ONE MORE BERNER’S BAY CRUISE!

Join Juneau Audubon Society on a cruise to Berners Bay aboard a spacious, comfortable Allen Marine Tours catamaran. Learn all about spring wildlife from humpback whales and sea lions to gulls and eagles while supporting JAS! The final cruise this year is Saturday, May 12. The boat leaves from Statter Harbor in Auke Bay at 8:30 a.m., and boarding begins about 15 minutes before departure. Conditions permitting, we will go up into Berners Bay, returning to Statter Harbor at 12:30 p.m. During the cruises, our onboard naturalists will speak on the history and wildlife of the area.

Tickets are still available at Hearthside Books at a cost of $70 for adults, $40 for students, including UAS, and $25 for children under 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Birding Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berners Bay Cruise</td>
<td>May 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tickets available at Hearthside Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 Yakutat Tern Festival, Yakutat</td>
<td>May 31-Jun 3</td>
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<td>Celebrate one of the largest breeding colonies of Arctic terns</td>
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<td>JAS Low Tide Walk</td>
<td>Jun 16</td>
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<td>9:30am, location TBD</td>
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State Watchlist Birds in Southeast Alaska Part IV: A Refuge for Hummingbirds?

By Gwen Baluss

We continue to discuss the Audubon “Red” watchlist for Alaska, updated in 2017. The list uses the best available trend information to highlight species that are in decline, or especially vulnerable to big population drops, and for which key parts of the birds’ habitat is within Alaska. What species is on the cover? The Rufous Hummingbird.

We are lucky to encounter this species frequently during Southeast Alaska’s short summers. Their arrival is celebrated in April; they are even the center of birding, arts and other fun events at the Ketchikan Hummingbird Festival. Usually the first sightings are males, but both males and females set up shop between mid-April and early May. The males don’t help at all with the nest or nestlings and take off by July 1. Females begin to migrate out in July and are rarely seen after August 1. A few young birds may linger in to fall, but they too are mostly gone by the first week in August. Rufous hummingbirds breed throughout the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rocky Mountains. They winter in Mexico, especially in the Sierra Madre mountains. Some also use drier parts of Mexico or the US Gulf states. Hummingbirds eat a variety of insects and spiders in addition to nectar and sap from sapsucker wells.

Unfortunately, multiple broad scale bird surveys suggest a potential decline in the species. Because hummingbirds behave differently than most songbirds, being more clustered around food sources such as flowers, the differences detected could be related to different flowering patterns and not differences in hummingbird populations. However, different flowering times could mean trouble for these migratory birds as the climate warms. Other concerns that have come to light recently include: changes in flower availability due to climate change or land use change, drying of forests in the northern Rocky Mountains, fire suppression in the Sierra Madre, systemic pesticide use, and wide use of hummingbird feeders. Perhaps Alaska will become more important.
Yakutat Tern Festival Set to Begin May 31

The Eighth Annual Yakutat Tern Festival is May 31-June 3, 2018. The festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. Yakutat hosts one of the largest and southernmost known nesting colonies of Aleutian Terns, as well as Arctic Terns and up to 200 other bird species that nest in, or migrate through the area. The festival is family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non-birders, including field trips, seminars, kid’s activities, evening banquets, bird banding demonstration, and other programs.

This year’s keynote speaker, Lynn Schooler is an Alaskan writer, photographer, and woodworker who worked as a wilderness guide for over 25 years, specializing in serving wildlife photographers and natural history film makers. He is the author of the Blue Bear, Walking Home, The Last Shot, and Heartbroken Bay. Walking Home was awarded Canada’s Banff Film and Book Festival ‘Best Mountain Literature’ award in 2011. He is a regular contributor to the Japanese arts, travel, and culture magazine Coyote, and his writing has been published in a dozen languages. His photos of Alaska have been featured in publications worldwide. In 2014 he was invited to France as the ‘Foreign Guest of Honor’ at Europe’s largest outdoor photography event, the Festival Montier, where an exhibition of his photos was viewed by more than 40,000 visitors.

