community Garden | Lo 2.17’ @ 5:07a  
Hi 13.99’ @ 11:14a | Gwen Baluss |
| **Sat. May 13**  
8:30am  
(Boards at 8:15am)  
Berners Cruise  
1 boat, 1 trip | Lo -1.08’ @ 9:23a  
Hi 14.46’ @ 3:51p | Brenda Wright  
Patty Rose  
Ernestine Hayes  
Bev Agler |
| **Sat. May 20**  
8am  
Eagle Beach | Lo 4.57’ @ 3:07a  
Hi 12.49 @ 9a | Mark Schwan |
| **Sat. May 27**  
8am  
Sheep Creek | Lo -4.86 @ 9a  
Hi 16.98’ @ 3:30p | Brenda Wright |
| **Sat. June 3**  
8am  
Sandy Beach / Treadwell | Lo 3.13’ @ 3:36a  
Hi 12.54’ @ 9:41a | Gus van Vliet |
| **Sat. June 10**  
8am  
Moose Lake | Lo -1.45’ @ 8:31a  
Hi 14.56’ @ 3:03p | Jeff Sauer |
| **Sat. June 17**  
8am  
Pt. Bridget | Lo 4.36’ @ 1:14a  
Hi 12.68’ @ 7:02a | Gus van Vliet |

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### Let’s Give Gratitude and Go Birding for Ken Leghorn

Conservationist and bird enthusiast Ken Leghorn passed away last month. His loss is widely felt throughout the state of Alaska, as well as within our Juneau community. As an Audubon supporter, Ken participated in decades of Christmas bird counts, joined numerous Saturday Bird Walks and other field trips, rallied for conservation efforts throughout Southeast Alaska, and inspired countless others to pick up a pair of binoculars and simply enjoy the outdoors. To say that Ken will be missed would be an understatement.
Ken had hoped to go birding every day in May just outside his home in Juneau. We, the Juneau Audubon Society Board, would like to suggest that you celebrate Ken’s dedication to conservation in Alaska and give gratitude by fulfilling his desire to go birding yourself, every day in the month of May…and all the days to come.

**JAS Welcomes New Board Members**

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Sidney Campbell as Conservation Chair, and Alexia Kiefer as an At-large Member. Here’s their introductions. Thanks Alexia and Sidney!

**Alexia Kiefer:** I am a Homeschooling Mom, who works part time for a nonprofit organization, REACH. I've lived in Juneau for 10 years. I'm passionate about nature conservation and education. On my free time my hobbies include: birding, harvesting wild edibles, or hiking. I'm a naturalist at heart and enjoy volunteering for various organizations like Audubon, The Raptor Center, Beaver Patrol, Humane Society and most recently added, bat surveying.

**Sidney Campbell:** I am a UAS graduate with a BS in Biology. I currently work at the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines where I promote raptor conservation through publications, outreach, and programming with the avian ambassadors who live here. I spend my free time outside when at all possible, usually looking for birds.

**JAS Offers Work Experience for Intern**

A summer volunteer is sought to conduct bird surveys and data work for the US Forest Service and the Juneau Audubon Society. Duties will include: Arctic Tern and gull nest monitoring, Tree Swallow nest box maintenance and monitoring, assist with hummingbird banding, data entry and document scanning; may also include assistance with environmental education projects, deployment of bat recording devices, and fish or restoration projects.

Deadline: Review of applicants is underway; open until filled.

Dates: Approximately late to mid-July

Compensation: Travel reimbursement to Juneau, AK, depending on need up to $700. Stipend for food up to $1125 for the 6-week period. Housing (in shared USFS bunkhouse), bicycle for transportation, and equipment for surveys provided.

Required skills: Basic bird ID skills and interest in wildlife management and/or working with non-profit organizations, general computer skills – use of Microsoft Excel and scanner; an introductory college biology or natural resource course passed; ability to hike up to 6 miles and deal with some uneven trails; ability to ride a mountain bicycle up to 10 miles round trip on a road; ability to take neat and complete field data. Volunteer needs to have a cell phone plan that will work in Alaska, and health insurance.

