BERNER’S BAY CRUISE TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Tickets are on sale now at Hearthside book for Juneau Audubon Society’s yearly Berner’s Bay Cruises! Join our knowledgeable naturalists for a four hour cruise in search of marine wildlife, Saturday, April 27th and May 4th. Cruises board at 8:15am and depart at 8:30.

Tickets are $75 for adults, $45 for students, and $25 for children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Seats are limited so be sure to buy your tickets early!

JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

Birds and Beans: Or How My Quest for the Perfect Cup of Coffee led me back to Birds

Join Juneau Audubon Society for an exciting presentation by Doug Jones. Free and open to the public, April 11 at 7pm in the UAS Egan Lecture Hall. Hope to see you there!

TREE SWALLOW BOXES INSTALLED WITH THE HELP OF THUNDER MOUNTAIN BOYSCOUT TROOP

Juneau Audubon Society extends sincere thanks to a troop of boy scouts who helped to install 35 of our 53 Tree Swallow Boxes! Our thanks also to our tree swallow box project coordinator Brenda Wright for coordinating the effort. Great work, everyone!

Upcoming Events:

Alaska Hummingbird Festival
Ketchikan, Alaska; details at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/tongass/

Stikine River Birding Festival
See pg 7 for details

Yakutat Tern Festival
See pg 4 for details
Notes from the 18th Alaska Bird Conference

By Gwen Baluss

In March 2019, a couple hundred mostly bird biologists convened as they do every two years to present and discuss recent scientific work on Alaska birds. I was lucky enough to attend the meeting, held in Fairbanks.

Many of this year's presentations focused on seabirds and shorebirds, and studies in the far north. And for good reason. The arctic sea and shore birds are the ones to be acutely concerned about as the climate warms. We also heard from climate scientists from UAF and the recurrent theme was "accelerated change". Two issues were salient.

First, drastic sea ice reduction and warming. How will birds react? There's already been changes to diet, and, unfortunately large die-offs of seabirds such as murres and kittiwakes have been recorded in the North Pacific, with greater frequency over the last few years. Suspected culprits are plain starvation, or starvation as a secondary or acting in conjunction with poisoning from microorganism blooms. Both could be caused by warming.

Second, development in and near the Yellow Sea. Many Alaskan shorebirds use this area during winter and migration. These issues seem and are far away from us in Southeast AK, but it's good to get a perspective on what groups of birds are the most vulnerable when we prioritize conservation. The bottom line is that we all have limited time and funds, but if you are looking for ways to advocate and "save the birds", whether its supporting legislation, research, or preservation, it seems safe to assume that any long-distance migrant especially Asiatic migrant, seabird or shorebird needs all the help it can get.

The ABC abstracts will be posted on the JAS website.

9th Annual Yakutat Tern Festival

The Ninth Annual Yakutat Tern Festival will take place May 30-June 2 2019. The Yakutat Tern Festival is a celebration of the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. It’s family friendly and offers activities for birders as well as non -birders, including field trips, seminars, kid’s activities, evening banquets and other programs, a Wildman foot race, and art. This year’s keynote speaker is Ned Rozell. He writes weekly newspaper columns about science and natural history for the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He first hiked the Alaska Pipeline path with his dog Jane in 1997. He wrote Walking my Dog, Jane about that trip. Ned will be doing a book sale and book signing after his keynote.

Our Featured Artist is Holly Churchill. Holly is a member of the Haida Eagle clan of Gawa Git'ans Gitanee practicing traditional Haida-style cedar bark and spruce root basketry. Her work has been displayed at museums throughout Alaska including the Alaska State Museum, the Tongass Historical Museum and the Totem Heritage Center, and reaches audiences across the globe in the Smithsonian Institute and the Eiteljorg Museum.

Please see www.yakutat ternfestival.org for more information and follow us on Facebook and Instagram! Yakutat Tern Festival and @yakutat_tern_festival. You can also call (907) 784-3359.

Photo (Gwen Baluss) A Common Murre in Auke Bay, December 2015. Thousands of Murres died in Alaska the following spring, coincident with the higher than normal sea temperatures. Many were seen in places they are not normally recorded; in Auke bay they fed on herring and hopefully survived the winter.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Juneau Audubon Society would like to recognize two retiring board members for their years of excellent service:

Patricia Wherry Education Chair Juneau Audubon Society
Board August 2012 through September 2018.

Thank you for teaching the adult Beginner’s Bird Watching classes through Community Schools. Not only did you write your own teaching plan, but tried to accommodate more students by having classes in both the valley and downtown. You instigated the printing of the SE Tracking Booklet, shared as a teaching tool with Discovery SE. You represented Juneau Audubon Society at countless public events including Earth Day, Community Day, etc. You helped to redo the look of our public market booth and were instrumental in getting Juneau Audubon Society into the permanent fund Pick, Click, Give program. You were always eager to reach out to grade school children through educational events for Auke Bay Elementary and others. Thank you, Patricia, you were a great asset to the Juneau Audubon Society board.

Amanda Pilley Membership Chair Juneau Audubon Society
Board May 2016 through December 2018.

Thank you for joining the Juneau Audubon Society Board as our Conservation Chair and morphing into our Membership Chair when we needed to re-organize. Thanks for being such a great organizer! Not only did you have to cope with National Audubon Society’s changing database for members but also for creating a Juneau Audubon Society board reference manual with duties and procedures defined. You helped to get our Juneau Audubon Society board minutes into order and available from our web page. You organized our search for a new logo, provided the information for Juneau Audubon Society members to sign up for Fred Meyers Community Awards, offered many suggestions for website protocol and strategic plan. Thank you, Amanda, for helping Juneau Audubon Society be better organized.

