JAS Gets a New Look
By Gwen Baluss

A little over two years ago, we decided it was time to update our image. We needed a snappy logo, ready for the digital age, that could be used on the web or social media. The prevalence of similar raven logos being used by multiple local organizations and businesses prompted some of us to want something that might set our group out visually.

We decided to commission an original from local artist Tanna Peters, Juneau resident and Alaska-raised artist who has done work for local organizations like KTOO and Trail Mix. Various iterations with different designs and bird species emerged.

The Juneau Audubon Society board tends to be a quiet group with nearly all decisions being made quickly with 100% consensus. The logo project was a notable exception. Each of us had a different take on what would work best. It must be said too that some did not see the utility in changing at all. I took this level of passion as sign that our graphic image is important.

Tanna, with our input, created one that we all liked: the Steller’s Jay! Keep an eye out for our new logo as we transition from old to new!

Upcoming Juneau Audubon Society Events:

October Big Day
Cornell Lab of Ornithology Backyard Bird Count

JAS Monthly Meeting
Beaver Impact on Wildlife with Chuck Caldwell

Last day to comment on Tongass Roadless Rule
Learn more about public comment on PG 2

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival
American Bald Eagle Foundation - Haines, AK

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a WORD from the CONSERVATION CHAIR
By Debbie Hart

Hello Audubon members,

Two efforts are taking place this fall that could have important long-term impacts to habitat conservation in Alaska – these include new efforts to revise the 2001 Roadless Rule on National Forest System Lands across the state and the State of Alaska Ballot Measure #1 which could change how habitat permits are addressed by the State. For more information on these two efforts please see the following:

Possible revisions to the 2001 Roadless Rule on National Forest System Lands in Alaska:
In early August 2018, the State of Alaska and the USDA Forest Service signed a memorandum of understanding to develop an Alaska state-specific roadless rule. You can find more information on this on the USFS website at: https://goo.gl/h1dz12

The Forest Service has held public meetings throughout the month of September and they are taking comments through October 15, 2018 through an online portal system which can be accessed here: https://goo.gl/KhoCgU

As outlined through the Forest Service press release an Alaska state-specific roadless rule will determine which currently designated roadless areas would require a different management designation to further Alaska’s economic development or other needs, while still conserving roadless areas for generations to come. The state-specific rule will amend the 2001 Roadless Rule, which prohibits road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on certain National Forest System lands across the country. Currently, in Alaska, the majority of National Forest System lands are inventoried roadless areas. About a quarter are designated Wilderness, where road construction is also prohibited. In establishing this new rule, the USDA Forest Service is responding to Alaska’s petition for a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The petition was accepted by

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JAS is going paperless!

We are committed to conserving natural resources, and digital newsletters go a long way toward this goal. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of our newsletter, please let us know by emailing membership@juneau-audubon-society.org
Reflecting on a Busy Summer

Juneau Audubon Society completed the fourth year of the tree swallow nest box data project. This year we were able to have a student intern to help with the data collection. Not only did Delana Wilks help with opening all the boxes to count eggs and young, she took lots of photos and kept our data organized to share with the statewide tree swallow database. Many thanks to Delana for her excellent work, and to the Alaska Songbird Institute for assistance in expanding our monitoring to include bird banding. In 2018 we had nests in 32 of our 59 nest boxes. Thanks also to all of our dedicated volunteers!

Our summer events also included our summer outdoor adventures with a low tide walk in June, an alpine walk above the Mt. Roberts tram in July, and our most popular non-birding event, discovering our local mushrooms. To all Juneau Audubon Society members, thank you for your continued support which allows us to sponsor exciting community events such as these!

Some highlights from our summer events include:
- A low tide walk in June
- An alpine walk above the Mt. Roberts tram in July
- Our most popular non-birding event, discovering local mushrooms

BOREAL BIG YEAR UPDATE

Earlier this year we reported that former Juneau birder Nick Hajdukovich was doing a north-of-the-arctic-circle big year. As the northern summer comes to a close he has ticked 129 species. Nice work, Nick! You can still donate for the rest of the year. This benefits the Alaska Songbird Institute. Go to ASI’s Big Year Website: http://www.borealbirdathon.org/3/subscribe_participant.htm

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in April 2018, with the decision to pursue a state-specific roadless rule. National Forest System lands in Alaska that are designated Wilderness would be unaffected by this rulemaking.