To apply: Send a short letter explaining interest and qualifications summary, and a resume to both GWEN BALUSS (president@juneau-audubon-society.org) and BRENDA WRIGHT (at-large_b@juneau-audubon-society.org)
Saturday Bird Events Kick-off  By Marsha Squires

On a chilly yet sunny Saturday (April 15), thirty eager and delightful birders gathered at the Fish Creek Watershed on North Douglas for the first Audubon-led bird walk of the season. The chorus of migrants welcomed everyone to the parking lot. Varied thrush, robins, and ruby-crowned kinglets flitted and sang as we all bundled up and perused the scene on the pond in front of us. A northern pintail spooked off as more and more birders arrived yet the mallards, American wigeons and a pair of buffleheads stayed near the water’s edge.

As the group quietly shuffled over the bridge in search of a dipper and into the wooded trail area, kinglets were visible in the alders, juncos tit-tit titted at us while Steller’s jays made a ruckus as they flew closer and closer to us offering a good view of their brilliant blue plumage. A red-breasted sapsucker zoomed by on its way to drum on distance tree trunks, and off we went to the next pond. Here, we encountered two belted kingfishers, and numerous northwest crows gathering and carrying nest material.

Out on the bluff the variety of sea ducks and other water birds were abundant: surf and white-winged scoters, green-winged teal, common goldeneyes, red-breasted mergansers, horn grebes, and three species of gulls. Two pairs of bald eagles sat on the sandy shoreline, and at one point one flew off and swooped back in on a flock of feeding mallards but was unsuccessful in the hunt. A male orca was viewed in the distance while a song sparrow popped out into view just momentarily. Nevertheless, further along on the trail near the point three other song sparrows hopped around in the grass and up and around a woody bush being very corporative while a Pacific wren sang its beautiful long song to us.

The official hike ended with a grand view of the Mendenhall Glacier in the distance and sun on our faces. As goodbyes were made a pair of greater yellowlegs finally showed themselves, one in the brackish pond and another high on top of a spruce. Thinking that was it for the morning, a dipper was seen back at the bridge. Twenty-seven species in total and a content group of birders: what a great way to start the season!

Please join us for the upcoming bird events and continue to learn more and share in the excitement of birding with other fellow community members and bird enthusiasts.
Juneau Audubon Bird Walk-Saturday, April 22  By Mary McCafferty

Gus Van Vliet led birders on a sunny walk through the woods at Auke Village Recreation area and continued on out to Point Louisa. Birders enjoyed seeing the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and hearing the strong spring songs of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Varied Thrush. A highlight was spotting three Black Oystercatchers at the point. Other sightings included Bonaparte Gulls, Song Sparrows, Pacific Wren, Chickadees, Robins, Red-breasted Mergansers, Barrows Goldeneye, and Harlequin Ducks.

Spring Bird Migration Arrived On Sunny Point During Late April
Can you identify these birds?

Answer to last month’s bird ID challenge: Barrow’s goldeneye
Tips for Safe Bird-feeding

By Gwen Baluss

Feeding birds can be fun and increase our appreciation and awareness of them. However, it’s vital that in doing so we avoid creating problems. It’s also important to note that birds don’t need handouts from us. What they need most is wild habitat to survive.

When considering feeding, the first question is: is it a good idea to lure birds in? Unfortunately, if there are hazards nearby such as a loose cat, a dog that chases birds, a busy street, lots of windows, an electric fence, or any kind of pesticide use, etc. the answer is “no”.

If you do decide to feed birds, there are some other things to consider.

One is bears. They should be waking up and prowling around, right about now. Feeders need to be way up where bears can’t access them. Seeds on the ground should be sprinkled lightly preferably in a thick bushy area or up on a high porch so that it would not be efficient for a bear to lick them up. Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends taking bird feeders down during the months that bears are at large.