JOIN AUDUBON TODAY!

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

Juneau Audubon Society
Board of Directors

President: Gwen Baluss
Vice President: Marsha Squires
Treasurer: Patty Rose
Secretary: Amy Sherwin
Field Trips: Jason Colon
Newsletter: Sidney Campbell
Membership: Lizzie Solger
Education: Alexia Keifer
Programs: Brenda Wright
Conservation: Debbie Hart
At Large A: Amy Clark Courtney
At Large B: Winston Smith

Southeast Alaska Birding Resources

Haines: [Birds of the Chilkat Valley Checklist](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html)
Haines Birders Facebook group

Juneau: [Juneau Audubon Society](http://www.juneauaudubonsociety.org) webpage
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](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html)
JAS Facebook


Skagway: [Skagway Bird Club](http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html)

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.
Stikine River Birding Festival
2019 Schedule of Events

Festival Contests
Art & Photo Contests
Entries due at the Nolan Center by noon, Thursday, April 25th. Winners announced at the reception on Friday, April 26th. For detailed contest rules & entry forms, go to www.stikinebirding.org.

Saturday – April 20
9:00 am Nature Journaling Workshop
Learn the basics of field sketching & journaling with guest artist Kim McKnett. Half day workshop starts indoors, moves outside for practice & returns indoors. Free; bring a journal & pencil. Location: Meet at Nolan Center, followed by excursion to outdoor location to be determined by participants.

Thursday – April 25
5:00 pm Birding ID Workshop
Want to improve your birding skills? Gwen Balus will provide tips on identifying our local birds. Location: James & Elise Nolan Center
6:30 pm River Flats Open Mic Night
Share your talent with the community during April’s bird themed open mic night. Location: James & Elise Nolan Center

Friday – April 26
6:00 pm Birding Festival Reception
Kim McKnett has been teaching art workshops in school classrooms for 2 weeks; now stop by to see some student art and meet our festival presenters. Contest winners will be announced. Location: James & Elise Nolan Center
6:30 pm Sandhill Cranes of the Pacific Flyway
Dr. Gary Hevy will describe the life history of Sandhill Cranes and the challenges they face. He will talk about the 2 subspecies that breed and migrate through Alaska and where they go after their stop at the Stikine River Delta. Location: James & Elise Nolan Center
7:45 pm The Miracle of Life Along the Pacific Shore
This multi-media presentation is based on “The Miracle of Life in a La Jolla Cove,” an award-winning coffee table book by Dr. David Sattler, and will present gorgeous coastal landscapes along the Pacific Ocean and the wildlife that lives there, including Alaska. Location: James & Elise Nolan Center

Saturday – April 27
Birding Boat Tours
Local operators are running special tours this weekend for birding & spring wildlife watching. Contact the following for more details on price, time & locations: Alaska Charters & Adventures: (888) 993-2750 Breakaway Adventures: (888) 385-2488
7:00 am Breakfast with the Birds Walk
Join Bonnie Demerjian on a morning bird walk. A continental breakfast is provided. Location: Muskeg Meadows Golf Course

Saturday – April 27 continued
10:00 am – 1 pm Wrangell Community Market
Vendors offer their homemade crafts, foods, and more! Location: James & Elise Nolan Center
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Jr. Birder Activites
Crafts & games for youth will be going on during the market. Location: Outside James & Elise Nolan Center
11:00 am Center Craft: Bird Feeder Building
Stop by and make your very own bird feeder! Remember to bring your own hammer. Sponsored by Angerman’s Inc. Location: Outside James & Elise Nolan Center
1:00 pm Black Swifts: One of Alaska’s Most Threatened Birds
Gwen Balus will discuss how the Stikine River corridor is one of the few Alaskan hotspots for this species. Location: Nolan Center small theater
2:00 pm Photo Workshop with David Sattler
This photography workshop is for photo enthusiasts of all levels. We will explore ways of creating artistic photographs of animals and their homes, and discuss topics such as composition, lighting, lens selection, and camera operation. Location: Meet at Nolan Center small theater
4:00 pm Alaska Raptor Center Live Bird Presentation
The Alaska Raptor Center from Sitka will show off some of their educational birds and give information on these birds of prey. Location: Evergreen Elementary Gym
6:00 pm Ducks Unlimited Banquet
Doors open at 6 pm; dinner served at 7 pm. Raffles, live and silent auctions. For more information or to buy tickets call Kenne Kobet at 907-874-3877. Location: Nolan Center; Cost: Single tickets $70, Couples $100

Sunday – April 28
7:00-9:00 am City Park Bird Banding
Bird bander Gwen Balus will mistnet and place bands on songbirds to track their migratory flight. Stop by at any time to watch! Weather dependent (can be canceled due to rain/wind). Location: City Park

Wednesday – May 8
7:00 pm San Quinlin Bay in My Migration Route: Sharing the Habitat with Birds
Executive Director of Terra Peninsular, César Guerraero, shares his presentation on conserving shorebirds in Baja California. Location: Nolan Center

For more information & schedule updates:
www.stikinebirding.org

Thank You for Reading!

The Stikine River Birding Festival is organized by the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau, City and Borough of Wrangell, USDA Forest Service, and James & Elise Nolan Center. If you have any questions, please contact the Wrangell Ranger District at 907-874-2323 or Wrangell Visitor Center 907-874-2829.