In addition, Governor Bill Walker issued Administrative Order 299 in early September 2018, establishing the Alaska Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee, and creating an opportunity for Southeast Alaskans to advise the State of Alaska on the future management of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest. This Committee will consist of up to 13 voting members, representing federally recognized tribes in Alaska and Alaska Native regional corporations; environmental organizations; the timber, mining, tourism, energy, and commercial fishing industries; and state and local governments. A list of Committee members is expected soon.

State of Alaska Ballot Measure #1

On November 6th Alaskans will have a chance to vote on a ballot initiative addressing the habitat permitting process used by the state. A yes vote on this initiative will alter the existing process revising Title 16 in an effort to strengthen the protections for fish and aquatic habitats that are at risk due to a variety of human activities.

You can find the initiative description on the Lt. Governor’s website at: https://goo.gl/E7rXuM

In addition, State law requires a minimum of two public hearings be held on the initiative in each of Alaska’s four judicial districts before October 6. Only in-person testimony will be allowed during community meetings, though Alaskans will be able to follow along remotely by watching online at http://akltv or by calling 844-586-9085. There will also be a statewide teleconference where phone comments will be allowed. Anyone wishing to provide an online comment can visit this website (https://goo.gl/5gakNR), this site also provides information on previous testimony as well as other resources pertinent to the initiative such as State Agency responses to frequently asked questions: https://goo.gl/kKugJG

The remaining hearing will take place:

Statewide Teleconference Only Session - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 13, 2018 – Testimony will be taken only over the phone for this hearing.
Looking for more ways to support JAS?

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: PF013

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!

MONTHLY PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

Juneau Audubon Society resumes monthly free public lectures this October, scheduled every 2nd Thursday from October to April and held at UAS. Thursday October 11 features “Beaver Impact on Wildlife” presented by Chuck Caldwell (to be immediately preceded by JAS board elections). Meetings will be in a new location this year: UAS Egan hall room 112. All meetings start at 7pm, hope to see you there!

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources
Haines: Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist
Haines Birders Facebook group
Juneau: Juneau Audubon Society webpage www.juneauaudubonsociety.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: http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html
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@juneau-audubon-society.org)
Also check out:
Southeast Alaska Regional Bird Observations—Spring
This quarterly report summarizes seasonal bird sightings complete with locations and photos.
6th Edition Audubon Guide to the Birds of Alaska http://wiki.seaknature.org/Category:BirdEver 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! 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.

24th Annual Alaska Bald Eagle Festival
A yearly celebration of bald eagles is fast approaching! Hosted by the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska, the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival coincides with one of North America’s largest congregations of bald eagles. Between 2000 and 4000 bald eagles can be seen on the Chilkat River during November and December feasting on salmon made accessible by the unique hydrogeology of the river. Learn from local experts and attend birding-themed events all while experiencing the beauty if Haines in winter. See the full schedule at: baldeagles.org/festival-schedule/
ELECTION!

All JAS members are invited to vote in upcoming board member elections on

Oct 11, 2018

preceding the October Program.

Positions for election, and Nominees as of 10/1/2018:

President, Gwen Baluss
Vice President, Marsha Squires
Treasurer, Patty Rose
Secretary, Amy Sherwin

Thank You for Reading!

Fall Birds on the Move

Juneau’s Indian summer has brought in sparrows from the interior, with lots of Slate-colored Juncos, some American Tree Sparrows, record numbers of red Fox Sparrows, at least three White-throated Sparrows, and recently rare Hariss’ Sparrow reported from Douglas. Keep an eye out for more! There are lots of ways to report unusual birds. Find info about chat groups on our website. Facebook now has several forums, and you can always message the Juneau Audubon Society page as well. If that all seems daunting are you are really stumped, board contact email addresses are on our website as well.

www.juneau-audubon-society.org