Squirrels and other small mammals can be slowed down by sprinkling seeds (or suet) with hot chili pepper powder such cayenne. Birds are not affected by capsicum, the “hot” substance in chilies. Squirrels, while annoying, are not always a threat to birds. It depends on the squirrel. Studies have shown that some individual red squirrels are good at nest searching and have a taste for eggs. Others don’t. I’ve personally seen certain squirrels attempt to pounce on feeding juncos. All of them can eat a lot of expensive birdseed in a short time.

Sanitation is important. Feeders need to be cleaned consistently and frequently to make sure there is never any spoiled or moldy food, and to reduce the risk of disease being passed between birds. And watch out for sharp, dangling or catchey parts. There are lots of do-it-yourself feeder designs online and elsewhere. Take a close look at these, as they are not necessarily good designs for birds. Even some commercially available are dubious. Buying from a vender that specializes in bird supplies is usually a good bet. Seed feeders should be emptied at least once a week, washed with a nontoxic cleaner and dried before putting back out. Clean suet feeders once a month or whenever suet is replenished. Personally, I find a wide sprinkling of seeds in a patch of thick bushes to be a much easier option.

Placement in relation to windows is another consideration. Feeders should either be right next to a window, or far, as in more than 40 feet away. The concepts is that if something spooks a group of feeding birds, these options allow that either the bird has space to navigate around the window, or would not have started going fast enough to be hurt if it does hit. Of course, anything that makes windows more visible is a good idea too.
**Hummingbird feeders** should be changed twice a week. All surfaces should be scrubbed with a brush (you can buy small bottlebrushes online or try using pipe cleaners for the small holes). Soak first in vinegar if any mold has formed. Glass reservoirs can also be sanitized with very hot water. Avoid feeders with plastic storage reservoirs, and any surface that are not easy to clean. Feeders with holes that are on a flat platform should be drilled to make at least as big as a standard school pencil eraser; smaller holes on a flat plane can catch birds' beaks or legs and cause serious injury if something startles them.

The best recipe for hummingbird food is one cup of white sugar to three cups of boiling water. Dyes are not necessary and may not be safe. Brown, raw or organic sugar contains iron which can be bad for the birds. Honey is dangerous too, as it may cause food poisoning.

Not sure you want to deal with cleaning a feeder or buying seeds? Birds are attracted to **alternatives**. Native plants, for example. Willows are one of the best for attracting a variety of species, but any native tree or shrub will have its fans. Around here most can either be grown from cuttings along a roadside, or will just sprout out of an untrammeled area. And the more you let them grow wild and unkempt the better. Any kind of shelter, even if it’s just a pile of boards or junk, sticks, etc. all are good for small Sbirds. What a great excuse to not clean up the yard! Avoid leaving out dead-ends like crab pots, loose fibers, or netting, and especially *pipes left upright*, that could trap a bird. Old dead branches, snags and logs may look a little unsightly, but if you can tolerate them, they are wonderful breeding grounds for beetles and other tasty invertebrates that nesting birds love. A simple source of shallow clean water can bring birds in to bathe, even in our wet environment.

**Ornamental plants** with fruit or flowers can be excellent for attracting showy birds like waxwings. But they come with another serious precaution: buy organically grown stock or get assurance that the plant has not been treated with systemic pesticides. These days, a lot of nursery plants are treated with neonicotinoid pesticides, some of which have been shown to be toxic or sickening agents to birds. All parts of treated plants, including nectar, carry the pesticide. These pesticides are also toxic to bees, flies, and other insects that local birds might be interested in eating.

Now here’s something you **don’t have to worry about**: cutting off the food supply. Wild birds are adaptable. If you go traveling and nobody can feed the birds, don’t fret too much. You might miss your birds when you get back because they’ve moved on, but they will move on. Ephemeral food sources are a natural reality for every species. You are not going to change a migratory bird’s pathway. It could be that on a long-term time scale, food available from humans does change distributional patterns, but migration is complex and instinctual, and not going to be influenced either way by a single food source.
The Southern Pine Beetle is a tree killer. When full grown is about half the length of a grain of rice, a small insect with a devastating impact. It lives in the inner bark of pine trees and disrupts the flow of nutrients. It is a widespread and destructive pine insect pest.