Kathy Hocker, the featured artist, grew up in Juneau and now lives in Gustavus. She holds a degree in biology from Harvard University and a graduate certificate in science illustration from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Kathy’s professional career has focused on learning, writing, teaching, and illustrating about Southeast Alaska’s landscape, plants, animals, and people. Certified as a Teaching Artist by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, she offers art residencies and workshops in schools throughout Alaska. She has written and illustrated several books for children and adults.

Other area activities include sight-seeing, hiking, fishing, surfing, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife viewing, and beachcombing. Please see www.yakutatfestival.org, visit us on Facebook, or call (907) 784-3359 for more information.

Tree Swallow Boxes Are Back Up!

By Brenda Wright

Although spring is late, it is slowly coming– no frosts for 10 days! This means JAS volunteers have been putting up tree swallow nest boxes around town. Juneau Audubon Society started this program 4 years ago. Almost all insect eating birds are in drastic decline. Several brand new pesticides are the likely culprits- the same neonicotinoids that are killing all the honey bees back east. In any case, we put up boxes, monitor success, and then take them back down.

Almost all the boxes are on public land, either parks & rec or our wetlands refuge. We also have some up next to the refuge on SEAL Trust lands. We tried leaving some up all winter but the snow or winds bent them over as they are just on pipes with 1/4” rebar in the ground for structure. So a small army of volunteers gathers and we put the boxes up. With enough people it goes pretty easily. However, this year the ground was frozen solid for 6-8”. Pretty hard to pound the rebar in for 2.5’! Tree swallows have been seen in Juneau, but not yet at any of our 8 nest box sites. I look forward to seeing the swallows return. We all hope they have many successful nests this year!
**Southeast Alaska Birding Resources**

**Haines:** [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](#)
Haines Birders Facebook group

**Juneau:** [Juneau Audubon Society](#) webpage uneau-audubon-society.org
Links to even more bird lists and quarterly reports about what's hot (and what's not) compiled Steve Heinl and other local experts are archived here.
JAS Facebook

**Sitka:** Sitka Nature [bird postings](#)

**Skagway:** [Skagway Bird Club](#)

**Regional:** Join EagleChat to see discussions and birding events taking place in Juneau and the rest of Southeast AK. Contact Gwen Baluss for an invitation! (president@uneau-audubon-society.org)

Also check out:
- [Southeast Alaska Regional Bird Observations—Spring](#)
This quarterly report summarizes seasonal bird sightings complete with locations and photos.
- [Ever wonder which community is the best (or worst) place to find a target species? Want to see multiple online lists in one easy spot? Matt Goff’s SEAKnature has it!](http://www.naturebob.com)

Articles, photos and links to free articles and natural history books can be found on local nature writer Bob Armstrong’s site.

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**Spring Bird Walks are Back!**

Every Saturday from now until June 16, join JAS for a guided birding walk at a variety of Juneau locations. See our website for times and locations—hope to see you there!

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**Juneau Audubon Society**

**Board of Directors**

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**Programs:** Brenda Wright
**Conservation:** Vacant
**At Large A:** Amy Clark Courtney
**At Large B:** Alexia Keifer

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**JAS Needs You!**

The JAS has an ongoing need for board members and volunteers. Currently we have vacancies for Conservation and Membership Chairs. Are you interested in conservation of birds and other wildlife? Contributing just a few hours a month would be a big help. No special expertise required, just some time and interest. Also, we welcome help from Southeast AK communities beyond Juneau. We've been doing very well in community engagement and even with fundraising. However, our “bottleneck” that limits how we can service our community is in in people power. Please join us! Contact: president@uneau-audubon-society.org

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**Be a part of conservation in your community**

Juneau Audubon Society's mission 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. When you become a member, you support this mission.

**National Membership~**

Join [online](#) at and you'll automatically join the Juneau chapter. Memberships start at just $20. When you join, you receive a one year subscription to the Raven newsletter and support JAS education, research, and more!

**Local Membership~**

If you don’t want to join nationally, you can support JAS directly by mailing your name, address, email, and a check for $10 to P.O. Box 021725 Juneau, AK 99802

**Board Seats~**

Think you want to take your love for birds a step further? The JAS board of directors has seats open. Send inquiries via email to president@uneau-audubon-society.org