Forestry officials are concerned about a large number of trees that have been left stressed from last year’s drought. Drought stressed trees don’t make sap as well as healthy ones and that sticky sap helps the trees defense against the beetles. Beetle infestations often begin in weaker, stressed trees and then can spread to healthy trees.

The US Department of Agriculture estimates a widespread outbreak began in 1999 in east Tennessee that caused more than $1 billion in timber losses. The Pine Beetle infestation has had an impact in the Cherokee National Forest, as well as Alabama, where there has been the need to clear dead pine trees. The usual course of action for Southern Pine Beetle infestations is to clear a buffer area around the infested trees at least as wide as the tallest trees in the infested group to prevent the beetles from spreading. Those trees can be burned or simply left behind a safe distance from healthy forest trees.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service reports that Alabama produced more than $10 billion in forest products in 2010 and more than $11 billion when commercial logging products are included. Alabama’s forest products industry is one of the largest industries in that state. It is second in the country in production of pulp and paper and seventh in lumber production. A study found more than 23,000 direct jobs created by Alabama forest products industry as well as many more of indirect employment.

**What's Up 4/28/17**

**June 1**

Deadline to participate in **AUDUBON ALASKA’S 2017 GREAT AMERICAN ARCTIC CHALLENGE**. During the spring, many birds travel from all over the USA and from all six continents to reach their breeding grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other ecologically rich areas of the American Arctic. Celebrate the importance of the Arctic by participating in the **GREAT AMERICAN ARCTIC CHALLENGE** this spring! Recruit some fellow birders, grab a pair of binoculars, and find as many Arctic birds as you can as they pass through Alaska. Download the bird checklist, and find out more information about prizes and rules here: [http://ak.audubon.org/birds/2017-great-american-arctic-birding-challenge](http://ak.audubon.org/birds/2017-great-american-arctic-birding-challenge). Email egustafson@audubon.org with questions.

**CORPS MEMBERS** for **STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION AK TRAIL CORPS TEAMS** Join the SCA for a summer of conservation work and adventure! Teams consist of 5 members and 1 leader, living and working together in front and backcountry settings throughout Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. Good candidates have a strong work ethic, are adaptable to change, like to challenge themselves, and have a desire to contribute to a team. In exchange, teams have the opportunity to engage with wild places while completing meaningful work. SCA provides all travel, food, and tent/kitchen materials for crews, under the lead of experienced project leaders and guidance from partnering organizations. Duties: Trail construction and maintenance, invasive plant removal, vegetation restoration and general resource management projects. **Duration: May 22-Sept 10.** Requirements: 18 years or older. Benefits: $100.00/weekly stipend, and eligible for Americorps Education Awards. Apply: [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org) (position # PO-00722479) contact Lesley Seale directly with questions at lseale@thesca.org.
Birding Resources – Find checklists for Southeast Alaska on our webpage. Also see:

HAINES: Check out the Haines Birding Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/hainesalaska


SITKA: Sitka Postings http://www.sitkanature.org/sitka-birds

SKAGWAY: Skagway Bird Club discussions & sightings http://groups.google.com/group/skagway-bird-club

REGIONWIDE: For discussions and postings on Juneau and Southeast Alaska birds and events, join the yahoo! Group Eaglechat. Summary of Southeast Alaska Bird Observations quarterly summaries can be viewed on our web page at: http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.htm

Audubon Membership Information

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.

• Use the online form to join at https://www.audubon.org/membership

• Current members can renew online at http://www.audubon.org/renew or by emailing audubon@emailcustomerservice.com OR Call National Audubon to renew by phone at 1-844-428-3826 OR Locate the latest renewal notice from Audubon in the mail, or the form in Audubon Magazine and return that using the envelope provided.

• USPS: Send your name, address, email and payment check made out to: National Audubon Society and send to: Juneau Audubon Society, Membership Chair, PO Box 21725, Juneau, AK 99802.

Juneau Audubon Society Membership 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.

• 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. Notify: 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 (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
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